

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# Toronto Golf Course Operational Review

What We Heard  
Consultation Overview



# Consultation Process Overview

## *Project Purpose:*

The purpose of the Project is to uncover a future for city-owned golf courses that uphold the following goals:

- Continue to provide high-quality and affordable golf.
- Uphold environmental stewardship.
- Advance an operational model that is financially sustainable and responsible.
- Improve golf-related amenities (e.g. rental shops, golf programming, food and beverage).
- Increase public space access.
- Balance multiple and competing desired uses for the site.

## *Project Consultation Goal:*

Deliver a consultation plan that meaningfully engages the public sharing information about the Toronto Golf Course Operational Review Project and soliciting input for the future of city-operated golf courses.

## *Overarching Consultation Objectives:*

1. Engage a diversity of people in the Toronto Golf Course Operational Review.
2. Provide information about how the City makes decisions.
3. Share preliminary opportunity ideas and gather the public's input, visions and perspectives on the future of the City's golf courses.

## *Specific Consultation Objectives:*

1. Communicate the purpose and overall objectives of the project and how we might improve the golf courses as places to play golf and explore potential opportunities for additional and/or complementary uses.
2. Collect feedback (experiences, preferences, priorities) from a diversity of golfer and non-golfer stakeholders (with a focus on targeting equity-seeking communities identified in this consultation plan).
3. Incorporate feedback within the Toronto Golf Course Operational Review project planning process to ensure it reflects a diversity of perspectives and experiences.

# How We Engaged - Phase 1

Phase 1 included multiple engagement tactics to gather input and perspectives on the Project. The intention was to engage city-wide while providing opportunities for key stakeholders to engage.

## Engagement Design

Phase 1 included the following engagement tactics detailed below:

- 1. One-one-one interviews and meetings**
- 2. Focus Groups**
- 3. City-wide virtual public meeting.**

**One-on-one interviews and meetings:** Toronto City Councillors were invited to participate in one-on-one meetings with the Project team from June 7th to June 14th, 2021. The criteria for conducting a Councillor meeting was either: (1) they have a city-operated golf course(s) located within or directly adjacent to their ward; or (2) have invested interest in the future of golf course operations. Based on this criteria, the following Councillors were invited to participate:

- a. Councillor Robinson
- b. Councillor Holyday
- c. Councillor Colle
- d. Councillor Perruzza
- e. Councillor Bradford
- f. Councillor Crawford
- g. Councillor Fillion
- h. Councillor Nunziata
- i. Councillor Ford
- j. Councillor Mantas
- k. Councillor Pasternak
- l. Councillor Layton
- m. Councillor Fletcher

**Focus Groups:** Three invite-only focus groups were conducted in Phase 1. The focus groups were organized by stakeholder groups and included:

- I. The golf community (e.g. golf organization representatives, league organizations, operators) on June 7th, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- II. Food access groups (e.g. urban agriculturalists, food sovereignty organizations, food security organizations) on June 9th, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- III. Other advocacy and interest groups (e.g. environmental organizations, public space organizations, complementary sports organizations) on June 8th, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

One-on-one interviews were also offered to focus group stakeholders unavailable during focus group sessions but still interested in providing feedback. Note: No focus group stakeholder accepted the offer for a one-on-one interview.

**City-wide Public Meeting:** One city-wide public meeting was held in Phase 1 on June 14th, 2021 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The public meeting was open to anyone interested in the future of golf course operations and was promoted through Councillor networks, paid social media advertising, focus group stakeholder networks, and signage at the five city-operated golf courses.

## Who We Engaged - Phase 1

Each engagement tactic followed a similar format which included a project presentation that provided a general overview, policy context, site profiles, and details on preliminary opportunities. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period and a facilitated discussion.

### *One-on-one interviews and meetings*

The following Toronto City Councillors were engaged in Phase 1:

- Councillor Bradford (City staff representative)
- Councillor Colle (City staff representative)
- Councillor Crawford
- Councillor Filion
- Councillor Ford (City staff representative)
- Councillor Holyday
- Councillor Nunziata
- Councillor Pasternak
- Councillor Perruzza
- Councillor Robinson (City staff representative)

### *Focus groups*

The following individuals/organizations were engaged through the three focus groups:

#### Golf Community

- Leo Abanilla, Bayanihan Golf Association of Toronto
- Kathryn Wood, Canadian Golf Superintendents Association
- Earl Fritz, Canadian Junior Golf Association
- Brent Miller, ClubLink
- Steve Bloom, FlingGolf
- Ryan Logan, Golf Canada
- Jeff Mingay, Golf Course Architect
- John Plumpton, Golf Course Architect
- Craig Loughry, Golf Ontario
- Kyle McFarlane, Golf Ontario
- Darren Godden, Golf Plus Marketing Inc.
- Michael Moniz, Maple Downs Golf Club
- Blair Breen, National Golf Course Owners Association

#### Food Access Groups

- Anan Lololi, Afri-Can Food Basket
- Jacqueline, Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective

- Katie German, FoodShare TO
- Rhonda Tietel-Payne, Toronto Urban Food Growers
- Sheldomar Elliot, Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, FoodShare TO
- Annisha Steward

#### Advocacy and Interest Groups

- Nahomi Amberber., Climate Justice TO
- James, Friends of the Don East
- Emmay Mah, Toronto Environmental Alliance
- Anne Purvis, Toronto Field Naturalists
- Donata Frank, Toronto Field Naturalists
- Ellen Schwartzel, Toronto Field Naturalists
- Cara Chellew, Toronto Public Space Committee
- Andrew, Toronto Outdoor Club
- Matthew, Toronto Public Space Committee
- Barbara Hopewell, Track 3
- Brianne Lee, Urban Minds

#### ***City-wide Virtual Public Meeting***

A total of 370 members of the public participated in the City-wide Virtual Public Meeting. There were 607 recorded RSVP's to the session and 4,457 event page views. There was no additional demographic information collected but anecdotal information shared in the breakout sessions illustrate that the make-up of the participants included golfers, non-golfers, golf organization representatives, and advocacy organization representatives.

# What We Heard - Phase 1

## Top Takeaways

This section provides the top takeaways gathered in Phase 1.

### *Overall Recommended Direction*

Overall, there was a general consensus that **city-operated golf courses could incorporate some additional and complementary uses in addition to using the sites as places to play golf**. Based on the volume of comments received per preliminary opportunity, the following preliminary opportunities most resonated:

- **Improving Golf Play**
- **Improving Trail Access**
- **Natural Area Restoration**
- **Food Growing Opportunities**
- **Complementary Programming**

### *Improving Golf Play Top Considerations*

The following represents the top feedback received in Phase 1 related to Improving Golf Play:

- **Designate putting and practice areas** for training purposes, entry-level practice, and general player warm up. Tangible suggestions for infrastructure include fenced-off putting areas or driving ranges.
- **Prioritize and explore junior programming.** There was a consensus from Phase 1 that the City of Toronto's junior golf programming is a vital resource and entryway to the sport. PFR could prioritize finding ways to expand and improve program delivery for junior golf through future golf course operations.
- **Prioritize and improve seniors' golfing experience.** Both golf experts and general golf players acknowledge that seniors are a vital market segment in the golf industry. Phase 1 identified shortening (or providing options for) to 9-holes or 12-hole courses as well as creating designated seniors tee times as ways to improve the seniors' golfing experience.
- **Explore complementary golf programming.** Golfers engaged in Phase 1 urged the City to explore complementary golf programming including top golf, collaboration with local schools, and local resident tee times to appeal to larger and more diverse audiences.
- **Shorten courses to 12-holes or 9-holes.** Golfers encouraged staff to explore opportunities to shorten the 18-hole courses to either 12-holes or 9-holes

to: (1) improve the golf play/experience (via course redesigns, etc.) and, (2) allocate land for additional and/or complementary uses.

- **Collaborate with local leagues to organize tee times.** There was interest from league representatives to find a better way to organize large quantity tee times and/or designated league reservation times to accommodate larger groups to play together.

## ***Improving Trail Access Top Considerations***

The following represents the top feedback received in Phase 1 related to Improving Trail Access:

- **Prioritize improving trail access for Dentonia Park and Don Valley.** Many comments about trail access from the public meeting revolved around trail disconnections at Dentonia Park golf course and Don Valley golf course.
- **Improved trail access complements golf play.** Among the presented preliminary opportunities, improving trail access was the one most seen to complement golf play.
- **Consider safety in trail design and golf course redesign.** Introducing trails onto golf course sites require additional safety considerations as trail users may interject and pose risk of injury during golf play.
- **Consider a multi-use path approach to trails.** Improved trail access was cited as a way to also allow access for other activities like running, cycling, dog walking, and nature walks.

## ***Tree Planting Top Considerations***

**Tree planting did not resonate as much as other preliminary opportunities.** A top consideration is to integrate targeted tree planting alongside any efforts for a more fulsome naturalization process.

## ***Recreational Facility Top Considerations***

**New recreational facilities did not resonate as much as other preliminary opportunities.** If pursued, consider recreational facilities that the local community/residents need/lack. The five local meetings in Phase 2 may inform what these needs may be.

## ***Food Growing Opportunities Top Considerations***

The following represents the top feedback received in Phase 1 related to Food Growing Opportunities:

- **There is general agreement to pursue community and allotment gardens on golf course sites.** In Phase 1, there were no clear demands for any larger or robust form of urban agriculture on golf course sites.
- **Tools and key food growing infrastructure already exist on golf course sites.** The Food Access focus group acknowledged that food growing resources like sheds/storage, tilling equipment and gardening tools already exist on golf course sites.

- **Prioritize a community garden model over an allotment garden model.** Focus group participants shared that the community garden model provides better networking and community building opportunities.
- **Consider supply and demand on the City's existing community and allotment garden programs.** When determining which golf course(s), if any, are suitable for food growing, PFR could factor in the local neighbourhood's supply and demand of existing community and allotment gardens.
- **Consider ensuring that garden tenants are from the local community.** Food growers cited that City gardens are often used by residents who do not necessarily live close to their plots.
- **Consider exploring alternative food growing opportunities like beekeeping and a backyard hens program** at golf courses where floodplains pose a challenge for growing food. These were *novel* food growing ideas that were not initially considered by the City.

### **Natural Area Restoration Top Considerations**

The following represents the top feedback received in Phase 1 related to Natural Area Restoration:

- **Prioritize biodiversity through the creation of wetland areas.** As all the golf course sites are located along the ravine system, any naturalization project could include efforts to reestablish wetland ecosystems to increase biodiversity and diverse habitats in the city.
- **Prioritize naturalization to support bird migration.** Both focus groups and the public meeting included interests to consider bird migratory patterns in any naturalization project taken up on the golf course sites.
- **Consider pollinators.** The City's pollinator strategy was mentioned in one focus group. The golf course sites are seen as a space to advance pollination efforts and goals.
- **Enhance tree canopy.** Most comments for both tree planting and natural area restoration opportunities supported the prioritization of increasing the tree canopy on the golf courses. A few golfers' comments did share fear that tree planting would interfere with golf play.

### **Complementary Programming Top Considerations**

The following represents the top feedback received in Phase 1 related to Complementary Programming:

- **Prioritize programming sites for winter uses.** The majority of the complementary programming comments focussed on activating golf course sites during the winter. Ideas included cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter golf play, among others.
- **Consider temporary skating rinks.** This *novel* idea was generated at both Councillor meetings and at the public meeting.
- **Consider nature walks.** Nature walks and bird watching programming were also mentioned as possible complementary activities.



# How We Engaged - Phase 2

The Project's Phase 2 engagement activities included five Local Community Meetings and one online survey. Additional engagement activities were conducted as outlined below.

Through these activities, the team collected information about experiences and ideas about the future from a diverse range of participants. The Local Community Meetings were intended to understand the different perspectives of local community members (within 1km of each golf course), regardless of their relationship to golf.

## Engagement Design

The Project's Phase 2 engagement activities included five Local Community Meetings and one online survey. Additional engagement activities were conducted as outlined below.

Through these activities, the team collected information about experiences and ideas about the future from a diverse range of participants. The Local Community Meetings were intended to understand the different perspectives of local community members (within 1km of each golf course), regardless of their relationship to golf.

## Survey

An online survey was developed to collect the public's thoughts, ideas, and preferences on the future of Golf Courses in Toronto (see Appendix A). The public survey was live on the project website as of June 14th, 2021 through to July 12, 2021. A total of 6,627 respondents took the survey.

Respondents were provided with a project overview/information, timeline, and preliminary opportunities. Respondents were then asked about their relationship to Toronto golf, their experiences as a golfer or non-golfer, and their perspectives on preliminary opportunities for additional and complementary uses. Respondent demographic information was also collected to enable the Project team to disaggregate the data and better understand and identify any key differences in the core experiences of specific user groups (see Section 3.1.4 for more information):

- Food sovereignty, food security, and food access advocates
- Environmental stewards or climate change adaptation advocates
- User perspectives based on access (or lack thereof) to private green/outdoor space
- User perspective based on gender identities
- Racialized respondents
- Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) respondents
- 2SLGBTQ+ respondents
- Respondents with a disability (or disabilities)
- Local residents (live within three kilometers to a city-operated golf course)

### **The purpose of the survey was to:**

- a. Gather feedback from a broad range of golf course users and non-users (golfers and non-golfers).
- b. Understand the local community's current perspectives and uses of their respective golf courses.
- c. Gain informed feedback about what the local communities would like to see happen in the future with the City's golf courses.

### **Local Community Meetings**

Phase 2 included five online Local Community Meetings, one for each golf coursesite:

1. Tam O'Shanter Local Community Meeting: July 5, 2021, 6:30-8:30PM via WebEx
2. Don Valley Local Community Meeting: July 6, 2021, 6:30-8:30PM via WebEx
3. Humber Valley Local Community Meeting: July 7, 2021, 6:30-8:30PM via WebEx
4. Scarlett Woods Local Community Meeting: July 8, 2021, 6:30-8:30PM via WebEx
5. Dentonia Park Local Community Meeting: July 10, 2021, 10AM-12PM via WebEx

These meetings aimed to gather input and perspectives on golf play and complementary uses in each of the five golf courses under review. The meetings were promoted through Councillor's newsletters and emails, the project email list, social media, posters at the golf courses, direct mailers/postcards, and word of mouth. Each meeting included a project presentation from the Project Team followed by a question and answer session and a facilitated discussion in virtual breakout rooms.

### **Indigenous Leaders and Communities Focus Group**

The project team met with 20 Indigenous leaders and representatives from different Indigenous communities in August 2021 to discuss the Project and the future of city- operated golf courses.

### **Additional Engagement Activities**

In addition to the Local Community Meetings and survey, the project team undertook additional engagement activities to round out findings. Throughout Phase 2, the project team also received a number of emails, a petition, and a report outlining further public opinion on the future of the City-operated golf courses. The following summarizes each of these additional engagement and consultation activities.

- **Additional Golf Community Interviews and Comments**

In addition to the Phase 1 Golfer Community Focus Group, throughout Phase 2 the project team collected additional golfer feedback via email, phone conversations or scheduled meetings.

- **Additional Food Advocate Interviews and Comments**

Phase 1 included a focus group specifically with food sovereignty and food security advocates in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A number of invitees were unable to participate on the date selected. The project team collected additional Food Advocate feedback from these participants via email comments or phone conversations. Top takeaways from these comments include:

- Consider making space for bees on Toronto's golf courses. If so, consider the safety of beekeepers regarding golf play as well as pesticide use on courses and potential harm to the bees.
- Dentonia Park golf course is the course most recommended for food growing opportunities due to varying levels of food insecurity in nearby neighbourhoods.
- Some indicated that Dentonia Park, among the other courses, is located in an area that is more food insecure, suggesting that providing opportunities for local residents to grow food could help reduce food insecurity and provide a potential revenue source (through food selling).
- On the potential of introducing farmer's markets on golf course land, one participant suggested subsidizing costs for sellers to keep produce affordable for customers and local residents.
- Concern around safety and well-being of gardeners in light of golf operations and golf play. Suggestion to operationalize (through golf operator contracts or a third party entity) a mediator or conflict resolution manager between two user groups to maintain civility and ensure safety.

- Union Meetings**

In Phase 2, the Project team met with TCEU Local 416 and CUPE Local 79 to discuss the project. Both unions advocated for the City of Toronto to internalize golf course operations instead of continuing to contract out operations.
- Emailed comments**

20 email comments were received during Phase 2 of the project. The majority of the comments were within the realm of the findings identified in the online survey or local meetings with a slight majority advocating for the interest of golf players or generally asking the City to do nothing in relation to any operational changes to the city-operated golf courses.
- Dentonia Park Food Growing Petition**

The Project received a petition advocating for the City to explore food growing opportunities on Dentonia Park golf course. This petition was organized by Shah Mohiuddin, a local resident of the Dentonia Park golf course. This petition was signed by 86 local residents.
- Don Valley to Parkland Executive Summary**

A local resident emailed the project team with an executive summary making a case to convert the Don Valley Golf Course into parkland. They cited and provided research on parkland provisions in the neighbourhood and suggested to the City to consider ongoing intensification in the area that will exacerbate the lack of parkland provisions for the local community around the Don Valley Golf Course.
- Federation of North Toronto Residents' Association (FoNTRA) Letter**

The **Federation of North Toronto Residents' Association** (FoNTRA), submitted a letter advocating for making multi-use trail connections across the Dentonia Park Golf Course and Don Valley Golf Course.
- Save Toronto Golf Courses Presentation**

A group named Save Toronto Golf Courses submitted a presentation deck outlining their interests in the future of the city-operated golf courses. In this presentation, Save Toronto Golf Courses advocates for the City to maintain its golf courses for golf course operations citing financial benefits for the City and health benefits for current users. The presentation outlines recommendations to pursue the Project goals.
- Presentation to the City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council (AAAC)**

On October 22, City staff presented an overview of the Golf Operational Review to members of the AAAC to gather input and perspectives on opportunities for Indigenous Placemaking, improving golf play, and complementary uses at each of the five golf courses under review. This feedback is not included in the UX mapping, which was completed prior to the presentation to the AAAC.

## Data disaggregation and data limitations

Disaggregated data collection, and analysis is used to examine smaller units of data within a larger, aggregated data set. When data is reported as a whole, that data can hide important differences and inequities in access and outcomes of particular groups. The use of disaggregated data can make it possible to more effectively understand specific residents'/Torontonians' experiences. The data collected for the Toronto Golf Course Operational Review consultation was disaggregated based on demographic data as described later in this appendix.

# Who Engaged - Phase 2

The following section describes who engaged in the Phase 2 online survey and Local Community Meetings. In addition to understanding the demographics of who engaged in the process, the demographic data is further disaggregated to create user profiles including profiles for golfer, non-golfer, local resident and more. The section concludes with a note on who might be missing from the conversations.

## Who Engaged: Online Survey

The online survey received 6,627 responses. The project team wanted to understand the perspectives of those who play golf (“golfer”) and those who do not play golf (“non-golfer”). Of the 6,627 survey responses, 4,181 identified as a golfer, 2,437 identified as a non-golfer, and 9 selected “prefer to not answer”. Additionally, the online survey asked respondents a series of demographic questions to uncover perspectives from different user segments which provides important understanding on who accesses city-operated golf courses, who experiences barriers, and how this dynamic could shape the future of the golf courses.

### Overall Survey Respondent Profile

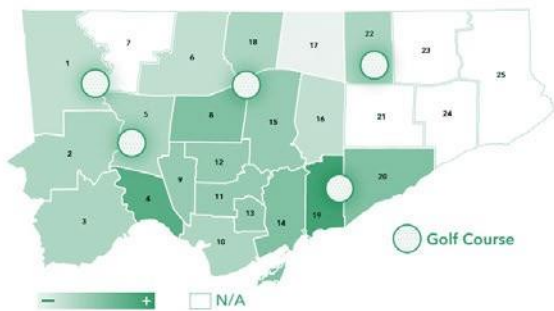
A total of 6,728 respondents filled out the online survey. Based on the demographic data collected, the following visualization includes a profile of who filled out the survey factoring information about race, gender, income, age, and more.

## SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

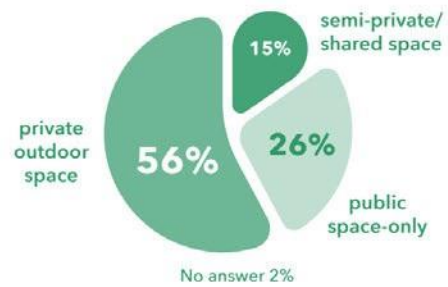
### SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE GROUP



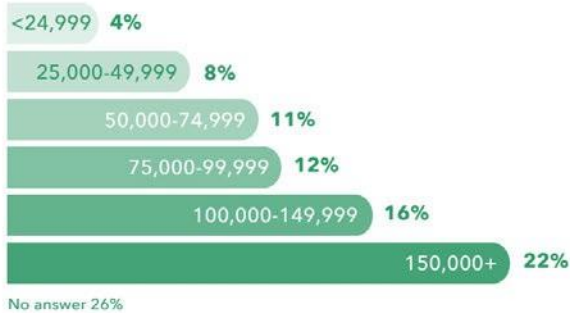
### WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE IN TORONTO



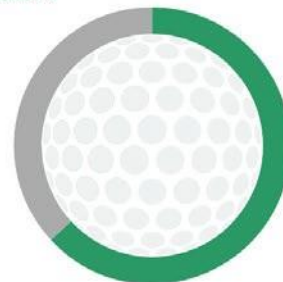
### HOUSEHOLD'S ACCESS TO OUTDOOR SPACE



### TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME BEFORE TAXES LAST YEAR



### GOLFERS: 4181 NON-GOLFERS: 2437 Prefer Not to Answer: 9



**6627**

TOTAL SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

**38%**

Women

**18%**

Racialized

**12%**

2SLGBTQ+

**2%**

Identify as Indigenous

**4%**

Two-spirit, trans, gender queer, non-binary

**25%**

Environmental Advocates

**16%**

Food Advocates

**1%**

Identify as having a Disability

Figure 1. Survey Participant Demographics Visual.

**NOTE TO READER:** Survey participants were provided an option to self-identify for some demographic questions as they see fit. Some respondents took the opportunity to meaningfully add to the dataset by self-identifying with identities not listed.

## Golfer profile

From the survey demographic data, a golfer profile has been developed to better understand who golfers are and who currently use the city-operated golf courses. A total of 4,181 survey respondents indicated that they play golf with various frequencies (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, once or twice a season, etc.).

## Golfer Profile Demographic Insights

### Age (total 5829 count)

- 22.4% are 40 to 55 years old (1306 count)
- 19.1% are 30 to 39 years old (1114 count)
- 15.4% are 56 to 64 years old (897 count)
- 13.5% are 65 to 74 years old (786 count)
- 12.3% are 19 to 29 years old (716 count)
- 8.6% are 12 years old or younger (500 count)
- 4.7% are 13 to 18 years old (272 count)
- 4.1% are 75 years old or above (238 count)

### Race

- 61.6% identify as White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)
- 5.6% identify as East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)
- 2.7% identify as South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
- 1.9% identify as Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)
- 1.7% identify as Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)
- 1.7% identify as Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)
- 1.3% identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis
- 1.1% identify as Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)
- 4.0% selected "Other" to identify as something not listed 11.0% prefer not to answer

### Gender

- 52.8% identify as a cisgender man
- 25.3% identify as a cisgendered woman
- 1.4% identify as gender expansive (e.g. gender queer, gender fluid, androgynous, non-binary)
- 0.4% identify as two-spirit
- 0.3% identify as a transgender man
- 0.2% identify as a transgender woman
- 0.7% indicated that they do not know their gender
- 2.8% self-identified with a gender not listed.
- 8.7% prefer not to answer

### Sexuality

- 68.8% identify as heterosexual
- 2.5% identify as bisexual
- 1.5% identify as queer
- 1.0% identify as gay
- 0.8% identify as lesbian
- 0.7% indicated that they do not know their sexuality
- 0.4% identify as two-spirit
- 1.8% self-identified with a sexual orientation not listed)

- 12.1% prefer not to answer

#### Income

- 23.5% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$150,000 or more
- 14.1% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$100,000 - \$149,999
- 10.1% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 8.8% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 5.2% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 1.9% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$0 - \$24,999
- 0.6% indicated they don't know their total household income before taxes
- 25.4% prefer to not answer

#### Employment Status

- 53.1% of golfers are employed full-time
- 21.5% of golfers are retired
- 4.8% of golfers are employed part-time
- 2.6% of golfers are students
- 2.0% of golfers are employed casually, seasonally, temporarily, or on-call
- 1.8% of golfers are unemployed or looking for employment
- 1.1% of golfers are stay at home caregivers
- 0.3% of golfers are unable to work
- 1.4% indicated other employment statuses including self-employed, inability to work due to COVID-19, and questioning the relevance of employment status, among others
- 4.2% of golfers prefer not to answer

#### Ability

- 72.1% of golfers do not identify as a person with a disability
- 7.0% of golfers identify as a person with a disability
- 0.1% of golfers do not know whether or not they identify as a person with a disability
- 7.8% of golfers prefer not to answer

#### Private Space Access

- 54.6% have access to private outdoor space (e.g. yard)
- 19.3% do not have access to (semi-)private outdoor space
- 11.4% have access to a semi-private or shared outdoor space (e.g. condominium courtyard)

#### Ward of Residence

The top five wards where golfers reside are:

1. Ward 19 - Beaches-East York (8.3%)
2. Ward 8 - Eglinton-Lawrence (5.8%)
3. Ward 4 - Parkdale-High Park (5.1%)
4. Ward 20 - Scarborough Southwest (4.8%)
5. Ward 14 - Toronto-Danforth (4.7%)

#### Proximity to Golf Courses

- 50.9% of golfers travel greater than three kilometers to a City-operated golf course
- 28.2% of golfers travel between one and three kilometers to a City-operated golf course
- 7.6% of golfers do not play golf at city-operated golf courses
- 7.0% of golfers travel less than one kilometre to a City-operated golf course
- 1.4% prefer not to answer

#### Golfer habits

- 7.6% of golfers indicated that they do not play golf at city-operated golf courses
- 4.3% of golfers who play at city-operated golf courses do not live in Toronto

## Non-golfer profile

Survey demographic data was also disaggregated to develop a profile for all non-golfers. A total of 2,437 survey respondents indicated that they do not play golf.

### Non-Golfer Profile Demographic Insights

#### Age (total 3,597 count)

- 24.0% are 30 to 39 years old (864 count)
- 22.7% are 40 to 55 years old (818 count)
- 16.9% are 19 to 29 years old (607 count)
- 10.2% are 12 years old or younger (367 count)
- 10.0% are 56 to 64 years old (358 count)
- 8.5% are 65 to 74 years old (305 count)
- 3.9% are 75 years old or above (141 count)
- 0.4% are 13 to 18 years old (137 count)

#### Race

- 63.6% identify as White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)
- 7.3% identify as South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
- 7.4% identify as East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)
- 3.0% identify as Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)
- 2.6% identify as Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)
- 2.6% identify as Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)
- 2.2% identify as Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Person, Turkish)
- 1.7% identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis
- 4.2% selected "Other" to identify as something not listed
- 6.9% prefer not to answer

#### Gender

- 58.6% identify as a cisgendered woman
- 26.8% identify as a cisgender man
- 5.5% identify as gender expansive (e.g. gender queer, gender fluid, androgynous, non-binary)
- 0.6% indicated that they do not know their gender
- 0.5% identify as two-spirit
- 0.4% identify as a transgender man
- 0.1% identify as a transgender woman
- 1.6% self-identified with a gender not listed
- 6.1% that they prefer not to answer

#### Sexuality

- 60.9% identify as heterosexual
- 9.3% identify as bisexual
- 7.5% identify as queer
- 3.5% identify as gay
- 2.1% identify as lesbian
- 0.9% indicated that they do not know their sexuality
- 0.4% identify as two-spirit
- 1.8% self-identified with a sexual orientation not listed
- 10.6% prefer not to answer

#### Income

- 16.4% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$150,000 or more
- 15.6% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$100,000 - \$149,999



- 13.2% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 12.9% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 11.3% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 7.2% indicated their total household income before taxes is \$0 - \$24,999
- 1.7% indicated they don't know their total household income before taxes
- 17.8% prefer to not answer

#### Employment Status

- 53.9% of non-golfers are employed full-time
- 13.3% of non-golfers are retired
- 9.8% of non-golfers are employed part-time
- 6.5% of non-golfers are students
- 4.8% of non-golfers are employed casually, seasonally, temporarily, or on-call
- 3.7% of non-golfers are unemployed or looking for employment
- 3.1% of non-golfers are stay at home caregivers
- 1.3% of non-golfers are unable to work
- 2.6% indicated other employment statuses including self-employed, full-time volunteer, maternity/paternity leave, and questioning the relevance of employment status, among others
- 3.5% of non-golfers prefer not to answer

#### Ability

- 73.1% of non-golfers do not identify as a person with a disability
- 14.6% of non-golfers identify as a person with a disability
- 1.1% of non-golfers do not know whether or not they identify as a person with a disability
- 4.9% of non-golfers prefer not to answer

#### Private Space Access

- 44.2% have access to private outdoor space (e.g. yard)
- 30.8% do not have access to (semi-)private outdoor space
- 17.6% have access to a semi-private or shared outdoor space (e.g. condominium courtyard)

#### Ward of Residence

The top five wards where non-golfers who completed the survey reside are:

1. Ward 4 - Parkdale-High Park (9.1%)
2. Ward 9 - Davenport (8.0%)
3. Ward 19 - Beaches-East York (7.0%)
4. Ward 11 - University-Rosedale (5.9%)
5. Ward 14 - Toronto-Danforth (5.7%)

## Other user groups

The Project also analyzed the survey data based on particular user segments as identified by Council direction (indicated in with “\*\*”) as well as project team discretion.

The identified additional user segments are:

- Food sovereignty, food security, and food access advocates
- Environmental stewards or climate change adaptation advocates
- User perspectives based on access (or lack thereof) to private green/outdoor space
- User perspective based on gender identities
- Racialized respondents
- Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) respondents
- 2SLGBTQ+ respondents
- Respondents with a disability (or disabilities)
- Local residents (live within three kilometers to a city-operated golf course)\*

## Who Engaged: Local Community Meetings

**Table 1** includes the number of participants per Local Community Meeting, the number of participants who engaged throughout the discussion session (i.e. provided questions or comments), and the total number of RSVPs.

**Table. 1 Participant Numbers per Local Community Meeting**

<b>Local Meeting</b>	<b>Total Participant Number (approximate)</b>	<b>Discussion Session Participant Number (approximate)</b>	<b>Total RSVP Number</b>
Tam O'Shanter	78	35	99
Don Valley	122	50	170
Humber Valley	26	25	58
Scarlett Woods	103	35	175
Dentonia Park	79	35	147

## Who Engaged: Indigenous Leaders and Communities Focus Group

The focus group consisted of 20 Indigenous leaders and representatives from different Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations.

## Who Engaged: City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)

City of Toronto project Staff attended the October 22, 2021 meeting of the AAAC.

## Who is Missing (data limitations)

There were numerous conditions within engagement activities that limited the potential for participation. Some significant conditions include:

- All engagement activities were conducted in English.
- All engagement activities were conducted virtually.

While the survey and local meetings did engage a relatively diverse pool of participants, the survey demographic data reveals that the majority of those engaged are white/caucasian (62.1%), cisgendered (80.5%), and heterosexual/straight (65.5%). **Table 2** shows the percentage of the user segment from the total number of responses. Some other notable demographic findings include the fact that 35.2% of respondents earn \$100,000 a year or more per household (35.2%) and 18.4% of respondents are retired. It shows that the data is skewed towards the perspectives of dominant user groups aforementioned and findings can be reinforced through further engagement.

Table 2. Percentage of Respondents per User Segment

User segment	Percentage of total responses
Food sovereignty, food security, and food access advocates	16.1%
Environmental stewards or climate change adaptation advocates	25.6%
User perspectives based on access to private green/outdoor space: Percentage of those with no private outdoor space	23.6%
User perspectives based on access to private green/outdoor space: Percentage of those with no private outdoor space: Percentage of those with access to semi-private/shared outdoor space:	13.7%
User perspective based on gender identities: Percentage of those who identify as a woman (both cisgendered and transgendered)	37.7%** <i>** 51.9% is the % of Toronto's population that identifies as a woman (2016 census)</i>
User perspective based on gender identities: Percentage of those who identify as 2-spirit, transgender, genderqueer, non-binary	3.7%
Racialized respondents	18.4%** <i>** 51.4% is the % of Toronto's population that identifies as a visibility minority (2016 census)</i>
Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) respondents	2.3%** <i>**0.9% is the % of Toronto's population that identifies as Aboriginal peoples (2016 census)</i>
2SLGBTQ+ respondents	11.6%
Respondents with a disability (or disabilities)	10.0%

# What We Heard - Phase 2

## Top Takeaways

The following provides a summary of the Phase 2 top takeaways learned from the Toronto Golf Course Operational Review. These top takeaways are informed by the detailed findings of the online survey, the local meetings, the Indigenous leaders and communities focus group and emergent topics/issues outside the scope of the project. The following top takeaways stem from the top resonating and recurring themes based on comments volumes collected per topic.

### Top Takeaways: Local Meetings

1. **The city-operated golf courses should continue to be a place to play golf but should also welcome complementary, additional, and/or alternative uses.**
2. **The city-operated golf courses do not necessarily serve the needs of their local communities.** Participants at the Local Community Meetings shared how the golf courses are disconnected from the local community.
3. **The future of city-operated golf courses should be decided on a site-specific basis.** The Local Community Meetings reveal that there are nuanced differences between the golf course lands, regardless of whether the meeting participants are existing users, prospective users, or non-users. One of the primary conversations was how to improve or keep golf play at the golf courses. The following outlines the top three additional, alternative, or complementary preliminary opportunities that resonated at each Local Community Meeting ordered by volume of comments. These identified opportunities per golf course is in addition to a general key takeaway, across all five of the Local Community Meetings, to improve and/or keep golf play at the existing golf course sites. A more detailed summary of recommended directions and nuances for each city-operated golf course is available in the Phase 2 What We Heard Report on the project webpage.
  1. **Tam O'Shanter Golf Course:**
    1. Additional and Complementary Programming
    2. Improved Trail Access
    3. Food Growing Opportunities
  2. **Don Valley Golf Course:**
    1. Improved Trail Access
    2. Additional and Complementary Programming
    3. Tree Planting
  3. **Humber Valley Golf Course:**
    1. Additional and Complementary Programming
    2. Improved Trail Access
    3. Recreational Facility
  4. **Scarlett Woods Golf Course:**
    1. Improved Trail Access
    2. Additional and Complementary Programming
    3. Food Growing Opportunities
  5. **Dentonia Park Golf Course:**

1. Food Growing Opportunities
2. Improved Trail Access
3. Additional and Complementary Programming

**Local communities want to stay engaged.** Local communities appreciated being engaged in the process and are invested in the future of the city-operated golf courses. Residents would like to stay informed with any future decisions regarding the golf courses as well as would like to be involved in the decision-making, design, and construction process of future uses where appropriate.

**There are instances of racial discrimination and queerphobia at the golf course lands.** Some participants described instances of racial discrimination and queerphobia at city-operated courses that hinders their interest in accessing the space. Nonetheless, other participants also described city-operated golf courses as more diverse and accessible than privately-owned and operated courses.

## Top Takeaways: Online Survey

**See also "Toronto Golf Course Operational Review UX Map" below for more detailed feedback.**

1. **The existing golf community is generally satisfied with the current state of city-operated golf courses.** The online survey revealed that the majority of existing users are satisfied with the golf courses as they are and are content if nothing changes. If golf-related operational improvements were to be pursued, the top suggestions are:
  1. Introduce (and better promote) more junior & entry-level golf programming (i.e., enable access to practice facilities).
  2. Provide designated practice and warm-up areas.
  3. Improve the tee time reservation experience and increase the number and variety of available tee times.
  4. Introduce a tee time reservation fee deposit.
  5. Provide flexibility (especially for seniors) to book shorter 12-hole and/or 9-hole sessions.
  6. Re-enable league play and allow large group reservations.
  7. Improve food and beverage options.
  8. Improve customer experience through improved marshalling and speed of play.
2. **Improving trail access and connectivity, tree planting, and natural area restoration are the three preliminary opportunities that most resonated.** These three opportunities unanimously resonated for both golfer and non-golfer groups as well as other user segments. Indigenous Placekeeping and additional and complementary programming also resonated but in slightly varying levels between golfers and non-golfers. It is strongly encouraged to pursue identified preliminary opportunities on a site-specific basis.
3. **"Affordability" greatly varies among existing and prospective user groups.** Some users expressed that city-operated golf courses are the most affordable place to play golf in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A few users expressed that the City should increase their fees. Some participants indicated that playing golf is too costly and is financially inaccessible altogether. Consideration could be made to address perceived and actual barriers to playing golf. Alternatively, priority could be given for the most desired use(s) for the golf course lands per local neighbourhood.

4. **Golfers indicated that the city-operated golf courses are important to helping grow the game of golf in Toronto.** Golfers are most aligned with the idea that the city-operated golf course is an important resource to the golf community and promotes the growth of the sport in the city.
5. **Interest in public space has increased with an emphasis on equitable access.** Debate and discussion on whether the golf course lands are publicly accessible or equitably accessible occurred throughout the entire engagement process of the Project. To some, golf is seen as an inaccessible sport. As publicly-owned lands, the city-operated golf courses are seen as an inequitable allocation of public space due to the requirement to pay for entry and cost of equipment or rentals. Dissimilar to paying for city-operated recreation centres or pools, for example, some engagement participants indicated that paying to play at city-operated golf courses is associated with a sport that is historically white, male, and dominated by the wealthy.

## Top Takeaways: Indigenous Leaders and Communities Focus Group

1. **Improve transparency, accountability, and collaboration in Indigenous engagement processes.** Participants provided comments on the need to better engage and collaborate Indigenous peoples through public engagement processes.
2. **Celebrate and acknowledge Indigenous cultures, history and make space for Indigenous uses of the land and water.** Some participants indicated a desire for the City to learn the Indigenous history tied to each golf course land and acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous cultures and uses.
3. **Integrate Indigenous economic opportunities.** Some participants indicated an interest to integrate Indigenous economic opportunities through future operating models at the city-operated golf courses.
4. **Naturalize and restore lands and water.** Of the preliminary opportunities presented, natural area restoration and tree planting resonated with participants. Participants noted the importance of ensuring that any naturalization process included native species only and upheld and protected land and water as much as possible.

## Top Takeaways: City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)

The following is a summary of the feedback received at the AAAC meeting:

- Happy to be consulted before decisions are made
- Change all five golf course names to Indigenous names
- Install bronze plaques at each site that outline the importance of the land at each course, what the Indigenous uses of the land is and was, and the respect that should be given to the land
- Ensure urban Indigenous populations are consulted through this process
- Present to and get feedback from the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)
- Supportive of the idea of adding medicine gardens and Indigenous plantings. Work with young people to introduce these species whenever possible.
- Look to how this strategy can be connect to other City Strategies (e.g. those related to culture and technology)
- Support for providing Indigenous Cultural Spaces on the land
- Ensure safety on golf sites for community members

# Toronto Golf Course Operational Review UX Map

## What is a User Experience (UX) map? / How to use the UX map

A UX map is a tool that visualizes different user groups/ audiences/ peoples' experiences and perspectives. The purpose of mapping the user experiences and perspectives of the city-operated golf courses is to ensure that the City understands nuanced feedback from golfers, non-golfers and other user segments as they undertake the operational review of the five city-operated golfcourses. The engagement and activities for the project help to evaluate whether the golf courses are meeting the priorities and help to see where experiences align and where they diverge. Similarly, the UX map represents a "snapshot" of experiences. It is not meant to represent one, or the only userexperience but instead serves as an overview of a collection of experiences.

## How to use the UX map

The Toronto Golf Course Operational Review UX map highlights the experiences of golfers and non-golfers with the city-operated golf courses. The data from the 6,627 respondents who answered the online survey is categorized into three sections:

1. Awareness and access to golf.
2. Current Experiences with City-operated Golf and/or the Golf Course lands.
3. The Future of the City-operated Golf Courses.

In each section, the UX map highlights key findings in the form of statements. The key findings are formulated based on two main user groups, golfers and non- golfers as self-identified through the online survey. The UX map also outlines divergent statements of specific user groups using the disaggregated data.

# 1 AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO CITY OPERATED GOLF COURSES

## KEY FINDINGS



1 Respondents are aware that the City operates **five golf courses** (71.4%).



2 Generally, golfers play at city-operated courses once or **twice a season** (23.3%), 19.9% of golfers play **weekly** and 15.9% play **once a month**.



3 Don Valley Golf Course is the **most used city-operated golf course** (44%), 31.2% of those engaged use Scarlett Woods, 29.4% use Dentonia Park, 28.2% use Humber Valley, and 28.1% use Tam O'Shanter. Few golfers do not use any city-operated golf courses (8.9%).



4 Just over **half of golfers travel over 3km** to play at city-operated golf courses (50.9%).



5 Most golfers travel to the golf courses by **car** (80.1%), few golfers take **transit** (12.1%), **walk** (4.7%), or **bike** (3%).



6 Most non-golfers are **not interested** in playing golf (74.1%). Few non-golfers are **interested** in playing golf (7.5%).



7 Close to half of respondents indicate **no barriers to golf play** (49.5%) and 46.9% say they do **experience barriers to play golf**, with a significant barrier for golfers being access to tee-times.



8 **Top identified barriers** to playing golf were cost (21.7%), finding time (17.7%) and location (11.4%).



9 Non-golfers who are interested in playing golf would be **would be encouraged to play** if offered free/discount rental equipment (17.3%), golf lessons (16.7%), and rounds of play (15.1%).



# 1 AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO CITY OPERATED GOLF COURSES COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

## COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP LEGEND

- Racialized (18%)
- 2SLGBTQ+ (12%)
- Women (38%), two-spirit, trans, gender queer, non-binary (4%)
- People who identify as Indigenous (2%)
- People with Disability (1%)
- Environmental Advocates: (25%)
- Food advocates (16%)
- Semi-private or no outdoor space (40%)
- Local resident (44%)

- 1 Many racialized respondents are aware that the City operates five golf courses ( 57%).  
Some respondents who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ are aware that the City operates five golf courses (51%).  
Some respondents who identify as 2-spirit, transgender, gender queer or non-binary were aware that the city operates five golf courses (53%).  
Many respondents who identify as people with disabilities are aware that the City operates five golf courses (64%).

- 2 Some racialized respondents do not use any of the City-operated golf courses (48%).  
Many 2SLGBTQ+ respondents do not use any of the golf courses (66%).  
Many respondents who identify as two-spirit, transgender, gender queer, or non-binary do not use the golf courses (61%).  
Some women indicated that they do not use the golf courses (50%).  
Some Indigenous respondents indicated they do not play golf (32%)  
Some respondents with disabilities do not use the golf courses (53%).  
Some environmental advocates do not use the golf courses (46%).  
Many food advocates do not use the golf courses (58%).  
Few local residents do not use the golf courses (24%).  
Some respondents with semi-private or no private outdoor space do not use the golf courses (46%).

- 3 Don Valley Golf Course (DVGC) hosts the highest number of racialized golfers (31%).  
DVGC hosts the largest number of 2SLGBTQ+ golfers (18%).  
Of the 2-spirit, transgender, gender queer, and non-binary respondents that do use the golf courses, few use Dentonia golf course (22%) and Don Valley golf course (21%).  
DVGC hosts the largest number of golfers with disability (33.4%).

- 6 Many non-golfer racialized respondents are not interested in starting to play golf (64%) and few are unsure (23%).  
Most non-golfer 2SLGBTQ+ respondents are not interested in starting to play golf (77%) and few are unsure (17%).  
Many of the non-golfer respondents who identified as 2-spirit, transgender, gender queer, or non-binary are not interested in playing golf (70%).  
Most of the non-golfer women respondents are not interested in playing golf (73%).  
Most non-golfer respondents with disabilities are not interested in starting to play golf (73%).  
Most non-golfer environmental advocates are not interested in playing golf (77%).  
Most non-golfer food advocates are not interested in playing golf (77%).  
Most non-golfer local residents are not interested in playing golf (73%).  
Most non-golfer respondents with semi-private or no outdoor space are not interested in playing golf (72%).

- 7 Some racialized respondents experience barriers to play golf (50%).  
*"I have had negative experiences at golf courses in the City of Toronto before based on my identity. I have also played golf before and do not enjoy it but understand many others greatly do."*  
Through open-ended comments, some respondents indicated that a lack of diversity and the prevalence of sexism, micro aggressions, transphobia and racism are barriers to playing golf.  
Many respondents with disabilities experience barriers to play golf (58%).

- 9 Most racialized respondents indicated free or discounted rental equipment would encourage golf play (77%).  
Most racialized respondents indicated free or discounted golf lessons would encourage golf play (76%).  
Most 2SLGBTQ+ respondents indicated free or discounted golf lessons would encourage golf play (72%).  
Most respondents with disabilities indicated free or discounted rental equipment would encourage golf play (71%).

# 2 CURRENT EXPERIENCES WITH CITY-OPERATED GOLF AND GOLF COURSE LANDS

## KEY FINDINGS



1 Many golfers are **generally satisfied with the golf experience** at City-operated golf courses (68.5%).



2 Generally, golfers feel **neutral towards food and beverage options** at the golf courses (34.3%). Fewer golfers feel satisfied (28.3%) or dissatisfied (23.6%) with the food and beverage options.



3 The courses are **financially accessible** to most existing golfers (72.8%). 28.9% of non-golfers indicated cost is a barrier to play.



4 Many golfers indicated that the city-operated golf courses have **more affordable green fees** than other golf courses in Toronto (68.6%).



5 Some golfers found that the city-operated golf courses have **accessible rental equipment** (36.7%).



6 Some golfers indicated that the city-operated golf courses **do not have better facilities** than other golf courses in Toronto (42.2%).



7 Some golfers indicated that the city-operated golf courses are **more welcoming** to new golfers than other courses in Toronto (49%).



8 Most golfers indicated that the golf courses are important for helping to **grow the game of golf** in Toronto (79%).



9 Due to the **COVID-19** pandemic, few golfers indicated that they golfed more (22.4%), fewer golfers golfed less frequently (15.1%). Few golfers played golf with less people (12.4%) or stopped golfing altogether (9.8%).



10 In **addition to golf play**, few people use the golf courses for individual walking and running (30.1%), winter activities (22.3%), and the food and beverage facilities (22%).



11 Golfers indicated that the golfing **experience would be enhanced** with improved food and beverage options (42.6%), improved clubhouse facilities (38.3%), golf maintenance and standards (38%), additional and complementary uses (33.4%), decreased prices (28.4%), and diversified play experience [e.g. tournaments, group bookings, leagues] (25.5%). Top suggestions from golfers were improved booking systems and improved marshalling and pace of play.

# 2 CURRENT EXPERIENCES WITH CITY-OPERATED GOLF AND GOLF COURSE LANDS

## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

### COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP LEGEND

- Racialized (18%)
- 2SLGBTQ+ (12%)
- Women (38%), two-spirit, trans, gender queer, non-binary (4%)
- People who identify as Indigenous (2%)
- People with Disability (1%)
- Environmental Advocates: (25%)
- Food advocates (16%)
- Semi-private or no outdoor space (40%)
- Local resident (44%)

1

Some 2SLGBTQ+ golfer respondents are satisfied with their experience on golf courses (46%).  
Some golfer respondents who identified as 2-spirit, transgender, gender queer and non-binary are satisfied with their golf experience (37%).

3

Many racialized golfers indicated the golf courses are financially accessible (62%).  
Some 2SLGBTQ+ golfers indicated the golf courses are financially accessible (45%).

5

Few 2SLGBTQ+ golfers indicated that the golf courses have accessible rental equipment (29%).

7

Many golfers with disabilities indicated the golf courses are more welcoming to new golfers (56%).

9

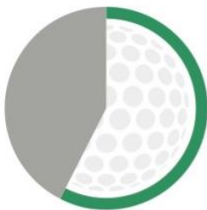
Some racialized golfers golf less frequently due to the pandemic (32%).  
Some racialized golfers golf more frequently due to the pandemic (37%).  
Some 2SLGBTQ+ golfers golf less frequently due to the pandemic (33%).  
Few 2SLGBTQ+ golfers golf more frequently due to the pandemic (28%).  
Some golfers with disability golf less frequently due to the pandemic (40%).  
Few golfers with disability golf more frequently due to the pandemic (26%).  
Some local residents golf less frequently due to the pandemic (39%).  
Some of the golfers who have with semi private or no outdoor space indicated that they golf less frequently due to the pandemic (34%).

11

Many 2SLGBTQ+ respondents indicated that additional and complementary uses will improve the golf experiences (58%).  
*"I think we have a tremendous opportunity here to harness city resources to improve the health and well-being of Torontonians. Golf benefits a select few, while food growing/indigenous place making/community events would benefit tens of thousands."*  
Some respondents who identified as 2-spirit, transgender, gender queer, non-binary indicated that additional and complementary uses would improve the golfing experience (51%). Some women respondents indicated that additional and complementary uses would improve their golfing experience (49%).

# 3 THE FUTURE OF CITY OPERATED GOLF COURSES

## KEY FINDINGS



1 In the future, most people indicated that golf courses should **prioritize environmental stewardship**, sustainability, and advancing the City's climate goals (80.6%). Other top priorities were increased affordability (75.1%), introducing additional and/or complementary uses (66.4%), and access for a wider range of the public (66%).



2 Most were in favour of **future golf-course operations** pursuing opportunities like tree planting (74.8%), natural area restoration (71.3%), improved trail access and connectivity (64.9%), and many were interested in additional and/or complementary programming (55.9%), exploring Indigenous placekeeping (51.4%), improving golf play (48.1%), exploring food growing (46.1%), and creating more recreational facilities (41.9%).



3 Due to COVID-19, some predicted that more people will be **interested in playing golf** (44.5%). A few people indicated there will be no lasting impacts from COVID-19 on golf (23.8%).



4 Alternative and/or **additional uses** at golf courses appeal to most non-golfers (89.2%).



5 If any additional/complementary uses are pursued, some people would participate in the new additional/complementary uses only (31.5%), some would play golf and participate in additional/complementary uses (31.2%), and few would use course lands for the first time (24.3%).  
***"I would only golf, but I am happy for others to benefit from the public space provided it does not interfere with the golf courses' normal operations."***



6 Of presented **recreational, infrastructure, or programming opportunities**, many people would use any new trails and cycling routes on golf course lands (57.3%), participate in cross-country skiing (42.4%), participate in snow-shoeing (41.1%), participate in guided nature walks (40.5%), use picnicking infrastructure (37.6%), and attend movie nights (33.9%).



7 In addition to the opportunities listed above, many respondents would like to see the **golf courses used in other ways** (e.g., public park access, greenspace, urban agriculture, land back, affordable housing) (55%).

# 3 THE FUTURE OF CITY OPERATED GOLF COURSES COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

## COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP LEGEND

- Racialized (18%)
- 2SLGBTQ+ (12%)
- Women (38%), two-spirit, trans, gender queer, non-binary (4%)
- People who identify as Indigenous (2%)
- People with Disability (1%)
- Environmental Advocates: (25%)
- Food advocates (16%)
- Semi-private or no outdoor space (40%)
- Local resident (44%)

1

Most racialized respondents support additional/complementary uses (75%). Many racialized respondents indicated that golf courses should include ways to promote food growing opportunities (63%).

Most women respondents support prioritizing all the listed goals except food and beverage and improving the golf play experience. Of note, many women respondents also support food growing opportunities (66%).

Most environmental advocates support prioritizing all the listed goals except food and beverage and improving the golf play experience. Of note, many environmental advocates support additional recreational programming and sporting facilities (70%) and food growing opportunities (69%).

Most food advocates support prioritizing all the listed goals except food and beverage and improving the golf play experience. Of note, most food advocates support food growing opportunities (84%), and additional recreational programming and sporting facilities (73%).

2

Most racialized respondents support tree planting opportunities (83%).

Most 2SLGBTQ+ respondents support food growing opportunities (83%).

Most two-spirit, trans, gender queer, non-binary respondents are in favour of Indigenous placekeeping (85%), trail access and connectivity (83%), food growing opportunities (82%), additional and complementary programming (76%).

Most women respondents are in favour of Indigenous placekeeping (74%). Many women respondents are in favour of food growing opportunities (66%), additional recreational facilities (59%).

Some Indigenous respondents indicated that golf courses should explore powows and community/medicine gardens as additional or complementary uses.

Most respondents with disability support improving trail access and connectivity to trail networks (77%).

Most respondents with disability support renaturalization (83%).

Most environmental advocates are in favour of Indigenous placekeeping (74%) and many environmental advocates are in favour of food growing opportunities (68%).

Most food advocates are in favour of Indigenous placekeeping (85%), food growing opportunities (84%), additional and complementary programming (81%).

4

*"There is potential for stronger community building with this project, as well as healthier living for all neighbours surrounding this land. Having access to walking trails and gardens at some of the courses would be amazing. The change to the courses can be decided by zones, as in if there are two west end courses like Scarlett Woods + Humber one course could stay open while the other became gardens etc."*

*"Either make these spaces safer for people who are marginalized and create more access to all or change them completely. Golf as a sport historically and on an ongoing basis has never been inclusive and is super problematic in who takes up the sport. It's still stuck in second wave feminism and women are still struggling to really access this. The problem is the culture and who takes up the sport. The spaces can be used for so many other things to address inequities in the city. And I'm sharing this as someone who works as a sports inclusion consultant across Canada."*

5

Few Indigenous respondents would use the golf course lands for the first time (26%).

Some Indigenous respondents would participate in new uses only (31%).

Some 2SLGBTQ+ respondents would use the golf lands for the first time if additional/complementary uses are pursued (51%).

Many 2SLGBTQ+ respondents would participate in new uses only (61%).

Some respondents with disabilities would use the golf lands for the first time if additional/complementary uses are pursued (35%).

Some respondents with disability would only participate in new uses (47%).

6

Many racialized respondents would use the golf course lands as a picnicking area (58%).

Some racialized respondents would participate in movie nights (50%).

Many 2SLGBTQ+ respondents would use the golf course for guided nature walks (60%).

Many 2SLGBTQ+ respondents would use the golf course lands as a picnicking area (68%).

Some respondents with disability would use the golf course lands for picnicking (54%).

577 other responses said they wouldn't use any comp uses

7

*"Close the golf courses! It is disgusting and shameful that the city continues to operate these colonial facilities for the enjoyment of wealthy settlers while so many in the city do not have housing, food, or their basic human rights. Give the Land Back to indigenous people for use at their discretion, it's the least the settler government could do during this ongoing genocide of Turtle Island's indigenous peoples."*

*"Give the land back. I'm also reminded of the terribly violent evictions of people living in Toronto parks. Perhaps our unhoused neighbours would like the opportunity to feel safe in a park. Or even affordable housing."*