



# 2004 FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RECREATION & PARKS



in  
association  
with



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Mississauga's excellent recreation and parks system provides a significant contribution to the community's high quality of life. As the City's population grows, recreation and parks facilities and services need to continue to adapt to the needs of both current and future generations.

To this end, the City of Mississauga Community Services Department – with the assistance of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, JF Group, and Leger Marketing – has completed the 2004 Future Directions for Recreation and Parks.

The 2004 Future Directions for Recreation and Parks provides the municipality with a set of comprehensive strategies respecting parks, open space, and recreation facility needs to serve both existing and future populations. The Plan has identified the direction the City should take to meet resident needs in a fiscally responsible manner. Since 1983, the City has carefully assessed its recreation and parkland requirements through similar planning studies.

The Future Directions Plan is accompanied by supporting background research, topic specific studies, and documentation of extensive consultation with the community and staff. An Implementation Plan has been prepared to provide details on how each Future Directions recommendation will be enacted and at what cost.

Although updated every five years, the 2004 Future Directions for Recreation and Parks has focused on determining what additional leisure facilities are needed for the next five, ten, twenty and even thirty years.

## **2. PROCESS**

In preparing the Future Directions Plan, the following key tasks were undertaken:

- existing documents were critically reviewed and supplemental research (e.g., trends and best practices) was conducted;
- community profiles were analyzed;
- public focus groups and staff workshops were held;
- a statistically significant random household survey was administered; and
- preliminary recommendations were reviewed by the public at eleven meetings, as well as by City Staff and Council.

## **3. PUBLIC INPUT**

The major themes and priorities that emerged from the research, analysis and consultations included:

### **The development of more multi-purpose trails for both walking and cycling.**

The number one physical recreational activity of Mississauga residents is walking. The topic most supported by the public was the development of more multi-purpose trails for cycling and walking with a primary objective being to connect communities. As people age so does the propensity to identify walking as one's favourite leisure pursuit – with a doubling of the over 55 age group over the next fifteen years, walking is expected to be in even greater demand. In addition, trends research has identified increased demand for unstructured activities – cycling and walking are two such cost effective activities. Multi-use trails appeal to people of all ages and abilities and are an integral part of “Smart Cities”. Lastly, as

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traffic congestion increases, safe bicycling routes to both recreational and social events, as well as the workplace, will also be in greater demand.

### **The development of additional soccer fields and indoor soccer facilities.**

Soccer has been Mississauga's most popular youth sport for some time. Although great strides have been made since the last Future Directions, more fields are still required. Great support was received for the identified need to develop the equivalent of 48 additional fields. Especially strong support was received for the development of artificial turf fields due to the ability to utilize the field for a longer playing season and the fact that the field does not need to "rest". The public also supports the provision of indoor soccer facilities through partnerships with established organizations.

### **Developing better partnerships with the school boards in order to ensure access to gymnasiums, fields and other facilities paid for by the public.**

At every public meeting and every workshop the desire to see greater co-operation between the School Boards and the City came through loud and clear. There was frustration on the part of local groups due to reduced access to the facilities perceived to be public and paid for through local dollars. Although the City has completed great projects with the School Boards, the limited resources of both parties should point to more logical joint ventures.

### **More emphasis on accessibility from a financial, physical, and social perspective.**

Not all Mississauga residents have the financial resources to access recreational activities. "Ability to pay" continues to be the preferred criteria for subsidization. The difficulty is how to identify those who can afford to pay from those who cannot.

The public supports the creation of more free programming or reduced cost programming in areas of identified financial need. Increased physical access was also suggested, as well as improvements to the number of programs available to people with limitations or challenges.

### **The development of a "teen strategy" and resulting facilities and programs.**

One of the areas residents are willing to spend more money on is facilities that would interest teens. Whether the facilities are skateboarding parks, basketball hoops, drop-in centres or BMX/trick biking facilities, all are well supported by the public.

### **The development of a better understanding of the needs of "new" older adults.**

With the over 55 age group doubling in the next twenty years it will be imperative that the City understand the leisure requirements of this age group. We need to have a better understanding of what they will want to do and how willing they are to pay for those services. Are the needs of 55 year olds anything like the needs of 65 year olds or 75 year olds? As this age group grows so will their demands on recreation and parks facilities. Greater preparedness is needed. Although dedicated seniors centres are not being recommended, existing community centres may eventually become the new older adult centres of Mississauga.

### **More unstructured recreational activities for people of all ages, interests and abilities.**

"Lack of time" is the number one constraint facing people who would like to partake in a leisure pursuit. Residents want more unstructured opportunities. This includes trails, fitness equipment, skateboarding, BMX biking, trick biking, basketball hoops, more unscheduled gym time for everything from basketball to badminton to exercising, among others.

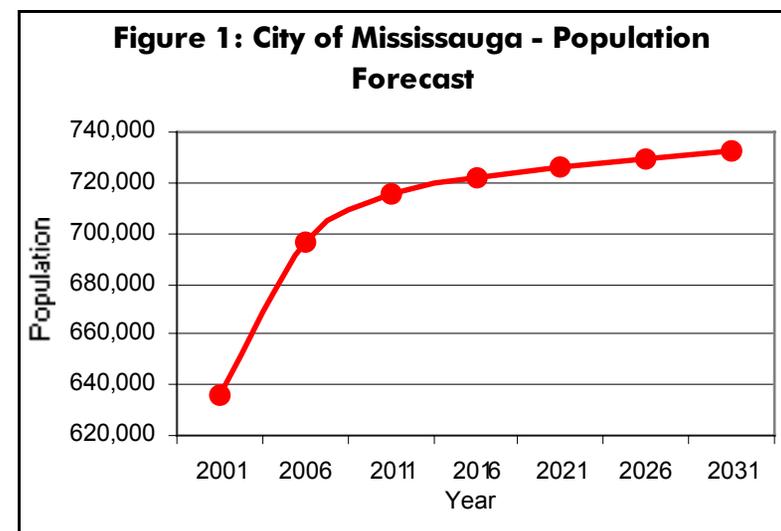
Additional issues were identified at the public meetings where the draft Future Directions was presented. For example, badminton users made a strong appeal for a dedicated facility. There were also requests for an Olympic-sized pool and /or an additional pool in the northwest. Skateboarders, BMX, and trick bike riders indicated the need for more facilities and longer hours. Remote control vehicle hobbyists are looking for a location to pursue their activities. The public expressed pleasure at the job the City was doing and the only question they disagreed with was cutting services so that taxes or user fees were not raised. These issues and others are addressed more fully in the report.

#### 4. DEMOGRAPHICS

Current and projected demographic characteristics – combined with knowledge of common activity patterns and preferences held by people of various ages, ethnicities, and income levels – provide valuable insight into the demands that will be placed on the recreation and parks system in the future.

Since the 1999 Future Direction was prepared, a number of significant demographic shifts have occurred in Mississauga. While the emphasis is on population and age composition, other socio-demographic variables are known to influence leisure participation such as income, education, and in some cases ethnic background.

As shown in Figure 1, the City is experiencing overall growth. The City's growth rate has peaked and its population is expected to nearly stabilize by the year 2011. The north and northwest areas of the City will be the exception to this rule, as these areas continue to develop and attract new families. In the twenty-year period following 2011, growth is anticipated to occur at a rate of less than 1,000 new residents per year.

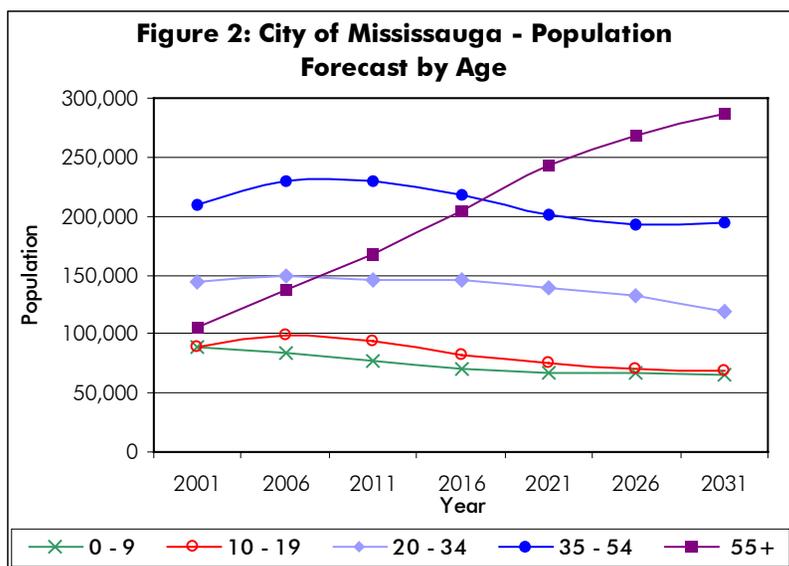


Overall growth is not the only factor to consider. It is the detailed characteristics of the demographics that provide valuable insight into the recreational requirements of the City. For example, not only is the number of 0-9 year-olds important, so is knowing where they will live and the chances of them participating in a recreational activity. Information is collected for all age categories and all geographic distributions and is also correlated to income, education and ethnicity.

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While the population’s growth rate will level off following 2011, the composition of the City will likely remain ethnically diverse and the median age will increase dramatically (see Figure 2). These considerations will have significant ramifications on the provision recreation and parks facilities. Most notably, the need for developed parkland and additional facilities will be largely concentrated in the period between 2004 to 2011, while the 2011 to 2031 timeframe will require a greater emphasis on managing programming and adapting existing infrastructure.

Table 1 indicates that Service Areas 1 and 2 will continue to experience growth in all age categories while the remainder of the City will grow in the over 55 age group. New Canadians will continue to comprise a significant portion of the City’s population; currently, 47% of all new Mississauga residents were not born in Canada. Decreases in the 0-19 age categories will impact many facilities such as ball diamonds and arenas. Furthermore, the ethnicity of the population may also influence the demand for facilities such as cricket pitches.



**Table 1: Existing & Projected Population by Service Area**

Service Area	2003 Population	2031 Population	% of Overall Growth (2003-2031)
1	132,144	162,000	46%
2	140,199	156,000	25%
3	41,345	37,500	-6%
4	102,769	95,000	-12%
5	163,638	189,500	40%
6	84,452	89,000	7%
Total	664,547	729,000	100%

Sources: Hemson Consulting 2003 and Monteith Brown Planning Consultants 2003  
 Note: Population within employment areas not included.



## 5. FUTURE DIRECTIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Facility and park needs have been analyzed for the City as a whole and, where appropriate, for the six Service Areas using a combination of provision standards, public input, trends information, demographic data, participation rates, and past and present circumstances.

Inventory data and provision standards (for most Group A and D facilities) are illustrated in Tables 2 to 5. The provision standards represent a recommended measure of demand and are targets for facility/park provision. It is strongly recommended that the City undertake a review of these standards on a regular basis to ensure that significant demographic shifts are accounted for. Where appropriate, it is also recommended that the City continue to employ provision standards based upon specific age cohorts rather than relying on per capita standards that include the entire population.

**Table 2: Group A Facilities (Organized Use/City-wide Demand)**

Facility / Park Type	2004 Supply <sup>1</sup>	2004 Provision Level	Recommended Standard <sup>2</sup>
Arenas (# of ice pads)	25	1:26,583	1:29,000
Ball Diamonds <sup>3</sup> (unlit)	121	1:4,077	1:5,000
Ball Diamonds <sup>3</sup> (lit)	42		
Cricket Pitches <sup>3</sup>	3	1:221,516	1:135,000
Football Fields <sup>3</sup>	1	1:664,547	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Lacrosse Boxes <sup>3</sup>	2	1:332,274	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Multi-Purpose Fields <sup>3</sup>	0	--	monitor
Soccer Fields <sup>3</sup> (unlit)	187	1:3,339	1:2,800
Soccer Fields <sup>3</sup> (lit)	12		

**Table 3: Group B Facilities (Unstructured Use / City-wide Demand)**

Facility / Park Type	2004 Supply <sup>1</sup>
Festival and Special Event Sites	0
Golf Courses (sites) <sup>2 4</sup>	2
Multi-use Trails (Class 1) (km) <sup>3</sup>	87.9
Public Gardens <sup>2</sup>	1

Note: Provision standards are not appropriate for this group of facilities.

**Table 4: Group C Facilities (Organized Use / Community-specific Market)**

Facility / Park Type	2004 Supply <sup>1</sup>
Arts and Heritage Facilities <sup>2</sup>	8
Bocce Courts (indoor)	0
Bocce Courts (outdoor) <sup>3</sup>	17
Day Camps	1
Indoor Soccer Facilities	0
Lawn Bowling Facilities <sup>3</sup>	1
Leash Free Zones <sup>2</sup>	6
Marinas <sup>2</sup>	2
Outdoor Track <sup>2</sup>	1

Note: Provision standards are not appropriate for this group of facilities.

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**Table 5: Group D Facilities (Unstructured Use / City Serving)**

Facility / Park Type	2004-Supply <sup>1</sup>	2004 Provision Level	Recommended Standard
Active Living / Fitness Centres <sup>2</sup>	7	1:94,935	No standard <sup>5</sup>
BMX Facilities <sup>2</sup>	2	1:332,274	1:200,000
Community Centres (Major) <sup>2</sup>	11	1:60,413	1:65,000
Community Centres (Minor) <sup>2</sup>	9	1:73,838	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Gymnasiums <sup>2</sup>	6	1:110,757	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Indoor Aquatic Centres <sup>2</sup>	11	1:60,413	1:65,000
Multi-purpose / Basketball Pads <sup>3</sup>	50	1:13,291	1:10,000
Outdoor Rinks <sup>2</sup>	3	1:221,516	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Outdoor Swimming Pools <sup>2</sup>	7	94,935	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Wading Pools <sup>2</sup>	3	1:221,516	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Playgrounds <sup>3</sup>	247	1:2,690	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Older Adult Centres (dedicated) <sup>2</sup>	2	1:332,274	No standard <sup>5</sup>
Older Adult Centres (program location) <sup>2</sup>	11	1:60,413	1:65,000
Skate Parks <sup>2</sup>	1	1:664,547	1:100,000
Spray Pads <sup>3</sup>	14	1:47,468	1:30,000
Tennis Courts (Public)	67	1:9,919	1:5,000
Tennis Courts (Community Club) <sup>3</sup>	67	1:9,919	
Trick Bike	0	--	1:200,000

<sup>1</sup> Note: Current Supply includes those facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Mississauga, as well as those facilities that are allocated by the City (e.g., select playing fields owned by the Peel Public School Board, etc.); current supply also includes those facilities that are under construction or in planning/design stages.

<sup>2</sup> Source: City of Mississauga staff.

<sup>3</sup> Source: City of Mississauga Outdoor Recreation Facility Study (2004).

<sup>4</sup> Note: Britannia Hills Golf Course is currently under redevelopment and is scheduled to re-open in 2005

<sup>5</sup> Note: No standard is applicable due either to requirements relating to geographic distribution or additional facilities are not proposed.

The following are the recommendations of the City of Mississauga 2004 Future Directions for Recreation and Parks. There is a considerable amount of public support for all of the recommendations.

### **a) Group A Facilities**

#### **Arenas**

- In order to meet the current and future ice time requirements of arena user groups for ice time, the City should investigate facilitating the acquisition of blocks of ice in arenas located in adjacent municipalities or from private sector operators.
- If the preceding recommendation is either not possible or if insufficient ice time is available, then the City should reassess the provision standards and undertake a development strategy.
- If ice demands are reduced with the aging population the long-term objective should be to eliminate one or more single-pad arena facilities or convert them to an alternate use.
- In undertaking this development strategy:
  - The City should perform a life cycle study of its single pad arenas to determine the threshold that would dictate decisions not to renovate or improve the facility when it would be more financially prudent to convert the arena to another use.
  - Based on the life cycle study findings and the research conducted for the Arena Provision Strategy including an analysis of recent experiences in other jurisdictions as well as the quality expectations of Mississauga user groups, it is recommended that the City only pursue facilities designed for efficient full-season operations. This would preclude considerations of facilities that are of an interim or temporary nature.

**Ball Diamonds**

- Except for one diamond in Churchill Meadows, no new diamonds should be developed in the City.
- The extent of surplus capacity (and the feasibility of surplus diamonds in Service Areas 1 and 2 meeting future facility needs) should be determined in consultation with users to: establish the potential for these diamonds to meet requirements in terms of programming, design and travel for children, youth and adults.
- After verifying the extent of under-utilized ball diamonds and determining how many facilities may be deemed surplus, the City should conduct a study to assess the potential and suitability of these diamonds for conversion to soccer fields, multi-purpose fields or open space.
- At a provision level of 1:5,000, facility requirements to the year 2031 will total 146 diamonds, suggesting long-term potential for up to 46 diamonds to be redeveloped to meet needs for other outdoor recreation facilities.
- Improvements (such as the transformation of existing hardball diamonds for softball use) should be considered in Service Area 1.
- The City should negotiate agreements with the local School Boards in order to use the best available school diamonds (most of which are at secondary schools and within the separate school system). This will better position the City to provide neighbourhood-level ball opportunities and to utilize excess municipal diamonds for other, more pressing uses (e.g., soccer, cricket, etc.).
- For each softball diamond that the City lights, one unlit diamond in an over-supplied area should be eliminated from the inventory.

- The City should implement a mechanism to accurately measure and monitor the actual use of ball diamonds. The results of monitoring should be used to revise the recommended provision standard, as warranted, and to identify potential surplus capacity.

**Cricket Pitches**

- The City shall develop a reasonable, achievable, and gradual implementation plan to phase in the development of the recommended cricket pitches over the course of the planning period, including implementing the two planned facilities as soon as possible. 2 additional pitches (for a total of 5) are recommended over the short-term. Local cricket clubs should be consulted regarding potential locations for the new pitches.
- As with other adult or competition oriented recreational programs, the local cricket clubs and tournament organizers should be encouraged to partner in the finance of a portion of costs when construction of new cricket facilities are for adult or competition level play.
- Usage levels of new and existing cricket pitches should be reviewed in five years, at which time the cricket pitch provision standard should be adjusted (if necessary).
- Depending on usage and youth participation the provision level may be increased from 1:135,000 to 1:65,000, making facility requirements to the year 2031 for a total 9 additional pitches.
- The City should implement mechanisms to accurately measure and monitor actual use on all pitches and other fields used for cricket. The results of monitoring should be used to revise the recommended provision standard, as warranted.

**Football, Lacrosse, and Multi-Purpose Fields**

- No additional football-only fields are required based on current registration data and trends.
- That the City continue to work with the School Boards to maximize the community's access to football fields on school property, especially at schools with higher quality fields.
- The City, when developing artificial turf and / or multi-purpose fields, should have regard to the field requirements of football.
- No additional lacrosse boxes are required.
- No multi-purpose fields are recommended until justification has been presented, however, sufficient land base should be identified for future field allocations and field rotation assuming 1 field per 135,000 population.
- The phasing of field development should be driven by the verification of demand among potential user groups.
- Usage levels of new multi-purpose fields to be reviewed in five years, at which time the multi-purpose field provision standard should be adjusted (if necessary).
- The City should provide multi-purpose fields as opportunity presents itself through the decommissioning of ball diamonds in order to provide space for those sports that represent smaller components of demand for fields (i.e., football, field hockey, field lacrosse, etc.), for rapidly growing field sports such as ultimate disc/disc football, and to capture current unpermitted activity in park spaces, as appropriate.

**Soccer Fields**

- The City should implement mechanisms to accurately measure and monitor use on soccer fields, including new outdoor artificial fields and proposed indoor fields when built. The results of monitoring should be used to revise the recommended provision standard, as warranted.
- The City should consult with users to establish field needs in terms of programming, design, and distribution in relation to travel considerations for child and youth players.
- The City should confirm the feasibility of lighting and upgrading existing soccer fields for adult and older youth play, both for soccer and as multi-use facilities, as appropriate. If feasible, these fields should be lit as an alternative to acquiring new parkland for unlit fields.
- The City should negotiate agreements with both School Boards to maximize the community's access to outdoor recreation facilities (soccer fields) on school properties, especially at schools with higher quality fields (e.g., high school and separate school sites).
- The City should consider lit artificial turf fields to be equivalent to three natural grass unlit fields. Field allocation/scheduling practices should be adjusted to reflect this.
- The City should plan to provide a minimum of 6 additional artificial fields over the next ten years, with actual provision levels to be confirmed based on the experience with the two new fields at Iceland. Decisions regarding the installation of full or composite artificial turf fields should be based on cost-benefit analyses of various options in relation to users' needs and preferences and intended field uses.
- At a provision level of 1:2,800, facility requirements to the year 2031 will total 48 additional fields, of which 24 are required now, and 24 will be needed to meet the needs of

population growth. (Note: each natural turf lit field equals 2 natural turf unlit fields and each artificial turf lit field equals 3 natural turf unlit fields.)

- Fields to accommodate young adults should be the focus of future development.

## **b) Group B Facilities**

### **Cemeteries**

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing an additional cemetery in the City.

### **Festival and Special Event Sites**

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing lands for a community level festival site (e.g., Hershey Centre).
- The City should pursue recommendations in previous studies to accommodate community serving festivals and events in the Mississauga parks system.
- Space within one or more existing parks along the waterfront should be developed to accommodate open-air theatrical and music events, with an emphasis on sites in Service Area 6.
- When developing urban parks/plaza, the City should consider appropriately designed open air spaces capable of accommodating portable stages and other event based facilities.

### **Golf Courses**

- Until policy regarding the City's role in the provision of golf courses is in place, the municipality should not expand its provision of facilities.

- If additional golf facilities (courses and driving ranges) are to be developed, they should be within a "profit generation" model to assist in offsetting other recreational programming costs. The need for additional golf facilities should be substantiated by a business plan that incorporates both capital and operating cost recovery scenarios.

### **Multi-Use Trails**

- A five-year review of the *Mississauga Multi-use Recreational Trail Study (2001)* should be undertaken to validate route recommendations and investigate additional long term opportunities for Class I trails and park pathway installations in greenbelts or boulevards.
- The priority should be given to multi-use, off-road trails which are either Class I (over 3-metres wide, usually paved) or Park Pathways (under 3-metres wide through parks). The others, bike lanes (Class II) and sign routes (Class III) are not multi-use as they are on-road for bicycles only. For recreation, the latter should be used only to provide linkage.
- The City should continue to implement the multi-use trails system to meet anticipated growing demand for all trail-based activities.
- Needs and interests within the trail component of the City's outdoor recreation system should be regularly reviewed to help establish priorities for development.
- An increasing emphasis on trail development is supported by trends and community interest, and higher priority should be assigned to recreational trail development.
- The short, medium and long term trail priorities are identified and described in the preceding text.
- The City should explore and develop programs that are complementary to the development of a comprehensive linking

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multi-use trail system, including the installation of bicycle racks at major parks, community centres, and on buses, as well as trail promotion initiatives (e.g., maps and signage).

### **Public Gardens**

- Finalize and implement the public garden project.

## **c) Group C Facilities**

### **Arts and Heritage Facilities**

- Adaptive re-use plans should be established for all City-owned heritage properties to increase their productivity and increase their financial viability.
- Finalize the *Arts and Heritage Community Plan (2003)*.
- Continue to provide opportunities for the arts through multi-purpose spaces at community centres.
- Maintain and enhance existing heritage facilities and programs.
- No additional arts facilities are required.
- No additional museum facilities are required.

### **Bocce Courts**

- The City should, as an interim measure, assist the Mississauga Indoor Bocce Club in developing a facility on private land or in an existing structure in an arrangement where the group(s) would be responsible for the initial set-up and maintenance while the City would hold the lease.
- The provision of a permanent facility would hinge on the demand and success demonstrated by the interim facility developed in partnership with the Mississauga Indoor Bocce

Club in conformity with the partnership criteria of the *Future Directions Plan*.

- The City should not provide additional outdoor bocce courts.
- Potential future need for outdoor facilities should be determined through City-initiated community development activities and the impact that possible facilities may have on demand.

### **Day Camps**

- Attendance at the day camp should be monitored and the facility should be considered for closure should enrolment decline below reasonable levels. The City should look at alternative ways to provide this service.

### **Indoor Soccer Facilities**

- Continue with plans to develop 3 indoor soccer fields at the Community Sports Complex in the short-term.
- An additional 3 indoor soccer fields are required. Develop a feasibility study for the operation of an indoor facility in the north west quadrant of Mississauga.

### **Lawn Bowling Facilities**

- The City should not provide additional lawn bowling facilities at this time.
- Potential future need for facilities should be determined through City-initiated community development activities and careful monitoring.

**Leash Free Zones**

- The City should continue to provide leash free zones in association with Leash Free Mississauga, and monitor demand to determine an appropriate number and distribution of facilities.

**Marina Facilities**

- The City should continue to supply 2 marina facilities.

**Outdoor Tracks**

- The City should investigate opportunities to provide the new rubberized, all-weather track in partnership with other authorities, such as School Boards.
- The City should provide one outdoor track appropriate for community training and competitions in conjunction with local School Boards; provided potential users can guarantee sufficient use to warrant provision and that the partnership criteria of this Plan can be met.

**Sports Complex**

- Develop a community sports complex consisting of indoor sports fields, multi-use gymnasiums, a gymnastics facility, and outdoor soccer facility at the Hershey Centre site. Where appropriate, pursue partnerships for the development and/or operation of the centre and its components.

**d) Group D Facilities****Active Living Centres**

- Once the redevelopment of the community centres has been completed, the Civic Centre facility will orient to the area's needs for hours of operation.
- For the next ten years (approximately), the City should continue to operate the seven existing fitness centres.
- All community centres will increase programming, over time, to a more participatory active living format based upon utilization, demographics and market needs.
- Over time, the number of court, weight and cardiovascular training facilities will be concentrated at fewer locations.
- The City will shift focus, over time, to a more inclusive active living concept.
- No additional fitness centres are required but the City should continue to monitor usage.

**BMX Facilities**

- Develop a BMX bike park with a preference given to locating the facility in Service Area 1 or 2 (northwest).
- The feasibility of developing an (action sports) park site capable of accommodating the recommended BMX bike facility as well as a trick bike facility and a skateboarding facility, should be explored.

**Community Centres**

- A strategy for addressing the needs of teens should be developed by the City in partnership with the Library, the Neighbourhood Watch Youth Outreach Program, the School Boards, and the Region of Peel. The "Youth Strategy" should

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identify issues related to the recreational and social support needs of Mississauga teens and how these needs can be addressed through City programs, facilities and services.

- Recreation and Parks should co-ordinate with the Library Board and local community groups to establish a strong recreational presence in the area through the development of a minor community centre and library in Churchill Meadows prior to 2011. If the facility is developed in conjunction with the School Board, firm agreements regarding the use of, and guaranteed access to, facilities must form part of the partnership.
- The Future Directions for Library Services has identified the need to develop Meadowvale Library. In addition, gymnasium space and/or teen space has also been noted as a possibility at this site. Prior to any redevelopment/expansion of Meadowvale Community Centre for library or other recreational uses, a site review should be conducted to determine the limitations, if any, to adding to this centre.
- The City should continue to undertake life cycle assessments of its community centres in order to identify and budget for the next wave of community centre redevelopment.
- No new major community centres are required.
- Minor community centres with service areas overlapping other community centres should be evaluated to determine whether they should be disposed of, used for alternate uses, or upgraded through the addition of flexible multi-purpose space to meet the changing needs of the community (e.g., teen centres). Cooperation and coordination with the School Boards should be pursued in developing these facilities.

## **Gymnasiums**

- Develop 1.5 gymnasiums at the Mississauga Sports Complex.
- To satisfy needs in peak periods, as well as neighbourhood-level needs during non-peak times, it is recommended that the City formalize an agreement with local school boards to maintain and/or increase accessibility and affordability of school gyms to the public (e.g., at Courtneypark, Churchill Meadows, etc.).
- The City should consider including a gymnasium as part of the community centre space to be provided at the Churchill Meadows Branch Library Site and/or as part of the Meadowvale Community Centre redevelopment.
- Convert the existing Mississauga Valley Gymnastics Club space to a multi-purpose gymnasium where residents can play basketball, volleyball, badminton, dance, aerobics and other activities.
- Undertake a Partnership Opportunities Audit regarding the creation of a dedicated badminton facility.

## **Indoor Aquatic Facilities**

- The City should implement strategies to increase capacity for learn to swim programs within the north west sector of the City.
- The City should develop a strategy to address the long-term viability and suitability of the four pools it currently programs in partnership with the School Board.
- The City should modernize older indoor aquatic facilities in order to accommodate the needs of the aging population.
- No additional indoor aquatic facilities are required.

**Multi-Purpose Pad/Basketball Nets**

- At a provision level of 1:10,000, a total of 73 multi-purpose pads /basketball nets (23 additional pads) will be required by the year 2031.
- Multi-purpose pad/net development is a priority in Service Area 5, where long-term supply will be deficient.
- Priority should be given to developing half courts over full courts. Only facilities in non-residential areas should be lit.
- The City should identify under-used tennis courts that would be appropriate for conversion into multi-purpose pads/ basketball nets.

**Adult Centres**

- Additional programming efforts and/or expanded multi-use facilities at community centres will be required in Service Area 2 to serve the growing population of older adults.
- No new stand-alone dedicated older adult centres are required.
- The design of new community centre and library facilities - and any renovations to existing facilities - should consider the needs of older adults.
- The City should undertake a study (Older Adult Strategic Plan) to assess the needs of the different age groups that make up the over 55 age group. A clear understanding of the different needs of 55-64, 65 to 74, 75 plus should result.

**Outdoor Rinks**

- The City will not build any additional outdoor artificial ice rinks and will evaluate the operation and usage of the existing three facilities prior to any major repair or site redevelopment.

**Outdoor Pools**

- No additional outdoor pools or wading pools should be built. Prior to any major repairs or site redevelopment, evaluations of the operation and usage of existing facilities are to be undertaken.
- The feasibility of replacing wading pools with spray pads will be assessed on a site by site basis.
- Within higher density areas such as Area 5, maintenance of existing pools should remain a priority.
- Cost benefit analysis and community consultation will be undertaken prior to any pool closure.

**Playgrounds**

- Play sites should be provided at a level that is consistent with the demographic profile and needs of residents in the community.
- As the population in communities' age and the need for play equipment decreases, replacement of play structures will be assessed on a site-specific basis, keeping in mind the desire to provide a play structure within a park that is within an 800-metre radius of all residential units.
- Larger-sized play equipment shall be provided in open spaces that serve markets beyond the local community (e.g., destination waterfront parks).
- Maintain a minimum provision standard of 270 play structures. This provision standard may be exceeded in order to achieve appropriate geographic coverage.
- All planned and proposed play sites should be reassessed to ensure that they are truly required to achieve the objective of providing play structures within 800-metres of all residential units.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Identify and monitor play equipment gaps (areas where play structures are not located within 800-metres of residential units).
- Develop a minimum of one playground for children with disabilities in each quadrant of the City.

### **Skate Parks**

- At a provision level of 1:100,000, a total of 5 satellite skateboard parks will be required by the year 2031.
- Facility use should be monitored to revise the provision standard, as warranted.
- Smaller scale, introductory skateboarding features should also be incorporated into park design where the youth population exists (equal to a play apparatus or play feature).

### **Spray Pads**

- At a provision level of 1:30,000, 9 additional spray pads will be required by the year 2031. Location should be at the Community level park or destination parks.
- The City should develop facility design guidelines that consider the scale of a spray pad relative to the size of the market it is required to serve.

### **Tennis Courts**

- 2 new tennis courts are needed to meet community-specific club needs in Service Areas 1 and 6.
- The City should continue to work with the local community in Service Areas 1 and 2 to assess the potential to further develop the existing tennis club or establish a new club.

- Public tennis court utilization in Service Area 5 should be assessed for the purpose of identifying courts that would be good candidates for conversion to multi-purpose pads.
- The City should consider adopting a provision standard of 1 tennis court (public and club) per 5,000 population.
- The City should work with community clubs to identify surplus courts suitable for conversion to public-use facilities in Service Areas 4 and 6.
- The City should provide a minimum of 2 tennis courts for public/ casual use in Service Area 3.
- Subject to the further development of club activity, 8 additional courts are needed to 2031 to provide new population growth in Service Areas 1 and 2 with a service level equivalent to that currently provided City-wide. Preference would be for clubs to be associated with new court development.
- New courts should be developed in groups of at least 4 to support the provision of ancillary facilities.

### **Trick Bike Facilities**

- Develop a park with facilities to accommodate trick bikes. Preference should be given to locating the facility in Service Areas 1 or 2.

## **e) Parkland**

### **Parks and Open Space**

- The City should undertake a review of the recommended facility requirements and the City's park holdings to determine the need for additional parkland.
- A strategy for the provision of recreational services should be developed to address the future needs of the City Centre.

- The City should assess the potential for disposing of any land surplus to the Corporation's requirements.
- Greenbelt acquisition should become the number one parkland acquisition priority for the City, particularly given the increased emphasis on trail system development and connectivity.
- The City should actively pursue alternatives to land acquisition for the provision of future City-serving sports fields (Group A facilities).

### **Waterfront Park System**

- Prepare an updated Waterfront Master Plan to continue to improve and expand unique waterfront parks and open space resources.
- Review current and proposed parks and recreation uses, and assess implications of appropriate waterfront parkland uses for future outdoor recreation facility development.

### **Urban Forest & Natural Areas**

- The Urban Forest needs to be inventoried and assessed for degree of vulnerability to withstand negative impact from human interaction as well as for fiscally responsible forestry management. First priority should be the inventory of City street trees and the inventory needs to be maintained on a regular basis.
- Existing by-laws and policies regarding criteria for the conservation and protection of trees should be reviewed and updated.
- The City should identify spaces within existing and future parks for naturalization/ restoration initiatives.

- Look to partnerships with the community to increase public awareness of best management of natural and forested areas.
- The City should undertake a review to determine natural areas that would be appropriate for inclusion within the open space system.

### **Park Washrooms**

- That the Park Washroom Ranking List Methodology as per the 2004 Park Washroom Study be used to determine a park's eligibility to receive a park washroom.
- That both Brick and Mortar and Prefabricated Concrete Buildings and the proposed floor plan configurations identified in the 2004 Park Washroom Study be adopted as the basic level of service for a park washroom building.

## **f) Service Assessment & Partnerships**

### **Fees & Subsidy Programs**

- Implement the fee classification process. (e.g., different fees for different service levels and desired outcomes)
- Develop a cost accounting system so that a fee strategy can be based upon the accurate cost of program and service delivery.
- Undertake the development of a thoughtful, fair, equitable and sensitive financial assistance policy that would subsidize individuals and groups who may not otherwise be able to access programs or facilities due to an inability to pay.

### **Partnerships**

- Implement the comprehensive Partnership Framework to ensure the identification of suitable partnership projects and the pursuit and/or evaluation of potential partners.