

DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

FALL 2016

A 20-Year Plan to Guide Investment in Toronto's Parks & Recreation Facilities

Access to parks and recreation facilities improves individual, social and economic wellbeing. The City of Toronto wants to ensure that these facilities meet the needs of residents now and in the future.

Toronto is growing and our parks and recreation facilities are aging. The City invests approximately \$70 million every year to repair, enhance and build new facilities such as sports fields, pools, ice rinks, skateparks, and community centres. We are developing a new plan to guide this spending, and public feedback is critical to ensure the new plan aligns with what Torontonians want and need.

The plan will prioritize facility investment over the next 20 years to ensure that residents and communities across the city have equitable access to high quality parks and recreation facilities. It will guide the location and creation of new facilities, the renewal of existing facilities and recommend strategies to optimize the use of facilities in order to best meet local and city-wide needs.

The last Facilities Master Plan was completed in 2004. This updated Plan aims to increase the City's ability to offer facilities and services that meet the needs of residents, as well as improve equity of access to facilities and services.



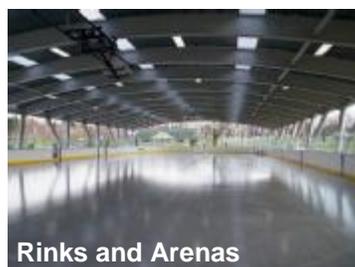
Community Centres



Fitness Facilities



Indoor & Outdoor Pools



Rinks and Arenas



Sports Fields

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEEDBACK TO DATE

In Fall 2015 we introduced the Facilities Master Planning process and launched our first phase of consultation.

We reached over 3,500 residents, and asked them what they thought could be done to improve the City's parks and recreation facilities.

They said that the City should:

- Prioritize areas of greatest need based on gaps in facility provision, demographics, and estimated population growth (in areas with a lot of development and growth, and in those without)
- Explore co-location of parks and recreation facilities with other City services and community organizations
- Enhance existing facilities through additional investment
- Design facilities to be flexible, multi-purpose, welcoming, inclusive, safe and energy efficient

In Fall 2016 we are doing a second round of consultation to check in, and to get more information on what facility improvements are most important to people.

Want to learn more?
toronto.ca/parks/facilitiesplan





Bike Parks



Dog Off-Leash Areas



Wading Pools & Splash Pads



Outdoor Basketball Courts



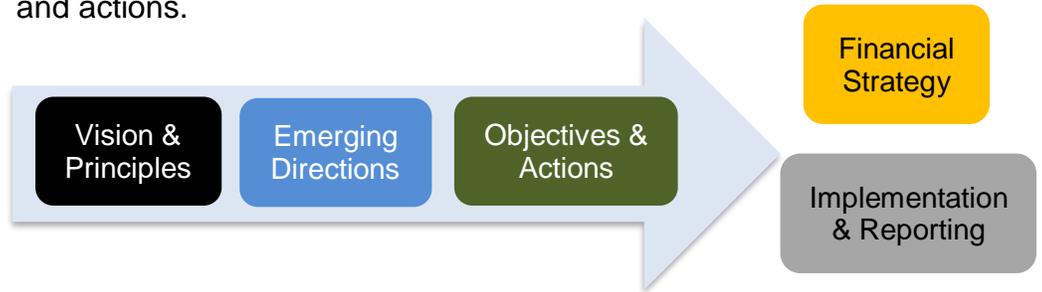
Walking Tracks



Bocce Courts

Strategic Framework

The strategic framework provides a structure for the Facilities Master Plan. It sets out a high level vision for the plan's directions, objectives and actions.



Vision

High quality and accessible parks and recreation facilities are active spaces and people places that improve quality of life for residents and strengthen communities.

Guiding Principles

Equity, Quality, Sustainability, and Innovation

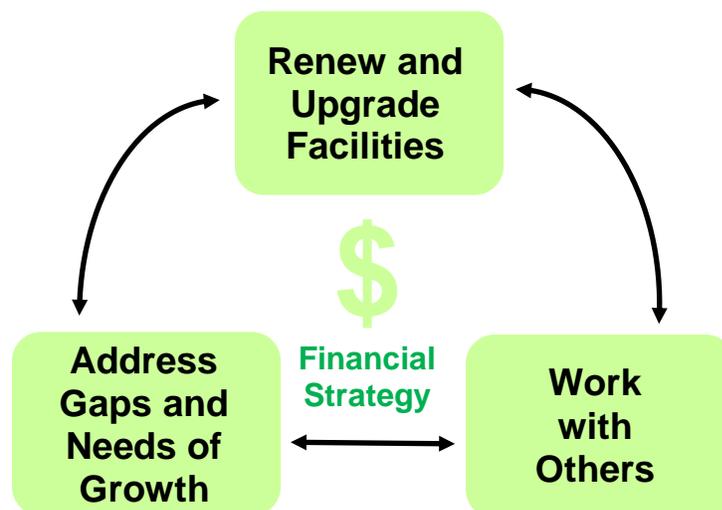
These principles were developed with consideration of Facilities Master Plan consultation feedback received to date, and align with City of Toronto goals. They will be applied to facility planning, funding, design, and facility construction and operation.

Emerging Directions

The 20-year Facilities Master Plan will prioritize facility investment, including:

- What new facilities will be created and where they are located
- Which facilities will be renewed
- Strategies on how to optimize the use of facilities to best meet local and city-wide needs

Based on work to date, there are three directions emerging for the new 20 year Facilities Master Plan. They are inter-related, and have been informed by consultation feedback to date.



A Long-Term Innovative Financial Strategy is Required

Most funding to build and improve the City's parks and recreation facilities comes from fees collected as a result of new development. Capital repairs to facilities are financed through tax dollars. In addition, the City sometimes receives funding to build and improve facilities through grants and partnerships.

Growth and development funding mechanisms include:

- **Development charges** – payments made by new development to help to pay for infrastructure needed to service the new development
- **Section 42 of the Planning Act** – which the City uses to require that parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland be provided as a condition of development. These payments contribute to local and city-wide parks and recreation projects.
- **Section 37 of the Planning Act** – which the City uses to approve additional height or density in a development in exchange for facilities or other community benefits (provided in-kind or as cash-in-lieu), such as parks and recreation facilities.
- **Section 45 of the Planning Act** – which the City uses to approve minor variances to the zoning bylaw in return for community benefits (provided in-kind or as cash-in-lieu).

These mechanisms ensure that growth areas get the infrastructure they need, however they are not as useful in areas of the city experiencing little to no growth. This creates challenges for the equitable provision of parks and recreation facilities across the city. The next step is to develop a financial strategy that will ensure that there is adequate funding available to build new facilities and renovate and upgrade existing facilities.



Are programs and services part of the Facilities Master Plan?

The Facilities Master Plan is focused on facilities. It does not include programs and services, which are addressed through our service plans. In our first round of public consultation, we received a lot of feedback about the City's recreation programs. This is valuable input, and it will help inform the City's ongoing service planning work.

Learn more about parks and recreation planning at www.toronto.ca/parks/engagement



We Need to Hear From You!

Questions for You

1. What are your thoughts on the vision, guiding principles, and emerging directions?
2. What are your thoughts on the preliminary objectives?
3. How can we improve the parks and recreation facilities that you use most?
4. Do you have any other advice for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan?

Preliminary Objectives

Based on work and consultation feedback to date, the City has developed a series of preliminary objectives for the Facilities Master Plan. Some of the preliminary objectives include:

1. Facility planning will be evidence-based and use a variety of inputs based on our guiding principles.
2. We will invest in parks and recreation facilities where they are needed most, and promote equitable access to high quality local facilities.
3. We will prioritize co-location and shared space with other City services and community partners and seek partnerships that enhance public access to needed spaces.
4. We will be proactive and innovative in making the most of the facilities we have.
5. We will invest more in renewing and upgrading our existing facilities.
6. We will seek a sustainable funding model that can meet facility needs across the city, including areas without a lot of development and growth.
7. We will use the plan to inform the City's budget and related planning work.
8. We will design community centres that provide appealing spaces, features and amenities that respond to a broad range of needs.
9. We will seek ways to use our facilities year-round and for multiple purposes.
10. We will closely monitor facility utilization and make adjustments to ensure that they are aligned with our principles and directions.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Consultation details are available on the project website at www.toronto.ca/parks/facilitiesplan. There are many ways to participate, including:

- Complete the second **online public survey**
- Talk to us in person at a series of **pop-up consultations** across the city
- Use our **discussion guide** and **feedback toolkit** for individuals and groups
- Share your thoughts on the questions above using our **online feedback form**
- Sign up for regular **e-mail updates** about the Facilities Master Plan

For more information contact us at facilitiesplan@toronto.ca