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2025 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Capital Investments for Ice Skating and Cricket and Winterized Washrooms

Issue/Background:

- This briefing note responds to a request from Budget Committee, at its January 17, 2025 meeting, to provide information on proposed indoor and outdoor recreational capital investments for ice skating, cricket, and winterized washrooms, and how these priorities have been advanced with the Gardiner and Don Valley Parkway (DVP) funding allocation.

Key Points:

Ice Skating Capital Investments

- Outdoor artificial skating rinks and trails are highly valued winter outdoor recreation facilities which provide social, mental, and physical health benefits. Along with arenas, these recreational facilities provide opportunities for residents to be active and learn new skills, while fostering community building and connection.
- The 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) includes a total of \$245.5 million for outdoor artificial ice rinks, skate trails and arena investments. This includes \$6.0 million in funding from the Gardiner and DVP reallocation for the State of Good Repair (SOGR) of Arenas and Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks. A summary of this investment is broken down in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Ice Skating Capital Investments in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan (\$ in millions)

Type of Investment	Funding in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan	Gardiner and DVP Funding Allocation
New Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (3)	\$16.8	
New Skate Trails (2)	\$10.0	
Zamboni Garage/Storage Huts for High Park and Regent Park AIRs	\$0.6	
New Arena (2 pads) *	\$61.0	
SOGR of Arenas (48 Projects)	\$111.5	\$2.3
SOGR of Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks	\$45.6	\$3.7
Total	\$245.5	\$6.0

* This is an estimate for the twin-pad arena and is included in the Don Mills Community Recreation Centre project (\$164.8 million).

- The Council-approved Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (FMP) identified the recommended geographies (district or ward-specific) where new facilities would address provision gaps and other recreation priorities. The FMP also underscored the importance of arenas, outdoor artificial ice rinks and skate trails to the public.

New and Enhanced Artificial Ice Rinks and Skate Trails:

- The 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan includes \$27.4 million for the design and construction of three additional outdoor artificial ice rinks [\$16.8 million], two skating trails [\$10.0 million], and zamboni garages/storage huts [\$0.6 million]:
 - Artificial ice rink – Fountainhead Park – Humber River-Black Creek (2025-2027)
 - Artificial ice rink – Scarborough Centre – Thomson Memorial Park (2025-2027)
 - Artificial ice rink – Scarborough Guildwood/Scarborough-Rouge Park – location to be confirmed (Design 2032-2033, Construction Phase to be added through the 2026 budget process)
 - Skate trail – Centennial Park - Etobicoke Centre (2025-2026)
 - Skate trail – Scarborough - location to be confirmed (2030-2031)
 - High Park Artificial Ice Rink Zamboni Garage (2026)
 - Regent Park Storage Shed and Zamboni Storage Hut (2025)

- Outdoor artificial ice rink/skate trail projects are delivered on a three-year cycle with design and public consultation occurring in year one and implementation in year two and three.
- In comparison to the 2024 10-Year Capital Plan, the 2025 10-Year Capital Plan for artificial ice rinks and skating trails includes an additional \$4.6 million to reflect market value increases.

New and Enhanced Arenas:

- The 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan includes an estimated \$61.0 million for the design and construction of one new twin-pad arena as part of the Don Mills Community Recreation Centre project (2025-2031).
- To manage oversubscription for the Development Charges, the following growth/improvement projects were deferred outside of the 2025 10-Year Capital Plan and are currently included in the Capital Delivery Constraints list. These projects were in the later part of the 10-Year Capital Plan (beyond 2028) and sites were not identified:
 - \$7.0 million for design of a Twin pad arena – Toronto/East York (location to be determined).
 - \$4.4 million for the design and construction of a repurposed single pad arena (location to be determined - as new twin pad arenas are constructed, an existing single pad arena is planned to be repurposed to other uses).
 - \$4.5 million for the design and construction of a second repurposed single pad arena (location to be determined).
- Once funding is secured for the full project costs, arenas are typically delivered on a three to four year cycle with design, public consultation and tendering in first 2 years and construction in years three and four.

State of Good Repair of Arenas, Artificial Ice Rinks and Skate Trails:

- The 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan includes \$157.1 million for State of Good Repair (SOGR) works for 48 projects, with \$111.5 million for arenas and \$45.6 million for outdoor artificial ice rinks and skate trails.
- In comparison to the 2024 10-Year Capital Plan, the 2025 10-Year Capital Plan to address critical SOGR to maintain service and prevent unplanned closures where possible, includes an additional \$6.0 million in funding from the Gardiner and DVP funding for indoor arenas and outdoor artificial ice rinks.

Cricket Capital Investments

- The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Implementation Strategy, adopted by City Council in 2019, directed staff to:
 - Provide access to up to five new cricket pitches within the next 20 years.
 - Upgrade 10 per cent of all cricket pitches within the next 20 years (approximately three pitches) to increase usage potential.
- The City is currently developing a Cricket Strategy through extensive consultation with a Cricket Reference Group and the cricket community to inform the typology, design standards and locations of new and improved cricket pitches as well as direction on programming and opportunities to grow the sport. The strategy will be incorporated into the 2025 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.
- The 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan includes a total investment of \$10.8 million for cricket pitches, including seven new outdoor (Byng Park, Littles Park, Corvette Park, two in Centennial Park, L'Amoreaux, and one unconfirmed location), one indoor (Rouge River CRC), and upgrades to three (Thackeray Park, Humber Arboretum and G. Ross Lord Park).

Table 2: Summary of Cricket Pitches Capital Investments in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan (\$ in millions)

Project Name	Location	Funding in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan
Sports Field Improvements	Byng Park, Littles Park, and Corvette Park	\$1.3
Cricket Pitch (2)	Centennial Park – new full size cricket pitch	\$0.9
Cricket Pitch (3)	Centennial Park – new full size cricket pitch	\$1.9
Cricket Pitch (4)	L'Amoreaux – new full size Cricket Pitch	\$1.0
Cricket Pitch (5)	TBD – new full size Cricket Pitch	\$1.2
Sports Field Program	Upgrades at Thackeray Park, Humber Arboretum and G. Ross Lord Park	\$0.6
Rouge River Community Recreation Centre	Indoor cricket programming with an additional 4,700 square feet of gym space	\$3.9
Total*		\$10.8

* While not currently included in the 2025 10-Year Capital Plan, a carry forward adjustment will be made to bring forward unspent funding from 2024 for three new cricket pitches to be constructed in 2025 (McCleary Park – new full size cricket pitch, Parma Park – new community cricket pitch, Farquharson Park – baseball diamond conversion to cricket pitch).

- Through the 2025 10-Year Capital Plan, an additional \$2.5 million has been added to cricket pitch projects, compared to the 2024 10-Year Capital Plan, to reflect market value increases.

Winterized Washroom Capital Investments

- The 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan includes \$52.2 million for washroom upgrades and refresh program, which will also lead to additional year-round use washroom facilities. This investment includes \$37.5 million in funding over 2025-2034 from the Gardiner and DVP reallocation for an accelerated washroom enhancement program to replace or upgrade 86 washrooms. A summary of these investments are broken down in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Winterized Washroom Capital Investments in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget & Plan (\$ in millions)

Program/ Project Name	Year	Funding in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan	Gardiner and DVP Funding Allocation
Capital Asset Management Program for SOGR of Washrooms	2025-2029	\$10.0	\$10.0
Washroom Enhancement SOGR Program	2025-2034	\$28.1	\$27.5
Bluffer's Park SOGR and Improvement/Expansion	2025-2027	\$12.5	
Stanley Park North Washroom	2025-2026	\$1.6	
Total		\$52.2	\$37.5

- As identified in Table 3 above, under the Washroom Enhancement Program, construction will start on enhancements to High Park (Lower Hillside) and Sir Casimir Park to allow for year-round use. Starting this fall 2025, High Park (Lower Hillside) is planned for completion with Sir Casimir Park planned to open in spring 2026.
- In comparison to the 2024 10-Year Capital Plan, the 2025 10-Year Capital Plan for year-round use washroom facilities includes an additional investment of \$37.5 million from the Gardiner and DVP reallocation, \$1.5 million for Bluffer's Park, and \$1.6 million from the Stanley Park North Washroom.
- The average operating impact to clean and maintain each washroom over the Winter months is approximately \$0.032 million. Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2025 Operating Budget includes \$1.92 million to operate and maintain the existing 60 winterized (year-round) washrooms.

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