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**Computer audio issues?** Use your phone for audio by calling and enter Join by phone by calling 1-416-915-6530 and enter the meeting number below. Press \*3 to ask a question.  
Press \*6 to mute/unmute.

Meeting number (access code): 2337 698 4189

Meeting password: WAeASMi9m57

# Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)

Virtual Public Meeting 2  
July 16, 2025

# Land Acknowledgement

# African Ancestral Acknowledgement

# Agenda



- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan**
- 3. What We Heard – Phase 1**
- 4. Where We Are Going**
- 5. General Discussion**
- 6. Breakout Rooms**
- 7. Next Steps**
- 8. Adjourn by 8:30 p.m.**

# Meeting Code of Conduct

As a meeting attendee, you agree to:

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

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



# Webex Orientation



**All participants have been muted** for the presentation portion of this meeting.



**Use the chat feature to submit questions or click the hand icon** beside your name from the participants list on the right. (Questions will be answered after the presentation.)



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**A co-host will unmute you during** the discussion sessions to share your input with your discussion group.



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# Project Team

## City of Toronto Parks & Recreation

### **Strategic Project Implementation & Community Engagement**

- Annely Zonena – Interim Director

### Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan Team

- Matt Bentley – Sr. Project Manager
- Alex Lavasidis – Project Officer
- Vanessa Cipriani – Planner

### Community Engagement Unit

- Celina Chong – Sr. Public Consultation Coordinator

## Consulting Teams

### **Monteith Brown Planning Consultants** Technical Consulting Team

- Dennis Kwan – Senior Planner



### **Ridge Road Training and Consulting** Indigenous Communities Engagement Leads



# Who is in the Virtual Room?

**Using the chat, tell us:**

- 1. your name,**
- 2. an organization you represent and/or**
- 3. what topic you're interested in discussing today!**



# Interests mentioned by this group during signup

## Infrastructure & Facility Investment

- Requests for better **facility renewal timelines** (e.g., tennis court fencing, lighting, washrooms)
- Concerns about **community centre closures** (e.g., Main Square, Secord) and **replacement plans**
- Interest in more **padel courts, outdoor pools, and 50m pools**
- Call for new or preserved **recreation facilities** (e.g., curling rink, ringette pad)

## Connectivity, Trails & Safety

- Calls for improved **trail connections** (e.g., Humber Trail at Weston Rd)
- Desire for **separate cycling/pedestrian paths** for safety, especially near off-leash areas

## Natural Environment & Ecology

- Advocacy for **edible plantings, community gardens, and fruit trees**
- Requests for **artificial nesting sites**, native wildflowers, and ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) protection
- Interest in **education on coexisting with urban wildlife**

## Maintenance, Standards & State of Good Repair

- Concerns about **delayed repairs, broken infrastructure, and lack of published maintenance standards**
- Interest in **better dog park upkeep** (e.g., fences, gates, ground surface)

## Planning, Partnerships & Transparency

- Interest in **Section 37 fund accountability**
- Calls for **joint-use facilities** with school boards (e.g., TDSB pools)
- Questions about the **process for submitting new public space projects**

## Winter Activation & Year-Round Use

- Interest in **year-round washrooms, water fountains, and sauna facilities**
- Support for **cold water swimming** and **seasonal programming** (e.g., Tai Chi, festivals)

## Equity, Inclusion & Access

- Calls for **outdoor picnic/BBQ spaces** available to all
- Equity concerns in **recreational space distribution** (e.g., Ward 15 tennis court shortage)
- Need for **low-barrier, inclusive spaces** that serve all communities

# The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)

# The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (PRFP)

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

## Community Recreation Centres

- Gymsnasiums
- Indoor Pools
- Multi-Purpose Spaces



## Ice Facilities

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



## Outdoor Aquatics

- Outdoor Pools
- Splash Pads and wading pools



## Sports Fields

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



## Sport Courts and Zones

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



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

# Parks and Recreation Facilities

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

- 595 outdoor tennis courts 
- 333 ball diamonds 
- 316 soccer and multi-use fields 
- 175 splash pads 
- 149 basketball courts 
- 125 community centres
- 88 wading pools
- 80 dog off-leash areas 
- 71 bocce courts
- 64 indoor and 58 outdoor swimming pools 
- 61 outdoor artificial ice rinks
- 65 indoor ice rinks 
- 28 lawn bowling greens
- 27 cricket pitches 
- 25 beach volleyball courts 
- 19 skate parks or skate spots 
- 8 skating trails 
- 5 off-road bikes parks 
- 19 dedicated and 229 lined/shared pickleball courts

**... and more!**

# PRFP – Vision and Guiding Principles

The Vision of the PRFP is:

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



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

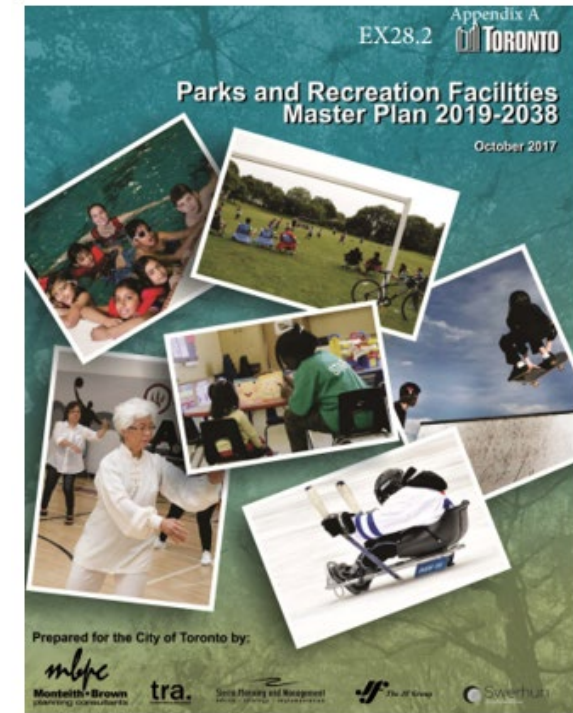
*(Guiding Principles are bolded)*

# PRFP Recommendations

The PRFP guides investment decisions and identifies priorities for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities across the city in 5-year increments, from 2019 to 2038. The recommendations in the PRFP guide future capital budgets and determine when and where to:

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

**The existing PRFP is implemented across the city, every day.**



# Implementing the Facilities Plan

For each facility type, the PRFP Implementation Strategy outlines:

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



## Community Recreation Centres (CRCs) Proposed Timing

FMP Recommendations # 1, 3

		IN PROGRESS (design or construction) 2019 to 2023	PLANNED (in Capital Plan, but not initiated) 2024 to 2028	ANTICIPATED (to be considered in future capital plans)	
				2029 to 2033	2034 to 2038
New CRCs (gaps and growth)		Canoe Landing (2019)	Central Etobicoke	Downsview	
		Bessarion (2019)	SW Scarborough	Port Lands	
		NE Scarborough	North Rexdale		
		Western North York			
		Don Mills			
		Etobicoke City Centre*			
		Wabash			
		Downtown			
		Developer-initiated – Timing tbd			
		Lower Yonge	Newtonbrook		
	East Bayfront				
Replacement CRCs		John Innes	Lawrence Heights	Dennis R. Timbrell	Gus Ryder
		Developer-initiated – Timing tbd	Masaryk-Cowan*	Stan Wadlow	Thistletown
		Wallace Emerson/Galleria	Scarborough Centennial	Albion	
			Falstaff		

Note: Timing of anticipated projects may be advanced by funding, partnerships and inter-governmental discussions.

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

# Facility Plan 2019 to 2038 – Implementation Quick Guide *(excerpt)*

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

# Updating the PRFP

**Every five years**, the City reviews the PRFP to reflect:

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



# Considerations: New and ongoing recreation strategies

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

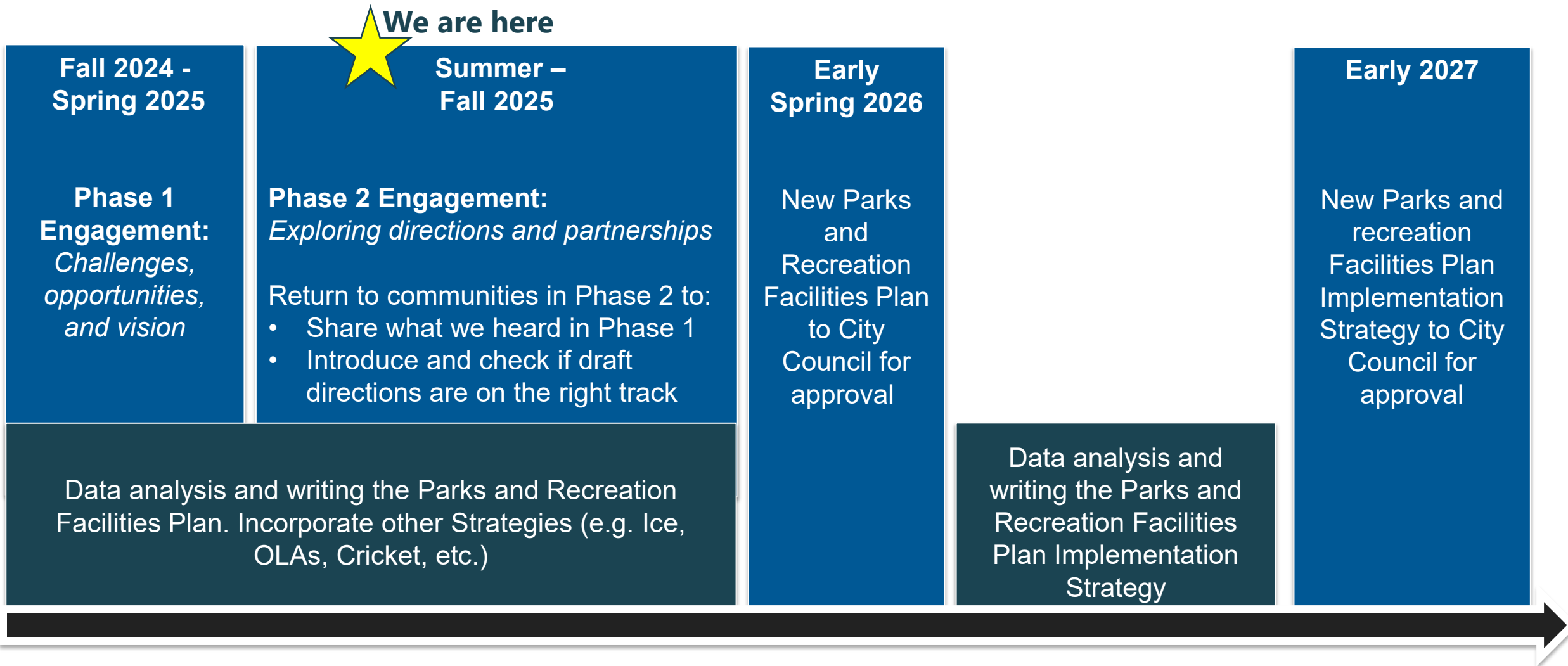
- Cricket Strategy 
- Pickleball Strategy 
- Off-leash Areas Strategy 
- Curling Strategy 
- Ice Facilities Strategy 

The work and recommendations in all of these strategies will be incorporated into the new PRFP.



# **What We Heard: Phase 1 Community Engagement**

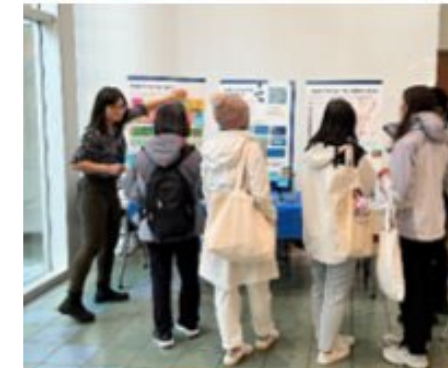
# Timeline\*



# Community Engagement Phase 1 – Over 10,000 people engaged!

## Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan Engagement Events:

<p><b>4 Online public meetings</b></p>	<p><b>Classroom workshop kits</b> (200+ student participants)</p>	<p><b>Online surveys</b> (8,800+ responses)</p>	<p><b>Visit Existing City Advisory Bodies (ongoing)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior's Forum</li> <li>Lived Experience Advisory Group</li> <li>P&amp;R Community Disability Steering Committee</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indigenous communities &amp; First Nations engagements (ongoing)</b></p>
<p><b>Equity-Deserving Advisory Group Meeting 1</b></p>	<p><b>Community-led DIY engagements with equity focus</b> (12+ events)</p>	<p><b>In-person pop-ups in all 25 wards</b> 3,000 + interactions</p>		
<p><b>Additional Engagement for Ice Facilities Strategy</b></p>		<p><b>One online public meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Online survey</b> (2,800 + responses)</p>	



# What We Heard - Overall

Support for **co-locating** community recreation centres with other community services and facilities. Libraries are most commonly suggested for co-location.

**Improving existing facilities** (maintenance, cleanliness, upgrades and updates) is of high importance – for some, more than new facilities.

**New facilities** (of a wide range of types) are needed to keep up with growing demand.

**Communications improvements** are needed to ensure communities know what recreation facilities and programs are already available to them and welcome new users into existing facilities.

*The number one reason survey respondents listed for not having used a city-run community recreation centre in the past 12 months was that they were unaware of the opportunities.*

Need for **greater 'fairness' and equity in access** to existing programs and permit times. Concerns around local community access to new centres, and women and other equity-deserving groups accessing limited permit timeslots.

Respondents value access to standard recreation facilities like gymnasiums, pools, weight/cardio rooms, and similar spaces.

The **ice activity** ranked as most important by survey respondents is drop-in/public skating.

# What We Heard - Making CRCs more welcoming, inclusive, and safe

Overall, the majority of participants reported feeling satisfied with their local City-run community recreation centres and other recreation facilities, and reported these spaces as feeling safe, welcome and inclusive for all.

Key suggestions for making CRCs more safe, welcoming, and inclusive include:

- **Co-location with supportive services**  
(e.g. Food banks, employment services, newcomer services, and mental health supports etc).
- **Gender-neutral and inclusive facilities**, with the ability to have private spaces for women based on cultural or religious needs.
- **Youth-dedicated spaces**
- **Casual gathering spaces**
- **Representation of diverse communities through art and signage**
- **Clean, better maintained facilities**
- **Physical accessibility improvements**
- **Accessible equipment** (e.g. Skate supports, water wheelchairs, etc.)
- **Friendly, welcoming and well-trained staff**
- **Affordable, inclusive programming**
- **Clear, accessible and up-to-date communications and information**

# What We Heard – Indigenous Communities (High Level)

Indigenous participants were passionate about enhancing visual representation of Indigenous history and culture across all spaces

Hire more Indigenous people at recreation facilities and parks

Provide more spaces and policies supporting Indigenous cultural practices

Support recreation facilities and parks as spaces for education and reconciliation: Provide Indigenous peoples with access to space for cultural teachings, activities, languages, and ceremonies, while offering non-Indigenous peoples learning and engagement opportunities to foster understanding and bridge differences.

Most Indigenous participants expressed feeling generally safe when using parks and recreation spaces and facilities, but also shared suggestions for improving safety and accessibility to enhance experiences and usability.

(Re)design recreation facilities and parks to repair and rebuild Indigenous relationships with the Land. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain ancestral relationships with Land, but this intergenerational relationship has been interrupted by colonization. Recreation facilities and parks should honour Indigenous knowledge, culture, and history at all levels of operations, to enhance the livability for all who call Toronto home.

# Where We Are Going

# Emerging Directions

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

Each direction has a set of actions to support it.

The directions and their actions overlap and interconnect.



# 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.**

- 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.
- 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.
- Engage with communities and partners to keep recreation facilities in use at all times of the day and in all seasons (e.g., working with local community groups or schools to program arenas during the day, when use is typically low).
- 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).
- Upgrade facilities to serve more community members and respond to new recreation needs.
- 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.
- Develop design and facility standards for each type of recreation facility to provide more reliable facilities for residents across the city.

# Emerging Direction Two

## **Use recreation spaces to provide a wider range of community benefits in addition to traditional recreation services, including:**

- 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.).
- 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).
- Encouraging community gathering and improving resident experience at facilities that offer food services (e.g., in Arenas and community centres).
- 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 Wows).
- Supporting food security at recreation facilities (Example: Community Centres that include teaching gardens, community kitchens, and food banks).

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

# Emerging Direction Three

## **Emerging Direction Three: Ensure the new Facilities Plan serves high-needs communities and reduces barriers to access.**

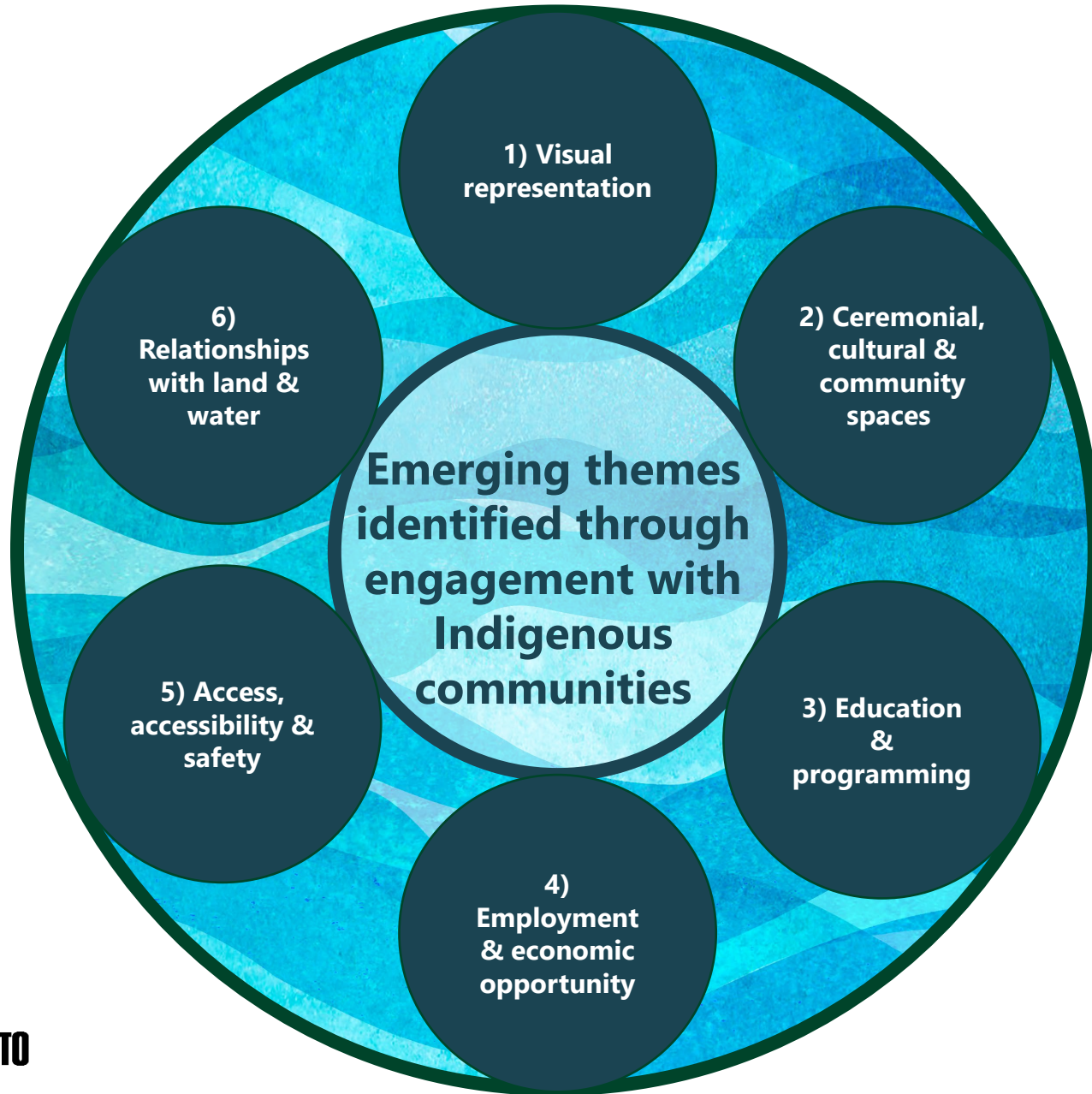
- Prioritize the needs of Indigenous, Black, equity-deserving\*, and underserved communities when deciding where to place new facilities, and when to improve or upgrade facilities.
- Accelerate facility upgrades to meet modern accessibility standards.
- Invest in flexible facilities that serve diverse communities' needs, including people of all ages, abilities, races, cultures, genders, and incomes.
- 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.

# 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.**

- 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).
- Where appropriate, build housing on top of new Community Recreation Centres, in partnership with different housing providers and levels of government.

# Six Emerging Themes – Reconciliation and Indigenous Placekeeping



*Details regarding Reconciliation and Indigenous Placekeeping are still being developed in consultation with Indigenous communities.*

# Where We Are Going - Priorities for Future Provision

The Facilities Plan sets out goals and priorities for investment in each type of recreation facility over the next 20 years. Based on a review of recreation facility use and demand, there are four proposed categories to guide future investment. Multiple categories can apply to the same type of recreation facility:

## **Category A) Build more to fill existing gaps in service**

There are existing gaps in the availability of some facility types across the city. The new Facilities Plan proposes to build more of these facility types, where gaps exist.

## **Category B) Build more as the population grows**

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

## **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 increase seasonal use) or upgrading the physical accessibility of an older community recreation centre.

## **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.

# Where We Are Going - Preliminary Overview of Priorities for Future Provision

Facility Type	A) Build more to fill existing gaps in service	B) Build more recreation facilities as the population grows	C) Improve to increase use and accessibility	D) Repurpose to a higher use (site-specific)	Current Supply 2024
Basketball Courts	X	X	X		149
Cricket Pitches	X	X	X		27
Skateparks (outdoor) and spots	X	X	X		19
Community Recreation Centres	X	X	X		125
Gymnasiums	X	X	X		98
Indoor Pools	X	X	X		64
Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks	X	X	X		61 outdoor ice pads
Dog Off-leash Areas	X	X	X		80
Bike Parks (Off-Road)	X	X			5
Sports Bubbles	X	X			variable
Pickleball Courts	X	X			19 dedicated and 229 shared
Curling Rinks	X		X		3
Beach Volleyball	X				25
Tennis Courts	X	X	X		595
Splash Pads	X	X	X		175
Outdoor Skating Trails	X	X			8
Soccer and Multi-use Sports Fields	X	X	X		316
Outdoor Pools			X		58
Arenas			X		65 indoor ice pads
Ball Diamonds			X	X <i>(Selected C Class Diamonds)</i>	334
Clubhouses and Fieldhouses			X	X	188
Wading Pools				X	88
Bocce Courts (outdoor)				X	71
Lawn Bowling Greens				X	28

# Let's Discuss!

**Do you have any initial questions for clarification or comments about the proposed emerging directions and priorities presented?**

**Next, let's break out into rooms and chat about your thoughts.**

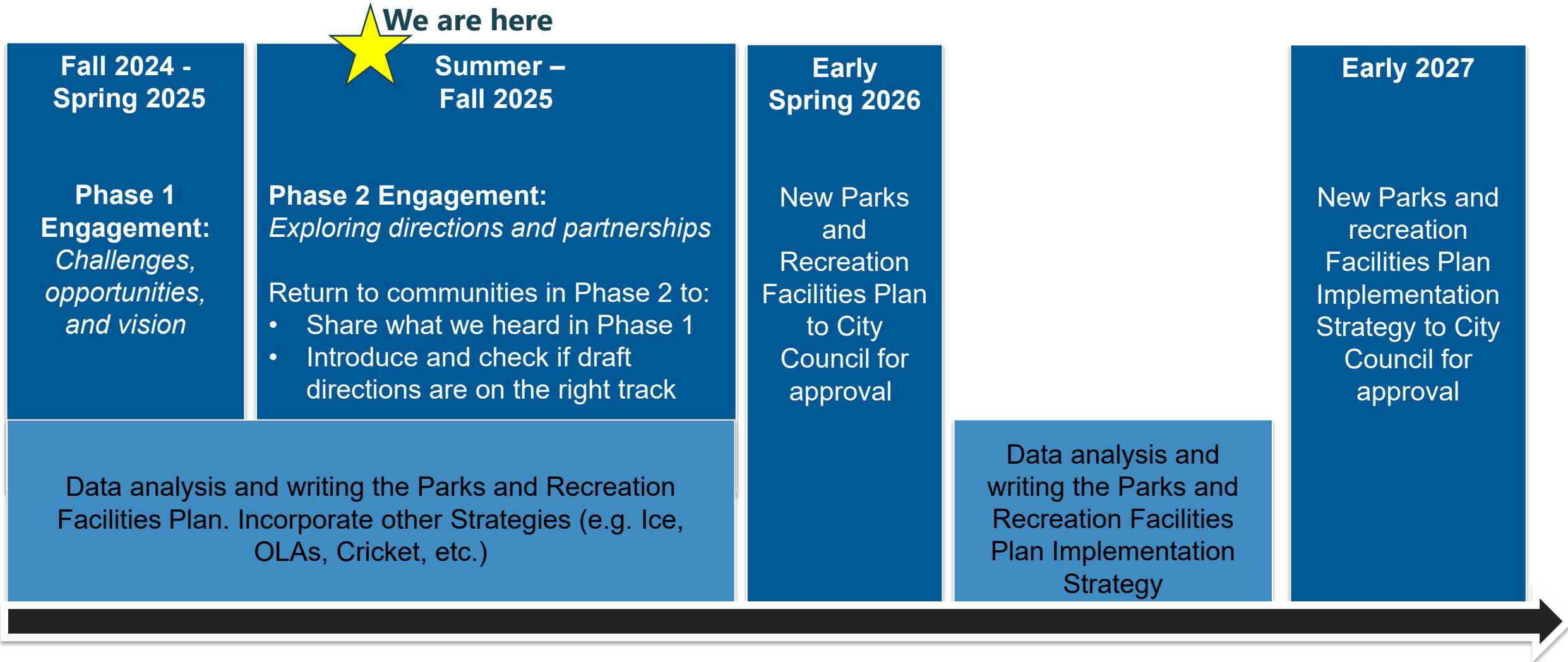
# Questions and Discussion

1. What do you think of the Emerging Directions one to four?
  - Are there any actions missing?
  - Any suggested adjustments?
2. Do you have any comments on the priorities for each recreation facility type? **Refer to the priorities in the future provision chart.**
  - Any facilities missed?
  - Do you think a facility type should be prioritized more or less?



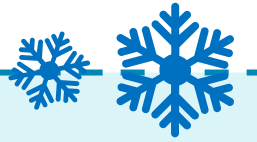
# Next Steps

# Next Steps and Timeline\*



# Community Engagement Phase 2 (Final Phase)

- **Now to Fall:** Phase 2 community engagements:
  - Online survey
  - Online public meeting
  - Visiting existing City Advisory Bodies  
(*Senior's Forum; Lived Experience Advisory Group; P&R Community Disability Steering Committee*)
  - Equity-Deserving Advisory Group meetings
  - DIY Engagement Kits for community groups
- **Now to Winter:** Data analysis and writing the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan. Incorporate other Strategies (e.g. Ice, OLAs, Cricket, etc.)
- **Winter:** Summary of What We Heard through Phase 2 engagements posted on the project webpage.
- **Spring 2026:** New Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan to City Council for approval
- **Early 2027:** New Parks and recreation Facilities Plan Implementation Strategy to City Council for approval



Community engagements Phase 2 to inform the **Ice Facilities Strategy** will begin in the Fall.

The Ice Facilities Strategy will be incorporated into the new Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan.

Visit and share the project webpage to sign up for e-updates, take the online survey, live on July 22, and learn more:

[www.toronto.ca/ParksAndFacilitiesPlans](http://www.toronto.ca/ParksAndFacilitiesPlans)

# Thank You!

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Let us know how we did by filling out the survey, or email us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns!

