

ACTIVE PLACES

PARKS, FORESTRY & RECREATION
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

EX28.2
Appendix C

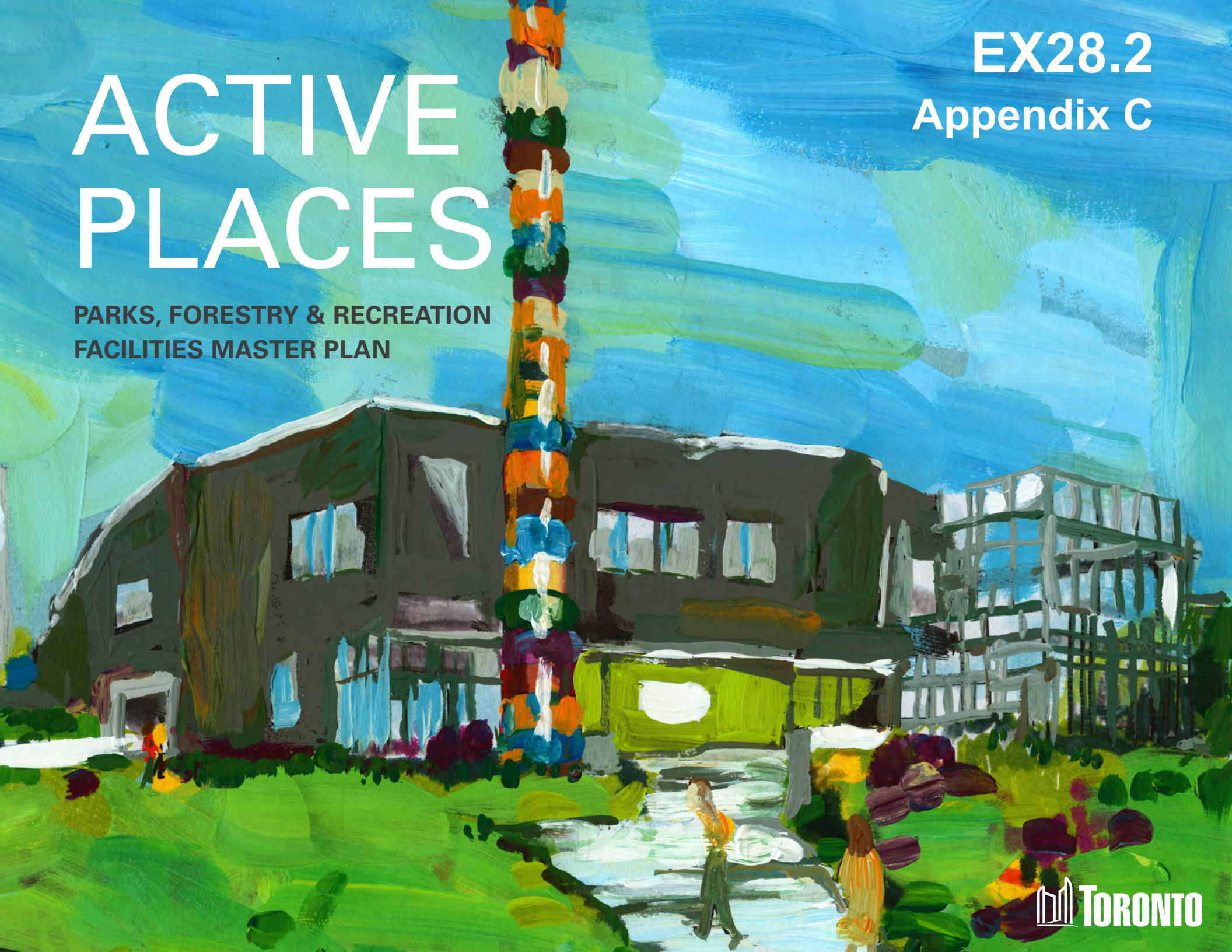


TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| A CITY BUILDS FACILITIES SO ITS PEOPLE CAN BUILD COMMUNITY | 3 | AQUATICS | 20 |
| | | York Recreation Centre: Keeping the water fine | 23 |
| TORONTO NEEDS A PLAN | 4 | COURTS | 24 |
| ACTIVE PLACES | 7 | Leacock Arena: Building on Ice | 27 |
| GOALS & OBJECTIVES | 8 | FIELDS | 28 |
| STATE OF GOOD REPAIR | 10 | Cherry Beach Sports Fields: Making much of time | 31 |
| Canoe Landing: Co-location makes it happen | 13 | ICE | 32 |
| COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRES | 14 | Greenwood Rink: Colouring outside the lines | 35 |
| Regent Park: A new kind of community | 17 | FUTURE DIRECTION | 36 |
| | | COST OF INVESTMENT | 38 |

A city builds facilities so its people can build community

Toronto's parks and recreations facilities — our community centres, our sports fields, our courts, our arenas — are not just places for fun, games and personal growth, but where people of all ages and abilities come together to share their interests, ideas and cultures.

By encouraging people to get active, parks and recreation facilities are building blocks. They are the first step towards personal well-being, giving people a chance to learn and engage in physical activity. But they are also the foundation

of a sense of belonging — of groups forged by people playing and participating together.

This 20-year plan reflects the City of Toronto's ongoing commitment to providing high quality parks and recreation facilities, taking a systematic, city-wide approach to provide for all our residents.

It will ensure everyone has an opportunity to create the sense of vitality and community that make Toronto such a vibrant city, now and well into the future.





TORONTO NEEDS A PLAN

Toronto's rapidly transforming population has major implications for planning, and demand for recreation programs and facilities continues to increase. As the city grows and changes, so too must our facilities. Our last facilities plan was developed in 2004. Since that time Council, our service plans, and our city planning efforts have reinforced the need for an updated plan.



Growth

Over the next 20 years, Toronto will grow by 450,000 people, with almost half of that growth projected for the downtown core. The biggest challenges of this growth will be land availability and cost. It means not only making the most of our current facilities, but finding creative new ways to provide services — including partnerships with other divisions, institutions and developers.



Demand

Demand for our programs and facilities is well-known. In 2007, 90,528 people were on program waitlists, a number that has grown to nearly 200,000 in 2016, despite new centres opening every few years. At this rate, waitlists will double to over 400,000 residents by 2025 — unless we commit to building new facilities and renewing and maintaining our current assets.



Provision

The City's parks and recreation facilities have developed incrementally over decades, and pre-amalgamation municipalities each had their own approach to facility provision. Most facilities were built during growth periods and were designed to meet the needs of the day and of the area. The plan aims to ensure provision is consistent across the city, even in the face of growth.



Aging Facilities

The average community recreation centre is almost 40 years old, and the average arena is 50 years old. Many City facilities are reaching the end of their lifespans and are not keeping pace with public needs and expectations. Deteriorating facilities affect user experience, increase repair and operating costs and create risk and liability.

Investing in the right facilities at the right times and in the right places

The 20-year Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan will guide and prioritize the City's future investment and opportunities for parks and recreation infrastructure. Based on the best available evidence, it provides a city-wide list of recommended projects.

Investing in the right facilities at the right times and in the right places ensures the maximum benefit to the city and its residents. This plan represents a unique opportunity for the City and its partners to direct funds to the facilities best suited to meet Toronto's diverse and constantly changing recreation needs.

Since the city, its population and their recreation needs are constantly changing, this is a living, active document: this plan will be reviewed every five years and updated to ensure its progress and priorities are up to date.



ACTIVE PLACES

We're creating parks and recreation facilities that improve quality of life by inspiring participation, meeting resident needs, and strengthening communities.

Guiding principles



Quality

Provide relevant, flexible, inspiring facilities to enhance the health, well-being, and quality of life of residents.



Innovation

Encourage progressive strategies and partnerships that respond to changing times, address emerging needs, and reflect the unique needs of each community.



Sustainability

Protect the interests of current and future generations through adaptable and resilient facilities that maximize utilization, protect infrastructure, and contribute to the quality of the environment on a long-term basis.



Equity

Provide parks and recreation facilities for all residents, regardless of their age, location, financial, or other barriers.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. GOAL:

Renew and upgrade existing facilities

The City has an extensive inventory of parks and recreation facilities highly valued by residents, but many facilities are aging. Strategies are needed to renovate, enhance or repurpose these facilities to meet community needs.



Objective

Invest more in renewing and upgrading facilities.
Be proactive in making the most of existing facilities, by monitoring usage and finding ways to use facilities year-round and for multiple purposes.

2. GOAL:

Address gaps and growth-related needs

Growth, demographic shifts and historical patterns all contribute to gaps in access to facilities and programs. To ensure equity, the planning and construction of new facilities must be grounded in current data and research, aligned with need and demand.



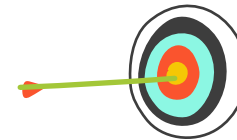
Objective

Take an evidence-based approach to facility planning, using this plan to streamline the design and development of facilities that serve gap and growth areas with a broad range of activities.

3. GOAL:

Work with others to explore new opportunities

The City should expand on its partnerships with other facility and service providers, institutions and funders to improve access to parks and recreation facilities and services across Toronto.



Objective

Prioritize collaboration with community partners that enhance public access to needed spaces, and engage communities in the planning and stewardship of local facilities.



The Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre is an example of the opportunities partnerships can create

STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

Though we're all drawn to the promise and freshness of new buildings, ice pads and court surfaces, one of the most underappreciated but crucial challenges of the next two decades will be maintaining the facilities we already have. A consistent willingness to push problems further down the field has left the city with a state of good repair backlog that is seriously affecting our ability to provide the high quality facilities and programs that Torontonians expect.

The good news is that a clean slate is still well within our grasp. Clearing the existing backlog and bringing repair funding up to the industry standard of 2.1% of the value of our inventory will ensure we are both ensuring ongoing repairs, and not forcing future generations to deal with debts to our infrastructure or our bottom line. Because as much as we love to start something new, every active person knows that keeping it up is the most important part.

"They make the city so much more livable. Just wish they had more funding so some of the older ones could have more of an update."



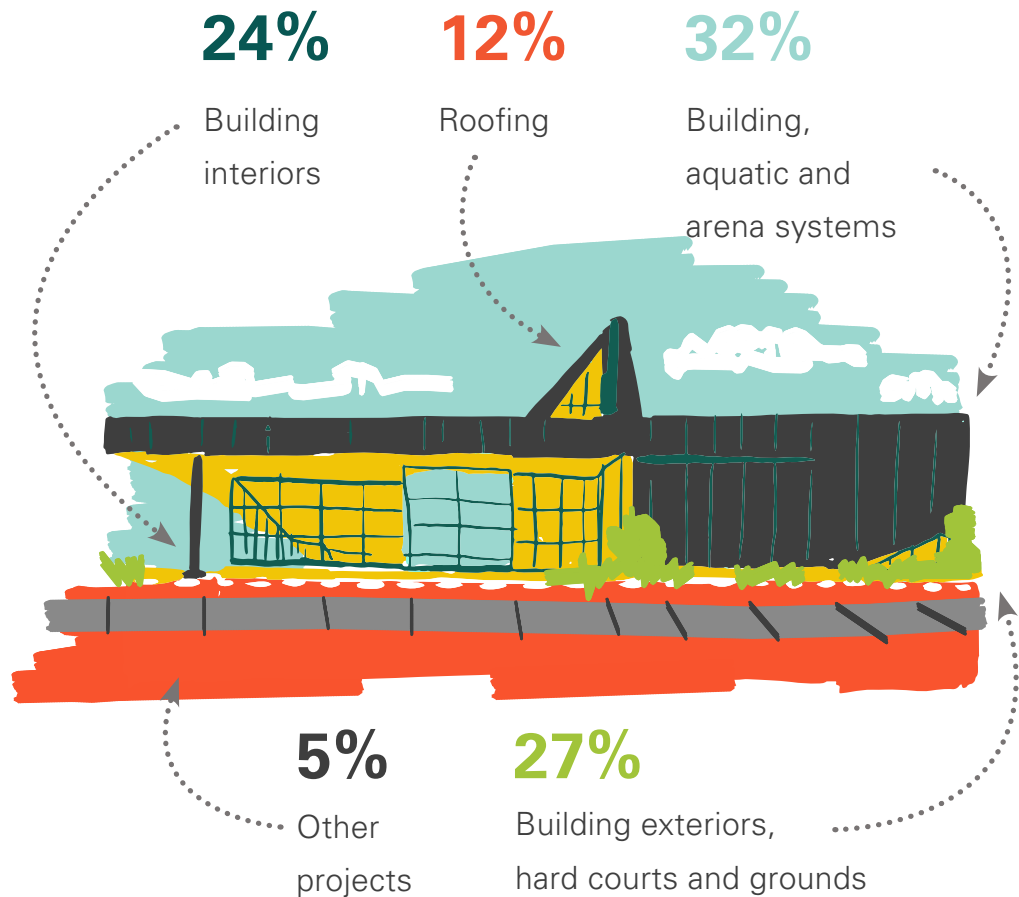
Good Repair

Today's leaking roof is tomorrow's closed facility: failing to address the current repair gap won't just leave current facilities in a substandard state, it will let problems fester and grow, affecting not only the longevity and usability of spaces but exacerbating necessary repair costs. Left unaddressed, the costs of repair grow exponentially — and even necessitate full-on replacement.

Setting the Standard

An annual increase of \$13.7 million would help us eliminate our current repair backlog — an estimated 400 projects. An ongoing commitment of \$9.4 million a year — the industry standard of 2.1% of the value of our facilities — will prevent future backlogs from developing. Failure to implement either could leave us with up to twice as many projects to fund and complete by the end of the current master plan.

BREAKING DOWN THE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR PROJECTS



How we'll grow

Over the next 20 years, here's how many of Toronto's park and recreation facilities will change:

| FACILITYTYPE | EXISTING | PROVIDED FOR IN THIS PLAN | TOTAL BY 2036 |
|---|----------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Community Recreation Centres (mid-to-large) | 85 | 17 | 102 |
| Gymnasiums | 102 | 23 | 125 |
| Indoor Pools | 59 | 18 | 77 |
| Splash Pads | 119 | 20 | 139 |
| Outdoor Artificial Ice Rink Pads | 62 | 5 | 67 |
| Soccer and Multi-Use Sports Fields | 324 | 45 | 369 |
| Cricket Pitches | 28 | 5 | 33 |
| Tennis Courts | 602 | 20 | 622 |
| Basketball Courts | 135 | 32 | 167 |
| Skateparks | 14 | 6 | 20 |
| Bike Parks | 4 | 1 | 5 |

CANOE LANDING:

Co-location makes it happen

With so much of Toronto's population growth coming in the downtown core, the biggest challenge will simply be finding space: unlike the places where many of these people will live, parks and recreation facilities rarely have the luxury of being able to build up. Though some of the facilities to come can be found through more robust advance planning and through creative reuse of existing facility footprints, one of the keys to providing Torontonians with the recreation experiences they are used to will be creative partnerships.

One such endeavour is already under way at Canoe Landing, the park that forms the green centrepiece of a new block of towers east of the Fort York National Historic Site. An innovative co-location project that combines parks and recreation facilities with two elementary schools and a childcare centre, the Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre is slated to open in 2019.

Growing from the existing park, it will serve as a community hub for the surrounding high-rise, high-density community. Based on extensive public consultation and an intimate working relationship with the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the City of Toronto's Children's Services Department, the recreation centre will feature shared gymnasiums and multi-use spaces, serving as a hub for the young families of the area in particular.

The resulting centre will maximize not only the space's footprint — solving one of the biggest challenges of central facility development — but its financial resources: initial estimates suggest building costs are 43% lower, and the shared nature of the facilities will make operation costs lower, as well. The result is an example of how unique and fruitful partnerships can ensure Toronto's central building boom still gives people room to stretch their legs.



COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRES

They come in many shapes, sizes and purposes, but together Toronto's 85 mid-to-large Community Recreation Centres form the backbone of our public recreation system. Whether they are event-ready, massively multi-purpose buildings that draw users from across the city or neighbourhood-level facilities that bring together a block, they help stoke community engagement, deepen social connections and account for the bulk of the city's personal health, wellness and physical activity programming.

As highly integrated community hubs, recreation centres also represent an ideal model for all parks and recreation facilities. As such, they form the centrepiece of the next two decades of Toronto recreation planning, the facilities that will be relied upon to fill in gaps and stitch together the communities that will grow around them.



The future of community recreation centres is two-fold. First, a slate of 17 entirely new centres, spread around the city to address gaps and to account for future growth. Second, an extensive project of renewal, transforming vital older spaces into modern, first-rate facilities. Both new and renewed facilities will be high quality public spaces supported by new, inclusive design features, integrated community uses and welcoming amenities that respond to a broad range of needs.

These new and revamped facilities will keep Toronto a world leader in community recreation opportunities, and provide the base from which our city will continue to grow and thrive.

17 new centres

Backed by extensive evidence — from exhaustive public consultation to the best projections of where Toronto is going — 17 new CRCs will be constructed. Of these, 14 are planned or in progress, with 10 already having committed funding. Of the remaining three, two are necessary to fill provision gaps and one is needed to respond to population growth.

NEW FACILITIES TO SERVE A GROWING CITY

The proposed locations of new centres

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Bessarion (Ward 24) | 10. Newtonbrook Plaza Redevelopment (Ward 24) |
| 2. Canoe Landing (Ward 20) | 11. North Rexdale (Ward 2) |
| 3. Central Etobicoke (Ward 4) | 12. One Yonge Street (Ward 28) |
| 4. Davisville Junior Public School (Ward 22) | 13. Port Lands (Ward 30) |
| 5. Downsview (Wards 8/9/10) | 14. Shops at Don Mills (Ward 25) |
| 6. Downtown (Wards 20/22/27) | 15. Southwest Scarborough/ McCowan (Ward 36) |
| 7. East Bayfront (Ward 28) | 16. Wabash (Ward 14) |
| 8. Etobicoke City Centre (Ward 5) | 17. Western North York, 20 Starview Lane (Ward 7) |
| 9. Joyce Trimmer Park, Scarborough (Ward 42) | |



People places

Each new CRC will be anchored by a regulation-size gymnasium and a pool, and will incorporate other recreational and community programming space into a truly multifunctional facility that allows for cross-programming and attracts a critical mass of people, allowing for more efficient use of space and facility. To emphasize their role as community hubs, they will be designed with larger lobbies and inviting atriums that incorporate lots of natural light, flexible spaces for community activities and will be built barrier-free, among other modernizations.

Working together

To address growing space constraints in the city, we will pursue partnerships with other city departments, public institutions and public space developers to ensure new facilities are conveniently located and make the most of their built footprint.

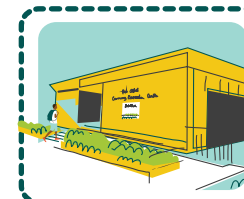


Free programs are offered to residents in 38 communities to reduce barriers to participation.

“Parks and recreation facilities help my family to be active and healthy and to get out into the community and meet others in our neighbourhood. There aren’t many opportunities to get to know others in the area and this is really important to me — to build a sense of community.”



Since 2007 program waitlists have doubled to nearly 200,000.



More than 6 million visits are made to CRCs each year.

REGENT PARK: A new kind of community

The revitalization of Regent Park created the need for a new recreation centre in the area. Replacing two smaller facilities, it was a chance to create a modern community hub that not only provided essential services but fostered new connections and opportunities for the people of Regent Park. After extensive public consultation and coordination with other stakeholders, including the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the new facility — co-located with and connected to Nelson Mandela Park Public School — was opened in 2016.

In both design and function, it is an exemplary model for future community recreation centres. It's open atrium welcomes visitors with natural light flooding through two stories of potential activities for users. The initial hallway is activated immediately by the presence of a climbing wall and table tennis and pool tables integrated into the space. On one side, abutting a central outdoor courtyard, are youth and adult lounges featuring rest areas and computers. On the other is a central physical activity area: a central gymnasium on the main floor is overlooked by an open-concept weight room that incorporates cardio machines and a running track on the second.

Various offshoots from the main hallway provide space for an employment centre, a dance studio, a community kitchen, multipurpose rooms, childcare facilities — run by George Brown College — and a direct connection to the public school. The school's facilities outside, including a sports field, running track and basketball courts, provide further opportunities for recreation, while also serving as a physical link between the centre and the rest of the community.

The result is a facility that is intimately connected with its community. Its multiple uses provide a natural platform for outreach to draw community members to its multitude of other programs: parents picking up their children from after-school care can be drawn towards dance classes; youth dropping in for pickup basketball can interact with employment counsellors. Programming feeds on itself, encouraging the facility's use and enhancing the bonds of community, making the modern community recreation centre a truly active place.



Where and why

We selected sites based on a variety of criteria, including:

- Facilities 40 years older or more, with rising repair costs and deteriorating conditions
- A lack of suitable alternatives in the vicinity
- The facility serves one or more high-need areas
- The facility has outstanding AODA/barrier-free requirements
- The current facility is operationally inefficient due to operating or staffing costs
- The project will provide value-added opportunities, including partnership, funding or alignment with other city priorities)
- Enhancing these facilities will help us meet provision goals

Legacy spaces, modern expectations

With space at a premium, taking advantage of existing footprints allows us to provide the modern facilities communities crave at minimal additional cost and impact to current services. With an eye towards creating community hubs — meaning both building inviting amenities and expanding programming and facilities — these recreation centres will grow with their neighbourhoods.

REPLACE: MAXIMIZING THE POTENTIAL OF EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTRES BY REPLACING AGING FACILITIES

The best choices for potential renewal

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Albion Pool & Health Club (Ward 1) | 6. Lawrence Heights Community Centre (Ward 15) |
| 2. Dennis R. Timbrell Resource Centre (Ward 26) | 7. Masaryk-Cowan Community Centre (Ward 14) |
| 3. Falstaff Community Centre (Ward 12) | 8. Scarborough Centennial Recreation Centre (Ward 38) |
| 4. Gus Ryder Pool & Health Club (Ward 6) | 9. Stan Wadlow Clubhouse (Ward 31) |
| 5. John Innes Community Centre (Ward 27) | 10. Thistletown Community Centre (Ward 1) |
| | 11. Wallace Emerson Community Centre (Ward 18) |





In a typical year, there are 4.8 million visits to registered programs — most of these occur in community recreation centres.

AQUATICS



Toronto's indoor swim centres, outdoor pools and splash pads are some of the city's most popular features. They represent some of the city's most truly integrated-use facilities: highly structured lessons and classes give way to freeform fun, especially during the city's warmer seasons. Often integrated into parks or larger buildings, they also frequently act as community hubs, where both organized and informal activities keep people active and engaged.

The future of aquatic activity in the city is one that dives right into that ability to draw people together. Indoor pools will be integrated into multi-use community recreation centres, while our aging outdoor pools will be redeveloped with an eye towards accessibility and extended use. Low-cost, family-friendly features like splash pads will be provided in areas where families are growing, and all facilities will focus on aim to provide year-round, all-ages opportunities for healthy, active lifestyles.



Splish-splash

Integrated into existing infrastructure, Splash Pads provide opportunities for unstructured, spontaneous play, and are an ideal way to activate public spaces at minimal investment from the city. Through a mixture of new construction and conversion of wading pools, we aim to have 20 more in the next 20 years.

Renewed facilities, new opportunities

Though highly popular, the age of many facilities provide barriers to wider use. Modernizing existing indoor and outdoor pools is a major priority. Increasing accessibility with new change rooms and pool ramps, as well as incorporating leisure features like shade, beach-entry pools and waterplay features will give everyone a chance to enjoy the water.

A place for all seasons

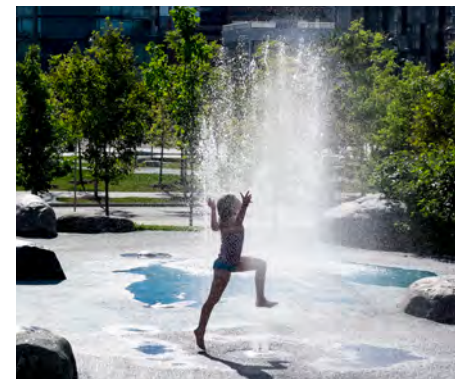
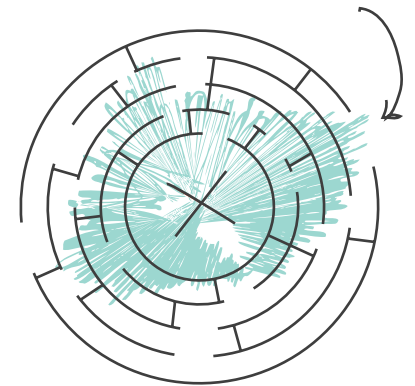
Outdoor pools have a limited window for use. Exploring indoor pools that are more integrated with outdoor features, such as decks that can be converted to open-air facilities, can improve year-round usage.

Serving the community

Of the of the 18 additional new indoor pools to come over the next 20 years, most will be built as part of Community Recreation Centres. This takes advantage of both their inherent popularity and their existing status as community hubs, appealing to and providing activities for a wide range of ages, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

TRY IT!

Multi-use doesn't just mean different activities — it can also mean different seasons. Simple thing like painting a labyrinth on a wading pool can turn a summer treat into year-round family fun.



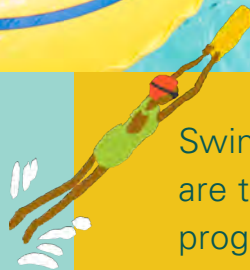
Splash pads create flexible outdoor opportunities to cool off.





TORONTO'S CURRENT AQUATIC FACILITIES BREAKDOWN

| 220 | 59 | 59 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| splash pads & wading pools | indoor aquatic facilities | outdoor pools |



Swimming lessons are the most popular program the city offers.

"My family can't afford to enroll in paid activities. We skate on public and indoor rinks and go leisure swimming."

YORK RECREATION CENTRE: Keeping the water fine

Though pools are some of the city's most popular recreation features, they also represent one of the trickiest design projects in the parks and recreation portfolio. The demands of the primary groups of users are often significantly different — athletic swimmers and lessons tend to prefer long, cool pools, where recreational and aquatic fitness users like them smaller and warmer — and the expense of building and maintaining pool facilities can make it tricky to serve everyone.

In the future, the solution will come in the form of pools like that found at the York Recreation Centre, near Black Creek. Opened in 2017, it was designed primarily with community programming in mind. To that end, It features both a six-lane, 25-metre lap-swimming tank and a shallower, warmer pool for recreation. The pool features splash-play facilities for children, and is served by park-facing windows that allow plenty of natural light to light

the space and a mezzanine viewing area that allows supervision of both lessons and play time.

Incorporated into a modern, fully accessible facility, this ease of use extends to the pools themselves, in particular the recreational pool: it features both ramp access, and shallow, “beach entry” features to allow people of all ages and abilities barrier-free access to both the facilities and classes.

As part of a larger, multi-use recreation centre, the pool is not just a place for different kinds of swimming, it is one spoke in a true community hub, helping programming and play build on top of each other. By embracing the demands of a diverse array of users, we can create facilities that make the most of our resources and Torontonians' experiences.

LANE SWIM



AQUA-FIT



LEISURE SWIM



PRESCHOOL SWIM



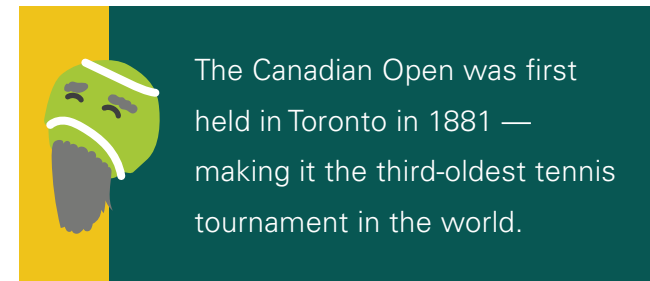
OPEN and
INCLUSIVE
SWIM



COURTS

From basketball to tennis, skateboarding to pickleball, the city's outdoor courts are the backbone of our casual recreation network. They are a remarkably effective way to give Torontonians across ages, abilities and incomes the opportunity to get outside and enjoy themselves, with the barriers to participating almost as low as the provisional cost to the city. They can also play host to organization and programming outside the city's purview: their widespread location, small footprint and adaptable nature makes them some of our central spaces for club activity.

The plan for outdoor courts highlights their adaptability. This means not only integrating them into new and different spaces, particularly in areas of growth and need, but finding ways to use the infrastructure across seasons and sports, across abilities and accessibilities. It is about giving Torontonians the freedom to need nothing but a ball or a board to be active throughout the city.



“Community centres are the heart of our community. They are a vital part of my mental health and a place my family calls home!”



If you laid all Toronto's outdoor basketball hoops end to end, they would stretch from the Air Canada Centre to the Rogers Centre.

Jumping with hoops

Basketball represents an ideal way to provide unstructured activity, and remains highly popular among youth. Growth estimates suggest 32 additional courts are needed across the city, planned and integrated into the city's Basketball Development Plan.

Wheels up

The city's Skateboard Strategy found large gaps in the facilities provided to a sport still growing in popularity. Plans now call for six more outdoor skateparks as well as 18 skate spots — smaller facilities integrated into existing parks infrastructure — which will also provide space for other wheeled sports.

Courting users

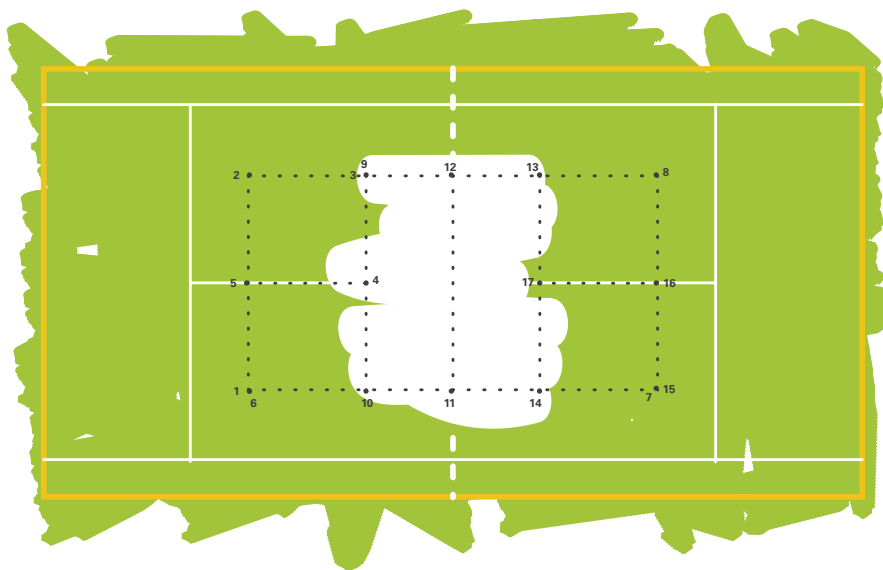
Though many facilities require upgrades, this represents a chance to create multiple uses through the formal addition of other infrastructure. Where possible, new facilities will be built with multiple uses already integrated, both across activities (multiple lines and nets) and seasons (built on the same footprint as outdoor ice facilities).



ACTIVITY

HOW TO TURN A TENNIS COURT INTO A PICKLEBALL COURT

Two different sports can happily coexist on the same court — all it takes is a few extra lines! Connect the dots to see how you can fit a pickleball court inside a tennis court.



Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in Canada.



One of the ice pads at Stephen Leacock Arena was converted into an indoor soccer/lacrosse field.

STEPHEN LEACOCK ARENA:

Building on ice

As smaller arena facilities age and ice usage patterns shift, one attractive option for use of the city land — especially in legacy neighbourhoods, where space is at a premium — is a conversion to multi-use community recreation centres. The city has already done so with one such facility, the Stephen Leacock Arena, with resounding success.

A two-pad arena for 35 years, Leacock was transitioned to a multi-use space when a costly potential repair gave the department an opportunity to reconsider its role. After community consultation and research revealed limited local, neighbourhood use of the ice, plans were made to redevelop the pads and expand the facility into a true community hub.

The ice pads were converted to a dry pad and an indoor turf field — both facilities in high demand, with limited supply, at the time of conversion. The former hosts everything from ball hockey to basketball and even one

of the city's largest table tennis programs, while the latter is primarily used for indoor soccer and lacrosse — including occasionally serving as a practice facility for professional lacrosse teams. Both rinks are circled by an elevated indoor track that was able to be added simply by building up on the existing footprint, and abutted by multi-use spaces that include childcare facilities, a dance and aerobics studio and a community kitchen.

The expanded uses draw in a much wider swath of the community — offering programming across age groups, many with waiting lists for their services — while the flexible amenities have turned a seasonal space into a year-round draw, generating increased revenue through permitting and overall costing less to run than the average arena. It serves as both a lesson and a model for the potential to be found in not just reinvesting, but reimagining existing facilities.



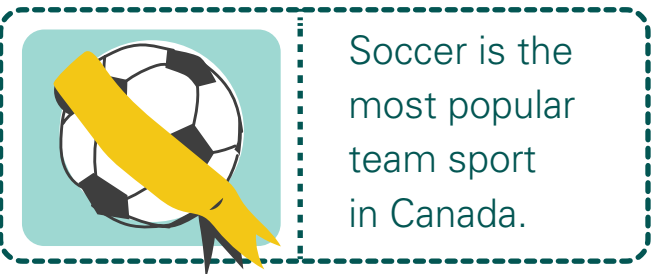
FIELDS

Toronto's fields and pitches play host to the widest array of any single facilities group. Everything from semi-professional baseball teams to casual frisbee tossing, Canada's most popular team sport to some of its fastest-growing new forms of getting out and getting active find a place on the grassy expanses. With their many and varied uses, fields are among the most requested and most used facilities the city offers, and make up the bulk of actual space provided by the parks and recreation department.

With that popularity and broad usage comes unique challenges — particularly in terms of footprint. The growth of Toronto's population puts a particular strain on new field facilities: they require significant space, which has never been at more of a premium. New and innovative ways of finding these spaces, whether through co-location or other partnerships, will be essential, as will upgrading our current facilities to make the most out of them. With creativity and care, though, we can continue to provide Torontonians with some of their most essential recreational opportunities.

Soccer permits account for over 100,000 hours of field use annually

"Our parks and recreation facilities and green spaces are one of the things that make Toronto such a spectacular place to live."



Where the people go

With much of Toronto's growth coming in already dense areas, finding space will be the key challenge for new facilities. Only by planning for future needs early and pursuing partnerships can we ensure Toronto has space for the 45 new soccer and multi-purpose fields and 5 new cricket pitches it needs.

Live long and prosper

Facility upgrades like artificial turf, lighting and building out additional infrastructure extend both the functional life and potential usage of fields. The creation of a sports field development fund with a target of upgrading 10% of our current fields in the next 20 years would provide the equivalent availability of about 20 new fields (soccer, multi-use and ball diamonds).

Hearing cricket

Cricket is one of the most popular sports among newcomers to Canada. With a required space that spreads over two standard soccer fields, finding the room for the five new pitches needed to match growing demand will require optimizing new land for multiple uses and adaptation of existing facilities.

Structured fun

Sports Bubbles, often operated by third parties, allow fields to be used year-round. Clubhouse and field houses, meanwhile, often play a role in wider community activities, but they are aging and could be made more generally accessible. Where possible, new facilities will be incorporated into community recreation centres and other existing structures, to maximize their impact.





The average artificial turf field uses 20,000 recycled tires for cushioning and stability, and creates a durable surface that can sustain three times as much use.

CHERRY BEACH SPORTS FIELDS:

Making much of time

Finding a place for more sports fields in the city promises to be one of the unique challenges of the next 20 years of parks and recreation planning. Wide-open green spaces are in short supply in the city already, and promise to be even trickier to find as the city densifies and diversifies. Getting the most out of the spaces we do have will be key to ensuring opportunities to participate in some of Toronto's most popular outdoor activities.

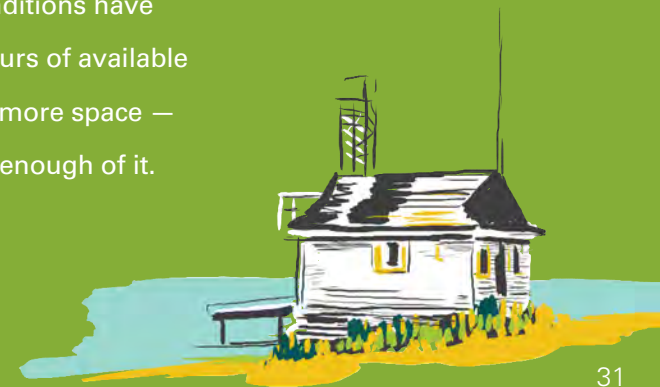
Facilities like the Cherry Beach Sports Fields represent how to make the most of the large footprint of outdoor fields. Located on a reclaimed industrial site in the Port Lands, they consist of two regulation-size soccer fields laid with artificial turf, serviced by a field house with washroom facilities.

Painted and primarily used for youth soccer and field lacrosse, they are nevertheless easily adapted to a variety of uses and age groups, often needing nothing more than a change in equipment. Because the only permanent infrastructure are the fields themselves — none of the

cement anchoring of nets and goalposts common to grass fields — similar facilities could easily adjust the basic set-up to reflect local popularity, or be changed over with minimal effort as demands change.

Modern lighting that adjusts to the angles and intensity of sunlight allows the fields to operate both well into the night and for longer in season than even other lit fields. The artificial turf surface gives the playing field added resiliency: where grass can be chewed up in wet conditions, or diminished by extended dry spells, the turf, once installed, is resilient under any conditions, and over the course of its life needs less maintenance and care, helping to bring down long-term costs.

These extended availabilities through any conditions have the potential to bring many more potential hours of available time to the users without needing to find any more space — an ideal solution for a city that can never find enough of it.



ICE

Canada has long been defined by its embrace of winter, particularly our ability to turn snow and ice into a perfect playground. But changes and challenges are ahead for our winter pursuits. Though hockey and figure skating remain popular pastimes, use of the city's arenas and ice-based programming has decreased over the past decade as private-sector options have expanded. In many cases, the significant investment needed for building and maintaining indoor facilities simply doesn't make sense. Meanwhile, changes in weather patterns have adjusted the season and usage of outdoor ice pads.

The future of ice in Toronto will see facilities huddling together for the warmth community can bring. It will see the remodelling of aging facilities with an eye towards creative sustainability and modern conveniences. It will prize multi-pad arenas and multi-use outdoor rinks, supplemented with additional facilities to help them serve as community hubs the entire year. It will require Torontonians to do what they have always done best: come together to beat the cold.



Booking hours for City of Toronto ice have decreased from 71,000 in 2010 to just 63,000 in 2017.



ACTIVITY

Warmth in numbers

The existing footprint and relatively low usage of indoor arenas — off-peak usage is very low, while overall use has decreased by 4% since 2013 — makes conversion into multi-use community hubs an attractive possibility. Where feasible, facilities should be built or upgraded to include supplementary spaces such as indoor tracks and community meeting rooms.

Out in the air

Five new outdoor spaces are needed to keep up with steady demand and growth. New facilities need to reflect the desire for multi-use facilities. They should incorporate skating trails for casual and family use, and should be built to incorporate multi-season uses such as tennis, basketball or ball hockey.

Fresh ice

Older arenas require modernization with more and larger change rooms, warm viewing areas and improvements to energy efficiency. Where upgrading proves inefficient, the city should consider conversion and replacing surfaces with larger, multi-pad facilities that incorporate secondary uses.

QUIZ: THE WORDS OF WINTER

Match the word for ice to the language it came from

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 1. Arabic | lód |
| 2. Cantonese | बरह |
| 3. French | jalid |
| 4. Italian | חֶרֶק |
| 5. Spanish | siku |
| 6. Portuguese | فرب |
| 7. Polish | 冰 |
| 8. Punjabi | ghiaccio |
| 9. Tagalog | gelo |
| 10. Tamil | yelo |
| 11. Korean | 얼음 |
| 12. Ojibwe | ਮਨੀ |
| 13. Inuktitut | hielo |
| 14. Hebrew | glāçe |
| 15. Urdu | mikwam |

1. jalid, 2. बरह, 3. glāçe, 4. ghiaccio, 5. hiel, 6. gelo, 7. lód, 8. बरह, 9. yelo, 10. ਮਨੀ, 11. 얼음, 12. mikwam, 13. siku, 14. חֶרֶק, 15. فرب



In partnership with the MLSE Foundation, over two dozen ice, basketball, and soccer facilities have been revitalized since 2009.

GREENWOOD RINK: Colouring outside the lines

Outdoor courts exist to help Torontonians take full advantage of our warmer weather. The cost of this greater opportunity while the sun is shining is that many facilities sit empty when the seasons turn. The solution is to build parks and recreation facilities that adapt with the changes in temperature, offering outdoor enjoyment in any conditions.

One of the shining examples of this cross-seasonal usage in our city is the Greenwood AIR outdoor ice pad. The recently renovated open-air facility boasts a roof over its rink, which not only protects skaters in colder months but opens up possibilities for the summer. The hard, dry surface is ideal for basketball — nets installed in the rafters can be raised and lowered as needed — and is also easily adapted into a court surface that can accommodate ball hockey and other court activities with minimal extra equipment.

But extending the usability of courts need not always involve extra building. Summerlea's AIR facilities are

integrated with tennis court and basketball facilities that bloom when the ice comes off in the spring. Sharing infrastructure such as lights, fences, benches and a paved pad, one built facility sees year-round usage, multiple activities living both beside and on top of each other.

The future of courts isn't just year-round: it also means making the most of the individual seasons. This can mean building things like basketball and tennis nets on overlapping spaces, but it can also be as simple as painting a few extra lines on existing infrastructure. Kenwood Park incorporated pickleball space onto its existing tennis courts with just a little extra paint, an adaptation we can expect to see more of as the sport grows in popularity.

With limited land available for use, making the most of our spaces — and our seasons — will be a key priority for Toronto's outdoor activities.



FUTURE DIRECTION

The Facilities Master Plan presents an opportunity to rethink how the City approaches public infrastructure, invests strategically and works with others. Ensuring we live up to these bold ideas, and maintain Toronto's place as a premiere provider of parks and recreation opportunities for residents across the city, will require both policy and funding commitments.



1. Planning for the Future

The Facilities Master Plan methodology and strategic framework will guide decision-making. The Plan will be reviewed every five years, aligning with related initiatives.

2. Informing Our Decisions

We will use evidence-based facility assessment tools and guidelines for new and enhanced facilities, including meaningful community engagement, business plans for building and service, and consideration of potential partnerships.

3. Taking Care of What We Have

We are committed to ensuring resources and plans are in place so that our facilities can be maintained in a safe, clean and attractive condition. We will coordinate facility upgrades and renewal projects to reduce disruptions while improving results.

4. Accessibility for All

To meet our obligations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, we will build flexible, barrier-free facilities near transit and trail networks, with a focus on creating public spaces that can be animated through both unstructured community use and programming.

5. Reshaping Facilities

We will establish criteria to guide the optimization or conversion of under-used facilities into spaces that better fit changing needs.

6. Responding to a Changing Urban Fabric

New facility provision models will reflect the realities of high-density residential communities, incorporating facilities in high-rise development, and partnering with developers and other service providers, while ensuring convenient public access to needed spaces.

7. Working as One City

We will explore and promote co-location opportunities with other City divisions, agencies and commissions, ensuring that the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a primary resource in guiding and informing City Planning initiatives.

8. Reimagining City-School Relationships

We will work with our school board partners to expand public access to facilities supplied by other providers and strengthen and modernize agreements with those providers for guaranteed public access and greater municipal oversight for needed parks and recreation facilities.

9. Collaborating With Others

We will be proactive in partnership development, including regularly communicating the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan to partners and developing a framework to improve coordination, alignment and implementation.

COST OF INVESTMENT

Based on the funding allocated through the existing 10 Year Capital Plan, it is expected that nearly two-thirds of the funding needed for the plan is already available. However, a comprehensive, city-wide program of reinvesting in Toronto's facilities will require additional commitment.

In particular, we must address the fact that both capital and ongoing maintenance costs have not met all of our City's needs. This has placed a burden on future generations — including this one — and is problematic for low-growth areas, many of which require new or improved facilities such as community recreation centres. By addressing these gaps, we will not only improve our already world-class facilities and programs, we will help make sure Toronto's communities have places to learn, play and thrive well into the next century.

“The city should consider incorporating public facilities into new residential and commercial projects.”



Investment by the numbers

\$37.8 M

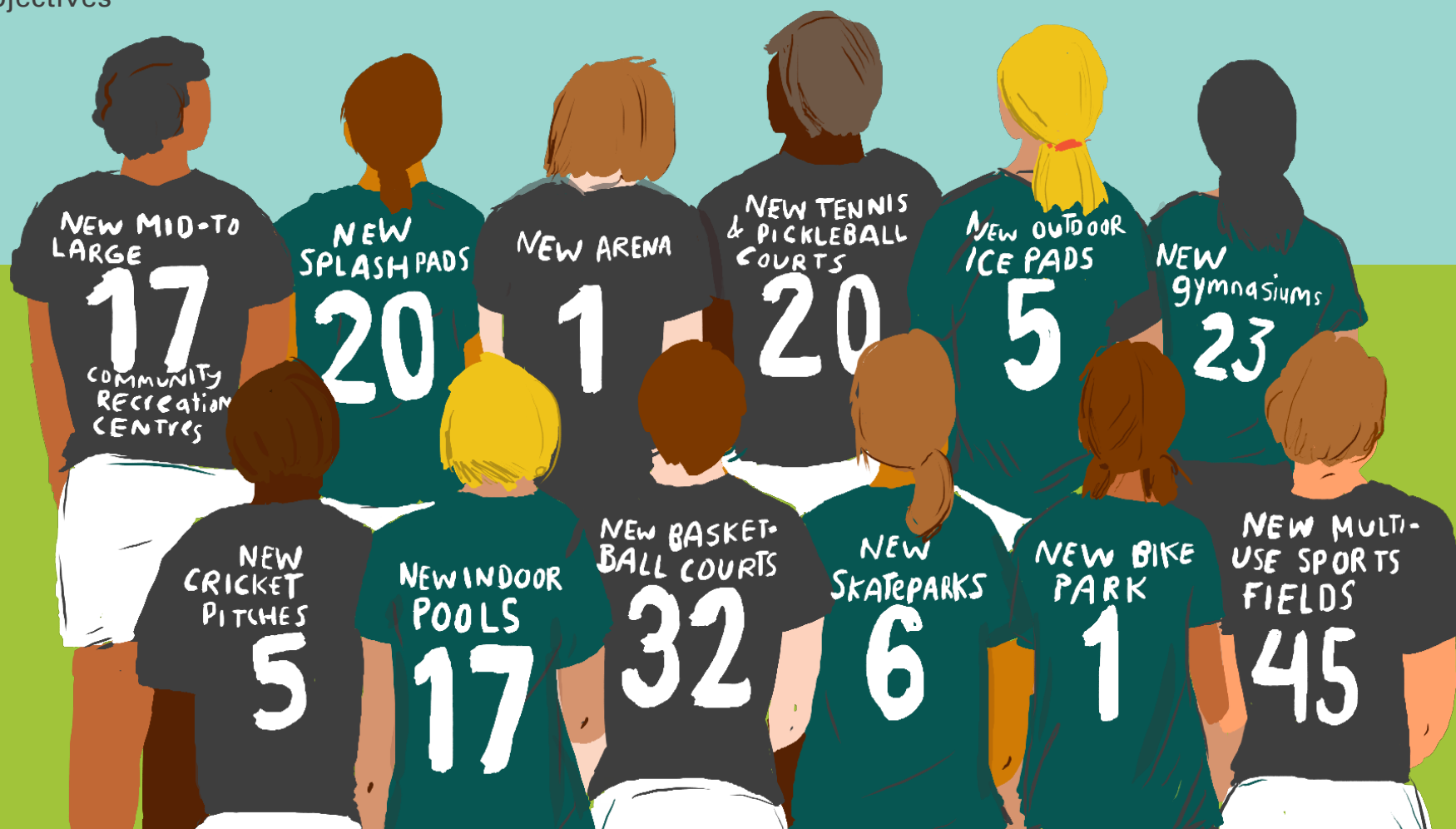
additional annual investment
required to achieve the plan's
objectives

\$461.7 M

to eliminate repair backlog and
increase ongoing investment

\$295 M

to meet growth and fill gaps
with new and replaced facilities



Investment Need: Good Repair

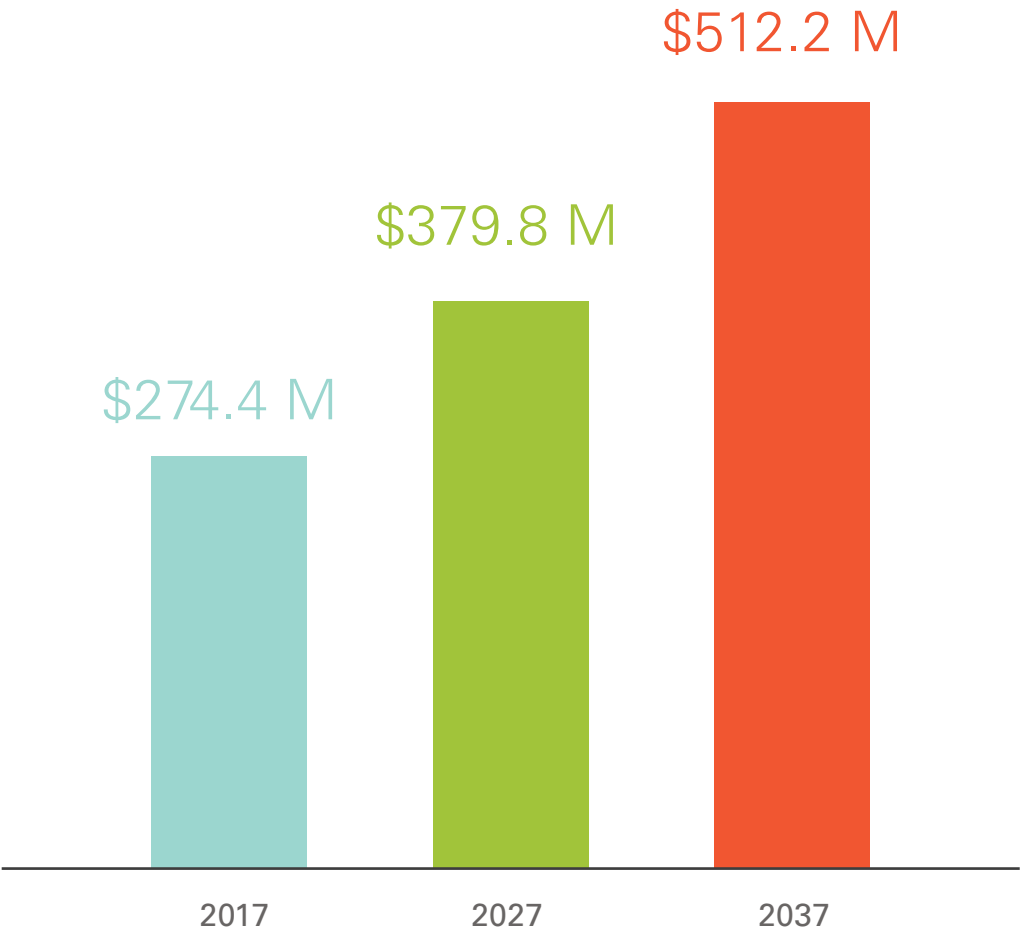
On average, Toronto’s community recreation centres, gymnasiums, pools and arenas are over 40 years old — the point at which major renovation is typically required. Competing priorities in repair and replacement budgets has lead to the physical deterioration of facilities even where major overhauls are not required. The current backlog of repairs is estimated at \$274 million.

To prevent our current backlog from growing, and to avoid more significant capital costs as minor repairs grow into major issues, we must increase spending on maintenance and repair. At current spending rates, \$775.5 million would be allocated for repair funding — more than half the budget allocated for parks and recreation facilities. The Facility Master Plan recommends increasing that investment to just over \$1.2 billion, leaving a gap of \$23.1 million each year.

We need to increase our overall repair funding, and develop new tools and practices to ensure we clear our repair backlog and address new problems as they arise. Contributing to these facilities today will save the City money in the long-run.

WHAT A REPAIR BACKLOG CAN MEAN

Ignoring needed repairs can cause a host of spiralling issues. Based on current trends, the repair backlog for parks and recreation facilities will almost double in 20 years.



Investment Need: Find the Gap

The estimated cost for the new and enhanced facilities recommended over the next 20 years is \$860.7 million. Of that, \$565.7 million is expected to be available through current funding sources. That means that, over the 20 years of this plan, the city must find an additional \$14.8 million per year.

Luckily, there are a variety of options to help make up this difference. Chief among them is dedicating discretionary funds — particularly from cash-in-lieu-for-parkland, community benefit and development charge sources — to Parks and Recreation Facilities. An expanded pursuit of partnership opportunities and an aggressive pursuit of grant funding will help to further close the gap.

INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

Six guidelines ensure that we will make the most of both new and existing funding.



1 Facilities will be optimized by prioritizing state of good repair and renewal.

2 Growth will pay for growth.

3 Outside of growth areas, we must pursue a variety of approaches.

4 Funding tools will be maximized and strategically applied.

5 Funding decisions will advance innovation and modernization.

6 Decision-making will be responsible, sustainable and transparent. The plan will be reviewed every 5 years.

