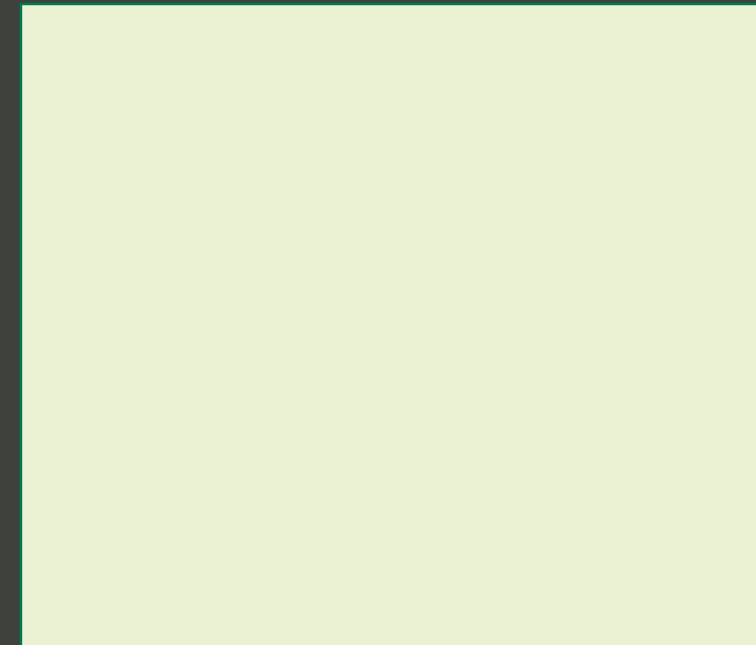


# Golf Operational Review

Exploring Potential Opportunities for  
Toronto's City-operated Golf Courses



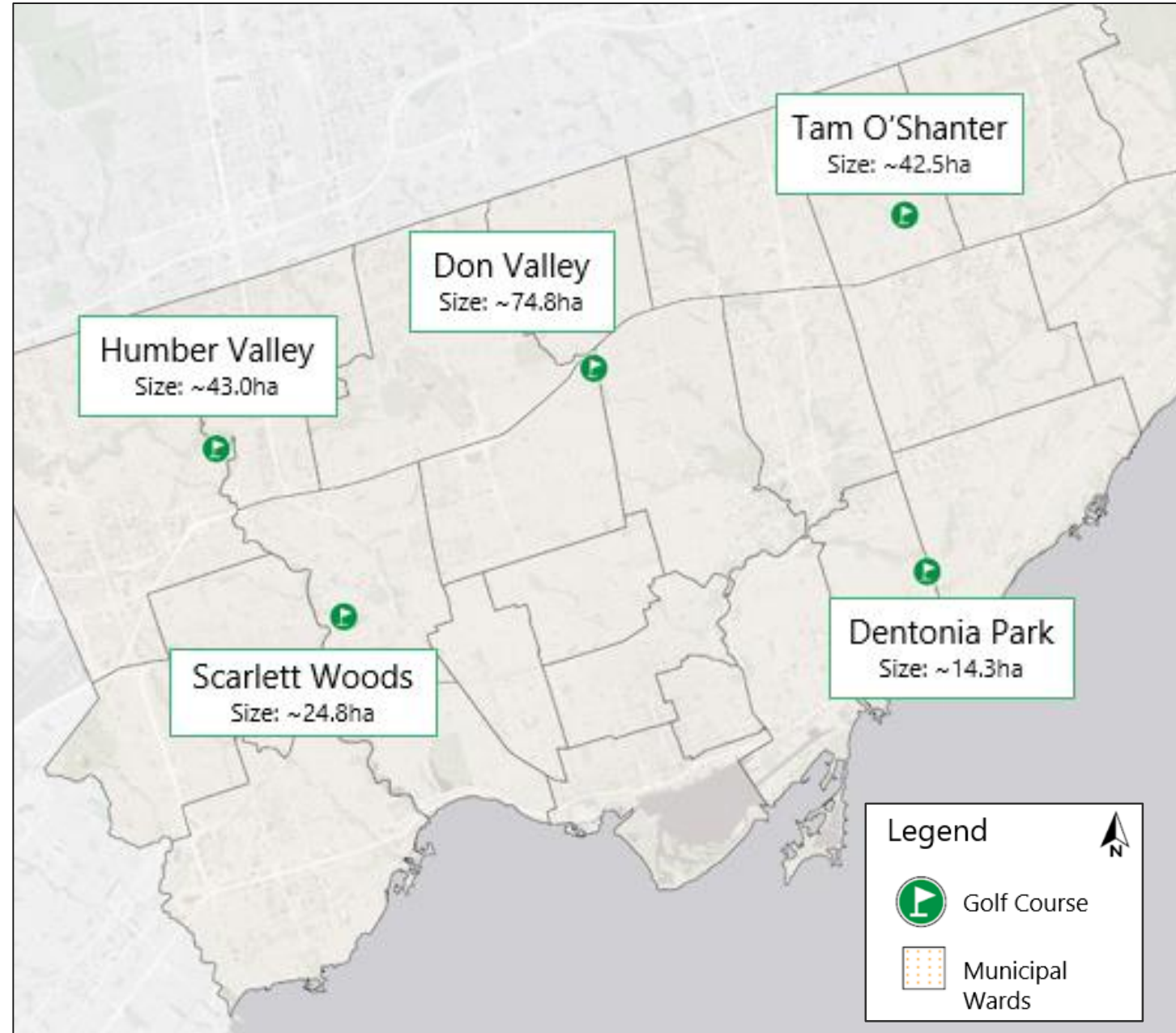
# Today's Presentation and Discussion Goals:

- Provide a short project overview
- Answer your questions
- Get your suggestions for any of the following:
  - Improving Toronto's Golf Courses
  - Additional and/or complementary uses of the courses
  - Indigenous Placekeeping opportunities on the courses

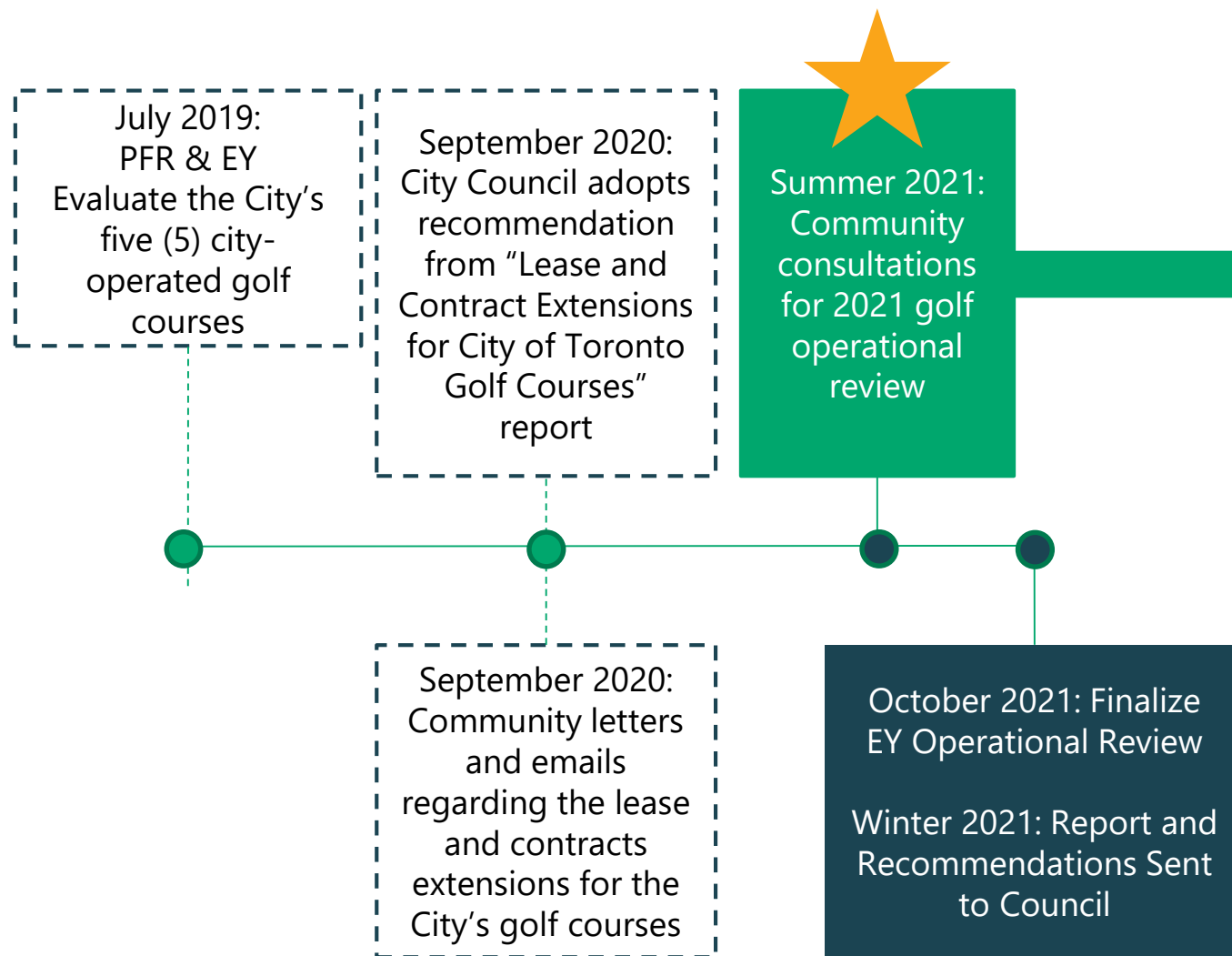
# Project Overview

# Project Overview

- The City is reviewing the operations of its five (5) golf courses
- The City is considering opportunities:
  - To improve the golf courses as places to play golf
  - For additional and/or complementary uses of the golf courses
- This exploration is informed by ongoing processes including a city-wide community consultation
- Consultants: EY (golf operations strategy) and Process (consultation)



# Project Overview



## Community Consultations Include:

- Focus Groups and One-on-one interviews
  - With Food Access Groups, the Golf Community, and Advocacy/Interest Groups
- City-Wide Public Meeting
- 5 Local Community Workshops
  - One per golf course
- Online Survey
- Indigenous Focus Group
  - Representatives from the Mississaugas of the Credit, grassroots community leaders and representatives from Indigenous-serving organizations

# Opportunities for Improvement and Change

## **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)**

- The golf course lands are subject to the TRCA regulations and approvals regarding use of the lands.
- While TRCA is being consulted as part of this process, any future suggested changes or significant alterations to the landscapes would be subject to TRCA review and approval.

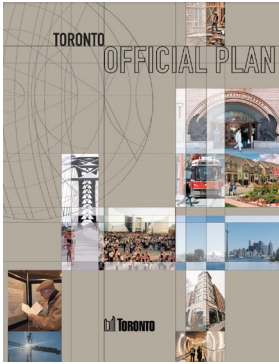
## **Ravine and Natural Feature Protection Bylaw**

- The golf courses are also subject to the the Ravine Protection & Natural Feature Bylaw, first passed by City Council on October 3, 2002. It is a tool to protect features (trees and landform) and functions (ecology and hydrology) of the ravine and natural feature system by encouraging environmentally responsible management.

## **Designated as Parks and Open Space**

- Cannot sell or get rid of golf course lands.
- Development is generally prohibited within Parks and Open Space Areas except for recreational and cultural facilities, conservation projects, and similar non-residential or commercial uses

# Key Policy Context



**Toronto  
Official Plan**



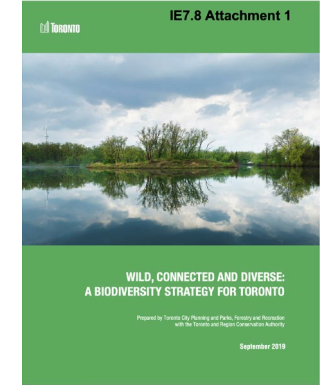
**Parkland  
Strategy**



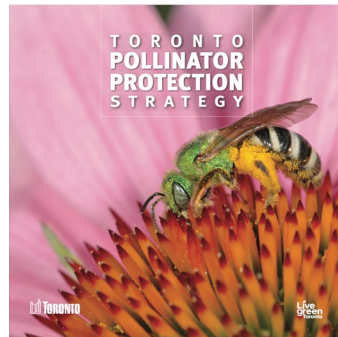
**Facilities Master  
Plan (FMP)**



**Ravine  
Strategy**



**Biodiversity  
Strategy**



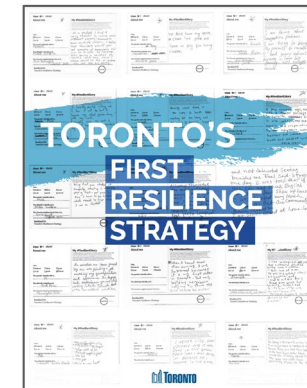
**Pollinator Protection  
Strategy**



**CanopyTO**



**Poverty Reduction  
Strategy**



**Resilience  
Strategy**

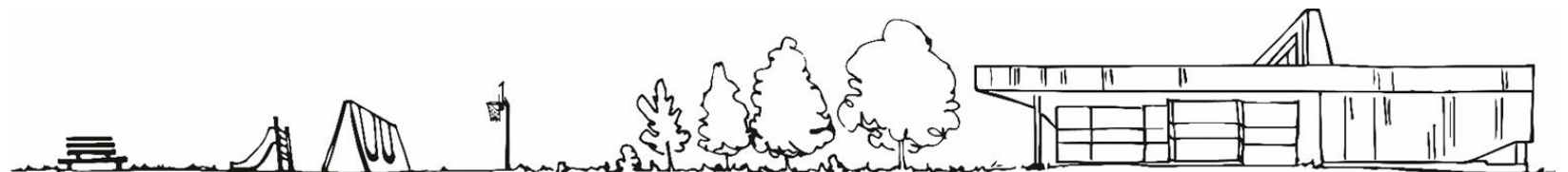
# Opportunities for Discussion

## Ideas **OPEN** for Discussion

- Improving the sites as golf courses
- Improving complementary non-golf access to courses
- Expanding recreational opportunities (e.g. ravine access and trail connections)
- Ecological restoration and environmental stewardship
- Access to food growing opportunities
- Facilitating opportunities for Indigenous cultural practices
- Other innovative ideas that you may have

## Ideas **NOT OPEN** for Discussion

- Residential uses
- The construction of large facilities within floodplains
- The sale or disposal of parkland
- Free golf play



# Preliminary Opportunities



Improved  
Trail Access



Tree  
Planting



Recreational  
Facility



Food Growing  
Opportunities



Natural Area  
Restoration



Indigenous  
Placekeeping



Complementary  
Programming

Preliminary opportunities are not absolute. Preliminary opportunities require further feasibility and technical study before pursued at city-operated golf courses

\*\*The preliminary opportunities review is being led by Ernst & Young

# Preliminary Opportunities

| Golf Course    | Improved Trail Access                                 | Tree Planting      | Recreational Facility               | Food Growing                        | Natural Area Restoration                                                                           | Complementary Programming               | Indigenous Placekeeping~                                                                          |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tam O'Shanter  | ✓ Adjacent trail connection interrupted by course     | ✓ 33% tree cover   | ✓ 66% Land outside of ravine system | ✓ 66% Land outside of ravine system | ✓ Course included in Natural Heritage System and within the Ravine and Natural Feature By-law Area | ✓ Complementary programming is feasible | Will be informed by Indigenous Treaty Rights holders and Indigenous leaders to find opportunities |
| Scarlett Woods | ✗ Adjacent trail connection not interrupted by course | ✓ 44% tree cover   | ✗ 3% Land outside of ravine system  | ✗ 3% Land outside of ravine system  |                                                                                                    |                                         |                                                                                                   |
| Humber Valley  | ✗ Adjacent trail connection not interrupted by course | ✓ 37% tree cover   | ✗ 6% Land outside of ravine system  | ✗ 6% Land outside of ravine system  |                                                                                                    |                                         |                                                                                                   |
| Don Valley     | ✓ Adjacent trail connection interrupted by course     | ✓ 56% tree cover   | • 55% Land outside of ravine system | • 55% Land outside of ravine system |                                                                                                    |                                         |                                                                                                   |
| Dentonia Park  | ✓ Adjacent trail connection interrupted by course     | ✓ 49.5% tree cover | ✓ 77% Land outside of ravine system | ✓ 77% Land outside of ravine system |                                                                                                    |                                         |                                                                                                   |

# What We Heard

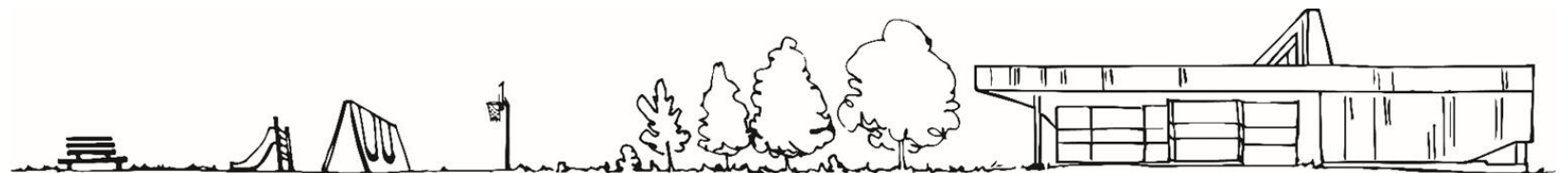
Indigenous Focus Group

# Indigenous Focus Group Participant List

Facilitator: Trina Moyan, PROCESS (Consultants)

Participants included:

- The Mississauga of the Credit First Nation
- Aboriginal Legal Services
- Matriarchal Circle
- Ojibiikan Indigenous Cultural Network
- Food Sovereignist
- Minniikaan (Innovation and Design)
- Red Urban Nation
- Indigenous Advisory Committee at Toronto Arts Council
- First Story Youth Guide
- Nikibii Dawadinna Giiggwag Youth Landscape & Design Program
- Indspire Foundation
- Daniels School of Architecture & Community Leader
- Edge of the Woods
- Moccasin Identifier Project
- Community Leaders, Elders, and Indigenous Artists



# Indigenous Focus Group Discussion Highlights

## **Celebrate Indigenous culture and history**

- Art, signage, and trails that reflect historic and ongoing Indigenous presence
- Incorporate Indigenous storytelling events
- No tokenization/appropriation

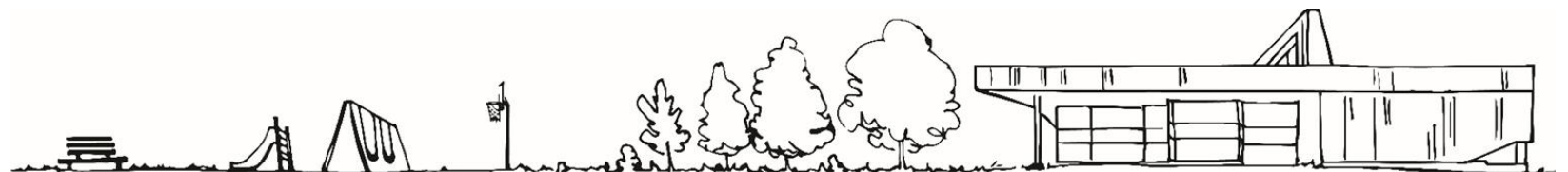
## **Naturalize and restore lands and water, and tree planting (native species only)**

## **Incorporate & make space for Indigenous uses of the land and water**

- Community gardens, medicine gardens, native plantings
- Participants indicated that there is a Midewiwin Teaching Lodge (sweat lodge) near the north end of Scarlett Woods Golf Course
- Spaces for ceremony & education

## **Programming**

- Future golf programming should include specific Indigenous youth programming



# Indigenous Focus Group Discussion Highlights

## **Create economic benefits for Indigenous peoples at the courses, for example:**

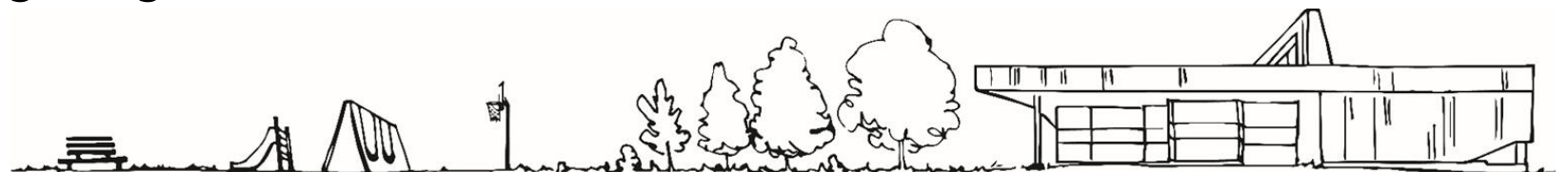
- Commissioning Indigenous artists
- Indigenous/City ownership or operations (contracting) models
  - Contracting that supports partnering with Indigenous non-profits
  - Hiring Indigenous vendors & operators in all seasons (e.g. snowshoeing, survival skills, etc.)
  - Include Indigenous food at clubhouses via vendors and menus

## **Improve the Indigenous engagement processes**

- Align with Indigenous processes and practices rather than western/colonial practices
- Indigenous leaders and voices should be engaged first and continuously
- Be transparent about the next steps & update participants on where and how their input is contributing to the outcome

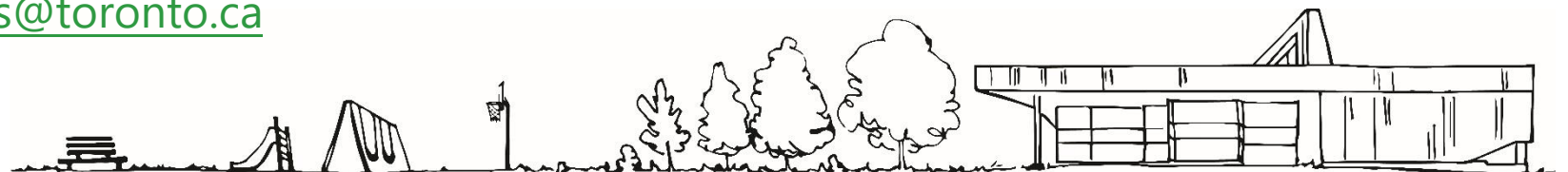
## **Other considerations**

- Centre Indigenous Placekeeping for all additional complementary uses
- Use the lands to prioritize serving Indigenous peoples, youth, and people with lower incomes
- There is a Midewiwin Teaching Lodge near the north end of Scarlett Woods Golf Course.



# Next Steps

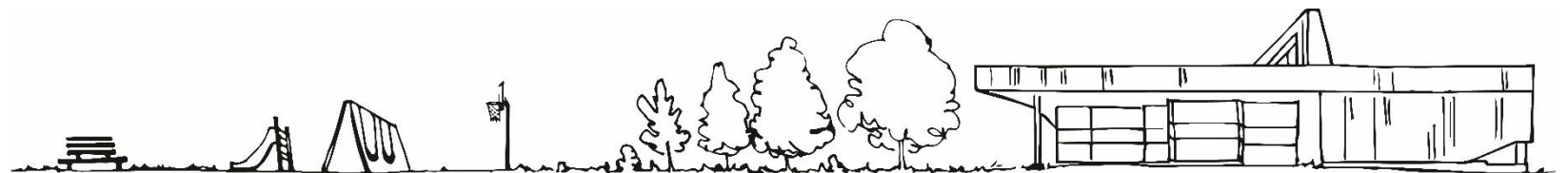
- October 2021: Finalize EY Operational Review
- Winter 2021: Report and Recommendations Sent to Council
  - Recommendations will focus on improving golf play to support future operations, integrating complementary programming and enhanced environmental stewardship at all courses, and identifying site-specific opportunities
- To stay connected, contact engagement staff by sending an email to:
  - Alex Deighan: [Alex.Deighan@toronto.ca](mailto:Alex.Deighan@toronto.ca)
  - Alex Lavasidis: [Alex.Lavasidis@toronto.ca](mailto:Alex.Lavasidis@toronto.ca)



# Discussion

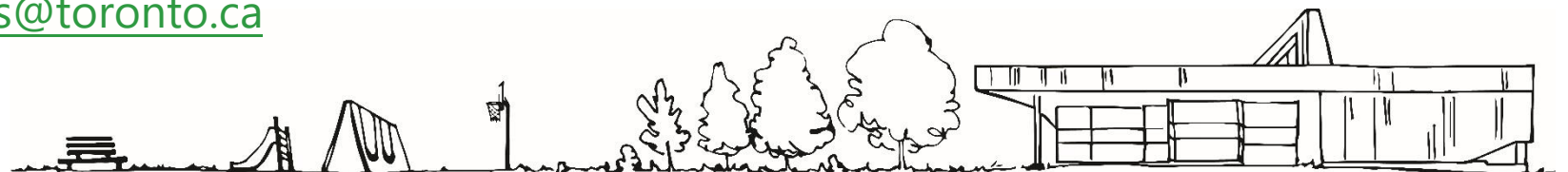
# Discussion Questions

- **Do you have any questions?**
- **Do you have comment on any of the suggestions from Indigenous focus group discussion?**
- **Do you have additional suggestions for proposed alternative and complementary uses?**
  - **How would you want to use the golf course lands in the future?**
- **What can the City do to improve your experience and use of Toronto's golf courses?**
- **How should we engage with Indigenous community and organizations as this project moves forward?**



# Next Steps

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# Thank you!

