

# **Update to the City - School Boards Advisory Committee:**

Cricket Facilities Working Group &  
Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan Update

February 26, 2025

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# Agenda



Update: City-School Boards Cricket Facilities Working Group



Update: Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and  
Gender Equity in Sports Field Use

# Update: City-School Boards Cricket Facilities Working Group



# Background & Council Direction

## July 24, 2024: Toronto City Council Request

*(brought to Council by the City School Boards Advisory Committee)*

*City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee at its October 21, 2024 meeting on a plan that outlines how the City of Toronto can formally collaborate with School Boards to develop partnerships to identify opportunities to build and provide access to cricket fields, practice cages and cricket equipment as well as to increase access to cricket programs for children and youth in both City of Toronto and School Board facilities.*



# The Cricket Facilities Working Group

## City-School Boards Cricket Facilities Working Group

- Established Dec. 2024
- 7 meetings planned from Dec. 2024 to Sept. 2025
- **Representatives:**
  - City of Toronto, Parks and Recreation
  - Toronto Lands Corporation
  - Toronto District School Board
  - Toronto Catholic District School Board
  - Conseil scolaire Viamonde
  - Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir



# Working Group Goals & Outcomes

## City-School Boards Cricket Facilities Working Group

- **Goals:**

- Facilitate greater collaboration, coordination and partnership between the City and School Boards
- Increase access to cricket facilities, programming, and equipment for children and youth across the city

- **Outcomes:**

- New cricket facilities planned for construction on School Board lands (or joint City-School Board lands)
- New cricket programming available for youth (through both City and schools)
- Increased cricket equipment availability for children and youth across the city



# **Update: Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and Gender Equity in Sports Field Use**



# Background & Council Direction

## July 24, 2024: Toronto City Council Request

*(brought to Council by the City School Boards Advisory Committee)*

*City Council request the General Manager, Parks Recreation to provide an update to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee at its first meeting in 2025 on the status of the Facilities Master Plan with a focus on what is being undertaken for gender equity in sports field usage.*





# Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan

**Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)(2017) and Implementation Strategy (2019):**  
Council-approved 20-year plans to build and renew recreation facilities to meet changing and growing needs across Toronto.

## Community Recreation Centres

- Gymnasiums
- Indoor Pools
- Multi-Purpose Spaces

## Ice Facilities

- Arenas
- Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (AIRs)
- Skating Trails

## Outdoor Aquatics

- Outdoor Pools
- Splash Pads and wading pools

## Sports Fields

- Soccer and Multi-Use Fields
- Ball Diamonds
- Cricket Pitches
- Support Buildings
- Sport Bubbles

## Sport Courts and Zones

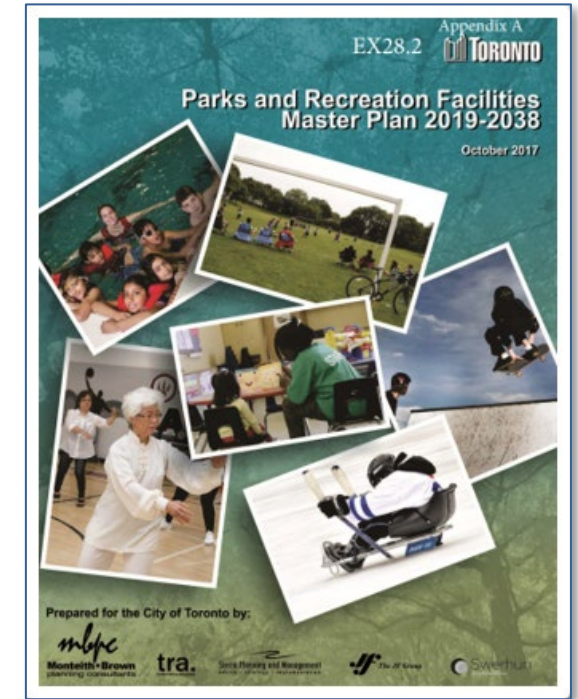
- Tennis and Pickleball Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Skatepark
- Bike Park
- Bocce Courts
- Lawn Bowling Green
- Dog Off-Leash Areas

# PRFP Recommendations

The PRFP guides investment decisions and identifies priorities for City recreation facilities to 2038.

Recommendations direct:

- **Reinvestment** in existing facilities through replacement, repurposing, renewal
- **Addressing facility gaps** caused by geographic distribution or large waitlists
- **Responding to future facility needs** that will arise due to population growth



# 2025 PRFP

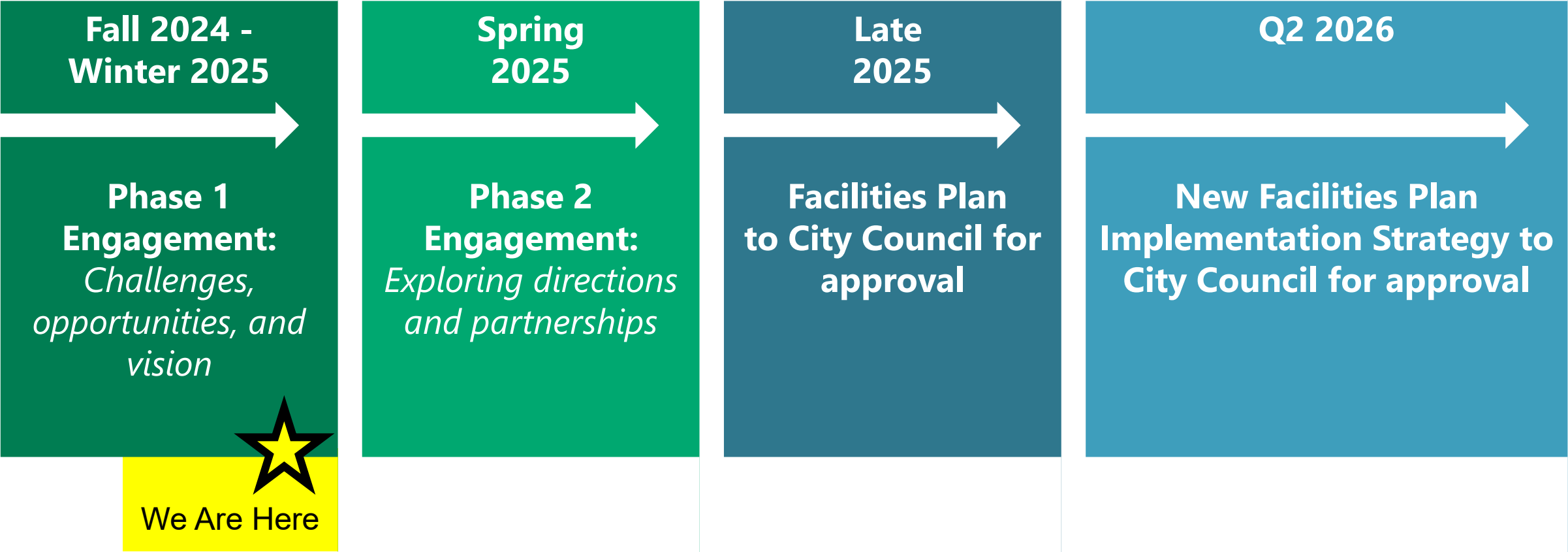
**Every five years**, the City reviews the PRFP to reflect:

- Changing resident needs and priorities
- A growing population
- Provincial legislation changes
- New city-wide policy directions
- New facility strategies (e.g. Ice, Cricket, and more)
- Available funding
- Updated accessibility and environmental standards

A new PFRP will be presented to City Council in late 2025, with a new Implementation Plan presented to City Council in Q2 2026.



# Status & Timeline



# Status of Community Engagement

## Phase 1: Fall 2024 to Winter 2025

4 Online public meetings

In-person pop-ups  
In all 25 wards  
  
3,000 + interactions

Online surveys  
  
8,800+ responses

Visit Existing City Advisory Bodies  
*(ongoing)*

Senior's Forum, Lived Experience Advisory Group, Parks and Recreation Disability Steering Committee

Indigenous communities & First Nations engagements  
*(Ongoing)*

Equity Deserving Advisory Group  
  
Meeting 1

Classroom workshop kits  
  
200+ student participants

Community-led DIY engagements  
  
12+ events





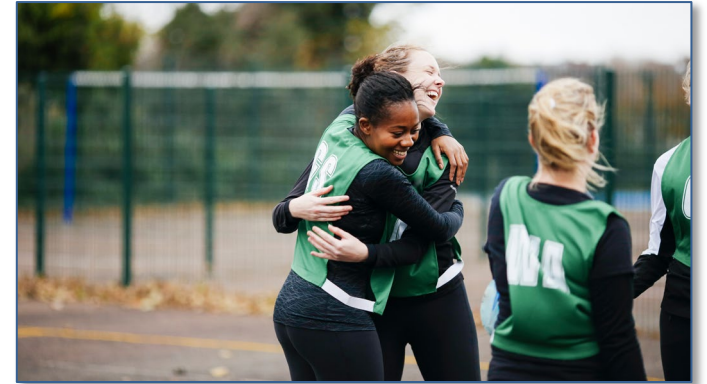
# Status of Community Engagement

## Analysis of the feedback (*ongoing*):

- Sub-group analysis of feedback received from people who identify as women, girls, and gender diverse people
  - Over 63% of survey respondents (over 4,000 respondents)
  - Equity Deserving Advisory Group organizations focused on programming for women, girls, and gender diverse people

## Outputs of sub-group analysis:

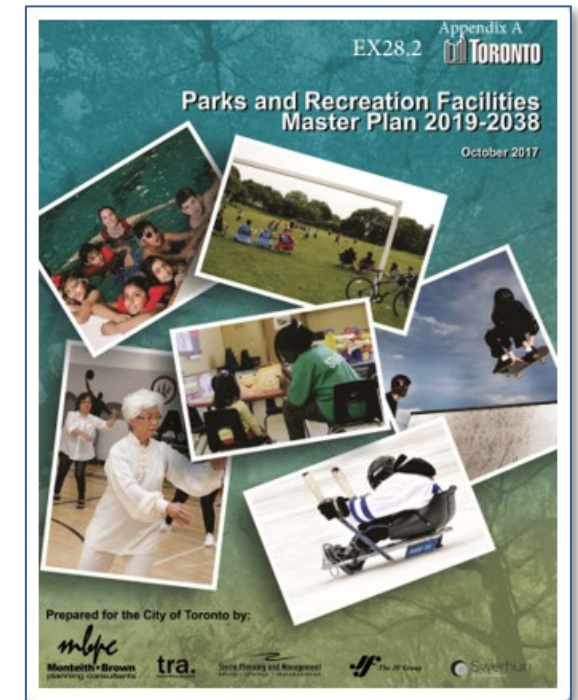
- The Facilities Plan will respond to the needs of under-represented groups such as girls and women.



# PRFP Outcomes

## A new PRFP that includes:

- Responding to an equity-centred analysis
  - E.g. Facility design, facility provision, partnership and programming recommendations and considerations included in the Facilities Plan will respond to the needs of under-represented groups such as girls and women
- An updated list of facility requirements, provision levels, and strategies
  - Including emerging areas such as ice facilities, cricket, sports fields, and more
- New approaches to partnerships/co-location
  - Including school board partnerships
- Policy and financial context to inform budgets, capital plans, and related strategies
- Recommendations for responding to new directions, trends, and emerging areas as they arise





# Update: Gender Equity In Sports Field Use

# Background & Council Direction

**February 6 and 7, 2024: Toronto City Council Request (MM14.8)**

*Conduct an internal review of booking policies and procedures for ice time, cricket field, and other sports, to determine whether City of Toronto provides fair and equitable access, particularly for start-up female groups and other users, and to identify opportunities for improvement.*



# Gender Equity: Sports Field / Ice Use

## Work completed in 2024:

- **Roster analysis** for 2024 cricket and ice bookings  
(*Who played, when, where*)
- **Focus groups** with local sports leagues for girls, women, queer, newcomers
- **Jurisdictional review** (34 cities in GTA, Canada, USA)
- **Policy/procedure assessment**, using equity lens



# Gender Equity: Sports Field / Ice Use

## What We Learned

- “First right of refusal” supports community continuity but can limit opportunities for new groups to get “prime time” access
- There is insufficient data on who is playing / wants to play
- Female-led and start-up leagues are eager to work with the City and support one another to increase equitable participation

## What We’re Doing

- Collecting gender equity data
- Reinforce the City’s Human Rights and Anti-Harassment Policy in all booking documents and permit agreements
- Continue to deliver sport development for female & gender diverse participants
- Use learnings to inform the new Ice Facilities Strategy / Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan 2025

# Thank You!