

Ideas Booklet: Community Service

Facilities

This is one of 12 booklets that summarizes the Jane Finch Initiative Ideas Report. Booklet topics:

- Arts & Culture
- Climate action
- Community service facilities
- Heritage
- Housing
- Inclusive employment opportunities
- Inclusive entrepreneurship opportunities
- Land use, built form, and urban design
- Mobility - getting around
- Parks & public spaces
- Resources, partnerships and governance
- Social development



The Jane Finch Initiative is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the area so that residents, local groups and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West Light Rail Transit.

Community Service Facilities -

Vision for the future: Jane and Finch is a community with easy access to a full range of well-maintained community services and facilities.

Community Service Facilities are publicly accessible, non-profit facilities and places where programs and services such as libraries, child care and recreation centres, public schools and human services are delivered. These facilities support people in meeting their social needs and enhance people's well-being, health and quality of life.

1. Maintain and enhance existing community service facilities and build new facilities as appropriate to meet evolving needs.

Ideas

- Develop a comprehensive community service facilities strategy for Jane and Finch in the next phase of study work to address unmet needs of existing residents and identify capital investments needed to support future growth.
- Plan new community service facilities to be supported by a well-designed public realm and be located in highly visible, safe, convenient and accessible locations with strong pedestrian, cycling and transit connections.

2. Leverage development to achieve community benefits.

New development can contribute to new and improved facilities, either on-site or off-site, to accommodate growth and contribute to the development of inclusive complete communities.

Ideas

- As development occurs, work collaboratively and transparently with applicants to inform the secondary plan for Jane and Finch and to leverage investment in community services and facilities that meet the identified emerging priorities for the area.
- As development occurs, focus on ensuring that any existing non-profit community service facility space displaced through redevelopment is replaced in new development.
- For development that is phased, require the construction of community service facilities as part of the first phase of development.

3. Collaborate with school boards as they plan for education facilities to support growth and community services.

Public schools are our learning institutions and they also play a key role as community resources by providing play areas and green and open spaces. School boards are responsible for planning their own sites and facilities and they conduct ongoing evaluation and monitoring to do so. The City of Toronto supports them in this process and circulates all development applications to the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for review and comment, as well as to inform their own capital planning processes. The City also involves the boards in long-range planning studies such as the Jane Finch Initiative. Currently, all TDSB and TCDSB schools in the study area are operating within acceptable capacity.

Ideas

- Work collaboratively with the TDSB and the TCDSB as the Jane Finch Initiative progresses into its next phase and considers how to shape and guide future growth.
- Explore potential shared-space partnerships or models for community agencies to access available space in local public school facilities.

4. Collaborate with the Toronto Public Library to inform improvements to community libraries as vital community spaces.

Public libraries are safe and welcoming community hubs that provide resources for learning, culture, health, leisure, entertainment and work. There are two Toronto Public Libraries in the study area: the Jane/Sheppard Library and the York Woods Library.

Improvements to York Woods branch are currently underway including an interior redesign, upgrades to the theatre and reprogramming to meet current needs. During community consultations, residents spoke of the importance of the theatre space at York Woods library and shared concerns that the programs and spaces at the library were often limited or not accessible to local residents.

Ideas

- Work collaboratively with Toronto Public Library capital planning staff, as the Jane Finch Initiative moves into its detailed planning stage and next round of public consultation, to inform the upcoming iteration of TPL's Facilities Master Plan.

5. Make the building of new child care spaces in Jane and Finch a priority.

There are 16 licensed child care centres in the study area, providing a total of 1,430 spaces. There are plans for two new child care centres in the study area at Stanley Public School (62 spaces) and the replacement of the Firgrove Early Learning & Child Care Centre (16 new pre-school spaces for a total of 62 spaces).

The area is currently under-served by child care spaces and this has been identified as a priority that needs to be addressed. Any growth coming into the area will place additional pressure on an already over-stretched system of licensed child care facilities.

Ideas

- Work with Children’s Services Division to identify opportunities to expand the number of non-profit licensed child care spaces to meet current needs and accommodate future growth in the study area.
- Encourage development to include a non-profit child care facility where it can be accommodated on the site.

6. Work with Parks, Forestry & Recreation division to identify opportunities to expand or enhance community recreation facilities.

Community recreation facilities (CRCs) are active spaces that inspire and support participation in physical activity, social activity and learning. They are owned, operated and maintained on a not-for-profit basis by the City of Toronto, through the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division. There are four community recreation centres and one indoor ice rink in the study area: Domenico Diluca Community Recreation Centre, Driftwood Community Recreation Centre, Northwood Community Centre, Oakdale Community Centre, and John Booth Memorial Arena.

Just outside the study area, a new community recreation centre (Western North York Community Centre) will be built at 60 Starview Lane, next to St. Basil-the-Great College. This new facility is in the design stage and is estimated to be completed in 2025. It will include a pool, multipurpose space, a gymnasium, and a licensed child care facility. Another new community recreation centre will be built at Downsview in the coming years. The timing and location of the facility have yet to be finalized.

All of the indoor recreation facilities in the study area have capital improvements planned in the 2021-2030 Parks Forestry & Recreation Capital Budget and Plan or have undergone improvements in recent years (e.g. Northwood Community Centre).

There are currently no indoor pools or outdoor ice pads in the study area and people have expressed a desire for these types of facilities.

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Jane Finch Initiative



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We want to hear what you think of these ideas. Are we on the right track? What's missing? What could be better?



Send us an email us at janefinch@toronto.ca.



Find out more about the Jane Finch Initiative at toronto.ca/janefinch, or scan the QR code below.



Give us a call at 416-338-0775.

