

The logo features a stylized graphic of a building or skyline to the left of the word "TORONTO" in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of "TORONTO" is the text "STAFF REPORT" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

August 29, 2006

To: Economic Development and Parks Committee

From: Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Subject: Progress on Implementing "Our Common Grounds," the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Strategic Plan
All Wards

Purpose:

To report on progress made during 2004-06 on implementing the recommendations in "Our Common Grounds," Council's strategic plan for Parks, Forestry & Recreation.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

On July 20, 21 and 22, 2004, Council approved the 53 recommendations in "Our Common Grounds," charting a course for Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PFR) over the next 15 years (Clause 2 of Report 5 of the Economic Development and Parks Committee).

As PFR's strategic plan, "Our Common Grounds" provides guidance in three major areas – environmental stewardship, child and youth development, and lifelong active living. Nine targets are set in the plan:

<i>Environmental Stewardship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• extend the tree canopy to 30-40% of the city's land area• ensure that 80% of park visitors are very satisfied• engage in active stewardship of 100% of natural areas
<i>Child and Youth Development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achieve a 20% increase in the number of children participating in registered programs• achieve a 40% increase in the number of youth participating in programs
<i>Lifelong Active Living</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achieve a 20% increase in physical activity by the city's population by 2020• achieve a 40% increase in seniors participating in programs in 2010• achieve a 1,000% increase in persons with a disability enrolled in programs by 2010• achieve a 20% increase in the city's population participating in programs by 2020

In adopting the recommendations in "Our Common Grounds," Council requested that an implementation strategy be presented to the Economic Development and Parks Committee (EDPC) prior to consideration of the City's 2005 budget. Council subsequently adopted 30 service improvement priorities for 2005-06 as the core of this strategy (Clause 7 of Report 7 of the EDPC, adopted by Council on October 26, 27 and 28, 2004).

PFR's 2005-06 priorities fell within four service areas: parks and trees renaissance; youth; getting the service right; and community and stakeholder engagement.

Parks and Trees Renaissance: While PFR plays a crucial role in the stewardship of Toronto's green infrastructure, the condition and quality of the City's parks, gardens and urban forest has declined sharply over the past few years. Achieving a clean and beautiful city requires urgent action on the environmental front, especially on Toronto's "common grounds." Progress also needs to be made on new waterfront parks and facilities.

Youth: PFR has not realized its potential in meeting the challenging needs of youth, who receive much less service relative to Toronto's children. To foster youth development and make Toronto's neighbourhoods stronger, we need to augment our outreach efforts and provide better leadership, employment and leisure opportunities.

Getting the Service Right: Many opportunities exist to improve the services currently delivered by PFR. Service effectiveness will be achieved by extending the lifespan of our existing assets, ensuring that they are safe and usable, and by responding to unmet community needs – both in terms of facilities and programs.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement: The people of Toronto want to be more involved in the delivery of PFR's programs and services. As part of our agenda for lifelong active living, we need to provide greater support to our volunteers, strengthen existing partnerships and forge new alliances, and promote community development.

Council provided full or partial funding in the 2005 and 2006 budgets for a number of priorities requiring new resources, and requested staff to report on achievements tied to these priorities.

Comments:

Achievements Since 2004:

Priorities supported by Council with additional funds in 2005 and 2006 produced significant results. While emphasis was placed on parks and trees renaissance and on youth, progress was also made in getting PFR services right and in improving community and stakeholder engagement. The status of all 53 recommendations in “Our Common Grounds” is detailed in Attachment 1. Some highlights are outlined below.

a) Parks and Trees Renaissance:

Increased grass cutting and litter pick-up. Grass cutting was previously done once every 10 working days. Cutting now takes place weekly during the peak growing season. Cutting was scaled back during July and August, then increased again with the return of cooler temperatures and rain in September and October. This cycle produced the healthiest turf since the introduction of pesticide use restrictions. With the new cycle, staff increased litter pick-up before cutting, resulting in much cleaner parks.

Rejuvenated horticultural beds. PFR planted almost 1 million flowers this summer. New floral displays appeared in every City ward. This work included 28 innovative displays – the Flower Power WOW Gardens – which attracted rave reviews. Seven flagship projects were undertaken at strategic locations across the city.

Increased garbage collection, recycling and waste diversion. Recycling was formerly done only at park beaches. In 2005 and 2006, 1600 wire mesh recycling bins were deployed in parks, another 310 bins were acquired for special events, and 418 bins were installed in recreation centres, arenas and other facilities. This enabled 37% of park waste to be diverted from landfill. Garbage collection was increased at high-use park locations where service standards needed improvement.

Transformation of orphan spaces. During 2005, PFR teamed with Transportation Services to begin maintaining landscaped islands, boulevards or planters where maintenance had lapsed. Forty-nine spaces were improved in 2005; another 11 were “adopted” in 2006.

Reduced tree service delay. Many long-standing requests from residents existed for pruning and other tree services provided by Urban Forestry. The average service delay has been reduced from 18 months in 2004 to 8-10 months in 2006. All service orders pre-dating June 2004 have been completed, resulting in service to 8,642 trees.

Increased tree planting. Over 27,700 trees and shrubs were planted in 2005-06 through various programs and events. Over 50% of the plantings were done by community volunteers.

Implementation of the new Private Tree By-law. This city-wide by-law replaced by-laws protecting trees on private property only in the former Toronto and Scarborough. In the first

year of operation, staff processed 2,215 applications and conducted 1,049 inspections. Previously, staff averaged 800 applications and 930 inspections annually.

b) Youth:

Improvements to and expansion of the Youth Outreach Worker Program. Twenty-three Youth Outreach Worker (YOW) positions became full-time permanent positions. Eight new YOW positions were created to reach newcomer youth and youth with a disability. All YOWs are now conducting outreach in the community, with a focus on the 13 Priority Neighbourhoods.

Lowered hiring age. Effective January 2006, the hiring age was lowered from 16 to 14 years for some Local 79 Recreation Worker positions. This initiative is supported by an extensive training program for new workers.

Innovative employment strategies. The Toronto Sport Leadership Program – a partnership with the Toronto Community Foundation, the United Way and the school boards – trained 112 youth from Priority Neighbourhoods for jobs in sport coaching or aquatics leadership. PFR also hired 498 Recreation Workers from Priority Neighbourhoods in 2006.

New programming opportunities. The After-school Recreation Care Program will provide employment for about 360 youth and serve 3,600 children living in the 13 Priority Neighbourhoods, when fully implemented in 2008.

Ensuring all children have the opportunity to learn to swim. 600 Grade 3 children participated in a “Swim to Survive” pilot project with the Toronto District School Board.

c) Getting the Service Right:

Development of work order systems to support the 3-1-1 initiative. Project managers were hired on a temporary basis to improve PFR customer response and service delivery through 3-1-1. Project development is underway.

Setting strategic directions for selected services. Reports were submitted to Council regarding the Seniors’ Recreation Strategy, the Indoor Pool Provision Strategy, the Sport Strategy Framework, the Dogs in Parks Strategy, and options for free recreation programs for youth and children.

Continuous service improvement. PFR’s restructuring to a service-based model will lead to consistent service levels across the city. Clearly defined service standards are being developed for all areas including the creation of tracking systems to monitor effectiveness. Discussions are underway with the Unions to achieve consistent and harmonized work practices city-wide.

d) Community and Stakeholder Engagement:

Increased volunteerism. In Spring 2006, Urban Forestry hosted over 50 volunteer planting events that attracted an estimated 2,000 community volunteers. Work on a broad-based Volunteer Development Program was initiated.

Community outreach within the City's Priority Neighbourhoods. Parks staff engaged over 6,000 children in the City's Clean & Beautiful program, fostering environmental stewardship and exposing them to the joys of horticulture.

Increased capacity to engage communities. In Fall 2006, PFR Neighbourhood Teams will be established in eight pilot locations to improve service delivery. Eight of the City's 13 Priority Neighbourhoods will be engaged in the first phase; by the end of 2007, teams will be operating in all 44 City Wards.

Challenges Facing Parks, Forestry & Recreation:

Limited financial resources and rising service costs constrain PFR's ability to respond to a number of social and environmental challenges and implement "Our Common Grounds" fully.

Stresses on the urban forest. Efforts to increase canopy cover are being undermined by drought, storm damage, the loss of old, mature trees, and pests like the Asian Long-horned beetle. In coming years, the emerald ash borer will likely pose a major threat to Toronto's ash trees.

Pesticide-free turf maintenance. While nearly 60% of Toronto's park area includes maintained turf, insufficient resources exist to practice integrated plant health care. This undermines efforts to keep parkland both healthy and weed-free using natural alternatives to pesticides. Numerous complaints relating to weeds continue to be received from the public.

Youth engagement and programming. Demand has mounted to reach out to and provide positive opportunities and choices for youth across the city and in geographic areas of need.

Aging recreation facilities and park amenities. 50% of our recreation facilities and park amenities are over 40 years old and require significant repairs or replacement. The state of good repair allocation for the next five years has been reduced, and is well below PFR's annual target of \$40 million. As the repair backlog grows, public demand for new and improved facilities has increased.

Demographic shifts. Growing population diversity and an increase in our seniors' population affects PFR's recreation facilities and programming. Demand for space has increased, along with requirements to program differently to meet new community needs.

Short-term impacts of climate change. Storms of increasing frequency and severity have had a devastating impact on park infrastructure and City trees. As witnessed by the August 19, 2005 storm, weak fiscal capacity hampers recovery from environmental emergencies. PFR's aging infrastructure compounds the financial impact of this issue.

Future Service Improvement Priorities:

The four service areas defined in 2004 are still high priorities requiring attention. Getting our services right, youth, parks and trees renaissance, and community and stakeholder engagement

remain top of mind for the public, Members of Council, and staff. These service areas figure prominently in “Our Common Grounds” and reflect Council’s priorities for the 2003-06 term.

Even with the additional funding provided in 2005 and 2006, current service levels and allocated resources are not sufficient to achieve the long-term goals adopted by Council or address urgent issues that have emerged recently. Additional support is needed to get our services right, foster youth development, improve our parks, gardens and urban forest, and work more closely with the community.

Conclusions:

Much progress has been made to implement the 53 recommendations in “Our Common Grounds.” To protect and enhance Toronto’s quality of life, Parks, Forestry & Recreation must continue to deliver on its approved service improvement priorities. Momentum must be maintained on work that was funded in whole or in part or was initiated with existing resources in 2005 and 2006. Traction is required on those other priorities that have not been funded adequately. Continued support from Council and the community will help Parks, Forestry & Recreation meet its challenges and ensure that progress is made on all four of the Division’s priority service areas.

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List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Status of Recommendations in “Our Common Grounds”

Attachment 1:

Status of Recommendations in “Our Common Grounds”

RECOMMENDATION:	STATUS:
<p>1. Implement an Urban Forestry Management Plan over the next 10 years to create the framework to increase Toronto’s current tree canopy coverage of 17 per cent to 30 to 40 per cent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Forestry is developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan to achieve targets for: tree planting; improved tree longevity; better protection for trees on city and private lands and replacement planting of trees that are removed; and to better develop policy relating to urban forestry management. • An Interdivisional Tree Committee was formed with representation from City Planning, Toronto Water, Technical Services, Public Health, Urban Forestry and Transportation. This group works on policy matters, ensuring that divisional objectives are mutually supportive with a view to expanding Toronto’s urban forest canopy. • The new City of Toronto Act may provide an opportunity to improve the city’s ability to protect trees, addressing the current gap in legislation that prevents building permits from being held pending issuance of associated tree permits being issued. • Urban Forestry has implemented better protection of trees to reduce unauthorized tree canopy loss. The harmonized Private Tree By-law went into effect in October 2004. All new positions within Urban Forestry were filled by May 2005 to implement the bylaw. Implementation guidelines and practices were developed. • Urban Forestry is striving to provide better maintenance of trees with \$2 million of \$3.2 million associated with target #2 has been received. Steps are being taken to reduce the service delay, however recent storms have hampered efforts and reversed some of the progress made to date. • As yet, no measurable increase in the citywide tree canopy can be reported. Recent storm damage has contributed to some tree loss and overall canopy increase will not be measurable for a number of years.
<p>2. Increase our annual tree planting by 16,000 trees per year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Urban Forestry is moving in the right direction, new money for planting has not yet been approved. • In excess of 27,700 trees planted in 2005-2006 through the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tree Advocacy Program (TAP) -1500 large size trees + and many more smaller trees and shrubs ○ Trees across Toronto event - 1000 participants

	<p>& 3600 trees/shrubs planted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer plantings - 15,000 trees and shrubs annually ○ Transportation funds of \$600,000 - 2044 trees ○ Toronto Water funds of \$1,000,000 - 1160 large trees to increase infiltration and reduce storm water runoff ○ Asian Longhorned Beetle regulation area is supported by \$125,000 used to plant 450 trees. ○ Annual residential bare root tree planting by Districts maintained at about 6-8,000 trees
<p>3. Increase the average lifespan of our sidewalk trees from five to 20 years by improving tree planting conditions. We need to coordinate with other municipal departments to ensure soil and water conditions are adequate and secured.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New specifications have been developed for the City's streetscape manual with respect to trees. • District street tree planting program supported with a contract that enables increased large tree planting using development funds • Urban Forestry providing input to the Green Development Standards being prepared by City Planning to guide development practices • Night watering program (6 crews) and daytime watering program (2 crews) implemented - 3 crews funded by operating budget; 2 crews funded through capital program providing \$300,000 for improved maintenance and watering of trees in business districts. Funding is insufficient to fully service the watering needs.
<p>4. Establish a permanent interdepartmental Tree Committee to coordinate the extension of our greenscape and management of the urban forest. It should include representatives of Urban Development Services, Parks & Recreation and Works and Emergency Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Recommendation #1.
<p>5. Implement an ecological restoration and preservation program for our natural and environmentally sensitive lands that supports the Natural Heritage Strategy and the Parkland Naturalization Program. This program should include: erosion protection through the planting of native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses; elimination of unsafe pathways by converting them to sustainable natural trails for hiking and mountain biking; control of destructive invasive species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological restoration is included in programs initiated by the 'Natural Environment and Community Programs' unit, and in areas targeted by the Natural Resource management crews include environmentally sensitive lands e.g. study of Crothers Woods, ongoing restoration at High Park, Centennial Forest Swamp, Lambton Park. • The Environmental Plan, The Official Plan and The Ravine Protection Bylaw provide legislative planning framework. • A new sustainable trails program was initiated in 2005, with enhanced funding and media focus in 2006. The sustainable trails program recognizes the importance of

	<p>working with the community to rebuild desire line trails to make them sustainable. Effective partnerships have been developed to support these programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroachment management programs provide for removal of retaining walls/decks etc. that project from private lands into the public space. Some of these are hazardous, impacting sensitive natural areas. <p>The Toronto Trails Program successes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Trails website: www.toronto.ca/trails • New hotline number: 338-DIRT • Hosted 6 intensive Trail Schools, in partnership with the International Mountain Bicycling Association, to educate trail users about sustainable trail construction and use. • Hosted 2 Trail Crew Leader Schools, to develop additional trail skills and leadership among trail users. • Implemented sustainable re-routes and repairs to highly impacted and damaged areas. • Partnered with Transportation Services to hire 2 seasonal Trail Ambassadors, as part of the Cycling Ambassador Program. • Developed cooperative programs among Forestry, Recreation and Parks programs • Supported Recreation in the implementation of the Hiking Program. • Hosted 2 Ride/Run the Don events, a social event created to build relationships between trails users and the City of Toronto trail staff. • Developed partnerships with over 10 corporate and community organizations. New partnerships are being developed on an ongoing basis.
<p>6. Establish an Eco-Fan Club to engage and educate the public. This should include: interpretive signs; tours; outreach to schools and community groups; promotion of volunteerism in the protection of natural areas; support for special events like clean-up days and Trees Across Toronto; partnership with Toronto's natural environment groups; and should be related to the protection of unique aspects of Toronto's ecosystem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year, over 1,300 children and youth are engaged in 6 Eco Camps, 46 Exploring Toronto and Children's Garden school programs, 8 Family Garden Drop-in Programs and 3 Youth Cooking Programs. An additional 1,200 children, youth and community members participate in 3 annual community events at the High Park Children's Garden. Participants learn about Toronto's heritage and natural history, First Nations' history, food preparation and nutrition, health, drama, art, music, movement, storytelling and contemporary perspectives on urban environmental issues. • Over 50 volunteer plantings events were undertaken with

	<p>schools, community and corporate groups in the spring of 2006.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Stewardship Program is underway. This program involves volunteers in on-going maintenance and monitoring activities at nine City of Toronto naturalization sites. Stewardship teams visit their sites weekly or monthly and are taught essential skills and techniques for restoration project enhancement. • Development is underway for three Toronto Bird Flyway sites which are aimed at engaging park users into understanding nature through bird watching. These sites will enhance and improve migratory and resident bird populations, and will educate the public through workshops and extensive interpretative signage. • The Trees Across Toronto initiative has expanded to 5 locations across the City, with continual and increased participation and support by partners and volunteers. • The Operation Sunflower program is supporting school outreach, as are special projects such as the green roof at Jackman Public School in Riverdale Community.
7. Improve nature with technology through the roll-out of mobile computers so staff can keep track of the urban forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation #19 of Service Priorities request included the need to create a one-entry system for access to customer service inquiries. The ongoing development of a SAP-based work management system will evaluate the development of new technologies.
8. Reduce the forestry service order backlog to three to six months to properly sustain the existing trees in streets and parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, \$1 million was received to reduce tree service delays; and in 2006, a further \$1.04 million was added to the operating budget. Tree service delays have been reduced to 10-12 months (from 18 months), and will be further reduced in 2006 to 8-10 months. Additional resources will be required to meet the 6 month target. • Implemented new Forestry phone system intended to improve efficiency of and consistency of both data management and response to public queries. • Information has been compiled for 3-1-1 database; staff have been assigned to contribute to business development model linking 3-1-1 to PFR Work Management system.
9. Promote the protection of public parks as everyone's front yard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 work completed with Flower Power virtual tour on web, showing before and after horticulture beds. • 2006 parks promotional priority to be determined in consultation with General Manager and Director of Parks.

<p>10. Implement a Parks Renaissance Program to be phased in over five years. Components should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Turf Improvement: cutting grass eight more times per year; seeding, top dressing and fertilization; aeration; irrigation system installation; integrated pest management in every park. 2) Our Uncommon Gardens: renovating existing garden beds; enhancing City Halls and other significant municipal buildings' displays; reinventing our feature gardens; adding new beds over five years. 3) Heal the Eyesores: clean up graffiti; fix the broken windows, benches, field houses, picnic tables, benches, playgrounds and pathways. 4) Pick It Up: continue installation of new environmentally friendly garbage cans for waste collection and recycling, with resources to empty them, and educate the community about their proper use. 5) Keep It Running: replace worn forestry vehicles, grass cutting and other equipment as required to maintain service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Horticulture program was given \$8,000 per Ward to improve existing displays. Parks Supervisors – Horticulture Leads identified parks that had deteriorating displays that could use upgrades, renovations or relocations within the park. Some of these monies were spent to resod areas adjacent to horticulture displays to improve the overall look along with the plant infill or add ornamental fencing to protect existing or renovated plantings. Some of this funding was used in partnership with other City agencies. Example: Plantings in TTC right of ways to give high profile tourist areas in the downtown core a welcoming, well kept and professional appearance • Increase Grass Cutting & Litter Pick Up: • 2 million to provide additional seasonal staff to perform the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed for the 2005 season. Apr to June grass cutting done once per week. After second week of June, ten day rotation. Summer staff redeployed to perform duties related to turf Integrated Plant Health Care program where trails with compost tea, and other organic compounds were done. 80% decrease in grass related complaints received in 2005 from residents or Councillors. • WOW Gardens & Horticulture Bed Rejuvenation – Received \$1 million in new funding for 28 new WOW gardens in 21 Wards and for improving horticultural displays in the remaining 23 wards. • Greenhouses: almost one million Annuals are planted • In 2006, staff are “Taking the Gardens to the Neighbourhood Park,” involving two visits to two schools in each Priority Neighborhood: <p>The first visit included a session that discussed seeds and plants and the students’ environmental responsibilities. The children were in Grades 3 and 4 and this project fit in with their curriculum. The facilitator used the comparison that children have the same potential as seeds – to grow into something wonderful. The children started their sunflower seeds in the classroom at this session.</p>
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	<p>The second visit was approximately three weeks later and the children noted that the plants were all different sizes with different colours. It was pointed out to them that plants and people are similarly diverse in that way. The sunflowers were planted out in local parks and school gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year, the Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs work with community and recreation centres across Toronto to establish children's gardens in underutilized park spaces and initiate related environmental programming. Between one and four new children's gardens are established annually. In 2006, 2 new children's gardens were created. • Orphan Spaces: adopted and improved 49 spaces in 2005 and 11 in 2006, in partnership with City Transportation. • Park Standards and Innovation has been leading the Waste Diversion Subcommittee in implementation of the Division's Three-Year Waste Diversion Plan, 2004-2006. Implementation has included the following initiatives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Purchase and installation of 90 in-ground litter/recycling containers and 3,800 recycling baskets in over 350 parks, twinned with existing litter baskets. Recycling baskets are also used at seasonal park facilities in the fall and winter. 2) Partnership with Toronto Public and Catholic School Boards to host joint park clean-up events and educate students about litter prevention and the need to recycle. To date, nearly 10,000 students have helped to clean-up 76 parks. 3) Included waste diversion sections in both the recreation and park staff manuals. 4) Hired 3 staff in 2006 to deliver staff training sessions on waste diversion to both park and recreation staff. These 3 staff are also delivering programming on waste diversion at community centres and special events in parks to educate the public about waste diversion. • Launched 4 Eco Makeovers in 2 recreation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) facilities and 2 park yards to engage staff, visitors and stakeholders in greening the facility and improving diversion rates. 2) Conducted audits of recycling and litter baskets in over 100 parks to determine composition of waste and capture for future efficiencies. A similar audit is planned for 2007 to assess progress. 3) New Waste Diversion Guidelines have begun to be
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	<p>distributed to special event permit holders, to advise them of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. A Waste Diversion Plan will be required of special event holders beginning in 2007, prior to receiving a permit. Additional initiatives with respect to diversion and permits are currently in the planning stages.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) A green bin pilot was launched in 4 parks, to assess the potential of organic diversion in parks. 5) Vendors and concessionaires operating in parks and recreation facilities have been advised that they are required to recycle their waste and divert where possible. 6) In May of 2005, we hosted a media launch on park recycling with Mayor David Miller and Brenda Librecz. 7) Additional promotion of the 3 R's has taken place through news articles (e.g. Waste Watch), media interviews, signage and the new "See them? Use them." posters on Eucan bins and in recreation centres. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3 million worth of older vehicles/equipment will be replaced in 2006, including new fuel-efficient Smart cars for use by Forestry Inspectors. • 4 new mobile repair vehicles have been deployed to provide quicker on-site repair to grass cutting and forestry equipment. • Increased operator training to improve vehicle use, and reduce operator errors that may result in increased vehicle maintenance costs.
<p>11. Lead green action through organizing the work of parks volunteers to ensure community engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Forestry's Natural Environment and Community Programs unit hosted over 50 volunteer planting events in Spring 2006, engaging an estimated 2,000 volunteers. • Each year, the Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs train and work with 50 volunteers who contribute 500 hours to the Programs in garden maintenance, naturalization, food preparation and children's nature and garden programming. The Programs also work with 45 partners annually, including City and external organizations and artists. The goal is to engage people in parks, share unique partner/volunteer skills with the community and foster a sense of park stewardship. • The Community Stewardship Program will engage an estimated 100 volunteers, working in teams at 9 regular sites across the City. • The Natural Environment and Community Programs unit is the lead organizing partner for the annual Stewardship

	<p>Forum which allows almost 200 participants to have a day of lectures, seminars and tours of various environmental projects and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sustainable trails initiative engages volunteers in the Don Valley and High Park on a regular basis to rebuild trails in a sustainable manner as well as mitigate damage which has occurred at these sites. Guidelines and standards developed through these initiatives will direct future efforts in other areas of the City where multi-use trails are a concern. • Specific citizen groups such as the High Park Community Advisory Council run a calendar of biweekly events for volunteers, supported by Parks and Forestry staff. • Two trail ambassadors have been hired as part of the City's Cycling Ambassador program, with a mandate to promote responsible use of trails.
12. Develop a new Dogs-In-Parks strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report went to the May 2006 Economic Development and Parks Committee meeting which was referred to the Community Councils for consideration and public consultation. • Community Councils will report back to EDPC in 2007 with their recommendations.
13. Develop a World Parks Program to celebrate Toronto's cultural diversity through the redesign of our parks. We plan to remake eight parks per year with multicultural themes, phased in over five years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff prepared a discussion paper on World Parks that is linked to the City's partnership & friendship city programs • The City of Toronto, DX Design Exchange and the City of Milan partnered in facilitating a design charrette for a developer-driven park (i.e., Princess Park), located at the southeast corner of Yonge and Finch. The Charrette was conducted in Spring of 2005 and was recently featured in the Design Exchange national newsletter. • Staff are presently working with the developer to set out the scope of work and select consultants so that the design and implementation phases can be initiated. The design charrette outcomes will inform planning & design phases and implementation is anticipated in 2007. • Will be addressed in Parks Renaissance Strategy (PRS) (emerging themes in PRS that would support this: partnerships, development of park typologies, engagement of specific cultures and ethnic communities, identification of demonstration projects)

<p>14. Prepare a Parks Master Plan for spring 2005 to guide the renaissance of our parks and trails across the city. We have great landscape designers: we should let them shine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for a Parks Renaissance Strategy have been received, evaluated and the successful consultant retained (Urban Strategies). • Phase 1 work (Internal Research) nearing completion: information gathering, review of existing studies and policies, data and mapping compilation; series of topical workshops with project Steering Committee. • Progress Report approved by Council in May, 2006. • Phase 2 (Consultation) starting in June 2006: 6 Stakeholder Consultation sessions scheduled across the City • Further stakeholder consultation (City staff and special groups) will continue through the summer 2006
<p>15. Institute a Trailblazers Program, involving improvement and expansion of our trail system, and the provision of interpretive and directional signage, guidance for users with a disability, and appropriate lighting, for the pleasure and safety of trail and park users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFR Planning lead an inter divisional team coordinating a Park/Trail Signage Program including design of wayfinding trail signs, providing individuals in unfamiliar settings with three major classes of information in order to make decisions: Orientation, Directional, Guidance and Identification of Destination. • Capital Budget identified as follows: 2006 - \$165,000 (approved), 2007 - \$150,000 • The priority trails being signed: Don Trail System, Humber Trail, Beltline Trail, Taylor Creek Trail, Martin Goodman Trail • Planning presently completing signage design and plotting placement of signage program along Don Trail System. • Parks Standards and Innovation representing and liaising with Parks Operating Districts as necessary to provide operational support during the development of and coordinate the installation of signage upon completion of Park/Trail Signage Program development. • PHASE 2 IMPLEMENTATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Transportation to provide a route geo-location identification safety post system in order for EMS vehicles to respond to emergency calls.
<p>16. Create a Park Ranger Program, with rangers in every ward who will promote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program is contingent upon funding. Not approved in 2006 Budget Cycle.

<p>and protect Toronto/s green assets, a defining aspect of the city for tourists and residents.</p>	
<p>17. Start a Life Gardens Program to promote gardening as a healthy activity which brings forth bounty and beautifies the city. Components should include: year round children's gardens, and support for community gardens and related programming in our parks and conservatories across Toronto.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Gardens Program initiated in 1997 through partnership with FoodShare and Toronto Food Policy Council. • 124 community gardens City-wide, including 62 on City parkland; PFR provides support to the non-City owned gardens (e.g. church property, schools, hydro lands etc.) • Community Gardens Program developed initiatives that promote gardening as a healthy activity (i.e. Rockcliffe Teaching Garden and Greenhouses, Toronto Urban Farm, Junior Gardener Program) • Community Gardens Program initiated in 1997 through partnership with FoodShare and Toronto Food Policy Council • Council-approved Community Garden Action Plan (1999) set goal to establish one community garden per ward by 2001. Goal remains unfulfilled due to lack of Program operating funds • Community Services Committee (CSC) currently reviewing ways that Social Development, Finance and Administration can work cooperatively with PFR to increase the number of community gardens through the capital budget program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Manager, PFR to report to CSC on plan to expand community gardens in Fall 2006 • Community Gardens Program developed initiatives that promote gardening as a healthy activity (i.e. Rockcliffe Teaching Garden and Greenhouses, Toronto Urban Farm, Junior Gardener Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding by one-time Ontario Works Incentive Funds (2002-2005) ○ Continuation contingent upon approved funding ○ Funding by one-time Ontario Works Incentive Funds (2002-2005) • The Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs operate two gardens that feature children's organic garden programming: The High Park Children's Garden and Waterfront Children's Garden, the former of which was named one of the top 60 public spaces in the world in 2005. Each year, the Programs help establish up to 4 new children's gardens and/or environmental programs, by working with recreation and parks staff City-wide. Currently, they support 19 children's gardens

	<p>City-wide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Training Resource Manual and Kit combined with training and workshop series were developed by the Programs to assist Parks and Recreation staff in the initial stages of program and garden development. Follow-up workshops are provided in focus topics, e.g. composting, garden design, permaculture, linking nature and drama and linking cooking and gardening. Training and garden/program support are provided to four community centres (one per City district) annually. The goal is to facilitate the capacity of recreation centres to develop new children's gardens and deliver new Eco Programs into existing children's recreation programs (204 staff trained, up to 16 staff annually). • Council-approved Community Garden Action Plan (1999) set goal to establish one community garden per ward by 2001. Goal remains unfulfilled due to lack of Program operating funds
<p>18. Create a ParksArt Program with Toronto Culture involving artful horticulture in parks as part of the Public Art Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Division has presented the program concept to the Art Committee on Public Places (ACPP). • Commitment by Culture to work with PFR on a draft terms of reference in consultation with ACPP. • Interim successes include: Electronic database (including) images of outdoor art in parks completed and ready for web posting; • Aboriginal Public Art Committee created and supporting Culture Division process to establish a major Aboriginal art piece in a public park. • Canada Blooms Display and Aboriginal art display completed for existing parks. • Currently working with the Culture Division on the terms of reference for the Aboriginal Art on the potential University Avenue & College site. • Community Recreation has a children's art program at Allan Gardens. • High Park initiated a partnership with a local artist to do art carvings in dead standing oak stumps which received enthusiastic response from the community and visitors. • Additional art initiatives include Queens Park Sculpture (Al Purdy), Sculpture gardens (2 shows per year) and the Port Laureate Park in Queen's Quay Area in 2007 or 2008 pending funding

<p>19. Initiate a professional gardener certificate program through our community gardens and greenhouses, aimed at disadvantaged youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gardening course curriculum has been developed through Community Gardens Program • The course has been offered as a training component of initiatives funded by Human Resource and Social Development Canada and the Ontario Works Incentive Fund, targeted at disadvantaged youth in partnership with community agencies (e.g. FoodShare, Afri-Can FoodBasket, Hispanic Development Council, Native Men's Residence, African-Canadian Cultural Collective, Adwick MATS Program) • Since 1997, 144 youth have been trained through the Community Gardens Program course. Of the 144 participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 36 gained employment with PFR (including 28 visible minorities) ○ 4 youth wrote and passed the City's gardener's exam • In 2005, 25 youth were trained in the gardening course at the Rockcliffe Teaching Garden and Greenhouses. Of the 25 participants, 9 gained employment at the Toronto Urban Farm • Additional funding is required to support continued training • An organization (e.g. college, university, professional association) needs to be identified to formalize the course as a certificate program • In 2005, two aboriginal peoples support groups, Na-mes-res and Tumivut, teamed with HRSDC and PFR to develop a program (Earthkeepers Program) for 14 aboriginal youth (thirteen men and one woman) to acquire job skills that make them employable while providing a combination of life and educational lessons. • After approximately 6 weeks of school, they joined the city workforce as Labourer 2's. They were employed as Local 416 members on a one week on (paid), one week off for continued education (unpaid) for a 3-4 month period. With the support of Local 416, PFR piloted the program very successfully in 2005, with 11 of the 14 participants completing the work program. • The program is scheduled to continue through 2006 and beyond. • Pilot project (Earth Keepers Program involving 14 Aboriginal youth) implemented in partnership with Tumivut. Pilot run from April 2005 - October 2005; 2006
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	program begun in December 2005, to run through summer, 2006.
20. Pioneer a Natural Areas, Forestry and Parks Apprenticeship Program and a Youth Interpretive Program. Hire 60 students per year to educate youth on careers in these areas and to raise awareness of the vital importance of nature, and enter into discussions with Local 416 to develop a forestry and park apprenticeship program agreement to raise awareness of career opportunities within Parks & Recreation, and undertake a program to educate students on careers in environmental related fields such as forestry, parks and naturalization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiated within collective agreement with CUPE 416 to establish a Joint Committee for Apprenticeship (Human Resources to lead process).
21. Implement the Facility Renewal Program (a component of the Facilities Master Plan and Pool Provision Strategy) which should increase the capital maintenance budget by at least \$40 million a year, or one per cent of insured value, for 10 years.	<p><i>Facility Audits & Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2500 facility audits have been undertaken to date, as well as assessments of 580 kilometres of trails and pathways.</i> <i>Completed audits to date include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>35 indoor pools</i> <i>63 outdoor pools</i> <i>53 indoor arenas</i> <i>63 artificial outdoor arenas</i> <i>132 community centres</i> <i>97 service buildings</i> <i>94 clubhouses</i> <i>55 public washrooms</i> <i>73 field houses</i> <i>13 concession facilities</i> <i>50 Toronto Island buildings</i> <i>628 parks buildings</i> <i>298 parks bridges</i> <i>365 parks parking lots</i> <i>16 greenhouses</i> <i>176 waterplay and splash pads</i> <i>265 tennis courts and sports pads; and</i> <i>580 kilometres of trails and pathways</i> <i>The Harbourfront Centre and the ferry boat audits are expected to be completed by the fall of 2006.</i> <i>Other assets that remain to be audited include: sea walls, ferry dock facilities, bocce, ball diamonds cricket pitches,</i>

	<p><i>sports fields, irrigation systems, fountains, boardwalks, soccer facilities and stadiums, and underground services.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It is anticipated that those facilities not yet audited will be undertaken within the next two-four year capital cycle.</i> • <i>In addition, more intensive due diligence audits have been completed to the major facilities (i.e. community centres, pools and arenas) to reconfirm the scope and scale of the state of good repair work needed by this department and form the basis of state of good repair requests presented in the 2006 budget submission.</i> • <i>Targets for PFR's 5 year capital plan (including CAMP) were set out by the Chief Financial Officer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2007 - \$31.5 M (incl. CAMP - \$19.0 M)</i> <i>2008 - \$33.8 M (incl. CAMP - \$21.1 M)</i> <i>2009 - \$36.7 M (incl. CAMP - \$17.8 M)</i> <i>2010 - \$41.5 M (incl. CAMP - \$18.4 M)</i> <i>2011 - \$41.5 M (incl. CAMP - \$19.3 M)</i> ○ <i>These Corporate targets mean that PFR's state of good repair objective (\$40 M/year) will not be achieved.</i> <p>2006 PFR Works Program Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ward 31 Skateboard Park at \$500,000.00.</i> • <i>Centre Island Spray Pad and Scarborough Bluff Park at a cost of \$700,000.00.</i> • <i>Renovated 16 Playgrounds at a cost of \$1.2 million.</i> • <i>Completed phase one of McCowan District park at a cost of \$1.5 million.</i> • <i>Completed a renovation of Birchmount Stadium, installed new artificial turf and running track at a cost of \$1.8 million.</i> • <i>Completed Massey Harris Park at a cost of \$1.0 million.</i> • <i>Completed over \$18.0 million in State of Good Repair work through out the Divisions assets.</i> <p>Completion Rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PFR is working towards the goal of a 90% completion rate, for its capital works program. In 2006, PFR is projecting to spend \$81.7 million or 77 % of our approved 2006 cash flow of \$106.0 million in 2006.</i> • <i>Some projects have been delayed because third party funding was not received as scheduled or because land did not become available for acquisition during the</i>
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	<p><i>calendar year.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Division is focussing its efforts on clearing the backlog of prior year projects, which is affecting our capacity to commence new projects.</i>
22. Implement preventative maintenance to ensure our centres are clean, welcoming and comfortable again. Our buildings are showing their age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff review of preventative maintenance needs is on-going • Installation of energy efficient lighting systems in arenas and community centres is underway reducing the need for replacement of fixtures • Reduced capital budgets have impacted achievement of this target.
23. Advance the goals of the Environmental Plan by implementing conservation and waste diversion in our buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in facility recycling and diversion of reduction in waste to from land-fill in order to reach Council's target of 60% by 2007 through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purchase of reusable dishware for over 50 facilities. ○ Pilot of green bin program at two facilities. ○ Partnership with SWMS to send stockpiled items in facilities to Environment Days to ensure reuse and recycling. ○ Recycling of fluorescent bulbs from facilities city-wide. • Implementation of more efficient waste disposal systems. • Have implemented recycling in 160 recreation facilities as well as seasonal facilities like AIR's, outdoor pools, tennis courts. • Training of 145 full-time staff (Environmental Stewards) numerous seasonal frontline staff on waste diversion, as well as provide waste diversion programming and presentations to recreation program participants and park event attendees. • Four Eco Makeovers have been launched at two park maintenance yards and two recreation centres. Staff will audit the facility, identify areas for improvement and implement new initiatives, increase waste diversion by engaging all building stakeholders and improve energy conservation. • Waste audit of parks litter and recycling baskets in over 100 parks undertaking to be in the summer of 2006, to determine the composition and recycling capture rates. The audit will help identify areas for improvement and

	<p>next steps to reduce waste. A similar audit is planned for 2007 to track progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs are endeavouring to construct an innovative and unique indoor Teaching Kitchen at the High Park Children's Garden. The existing 28x38 foot picnic shelter would be extended and enclosed using environmentally sound building materials, methods and technologies. The kitchen will serve as an eco training centre for City staff and be a model of sustainable design for Toronto. Environmental design elements to be incorporated in the kitchen include: (1) passive solar water panels and heating system, (2) green roof, (3) straw bale walls, (4) low-flow toilets, (5) energy-efficient appliances and lighting, (6) re-claimed/re-used materials for internal millwork and (7) small wind turbine (pending site approvals).
<p>24. Prepare a Sport Strategy Framework in partnership with the Toronto Sport Council for Spring 2005 which identifies the critical role that sport can play in city building. The plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify regional facilities and field requirement priorities to increase sport opportunities for all participants from grass roots to elite athletes. Set a foundation for working with other sport and recreation agencies to ensure that participants have maximum opportunities to learn, participate, train, compete, at all stages of the playground-to-podium continuum. Identify the means to increase leadership capacity in sport by providing youth with opportunities to learn sports event management and coaching. Establish levels of achievement for sports instruction programs offered by Parks & Recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Strategy Framework for the City of Toronto was approved by Council in May 2006 Council Steering Committee established to advance development of new sport facilities and advocate for provincial/federal infrastructure funds. <p>Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On behalf of the City of Toronto, the Mayor has been supporting efforts to secure a national sport infrastructure program that will support the needs of municipalities to repair and build sport/recreation facilities. He has supported a motion of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, has written to the federal Minister of Sport, Michael Chong and the Ontario Minister of Public Infrastructure, David Caplan. As well, the General Manager of PFR has written to Ontario Minister of Health Promotion on this issue. <p>Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFR is meeting with the Toronto District and Toronto Catholic District School Boards in an effort to coordinate capital budgeting where appropriate. No projects have been identified yet, however, talks are still ongoing. PFR has increased its sport infrastructure by working with foundations and the private sector. Current projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport complex, Malvern (Nike Canada) Basketball and ball hockey court, Cornell Park

	<p>(Raptor Foundation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court, Phinn Park (Nike Canada) • 2 senior soccer fields, Portlands (TWRC)
25. Set city standards for sport delivery, permits, and recreational facilities' equipment and supplies offered by Parks & Recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division-wide committee mobilized and initial meeting held
26. Place priority on sports field development. Increase the number of sports fields by 10 per cent, including artificial turf surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two "Field of Dreams" Baseball diamonds in partnership with the Toronto Blue Jays Charitable Foundation at a cost of over \$300,000.00. • In 2005, approximately \$2,464,000 was approved for sports fields (football fields, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, cricket pitches, bocce courts, and horseshoe pits) upgrades and developments and in 2006, an additional \$1,775,000 was approved for sports fields upgrades and developments which is being utilized at sites across the city.
27. Work with Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation and Parc Downsview Park to ensure that active recreation opportunities are included in their development plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 324 hectares of new and improved parks and public spaces are planned for the waterfront. • Construction of transitional sport fields by the TWRC on City parkland on the Outer Harbour slated for 2006-07.
<p>28. Implement the Youth Recreation Strategy—Investing In Our Youth, following the philosophy of by youth-for-youth. Components should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased sport opportunities across the city to increase physical activity, teamwork and skill building. 2) Enhanced urban programming for youth. 3) More female programming, to level the gender playing field in sport and recreation, including dance, female-only sports, workshops and access to ice time in Toronto's rinks. 4) Youth empowerment and mentorship opportunities, encouraging youth to assume leadership roles in our community centres and community volunteer projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was received to support the following initiatives related to the Youth Recreation Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Youth After-school programs will commence in the fall of 2006. Approx 500 youth will be served • 4 Social Clubs for youth and youth with a disability are scheduled to commence in the fall of 2006. Approx. 300 youth will be served • 10 Youth Co-op Leadership (YCL) programs are being developed with 4 scheduled to commence in September 2006 and 6 more in 2007 • Youth Co-op Leadership will provide youth leadership opportunities to 480 youth in the fall 2006 <p>After-school Recreation Care (ARC) program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will provide employment opportunities to approx. 360 young people • will serve approximately 3600 children living in the city's 13 priority neighbourhoods when fully implemented in 2008.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff continue to advocate for Youth Recreation Strategy funding
29. Parks & Recreation should lower its hiring age from 16 to 14 for some positions, provided youth have completed the Leadership Training Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – January 2006 implemented.
30. Expand the Youth Outreach Program to reach out to new immigrants. Youth should be hired to explain our programs to newcomers and invite them to use them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Newcomer Youth Outreach Workers (YOWs) have been hired. Contacts continue to be made with newcomer youth and agencies serving newcomer youth in Toronto. In addition to the Newcomer YOWs, 23 YOW positions became full-time permanent positions. Four new YOW positions were also created to serve youth with a disability.
31. Ensure adequate facilities are available in communities with large populations, but few recreational opportunities, by renting extra space specifically for youth programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments underway.
32. Provide day-time drop-in and recreation opportunities for homeless and out-of-school youth to build their self-esteem and connection with the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop drop in day time programs for homeless adults and high risk youth out of school and out of work including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown East End Slow-Pitch League (DEESL) - Moss Park, 300 players, 100 spectators Soccer League - Moss Park, 40 participants Ball Hockey League - John Innes C.C. 40 participants Flag Football League - John Innes C.C. 40 participants drop in games room program - John Innes C.C. over 100 participants/week drop in weight training - John Innes C.C. over 100 participants/week daily shower times. - John Innes C.C, over 200 participants/week Dominos program in Allan Gardens - 30 participants
33. Ensure each centre has a least one unstructured but supervised after-school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on this project is underway.

drop-in program for youth.	
<p>34. Provide physical activity opportunities and leader-in-training programs in each district, in partnership with other agencies, for youth with a disability or special needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy development is underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing linkages with agencies • Physical activity Strategy launched with services & support programs for youth with disabilities and partnering agencies (pilates, walks for vision impaired etc.) HRDC Training Tool purchased for educational training for hiring People with Disabilities • Funds from Provincial Community Action Fund initiated the program. • 14 Focus group sessions with 6 different agencies • Specialized and Integrated physical activities (basketball)/mentorship program with Silent Voice for deaf youth • Specialized/Integrated Leadership in training programs. • Demographic Research Project: surveys were developed and sent to 5000 Residents, 60 agencies and 1 online survey was conducted (667 surveys returned by Toronto residents) with feedback on services & programs. A specific section was dedicated to youth with disabilities. • Disability awareness training was given to all Youth Outreach Workers with Community Living support. • Developed Adapted & Integrated resource booklet for the public. • Visually impaired youth from the CNIB joined staff of the Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs in 2006 to gain hands-on programming experience with Eco Camp participants.
<p>35. Establish youth councils for all community centres so that youth have their say.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway – ongoing through 2006
<p>36. Finalize, and seek support for the Seniors Recreation Strategy, with the Seniors' Round Table.</p>	<p>Seniors Strategy Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of the restructuring, PFR is now in a position to give this project solid, consistent leadership. • The Community Recreation Branch has made a commitment to engage older adults to have them comprise one of the branch-wide functional teams and staff of the Standards & Innovation Section will have older adults as part of their portfolio.

	<p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish the project team; Older Adults Functional Committee • Reconnect with districts to determine the status of the seniors service plans (resubmit request for expansion money for seniors) • Establish a workplan to begin addressing recommendations in the Seniors Recreation Strategy report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritize recommendations and establish who is responsible for what; ○ input on workplan from district staff and project team ○ once workplan drafted seek input from two key seniors reference groups; Seniors Roundtable and Seniors Resource Group
37. Increase the number of physically active Torontonians' 10 per cent by 2010 and 20 per cent by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with GYMO on implementation projects, using provincial funding; physical activity plan is complete and will be reported to EDPC in fall 2005
38. Implement the Children's Recreation Strategy fully.	<p>After School Recreation Care Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The After-school Recreation Care (ARC) programs in the City's 13 priority neighbourhoods are being implemented in the fall of 2006. • ARC will provide children and youth with the opportunity to participate in diverse and sustainable after-school programs that will enhance their social, physical, educational and creative development. • Programs will provide inclusive, culturally appropriate, flexible, high quality, safe environments and will be based on the best available knowledge of child development. The programs will also provide opportunities for youth leadership development, job readiness and volunteerism. • ARC program policies and procedures manual has been developed • ARC program content manual has been developed • ARC staff training program has been implemented in partnership with Seneca College • 13 ARC programs will commence September 2006 • 23 ARC programs will commence in 2007 • 24 ARC programs will commence in 2008 for a total of 60

	<p>programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC will serve 3600 children in the City's priority neighbourhoods
39. Increase the number of children registered in programs by 20 per cent by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment is ongoing, however participant numbers for the past 3 years are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004 273,965 • 2005 279,220 • 2006 280,190 (Projected Year End) <p>The figures do not include drop in courses.</p> <p>Statistics are based on active or completed registrations no withdrawals) for courses in Toronto Fun's children/youth or children subsections.</p> <p>The percentage change from 2004 to 2006 is 2.3%.</p>
40. Provide new Canadians, especially those from warm climates, opportunities to learn and play Canadian winter sports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hockey in the Neighbourhood (HITN) program started in 1999-2000 and provides inner city youth and youth from diverse cultures with a neighbourhood hockey experience for boys and girls between the ages of 7-13.</i> • <i>The program uses the sport of ice hockey as a foundation to teach athletic, academic and social responsibilities.</i> • <i>Outdoor locations run 8-10 weeks. The indoor arena runs 8-10 weeks in Fall session and/or Winter session (October to March).</i> • <i>During 2005/06 season the program served 300 registered participants (236 males and 64 females) at eight locations across the City:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harry Gairey– through Scadding Court CC, ○ Jimmie Simpson CC ○ Regent Park South CC ○ Parkdale CC & Masaryk CC at Upper Canada College ○ Elmbank CC – at Sunnydale ○ Scarborough Centennial CC ○ Malvern CC ○ John Booth Memorial Arena, ○ Expansion to Flemingdon Park C.C. in Fall/Winter 2006. • Community partners include Upper Canada College Horizon Program, Scadding Court Community Centre, and University of Toronto's Phys Ed Leadership Mentoring Program.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HITN corporate partners include Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Development and Tim Horton's. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) through the Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Development support the program with generous donations of equipment, logistics and technical support.</i> Each HITN location is staffed with a Maple Leafs minor hockey instructor to assist the PFR instruction staff. MLSE provides each location with signage and banners.
41. Ensure all children in Toronto have the opportunity to learn to swim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing part of Indoor Pool Provision Study and Aquatic Service Planning. 600 children participated in a 'Swim to Survive' pilot project with the Toronto District School Board which provides Grade 3 students with essential swimming skills.
42. Ask Council to direct Parks & Recreation to report by spring 2005 on options for free programs for children and youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established program to account for Welcome Policy – (2005 - \$2.5 million), (2006 - \$700,000). A report regarding options for free programs for children and youth was approved by Council, with the request to undertake a community consultation process. However, that process is on hold pending the completion of a full costing exercise to assess the true financial impact of Welcome Policy programs. <p>Approved Welcome Policy Registrations</p> <p>Initial Year 2003 – 28,972</p> <p>Year 2004 – 37,558 - Growth from base – 29.6%</p> <p>Year 2005 – 44,487 - Growth from base – 53.6%</p> <p>Year 2006 to July – 42,337 – Nearly 100% of 2005 registrations after just six months.</p>
43. Develop a capital plan by spring 2005 to retrofit facilities for use by people with disabilities that is based on the requirements of the Ontarians With Disabilities Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFR, through its Capital Budget, requests Council approval of \$1,000,000 per year for retrofitting facilities. As part of the 100 or so state of good repair projects the Division does yearly, the upgrades are accommodated at that time.
44. Ensure staff at all levels reflects the diversity of all the communities we serve, and invest in staff training to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are currently working with a Human Rights videographer to implement a "train the trainer" program on different aspects of addressing issues in the workplace

achieve a welcoming environment for all.	<p>and also with communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint initiative with HR. • Continuing to hire 'local' youth.
45. Increase capacity to improve community recreational development and citizen engagement.	<p>PFR Neighbourhood Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 pilot areas will be set up by September 30th, 2006: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South: Ward 28 (St. Lawrence/downtown) Ward 31 (Cresentown) North: Ward 15 (Lawrence Hts) Ward 9 (Jane and Finch) East: Ward 42 (Malvern) Ward 44 (Kingston/Galloway) West: Ward 1 (Jamestown) Ward 11 (Mount Dennis) • After three months we will roll out more teams with the hopes for 44 teams operating by the end of 2007. • The remaining 5 of the 13 Priority Areas will be the second roll out of our neighbourhood teams. • Established Community Engagement Unit. • Established Volunteer Reference Committee. • Met with Advisory Councils city-wide in May. • Diversity Councils are under development.
46. Promote the programs, services and benefits of recreation across the city. Building public awareness requires a broad effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marketing resources available within current Division budget.
47. Be the coach for the whole city. We need to demonstrate the value of lifelong activity through the use of our parks, trails, and community centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed work with Mayor's office to bring community volunteers into community centres and parks. • Partner with Public Health and Get Your Move On initiative ongoing • Completed a one year demonstration project of various forms of culturally appropriate programs with diverse communities in different areas of the City. • The Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs offer park hiking programs to school groups in the spring/fall and support 22 centres across Toronto to deliver nature exploration programs for children and youth in City parks.
48. Create a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to guide, recognize and celebrate volunteers, advisory councils and advocates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies will be completed in the Community Engagement Unit for the Volunteer Management Plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing for 2006.
49. Support the Mayor's Community Safety Neighbourhood Plan through the increased use of multi-service multi-agency program delivery methods in high-risk neighbourhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed initiatives such as Toronto Sport Leadership, partnerships with ProAction Fund, Canadian Tire to increase youth programming. • The Toronto Sport Leadership is a collaboration with the Toronto Community Foundation, the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board and the United Way. • 112 youth from 4 priority communities participated in training in sport coaching or aquatics leadership development. Following the successful completion and certification, participants were recruited for employment with PFR, the YMCA, and Harbourfront. • PFR participates in all the City's Neighbourhood Action Teams, creating new and enhancing existing opportunities for youth. • Recreation Supervisors will be participating on the neighbourhood action teams in the 13 priority areas. • The PFR neighbourhood teams will also compliment and support each of the priority area teams.
50. Parks & Recreation budgets should be calculated with due regard to costs avoided, both now and in the future, by other departments and by other levels of government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Costing and Pricing Study underway.
51. Parks & Recreation's annual budget should relate directly to the size of the assets maintained, and the numbers of Torontonians served. A measure of our success should be that both numbers grow in lockstep with the city's population growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing reassessment and review needed due to current fiscal limitations.
52. The City of Toronto should encourage other levels of government to invest in Parks & Recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Unit established to advocate public-public, public-private and community partnerships. • Currently there are no funds provided for Parks and Recreation programs and infrastructure through senior levels of government.
53. The City of Toronto will work with the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto District Catholic School Board to achieve the objectives of Our	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings to address a range of challenges and opportunities - Ongoing negotiations and liaison with both Boards of Education • Partner with Toronto school boards to introduce

<p>Common Grounds especially those objectives for children and youth.</p>	<p>employment, volunteer and leadership training opportunities to Grade Nine students in schools in the Mayor's Neighbourhood Action Plan communities - Completed in 2004.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following from the successes in 2005, Park Supervisors and recreation staff met with 6,000 students from both School Boards to clean-up 35 parks adjacent to their schools on April 21st, 2006. Staff delivered short presentations on-site about littering and recycling. Forestry staff also chose 8 schools to participate in planting large caliper trees following the clean-up, in honour of Arbour Day.• Another clean-up and tree planting is planned for the fall, between October 23 to November 3rd. To date, nearly 10,000 students have helped to clean-up 76 parks.• An inter-branch partnership was established in 2004 to divert wood waste from Forestry operations to children's gardens on school grounds. Approximately 12,000 cubic yards of wood mulch is diverted from landfill annually.• An exchange of services agreement with the Toronto Catholic District School Board is being explored. The intent is for PFR to gain access to gyms in exchange for access to pools by the Toronto Catholic District School Board.• In 2006, a pilot project with the Toronto District School Board was initiated to provide a 'Swim to Survive' program for students in Grade 3 – 600 children participated.• 'Go Out of the Box' is a partnership program with the Toronto District and Toronto Catholic District School Boards for students in Grades 4-6, to experience physical and cultural activities involving 800 students were involved in 2006.
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