Jan 22, 2021



Submission to Budget Committee RE: Parks, Forestry and Recreation - 2021-2030 10-Year Capital Plan Detail

This letter is a response to the 2021 Parks Capital budget on behalf of the Toronto Skateboarding Committee (TSC) which represents the skateboarding community in Toronto.

In 2013, Councillor Janet Davis advised on the creation of the TSC so that the skateboarding community could advocate for the development of new skateboard parks in Toronto. Through successful community organizing and advocacy in 2014 and 2015, City Council directed the Parks Department to consult the TSC in the development of policy, operating and capital plans for the expansion of skateparks in Toronto.

Over the past 7 years, we have engaged with thousands of skateboarders and Council has adopted the Toronto Skateboard Strategy and The Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan (FMP) which calls for the provision of 4 new Community Skateparks and 18 smaller Skate Spots throughout the city. The 2021 budget outlined allocations for 4 new Community Skateparks (\$600,000 each) and 11 Skate Spots (\$250,000 each) for the 2021-2030 timeframe. We had concerns about the adequacy of the budget allocations for Community Skateparks and a motion was passed requesting Parks, Forestry and Recreation consult with the TSC on cost adjustments. After consulting with staff, the budget for the 4 Community Skateparks was increased by \$150,000 for each skatepark for a total of \$600,000 over the 7-year development timeframe.

1. A number of skateparks were built in the early 2000's and are in need of repairs/replacement. Skateparks that are in poor condition are not attracting users and are putting strain on newer facilities. A great way to accommodate our growing numbers is to ensure existing skateparks are in good condition. We request a State of Good Repair report on existing skateparks and a schedule of repairs, maintenance and upgrades which can improve existing facilities

2. The TSC has been advocating for investments in new skateparks as an organization since 2013, although individual groups have been advocating for many years before our formation. The 2021 Capital Plan outlines the phasing of new projects with construction of Community Skateparks set for 2022, 2024, 2026 and 2028. The construction of Skate Spots has been pushed back a year and is scheduled to begin in 2023. The Parks department identified great demand for new skateparks by surveying over 1,700 users during the development of the Skateboard Strategy in 2016. The first Community Skatepark is now scheduled for construction 6 years after this demand was identified and 8 years after we first began advocacy as a large organized group. Skateboarding is very popular, especially among kids and youth, and has seen steady growth through the pandemic. Skateboarding is set to debut in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and has already been approved for the 2024 Paris Olympics. In Toronto we saw the volume of users at our skateparks increase in 2020 and we expect participation rates to continue rising. Our existing skateparks are also increasingly used by other user groups who are without their own dedicated facilities - groups including scootering, BMX biking, rollerblading and roller skating. We would like to ensure that sufficient resources are being allocated to build new skateparks of sufficient size to meet the ever-growing demand that we are seeing. We request that Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the TSC, expedite the identification of potential sites for Community Skateparks in all 4 city districts including the phasing to follow suit to meet current demands with the construction for all 4 parks scheduled between 2022-2024.

3. A typical community skatepark should be about 930 sq. m in size, similar to existing skateparks at Stan Wadlow Park in East York and Eighth St. Skatepark in Etobicoke. A recent skatepark project at Neilson Park in Malvern is 499 sq. m. in size and cost \$650,000, in 2018 dollars. With ever increasing construction costs, we do not believe that the \$750,000 budget allocation for Community Skateparks is enough to build facilities of sufficient size to meet existing let alone future demand. We request that this figure be adjusted to reflect the current cost of building a 930 sq. m skatepark in 2021 (approx. \$1,000,000).

We have been advocating for new skateparks diligently since we formed in 2013. We have had many successes and we would like to keep the momentum going. Skateboarding is great recreational activity for kids and youth and we need to make sure that we are providing them with great facilities in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Migs Bartula Co-Chairman Toronto Skateboarding Committee www.torontoskateboarding.com





Toronto Skateboard Strategy



A demonstrated need

The 2015 Skatepark Survey identified a need for more skateparks, with nearly all survey respondents expressing a desire for more skateparks and skateboarding opportunities in the city.

Although PFR has taken many positive strides in recent years to build high quality skateparks, the current provision of skateparks in Toronto lags behind that of other major Canadian cities. One way to consider facility provision is square metres of skatepark per person. Using this lens, Toronto's 12 permanent skateparks¹ total 13,445 square metres, with one square metre of skatepark serving 195 people, which is lower than other Canadian cities, including Calgary and Edmonton. Skatepark provision is currently being assessed through the upcoming Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

Council direction

This Skateboard Strategy was developed in response to Council direction from 2014 and 2015 Capital Budget approval that requested PFR to work in consultation with the Toronto Skateboarding Committee to develop a strategy that incorporates policy, operating and capital plans to support skateboarding in Toronto. The Skateboard Strategy will inform the 20-year Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2017-2036) on the identification of additional skatepark facilities and associated 10-year capital plans, commencing in 2018.

The survey received a total of 1,835 responses. 87% of respondents were male. The average age of respondents was 26, and 31% were over the age of 30. 70% have been involved with skateboarding for at least six years.

Alignment with other work

The Skateboard Strategy aligns with several other PFR plans and strategies:

- Recreation Service Plan (2013-2017) provides guidelines around the delivery of recreation programs and services including skateboard programs. It outlines the role that the City plays in meeting the recreation needs of Torontonians.
- Youth Recreation Engagement Strategy confirms youth as a priority area of service, and identifies the opportunity to use skateboarding as a tool to meaningfully engage youth and develop youth leadership.
- Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, a 20year plan to recommend and guide the creation of new facilities, including skateparks.

The Skateboard Strategy also aligns with other City strategies, including the **Toronto Youth Equity Strategy**, and the **Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy**.

Skatepark demand: Based on the survey and other consultations, there is a demand for skateparks and an interest in opportunities to expand the number of skateparks in Toronto. Survey respondents offered hundreds of suggested locations across the city, and indicated that locations near local parks or community centres would be a good fit. There were also suggestions to provide indoor facilities, to separate facilities for different activities such as BMX and rollerblading, and to improve existing facilities.

Skatepark Provision Levels

In 2004, Toronto paved the way with the introduction of a Citywide plan to develop new skateparks and we were at the forefront of design of modern concrete skateparks. Other municipalities soon followed our lead and by 2016, Toronto had fallen far behind other Ontario and Canadian cities in the provision of skateparks. We have the lowest provision level for a large metro area in Canada. We should address this gap by immediately investing in the design and construction of new skateparks.

Appendix

Facility Type	City of Toronto*	Large GTA Cities	Large Canadian Cities	Large U.S. Cities	
Community Recreation Centres	34,000**	38,000	31,500	29 <mark>,50</mark> 0	
Gymn <mark>asiums</mark>	28,000	40,000	27,000	n/a	
Indoor Pools (tanks***)	36,500 48,600 (locations)	35,000	27,000	76,500 (indoor and outdoor pools combined)	
Outdoor Pools (tanks***)	43,500 48,600 (locations)	140,000	53,000		
Splash Pads	24,000	24,600	16,200	n/a	
Wading Pools	28,400	628,000	28,000	n/a	
Arenas (pads)	44,100	29,000	27,000	721,000 (indoor and outdoor rinks combined)	
Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (pads)	46,300	228,000	40,000		
Curling Rinks (sheets)	131,000	418,000	127,000	n/a	
Soccer and Multi-use Sports Fields	8,900	3,200	2,000	n/a	
Ball Diamonds	8,400	5,100	3,3 <mark>0</mark> 0	8,500	
Cricket Pitches	102,500	104,500	355,000	n/a	
Tennis & Pickleball Courts	4,800	4,500	4,600	9,600 3,800 (hoops)	
Basketball Courts	21,200	8,100	9,500		
Bocce Courts (outdoor)	21,900	23,000	29,600	n/a	
Lawn Bowling Greens	102,500	502,00 <mark>0</mark>	92,000	n/a	
Skateparks (outdoor)	205,000	86,500	79,500	275,000	

Average Municipal Facility Provision Levels, Per Capita

Note: The table includes facilities that are owned and/or permitted for public use by the municipality, including facilities that are leased or under agreement.

* Based on a 2016 population estimate of approximately 2.87 million persons. Rates are rounded.

** The City of Toronto operates 123 community recreation centres, 85 of which are large multi-component and midsize centres.

*** Some aquatic complexes may contain more than one pool tank (e.g., lane, leisure, therapeutic, diving, etc.).

Skatepark Hierarchy (Toronto Skateboard Strategy)

The Toronto Skateboard Strategy indicates that 600 sq. m. is the absolute minimum size requirement for a community skatepark. The current budget allocated to community skateparks for design and construction is \$750,000 (increased in 2021 from \$600,000), which would barely cover the costs of building the smallest recommended size.

Skate spots

Size	Less than 600 m ² (less than ~6,500 ft ²)				
Catchment	Local users within walking distance				
Skill level	All, with a focus on novice and intermediate users				

Skate spots incorporate skateboarding features within neighbourhood parks.

Community skateparks

Size	~600 to 2,000 m ² (~6,500 to 22,000 ft ²)					
Catchment	Surrounding neighbourhoods					
Skill level	All					

Community skateparks typically have features arranged so that the skater can move from one feature to the next in a single run. Smaller skateparks may cater to a specific style of skating (e.g. bowl), whereas larger ones can accommodate different styles, and may therefore attract users from a greater distance.

City-wide skateparks

Size	Over 2,000 m ² (over ~22,000 ft ²)
Catchment	Large geographic area - a "destination" skatepark
Skill level	All

City-wide skateparks often have zones to accommodate different styles of skateboarding. They can accommodate a greater number of users and multiple types of uses. These skateparks are appropriate for special skateboarding events and can accommodate a large number of spectators. Two very popular existing community skateparks in Toronto are large enough to offer a diversity of terrain that caters to beginner, intermediate and advanced riders. The current budget allocated to community skateparks is not sufficient to build the types of facilities



Stan Wadlow Skatepark East York 930 sq. m Estimated construction cost in 2021 \$1,000,000



Eighth St Skatepark Etobicoke 930 sq. m Estimated construction cost in 2021 \$1,000,000

Recently Built Skateparks in Toronto



Neilson Park BMX/Skatepark - Scarborough.

Size: Phase 1 :499 sq. m . Construction completed fall 2018.

Phase 2: not built, approx. 100-150 sq.m

Budget (design/construction) : \$650,000 in 2018 dollars.

The park was not fully built as the construction tender went over budget.

Full build out was estimated to be around \$850,000, which includes all earthworks and

additional park landscaping and amenities such as benches, asphalt pathways and tree planting.

The park was funded through an individual budget motion.



Fundy Bay Park Skatepark - Scarborough. Size: 600 sq. m / 6,456 sq. ft.. Construction completed fall 2019 Budget (design/construction) : \$500,000-\$700,000 This was a feature within a larger park redevelopment with the skatepark funded through section 37 funding.

2021 Parks and Recreation Capital Plan

2021-2030 Skatepark Budget Commitments

Community Skateparks: 4 new skateparks, \$750,000 each for design and construction.

Skatespots: 11 new skatespots, \$250,000 each for design and construction

2021-2024 Skatepark Budget Commitments

North District Skatepark - \$750,000, construction in 2022. Location to be determined.

East District Skatepark - \$750,000, construction in 2024. Location TBD.

Skatespots – 3 x \$250,000 each, Construction 2022-2024. Locations TBD.

The capital commitments are spread over a very long period of time taking into consideration that Parks and Recreation was first asked by council to develop capital plans for skateboard parks in **2014**. Recently completed projects, namely the Malvern Skatepark and Fundy Bay skatepark indicated that a budget allocation of \$750,000 for a community skatepark is insufficient to build a skatepark at our recommend size of at least 930 sq. m / 10,000 sq. ft., especially considering the constantly increasing cost of construction in Toronto.

2021 Capital Budget; 2022 - 2030 Capital Plan Including Carry Forward Funding

Project Code	(in \$000s)	2021 Budget	2022 Plan	2023 Plan	2024 Plan	2025 Plan	2026 Plan	2027 Plan	2028 Plan	2029 Plan	2030 Plan	2021 - 2030 Total	Health & Safety & Legislated
rnov.	Fini Daancaan Fairoodic From Nicy Fin	1011	. 100									** 175	
PR31	FMP-Skateboard Park (1) North District	50	700	11.04								750	
PR32	FMP-Skateboard Park (2) East District			50	700							750	
PR33	FMP-Skateboard Park (3) South District					50	700					750	
PR34	FMP-Ward 2 Skateboard Park (4)							50	700			750	
PR35	FMP-Skate Spots (2) Design & Construction		50	450								500	
PR36	FMP-Skate Spots Design & Construction Program			25	250	250	250	250	275	500	500	2,300	
PR37	FMP-Bike Park (1) Scarborough						50	700				750	
PR38	FMP-BMX Features (1)			15	235							250	
PR39	FMP-BMX Features (2)			1.24		15	235					250	



2021 - 2030 CAPITAL BUDGET & PLAN OVERVIEW



Chart 1: 10-Year Capital Plan Overview

- reflects an increase of \$353.7M over the nine common years (2021-2029).
- · \$3.3M for the phased expansion of Grand Avenue Park.
- \$3.2M for improvements to Yonge Street Linear Parks.
- · \$1.2M for furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new Bessarion Community Centre.
- . \$56.8 million for several projects to reflect updated cost estimates, project scope changes, and project schedules.

- some new key investments as follows:
- \$2.5M for projects that support resiliency, including work on the shorelines of Palace Pier and Algonquin Island.
- \$3.2M to provide publicly accessible Wi-Fi service in Community Recreation facilities over 2021-2024.
- Increased costs for four Skateboard Park projects by \$0.15M each for a total of \$0.6M.
- \$235.5M for several projects to reflect updated cost estimates and implementation of net zero including Davisville Community Pool, and Western North York, Lawrence Heights, and John Innes Community Centres

- The Council Approved Parks and **Recreation Facilities Master Plan** recommends an additional investment of \$235.0M for in-scope facilities (community centres, arenas, pools, etc.) to be phased in over the 10-Year Plan.
- \$34.9M in debt financing for the State of Good Repair of Arenas (\$9.6M) and Community Centres (\$25.3M), that was reduced as part of adjustments to the 2020 10-Year Capital Plan.
- A total of \$99.9M for the implementation of Ravine Strategy Priority Investment Areas, including \$45.4M for State of Good Repair and \$54.5M for Service improvement.

TORONTO SKATEPARK INVENTORY - 2020

PERMANENT SKATEPARKS

- Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2001 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, flow, bowl Size: 18,350 sq. ft. / 1,705 sq. m.
- 2 PORT UNION SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2002 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, flow Size: 7,320 sq. ft. / 680 sq. m.
- VANDERHOOF SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2003 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, bowl Size: 7,285 sq. ft. / 677 sq. m.
- WESTON LIONS SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2004 Material: Prefab steel/concrete Material: Prefab Steer Concord Style: Street, flow Size: 8,180 sq. ft. / 760 sq. m.
- EAST YORK SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2006 Material: Cast-in-Place Concrete Style: Street, flow, bowl Size: 10,620 sq. ft. / 987 sq. m.
- 6 SMITHFIELD SKATEPARK SMITPRED Systems Hierarchy: Skatespot Year of Construction: 2003, Rebuilt 2018 Material: Prefab steel/composite Style: Street, flow Size: 5,638 sq. ft. / 524 sq. m. EIGHTH STREET SKATEPARK
- T ELLESMERE SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2007 Material: Cast-in-rd Style: Street, flow, bowl Size: 19,350 sq. ft. / 1,798 sq. m.
- BEACH SKATEPARK Hierarchy: City-wide Skatepark Year of Construction: 2009/2011 Material: Cast-in-Place Concrete Style: Street, Bowl e: 26,430 sq. ft. / 2,456 sq. m
- LAWRENCE HEIGHTS SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Community Skate Year of Construction: 2010 Material: Prefabricated steel Style: Street, flow Size: 7,020 sq. ft. / 652 sq. m.



SEASONAL SKATEPARKS

1 DUNBAT SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Seasonal, outdoo Year of Construction: 2003 Material: Wood, composite Style: Ramps, rails, ledges Size: 8,680 sq. ft. / 807 sq. m. munity Skatepark nal, outdoor rink.

13 NEILSON SKATEPARK

Hierarchy: Community Skatepar Year of Construction: 2018 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, flow

Size: 6,900 sq. ft. / 641 sq. m.

(Park size at full build out. Park is incomple FUNDY BAY SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Skatespot Year of Construction: 2019 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, flow, bowl Size: 6,456 sq. ft. / 600 sq. m.

STANLEY GREENE SKATEPARK

Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2020 Material: Prefabricated steel Style: Street, flow Size: 8,390 sq. ft. / 780 sq. m. (approx)

Park size at full build out. Park is

Hierarchy: Community Skatepark Year of Construction: 2011 Material: Cast-in-place concrete

Style: Street, flow, bowl Size: 13,300 sq. ft. / 1,236 sq. m.

Hierarchy: skatespot Year of Construction: 2012 Material: Prefab steel/composite Style: Street, flow

te: 6,456 sq. ft. / 600 sq. m.

WEST LODGE SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Skatespot Year of Construction: 2014 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, flow

ze: 2,900 sq. ft. / 270 sq. m.

UNDERPASS SKATEPARK

- 2 DUFFERIN GROVE SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Seasonal, outdoor rink. Year of Construction: 2005 Material: Wood, composite. Style: Ramps, rails, ledges Size: 8,610 sq. ft. / 800 sq. m.
- MALVERN SKATEPARK Hierarchy: Seasonal, indoor rink Year of Construction: 2013 Material: Wood, composite Style: Ramps, rails, ledges 3 Size: 15,000 sq. ft. / 1,400 sq. m.
- JIMMIE SIMPSON SKATEPARK 4 Milierarchy: Seasonal, indoor gym. Year of Construction: 2014 Material: Wood Style: Ramps, rails, ledges Size: 9,000 sq. ft. / 840 sq. m.
- PHIL WHITE ARENA SKATEPARK 5 Hierarchy: Seasonal, indoor rink Year of Construction: 2018 Material: Wood, composite Style: Ramps, rails, ledges Size: 15,000 sq. ft. / 1,400 sq. m.
- CHRISTIE PITS SKATEPARK 6 or rink Hierarchy: Seasonal, outdoo Year of Construction: 2017 Material: Wood, composite Style: Ramps, rails, ledges Size: 13,455 sq. ft. / 1,250 sq. m.
- WALLACE-EMERSON BMX/SKATEPARK nunity Skate hv: Con Year of Construction: 2020-2222 Material: Cast-in-place concrete Portable wood, concrete Style: Street, bowl Size: 15.000 sg. ft. / 1.400 sg. m. (approx.)
- 2 JOYCE TRIMMER PARK Hierarchy: unknow Year of Construction: unknown Material: Cast-in-place concrete Style: Street, flo Size: Unknown

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

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Existing Skateparks in Toronto/East York District

Wallace-Emerson BMX/Skatepark - Ward 9 (construction until

Dufferin Grove Skatepark - Ward 9 (construction until 2022)

1 Community Skatepark (Ward 11/12 Priority, 2025-2028)

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TSC Timeline of Skateboard related Council Motions.

The Toronto Skateboarding Committee was formed in 2013 with assistance from Councillor Janet Davis.

City Council January 29, 2014

10a - Motion to Amend Item (Additional) moved by Councillor Janet Davis (Carried)

That City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Toronto Skateboard Association, to develop policy, operating and capital plans to support program development, state-of-good repair and expansion of skateboard facilities in Toronto prior to the 2015 budget process.

City Council March 10, 2015

9c - *Motion to Amend Item (Additional) moved by Councillor Janet Davis* **(Carried)** General

City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Toronto Skateboard Association, to develop policy, operating and capital plans to support program development, state-of-good repair and expansion of skateboard facilities and for possible inclusion in 2016 Capital budget and/or the Recreation Facilities Plan.

City Council Feb 17, 2016

4b - Motion to Amend Item moved by Councillor Janet Davis (Carried)

Parks, Forestry and Recreation - Capital Budget

That City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation:

- to undertake the planning and design work for new skateboard facilities in 2016, with costs to be funded from the 2016 Capital Budget for facility planning,

- to include \$500,000 construction costs for new skateboard facilities in the 2017 capital budget submission such new locations to be determined by Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff, in consultation with the Toronto Skateboard Committee; and

- to provide recommendations for an annual capital program for new skateboard facilities in the 2017

2026 capital budget to be brought forward at the same time as the Toronto Skateboard Strategy in
2016, in time for the 2017 budget.

City Council November 8, 2016

City Council adopt the Skateboard Strategy - Appendix A to the report (October 5, 2016) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

City Council November 7, 2017

1. City Council adopt the "Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038" as set out in Appendix A to the report (October 10, 2017) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Summary of Recommendations - Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019 - 2038

FACILITY PROVISION STRATEGY

Skateboard Parks

39. Evaluate options for skatepark renewal and replacement.

40. Consider the development of indoor skateparks within repurposed arenas.

41. Provide four (4) additional community-level skateparks, one in each district.

42. Develop up to 18 skate spots within smaller gap and growth areas across the city. The planning of these features should consider the site selection criteria identified in the City's Skatepark Strategy, public input and park redevelopment opportunities.

City Council co	nsideration on F	ebruary 19, 2020							
EX13.2	ACTION	Amended	Ward: All						
2020 Capital and Operating Budgets									
City Council De	cision								

City Council on February 19, 2020, adopted the following:

2020 Operating Budget

200. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consult with the Toronto Skateboard Committee and relevant stakeholders on any cost adjustments needed to deliver the four community skate parks funded in the Capital Budget, and report back through the 2021 Budget Process.