

ICE FACILITIES STRATEGY

Virtual Public Meeting
December 11, 2024



To use Closed Captioning:

1. Click on the CC icon in the bottom left of your screen.
2. Use the Chat feature to message Annie Ding (tech support), so your closed captioning remains active during the breakout discussion.



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.



Code of Conduct

As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Approach conversations with **curiosity** and a willingness to learn from others.
- Be an **active listener** and keep an open mind by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with **kindness and respect**, recognizing that all voices are valuable.
- **Critique ideas**, not individuals.
- **Avoid language or behaviours** that could be considered rude, offensive, or discriminatory (e.g. cursing and derogatory terms).

To maintain a respectful and inclusive environment, offensive and discriminatory comments **are not permitted**. Participants engaging in such behaviour may be asked to leave.



Welcome & Meeting Objectives

Thank you for joining us for this public meeting to help inform the development of the City of Toronto's **Ice Facilities Strategy**! The objectives of today's virtual public meeting are to:

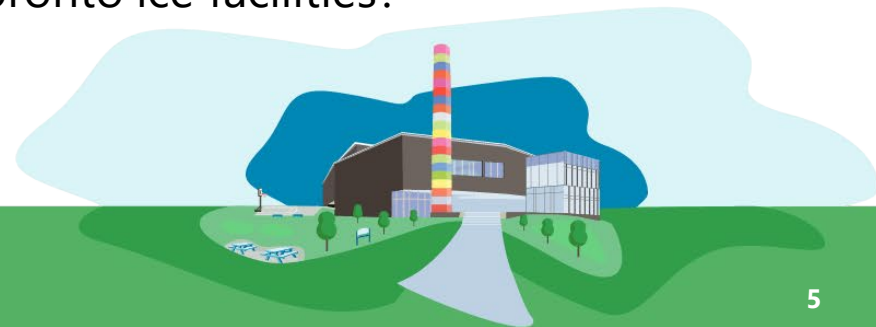
1. **Share information** about:

- How the City plans the future of ice facilities, using the existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan
- How the new Ice Facilities Strategy will inform updates to how the City plans for ice facilities (including dry pads) moving forward
- How communities can get involved to inform the new Ice Facilities Strategy

2. **Hear from you!**

In breakout rooms, we will discuss:

1. What is working well and should be replicated, with City of Toronto ice facilities?
2. What suggestions do you have for maximizing the use of indoor and/or outdoor ice facilities?
3. What are your top priorities for improving the future of City of Toronto ice 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:
 - What is working well
 - Suggestions for maximizing ice facility use
 - Top priorities for improving ice facilities
- 3:40 Report Back – Key points from each discussion group
- 3:55 Next Steps
- 4:00 Adjourn



Project Team



Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan

Matt Bentley - Sr. Project Manager

Alex Lavasidis - Project Officer

Vanessa Cipriani – Planner

Public Engagement Unit

Stelle Zhou – Coordinator

Annie Ding - Public Outreach Trainee

Client and Business Services

Titti Dunn – Supervisor, Client Support

Breakout Room Facilitation Support

Danielle DeMarsh - Sr. Project Manager

Toni Papa - Planner (Mapping)

Erica Beasley - Planner (Policy)

Ginny Hang - Planner

Zoi de la Peña - Planner



Technical Consulting Team – Monteith Brown Planning Consultants

Steve Langlois - Principal Planner

Dennis Kwan - Planner

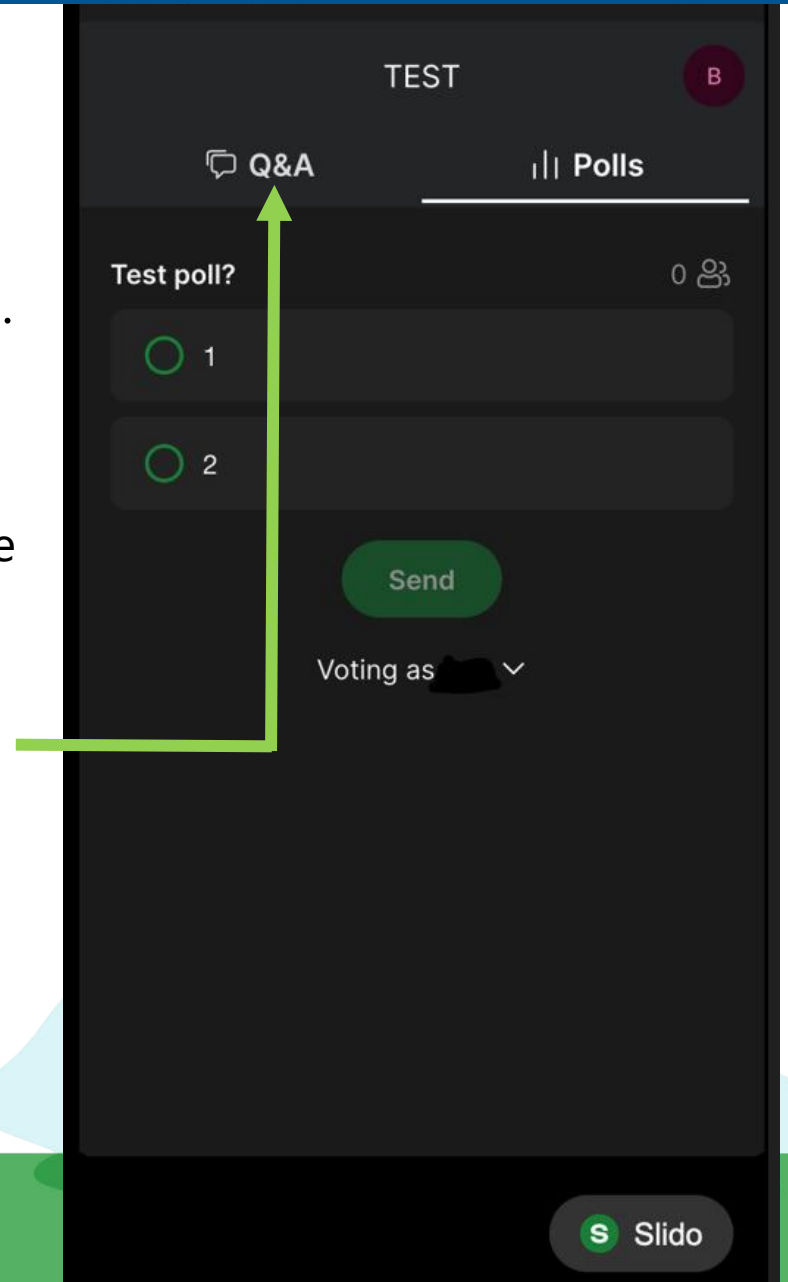
Who is attending today's meeting?

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 Ice Facilities Strategy

The City is developing an **Ice Facilities Strategy**, a long-term plan to enhance the use of both indoor and outdoor ice facilities where residents skate, play hockey, curl and more.

The Strategy will also consider use of dry pads (off-season use of arenas and outdoor rinks).



Project Introduction - The Ice Facilities Strategy (continued)

The Ice Facilities Strategy will identify:

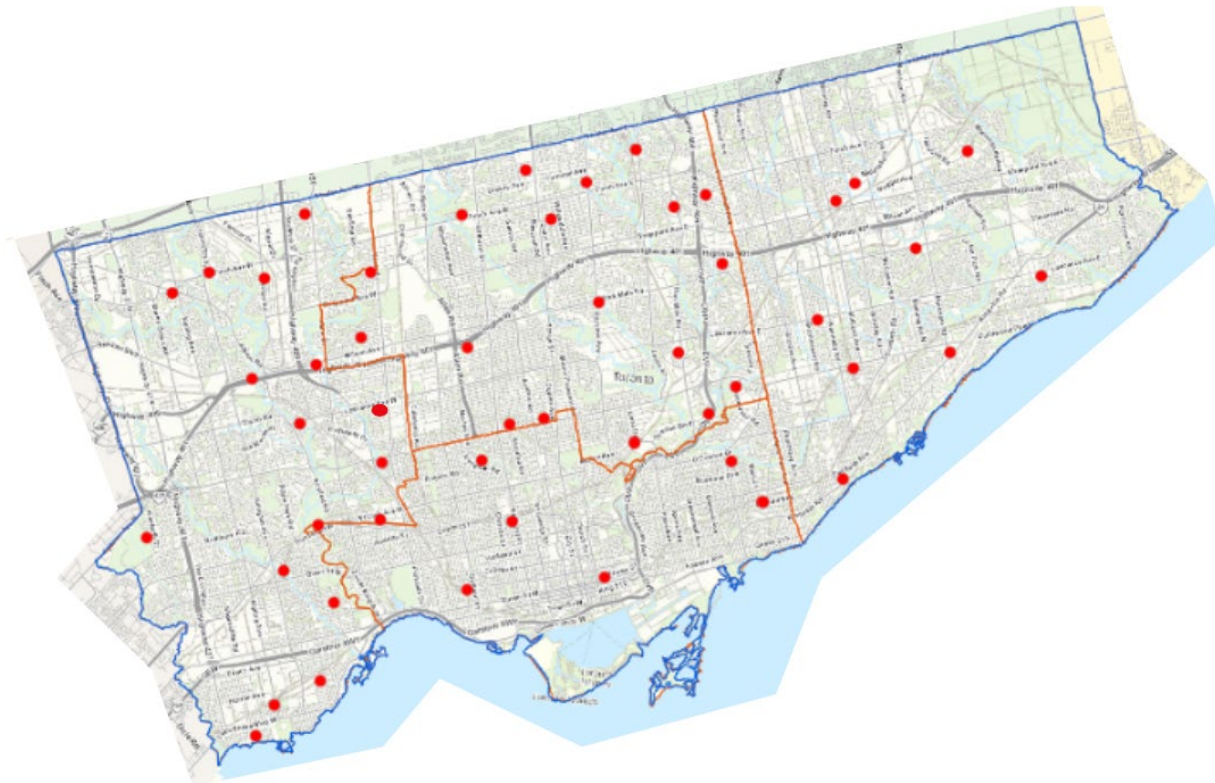
- ❄ How the City's ice facilities, including indoor arenas, curling rinks, outdoor artificial ice rinks and skating trails are used year-round
- ❄ Trends in how other cities provide and use their ice facilities
- ❄ Current and future demand for all types of ice facilities
- ❄ Gaps in where ice facilities are located and what types are available, considering population growth and changing recreation habits
- ❄ Ways to improve access to ice facilities for local communities
- ❄ Ways to make better use of off-peak times and increase year-round use (including for dry pads)
- ❄ Which ice facilities should be improved or repurposed and where new ones should be added
- ❄ New partnership opportunities to help the City fund, program and/or provide ice facilities

A council-directed review of booking and allocation policies for ice time to ensure procedures are fair and equitable, is currently underway. The Ice Facilities Strategy is separate from, but will be informed by this work.



City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Arenas

The City of Toronto owns or operates 50 indoor arenas with 65 ice pads. 37 facilities are single pad, 12 are double pads, and one is 4 pads.



City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Arenas (continued)

Of the 50 rinks that the City of Toronto owns:

- 40 arenas are operated by the city
- 8 arenas are operated by volunteer Arena Boards of Management
- 2 arenas have unique management agreements

Arena Boards are responsible for maintenance of the facility, allocating the use of the arena to balance local community residents and organizations and user groups, and allocating ice time to users.

Arena Boards of Management

- George Bell Arena
- Larry Grossman Forest Hill Memorial Arena
- Leaside Gardens Arena
- McCormick Arena
- Moss Park Arena
- North Toronto Memorial
- Ted Reeve Community Arena
- William H. Bolton Arena

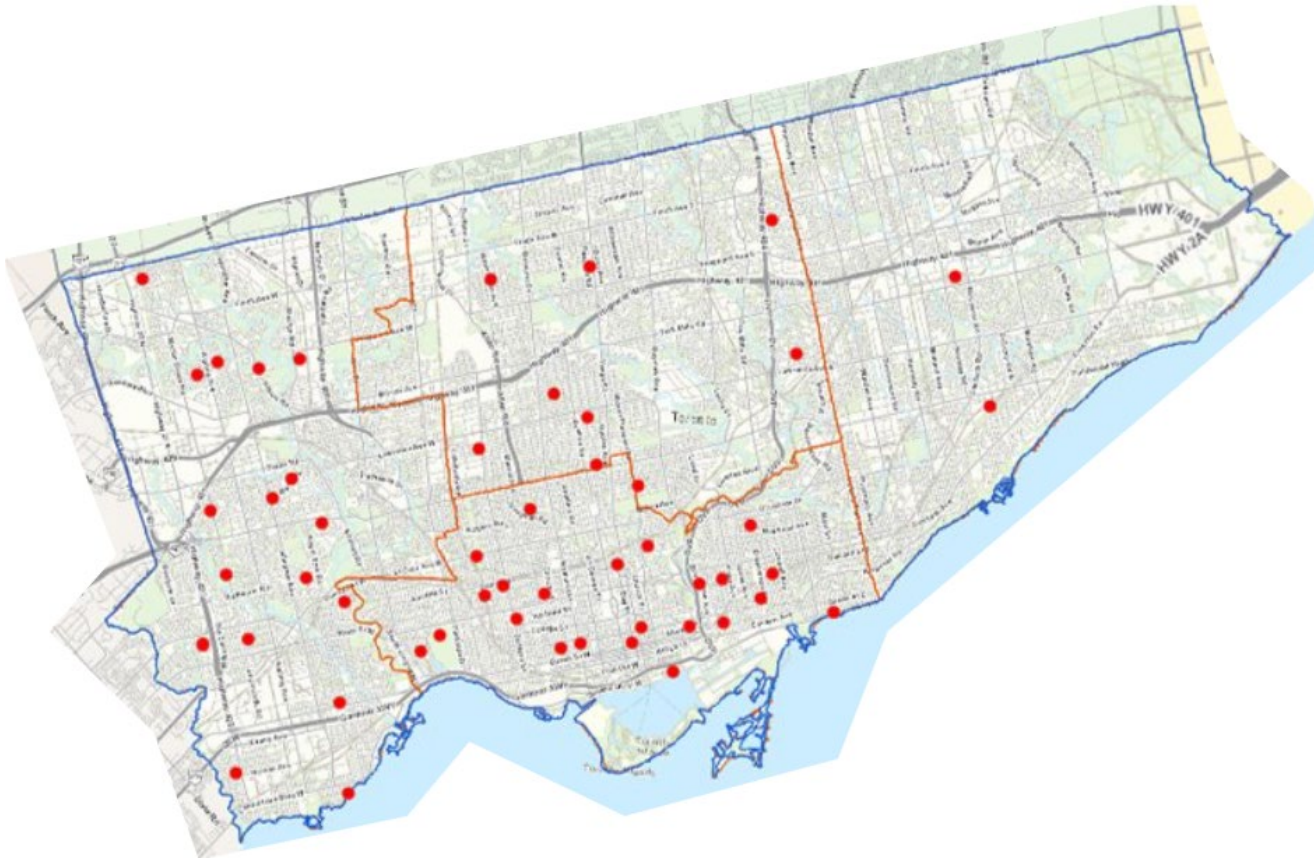
Unique Management Agreements

- Ford Performance Centre Arena
- Weston Lions Recreational



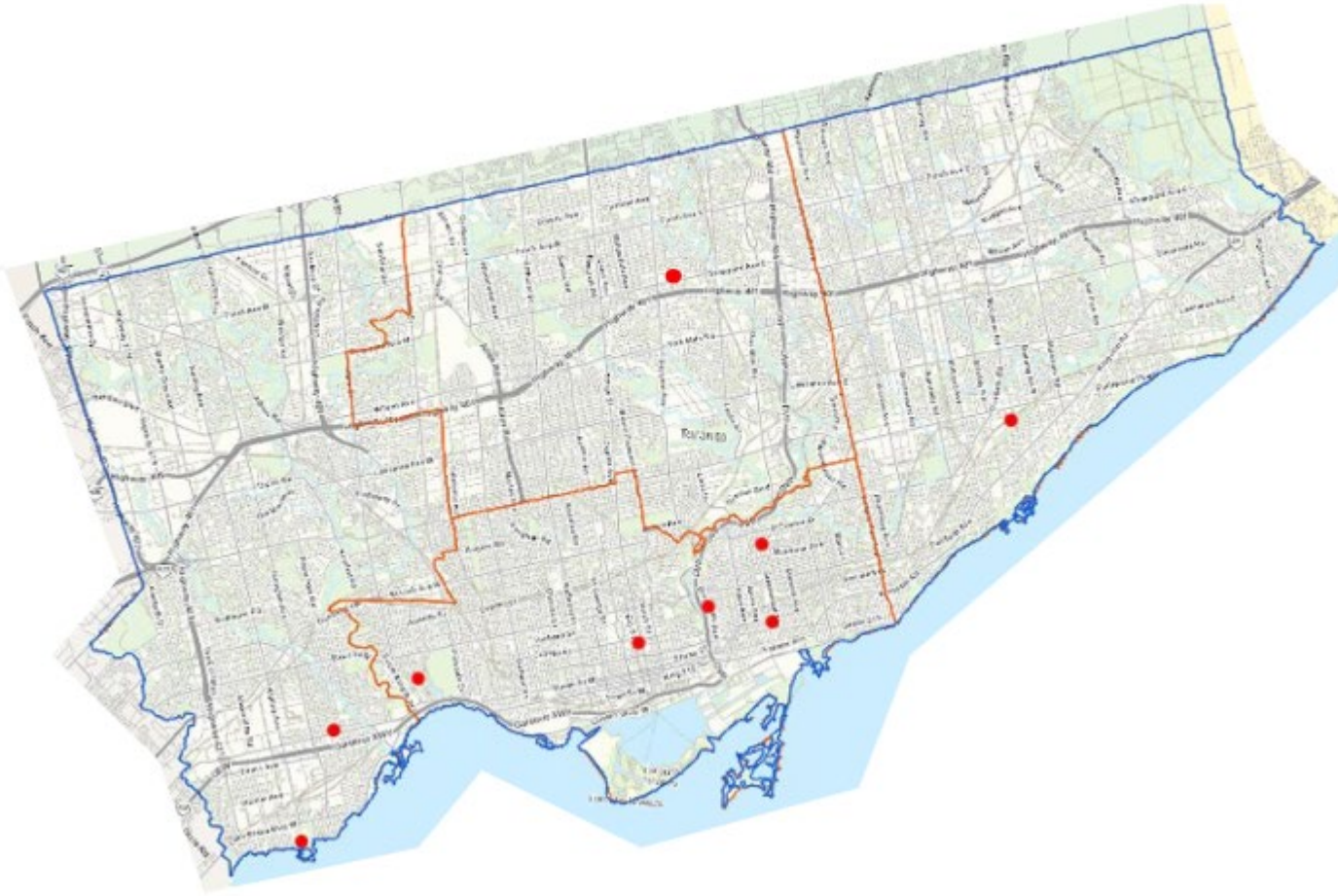
City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks

The City of Toronto has 52 outdoor artificial ice rink locations, with a total of 63 ice pads. Some facilities are single pad, while others are double pads.



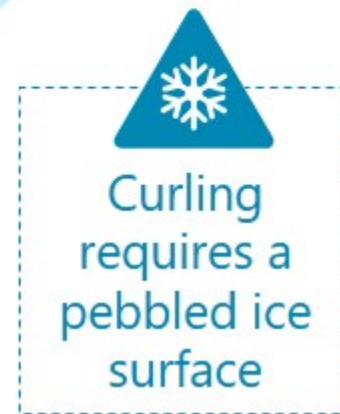
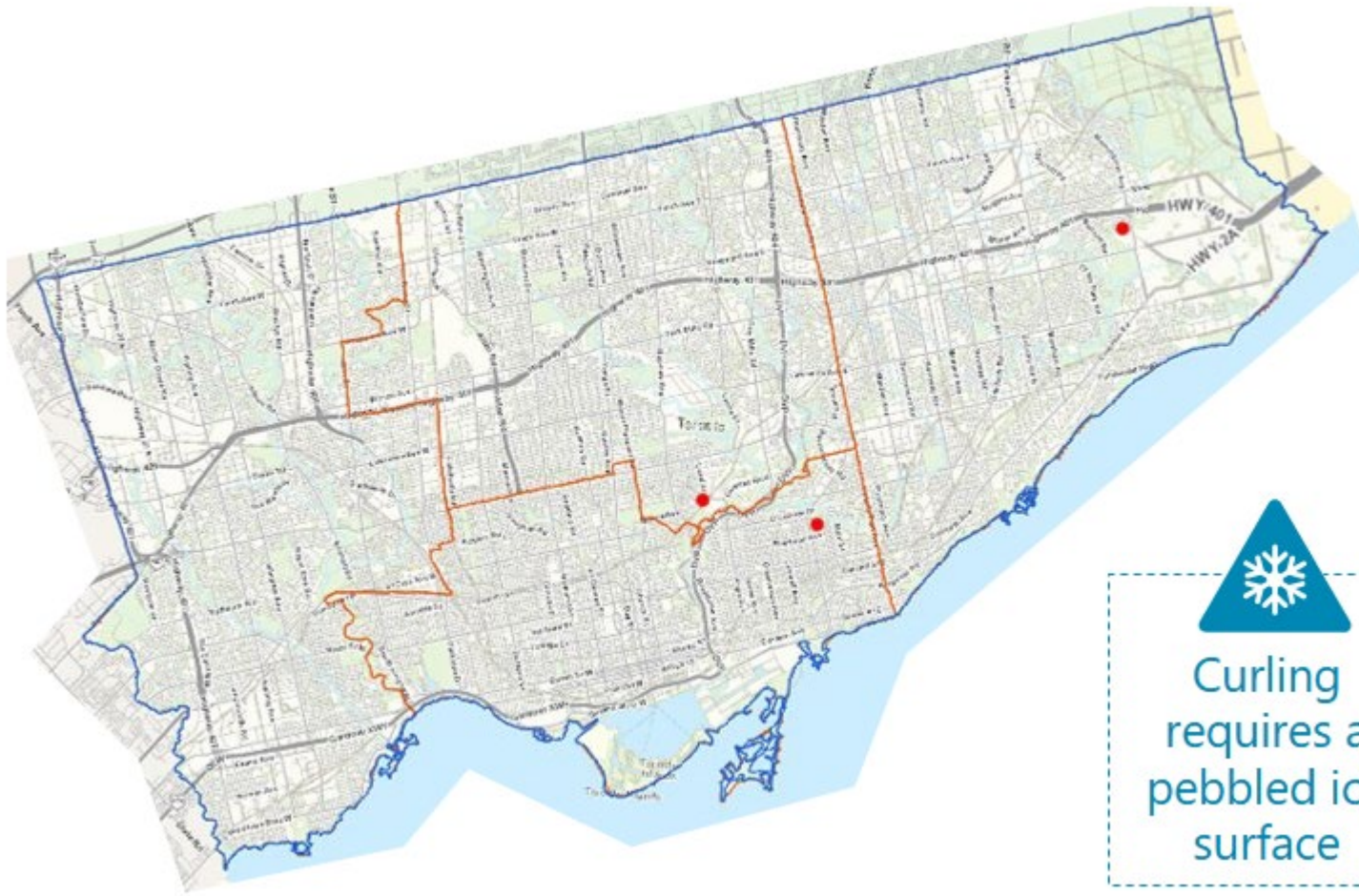
City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Outdoor Skate Trails

The City of Toronto owns and operates 9 skating trails.



City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Curling Rinks

The City of Toronto owns 3 curling facilities.



City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Dry Pads

In a city of growing recreation needs and limited space, it is important we maximize use of ice facilities – including dry pads in the off-season. There are a wide range of existing uses for dry pads, including summer camp use, basketball, skateboarding, roller skating, pickleball, tennis, farmers markets, events, and more.

Different ice facilities have different conditions that can make them more or less suitable for certain dry-pad activities. For example, air conditioning in an arena for summer use, or the proximity of outdoor rinks to homes can make a location suited to different activities.



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

When completed, the **Ice Facilities Strategy** will be incorporated into the larger **Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan**, a Council-approved, 20-year plan that guides the growth of, and investment in, recreation facilities and parks across the city.

Community Recreation Centres

- Community Recreation Centres
- Indoor Pools
- Gymnasiums
- Multi-Purpose Space



Ice Facilities

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



Outdoor Aquatics

- Outdoor Pools
- Splash Pads & Wading Pools



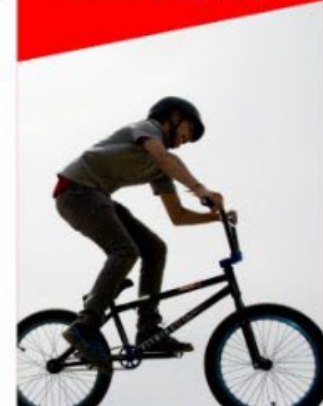
Sports Fields

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



Sport Courts & Zones

- Tennis & Pickleball Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Skateparks
- Bike Parks
- Bocce Courts
- Lawn Bowling Greens
- Dog Off-Leash Areas (DOLAs)



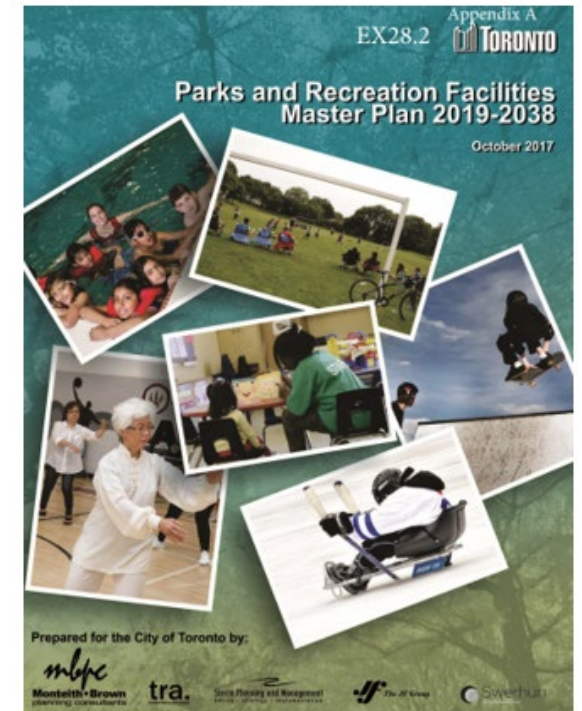
Note: Smaller facilities like seating, picnic areas, and outdoor fitness equipment are not included in the Facilities Plan. Golf courses and playgrounds are addressed through other planning projects, so are not included in the Facilities Plan.

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

The **Ice Facilities Strategy** will inform the above, for arenas, outdoor artificial ice rinks, skating trails, and curling rinks.



5 –Year Review: Updating the Facilities Plan

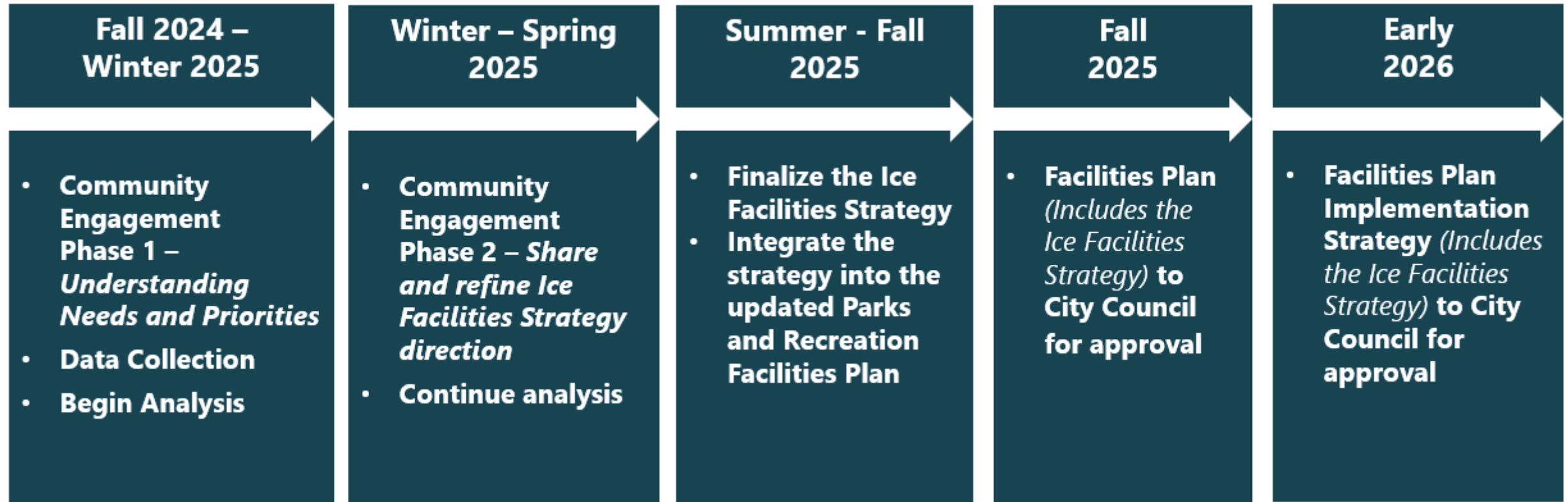
Every five years, the city reviews and updates the **Facilities Plan** to reflect:

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

The review of the Facilities Plan is occurring now, and will incorporate the results of the Ice Facilities Strategy.



Project Timelines*



* Timelines are subject to change

Community Engagement – Overview

Community feedback will be collected in two phases. 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. Phase 1 includes:

Online public meetings
(today!)

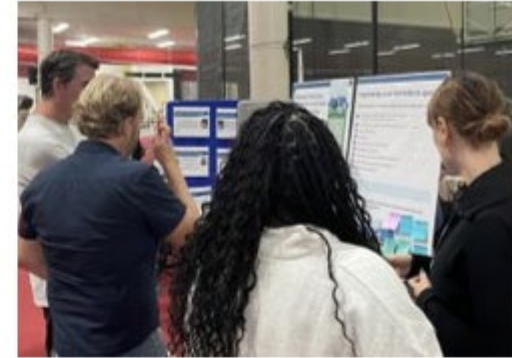
In-person pop-ups
(all 25 wards)

Online Survey
open to
January 5

**Equity Focused
Advisory
Group**



**Additional
feedback
collected through
the Facilities Plan
review,
community
engagement
process**



**Take the Ice Facilities Strategy
online survey by January 5, 2025.
toronto.ca/IceFacilitiesStrategy**

Over 1,000 surveys responses so far!

**Please share with your
neighbours and wider community
to encourage participation.**



Scan the QR code with your
phone camera to visit the
project webpage, take the
survey, and sign up for
e-updates.

A closer look: How the Facilities Plan shapes Ice Facilities in our City

Implementing the Strategy

For each facility type, the Facilities Plan 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



Arenas Proposed Timing

PROPOSED SEQUENCING & TIMING

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

In progress (planning, design or construction stage)

- Replacement of the Don Mills Civitan Arena with a twin pad facility (part of the Don Mills CRC), with completion anticipated in 2024

To be initiated with projected funding in Capital Budget and Plan

- Repurposing of two single pad arenas to other community uses
- Replacement of one arena facility in Toronto East York with a twin pad arena, in conjunction with the repurposing on one arena to balance the supply

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

- Replacement of one arena facility in North York with a twin pad arena; additional study is required to identify potential sites
- Repurposing of two single pad arenas to other community uses; potential candidate sites are listed above

FMP Recommendations # 17, 18, 19

IN PROGRESS (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
Replacement/Addition: Don Mills Civitan (part of Don Mills CRC)	Replacement: Toronto East York (site tbd) (redevelop two singles as twin pad)		Replacement: North York (site tbd) (redevelop two singles as twin pad)
Evaluation of Arena Repurposing Options (candidate sites identified in FMP)			
	Repurposing (2): Two single pad arenas (to be determined)	Repurposing: One single pad arena (to be determined)	Repurposing: One single pad arena (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.

2019 Facility Plan - Arenas

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Most arenas are well used during prime-time hours; however, off-peak daytime usage is very low. There is capacity to accommodate more ice use in arenas during both prime and non-prime hours, most notably in Scarborough. The following will direct our investment decisions:

- A. Usage of arenas will be closely monitored and opportunities to enhance community use throughout the year will be promoted.
- B. Respond to aging infrastructure and changing needs through the strategic renewal and repurposing of existing arenas.
- C. Multi-pad arenas co-located with other recreation spaces will be the preferred model for future development and replacement.
- D. Alternative arena operating arrangements will be explored as appropriate.



Facility Type	Supply in 2019	Provision Target (in 2019 Plan)	Net New Facilities recommended (2019 – 2038)	Other Facility Plan Recommendations (2019 – 2038)
Arenas (pads)	65 pads at 50 locations	1:50,000 (existing and future population)	1 pad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement of the Don Mills Civitan Arena with a twin pad facility (<i>in progress</i>)• Explore opportunities to repurpose up to four single pad arenas to other uses• Replacement of one arena facility in Toronto East York with a twin pad arena, in conjunction with the repurposing on one arena to balance the supply• Replacement of one arena facility in North York with a twin pad arena

2019 Facility Plan – Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (AIRs) & Skating Trails

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The following will direct our investment decisions, along with the implementation of the Parkland Strategy:

- A. Access to outdoor skating rinks and trails is a priority and will influence their future provision.
- B. Creative solutions are necessary to ensure that outdoor artificial ice rinks remain sustainable, ranging from facility design to service provision.
- C. The viability of outdoor artificial ice rinks should be assessed when major investment is required. Dedicated funding is needed for the replacement of built outdoor recreation amenities.

Note: Scarborough has the lowest per capita AIR provision rate.



Facility Type	Supply in 2019	Provision Target (in 2019 Plan)	Net New Facilities recommended (2019 – 2038)	Other Facility Plan Recommendations (2019 – 2038)
Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (pads)	63 pads at 52 locations And 7 skating trails	1: 100,000 (new residents) 2 km service radius to identify gaps	5 AIR pads 2 or more skating trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New AIRs in priority order: Ward 6/7 (including a skating trail) and Ward 21• Secondary/future priority: Wards 24/25, 3, and 22, as well as a skating trail in Scarborough (site to be determined)

2019 Facility Plan – Curling Rinks

Curling rinks are traditionally provided by the private sector. There are 3 facilities within the City’s recreation inventory.

Changing supplies, demand and market conditions are impacting the sport and provision of curling facilities, with many non-municipal venues closing their doors in recent years. Recognizing this, the FMP did not establish a provision target for curling facilities. **More study is required to identify strategies for accommodating this sport .**



Facility Type	Supply in 2019	Provision Target (in 2019 Plan)	Net New Facilities recommended (2019 – 2038)	Other Facility Plan Recommendations (2019 – 2038)
Curling Rinks (pads)	22 at 3 locations	N/A	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain existing curling facilities and re-evaluate needs prior to major capital investment• No additional curling facilities are recommended.

Trends and Changes in Ice Provision and Demand

General Trends in Ice Identified in 2019

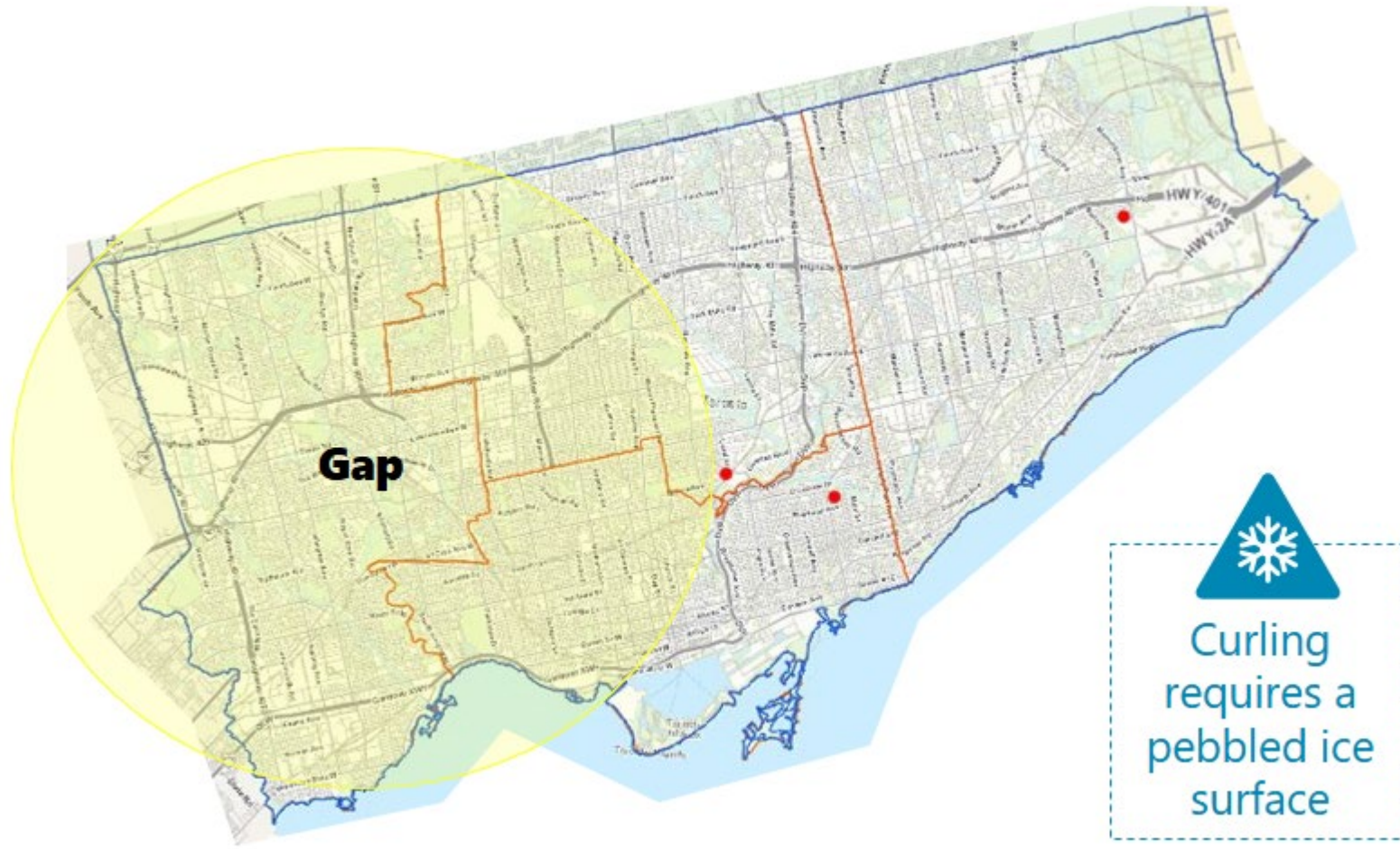
Through the development of this Ice Strategy, current trends will be identified. Trends previously identified as part of the 2019 Facilities Plan development include:

- Prime-time ice is well used, with competition for early evening and weekend time slots
- Non-prime-time usage use is low, with decreasing interest in ice activities outside of prime-time (e.g. late night, weekday morning or daytime)
- Participation in organized ice sports is declining:
 - High cost of equipment and access
 - Shifting interest to indoor field sports – more affordable and convenient to access
- Aging facilities and increasing state of good repair needs



Changing Provision of Curling Rinks

The City of Toronto owns 3 curling facilities.



City of Toronto Ice Facilities: Curling Rinks – New Gaps

Since the Facilities Plan was approved in 2019, three privately owned curling facilities have closed creating a gap in curling facilities, with none available in the west end of the city. Reflecting this significant provision change, City Council directed staff to:

- Assess the trends and participation in curling.
- Consider the current context of curling ice availability.
- Identify opportunities to increase public interest in and access to the sport.

From 2020 to 2021, staff worked to address this direction. Members of the curling community participated in a stakeholder reference group to inform this work.

Key findings include:

1. There is unmet demand for curling ice in Toronto, especially in the west end.
2. Curling serves a wide range of ages and abilities.
3. The delivery model for curling in Toronto presents a barrier to broader participation.
4. **A comprehensive City-wide Ice Strategy is necessary to consider the needs of all ice users, before a preferred solution for addressing the gap in curling facilities can be identified.**



Current Trends in Ice

Ice utilization and demands are being reassessed through this first phase of work. This includes:

- Reviewing city and partner data on existing ice use, demand, and trends
- Jurisdictional scans to identify how other cities provide and use their ice facilities, including ideas for maximizing use of existing facilities, especially in off-peak hours
- Hearing from residents about their ice needs and priorities, including ways to improve access to ice facilities for local communities
- Understanding updated population projections, including locations of growth

Consultant team Monteith Brown, who have led multiple Ice Strategies and Recreation Facility Plans across the province are supporting this work.



Questions of Clarification

Use the Q&A feature or click the hand icon to be unmuted to ask a question about the presentation or the Ice Facilities Strategy.

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. In small groups, you will discuss the following questions. Your facilitator will introduce themselves. You will be able to unmute yourself to speak or share feedback through the chat feature.

1. What is working well with City of Toronto indoor and outdoor ice facilities today, that you would like to see more of?

2. What suggestions do you have for maximizing the use of indoor and/or outdoor ice facilities?

- How can we make off-peak use (mornings, daytime, and late night) more appealing or easier to access for various user groups?
- How can we use dry pads in the off season?
- How can we encourage more local use of ice facilities?

3. What are your top priorities for improving the future of City of Toronto ice facilities?

Consider suggestions for improving the overall visitor and user experience and for making City of Toronto ice facilities more safe, welcoming and inclusive for all.

Plenary

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

All the notes from each discussion group will be summarized and posted to the project webpage, and included in the analysis that will inform the development of the Ice Strategy.



Next Steps

Phase 1: Upcoming engagements

Take the Ice Facilities Strategy online survey by January 5, 2025.

toronto.ca/IceFacilitiesStrategy

Over 1,000 surveys responses so far!
Please share with your neighbours and wider community to encourage participation.

Phase 2 : Spring 2025

In Phase 2, we will share and ask for your feedback to refine draft directions for the Ice Facilities Strategy.

Sign up for e-updates on the project webpage to be notified at the start of Phase 2 engagements.



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to visit the project webpage, take the survey, and sign up for e-updates.

For additional comments or questions, please email facilitiesplan@toronto.ca

Thank You!

