

5-year Review

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN

Virtual Public Meeting
November 28, 2024



Land Acknowledgement

The land that we are meeting on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We acknowledge that Toronto (Tkaronto) is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



African Ancestral Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are all Treaty peoples, including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past – and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



Welcome & Meeting Objectives

Thank you for joining us for this Public Meeting on the City of Toronto **Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan** process! The objectives of today's public meeting are to:

1. Share information about the Facilities Plan, how the City plans for new recreation facilities, and how communities can get involved to inform the updates to the Facilities Plan

2. Hear from you!

In breakout rooms, we will discuss:

- Updating the guiding principles of the Facilities Plan
- Level of support and ideas about co-location and community hubs
- Your needs and priorities for the future of recreation facilities in Toronto
- Creating more inclusive and welcoming recreation facilities



Agenda – Afternoon Session

- 2:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 2:15 Introduction to the Facilities Plan
- 2:35 Questions of Clarification
- 2:50 Discussion: Hearing From You!
Facilitated Small Group Discussions about:
- Updating the guiding principles of the Facilities Plan
 - Level of support and ideas about co-location and community hubs
 - Your needs and priorities for the future of recreation facilities in Toronto
- 3:40 Report Back – Key points from each discussion group
- 3:55 Next Steps
- 4:00 Adjourn

Please submit questions through the Q&A feature on the right of the screen

These will be addressed after the presentation.

Please save suggestions and comments for the **discussion** portion of the meeting.



Project Team



Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan

Matt Bentley - Sr. Project Manager

Alex Lavasidis - Project Officer

Vanessa Cipriani - Planner

Parkland Strategy team

Danielle DeMarsh - Sr. Project Manager

Toni Papa - Planner

Erica Beasley - Planner

Today's Additional Discussion Facilitators

Ginny Hang – Parks Planner



Technical Consulting Team – Monteith and Brown Planning Consultants

Steve Langlois - Principal Planner

Dennis Kwan - Planner



Indigenous Communities Engagement Leads – Ridge Road Training and Consulting

Kiera Brant-Birioukov - Sr. Advisor and Co-Founder

Anton Birioukov-Brant - Director

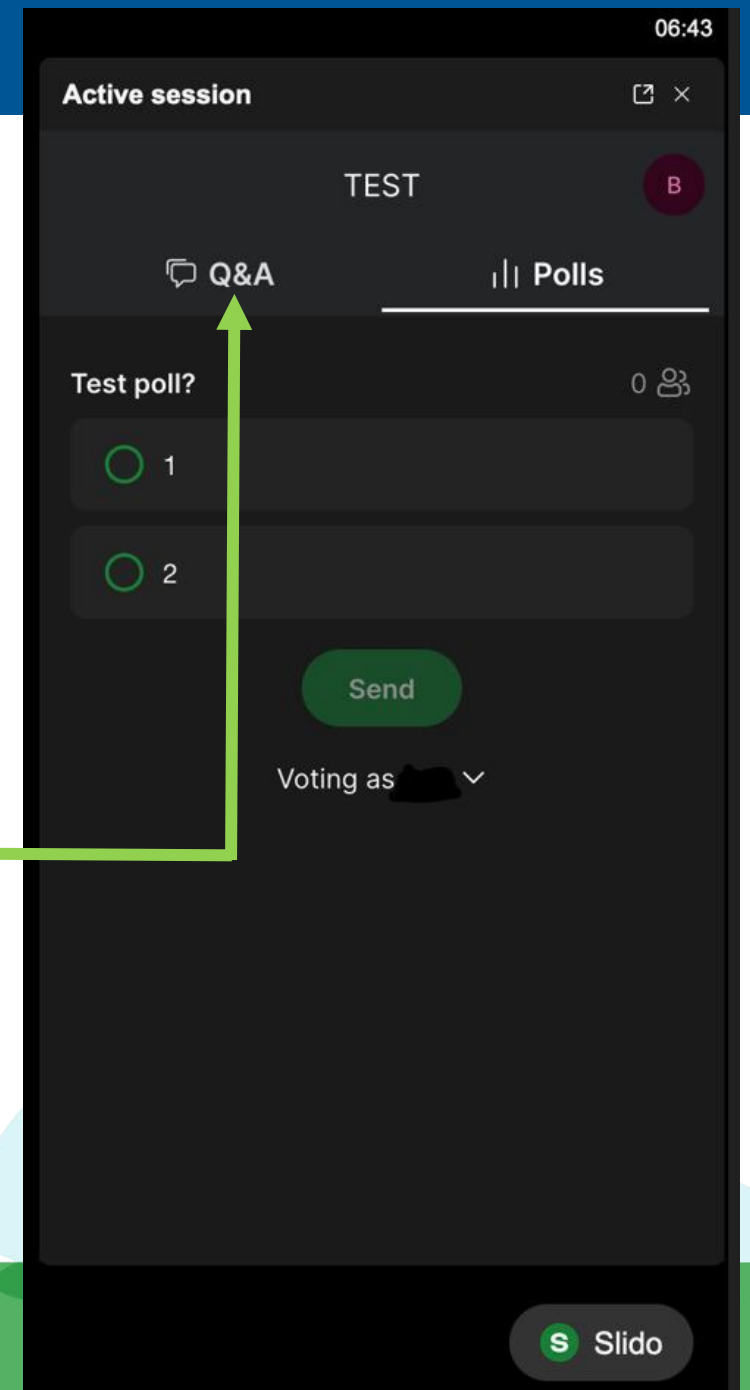
Who is attending today's meeting?

Please respond to the slido questions as they appear on your screen. These will help us understand who is in the room.

If you are using a browser, the questions will appear on the right side.

(Note: Older or un-updated browsers may not have polling functionality)

Throughout the presentation, you can use the Q&A feature to ask questions, which will be answered following the presentation. You can also click the raise hand button to ask your question after the presentation.



Project Introduction - The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)














Toronto's recreation facilities and parks offer communities spaces to play, connect, learn, exercise and celebrate. The City of Toronto's **Parkland Strategy (PLS)** and **Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)** are 20-year plans that guide the growth of, and investment in, these recreation facilities and parks across the city.

In today's meeting, we will be discussing the **Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)**. Meetings to discuss the Parkland Strategy will be held on December 3 and 4.



Parks and Recreation Facilities

There are hundreds of City of Toronto owned and/or operated recreational facilities in parks and buildings, including:

- 604 outdoor tennis courts; 
- 335 ball diamonds; 
- 319 soccer and multi-use fields; 
- 173 splash pads; 
- 147 basketball courts; 
- 126 community centres;
- 90 wading pools;
- 79 dog off-leash areas; 
- 69 bocce courts;
- 62 indoor and 59 outdoor swimming pools; 
- 52 outdoor artificial ice rinks
- 51 indoor arenas; 
- 40 lawn bowling greens;
- 27 cricket pitches; 
- 25 beach volleyball courts 
- 22 skate parks or skate spots; 
- 8 skating trails; 
- 5 off-road bike parks; 
- 3 dedicated and 225 lined pickleball courts
(shared with other uses);

... and more!

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)

The **Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (2017)** and **Implementation Strategy (2019)** are Council-approved 20-year plans to build and renew recreation facilities to meet changing and growing needs across the City. Facilities in the plan include:

Community Recreation Centres

- Gymnasiums
- Indoor Pools
- Multi-Purpose Spaces



Ice Facilities

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



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
- Skateparks
- Bike Parks
- Bocce Courts
- Lawn Bowling Greens
- Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLA)



Note: Smaller amenities like seating, picnic areas, and outdoor fitness equipment are not included in the Facilities Plan. Golf courses and playgrounds are addressed through other planning projects, so are not included in the Facilities Plan.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan - Vision

The vision of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan is:

Active Spaces, People Places: Parks and recreation facilities that improve quality of life by inspiring participation, meeting resident needs and strengthening communities.



Guiding Principles

The Facilities Plan aims to produce high-**quality, innovative**, and **sustainable** recreation facilities that are distributed **equitably** across the city. These are the four **guiding principles of the Facilities Plan**:

Quality: Provide high quality and inspiring facilities to enhance the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents. Quality refers to the standard of facilities that provide the greatest benefit to residents, with an emphasis on facilities that are relevant, flexible and barrier-free.

Innovation: Encourage progressive strategies and partnerships that respond to changing times, address emerging needs and promote excellence. Innovation means finding better ways of designing, providing and funding spaces, such as co-located and integrated facilities that reflect the unique needs of each community.

Sustainability: Protect the interests of current and future generations through adaptable and resilient facilities that are socially, environmentally and financially sustainable. Sustainability refers to the many ways that facilities support the City's goals of maximizing utilization, protecting infrastructure and contributing to the quality of the environment on a long-term basis.

Equity: Provide an equitable distribution of parks and recreation facilities on a geographic and demographic basis for all residents. Equitable access means that all Toronto residents should be able to utilize facilities, regardless of their age, location, financial or other barriers.

You can provide feedback on these guiding principles, including potential improvements or additions, through discussions later in this meeting.

Facilities Plan Recommendations

The Facilities Plan guides investment decisions and identifies priorities for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities across the city in 5-year increments, to 2038. The recommendations in the plan guide future capital budgets and determine when and where to:

- **Reinvest in existing recreation facilities** through replacement, repurposing, renewal, when facilities reach their end of life or are under-used
- **Address recreation facility gaps** where there is a lack of facilities or large waitlists
- **Respond to future recreation facility needs** based on estimated population growth

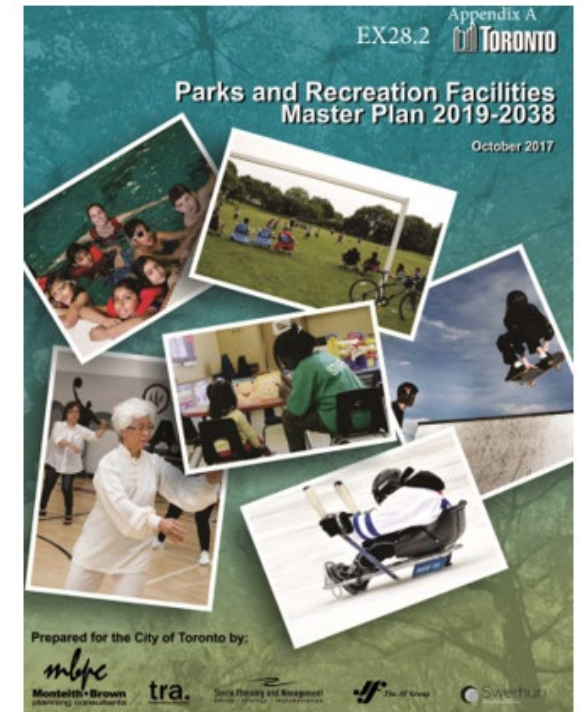


5 –Year Review: Updating the Facilities Plan

Every five years, the city reviews and updates the **Facilities Plan** to reflect:

- Changing resident needs and priorities
- A growing population
- Provincial legislation changes
- New policy directions and financial tools
- Updated accessibility and environmental standards

A city-wide community engagement process will help inform the updates to the Facilities Plan.



Considerations: New and Ongoing Recreation Strategies

There are new strategies being developed to support and respond to specific facility needs. These strategies focus on facilities that have high demand compared to provision, have undergone a significant or unexpected change in provision, or respond to Council direction:

- Cricket Strategy
- Pickleball Strategy
- Off-leash Areas Strategy
- Curling Strategy
- Ice Facilities Strategy



Community engagements to inform the Ice Strategy are now live! Visit **toronto.ca/IceFacilitiesStrategy** for more information.

The Cricket, Pickleball and Off-leash areas strategies will help the City meet the growing demand for new sports and the ways that Torontonians want to use parks.

The work and recommendations in these strategies will be incorporated into the Facilities Plan.



Considerations: Trends and Changes

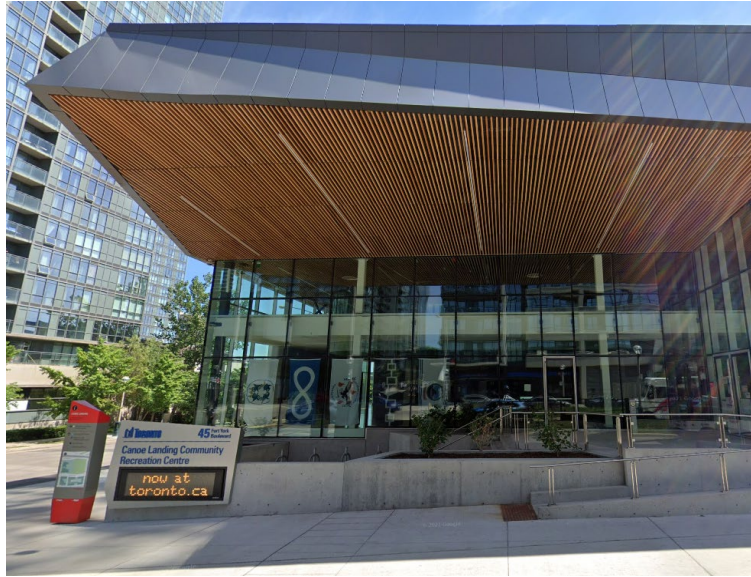
Updates to the Facilities Plan will also consider a number of trends and changes:

- Recreation facilities are critical spaces for the community
- Co-locating facilities and using the community hub model are two opportunities to best use limited resources and land
- The way that residents are participating in some recreation programs has changed, and demand for new and emerging sports and activities is increasing
- There is a need to provide equitable, affordable, and barrier-free opportunities
- Municipalities are facing aging infrastructure and construction cost increases



Considerations: Co-location and community hubs

At some community recreation centres the City partners with other service providers and facilities, like libraries, childcare centres and schools, to create **community hubs** – this practice is called '**co-locating**'. These hubs provide residents with easier access to multiple services and programs in one space.



Completed in 2020, Canoe Landing is a Community Recreation Centre connected to two elementary schools and a childcare centre.



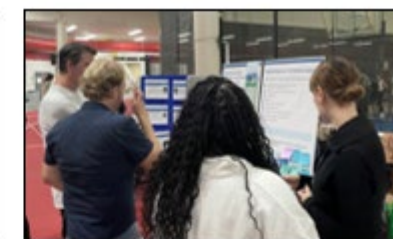
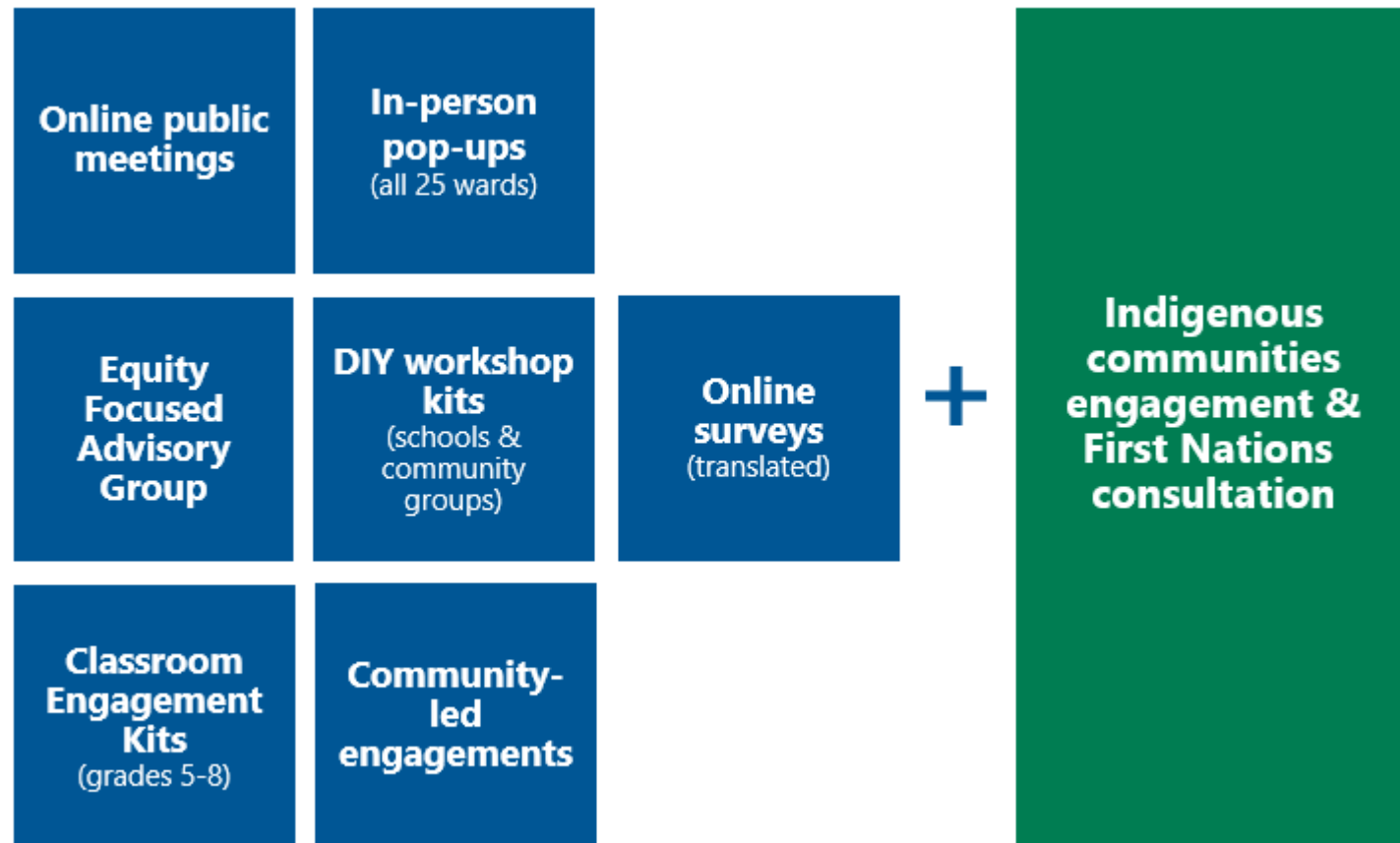
Completed in 2023, Ethennonnhawah-stihnen' is a multi-use Community Recreation Centre with an Aquatic Centre, Child Care Centre and a Toronto Public Library branch.

The community engagement taking place now to inform the updates to the Facilities plan (including this meeting) ask residents to provide feedback on their level of support for Community Recreation Centres as Community Hubs, and what services or facilities are important to locate at these hubs.

Community Engagement – Overview

Community feedback will be collected in two phases and through multiple channels.

This helps ensure that residents have a variety of opportunities to participate in the way that works best for them, and to ensure a wide range of perspectives, needs, and priorities are considered.



Project Timelines*



* Timelines are subject to change

A closer look: What's in the Facilities Plan and how it shapes our City

Implementing the Strategy

For each facility type, the PRFP Implementation Strategy outlines:

- Our supply & provision targets
- Benefits to community
- Strategic directions
- Facility needs to 2038
- Why we need them
- How we will get there
- **Proposed sequencing and timing**
- Prioritization criteria
- Typical project implementation process
- Design & operational considerations
- Site selection criteria
- Partnership criteria



Basketball Courts Proposed Timing

PROPOSED SEQUENCING & TIMING

As of 2019, the 10-year Capital Budget and Plan projects funding to the following basketball courts:

- New courts (15) in priority order: Wards 2 (first of two), 19, 24, 3, 12, 22, 16, 2 (second of two), 23, 4, 18, 6 and three additional courts at locations to be determined; most courts are within gap areas
- Redeveloped courts: as required

Future basketball court priorities to be considered as part of future Capital Plans include:

- New courts (15): locations to be determined
- Redeveloped courts: as required

FMP Recommendations # 33, 34

IN PROGRESS (planning, design or construction) 2019 to 2023	PLANNED (in Capital Plan, but not initiated) 2024 to 2028	ANTICIPATED (to be considered in future capital plans)	
		2029 to 2033	2034 to 2038
Ward 2 (site tbd)	Ward 2 (site tbd)	New Courts (7 to 8) (sites tbd)	New Courts (7 to 8) (sites tbd)
Ward 19 (site tbd)	Ward 23 (site tbd)		
Ward 24 (site tbd)	Ward 4 (site tbd)		
Ward 3 (site tbd)	Ward 18 (site tbd)		
Ward 12 (site tbd)	Ward 6 (site tbd)		
Ward 22 (site tbd)	3 additional courts (sites tbd)		
Ward 16 (site tbd)			
New ORC Block Fund: Basketball and Multi-use Sport Court Improvement Strategy (sites to be determined)			

Notes:

Items listed in priority order of implementation within five-year time periods. Construction is anticipated to be initiated within the identified timeframes, subject to land availability, funding and site conditions. Projects may be accelerated through further analysis (growth, SOGR etc.), new funding and/or partnership opportunities.

Some facilities are identified by ward or broader geographies.
Others are identified as specific sites (e.g. some Recreation Centres)

Facility Plan – Implementation Quick Guide *(excerpt)*

Facility Type	Provision Target (in original Facilities Plan)	Total New Facilities recommended (2019 – 2038)
Community Recreation Centres and Related Components		
Community Recreation Centres (Large and Mid-size)	1:34,000 and 2km to 2.5km radius	17
Indoor Pools (locations)	Site-specific; 2km radius	19
Ice Facilities		
Arenas (pads)	1:50,000 (existing and future pop.)	1
Curling Rinks (sheets)	No additional recommended	0
Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (pads)	1:100,000 and 2km radius	5 (and 2 or more skating trails)
Outdoor Aquatics		
Outdoor Pools (locations)	No additional recommended	0
Splash Pads	1:24,000 and 2km radius	19
Wading Pools	No additional recommended	0
Sports Fields		
Soccer and Multi-Use Sports Fields	1:10,000	45
Ball Diamonds	No additional recommended	0
Cricket Pitches	1:100,000	5
Sports Courts and Zones		
Tennis and Pickleball Courts	2km radius	20 plus pickleball conversions
Basketball Courts	1:15,000 and 2km radius	30, plus upgrades
Skateparks (outdoor)	Parks: 1:100,000 and 5km radius; Spots: 1:25,000	4, plus 18 skate spots
Bike Parks	Additional study required	1, plus local-level amenities

Implementing the Strategy: Identifying Gaps in Provision



For example, for basketball courts, the city aims to provide 1 court every 2 km, or 1 per 15,000 people.

When we look at all City basketball courts on a map, and put a 2 km walking area around them, we can see where there are **gaps**.

The **gaps** are where the City considers building new basketball courts, when the funding and space are available.

Questions of Clarification

Use the Q&A feature to ask questions or click the hand icon to be unmuted to ask your question.

Please hold suggestions, feedback, and ideas for the group discussion that will follow.



Discussion Questions

In a moment, you will be sent into breakout room. Your facilitator will introduce themselves. In small groups, you will discuss the following questions. You will be able to unmute yourself, and also share feedback through the chat feature.

1. Do you agree or disagree with these guiding principles? Are there changes or additions you would make to the guiding principles?

Guiding Principles: Quality / Innovation / Sustainability / Equity

2. At community recreation centres, the City often partners with other service providers and facilities, like libraries, childcare centres, and schools, to create community hubs – a practice called ‘co-locating’. These hubs allow for access to multiple services and programs in one space.
 - Would you like to see community recreation centres co-locating with other community partners, services, and facilities to become community hubs? What might be some benefits or drawbacks?
 - Are there specific services and facilities that would be helpful to locate in these hubs?
3. What are your needs and priorities for the future of recreation facilities in Toronto?
4. Do you have any suggestions for making City of Toronto recreation facilities more safe, welcoming, inclusive for all?

Plenary

Facilitators: Share a few pieces of key feedback from you discussion group.

All of the notes from each discussion group will be summarized and posted to the project webpage, and included in the analysis that will inform the Facilities Plan update.



Next Steps

- **Upcoming engagements**

- Parkland Strategy Public Meetings: December 3 and 4
- Online Survey: Closes on December 18
(available in 6 languages)
- Do-It-Yourself Workshop Kit: Closes December 18
(use with your organization or group)
- Indigenous Advisory Circle

- **Phase 2 : Spring 2025**

- Another phase of engagement to help confirm and prioritize direction in the Facilities Plan

Community engagements to inform the Ice Strategy are now live! Visit **toronto.ca/IceFacilitiesStrategy**

for more information.
Take the survey by Jan 5.

Visit and share the project webpage to sign up for e-updates, take the online survey by December 18, register for Parkland Strategy meetings, and more:

[Toronto.ca/ParksAndFacilitiesPlans](https://toronto.ca/ParksAndFacilitiesPlans)

Thank You!

