

Phase 2 Online Survey Summary Report

Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan

Community Engagement Phase 2

Survey Dates: July 18, 2025 to September 15, 2025

City of Toronto

Parks & Recreation Division





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Overview

About the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan update

The City owns and maintains hundreds of recreational facilities in buildings and parks. The [Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan](#) (PRFP) and its [Implementation Strategy](#) help prioritize investments in indoor and outdoor recreation facilities across Toronto, like new basketball courts, cricket fields, skateparks, splash pads and community recreation centres. These documents also help the City assess new opportunities for partnerships and community proposals for new or improved recreation facilities. The [PFRP is being updated](#) to reflect:

- Changing resident needs and priorities
- A growing population
- Provincial legislation changes
- New city-wide policy directions (e.g. Net Zero Strategy, Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan, Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, and more)
- New financial tools resulting in less funding
- Updated accessibility and environmental standards

How we reached people

The project team promoted community engagement activities, including the online survey, to audiences across the city through the following channels:

- Paid and organic social media: Promotional video posts ran between July 18, 2025 and September 14, 2025, to boost promotion of the online survey.
- Communications through Councillor Offices: Promotional material was provided to all 25 Councillor Offices, with a request that they share it via their respective newsletters and email distribution.
- Posters in community locations: Community recreation centres, EarlyON Centres, and Toronto Community Housing sites across the city shared and displayed e-flyers and posters promoting the online survey.
- Email notifications: Sent to the project listserv containing over 500 registrants.

Online Survey

From July 17 to September 15, 2025, an online survey collected feedback from the public on their experiences with City of Toronto parks and recreation facilities. This input will help shape updates to the City's Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP).

Survey Respondents

The survey received 3,600 responses, of which 1,900 reached the end of the survey. 235 respondents represented organizations. Some surveys included feedback from multiple people (e.g. entire households), with over 6,500 residents participating overall.

Participants were asked to provide demographic information. This helps the City better understand who participated and whether particular groups in the community were missed during the engagement process. A summary of the demographic findings can be found in Appendix A.



6500+
Participants

Emerging Directions

The Phase 1 community feedback and the City's update of existing recreation facility use led to the development of four key directions for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan:

1. Seek to maximize year-round, all-day use, improve accessibility, and improve the overall resident experience by building new, renewing, replacing, or repurposing recreation facilities.
2. Use recreation spaces to provide a wider range of community benefits in addition to traditional recreation services.
3. Ensure the new Facilities Plan serves high-needs communities and reduces barriers to access.
4. Actively pursue and enhance collaboration and partnerships (e.g., schools, libraries, etc.) to better meet community needs and make the most of the land available for recreation facilities and other community services and facilities.

Emerging Direction One

Participants rated their level of support or opposition for emerging direction one overall, as well as *each action* within emerging direction one.

Overall level of support or opposition for emerging direction one

Emerging direction one: Seek to maximize year-round, all-day use, improve accessibility, and improve the overall resident experience by building new, renewing, replacing, or repurposing recreation facilities. (*~2400 participants responded*)

- **Strong support:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. No adjustments are needed (47%)
- **Support:** This direction generally guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. Little to no adjustments are needed (33%)
- **Neutral:** I don't have an opinion on this (9%)
- **Oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. Adjustments are needed (7%)
- **Strongly oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. The entire direction should be reconsidered, rewritten, or removed (1%)
- **I don't know:** I don't understand the question, or not enough information is provided for me to answer (3%)

Support or opposition for actions within emerging direction one

Action 1A: Co-locate Community Recreation Centres with other facilities and services to bring in a wider range of community members (e.g., libraries, schools, employment services, seniors' services, newcomer services, etc.) and where appropriate, build housing on top of new Community Recreation Centres. (*~2400 participants responded*)

- **Strong support (47%)**
- **Support (26%)**
- **Neutral (18%)**
- **Oppose (4%)**
- **Strongly oppose (4%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 1B: Develop design and facility standards for each type of recreation facility to provide more reliable facilities for residents across the city. (*~2400 participants responded*)

- **Strong support (51%)**
- **Support (28%)**
- **Neutral (17%)**
- **Oppose (1%)**
- **Strongly oppose (1%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 1C: Proactively assess facility use to identify under-used facilities. Connect with communities to understand reasons for low use and revitalize, reprogram, or convert the facilities to meet current community needs and maximize use. (~2400 participants responded)

- **Strong support (54%)**
- **Support (27%)**
- **Neutral (14%)**
- **Oppose (3%)**
- **Strongly oppose (1%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 1D: Maximize year-round access (e.g., increase use of facilities in their "off" season, such as pickleball or skateboarding on outdoor ice rinks in the summer). (~2400 participants responded)

- **Strong support (60%)**
- **Support (24%)**
- **Neutral (13%)**
- **Oppose (1%)**
- **Strongly oppose (1%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 1E: Upgrade facilities to serve more community members and respond to new recreation needs. (~2400 participants responded)

- **Strong support (60%)**
- **Support (24%)**
- **Neutral (13%)**
- **Oppose (1%)**
- **Strongly oppose (1%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 1F: Maintain facilities in a state of good repair and continue to improve accessibility, to ensure all residents can enjoy existing facilities, regardless of the age of the facility. (~2400 participants responded)

- **Strong support (74%)**
- **Support (18%)**
- **Neutral (6%)**
- **Oppose (1%)**
- **Strongly oppose (0%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Emerging Direction Two

Participants rated their level of support or opposition for emerging direction two overall, as well as *each action* within emerging direction two.

Overall level of support or opposition for emerging direction two

Emerging direction two: Use recreation spaces to provide a wider range of community benefits in addition to traditional recreation services. (*~2200 participants responded*)

- **Strong support:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. No adjustments are needed (37%)
- **Support:** This direction generally guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. Little to no adjustments are needed (30%)
- **Neutral:** I don't have an opinion on this (20%)
- **Oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. Adjustments are needed (8%)
- **Strongly oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. The entire direction should be reconsidered, rewritten, or removed (2%)
- **I don't know:** I don't understand the question, or not enough information is provided for me to answer (3%)

Support or opposition for actions within emerging direction two

Action 2A*: Responding to the City's Reconciliation Action Plan, and work towards Reconciliation by meeting to local Indigenous communities' needs through recreation facilities (Example: Visual representation of Indigenous communities and cultures, including treaties; art and signage for celebration, Placekeeping*, and education; access to lands and waters for Indigenous ceremonial, cultural, and community practices, including Pow Wow.

(*~2200 participants responded*)

- **Strong support (37%)**
- **Support (20%)**
- **Neutral (31%)**
- **Oppose (6%)**
- **Strongly oppose (5%)**
- **I don't know (2%)**

** Note that details regarding Indigenous Placekeeping work are not included in this survey as they are still being developed in consultation with Indigenous communities.*

Action 2B: Supporting food security at recreation facilities (Example: Community Centres that include teaching gardens, community kitchens, and food banks). (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (43%)**
- **Support (21%)**
- **Neutral (25%)**
- **Oppose (6%)**
- **Strongly oppose (3%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 2C: Encouraging community gathering and improving resident experience at facilities that offer food services (e.g., in Arenas and community centres). (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (39%)**
- **Support (24%)**
- **Neutral (29%)**
- **Oppose (4%)**
- **Strongly oppose (2%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 2D: Supporting emergency response and public health (Example: Community Recreation Centres as places to gather in emergencies, space for vaccination clinics, cooling stations, access to water and shade, etc.). (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (49%)**
- **Support (25%)**
- **Neutral (20%)**
- **Oppose (4%)**
- **Strongly oppose (2%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 2E: Adapting and responding to climate change (Example: Build new facilities with sustainability and carbon emissions in mind. Achieve high green building standards and include features like green roofs and on-site green-energy production). (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (53%)**
- **Support (21%)**
- **Neutral (20%)**
- **Oppose (2%)**
- **Strongly oppose (2%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Emerging Direction Three

Participants rated their level of support or opposition for emerging direction three overall, as well as *each action* within emerging direction three.

Overall level of support or opposition for emerging direction three

Emerging direction three: Ensure the new Facilities Plan serves high-needs communities and reduces barriers to access. (*~2200 participants responded*)

- **Strong support:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. No adjustments are needed (**40%**)
- **Support:** This direction generally guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. Little to no adjustments are needed (29%)
- **Neutral:** I don't have an opinion on this (18%)
- **Oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. Adjustments are needed (7%)
- **Strongly oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. The entire direction should be reconsidered, rewritten, or removed (4%)
- **I don't know:** I don't understand the question, or not enough information is provided for me to answer (2%)

Support or opposition for actions within emerging direction three

Action 3A: Prioritize the needs of Indigenous, Black, equity-deserving*, and underserved communities when deciding where to place new facilities, and when to improve or upgrade facilities. (*~2200 participants responded*)

- **Strong support (39%)**
- **Support (21%)**
- **Neutral (23%)**
- **Oppose (9%)**
- **Strongly oppose (7%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

**Note: The City refers to equity-deserving communities as communities that face significant collective challenges in participating in society because of barriers to equal access, opportunities and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination, and, therefore, deserve social justice and reparation including but not limited to, women, persons with low income, immigrants, refugees and undocumented people, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, persons with disabilities, racialized group(s), seniors and youth.*

Indigenous communities are not included under the term equity-deserving because more than equity, Indigenous communities deserve prosperity that is characterized by economic and social well-being, inclusion and self-determination, which were eroded through historical and ongoing colonization. Black communities are also recognized as unique and separate from other equity-deserving groups because people of African descent who commonly self-identify as Black people have a unique experience of centuries of enslavement (with ongoing socio-economic impact) in what is now Canada.

Action 3B: Invest in flexible facilities that serve diverse communities' needs, including people of all ages, abilities, races, cultures, genders, and incomes. (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (51%)**
- **Support (25%)**
- **Neutral (18%)**
- **Oppose (3%)**
- **Strongly oppose (2%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 3C: Develop new approaches to assess and serve areas of very high population and growth (e.g., the downtown core) to ensure residents have equitable access to facility spaces. (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (50%)**
- **Support (26%)**
- **Neutral (18%)**
- **Oppose (2%)**
- **Strongly oppose (2%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Action 3D: Accelerate facility upgrades to meet modern accessibility standards. (~2200 participants responded)

- **Strong support (56%)**
- **Support (27%)**
- **Neutral (14%)**
- **Oppose (1%)**
- **Strongly oppose (1%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Emerging Direction Four

Participants rated their level of support or opposition for emerging direction four overall, as well as *each action* within emerging direction four.

Overall level of support or opposition for emerging direction four

Emerging direction four: Actively pursue and enhance collaboration and partnerships (e.g., schools, libraries, etc.) to better meet community needs and make the most of the land available for recreation facilities and other community services and facilities. (~2,100 participants responded)

- **Strong support:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. No adjustments are needed (**36%**)
- **Support:** This direction generally guides Facilities Plan updates in the right direction. Little to no adjustments are needed (29%)
- **Neutral:** I don't have an opinion on this (22%)
- **Oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. Adjustments are needed (7%)
- **Strongly oppose:** This direction guides Facilities Plan updates in the wrong direction. The entire direction should be reconsidered, rewritten, or removed (4%)
- **I don't know:** I don't understand the question, or not enough information is provided for me to answer (2%)

Support or opposition for actions within emerging direction four

Action 4A: Where appropriate, build housing on top of new Community Recreation Centres, in partnership with different housing providers and levels of government. (*~2,100 participants responded*)

- **Strong support (35%)**
- **Support (19%)**
- **Neutral (26%)**
- **Oppose (10%)**
- **Strongly oppose (9%)**
- **I don't know (2%)**

Action 4B: Co-locate Community Recreation Centres with other facilities and services (e.g., libraries, schools, employment services, seniors' services, newcomer services, etc.) based on a specific community's needs (determined in part, through early engagements with a community. (*~2,100 participants responded*)

- **Strong support (41%)**
- **Support (28%)**
- **Neutral (22%)**
- **Oppose (5%)**
- **Strongly oppose (3%)**
- **I don't know (1%)**

Facilities Plan Categories

The Facilities Plan sets out goals and priorities for investment in each type of recreation facility over the next 20 years. After reviewing recent recreation facility use and demand, four categories are proposed for each type of recreation facility (See Chart 1). Multiple categories can apply to the same type of recreation facility.

Chart 1: Proposed Priorities for Future Provision by Recreation Facility Type

Category A: Build more to fill existing gaps in service

There are existing gaps in the availability of the facilities listed below, across the city. The new Facilities Plan proposes to build more of these facilities, where there these gaps exist.

Type of recreation facility proposed for this category:

- Basketball Courts
- Beach Volleyball
- Community Recreation Centres
- Cricket Pitches
- Curling Rinks
- Dog Off-leash Areas
- Gymnasiums
- Indoor Pools
- Off-road Bike Parks
- Outdoor Skating Trails
- Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks
- Pickleball Courts
- Skateparks (outdoor)
- Splash Pads
- Soccer and Multi-Sport Fields
- Sports Bubbles
- Tennis Courts

Category B: Build more recreation facilities as the population grows

Build new recreation facilities in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.

Type of recreation facility proposed for this category:

- Basketball Courts
- Community Recreation Centres
- Cricket Pitches
- Dog Off-leash Areas
- Gymnasiums
- Indoor Pools
- Off-Road Bike Parks
- Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks

- Outdoor Skating Trails
- Pickleball Courts
- Skateparks and Spots(outdoor)
- Soccer and Multi-Sport Fields
- Splash Pads
- Sport Bubbles
- Tennis Courts

Category C: Improve to increase use and accessibility

Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use (e.g., adding artificial turf or lighting to a field to increase seasonal use time) or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older community recreation centre.

Type of recreation facility proposed for this category:

- Arenas
- Ball Diamonds
- Basketball Courts
- Clubhouses and Fieldhouses
- Community Recreation Centres
- Cricket Pitches
- Curling Rinks
- Dog Off-leash Areas
- Gymnasiums
- Indoor Pools
- Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks
- Outdoor Pools
- Skateparks (outdoor)
- Soccer and Multi-use Sports Fields
- Splash Pads
- Tennis Courts

Category D.: Repurpose to a higher use

Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.

Type of recreation facility proposed for this category:

- Ball Diamonds (selected Class C fields)
- Bocce Courts (outdoor)
- Clubhouses and Fieldhouses
- Lawn Bowling Greens
- Wading Pools

After reviewing the facilities plan categories, participants were asked to select the recreation facilities that they felt were included in the wrong category. Approximately 2000 participants responded to this question. With the exception of lawn bowling greens, for each facility type, **over 93% of survey respondents agreed with the priorities listed above.**

The following provides a summary of feedback from respondents who felt adjustments should be made to the categorization of a specific facility type:

Arenas

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 3% said that arenas were included in the wrong category or can be included under additional categories.

The 54 respondents who thought the categorization for arenas was incorrect, selected the following categories for arenas to be included within:

- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (56%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (48%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (35%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (26%)

Ball Diamonds

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 4% said that ball diamonds were included in the wrong category or can be included under additional categories.

The 81 respondents who thought the categorization for ball diamonds was incorrect, selected the following categories for ball diamonds to be included within:

- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (62%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (32%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (32%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (21%)

Basketball Courts

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 1% said that basketball courts were included in the wrong category or can be included under additional categories.

The 22 respondents who thought the categorization for basketball courts was incorrect, selected the following categories for basketball courts to be included within:

- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (59%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (45%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (41%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (36%)

Beach Volleyball

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that beach volleyball was included in the wrong category or can be included under additional categories.

The 37 respondents who thought the categorization for beach volleyball was incorrect, selected the following categories for beach volleyball to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (51%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (43%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (27%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (22%)

Bocce Courts (outdoor)

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 3% said that outdoor bocce courts were included in the wrong category or can be included under additional categories.

The 67 respondents who thought the categorization for bocce courts was incorrect, selected the following categories for bocce courts to be included within:

- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (48%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (42%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (22%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (16%)

Clubhouses and Fieldhouses

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 4% said that clubhouses and fieldhouses were included in the wrong category or can be included under additional categories.

The 76 respondents who thought the categorization for clubhouses and fieldhouses was incorrect, selected the following categories for clubhouses and fieldhouses to be included within:

- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (58%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (30%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (25%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (14%)

Community Recreation Centres (CRCs)

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that Community Recreation Centres were included in the wrong category.

The 31 respondents who thought the categorization for CRCs was incorrect, selected the following categories for CRCs to be included within:

- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (48%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (48%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (45%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (35%)

Cricket Pitches

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 3% said that cricket pitches were included in the wrong category.

The 54 respondents who thought the categorization for cricket pitches was incorrect, selected the following categories for cricket pitches to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (70%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (15%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (13%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (13%)

Curling Rinks

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 3% said that curling rinks were included in the wrong category.

The 54 respondents who thought the categorization for curling rinks was incorrect, selected the following categories for curling rinks to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (63%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (35%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (22%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (15%)

Dog Off-leash Areas (DOLAs)

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 7% said that dog off-leash areas were included in the wrong category.

The 132 respondents who thought the categorization for DOLAs was incorrect, selected the following categories for DOLAs to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (62%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (21%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (20%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (14%)

Gymnasiums

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that gymnasiums were included in the wrong category.

The 31 respondents who thought the categorization for gymnasiums was incorrect, selected the following categories for gymnasiums to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (58%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (52%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (45%)

Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (29%)

Lawn Bowling Greens

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 22% said that lawn bowling was included in the wrong category.

The 444 respondents who thought the categorization for lawn bowling greens was incorrect, selected the following categories for lawn bowling greens to be included within:

- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (83%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (16%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (13%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (8%)

Off-road Bike Parks

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 7% said that off-road bike parks were included in the wrong category.

The 63 respondents who thought the categorization for off-road bike parks was incorrect, selected the following categories for off-road bike parks to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (60%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (22%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (21%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (13%)

Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks (AIRs)

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 1% said that outdoor artificial ice rinks were included in the wrong category.

The 27 respondents who thought the categorization for AIRs was incorrect, selected the following categories for AIRs to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (56%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (52%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (37%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (33%)

Outdoor Pools

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 3% said that outdoor pools were included in the wrong category.

The 54 respondents who thought the categorization for outdoor pools was incorrect, selected the following categories for outdoor pools to be included within:

- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (80%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (57%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (52%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (24%)

Outdoor Skating Trails

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 1% said that outdoor skating trails were included in the wrong category.

The 27 respondents who thought the categorization for skating trails was incorrect, selected the following categories for skating trails to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (52%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (48%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (30%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (19%)

Pickleball Courts

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that pickleball courts were included in the wrong category.

The 27 respondents who thought the categorization for pickleball courts was incorrect, selected the following categories for pickleball courts to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (53%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (36%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (34%)

- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (26%)

Skateparks (outdoor)

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that skateparks (outdoor) were included in the wrong category.

The 47 respondents who thought the categorization for skateparks was incorrect, selected the following categories for skateparks to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (44%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (41%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (38%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (34%)

Soccer and Multi-use Sports Fields

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 1% said that soccer and multi-use sports fields were included in the wrong category.

The 24 respondents who thought the categorization for soccer and multi-use sports fields was incorrect, selected the following categories for soccer and multi-use sports fields to be included within:

- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (54%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (54%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (46%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (42%)

Splash Pads

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that splash pads fields were included in the wrong category.

The 43 respondents who thought the categorization for splash pads was incorrect, selected the following categories for splash pads to be included within:

- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (56%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (53%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (44%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (40%)

Sports Bubbles

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that sports bubbles were included in the wrong category.

The 36 respondents who thought the categorization for sports bubbles was incorrect, selected the following categories for sports bubbles to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (56%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (33%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (17%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (14%)

Tennis Courts

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 2% said that tennis courts were included in the wrong category.

The 41 respondents who thought the categorization for tennis courts was incorrect, selected the following categories for tennis courts to be included within:

- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (56%)
- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (33%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (17%)

- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (14%)

Wading Pools

Of approximately 2000 respondents, 7% said that wading pools were included in the wrong category.

The 142 respondents who thought the categorization for wading pools was incorrect, selected the following categories for wading pools to be included within:

- Improve to increase use and accessibility (Improve or upgrade existing recreation facilities to increase their usability and available hours for permit use, or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older facility.) (61%)
- Build more to fill existing gaps in service (e.g. in areas that are underserved.) (36%)
- Build more recreation facilities as the population grows (e.g. in areas with high population growth, to provide consistent levels of access.) (28%)
- Repurpose to a higher use (Identify individual under-used facilities and connect with communities to understand reasons for low use with the aim of revitalizing, reprogramming, or converting the facility to meet current community needs and maximize use.) (16%)

What We Heard: Qualitative Feedback Summary

Out of 3,600 respondents, 1,046 respondents provided qualitative feedback when asked, “Would you like to tell us anything more on the topics covered by the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan? Please use the space below to tell us about it.” Responses were coded and categorized in the following themes and sub-themes.

Programming

Programming Hours

- **Many respondents desired longer and more flexible programming hours.**
 - Outdoor pools should open earlier (early June) and stay open longer (end of September or Labour Day at minimum).
 - Many respondents wanted late-night pool hours, especially during heat waves. Indoor pool hours were described as limited, “my indoor pool has less than 4 hours per week for seniors.”
 - There was a strong demand for mid-morning aquafit and lane swim, especially for older adults and retirees.
 - Better lighting for safety and to extend evening use beyond 4:00 p.m. in wintertime.
 - Parents requested greater early-morning weekend access to facilities, ideally starting at 8:00 a.m.
- **Respondents requested specific hours for women and youth.**
 - Respondents requested earlier ice hours for women who may not feel safe getting home late at night. A respondent expressed, ““Girls as young as 13 get ice after 9:00 p.m. while men’s leagues get 7:00 p.m.”
 - Respondents suggested leveraging school pools and having increased availability for youth on weekends.

Programming Communication

- **Request for a real-time communication system using email or SMS**
 - A respondent advocated for an alert system to pro-actively notify users when facilities are closed, and programming is cancelled using text or email alerts. They note that, “this is especially important for drop-in programs where there isn't a registration list that staff can call. Unless it is scheduled maintenance, there is no way to know until you get there.”

Programming Registration

- **Concerns about no-show penalties, misuse of permits, and fairness.**
 - Many respondents emphasized that facilities are underused because people register but do not show up, leaving others without access.

- Respondents recommended consequences for consistent no-shows, including temporary suspension from booking or financial penalties for repeated no-shows.
- **User experience of online registration systems.**
 - Several respondents who are more comfortable with in-person options said that online registration systems create anxiety.
 - Respondents requested a booking system on site with staff support. Many wanted staff physically present to manage bookings, troubleshoot access issues, and address conflict.
 - Respondents called for better online information about amenities and grading systems with photos, maps, safety considerations and accurate hours. A respondent said, “will I feel safe accessing the entrance late at night if I’m alone?”
- **Booking priority for high-density and underserved neighbourhoods.**
 - Some respondents requested booking priority for high-density or underserved neighbourhoods, especially downtown.
 - Respondents noted that specific centers now allow local residents to enroll early into free senior programs like stained glass. Out of area residents do not have a local centre that offers stained glass. A respondent suggested that classes should be offered equally across the city if you are going to give local residents priority registration. Otherwise, some residents are denied access based solely on where they live.

Specific Programming Requests

- Arts and crafts were requested by multiple respondents for all ages such as painting, ceramics, hand drawing, rug hooking, and pottery.
- Respondents noted that creative art spaces and classes are in high demand, stating, “pottery classes and woodworking classes are not things that most people can access without a public facility and affordable classes.”
- A few respondents emphasized programs and activities that foster community gathering including book clubs, community picnics or music nights.

Playgrounds

Note: Playgrounds are not within the scope of the Facilities Plan, as there is a separate Playground Enhancement Strategy.

Multi-use and Multi-generational Playground Design

- **Respondents requested more playgrounds with a variety of equipment and components that kids and adults can use.**
 - Many respondents called for playgrounds intentionally designed for toddlers, children, teens, adults, and seniors together.
 - Several respondents noted that seniors often care for grandchildren and need accessible features such as easy access to the children’s play areas to supervise them and changing facilities nearby.

- A respondent suggested having adult workout equipment in playgrounds so adults can workout as kids are playing.

Safety, Accessibility and Usability

- **Shade, heat protection, safety, and year-round usability**
 - Respondents requested shade structures, rain coverage, better platform surfaces, and winter-safe materials that are not as slippery.
 - Respondents suggested fully indoor playgrounds co-located in public spaces such as libraries to support year-round activity.
 - Respondents noted that better snow clearance would enable more year-round use of playgrounds as well as increased toboggan hills and warm-up fire pits.
- **Accessible play structures for children with disabilities.**
 - Many respondents requested accessible play structures for children with disabilities, specifically children with mobility devices and autism, “Autism friendly playgrounds - wider playgrounds, adaptive seesaw, slides, swings.”
 - Respondents requested to do a review of old parks that may not meet current accessibility and safety standards such as those in East York.

Shade, Seating and Climate Resilience

More Shade at Playgrounds

- **Strong call for more shade in parks, playgrounds, and seating areas.**
 - Shade was consistently mentioned as the most critical missing element across parks and playgrounds.
 - Respondent requests included tree planting, fabric canopies, awnings, and removable seasonal shade.
 - A respondent requested that metal slides are built with shade structures as the material gets extremely hot.

Shade, Splash Pads and Climate Resilience

- **Shade for people without air conditioning and lack of outdoor space.**
 - Respondents linked shade to heat safety and equity, “Condo and apartment dwellers do not have access to outdoor space, parks need more seating and shade to offset extreme heat.”
- **Waterplay, community gardens and climate-resilient amenities were said to support heat equity.**
 - Many respondents highlighted the growing demand for splash pads, particularly in hotter summers.
 - Respondents requested more community gardens to support food security challenges in Toronto, education about food growth and pollination with pollinator-friendly plants.
 - Respondents also would like programming tied to environmental responsibility to teach communities to repair land and repurpose the land available.

Ecological Stewardship

- **Respondents requested more natural areas and climate-resilient parks.**
 - Respondents emphasized that trees must be centered in all park planning, noting that current practices are harming the urban canopy.
 - Respondents cautioned Parks staff from damaging tree growth by driving over roots and compressing the soil, leaving young trees to die in heat waves and damaging mature trees during construction and snow clearing.
 - Tree care was described as essential for climate resilience, cooling, and public health, “If we want parks to be places of respite from heat we need to not only plant young trees, but care for them so they reach maturity.”
- **Respondents called for ecological restoration, native species, and habitat protection to be embedded across the City’s plans.**
 - A respondent stressed that the City should focus on native planting, respect for shared green spaces with wildlife and good educational signage.
 - Some respondents supported expanding natural areas, not replacing them with sports or dog facilities.
 - Respondents suggested adding greenhouses as features in CRCs for learning about hydroponics and vertical farming.
 - Educational programming was supported about the environment and how to use parks and recreation spaces with care.

More Seating

- **Many respondents call for benches, sheltered picnic tables, and comfortable seating integrated into all parks.**
 - For example, a respondent requested that all parks have sheltered picnic tables.
 - Respondents emphasized that shade and seating are linked to accessibility for seniors, caregivers, and people resting along paths or waiting at transit stops, “more shaded trees and places to sit and rest along pathways and outside facilities, at bus stops.”

Environmentally friendly Community Recreation Centre Features

- **Respondents suggested environmentally friendly features in Community Recreation Centres**
 - Repair, reuse and zero-waste infrastructure such as creative reuse Toronto space, repair café Toronto support spaces, electronic re-use spaces (e.g., Free Geek Toronto), clothing banks, tool library locations, zero-waste refill depots, reusable container sanitation and redistribution, and specialty recycling drop-off spaces and hazardous waste collection.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis Truth and Reconciliation

Indigenous Rights, Access, and Reconciliation

- **Many respondents call for recognizing that Indigenous land use should be treated as a foundational principle in parks and recreation planning.**
 - Concerns that current frameworks dilute Indigenous-specific needs by placing them under broader equity umbrellas. Indigenous respondents requested that Indigenous truth and reconciliation actions be treated as distinct in the PRFP.

Ensuring Reconciliation Symbols and Actions Align

- **Respondents expressed that current displays or naming practices must reflect true Indigenous consultation or benefit.**
 - Some respondents critiqued that some actions, like symbolic icons or proclamations, may be symbolic without meaningful impact.
 - Respondents shared deep concerns about ongoing systemic harms done by levels of government, including over-policing, a lack of supports for homeless communities, a lack of safe injection sites and opioid support, and the exclusion of Indigenous communities from public spaces, “Indigenous people are still denied basic dignity by being racially profiled, banned from library spaces and kicked out of tents in parks.”
 - Respondents recommended having Indigenous language programs, cultural programming, and governance involvement rather than solely cosmetic improvements.
 - A respondent highlighted the disconnect between having a facility name that honours Indigenous heritage but does not deliver Indigenous programs.

Indigenous Ceremonial and Cultural Space

- **Many respondents requested dedicated ceremonial spaces within parks and facilities, co-designed with Indigenous communities.**
 - Respondents who identified as Indigenous requested year-round cultural access, including gathering, teaching, language revitalization, and community-led events.

Indigenous Heritage and Sport

- **Respondents noted that the City must ensure Indigenous-created or Indigenous-rooted activities are not erased from city recreation planning.**
 - Respondents specifically noted lacrosse as a key sport and a significant practice in Indigenous heritage.
 - Respondents requested alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, particularly those on sport, culture, and youth programming.

Renaming Colonial Legacies

- Respondents expected renaming of parks and recreation spaces that perpetuate colonial harm. For example, a respondent said, “if Reconciliation is the goal, parks and recreation that do not reflect that value should be renamed (e.g., Columbus Parkette).”

- Respondents recommended visible Indigenous presence through names, languages, art, and storytelling in ways that are not tokenistic, developed by Indigenous peoples for Indigenous peoples.

Seven Generations Principle and Long-Term Planning

- **A respondent suggested to adopt the Indigenous planning philosophies such as the Haudenosaunee’s Seven Generations principle, “if it benefits all after 7 generations, it is a good plan... if not, the process starts again.”**
 - Similarly, a respondent encouraged planning that supports ecological stewardship, cultural survival, and community continuity.

Climate, Land Protection and Environmental Responsibility

- **Respondents expressed a strong belief that the City should focus on preserving existing natural environments, not selling or developing green space.**
 - Ontario Place was cited as a cautionary example of failing to protect public land.
 - Respondents expressed concern that investing in new “green facilities” is meaningless without addressing broader environmental harm such as fossil fuel investment.

Serving Seniors and Elders

- **Respondents that identified as Indigenous highlighted the importance of honouring, consulting and co-creating with Indigenous elders as knowledge keepers of recreation spaces.**
 - Respondents requested more senior-focused programming and intergenerational engagement. They emphasized that seniors should not be overlooked in facility planning.
 - Respondents highlighted the intersectionality amongst senior communities, “Seniors are Black, White, Indigenous, gay, straight, trans... we want to feel valued.”

Equity Considerations and Equitable Access to Parks and Recreation Facilities

Digital Accessibility and Service Design (Forms, Registration and User Experience)

Residents shared detailed feedback on how the City can improve accessibility, safety, communication, and the overall experience of using parks, recreation centres, and registration systems. Comments highlighted the need for digital accessibility, clearer information about available services, more inclusive program design, and stronger alignment between demand, resources, and outcomes. Community members also emphasized that accessibility improvements must support people with a wide range of disabilities, and that investments should prioritize usability, safety, and equitable access for all.

- **Digital communication accessibility**
 - Respondents emphasized that accessibility includes digital access, not only physical design claiming, “part of accessibility is communication.”
 - The website should outline which centers have which facilities.
- **User experience improvements to the online program registration system**
 - Numerous respondents requested simplified, coordinated systems that reduce duplication and improve ease of use.
 - Many respondents requested better filtering of information, clearer facility information, and universally accessible online forms, referencing forms such as CampTO.
 - Some respondents suggested adding digital tools to the booking system that match the needs of people with disabilities.
 - A guideline with tangible digital accessibility targets was suggested to increase transparency with the public.
- **Clear and accessible language and better communication**
 - Many respondents requested clearer language as to what programs are available, at what times and when new opportunities to register become available.
 - In addition to improving the user friendliness of the website to search which centers offer which programs, the language itself needs to be clear.

Equitable Access for People with Disabilities

Respondents, particularly seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers, and participants in low-impact or adapted sports, shared their feedback about accessibility, mobility, and the value of inclusive recreational opportunities across Toronto’s parks and facilities. Comments reflect lived experience navigating physical barriers, transportation challenges, and programming gaps, as well as strong support for activities that promote social connection, health, and active aging. The below themes summarize the feedback shared.

- **Increasing accessibility standards as a requirement when repairing facilities**
 - Respondents shared that accessibility across parks, pools, rinks, trails and community centres remains inconsistent, and they want universal design to be a standard feature. For instance, a respondent noted, “There are very few places in the system that are truly wheelchair accessible, and some of what exists is not kept in good repair.”
 - Respondents emphasized that physical accessibility includes entrances, washrooms, seating, shade, pathways and indoor circulation. A respondent specified that “small design choices like the height of a door or the width of a path can make the difference between whether someone can participate or not.”
 - Families highlighted the need for inclusive and adaptive playground features claiming that more spaces should support children with different sensory and mobility needs such as including mobility devices and augmentative and alternative communication.
 - Respondents who identified with disabilities stressed that many parks, paths, pools and centers are still effectively inaccessible claiming, “I feel left out when

there are no pathways that I can use... when there are accessibility issues that need repair.”

- Accessibility priorities identified include:
 - accessible front doors and entrances (e.g., Secord Community Centre)
 - stable playground surfaces (instead of sand/wood chips)
 - accessible seating in community recreation centres (CRCs)
 - better access to pools, rinks and washrooms
 - accessible walking routes and crossings to facilities.
- Several respondents noted the need to replace unstable or exclusionary playground materials (sand, woodchips) with safer surfacing.
- Families also cited concerns about play-area cleanliness and safety, especially for autistic children or those with sensory needs, “some surfaces are unsafe or unsanitary, making them harder for children to use.”
- A few respondents provided the caveat cautioning the City about overpromising accessibility improvements without the capacity to execute them due to a lack of resources. Rather, respondents recommended creating measurable outcomes and tie accessibility improvements to tangible, clear and measurable outcomes.
- **Psychological safety and feeling welcome in facility spaces**
 - Some respondents called for staff training to address everyday discrimination and harassment, especially for women, youth, trans and racialized residents.
 - Respondents called for better cleanliness, maintenance and enforcement (off-leash dogs, drug use, vandalism to increase feelings of a psychologically safe environment.
- **Transportation, parking and access to major parks**
 - Many seniors, disabled residents, and families shared that limited vehicle access, steep distances, and lack of nearby parking make some major parks difficult to use.
 - Community members also raise concerns about the safety of pathways and trail conditions which may be difficult for people with physical disabilities to navigate due to mud and uneven surfaces for people using walkers or strollers.
- **Accessible, low-impact and all-ages sports for seniors and people with disabilities**
 - Participants mentioned walking soccer as a rapidly growing activity that promotes physical, mental, and social wellbeing for people of all ages, including seniors and people with disabilities. Artificial turf for indoor and outdoor fields was recommended for walking soccer. For example, a respondent shared, “Walking soccer has been life-changing for many older adults who want to stay active in a safe way.”
- **Design considerations for people with autism**
 - A few respondents specifically recommended autistic friendly facilities such as autism friendly playgrounds with an adaptive seesaw, slides and swings.
 - A participant called for more consideration for people that have sensory and proprioception needs to accommodate those with disabilities and neurodivergence in the PRFP emerging directions, specifically around the equity considerations.

- **Considering physical accessibility allows all residents to participate in a dignified and equitable way**
 - Many respondents described implementing accessibility as not only considering the physical presence of ramps and features to support physical accessibility but also providing the ability to participate in facility spaces with dignity and agency.

Equity Considerations: Race, Ethnicity and Income

- **Prioritizing lower income neighbourhoods and geographic equity considerations**
 - Many comments comment on the intersection between equity considerations related to race with income and place, encouraging the City to focus on neighbourhoods with older rental housing, few private amenities, and long travel times to recreation.
 - For example, a respondent noted, “lower income individuals might not live in condos with pools and party rooms. These individuals should be prioritized.”
 - Respondents emphasized directing investments to Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving communities outside of the downtown core.
- **Facility type, exclusivity, and fair access to green space**
 - Respondents mentioned exclusive or fee-based facilities (golf courses, private tennis clubs, paid pizza ovens) located in low-income or racialized neighbourhoods, “It’s inequitable to have a private golf course in a priority neighbourhood with many low-income and immigrant residents.”
 - There is a strong recommendation that facilities in these areas should support free or low-cost use, and have inclusive uses, rather than members-only or niche amenities.
- **Under-served sports and activities in neighbourhoods with a high percentage of racialized communities**
 - Feedback notes gaps where racialized communities are highly engaged:
 - **Basketball:** outdoor courts described as neglected compared to tennis and other sports; this is explicitly framed as an equity issue for Black and racialized youth.
 - **Table tennis:** demand noted in neighbourhoods with many East Asian residents.

2SLGBTQ+ Communities

- **Dedicated and welcoming spaces**
 - Many respondents requested more explicitly 2SLGBTQ+-inclusive spaces and programs.
 - Lawn bowling, roller derby and disc golf are cited as sports commonly played in 2SLGBTQ+ communities. For example, a respondent noted, “Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club is described as “a social nexus for the local gay community” with large membership.”
- **Trans-specific and gender-affirming programs**

- Respondents cited positive models from other cities (e.g., and gender-diverse-only swim times) and asked the City to create similar offerings in municipal pools to increase feelings of safety for trans and gender-diverse people at pool spaces claiming, “this was the only recreational public pool space I and many other trans+ people felt safe to use... No such program exists in Toronto.”
- A few respondents also raised concern regarding gender equity in changeroom and washroom settings, as well as more traditional club settings. More gender neutral washrooms were requested in Community Recreation Centre spaces and outdoor facility spaces.

Seniors and Older Adults

- **Seniors as a cross-cutting, intersectional equity group**
 - Respondents who identified as seniors highlighted that they belong to **all** equity categories (Indigenous, Black, 2SLGBTQ+, people with disabilities, etc.) and want to remain a priority in considerations for PRFP updates.
- **Age-friendly programming and facilities**
 - Many respondents called for more affordable, age-friendly programs (e.g., walking tracks, seniors’ classes, low-impact sports, more ice in lower income areas).
 - Lawn bowling and curling are frequently framed as crucial for many seniors’ physical, mental, and social wellbeing.
- **Housing and community connection**
 - Some respondents supported co-locating seniors’ housing above community recreation centres (CRCs), designed with accessibility in mind to maintain community connection.

Newcomers, Ethnocultural Groups and Language Access

- **Newcomers’ use of facilities**
 - Newcomers were identified as major users of rinks, community centres and parks, and ethnocultural organizations.
 - Many respondents encouraged ongoing partnership and the co-location of services.
 - Some respondents that identified as newcomers requested culturally responsive programming, multi-use spaces, and better access to transit to get to CRCs.
- **Language inclusion**
 - Respondents requested more language options in CRC online communications, signage and forms, including specific languages such as Gujarati.
 - For example, suggestions include a listserv communication for community garden users with translated information in park users’ top preferred languages.

More Public Consultation and Partnerships

- **Meaningful consultation with specific communities**
 - There is a strong appetite for co-design with communities most impacted by new or repurposed facilities. For example, respondents said that “Indigenous, Black,

and equity-deserving community members [should] be consulted when new recreation facilities meant to serve them are being developed.”

- Respondents mentioned specific facilities where pre-consultation before repurposing facilities would be helpful, such as softball diamonds into cricket pitches, golf courses (e.g., Detonia Golf Course) and lawn bowling greens.
- **Role of non-profits and community partners**
 - Multiple comments call for partnerships with:
 - non-profit clubs supporting seniors
 - ethnocultural organizations
 - 2SLGBTQ+ and trans community groups
 - schools and libraries (request for shared gyms, pools and co-located services).

Space Reallocation and Perceived Inequities Between User Groups

- **Opposing the reallocation of space.**
 - Respondents opposed reallocation of certain facilities without consultation (e.g., softball to cricket, golf to other uses, lawn bowling to racket sports).
 - Some saw reallocation as correcting inequities (e.g., having private, expensive golf courses on large areas of land in lower income areas), while others see it as erasing long-standing, diverse community gathering spaces (e.g., softball leagues, lawn bowling clubs with diverse membership).
- **Equity within sports that serve specific community groups**
 - Lawn bowling emerged as an equity issue for:
 - Seniors
 - 2SLGBTQ+ communities (e.g., Toronto Rainbowlers)
 - multigenerational, lower-cost recreation.

Affordability and Fee Structures

- **Sliding scales, subsidies and low-cost access**
 - A high number of respondents proposed more affordable recreation programs by using a sliding-scale or low fees to support lower income residents, while still using modest fees to reduce no-shows. For example, \$2 dollars per session as a subsidized rate for low-income families, and \$5-\$10 dollars per session as the program cost.
- **Prioritizing areas with lower income over higher income areas**
 - A recurring theme was that higher income neighbourhoods are more able to self-provide (e.g., private clubs, condos with amenities), so public funds should be focused on areas with fewer options.

Washrooms

Reliable, Equitable, and Year-Round Access to Public Washrooms

- **Year-round access to washrooms**
 - The strongest and most consistent feedback regarding washrooms is that Toronto does not currently provide the basic level of public washroom access required for residents to safely and comfortably use parks, trails, or recreation facilities.
 - Respondents emphasized that access to washrooms is a foundation of equity, dignity, and public health, particularly for seniors, parents with young children, people with medical conditions, pregnant people, unhoused residents, gastrointestinal disorders, chronic health needs, and those who need access during early morning or evening programming.
 - Respondents noted that private businesses like cafés are restricting bathroom access, increasing the urgency for the City to provide a dependable, public alternative.
 - Many respondents described having to leave parks early or avoid them entirely because washrooms were closed or nonexistent, or because they were opened late and closed too early.
 - Several shared personal experiences of humiliation or frustration:
 - “My child had to relieve herself in the bushes... because the washrooms were locked.”
 - “I can’t use a park if it doesn’t offer year-round restroom facilities.”
 - “This is basic hygiene and equity.”

Equity, Inclusion and Washrooms

- **Request for more individual stalls for increased equitable access**
 - Many respondents highlighted the importance of family-friendly and inclusive washrooms, requesting gender-neutral options, gendered options, and family rooms with private stalls so that children, gender-diverse and trans people, and caregivers feel safe and supported.
 - A few respondents noted that features like auto-flush toilets can scare young children with various developmental and sensory differences.

Consistently Maintained Washroom Facilities

- **Cleanliness and consistent maintenance**
 - Several respondents emphasized that clean washrooms are fundamental to their usefulness.
 - Many commented that even when washrooms exist, they are often dirty, poorly lit, in disrepair, or inconsistently cleaned, creating unsafe or uncomfortable conditions that discourage use. For example, a respondent said, “some facilities are top notch and some you just don’t take your kids to.”
 - Participants requested:
 - predictable cleaning routines
 - day and evening servicing during peak use

- more garbage bins in washrooms
- better lighting for safety after dusk
- quicker repairs when facilities break
- accessible portable washrooms during construction
- **Request for modernized infrastructure in washrooms**
 - Many respondents requested new washrooms to use durable material that hold up to heavy use, better lighting, mirrors, accessible sinks and stalls, and predictable design standards across all new CRCs.
 - Respondents said that recreation cannot be considered fully accessible if washrooms are poorly maintained.

Integrated, Multi-Purpose Support Amenities (Water, Change Rooms, Play, Trails, Pools)

- **Washrooms as interconnected spaces within a broader network of supports for recreation users**
 - Respondents consistently linked washrooms to other essential amenities that together enable inclusive and comfortable recreation.
 - They described washrooms not as standalone spaces but as part of a broader set of supports needed for families, older adults, athletes, trail users and children.
 - Participants requested:
 - Water bottle refill stations alongside washrooms
 - Well-maintained change rooms near pools, beaches, sports facilities, and clubhouses
 - Washrooms at all playgrounds, splash pads, trails, and wading pools
 - Washrooms near dog off-leash areas and sports fields
 - Respondents who identified as parents in particular shared that playgrounds without washrooms are difficult for toilet training children and unsafe when the nearest washroom facility is too far or locked.
 - Trail users, including cyclists and dog walkers, stated that access to reliable washrooms determines which parks they can use and for how long.
 - Outdoor pools were highlighted as a unique challenge: respondents asked for extended pool season hours, winterized change rooms, and washroom access so outdoor programming such as yoga, walking groups and fitness can continue into the fall without requiring new infrastructure.
 - Overall, the theme emphasizes that washrooms are part of a network of public amenities, and gaps in washroom access undermine the usefulness of other recreation spaces.

Social Infrastructure (Unhoused Residents, Equity-Deserving Groups, Families, Seniors)

- **Access to washrooms as a human right**
 - Many respondents framed washroom access as a human rights matter, directly connected to equity and the state of housing precarity for underhoused communities in Toronto.

- Respondents expressed that without reliable access to washrooms, many people, especially unhoused residents, are excluded from public life or treated with suspicion.
- Some participants expressed frustration that current park designs sometimes appear to deter people from resting or taking shelter, describing this as counterproductive and harmful, “it seems like parks are being designed to prevent unhoused people from sleeping in them, which makes them suboptimal for all users.”
- Several comments linked washroom access to the broader housing crisis, noting that without deeply affordable supportive housing, thousands rely on parks for basic survival needs, including hygiene.
 - One respondent wrote a detailed request for 25,000 deeply affordable supportive housing units per year to uphold housing as a human right.

Make it Easier to Locate Open Washrooms

- **Across comments, participants described confusion and frustration when washroom information is unavailable or inconsistent online and on physical signage. They emphasized that clear communication is as important as the physical infrastructure.**
 - Respondents requested:
 - signage showing alternate washrooms during repairs.
 - consistent operating hours displayed at facilities.
 - real-time updates on closures and re-openings.
 - updated City websites and maps.
 - locations of accessible washrooms.
 - clear winter access information.
 - When washrooms close unexpectedly, or hours differ between parks, families, tourists, and seniors reported feeling stranded or forced to leave early.
 - Better communication was seen as an opportunity to restore public trust, reduce complaints, and help people plan their visits.

Washrooms as a Part of Sustainable and Supportive Infrastructure

- **Linking Washrooms to Sustainable and Supportive Services**
 - Respondents expressed that facilities should support environmental sustainability and community well-being in partnership with local organizations.
 - Cycling and mobility supports such as more bike fix-it stations, CAN-Bike training facilities, and bike elevators in ravines (e.g., Trondheim’s Trampe lift).
 - An increase in energy and climate initiatives such as community solar power, bladeless wind turbines, battery storage hubs, and EV bi-directional charging points.
 - Support for new parents and caregivers such as family washrooms and change spaces.

Garbage

Cleanliness and Maintenance Improvements

- **Many respondents emphasized that garbage management must keep pace with facility improvements.**
 - Multiple respondents described parks and public areas as unmanaged, and full of litter.
 - There were many calls for more garbage bins, especially in high-use or high-density neighbourhoods. For example, a respondent said, “add more garbage bins in Dentonia Park... Stan Wadlow has bins every few feet while Dentonia Park has very few.”
 - Respondents requested better quality, animal proof, larger waste bins, especially near picnic and BBQ areas.
 - Respondents noted that the lack of garbage maintenance sometimes results in safety concerns such as broken glass and debris near playgrounds and splashpads.
- **Community stewardship of garbage.**
 - Some respondents proposed that the City build partnerships with volunteer groups to maintain parks with routine litter pick up.

Co-location at Community Recreation Centres

Strong Interest for Co-location and Community Hubs

- **Creating spaces with centralized, multiple services**
 - Many respondents appreciated co-location because it creates centralized hubs with multiple services in one place, reducing travel time and making daily life more convenient. One respondent commented, “Canoe Landing is an incredible example with a library, rec centre, playground, all together. Build more like this.”
 - Respondents also strongly support co-location when it enhances service quality, promotes intergenerational use, supports seniors, and offers community gathering spaces. Respondents noted that, “co-locating with schools and seniors’ programs makes absolute sense, these are natural community anchors.”
 - Respondents want facilities to be large enough to accommodate multiple uses. For instance, “if you combine a library and rec centre, the building must be bigger, not smaller.”
 - A respondent cited Montreal as a good jurisdictional example for co-location, “housing on top of community centres is brilliant. Also, taking inspiration from Montreal. There is so much lovely architecture and public furniture that pulls people out of their homes and into city life as fellow citizens. Movie nights in the park, picnics, more free music in open amphitheatres in parks, collaborating with young, niche curators, party promoters, artists and musicians. Toronto is thriving underground, but that could come more into city culture.”
 - A recurring sentiment was the need for clear accountability, staff support, and thoughtful operational planning if recreation sites host multiple service types.
- **Positive equity impacts of co-location**

- Respondents recommended that the City should prioritize investments in low-income, newcomer, racialized, and high-need areas where recreation access is limited.
- A few respondents recommended employment services and on-site social work at recreational centres, specifically for youth to support.
- Many saw recreation centres as potential climate resilience hubs, offering cooling, safe indoor gathering spaces, and year-round programming.

Concerns Regarding Co-location

- **Noise and deterioration of facilities**
 - Some respondents expressed concern about noise conflicts, incompatible uses, and erosion of facility quality if co-location is not thoughtfully planned.
 - For example, a respondent expressed, “a basketball court under a library is not going to work. The noise alone ruins the point of a library” and “not everything belongs in the same building. Sometimes proximity is enough. You don’t need to merge everything.”
- **Culturally relevant and community focused programming in co-location spaces**
 - Many respondents suggested making libraries more hands-on by offering sewing machines, repair workshops, tools, and maker activities.
 - A respondent claimed, “libraries could have sewing machines like the Textile Museum, let people make things together.”
 - Some community organizations expressed readiness to partner with the City to deliver equitable programming. For example, “VWAT Family Services welcomes this plan. We want to partner to activate underused spaces and support newcomer families.”
- **Equity considerations regarding co-location**
 - From an equity perspective, some respondents emphasized that co-location must not lead to fewer facilities in some neighbourhoods or create large multi-service hubs that result in service gaps elsewhere.
 - Participants consistently asked for ongoing engagement with local community to ensure co-located facilities reflect community needs.
 - Respondents expressed safety concerns when increasing the amount of recreation users and requested effective operations and security in place.

Co-location and Housing

- **Strong support for combining housing and recreation centres**
 - Many respondents supported combining housing with recreation centres because it contributes to density, maximizes land use, and directly benefits people who need recreation access most. Respondents said, “housing on top of community centres is brilliant, we need more of it”
- **Equity-oriented solution to more affordable housing**
 - Supportive respondents often framed this model as a strategic, equity-oriented solution that connects lower income residents with local recreation opportunities.
 - A respondent commented, “living above a rec centre would change my life, especially on ODSP, where I can’t afford long commutes.”

- Many people emphasized that any housing built above CRCs must be deeply affordable, family-sized, good quality, and publicly owned.
- **Opposition to combining housing and recreation centres**
 - Some respondents offered strong opposition due to concerns related to safety, noise, and risk management.
 - Respondents were concerned that co-location with housing will create parking, crowding, and safety pressures and complicate how recreation spaces operate. For instance, a participant said, “we already have limited parking. Adding housing will make it harder, especially in high-demand areas.”

Co-location and Food Access

- **Food as part of a complete recreation experience**
 - Several respondents requested food services in community recreation centres.
 - Examples requested include cafés, snack bars, and food services integrated into facilities to support longer visits and social life. A respondent claimed, “food services directly available to the public should be included in this plan... this could also generate revenue.”
 - A few respondents mentioned creative partnerships with local chefs and restaurants, tech companies, and community groups.
- **Healthy, sustainable, and culturally inclusive food.**
 - Some respondents want clear healthy-eating guidelines and a shift away from junk food, with a shift away from vending machines with pop, chips and candy bars.
 - A few respondents suggested offering plant-based foods for sustainability, allergy reduction, religious and cultural accommodations.
 - Respondents recommended having themed events involving food, games and music, “Get music and food involved, make it super social.”
- **Community gardens and greenhouses as multi-benefit assets**
 - Respondents expressed strong support for more community gardens, especially in the downtown core, for food, learning, and social connection.
 - Some respondents highlighted mismanagement and inequities in current garden systems (e.g., Greenwood Park, Cherry Beach and Riverlea Greenhouse) mentioning, “only gardeners from one community are grandfathered and others, including equity-deserving groups, are restricted.”
 - Respondents suggested to add greenhouses connected to pools for energy efficiency and year-round learning; “Add greenhouses to learn about hydroponics, vertical farming and to alleviate SAD in winter.”
- **Food banks and social services**
 - Some respondents saw food banks and food security hubs as necessary and a good idea for co-location in community recreation centres.
 - Other respondents strongly opposed co-locating food services and food banks in recreation centres due to noise concerns.

Affordable Recreation

Affordable, Accessible Recreation for Lower Income Communities

- **More low-cost, inclusive facilities such as pools, fitness spaces, and playgrounds.**
 - Respondents emphasized that affordable recreation is foundational, especially in a rapidly warming climate and a City where affordability can be a challenge. A respondent noted, “climate change is giving us more warmer days and pools can help the population cool down.”
 - There is strong demand for free or low-cost swimming opportunities, especially for lane swim and children’s lessons.

Prioritize Neighbourhoods with Socio-economic Need

- **Respondents called for a redistribution of investment toward neighbourhoods with the greatest socioeconomic need**
 - Respondents suggested that lower income families without condo amenities rely more heavily on City recreation, making local access essential.

Free or Subsidized Access

- **Respondents strongly recommended free or subsidized access to recreation programs for seniors, newcomers, people with disabilities and non-profits partner with the City to deliver programming.**
 - Respondents suggested to expand free seniors’ programming, especially local, drop-in, and daytime, “seniors shouldn’t have to travel far for a free fitness class... every community centre should offer it.”
 - Many respondents noted the barriers created by facility rental fees and permits, especially for community groups and non-profits, “Non-profits who serve Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving groups and seniors can’t afford the high cost of facilities.”
- **Cost and fee structures are major barriers to participation.**
 - Numerous respondents highlighted registration fees, permit fees, and program fees as barriers to participating in recreation programs.
 - Respondents also asked for more free recreation, especially for swimming, fitness, and activities for children.

Strengthen City and School Partnerships

- **Many respondents noted reduced access to school gyms, pools, and auditoriums due to rising permit fees and poor coordination.**
 - Respondents requested earlier notification if their school bookings are approved.
 - Respondents suggested a program that subsidizes permitting fees for recreation programs or neighbourhoods that serve non-profits and residents that cannot afford to participate due to increased permit fees.

Social Infrastructure and Community Stewardship

- **Respondents noted that recreation can foster feelings of belonging and increase healthy behaviour.**
 - Respondents described recreation as a public safety tool, providing healthy ways for youth to stay busy and socialize, “Teens in South Etobicoke hang out outside schools... we need indoor spaces for basketball, ping pong, or a teen DJ night.”
 - Many respondents called for more partnerships with community groups, especially those serving seniors, newcomers, youth, and lower income residents.

Community Gathering

Community Gathering Spaces and Social Belonging

- **Community centres were described as the pride of neighbourhood and essential in places with few public spaces.**
 - Respondents requested more indoor and outdoor gathering areas like squares, gardens, and fountains to build community life.
 - Many respondents advocated for community hubs serving all ages and abilities, such as spaces combining recreation, health supports, meeting rooms, and drop-in areas.
 - Respondents emphasized non-sport programming such as book clubs, music nights, social tea time, and community picnics, noting that these build a sense of belonging.
 - A respondent said that the Weston community example shows support for repurposing when aligned with community need, “MLSE’s new plan is welcomed because it benefits thousands, unlike the hockey-focused model serving “a small number.”

Social Programming and Culture in Parks

- **People want more cultural activation, such as movie nights, music, youth-curated events, and arts brought into recreation spaces.**
 - Suggestions included food carts, small cafés, ice cream stands, and public furniture.
 - Seniors requested indoor or cleared winter walking programs as effective
 - Many respondents desired spaces that combine light physical activity with social connections were ways for seniors to socialize year-round, “Access to safe, year-round activities... combined with having a cup of tea with others.”

Lawn Bowling

Support for maintaining lawn bowling facilities

There were numerous respondents that advocated for maintaining and growing lawn bowling facilities and clubs in Toronto due to the high level of physical and mental accessibility it provides for all ages, and specifically the aging seniors population.

- **Growing and Multigenerational Participation**

- Respondents described lawn bowling as a thriving, multigenerational sport with increasing interest among both younger players and seniors.
- Some clubs are experiencing growth in membership due to its accessible nature for all ages. Clubs frequently noted included:
 - Toronto West Lawn Bowling Club
 - Kew Beach Lawn Bowling Club
 - Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club
 - Etobicoke Lawn Bowling Club
 - Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club
- **Importance for Seniors, Accessibility, and Social Well-Being**
 - Respondents emphasized that lawn bowling provides low-cost, low-impact physical activity for an aging population, helping reduce isolation and supporting social connection.
 - For instance, a respondent shared, “The Golden Girls is a league of about 90 senior women that travel and play weekly at various lawn bowling clubs in Toronto. For most of these women, it is the only physical activity that they have.”
 - Respondents were unsupportive of removing lawn bowling facilities due to how accessible the sport is for seniors and the communal culture it drives.
- **Value of Year-Round and Multi-Season Use**
 - Clubs that can operate year-round, such as those with indoor short-mat bowling, were suggested as potentially viable well-positioned to serve increasing demand.
- **City Support, Promotion, and Investment Needs**
 - There is strong support for City-led efforts to promote the sport, help clubs reach new demographics, and invest in improved, more accessible facilities that increase use and long-term sustainability.
 - A respondent noted, “COVID took a toll on Lawn bowling clubs. Lower membership affected ability to maintain. City needs to step up to invest in maintenance. It is the most accessible sport.”
- **Data-Driven Decisions About Club Viability**
 - Many respondents called for a transparent public consultation process to evaluate which clubs are growing, which require investment, and which have unique constraints that limit repurposing.

Opposition for maintaining lawn bowling facilities at Lawrence Park

While there was very strong advocacy for maintaining lawn bowling facilities and clubs due to the accessible and communal nature, several respondents specifically shared feedback regarding the underuse of lawn bowling facilities at Alexander Muir Park and how it might be rebalanced to better meet community needs.

- **High Demand and Significant Waitlists for Tennis**
 - Participants shared that the Lawrence Park Tennis Club’s three courts serve approximately 700 active members and face an exceptionally high waitlist of about 1,900 people. Courts are consistently at capacity, limiting access for both members and casual players.
- **Perceived Underutilization of the Lawn Bowling and Croquet Area**
 - Many noted that the lawn bowling and croquet areas are approximately twice the size of the tennis courts, but serve only ~40 members and are often unused during peak park hours.
 - Several respondents reference usage studies or personal observations of inactivity. For example, “It took me 2 years to get off the waiting list to get in and it’s even deeper now. Some expansion in partnership with the lawn bowling club could be a good response, though I don’t know if they require their full space. I think they could do with less and repurpose to tennis.”
- **Recommendations to Reallocate a Portion of Lawn Bowling Space for Tennis Courts**
 - A strong subset of comments advocate converting part of the croquet or lawn bowling area into two to three additional tennis courts, arguing that this would better match demonstrated demand while still preserving space for existing lawn bowling members.
- **Support for Balanced Land Use That Reflects Community Interest**
 - Some emphasize that Parks and Recreation should explore aligning facilities with participation trends, suggesting increasing tennis capacity while maintaining a scaled-down but functional lawn bowling footprint.

Pickleball

High Demand for Pickleball and the Need for Purpose-Built Multi-Court Sites

- **A high quantity of respondents identified pickleball as a fast-growing, high-demand sport that lacks the infrastructure required to support its steep rise in popularity.**
 - Many respondents described routinely encountering long waits, overcrowded spaces, and insufficient or improvised courts. Respondents commented, “everyone is playing pickleball,” and “you can’t get a spot anywhere, courts are always full.”
 - Respondents consistently recommended that the City should shift from small-scale solutions to dedicated, intentionally designed pickleball complexes, ideally with four or more courts per location to support group rotation, social play, and league formats.

- Participants emphasized that pickleball is a social, group-based sport, often involving dozens of players rotating through courts, which makes single-court conversions ineffective.

Improvised or Insufficient Surfaces Are Causing Injuries

- There is strong concern from respondents that the City is relying too heavily on temporary conversions, especially on concrete hockey rinks, outdoor ice pads, and slippery gym floors, all of which pose injury risks. Respondents said, “the cement surfaces are brutal on seniors’ joints,” and “gym floors are so slippery people are falling.”
- Several respondents shared that they have witnessed or experienced injuries directly attributable to poor surfaces, including falls and fractures, particularly amongst older adults.
- Many respondents noted that these surfaces also retain water, ice, or condensation, creating “slick, dangerous conditions” after rainfall unless manually dried by players.
 - “It takes days to dry after rain unless players clear the water themselves.”

Conflicting Priorities Between Tennis and Pickleball Players

- **Line painting as an ineffective solution**
 - Many respondents stressed that painting pickleball lines onto tennis courts is creating significant user conflict, lowering the quality of both sports, and failing to meet the needs of either group.
 - They explained that nets are fixed at tennis height and unsuitable for pickleball, leaving players with a substandard experience, “the nets are too high, it ruins the game.”
- **Underused tennis courts**
 - Many respondents believed that tennis courts are often underused in comparison, suggesting pickleball players are now outnumbering tennis players and do not have dedicated spaces to play.

Noise, Neighbourhood Compatibility and Proper Court Placement

- **Noise emerged as a significant concern, particularly for pickleball courts near residential areas**
 - Respondents mentioned sharp, repetitive sounds of the paddles and balls heard while in their home.
 - Some respondents feared that late-night play or courts located near residential homes will generate complaints and place stress on community relations.

Court Quality Improvements

- **Many tennis and pickleball players emphasized the need for higher-quality infrastructure**
 - Many respondents recommended resurfaced courts, improved drainage, replacement of cracked or uneven playing surfaces, and accessible pathways. A respondent commented, “the surface dries so slowly, so seniors shouldn’t be clearing water themselves.”

- Lighting was highlighted as a major gap, with several neighbourhood tennis courts needing significant upgrades to enable safe evening play. A respondent mentioned a specific club in need of upgrade, “Guildwood Tennis Club needs a major lighting overhaul. It’s unusable at night.”
- Respondents also want amenities like fencing, designated walkways, ball barriers, and safe seating areas for spectators and pickleball players.

Overcrowding and Scheduling Challenges

- **Respondents claimed that court time is stretched thin, with many activities fully booked or overcrowded.**
 - This includes not only pickleball but also lane swimming and other recreation programs.
 - For example, a respondent mentioned, “the pickleball program was fully booked months ago.”
- **Request for designated hours**
 - Some respondents called for designated seniors’ hours, structured club play windows, and scheduling approaches that balance club access with open public time.
 - Specifically, respondents requested senior-specific court time, “we need more seniors’ hours for court time, including in peak times.”

Desire for Multi-Use Sport Spaces

- **Some respondents highlighted opportunities to build facilities that are multi-use and serve a wide range of racket sports, including tennis, pickleball, badminton, and table tennis.**
- These reflect a broader desire across survey respondents for low-barrier, social, community-oriented activities across the city.

Requests for Investment in Pickleball Courts in Specific Neighbourhoods

- Several respondents identified local need for more pickleball courts.
 - Respondents called for targeted investment in neighbourhoods where demand far exceeds supply. For example:
 - “Ward 9 needs dedicated pickleball courts.”
 - “South Etobicoke courts are always packed, we need more.”

Pools

Strong Demand for More Pools

- **Some residents expressed an urgent need for more swimming pools of every type, explaining that current supply is dramatically outpaced by demand across the city.**
- **Overcrowding, long waits and lack of availability**
 - Many respondents described their local pools as “chronically overcrowded”, with lessons and lane swims filling instantly, often months in advance.

- Families worried that limited spaces mean children are missing essential lessons and physical activity.
- Residents in high-growth areas (Yonge and Eglinton, Queen and Church, and the Downtown core) highlighted that major condo growth has not been matched by new pool construction, creating significant service gaps.
- **Calls for more outdoor pools to respond to extreme heat**
 - Outdoor pools were described as essential cooling infrastructure during increasingly severe summer heat.
 - Some respondents asked for late-night or midnight swim hours, explaining that outdoor pools become most usable after sunset during heat waves.
 - Others recommended improving and modernizing older pools, many of which were described as “outdated” with aging decks, mechanical systems, and changerooms.
- **Expanding indoor pool capacity for year-round access**
 - Indoor pools were repeatedly described by respondents as vital, especially for residents with mobility limitations, seniors, families with young children, and those who cannot travel far.
 - Some respondents emphasized the need for more 50m training pools, more leisure pools, and more small neighbourhood indoor pools to spread capacity equitably.
- **Reopening and co-managing school pools**
 - Many respondents questioned why Toronto District School Board pools remain closed during evenings and weekends, despite being located in highly accessible neighbourhoods.
 - Respondents viewed school pools as a cost-effective way to address demand and reduce overcrowding in municipal facilities.

Pools Support Climate Resilience and Public Health

- **Some respondents framed pools not just as recreation amenities, but as essential city infrastructure that support health, safety, cooling, equity, and community belonging.**
 - Participants emphasized that climate change makes pools necessary for public health, particularly for people who cannot afford air conditioning.
 - Some suggested 24-hour operation during heat events, citing shift workers, unhoused residents, and those in overcrowded apartments as needing off-peak access.
- **Swimming as a low-barrier form of exercise**
 - Respondents frequently noted that swimming is very accessible to people with disabilities, children, seniors, and lower income families, “swimming offers the best exercise for the elderly and a sense of community.”
 - Many respondents called for free swimming lessons, describing this as a matter of safety, equity, and public good.
 - Requests were made for pools near new transit lines, mixed-income housing developments, and areas with high concentrations of children.

Many respondents noted that downtown needs significantly more pools given its density.

Improving Pool Operations: Hours, Staffing and Modernization

- **Longer hours and flexible scheduling**
 - Numerous respondents requested extended evening hours, earlier morning access, weekend hours, and flexible scheduling to accommodate shift workers and families.
 - Many respondents said that limited scheduling creates artificial scarcity, making pools feel overcrowded even when capacity could be expanded with improved hours.
- **Staffing constraints**
 - Respondents requested more lifeguards on staff and mentioned that increasing hours and opening more facilities will require greater investment in staffing.
 - Some respondents worried that without sufficient staff, expanding services would not be feasible.
- **Modernizing aging pools and upgrading infrastructure**
 - Many pools were described as outdated, poorly maintained, or lacking amenities such as accessible changerooms, clean washrooms, or proper seating.
 - Suggestions included updating filtration systems and ensuring new pools serve both recreational and competitive needs.
- **Partnerships with schools for shared pool access**
 - Respondents mentioned operational suggestions, such as:
 - Hiring two security guards per high school to enable weekend openings.
 - Creating City–school board agreements for after-hours access.
 - Respondents viewed these ideas as achievable, high-impact strategies for increased and quick capacity for pool access.

Wading Pools

- **Strong support for wading pools, water play, and multi-age playgrounds**
 - Respondents strongly supported wading pools, claiming they remain extremely popular and should be kept or expanded.
 - Parents frequently described wading pools as irreplaceable for early childhood water confidence, cooling, and family recreation. One respondent said, “kids really love them... my daughter saw a wading pool for the first time and fell in love.”
- **Respondents frequently requested to design wading pools for multi-season use and better operation.**
 - Multiple respondents suggested rethinking wading pools so they can become functional in winter as skate parks or winter-sport pads.
- **Respondents requested to improve splash pad and water play quality.**
 - Issues mentioned by respondents include algae, slippery surfaces, inconsistent water pressure, and lack of accessibility, “the splash pad at Wellesley Park is covered in algae and slippery.”
- **Some respondents opposed repurposing wading pools and lawn bowling greens when they remain well used.**

- **Residents said that operational improvements are needed for wading pools such as staff training, rules, and programming.**
 - Residents observe inconsistent staffing practices at wading pools such as staff on their personal cell phones during shift times.
 - Requests include fixing ventilation in indoor spaces, addressing unsafe floors, adding swings, improving programming schedules, and building community centres with outdoor pools in underserved areas.

Splash Pads

- **Improve splash pads and year-round water play design.**
 - Respondents communicated a demand for more splash pads, especially in hotter summers.
- **Requests for better designs for splash pads.**
 - Less plastic infrastructure and more natural, integrated water features that look good year-round
 - *“Plastic structures become plastic graveyards for months.”*
- **Strong interest in multi-season water spaces.**
 - Ideas to convert wading pools or splash pads into winter play areas or skate spots.

Improve Seasonal Hours and Adapt to Longer Summers

- **Respondents highly requested to extend pool and splash pad seasons, opening earlier and closing later.**
- **Respondents specifically requested a need for:**
 - Weekend swimming lessons.
 - Adapted and accessible swim times.
 - More indoor recreation options for long winters.
 - Repairing water pressure issues (e.g., Dentonia splash pad).
 - Fixing slippery surfaces.
 - Mitigating garbage accumulation and smoking around splash pads.

Soccer

Permitting Systems for Soccer Fields

- **Stadiums locked to the public.**
 - Some respondents expressed strong frustration that many stadiums sit underused, locked, and inaccessible outside of permitted hours. Joe Piccininni Stadium was mentioned as a positive example that is open for community use when not booked.
 - There is a call for all stadiums to adopt similar open-access practices.
 - Respondents mentioned that more accountability and monitoring by City staff should occur to track and re-allocate fields when they are booked but not in use. One respondent suggested a permitting review of soccer fields and improving booking transparency.
- **Block-booking and monopolization by youth clubs.**

- Respondents consistently mentioned the belief that youth soccer clubs monopolize fields, booking a year in advance and holding unused time slots.
- Respondents note that monopolizing the permit time leaves less space for:
 - Walking soccer clubs
 - Adult or co-ed recreation
 - Older adult programs

Walking Soccer

- **Respondents strongly advocated for more walking soccer facility space and time.**
 - Walking soccer was described by many participants as one of the fastest-growing sports globally for older adults, with Toronto having Canada’s largest club.
 - Respondents who participate in walking soccer requested more access to prime-time booking hours on evenings and weekends as well as year-round access by increasing the amount of multi-purpose indoor turf pitches.

Skateboards, BMX, Scooters and e-Bikes

Strong Demand for Year-Round, Inclusive Skateboarding, BMX, Scooter and Pump-Track Facilities

- **Many respondents requested to build more paved, all-season pump tracks and multi-use action-sport areas.**
 - Some respondents called for paved pump tracks that support skateboards, scooters, BMX, and snow-based winter play.
 - These facilities were seen by respondents as multi-generational, welcoming beginners, families, and older adults.
 - Several respondents referenced successful models such as Cornwall Road Sports Park in Oakville or international examples in Japan.
- **Build more beginner-friendly skateparks and avoid modular designs.**
 - Respondents shared strong criticism of modular skatepark builds because they are seen as unsafe, unusable, or poorly designed.
 - Respondents requested facilities that serve all skill levels including:
 - Beginner parks.
 - Transition/bowl-style parks (Olympic discipline training).
 - Mini-bowls and all-ages terrain.
- **Indoor or covered skate and bike facilities for winter**
 - There was widespread recognition from participants that Toronto lacks public indoor skateparks.
 - Respondents suggested indoor skateparks, temporary seasonal skateparks, and repurposing arenas (with reference to Fredricton’s indoor skatepark conversion).

Ensure meaningful consultation with skateboarders & local experts

- Respondents strongly recommended the City to consult skateboarders and local designers early.

- One respondent explicitly offers professional experience and design support for Riverlea Park.

Ice Facilities

Outdoor Ice Rinks

- **Strong concerns about geographic inequity and unmet need in Scarborough, Weston, and other communities.**
 - Respondents frequently described outdoor rink access as uneven across the city, with some neighbourhoods having none, aging, unusable rinks, while others have multiple maintained rinks.
- **Respondents requested to protect and enhance existing outdoor boarded rinks.**
 - Some residents express alarm that new parks, like Wallace Emerson, are eliminating outdoor boards entirely.
- **Respondents expressed a desire for larger, more functional outdoor rinks.**
 - Respondents want outdoor rinks that support multiple activities such as casual skating to hockey, with safe boards and adequate size.
 - Respondents noted that outdoor rinks must be safe, accessible, and well maintained.
 - Comments pointed to maintenance issues, limited season length, and poor-quality ice that becomes unusable early or late in the season.

Indoor Ice Rinks

- **Many respondents stated that there is a city-wide shortage of indoor ice time, especially downtown.**
 - Respondents said that indoor rinks are oversubscribed, with no availability for non-hockey users, and insufficient space after aging facilities closed.
- **Need for more multi-pad, modern arenas to meet a variety of ice needs.**
 - Respondents suggested replacing older, inefficient rinks with four-pad arena complexes that maximize ice time and allow shared community use.
 - Some respondents suggested replacing indoor ice time for non-hockey uses (ringette, ice dance, and leisure skating).
 - Many sports and casual users find they have almost no access under the current model. For example, ringette users commented, “There is no space left for ringette, ice dance, or adults who want to skate, everything is hockey.”
- **Year-round indoor skating options are needed.**
 - Respondents would like a few indoor rinks kept operational in spring and summer for leisure skating and non-competitive uses.
 - *“Kids want to skate all year. It’s not fair that only private arenas provide summer access.”*

Equitable Access to Ice Rinks

- **Respondents describe clubs booking season-long ice rink slots they often do not fully use, preventing seniors, adults, newcomers, and casual groups from accessing public facilities.**
 - A respondent commented, “youth clubs block-book the fields and rinks and don’t use all the time—they prevent others from accessing space.”
- **Need for transparent, flexible, equity-based allocation of ice time.**
 - Respondents called on the City to monitor actual usage, ensure unused time is returned to the system, and create a permitting model that balances youth, adult, senior, and accessible programs, “permits need to ensure fair access while still leaving lots of time for general public skating or drop-ins.”
- **Recommendation for free and easily accessible skating.**
 - A respondent recommended more free outdoor skating with easy access to transit, “the East end is severely lacking free outdoor skating as it is all used for kids’ hockey so there is little recreational skating. Building with or near new condos is a great idea and building near transit is ideal.”
- **Prioritize seniors, people with disabilities, newcomers, and underserved communities.**
 - Respondents highlighted a significant need for programming and access for people with physical or developmental disabilities.
 - Accessible rink design, adaptive skating opportunities, and barrier-free entry were highlighted as essential, “I hope accessibility for wheelchair users and people with developmental disabilities is prioritized.”
- **Rinks are vital community spaces for newcomers.**
 - Multiple respondents note that newly arrived residents frequently rely on rinks and community centres for social connection.
- **Seniors called for safe, healthy surfaces and age-friendly design.**
 - Pickleball-on-rinks conversion, cracked concrete, and inaccessible surfaces raise safety concerns for older adults.

Improve Design and Maintenance of Ice Rinks

- **Repurposed ice rinks (e.g., for pickleball) often have unsafe or poor-quality surfaces.**
 - Skate trails and poorly designed rinks are viewed as ineffective. Many respondents said that the skate trail loop is too narrow, too short, or impractical for practice.
 - Respondents recommended rebuilding, expanding, or upgrading key facilities to meet long-term demand.
 - Respondents expressed frustration with long construction timelines for rink improvements, “The rebuild of Birchmount rink has been going on too long—we need it for skating.”
 - A few respondents suggested partnering with private-sector developers to build rinks in exchange for housing on-site.

Curling Rinks

- **Respondents expressed that rinks have declined sharply and are now needed by users citywide.**

- Respondents consistently described the loss of curling facilities as a long-term systemic challenge that has left Toronto without adequate access, especially in the West end / Etobicoke. A respondent said, “Over the past 40 years the number of curling rinks in Toronto has sharply declined. The remaining rinks are becoming overextended.”
- **Curling is affordable, accessible, and inclusive for all ages and abilities.**
 - Respondents highlighted curling as an inclusive, lifelong, Olympic-recognized sport that supports intergenerational participation.
 - Respondents described, “Curling is open equally to women, men, and handicapped. It can be played from age 6 to 96” and “it is inexpensive to play and accessible for people with disabilities.”
 - Respondents noted that seniors rely on curling, lawn bowling and swimming to support physical and mental health, social connection, aging in place, and intergenerational community use.
- **Community stewardship and integrated services.**
 - Respondents supported multi-purpose community centres where curling, lawn bowling, libraries, and gardens coexist and reinforce local belonging.
 - Community-run gardens, clubs, and recreation programs are seen as ways to strengthen neighbourhood life and reduce isolation.

Winter Bubbles

Request for More Winter Bubbles

- **More turf fields, domes, and winterized sport spaces.**
 - Respondents expressed a strong desire for all-season fields and courts to address limited winter recreation options.
 - Respondents also note that bubbles extend facility lifespan, “they [winter bubbles] preserve court facilities from temperature fluctuations, reducing the cost of resurfacing.”
 - Respondents requested better winter bubble maintenance.
 - Respondents requested places to buy food within sport bubbles.

Access to Winter Bubbles

- **Unequal access across sports**
 - Lack of domes restrict equitable sharing of these high-demand facilities.

Disc Golf

- **More disc golf opportunities, including the restoration of former layouts.**
 - A respondent specifically mentioned, “add more disc golf courses (i.e., make Ash Bridges Bay an 18-hole course again).”
 - Respondents requested that disc golf be included in future engagements regarding the PRFP.
- **Disc golf as an easily accessible sport.**
 - Respondents highlighted disc golf as a low barrier sport that is free to play.

- In addition, respondents mention that disc golf has been embraced by groups such as the Special Olympics and Queer Disc Golf.

Ball diamonds

- **Converting ball diamonds to cricket pitches.**
 - Some respondents expressed concern about repurposing ball diamonds to cricket pitches claiming that ball diamonds serve diverse ages, genders, and ethnicities.
 - Respondents expressed frustration that ball diamonds appear on the repurpose list as there is a growing demand for ball diamonds.
 - Respondents recommended to review ball diamonds on an individual basis, as some are underused and some have a high demand but require more maintenance for continued use, “some ball diamonds are a waste of space, others are over-booked. Sites need to be reviewed individually.”
 - A few respondents recommended building mini-pitches or combined-use fields rather than large fields that may be unused for their full purpose.
- **Improved maintenance of ball diamonds.**
 - Many respondents said that ball diamonds are poorly maintained leading teams to avoid them and the misconception that they are unused. Specifically, maintenance issues identified were:
 - Non-functional lighting and more lighting for evening play, “Riverdale West diamonds often don’t have working lights.”
 - Flooded fields.
 - A lack of dugout shade or rain covers.
 - Uncut grass in outfields.

Basketball Courts

- **Basketball courts require maintenance and upgrades.**
 - Respondents identified deficiencies in outdoor basketball infrastructure, calling current conditions unacceptable, “Outdoor basketball courts in Toronto are deplorable... cracks, fixing standards, lighting, lines/painting.”
 - Some respondents shared that the City’s past Basketball Plan lacked follow-through, resulting in stagnant or worsening conditions.

Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLAs)

More OLAs

- **Need for more, safer, and better-designed OLAs.**
 - Many respondents described a shortage of OLAs, specifically in Scarborough, Southwest Scarborough and downtown, leading to increased off-leash activity in parks.
 - Several residents report feeling unsafe where there are not OLAs present, especially families with young children.
 - Respondents requested proper OLA fencing and separate small dog OLAs where there is space.

- **Expand dog amenities and supports.**
 - Respondents requested additional dog amenities in OLAs such as fenced-in training areas for reactive dogs, more off-leash dog trails and agility courses.
- **Extend OLA hours.**
 - Respondents suggested extending off-leash hours beyond sunset and earlier on weekday mornings.

Improve OLAs

- **Respondents note that there is a widespread lack of enforcement in OLAs creating safety issues for park users.**
 - Many respondents frequently described bylaw non-compliance and the absence of enforcement as the core issue, rather than the presence of OLAs themselves.
 - Respondents note that off-leash activity spills outside of OLAs and creates safety challenges for parents with children. A respondent said, “Children have to defend against dogs that are ‘just really friendly’ as they jump on children half their size.”
- **Respondents requested to improve OLA infrastructure.**
 - Many respondents requested improvements to OLA fencing, surfacing and safety design.
 - A respondent preferred OLAs with turf rather than mulch.

Fewer OLAs

- **Many respondents requested to reduce the expansion of OLAs and develop more park space for children, youth and general recreation.**
 - A respondent noted that OLAs should specifically not be in small parks as they take up a disproportionate amount of space compared to the user groups of the park.
 - Respondents suggested more areas for children and youth to gather, play, explore and learn citing models such as Biidaasige Park, Kew Gardens, Stan Wadlow and Evergreen Children’s Garden.
- **Lack of OLA enforcement.**
 - Several respondents identified unleashed dogs outside of OLAs as a common challenge, making parks feel unsafe and inaccessible.
 - Dogs outside of OLAs often cause pet waste left on park grounds.
 - A respondent mentioned that dogs outside of OLAs can also scare and threaten wildlife.

Next Steps

All feedback collected through community engagement Phase 2 will be summarized. This information will be used to inform the development of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan emerging directions.

Appendix A

Survey Participant Demographics and Information

The approximate number of responses for each question is identified by “N”.

Who completed the survey (N 3.4k)

- Toronto resident (Individual) 56%
- Whole household (i.e. including experiences of child(ren), spouse or other family members) 37%
- Representative of a group/organization 7%

Postal codes of participants (N 3.6 k)

- Downtown Core 40.5%
- Toronto East York 27.2%
- Etobicoke–York 10.9%
- Scarborough 10.3%
- North York 10.1%
- Outside of Toronto <1%

Organizations that completed the survey

- Agincourt Lawn Bowling Club
- Associated Hebrew School
- Balmy Beach Club
- Balmy Beach Lawn Bowling Club
- Beeton Lawn Bowling
- Chabad on the Avenue
- Cheer Day Care Centre of Scarborough
- Community Informative
- Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club
- Etobicoke Girls Softball League
- Etobicoke Lawn Bowling Club
- Etobicoke Pickleball Association
- Friends of Guild Park
- Gerrard India Bazaar BIA
- Get Active 'N Play
- Golden Girls Lawn Bowling League

- Guildwood Tennis Club
- Harmony Place Support Services
- Hogtown Roller Derby
- Horizons for Youth
- Kastner Ko LLP
- Kew Beach Lawn Bowling Club
- KPMG
- Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club
- Lawrence Park Tennis Club
- Leaside Baseball Association
- Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre
- Mimico by the Lake BIA
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Neighbours Community Homes
- New Toronto Lawn Bowling Club
- Newmarket Lawn Bowling Club
- Santis Health Inc.
- Scarborough Sharks Girls Hockey Association
- South Asian Women's & Immigrants' Services Inc
- Stonegate Community Health Centre
- SUNSHINE BOYS Lawn Bowling League
- TELCCS
- Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee
- Timbercreek Capital
- Toronto E-Riders
- VWAT Family Services
- Wells Hill Lawn Bowling Club
- West End Curling Committee
- West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre
- West Toronto Lawn Bowling Club
- West Toronto Junction Historical Society
- Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club
- Willowdale Lawn Club
- York–Weston Tennis Club

Age of the person filling out this survey

(N1.9k)

- 5 to 12 years old <1%
- 13 to 18 years old <1%
- 19 to 29 years old 6%
- 30 to 39 years old 17%
- 40 to 55 years old 28%

- 56 to 64 years old 14%
- 65 to 74 years old 18%
- 75 years old or above 10%
- Prefer not to answer 8%

Number of people of each age group who participated in this survey (excluding main respondent)

(N1.9k)

- 0 to 12 years old 295
- 13 to 18 years old 132
- 19 to 29 years old 150
- 30 to 39 years old 225
- 40 to 55 years old 365
- 56 to 64 years old 172
- 65 to 74 years old 233
- 75 years old or above 122

Preferred Language

(N 1.9k)

- English 95%
- French 1%
- Prefer not to answer 1%
- Spanish 1%
- Chinese – Mandarin <1%

Not listed. Please describe <1%

- Bengali <1%
- Chinese – Cantonese <1%
- Albanian <1%
- Greek <1%
- Gujarati <1%
- Hungarian <1%
- Indigenous – Other <1%
- Ukrainian <1%
- Amharic 0%
- Arabic 0%
- Farsi 0%
- Indigenous – Oji-Cree 0%
- Korean 0%
- Portuguese 0%

Languages described

(N 7)

- German
- Dutch
- Gaelic
- Hebrew
- Bosnian

Respondents who identify as Indigenous, First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, or Métis

(N 1.9k)

- Yes 2%
- No 87%
- Prefer not to answer 11%

Respondents' race/racial background

(N 1.9k)

- Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish) 1%
- Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean) 2%
- East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean) 6%
- First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis 1%
- Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian) 3%
- South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan) 4%
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese) 2%
- More than one race category or mixed race 3%
- Not listed. Please describe 2%
- Prefer not to answer 19%

Race/racial background described

(N 100)

- English and Guyanese
- White Indonesian
- White and Black
- White and Latin American
- White and Mexican
- Jewish
- South Asian and White
- Filipino and White
- Bengali

- Canadian
- White and Caribbean
- Jewish
- Middle Eastern and Jewish Middle Eastern
- White and Asian
- Bangladeshi
- Mixed South Asian
- French
- Native, Indigenous and Dutch, Canadian
- Indigenous from another country
- Canadien Français
- Tibetan
- Irish, British and German
- South American
- Onondaga Nation mixed with Asian Indian Sindhi
- Irish and Scottish
- Black, White and Spanish
- Indo-Guyanese and Portuguese-Guyanese
- White and Latin-American
- White and Arabic
- Middle Eastern or West Asian
- Chinese and European

Respondents who identify as a person with a disability

(N1.9k)

- Yes 16%
- No 69%
- Don't know 1%
- Prefer not to answer 14%

Households that include a person with a disability (excluding the main respondent)

(N1.9k)

- Yes 13%
- No 72%
- Don't know 1%
- Prefer not to answer 14%

Respondents' gender identity

(N 1.9k)

- Woman 57%
- Man 27%

- Trans 1%
- Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous) 2%
- Two-Spirit <1%
- Not listed <1%
- Prefer not to answer 14%

Gender identity described

(N 9)

- Two-Spirit, non-binary
- Queer (male)
- Transgender

Respondents' sexual orientation

(N 1.9k)

- Heterosexual or straight 63%
- Bisexual 5%
- Gay 2%
- Lesbian 1%
- Queer 3%
- Two-Spirit <1%
- Don't know 1%
- Not listed 1%
- Prefer not to answer 24%

Sexual orientation described

(N 23)

- Asexual
- Questioning
- Pansexual

Respondents' current housing situation

(N 1.9k)

- Home owner 60%
- Renting 23%
- Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s) 4%
- Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address) <1%
- Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite) <1%
- Prefer not to answer 13%
- Not listed 1%

Respondents' current access to outdoor space

(N 1.8k)

- I have access to private outdoor space like a yard 65%
- I have access to private outdoor space like a balcony 16%
- I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space 8%
- I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space) 13%
- Prefer not to answer 6%

Housing situation described

(N 11)

- Renting in subsidized Toronto community housing
- Co-operative housing
- Condo
- Life lease in retirement community
- Housing co-op
- Rent-geared-to-income participant

Respondents' household income before tax

(N 1.9k)

- 0 - \$29,999 3%
- \$30,000-\$49,999 4%
- \$50,000-\$69,999 6%
- \$70,000-\$99,999 13%
- \$100,000-149,999 14%
- \$150,000 or more 23%
- Don't know 1%
- Prefer not to answer 35%

How respondents found out about the survey

(N 1.9k)

- Ad or post from a City of Toronto social media account 33%
- Word of mouth (including non-City of Toronto social media account) 28%
- Councillor's Office communications 18%
- I don't know/Prefer not to answer 13%
- Email from the project team 9%
- The project webpage 2%