

Parks and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee

- Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025
- Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Location name/room: Earl Bales Community Centre, Room 2

5-Year Review: The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and Parkland Strategy

Committee members received an update presentation on the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and Parkland Strategy at the five-year point, covering the community engagement process, public feedback on accessibility and future direction, and Phase 2 community engagement. Questions from committee members included clarification of the budgetary impacts of both plans, and how increased population density from vast housing developments in Scarborough may influence decisions about facilities reinvestments or new builds. Feedback included adding more visible and regularly updated signage about events at recreational facilities, updating the text in the presentation slides to include the word “community” in the committee’s name, including more charging stations for both power wheelchairs and phones in parks, ensuring an adequate number of spaces for Wheel-Trans drop-off that are kept clear, and ensuring that Wheel-Trans locations are clearly marked. Other feedback points centred around adding ski hills to the facility types that are not included in the facilities plan (i.e. the exclusions list), making year-round accessibility in parks more of a priority, improve access to ice supports, and sensory tools, and strengthen timely communication with residents about service disruptions such as pool closures, elevator outages, and construction events.

Ferry Docks Accessibility Plan Review and Progress Report

An update was provided on staff training, signage, ferry public address (PA) announcements and communication of ferry-related information on the P&R website. Feedback included the need for preboarding for people with disabilities, designated waiting areas at both embarkation gates, elevated rather than ground-level signage, electric wheelchair charging stations and regular charging ports across the island, year-round accessibility on the island, safe embarkation and disembarkation procedures on ferries, and additional accessible washrooms on ferries. It was suggested that the progress report be deferred to an additional virtual meeting in late summer when staff are available.

Other Updates

An update on the committee web page and meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025 was provided, and it was stressed that meeting locations are not to be made public and to just invite attendees. Round table updates were received on Track3 Adaptive Sports Association winter programming, TDSB pools, Community Living Toronto summer programming, Canadian Disability Hall of Honour award recipients, P&R Adapted and Inclusive Recreation unit, and the official resignation of a long-standing committee member.

Earl Bales Jumpstart Playground Accessibility Improvements Tour

A presentation on accessibility improvements to the Earl Bales Jumpstart accessible playground, highlighting features and upgrades made since 2019, was delivered, followed by a site tour. Members

Parks and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee

provided additional feedback for future enhancements, and discussion focused on safety considerations, potential risks, and the City's playground risk management policy.