



2009 future directions

Future Directions for Recreation
Draft Interim Report - September 2009

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2009 Future Directions

RECREATION MASTER PLAN

FINAL DRAFT INTERIM REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2009

Prepared by:



in
association
with

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Executive Summary

The Consulting Team of MONTEITH BROWN PLANNING CONSULTANTS, Tucker-Reid & Associates, and The JF Group is pleased to present the *2009 Future Directions for Recreation*. This Recreation Master Plan is being developed to guide the City of Mississauga in delivering future recreation facilities, programs and services over a five year period extending to the year 2014.

Recreation, both in an organized and unstructured form, provides individuals with numerous physical health, psychological, economic and environmental benefits which are associated with a high quality of life. Not only does participation in recreation provide opportunities for a healthy lifestyle, it also facilitates greater cognitive development, self-esteem, social interaction, economic spending, conservation of natural lands, and community vibrancy.

This document is an update of the 2004 Future Directions Master Plan and it should be noted that the City has done an exceptional job in advancing the recreational, cultural and leisure opportunities for the residents of Mississauga. Satisfaction levels were found to be high in all areas with inability to participate being first and foremost a lack of time by the residents. Retrofits undertaken over the past five years were very well received by the public and user groups. The new shift presented in this update will be one of creating a more walkable city and a city that is more user friendly for both older adults and youth, while maintaining all the good programs and works currently available.

Recommendations for major facility provisions are closely tied to either intensification occurring in accordance with the City of Mississauga Official Plan, and/or with partnerships being negotiated.

The following paragraphs articulate the key themes which have emerged through the master planning process as well as the directions proposed to address the recreational needs of Mississauga over time.

Mississauga's Population is Growing and Evolving Much Faster than Expected

Mississauga's current population has reached 727,000 people, a level which only five years ago was thought to not be achieved until the year 2031. The rapid growth in the number of residents, as well as an increasing focus on development through intensification has a number of implications for recreation. The onset of greater numbers utilizing existing facilities will impact one's ability to access a program in preferred time slots and, for some programs, capacity will be exceeded. Numbers in the intensified targeted areas, if achieved, are sufficient to justify a new community centre. The evolving demographic characteristics are requiring innovative ways to engage people seeking opportunities that have not traditionally been delivered by the City.

Summary of Directions

1. Intensifying areas (e.g. high density nodes, corridors, etc.) should be examined for their ability to act as hubs of community activity, while providing opportunities for passive and active recreation to serve a larger population using a greater focus on neighbourhood-level planning. Appropriate municipal and non-municipal facilities (e.g. community centres, parks, libraries, elementary schools, etc.) should be strongly considered to deliver high quality and increasingly sophisticated recreational opportunities within walking distance of neighbourhoods. (See Map 10)

In intensified areas community centre and library development will be tied to population increases and may take the form of a condominium ownership within either residential or office or mixed use developments with locations that can be well served by transit.

2. Consider the inclusion of public space in the downtown core and higher density areas to promote a range of leisure activities. Preservation of some of the last remaining open space areas may be required to give relief to intensification.
3. The provision of early childhood development rooms for preschool programming continues to be encouraged at new and existing recreation facilities. These spaces are envisioned as providing drop-in programs for those aged 0-5 years in order to introduce children to physical and creative activities, education and social interaction, as well as removing barriers associated with supervision so that caregivers have an opportunity to participate in municipal leisure programs. These spaces are not intended to act as licensed daycare facilities, however, this option may be pursued if the City wishes to lease tenant space to a private provider who would bear all operational responsibility and meet the criteria of the City's partnership framework.
4. Implement the findings of the Youth Plan, as they pertain to the delivery of recreation facilities and services. The Youth Plan recommendations are aligned with, and support the City's and Region's various strategic plans and work plans. (See Appendix B)
5. Implement the directives of the Older Adult Plan in accordance with the implementation matrix provided in that report. (See Appendix B)
6. The existing older adult centres will continue to be needed to serve Mississauga's older adults, particularly as the number of frail or elderly older adults increases. Community Centres in areas with higher concentrations of older adults such as Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, Mississauga Valley Community Centre and Malton Community Centre should consider converting kitchens to commercial kitchens for meal provision.
7. A focus should continue to be placed upon enhancing the service delivery model for older adults through the development of innovative, inclusive and accessible programs focusing on wellness and active living.
8. Continue to place a focus upon integration of immigrants and ethnic groups into the spectrum of recreation program opportunities available to residents of Mississauga. Posters should be placed in select community centres and libraries, in the more prominent languages of the immediate community, identifying programs that are available and the number to call at the Region for more complete translations. When refurbishing pools consider appropriate designs for all cultural concerns.
9. Consider the provision of awareness materials and/or delivery of programs using language or sensitivity to cultural preferences of local residents, in neighbourhoods which warrant such outreach.
10. Continue with sensitivity training for service providers regarding the needs associated with diverse cultures and monitoring of local interest in the development of community-specific programs. Monitoring should be conducted through consultation and feedback opportunities (e.g. surveys,

comment sheets, forums, etc.), preferably in partnership with the Mississauga Public Library as libraries tend to be the first point of contact that newcomers have when seeking information about the community.

Providing Inclusive Services is a Priority

The availability of recreation services needs to be available to the population as a whole if the City is to be fair and equitable and responsible to its citizens. This means that programs and facilities have to consider the inclusion of residents who may come from vulnerable or underrepresented backgrounds, who may be faced with challenges pertaining to a disability, those who are not yet comfortable with the English language, or those who do not have access to reliable transportation.

Summary of Directions

11. The City should continue to offer inclusive activities as well as adaptive programming and facilities, while continuing to consider accessibility as a driver to all physical development, programming and communication activities (e.g. sensitivity training, barrier-free modifications to recreation facilities, integrated active living programs, etc.).
12. Accessibility to public facilities should be a strong consideration particularly in areas where access to transit may be a financial challenge. Smaller neighbourhood hubs, whether they are libraries, elementary schools, community centres or other publicly accessible facilities, should ideally be within walking distance of the community. This may be of greater concern in areas of vulnerable, under-represented or disabled persons. Where easy access to a public facility is not available, the City should strongly consider providing those qualifying for the Active Assist program with transit

tickets for the purposes of accessing municipal services as part of the registration to a program. To assure attendance, tickets could be provided to qualifying registrants at the end of each session.

13. The City should facilitate the provision of outreach activities (e.g. after school or drop in programs) at high risk schools in partnership with local school boards and other youth-oriented service providers.

Delivering Services Effectively and Sustainably

As a service provider accountable to its citizens, the City has a responsibility to ensure that the programs and facilities that it operates are efficient, effective, fiscally sound and, most importantly, meet the true needs of the community.

The City is not the only direct provider of recreation services in Mississauga; there are a number of community organizations, volunteers and private sector providers who offer services and facilities. The City acts as a facilitator for many program opportunities and works as a partner with many of the community-based service providers to provide as broad a spectrum of recreational opportunities as possible.

Summary of Directions

14. The City should continue to regularly evaluate its mix of leisure programs (e.g. through usage statistics, financial performance, emerging trends, customer feedback, etc.) as well as promotion and marketing practices in order to monitor the effectiveness of programs in meeting community need and their ability to reach target markets.

15. Strive to incorporate current and emerging best practices in facility and program design to meet social trends and demands such as environmental stewardship, fiscal efficiency, integration of technology, and the desire for safe and attractive spaces.
16. Regularly undertake lifecycle assessments at appropriate municipal recreation facilities to ensure that capital planning processes anticipate any issues that may arise as a result of aging infrastructure, as well as to identify opportunities to enhance/revitalize the facility to better serve market needs.
17. Continue to utilize the standardized Partnership Framework as a means to identify suitable partnership agreements in order to augment the current service delivery model. Partnerships which the City deems to sufficiently benefit the local community or the municipality as a whole should continue to be pursued.
18. Create a targeted strategy aimed at recruiting and retaining the number of volunteers involved in the delivery of recreation services, in attempt to maximize the benefits that a diverse local volunteer base (i.e. of all ages and backgrounds) brings to Mississauga.
19. Continue to facilitate volunteer-based networking (e.g. Volunteer MBC) to provide organizations with municipal and community-based supports to bolster their volunteer operations through shared resources and common interests.
20. The City should respond to requests for facilities presently not part of the core mandate on a case-by-case basis by evaluating the municipality's role in providing the service in relation to quantified market demand and cost-effectiveness

of such services, while also identifying potential strategies to address long-term need for such requests should a sufficient level of demand be expressed.

The Need for Indoor Recreation Facilities

Indoor recreation facilities play an important role in delivering opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. Arenas, pools, gymnasiums, fitness centres, indoor turf and community program space are all important in meeting the leisure needs of the community.

Summary of Directions

21. Continue with the planned reconstruction of the Meadowvale Community Centre.
22. Existing municipal facilities should be evaluated for their ability to be retrofitted/redesigned in order to accommodate any shifts in recreational needs that may arise as a result of emerging trends, changing neighbourhood demographics, etc.
23. Employ a "Provision by Opportunity to Partner" approach in pursuit of providing the Churchill Meadows community with necessary community space. Ideally, this would be attained by actively seeking out one of the following options:
 - i. Provide a gymnasium and meeting space if the City decides to revisit the joint municipal venture of a 50 metre indoor pool with a competitive tank, smaller warm up and teaching pool, and associated fitness facilities. This would allow the facility to function as a community centre for the residents living in the western portion of Service Area # 1.

- ii. Consider a community centre along 9th Line after engaging in discussions with a third party such as the YMCA and/or local soccer and tennis organizations. If a suitable agreement can be reached, inclusion of a pool, fitness space, indoor soccer and/or indoor tennis opportunities should be pursued on the condition that residents have similar access to the facility as they would in a municipally owned and operated community centre.
 - iii. If a suitable partner cannot be found, undertake a capacity analysis at the Erin Meadows Community Centre and the reconstructed Meadowvale Community Centre to determine whether a new indoor pool can be justified in the Churchill Meadows community.
24. New or reconstructed facilities should be designed according to LEED Silver standards, at a minimum, while also incorporating other appropriate “green” technologies to showcase the City’s leadership role in energy efficiency, innovation and environmental stewardship.
 25. Continue to ensure that new public leisure facilities are designed with the user’s safety in mind, through use of CPTED or similar principles.
 26. No new **arenas** are recommended for development in the next five years, however, needs should be re-evaluated through a five year update to the Master Plan. The longer term focus should remain upon operating all existing arenas until a time at which they are no longer deemed to fulfill a community need or they are financially unsustainable from an operating and maintenance perspective.
 27. The Master Plan concurs with the directions set out through the 2004 Arena Strategy. Outstanding recommendations advanced should be implemented as a guide to effectively addressing arena-related needs.
 28. At the next review of the Master Plan, better accounting practices (e.g. data collection, performance measurement statistics, etc.) by the City as to the number and location of users including adults should be in place to more accurately assess ice pad needs.
 29. While no new **indoor aquatic centres** are recommended over the next five years (unless the Highway 5/10 corridor intensifies at a rate faster than expected), the City should consider partnerships with either the municipalities of Milton and Oakville, or the YMCA, or another suitable third party to develop a pool in the western portion of Service Area #1. The latter option should be contingent on the elimination of Glenforest Pool from the pool inventory for the general public, and full access being available in any YMCA (or other third party) agreement for the residents of Mississauga.
 30. If the “smart growth” principles of intensification along the Highway 5/10 corridor are achieved, the development of a community centre containing a gymnasium, fitness centre and an indoor pool is recommended (also see Library Study). The pool, or any other municipally associated pool developed in the future, should be a high quality “Class A” pool to provide an acceptable level of service for residents with consideration of the demographics of the area determining the number of lanes, the size of a therapeutic pool and or the presence of leisure components. Application of Section 37 of the Planning Act to encourage the non

duplication of facilities in abutting condominiums should also be applied at the time of development.

31. Unless a more suitable agreement can be negotiated with the Peel District School Board, with regard to the capital and operating responsibilities, it is recommended that the City consider the relocation of shared-use pools to municipal multi-use community centres. It is believed that the Clarkson pool and Malton pool are the ideal choices for relocation.
32. The City should facilitate discussions with organized aquatic user groups to consider repurposing one shared use pool (preferably the Glenforest pool) for the use of organized aquatic sports. Should this occur, operating responsibilities should be transferred to the organized users, with capital investment contributed by both the City and its partners.
33. The City should proceed with the development of a **gymnasium** planned as part of the Meadowvale Community Centre's renovation/reconstruction.
34. As a longer term strategy, the proposed construction of a community centre in the Highway 5/10 corridor should contain a gymnasium.
35. Increase access to gymnasiums contained within high social risk index elementary schools and in underserved areas of the City. In areas where school boards are contemplating closure of schools close attention to the provision of services in such areas needs to be undertaken to ensure the community continues to have access to a gymnasium, meeting space and playing fields.
36. The City should continue to operate its existing **fitness centres** to provide a differentiated experience compared to the private sector, at an affordable but cost-effective rate in order to encourage municipal physical activity objectives.
37. Full-service fitness centres (equipment-based) are only recommended in new and existing community centres which contain an indoor pool and/or gymnasium. Furthermore, the City should continue to integrate fitness/activity studios within new and existing facilities in order to ensure that residents are provided with such programs and activities that are offered in proximity to their neighbourhoods.
38. The provision of an **indoor walking track** is recommended for inclusion as part of any new or redesigned/reconstructed community centre, where structurally feasible to do so.
39. No new **squash or racquetball** facilities are recommended over the next five years; however, the City should attempt to accommodate the players who will be displaced during the Meadowvale Community Centre renovation at the Rivergrove and/or South Common courts.
40. Proceed with the development of outdoor artificial turf fields as currently planned, however, the provision of an **all-weather structure** should only be considered after a market demand study is completed and considers the impact of usage of the field house at the Hershey Complex, and if a suitable partnership can be reached with a community-based provider(s). Impacts on abutting municipalities with similar facilities also need to be part of the market assessment.
41. Continue to offer a variety of recreation **program and rental opportunities** out of existing municipal facilities, to the

greatest degree possible with the goal of utilizing available capacity to the highest degree possible (i.e. a “no room sits empty” philosophy).

42. Explore opportunities to convert existing municipal facilities to higher quality multi-use community and program space, while also evaluating the merits of obtaining underutilized or vacant community buildings whose design would be conducive to allow the City to deliver increased program opportunities.
43. Any new recreation facilities developed in the future should contain flexible community rental and program spaces.
44. Work with the school boards to increase access and programming at select school sites located within gaps of walkable access in higher-risk areas. This may include acquisition of school sites slated for closure.

The Need for Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Outdoor recreation facilities also play a critical role in the provision of physical activities, meeting neighbourhood specific needs and encouraging appreciation for the environment. Parks (which are considered through the Parks & Open Spaces Master Plan) are critical venues for the delivery of outdoor recreational programming, both in terms of organized and unstructured leisure activities.

Summary of Directions

45. A total of eleven new **senior soccer fields** are required over the next five years, assuming access to key school fields is maintained. It is expected that the City’s current field development plans will address this shortfall. Furthermore, the City should continue to work with the local school boards

to ensure that access and field quality at local schools remains appropriate for community use.

46. The construction of dedicated mini soccer fields is discouraged in favour of programming mini fields across the width of senior soccer fields in order to maximize space dedicated to these sports fields. Consideration should be given to maximizing user safety in this instance by providing temporary mini nets (which can be removed when the senior field is being used by older players) and supporting features such as storage.
47. The City should evaluate its existing supply of soccer fields for their ability to support higher playing capacities through the installation of irrigation, drainage, lighting, and/or artificial turf systems in order to raise its effective supply should access to key non-municipal fields be lost in the future. Priority should be given to upgrading lower quality fields (as opposed to fields that the City has already invested considerably in) as well as those that have the potential to be grouped together in a multi-field format.
48. The City should evaluate underutilized minor and mini soccer fields for their ability to shift organized soccer use to another field and use the existing space for the purposes of neighbourhood-based program delivery within the park.
49. A total of five new senior **ball diamonds** are required to meet needs over the master planning period. It is recommended that a minimum of five existing ball diamonds be lit, where feasible, to accommodate the increase in use associated with population growth.

50. The City should evaluate its underutilized ball diamonds for their ability to be repurposed for other uses, such as providing space for neighbourhood-based program delivery including multi-use pads, practice cricket pitches, etc.
51. If improvements to selected **football and lacrosse fields** do not reconcile the latent demand for these sports, the City should consider the provision of a new multi-use field, preferably with artificial turf. In this instance, the City should share a portion of the capital and operational responsibility with an interested user group(s) and look at options of developing at least one more running track.
52. Proceed with the planned construction of three new **cricket pitches**, while evaluating opportunities to improve quality of play at two existing pitches and/or providing a cricket pitch to serve the City's southern areas. Furthermore, existing sports fields should incorporate practice/local-level features (e.g. wickets) to support neighbourhood-level cricket play, wherever feasible, particularly in areas demonstrating higher demand for the activity. Underutilized older ball diamonds may be an excellent location for adaptive reuse to practise pitches.
53. Continue to support local cricket and/or other field sport organizations to facilitate their internal developmental capacity to a level where they can sustainably operate and deliver programs to the community.
54. A total of twelve new **tennis courts**, consisting of a mix of public and competition-level courts, should be provided by the year 2014. A particular focus on providing public courts in Service Areas #3, #4 and #6 is recommended, while the need for additional competition-level courts should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
55. The eight tennis courts currently identified for development under current City plans should be funded and implemented according to the timelines established through the capital program. Furthermore, opportunities to improve quality and community access to courts located on school properties should be examined in cooperation with the school boards so long as day access can be achieved.
56. A total of 9.5 new **basketball/multi-purpose courts** are required, meaning 7 additional courts are needed over and above planned facilities, in order to meet needs over the next five years. It is expected that this shortfall will be reconciled by the number of basketball hoops and multi-purpose pads currently proposed or under development, as identified in City plans.
57. The City should strive to provide **playgrounds** within 800 metres of residential areas, unobstructed by major playground barriers. At least 270 playgrounds should be the ultimate provision target, although this may be exceeded based upon geographic distribution.
58. Proceed with the development of two new inclusive playgrounds to serve the north and east ends of Mississauga, as well as one additional barrier-free playground in the longer term. Other playgrounds, both new and existing, should be evaluated for their ability to incorporate smaller scale barrier-free elements.
59. While no new **outdoor pools** are recommended, the City's seven existing pools should be evaluated through lifecycle

assessments for their ability to be improved to provide a better level of service, extend their life span, and ultimately strengthen their position as summertime hubs for the neighbourhoods in which they are located. If redevelopment is not financially feasible alternative adaptive reuses need to be considered including spray pads.

60. The provision of two new major **spray pads** is required, preferably to be located in Service Areas #4 and #5, as well as along the lakefront and/or areas targeted for major intensification, assuming that the future age characteristics of these areas justify provision.
61. While the provision of a new major **skateboard park** is not recommended until the City's population reaches 800,000, the City should develop smaller-scale minor/satellite skateboard venues at appropriate neighbourhood parks.
62. One new **mountain bike and/or BMX park** is recommended for development to demonstrate local interest and demand for this activity. The location of the facility should be in a location well served by transit and/or trail linkages, while design of the park should be developed in consultation with youth, mountain bike enthusiasts, and environmentally focused organizations. Locations options could include BraeBen, Hershey, Totoredaca, or currently undeveloped community level parkland.
63. The City should continue to operate its two existing municipal **golf courses** as they are seen as providing access to any resident interested in golf-related activities. However, the City should not seek to own or operate any new golf courses as it is believed that municipal investment should be targeted to higher need recreational activities.
64. Implement the key directions of the **Waterfront Strategy** as they pertain to the delivery of recreation services. Proposals for facilities not considered as part of this Strategy need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure congruency with the strategic vision established for the waterfront.
65. Provisions to incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness and **informal use** opportunities should be paramount considerations in the design of parks in order to encourage use and facilitate activity levels.
66. Ensure that there is a coordinated special events strategy and suitable locations for special events such as festivals and the celebration of our lives. Current practises of multiple organizers and coordinators needs to be properly assessed against the resources of the departments being asked to help implement special events.
67. Consider the inclusion of Wi-Fi in select community parks where the population would support the benefit.
68. No new **natural or artificial outdoor rinks** intended to serve a community-level purpose are recommended over the next five years. Should a neighbourhood organization be willing to volunteer responsibility for the maintenance of a natural rink, this course of action should be evaluated by the City.
69. The provision of a major skating park or skating path should only be pursued after a feasibility study and business planning process has been undertaken to justify the cost-benefit of such an endeavour and, if in the Waterfront area, in conformity and harmony with the Waterfront Strategy.

The Need for Unstructured Recreational Facilities

There continues to be high interest in the development of facilities that permit people to recreate based on their own schedule. These unstructured recreational opportunities do not often have “minor” organizations promoting their attributes but are extremely valuable in the overall needs of the community. Events such as off-leash dog parks, community gardens, special event facilities, and informal recreational sports fields are all necessary to round out the leisure interests of Mississauga Residents.

Summary of Directions

70. The provision of new **off-leash areas** should be considered in partnership with a community organization(s) willing to contribute towards the capital and operational responsibility associated with the park.

71. Horticultural programs should accompany the development of new community gardens, and be delivered by the municipality and its community-based partners.

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Recreation Master Plan

In 1999 and 2004, the City of Mississauga undertook its “Future Directions” initiative, setting goals and priorities for the implementation of recreation, parks and library facilities and services. As an update to these efforts, the 2009 Future Directions undertakes a comprehensive assessment of the recreation, parks and library system through three distinct, but interrelated, master plans:

- the Recreation Master Plan;
- the Parks & Natural Areas Master Plan; and
- the Library Master Plan.

The Recreation Master Plan is being developed to guide the City of Mississauga in delivering future recreation facilities, programs and services over a five year period extending to the year 2014, although a twenty year outlook (i.e. to 2029) will be taken in certain instances to ensure that actions are appropriate for future generations.

The Master Plan will provide guidance regarding the municipality’s role in the provision of recreation programs and facilities over the next five years.

The Master Plan’s methodology has considered a number of key inputs based upon research, consultation and needs assessments. Community consultations have included a random sample telephone survey of households, a community search conference, stakeholder questionnaires, interviews with key informants, and upcoming public information sessions.

1.2 Master Plan Context

The Recreation Master Plan serves as an update to the Future Directions initiatives undertaken by the City of Mississauga in 1999 and 2004. During this time, Mississauga has grown and evolved substantially (as have most municipalities in the GTA). The 2006 Census recorded the City’s population at 668,550 which represented a 9% increase from the previous Census; along with this growth in population, the community profile has become more socio-economically diversified as Mississauga establishes itself as a destination for younger and older adults, families, and newcomer populations. Hemson Consulting Inc., retained by the City to undertake population projections for Mississauga, estimated the 2009 population at 727,700 people. This is a population that had been projected in 2003 to not be reached until the year 2031; the current forecast for the year 2031 now stands at a target population of 811,100 people.

With an evolving community profile, recreation facilities, programs and services need to continue to be able to respond to added pressures of population growth, emerging demands for new program opportunities (i.e. market evolution driven by trends such as the aging population, additional newcomer populations, shifting interests, etc.), inclusion of under-represented or vulnerable households, added sophistication in the way services are delivered to the public, and continued emphasis on providing high quality customer service. Furthermore, neighbourhood-based planning is becoming a more common approach to meeting needs, particularly as the City intensifies and achieves higher densities so that services and facilities can respond to community-specific characteristics, all the while ensuring fiscal responsibility on the part of the municipality.

1.3 The Strategic Plan

Based on the *Our Future Mississauga* consultations with all facets of the community, the City's Strategic Plan has been developed as a fundamental framework through which policies and decisions will be made.

The five 'Strategic Pillars for Change', which form the basis of the Strategic Plan, consist of:

- Developing a transit-oriented City;
- Ensuring youth, older adults and new immigrants thrive;
- Completing our neighbourhoods;
- Cultivating creative and innovative businesses; and
- Living green.

It is the intent of the Recreation Master Plan to fulfill the goals and objectives associated with each of these strategic Pillars, to the greatest extent possible, as they pertain to the delivery of the City's recreation facilities and services. The adjacent figure highlights which Strategic Goals are relevant to the Recreation Master Plan, either directly or indirectly.

The Recreation Master Plan also considers policies and recommendations set out by other municipal documents such as the City's Official Plan, Older Adult Plan, Youth Study, Waterfront Parks Strategy (see Appendix A for a more detailed list of studies) in order to ensure consistency in planning.

Figure 1: City of Mississauga Strategic Pillars & Goals



Source: Draft Strategic Plan (2008)

Through the Recreation Master Plan, the Strategic Plan's objectives will be advanced by the following themes, at a minimum:

Developing a Transit-Oriented City

- Encouraging the provision of recreation programs and facilities which are accessible by transit, foot, bicycle and other modes of "active transportation."
- Using recreation facilities as hubs or destinations to connect to an "active transportation" network.

Ensuring Youth, Older Adults & New Immigrants Thrive

- Providing recreation programs and facilities which are inclusive, affordable and accessible.
- Continually remaining apprised of trends, preferences and needs of these program markets.
- Holistically delivering programs and spaces in an integrated manner by working with community partners, other agencies and levels of government, and other municipal departments, which draws expertise and resources from all involved.
- Involving and empowering target markets in the delivery of recreation services through appropriate consultation and/or employment opportunities.

Completing Our Neighbourhoods

- Using recreation programs and facilities to become destinations as a means to create "complete communities" through the delivery of neighbourhood-specific services, wherever possible.
- Programming public spaces for structured and unstructured recreational activity to the greatest degree possible.
- Maintaining facilities to a level that addresses community needs and stimulates community pride.
- Using recreation facilities to foster community safety and feelings of comfort and well-being.

Cultivating & Creating Innovative Business

- Delivering innovative program and facility designs to showcase leadership and examples for the business community to follow.
- Providing high quality recreation services that act as incentives to drawing talented and skilled individuals to the City.
- Developing meaningful opportunities for collaboration and partnership with the community to deliver innovative services and facilities to residents of Mississauga.

Living Green

- Designing recreation facilities to respect the natural landscape and advance principles of environmental responsibility at both a local and global level.
- Training staff and residents who are involved in recreational aspects of the City to be stewards of the environment.
- Educating the community of their environment by integrating interpretative opportunities into program and facility delivery.

1.4 Methodology

The Recreation Master Plan was initiated in January 2009, led by a Steering Committee and Project Team of City of Mississauga Staff, and assisted by the Consulting Team of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, Tucker Reid & Associates, and The JF Group.

A number of steps have led to the development of this Draft Master Plan. The Consulting Team has conducted an extensive review of background research and community demographics, analysed existing supplies of recreational resources, and carried out an extensive consultation with local residents, user groups and representatives from the City of Mississauga. Specifically, the consultation program has employed the following tasks to date:

- A random sample telephone survey of over 400 households in Mississauga;
- A stakeholder and user group questionnaire;
- A Community Search Conference with local residents and stakeholders with an interest in recreation and leisure;
- Focus groups with community user groups;
- Online / public survey;
- Interviews with key informants such as members of City Council, senior City Staff, external agencies, etc.; and
- Public information sessions (additional public information sessions are scheduled for Fall 2009).

Based upon the background research and consultation efforts, a needs assessment has been prepared which analyzes needs associated with the Mississauga's indoor and outdoor recreational resources. Subsequently, the preparation of an implementation plan that prioritizes and articulates the timing of the Recreation Master Plan's recommendations will ensue.

1.5 Master Plan Organization

- Section 1: Introduction
Provides an overview of the Report's purpose, scope and planning process.
- Section 2: Delivering the Service
Identifies key themes as derived from an analysis of demographics, trend and consultations with the community as they pertain to the delivery of recreation services.
- Section 3: Indoor Recreation Facilities
Contains an assessment of indoor recreation facility needs and the actions required to address them.
- Section 4: Outdoor Recreation Facilities
Contains an assessment of outdoor recreation facility needs and the actions required to address them.
- Section 5: Implementation Plan
This Section, to be developed at a later date, will provide a strategy for implementing the Master Plan's recommendations.

Section 2: Delivering the Service

2.1 Recreation Planning

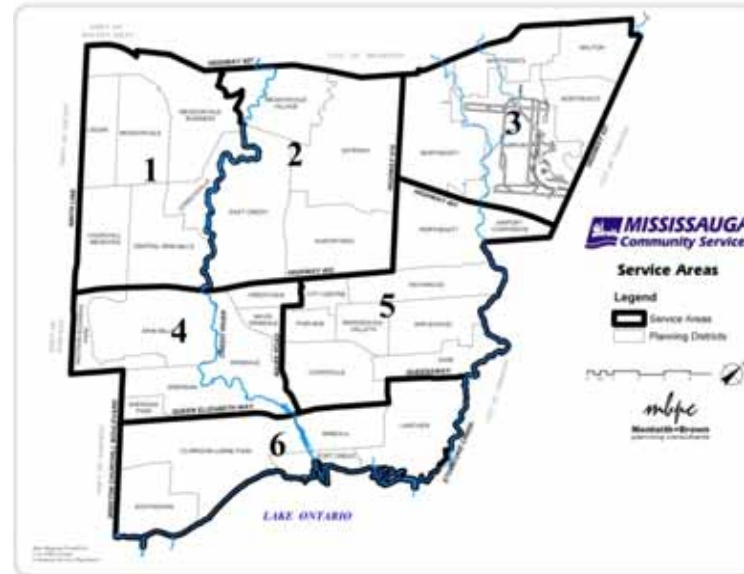
Recreation, both in an organized and unstructured form, provides individuals with numerous physical health, psychological, economic and environmental benefits which are associated with a high quality of life. Not only does participation in recreation provide opportunities for a healthy lifestyle, it also facilitates greater cognitive development, self-esteem, social interaction, economic spending, conservation of natural lands, and community vibrancy.

Recognizing this, the field of recreation planning has emerged to effectively position decision-makers and service providers to meet the recreational needs of a community in a sustainable manner. Municipalities, such as the City of Mississauga, frequently undertake assessments of their recreation system to develop policy frameworks and quantify benefits and needs through performance measures.

In addition to the Future Directions initiatives of the past and present, the City of Mississauga has continually engaged in studies as to how best to ensure that residents of all ages and abilities have access to needed recreation services. The City's *Get Active Mississauga* program and its various physical, educational, cultural, and social activities serve to promote the benefits of leisure. *Get Active Mississauga* is supported by a number of community partners, including the Region of Peel Health Department, Mississauga News, Active2010 – Ministry of Health Promotion, and the Mississauga YMCA, among others. The 2009 Future Directions is intended to be guiding document that ensures the continued and sustainable delivery of recreation facilities, programs and services which, along with various other initiatives of the City and its community-based partners, increase the quality of life for Mississauga residents.

For analyses purposes, the City of Mississauga has been divided in to six "Service Areas" to plan for different communities. These boundaries are shown in the adjacent map.

Map 1: City of Mississauga Service Areas



2.2 Population Growth & Intensification

With new population growth occurring in Mississauga each day, added pressures are being placed on the City's recreation facilities and programs. These pressures can take the form of waiting lists for fitness classes, inability to provide enough soccer fields, added wear and tear on spray pads, or simply just requiring new spaces to "play."

According to Statistics Canada Census data, the population of the City of Mississauga stood at 665,565 people in the year 2006 (excluding the Census undercount). This represented a ten year increase of 22.8% (or 121,185 people) since the year 1996 and a five year increase of 5.1% (or 32,565 people) since the year 2001.

Since the 2006 Statistics Canada Census data was released, population projections have been prepared for the City of Mississauga by Hemson Consulting Inc. Current estimates for the population of the City of Mississauga in the year 2009 are 727,700 people. For each of the City's six Service Areas, the current population is estimated as follows:

Table 1: Current Population by Service Area, 2009

Service Area	2009 Population	Change from 2004
1	159,000	5% more people
2	155,500	14% less people
3	38,400	1% less people
4	100,300	6% less people
5	189,800	approximately the same
6	84,700	8% less people
Total	727,700	

Sources: Statistics Canada 2001, Hemson Consulting Inc. 2009, and Monteith Brown Planning Consultants 2009

It should be noted that population projections that existed for the 2004 Master Plan anticipated a 2031 population of 729,000 people. According to the City's most recent projections, that number has already been achieved as of the year 2009.

Population Growth

The City's overall population is expected to increase from a **current** (2009) estimate of 727,700 to 811,100 people by the year 2031 representing an increase of 83,400 people.

Each projection year is noted in the table on the following page, both by Service Area and for City Totals by 5-year period. Using the year 2001 as a base year for comparison, the 2004 Master Plan anticipated a population growth of 96,000 people between the years 2001 and 2031, while the new population projections anticipate a population growth of 178,100 people between years 2001 and 2031.

The following tables also provide an indication of population growth projected for each of the six Planning Areas of the City between the years 2009 and 2031. While the overall population is expected to grow by 11.46% between 2009 and 2031, the rate of growth in each of the Planning Areas differs significantly:

- Planning Area 5 is projected to see the largest percentage of growth at 21.87% largely representing the intensification associated with the City Centre as well as other nodes of intensification.
- Planning Areas 4 and 6 will see the lowest percentage population growth at 3.89% and 8.38% respectively.
- A decrease in the percentage of population is expected to occur in Planning Area 3 of 3.89%.

Intensification

The *Places to Grow Act* (2005) is a provincial initiative that ensures that “growth plans reflect the needs, strengths and opportunities of the communities involved, and promotes growth that balances the needs of the economy with the environment.” The rapid expansion of urban areas across the province, particularly in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, has necessitated the consideration of managing future growth through intensification of our existing footprint.

Increased densities in existing areas can place significant pressure on older facilities, many of which were not built to sustain higher levels of use (nor are some built to modern standards).

Furthermore, land is at a premium within intensifying areas and it will become increasingly difficult to acquire sufficient parkland and spaces to accommodate recreation facilities which are needed to serve a growing population, and no large land masses exist to be acquired.

England is currently experiencing similar intensification pressures to those faced by many Canadian cities, including Mississauga. The Design Council (2009) identifies the “battle between urban sprawl and compact City living”, which will necessitate the provision of more amenities in a higher density area. The Project for Public Spaces (PPS), a non-profit planning and urban design firm, promotes mixed-use development plans that ensure infill development is planned while still integrating public recreation spaces into the community; doing so will ensure that all residents (not just those who live in the suburbs) have access to public space.

Table 2: Population Forecast by Service Area, 2001-2031

Year	SERVICE AREAS						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
2001	117,500	119,600	41,500	104,000	165,900	84,500	633,000
2009	159,000	155,500	38,400	100,300	189,800	84,700	727,700
2011	162,300	158,700	38,300	100,300	192,400	85,000	737,000
2016	167,100	163,700	37,700	100,000	202,000	86,100	756,600
2021	169,900	166,600	37,300	100,900	211,300	87,800	773,800
2026	172,800	169,100	37,000	103,300	221,600	89,700	793,500
2031	175,500	171,300	37,000	104,200	231,300	91,800	811,100
2009-31	16,500	15,800	-1,400	3,900	41,500	7,100	83,400

Sources: Statistics Canada 2001, Hemson Consulting Inc. 2009, and Monteith Brown Planning Consultants 2009

Note: Numbers have been rounded

Year	SERVICE AREAS						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
2009-2011	2.08%	2.06%	-0.26%	0.00%	1.37%	0.35%	1.28%
2011-2016	2.96%	3.15%	-1.57%	-0.30%	4.99%	1.29%	2.66%
2016-2021	1.68%	1.77%	-1.06%	0.90%	4.60%	1.97%	2.27%
2021-2026	1.71%	1.50%	-0.80%	2.38%	4.87%	2.16%	2.55%
2021-2026	1.56%	1.30%	0.00%	0.87%	4.38%	2.34%	2.22%
2009-2031	10.38%	10.16%	-3.65%	3.89%	21.87%	8.38%	11.46%

Sources: Statistics Canada 2001, Hemson Consulting Inc. 2009, and Monteith Brown Planning Consultants 2009

Mississauga is projected to grow by approximately 21,060 people by 2014, the end of the master planning period. The City is currently preparing its *Development Charges Study*, which may further refine this figure. Projected growth and future intensification plans will be key elements in the planning of parks, recreation, cultural and library

facilities. One of the four key strategic directives that are serving as the basis for the City's *Growth Management Strategy* is the need to build complete communities. The City has recognized that many past developments are not able to easily accommodate the forthcoming intensification the Growth Management Strategy recommends.

The City does, however, recognize the importance of providing multimodal neighbourhoods wherein active transportation (e.g., walking, cycling, etc.) is encouraged through both design and promotion. Furthermore, the urban structure advanced through the Growth Management Strategy (GMS) would imply that large centralized recreation facilities would benefit from being hubs of activity located within, or in close proximity to, major nodes or community nodes, or along intensification or urban corridors. On the other hand, decentralizing services or providing neighbourhood-scale amenities in lower-density areas which are responsive to the character of neighbourhoods should be explored, particularly in neighbourhoods where walk-to options are needed due to the prevalence of vulnerability characteristics. The GMS provides the distributional framework in which to base the provision of future recreational services and facilities.

The Master Plan's needs assessment carefully considers the impact of residential intensification on existing facilities and parks and their ability to handle the needs of future populations. *Building Mississauga Around Places: A Vision for City Centre Parks and Open Spaces in the 21st Century* is a document that was prepared for the Project for Public Spaces in 2006 to create a vision for revitalizing public spaces in and around downtown Mississauga. The City was commended on its safe environment, fast rate of growth, plethora of industry and commercial presence, outstanding facilities, above average income and educational attainment (2001 Census data), and the fact that it is a leader in the Healthy Cities movement.

The City should continue to build upon these achievements as it moves forward with intensification. The City's *Waterfront Parks Strategy* (2008) suggests a number of strategies that are universal across the type of recreation facility or opportunity, and should be held in consideration by the City in its planning for growth and intensification to maintain a universal message. For example, the Strategy discusses the importance of connectivity (emotional, physical and visual), identity, sustainability, transportation, parking, natural and cultural heritage, signage, environmental design, circulation (of traffic), waterfront activities and facilities, education and interpretation, seasonal use, landscaping, buildings and structures, design amenities, service infrastructure, and accessibility. Each of these areas is applicable to the design and provision of growth-related infrastructure.

Planning for Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood-based planning is becoming a trend in large urban municipalities who are trying to decentralize services to respond to specific neighbourhood demographics. The successful management of growth and intensification may require any number of planning strategies, including a direct focus on the needs of individual neighbourhoods as they relate to the municipality as a whole. The goal of neighbourhood planning is "to build social capital, which is the ability of the neighborhood (sic) to organize itself to identify problems and solve them in partnership with elected officials, businesses, and public agencies."¹ On the level of facility planning, neighbourhood level considerations must include the history of the community, demographics, housing options that are applicable to the residents (existing and future), safety, education and recreation opportunities.

¹ Colombo, L. & Balizer, K. (2005). *Introduction to Neighborhood Planning*. Available at: http://www.neighborhoodplanning.org/topic1_intro.htm.

The City of Madison, Wisconsin has more than 120 neighbourhood associations that each work with the City to develop plans that are reflective of each community's needs and expected growth². Since 2001, the City of Portland, Maine has employed a Neighbourhood-Based Planning System, within which citizens of affected neighbourhoods are invited to be a part of the City's Development Review Process through public notices, meetings and workshops, which will lead to the Neighbourhood Foundation Plan.³ The goal of this Plan is to establish the boundaries of each neighbourhood and strategically assess it, define its assets, and create a vision and goals.

The City of London, Ontario has reorganized its Community Service Division into Parks and Recreation, and Neighbourhood and Children's Services. The latter places enhanced emphasis on the coordination of all agencies involved in developing healthy communities.

The most applicable strategy for the City of Mississauga may be neighbourhood-based facility planning in part due to its commitment to completing neighbourhoods as one of its 'Strategic Pillars for Change' in the 2006 Strategic Plan. The City's Growth Management Strategy is the document through which the Strategic Plan is to be implemented, and identifies a number of urban structures: Urban Growth Centre; Major Nodes; Community Nodes, Intensification Corridors; and Stable Residential Neighbourhoods. The last of these will require the City to focus on improving connectivity between facilities and residential areas.

² Department of Planning & Development. (n.d.). The City of Madison's Neighbourhood Plans. Available at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/ndp/index.html>.

³ Planning & Urban Development Department. (n.d.). Neighbourhood Foundation Plan. Available at: <http://www.portlandplanning.org/neighborhood.asp>.

The City must weigh the benefits of large centralized facilities and neighbourhood level facilities that would be located in lower density areas. The City has sought community support on strategic planning issues through *Our Future Mississauga Community Engagement & Directions Report*, and the issues of place-making, land use and growth were identified as drivers for change by local residents.

With the trend toward intensification instead of further suburban sprawl, municipalities will be required to provide recreational spaces for a growing number of residents on a rapidly shrinking amount of land. Within an intensification scenario, such as that which Mississauga is entering, there are limited opportunities to receive land that might be smaller in area, but at a higher financial cost.

The Public Square

The public square is becoming a necessary magnet for downtown residents to recreate, with examples including: Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco; New York City's Union Square; Piazza Maggiore in Bologna, Italy; St. Stephen's Green in Dublin, Ireland; and squares in Verona, Italy and in Copenhagen, Denmark.

These squares play important roles in their respective cities, as they offer public space where residents and visitors alike can participate in primarily passive recreation opportunities within walking distance of their homes. Smaller squares or smaller parks with imaginative staging areas are also being developed across North America as part of the New Urbanism design.

Mississauga is entering a time of greater intensification and redevelopment within which much of the City's new population will be located in intensified neighbourhoods. The City of Mississauga must consider the inclusion of public space in the downtown core, and must determine whether it will be able to provide small scale creative play structures for children, spray pads or other cooling features, un-

programmed green space and/or small sports fields. Public squares should also include amenities for older adults and a more diverse population, such as seating areas, horticultural displays, chess boards, etc. in order to meet the needs of a broad segment of the population.

Other Spaces within High Density Areas

Although a parks and open space dimension, the intensification of the Hurontario and the Dundas street corridors will not only bring a new look to the traditional community centre but will also increase the demand for a green space that will relieve the impact of an intensively-built community.

In addition to the aforementioned corridors, the City Centre is also an intensification node that will experience population-driven pressures on its supply of open spaces. It is strongly recommended that the one last remaining open space parcel in Mississauga's downtown be acquired. The lands would greatly benefit the area that is already a shopping district, civic centre, and cultural centre hub by providing the needed "green experience." From sitting on a bench, walking a dog, or throwing a Frisbee, this parcel would complete the concept of a truly distinctive gathering and destination space. Although soccer pitches and baseball diamonds may not form part of the open space experience of the City's more intensified areas, there is still the need to have relief from the built form from the resident's perspective.

This site may also be ideal as a Community Garden location. Other community gardens need to be developed, particularly within the vulnerable neighbourhoods, as is described in later sections of this Master Plan.

Summary of Population-Oriented Directions

- ❖ *Intensifying areas (e.g. high density nodes, corridors, etc.) should be examined for their ability to act as hubs of community activity, while providing opportunities for passive and active recreation to serve a larger population using a greater focus on neighbourhood-level planning. Appropriate municipal and non-municipal facilities (e.g. community centres, parks, libraries, elementary schools, etc.) should be strongly considered to deliver high quality and increasingly sophisticated recreational opportunities within walking distance of neighbourhoods. (See Map 10)*

In intensified areas, community centre and library development will be tied to population increases and may take the form of a condominium ownership within either residential, office or mixed use developments with locations that can be well served by transit.

- ❖ *Consider the inclusion of public space in the downtown core and higher density areas to promote a range of leisure activities (such as walking a dog, informal play, etc.). Preservation of some of the last remaining open space areas may be required to give relief to intensification.*
-

2.3 An Evolving Age Profile

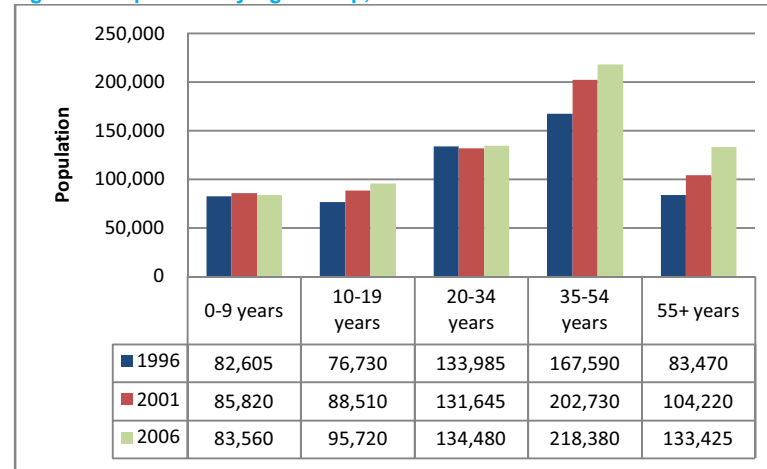
While knowing the number and geographic distribution of people living in Mississauga is of great importance, understanding who they are, and the recreation markets they represent, is quite a different consideration altogether.

There are a number of socio-demographic changes occurring within the population. A notable trend is that the age structure of Mississauga's population has shifted, reflecting an aging population. The adjacent charts illustrate that the population of 35 to 54 year olds and the 55+ age group have increased both as a total number of people but also as a percentage of the overall population. People aged 20 to 34 years old have fluctuated somewhat but represent a decreasing percentage of the overall population. The 10 to 19 year olds have shown steady increases in the number of people in this age group, while representing a consistent percentage of the overall population of Mississauga. The aging of the "baby-boomer" population along with longer life expectancy can be expected to result in these population trends continuing in the future.

According to the 2006 Census, the median age of the population for Mississauga was 37.7 years and for the Province 39.0 years indicating that the City has a slightly younger population at present. The median age in 2001, however, was 35.0 years which supports the position that Mississauga's population is aging as a whole.

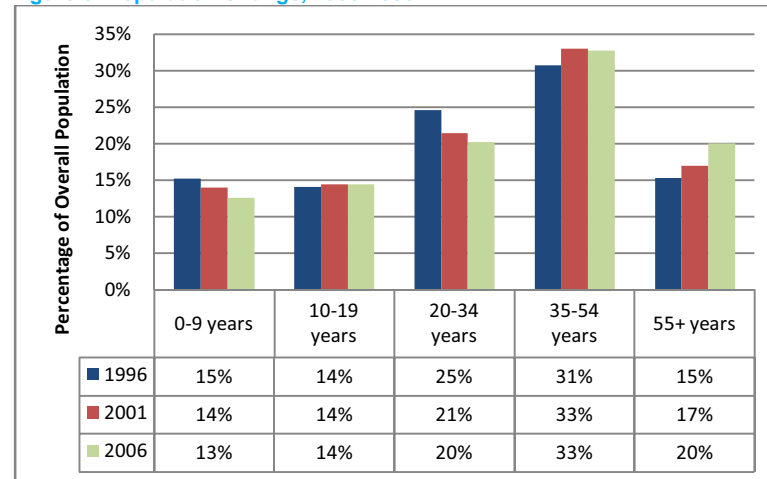
What all of this generally implies is that there is a shift in who the primary consumer/client will be, and a shift in the recreational services required. For example, the older adult represents a market where enhanced focus will have to be placed. The City's Older Adult Study provides specific directions on how best to achieve this, but from a recreational perspective, the City will need to consider the provision of facilities and programs demanded by the older adult.

Figure 2: Population by Age Group, 1996-2006



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 1996, 2001, 2006

Figure 3: Population Change, 1996-2006



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 1996, 2001, 2006

Older Adults

The aging population trend being observed in Mississauga is one of the greatest pressures being placed on the delivery of recreation facilities and services. According to Census data,⁴ the proportion of residents aged above 55 has increased from 15% in 1996 to 20% in 2006, a trend which is expected to continue in the future.

The older adult age group (generally 55 to 70 years of age) has a diverse range of needs and expectations with regards to recreation and leisure, as they largely consist of the Baby Boom cohort whose leisure expectations have been observed to be much different than those of their parents. Older adults are expected to maintain their interest in more active forms of leisure (e.g. fitness, hockey, hiking, etc.), although with a lesser degree of intensity than in the past. This age segment generally demands facilities and spaces much like younger adults (e.g. multi-use facilities, trails, etc.).

The senior's market (generally over 70 years of age) is generally associated with the more passive leisure activities pursued by past generations (e.g. card playing, crafts, shuffleboard, etc.). These types of activities are still required to meet the needs of seniors who may not be able to participate in more strenuous forms of activity due to health reasons. This age segment generally demands spaces similar to the traditional senior's centre model.

The clear message for trends relating to the new older adult is that 'one size does not fit all'. Not only will the next generation of older adults be more culturally diverse and physically fit, but many will have the financial resources to participate in any type of activity or program they choose. The active living concept and a great focus on the mind, body and soul will need to be reflected in the types of programs and

services offered as the Baby Boomer population ages. An example of the growth in active living is the rise in participation rates for both yoga and Pilates.

The need for older adult and seniors services, as suggested by the household survey, presently appears to be low in relation to other services. 40% of the sample stated a need to 'do more' in terms of local seniors centres while only 2% reported participation in older adult or seniors programs. Seniors clubs submitting a questionnaire also appear generally content with the spaces that they utilize.

This new generation of older adults is predicted to cycle through periods of work and leisure. While they may retire from their 'career', many will go on to work part-time or start new endeavours. This may shift the traditional hours at which municipal services, facilities, and programs need to be offered, although it is recognized that many older adults will have more flexible working hours which will still impact day-time usage of facilities. Furthermore, older adults who are "living green" may generate demands for facilities and programs in non-peak hours as this segment may be more likely to use non-motorized transportation and public transit during the daytime when roads and transit services are less congested.

Lifelong learning (the continuation and extension of education) will be considered a leisure pursuit, as opposed to work by many older adults, potentially creating pressures on library services. While certain pressures on library and other community services will be alleviated as the proportion of children in Mississauga slowly decreases, the shift is not equal; there will be significantly more older adults added to City's population than the decrease occurring in the young population.

Furthermore, Baby Boomer women are more educated and independent than previous generations. It is predicted that there will be a larger shift in demand for City services, facilities and programs

⁴ Statistics Canada Census 1996 and 2006.

from women as their role in society has changed dramatically in the last 30 years. A recent study by Statistics Canada, entitled *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*, found that 55-64 year olds with a university degree are 5 times more likely to be involved in cultural, educational, civic or hobby activity than those with less than a high school degree (2006). This will be particularly important for Mississauga, as the 2006 Census found that 38.4% of residents over the age of 15 had either a college diploma or university degree, compared to the Provincial average of 34.7%.

Given the considerable growth in the older adult population, additional space designed with older adults in mind will be required (beyond the timeframe of this Master Plan) if the City is to adequately service the needs of this market. At present, there are two dedicated older adult centres in Mississauga, located respectively in Service Area #5 and Service Area #6. While older adult oriented programs are offered at numerous other municipal and community-based facilities, the need for multi-purpose spaces designed particularly for older adults is seen to be beneficial to those who prefer areas that they can take ownership and responsibility of.

Contrary to past observations with past generations of seniors, the City will not be able to rely on older adults and seniors using facilities during daytime hours as much. For example, trends suggest that many individuals are not retiring as early as predicted, while many retirees spend their days babysitting their grandchildren due to the cost and limited availability of licensed child care spaces.

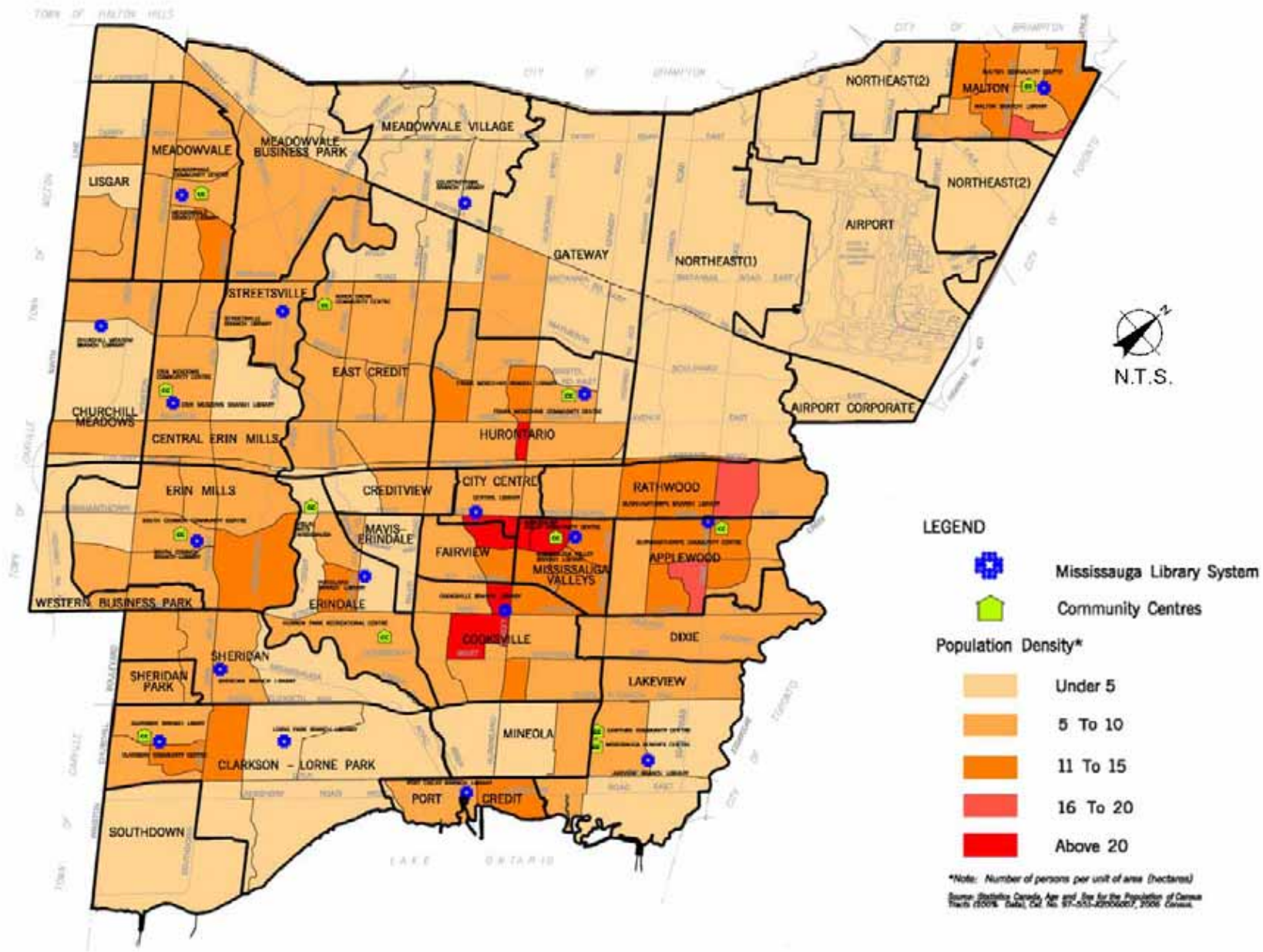
Although many older adults and seniors who are at retirement age may have a higher degree of disposable time, this may not translate into "free" time to be spent on leisure pursuits. The new senior can be expected to generate demand for peak hours just as the rest of the working population would, thus the provision of new spaces is necessary.

There will be a growing need for multi-purpose spaces designed specifically to accommodate older adult interests. Such space is ideally suited at multi-use centres where older adults are expected to spend the majority of their leisure time, given their propensity to seek active living opportunities.

These venues would consolidate numerous leisure opportunities such as pools, fitness studios, arts and craft spaces, older adult lounges, etc. and provide the "one-stop shopping" atmosphere that is preferred by the public. Future seniors spaces, therefore, should be provided within the multi-use leisure facility template to allow a greater degree of participation in the physical activities pursued by older adults and the "new" senior such as swimming (e.g. aquatic fitness, therapeutic programs, etc.) or ice sports ("old-timer" leagues, etc.).

The design of new or upgraded older adult and seniors space may consist of fitness and wellness studios (which would include wood-sprung floors, light weights, mirrors, etc.), arts and crafts areas (which would include sinks, benches, adequate storage, etc.), games room (e.g. snooker table, dart boards, etc.), reading and/or multimedia areas, social lounges and other amenities.

The demands of older adults are much different at present than what was expected by past generations of seniors. As mentioned, the modern generation of older adults tends to be living longer and are generally more physically active than the "traditional" senior. This is not to say that many of the same services for more elderly seniors will not be required, but rather that interests and abilities of present day seniors have evolved.



mbpc
Monteith + Brown
 planning consultants

Source: Older Adult Plan 2009

Facility	Existing Setup	Recommended Improvements	Recommended Services
Mississauga Valley Community Centre	Fitness centre, swimming pool, nature trails, multipurpose rooms.	Lounge area, access to a light lunch and dedicated older adult program space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Post Office; • Health Nurses; • Foot Clinics; • Healthcare Aid Rentals; • Region of Peel and Province of Ontario pamphlets; and • City of Mississauga application forms, garbage tags, pet licenses, and possibly the ability to pay taxes.
Mississauga Valley Branch Library	Computer stations, fire place and lounge area.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Frank McKechnie Community Centre	Hydro massage tank and swimming pool, full size gymnasium, and multipurpose rooms.	Lounge area, dedicated older adult program space, and access to a light lunch.	
Frank McKechnie Branch Library	Computer stations and fire place/lounge area.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Cooksville Branch Library	Internet workstations, lounge areas, and computer stations.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Malton Community Centre	Double gymnasium, fitness centre, and meeting rooms.	Lounge area, dedicated older adult program room, and access to a light lunch.	
Malton Branch Library	Lounge area with fireplace.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre	Full size gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, and snack bar.	Warm water pool, dedicated older adult program space, and access to snacks/ beverages.	
Burnhamthorpe Branch Library	Computer stations with internet access.	Lounge area and access to snacks/beverages.	

Source: Older Adult Plan, 2008

Community Centre	Service Area*	Existing Older Adult Programs	Existing Facilities
Mississauga Valley Community Centre & Branch Library	7,828	Computer introduction for seniors, gentle low impact fitness, group weight training, aquafit, Bocce Club	Fitness centre, nature trails, multipurpose rooms, computer stations, fire place and lounge (library).
Frank McKechnie Community Centre & Branch Library	9,610	Low impact yoga, aquafit, daytime space for older adults.	Hydro massage tank and swimming pool, computer stations, full size gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, and fire place/lounge area (library).
Cooksville Branch Library	9,830	n/a	Internet workstations, lounge areas, and computer stations.
Malton Community Centre & Branch Library	7,500	Dancing, cards, Asian bingo, Caribbean cards & social, and exercise.	Lounge area/fireplace (library), swimming pool, double gymnasium, fitness centre, and meeting rooms.
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre & Branch Library	12,980	Seniors Room; euchre, cards, potlucks, Osteo Class, Croatian chess & cards, bingo, Indo Canadian cards & social, June seniors tea and displays, income tax clinic, Adult Book Club, Amica book club.	Full size gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, snack bar, and computer stations.

*population of older adults (55+)

Source: Older Adult Plan, 2008

It will be important for the City to continue to ensure that older adults and seniors have access to programming that suits modern day interests (i.e. active living and wellness opportunities). A focus should continue to be placed upon enhancing the service delivery model for older adults through the development of innovative, inclusive and accessible programs focusing on wellness and active living. The provision of active living pursuits for seniors through program and facility delivery will likely improve the quality of life for this age segment and the hope is to contribute to longer, healthier lives.

As an example, the Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided a grant of \$137,700 to the Square One Older Adult Centre to conduct outreach and marketing activities. These funds are hoped to improve existing resources, additional participation in the centre's activities will be encouraged, while increasing support for its expanded operations.

It is also important to consider Statistics Canada data which suggests that the highest incomes are associated with the 55 to 65 year age cohort. This group includes members of the Baby Boom generation, who are generally wealthier than past generations of seniors and will likely have accrued sufficient savings to guide them through a number of facets of life, including the pursuit of recreational and leisure opportunities. With a number of individuals age segment having a higher propensity to afford and willingness to contribute user fees to access facilities and programs, there is a resulting shift away from the administration of age-based discounts in favour of subsidies based upon income thresholds (e.g. Low Income Cut Off); the City's Active Assist program is well positioned to assist older adults in this regard.

While the discontinuation of age-based subsidies can pose certain challenges pertaining to expectations of seniors (both current seniors and those entering the age served by such discounts, whom are of the opinion that they have "earned" the right to subsidy), it is no longer felt prudent to offer a subsidy based on age if it comes at the

expense of those unable to afford to participate in recreation and leisure. Certain municipalities have "grandfathered" or gradually phased out age-based subsidies, in consultation with seniors groups.

The Older Adult Plan provides over fifty specific recommendations (these are articulated in Appendix B) pertaining to serving the leisure needs of this age segment, which are generally grouped under the six key topic areas consisting of:

- organizations and management;
- subsidies;
- policies, procedures and guidelines;
- collaboration and partnerships;
- marketing and communication; and
- older adult programs and services.

The following key recommendations from the Older Adult Plan have relevance to the Recreation Master Plan:

- Formation of an Older Adult Advisory Committee and Older Adult Transportation Sub-Committee. The Committee should be supported by sufficient staff resources, including a new 'City-wide Coordinator of Older Adult Services' staff position.
- Remove the minimum age requirements for all leisure programs geared towards older adults.
- Expand older adult programming in prime time hours at selected municipal parks and facilities.
- Develop an "Access Policy" that is based on annual personal income and the number of dependents, while transitioning existing seniors towards this model through a phased approach (this policy has recently been adopted and is known as the "Active Assist" program).

- Provide certain older adult-oriented services at existing public facilities or Nodes (note: The Access Policy issues have already been addressed by the City and Mississauga's new Official Plan is promoting more nodal service areas).
- Fully implement the City of Mississauga Accessibility Plan.
- Promote the benefits of employing the City's skilled older adult work force to local employers.
- Increase the number of municipally facilitated educational courses geared to older adults.
- Effectively disseminating City information to older adults through web sites, printed guides and brochures, introductory packages for residents entering older adulthood, awareness campaigns, etc.

The facilities that topped the Older Adult Plan's priority list for new programs geared to older adults included: *Mississauga Valley Community Centre* and *Mississauga Valley Branch Library*; *Frank McKechnie Community Centre* and *Frank McKechnie Branch Library*; *Cooksville Branch Library*; *Malton Community Centre* and *Malton Branch Library*; and *Burnhamthorpe Community Centre* and *Burnhamthorpe Branch Library*.

The Plan also noted that the following facilities continue to serve older adults: *Clarkson Community Centre* and *Clarkson Branch Library*; *South Common Community Centre* and *South Common Branch Library*; *Rivergrove Community Centre* and *Rivergrove Branch Library*; and *Meadowvale Community Centre* and *Meadowvale Branch Library*.

Through design, new and existing facilities should be evaluated for their ability to accommodate a range of active including sedentary uses. Specific physical improvements for the above-noted facilities,

as well as a summary of programs available by service area, are shown in the tables on page 15.

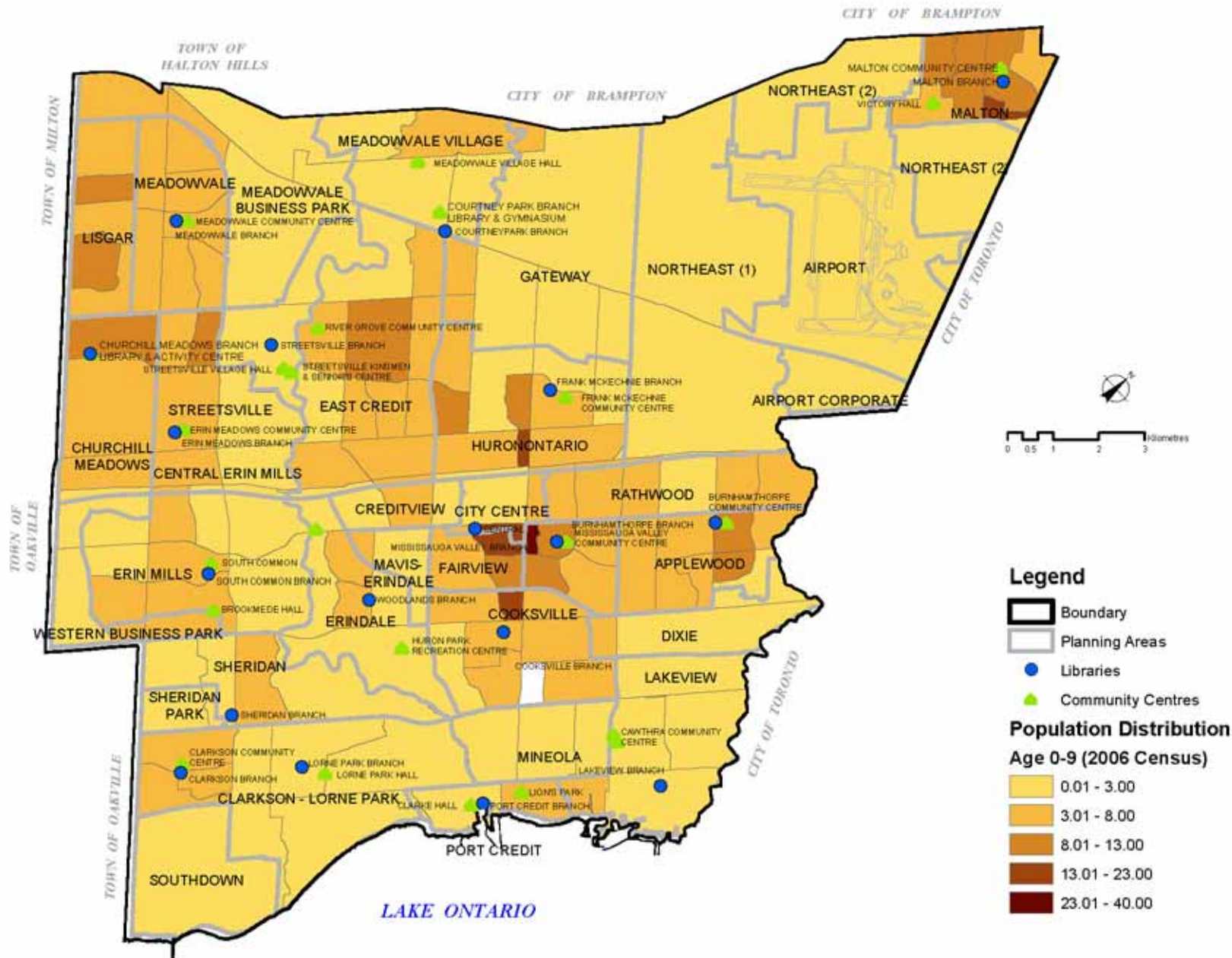
There will be a point in time, however, when the older adult is not physically able to be as active as they desire, due to age-related deterioration of the body. In this regard, passive programs focusing on socialization, development of barrier-free facilities, etc. will become important to allow this age group to remain engaged in recreation. The large interest in walking for leisure (all surveys in the GTA indicate such popularity, including the last three undertaken for Mississauga) may mitigate pressures to build more capitally intensive recreation facilities but will require better placement of walking trails, more washrooms, benches, shade, and looped courses.

Early Childhood Development

Children aged 0-9 presently accounted for 13% of Mississauga's population in 2006, according to Census data. The number of children is expected to decline as a proportion of the total population as the population ages, if past trends are any indication (the proportion declined from 15% to 13% between 1996 and 2006).

The provision of drop-in children's facilities is seen as a beneficial component of a community centre as the lack of child supervision can be a barrier to participation for certain facility users (i.e. parents who do not have access to child supervision services). Provision of such pre-school programming spaces at municipal facilities also introduces children to physical activities and social interaction at an early age.

The City presently provides pre-school programs focusing on dance, arts and crafts, sports and drama. Such programs are considered to be integral to the municipal leisure programming mix and even though child populations are expected to slightly decrease, the City should remain apprised of participation in existing programs and continue to develop new and innovative programs that respond to future users.



mbpc

Monteith Brown
planning consultants

Base Mapping Provided by
Statistics Canada, Age and Sex for the
Population of Census Tracts (100% Data),
Cat. No. 97-551-X2006007, 2006 Census

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AGE
0-9 (2006) BY CENSUS TRACT WITH
COMMUNITY CENTRES AND LIBRARIES**

Future Directions - Recreation Master Plan

Map 3: Population Density of Children

At the time of new facility design or redesign of existing facilities (e.g. Meadowvale Community Centre), the City should offer preschool programming rooms (which are not licensed daycare) that provide early childhood development opportunities, possibly in partnership with other providers. The option to construct space and lease operations to a third party also exists and is an avenue for cost-recovery.

Youth Markets

While serving the older adult and seniors markets will become increasingly important as the population ages, the child and youth market remains a core focus of the City. Addressing the recreational needs of children and youth is critical to their personal health and development, as participating in some forms of physical activity can reduce the propensity for certain youngsters to be overweight or become involved in undesirable behaviours (e.g. crime, alcohol and drug abuse, etc.), while helping to stimulate cognitive development and nurture self esteem.

The spaces and programs required to address youth needs are highly varied and constantly evolving. For example, the needs of toddlers and children (i.e. early childhood development) are just as varied as needs of pre-teens and teens.

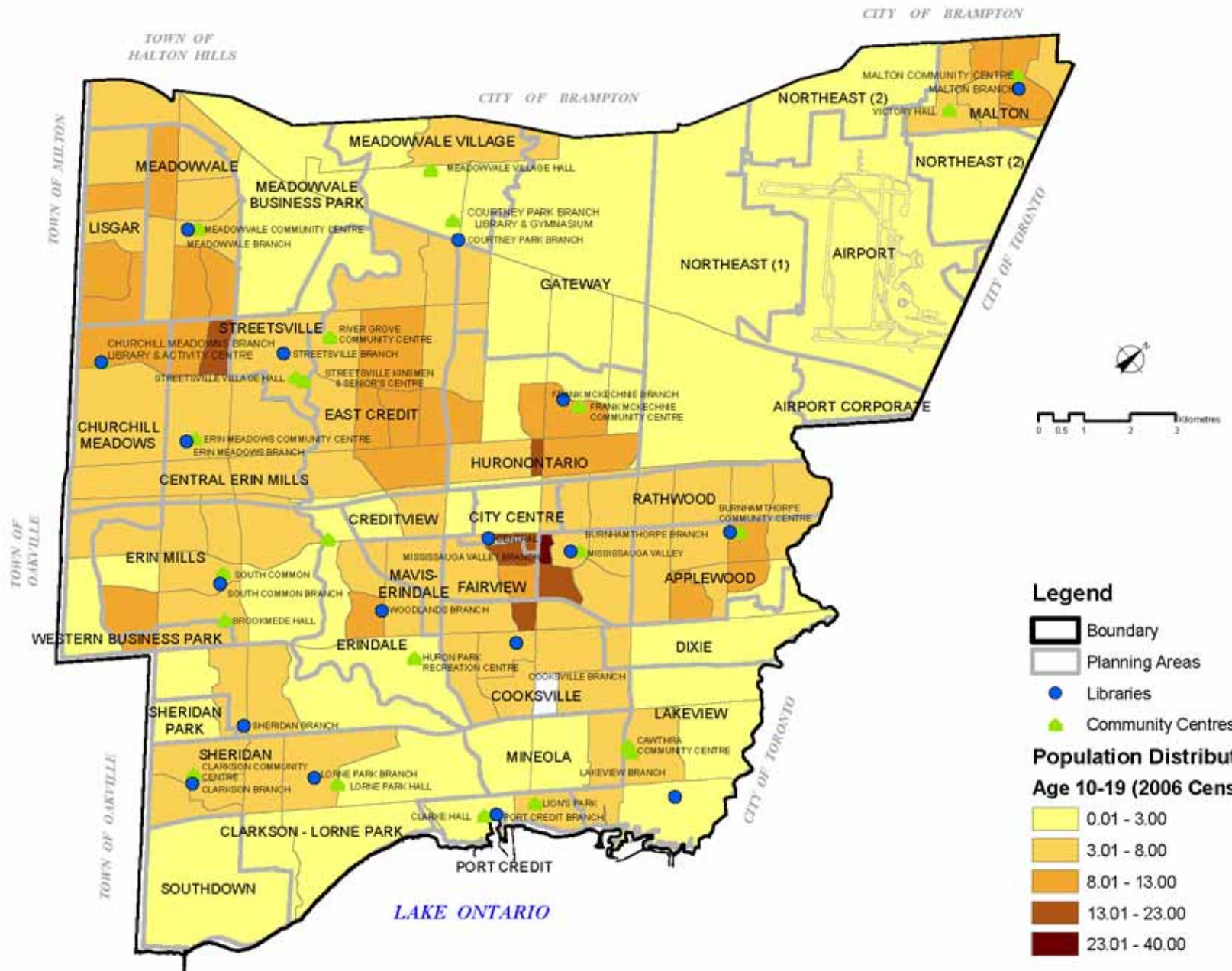
Growth in the number of individuals within this age segment will necessitate continued emphasis on active recreational facilities such as sports fields, spray pads, day camps, etc. Youth between the ages of 10 and 19 accounted for 14% of Mississauga's population in 2006, a proportion which has remained stable since 1996 according to Census data.

National trends suggest that the number of youth engaged in unstructured, drop-in types of activities is increasing, while youth participation in organized activities is generally declining.

For example, activities that are spontaneous and encourage personal expression are extremely popular among teens and includes music, poetry, visual art (including temporary graffiti walls), dramatic art, indoor skateboarding, etc. If the household survey is any indication, the desire for additional investment in youth space ranks sixth, with 46% of the sample stating that more needs to be done in this regard.

While many municipalities continue to rely on local school boards and non-profit organizations to provide youth-oriented programming, municipalities are attempting to incorporate interesting and engaging spaces into municipal facilities in the hopes of attracting youth. These spaces may be incorporated as stand-alone youth centres, within multi-use community centres, as part of facilities operated by a community organization, or some sort of combination of these.

This is not to understate the importance that the school boards play in meeting youth program and space needs. Schools are geographically distributed in a manner that positions themselves as effective outreach centres. Mississauga has a significant number of schools that have been categorized under the "High Social Risk Index Schools" by a study prepared by the Peel District School Board. In fact, the Region's top ten high social risk index schools are located in Mississauga.



Base Mapping Provided by Statistics Canada, Age and Sex for the Population of Census Tracts (100% Data), Cat No. 97-551-32006007, 2006 Census

It is worth noting that the Ontario Trillium Fund has provided a grant of \$373,400 to Malton Neighbourhood Services to provide affordable and varied summer camp and after-school programs that will help learning and recreational opportunities for children and youth aged 11 to 20 years. Coordination with community providers and the school boards is seen as an effective way to delivery programs

As such, it is recommended that the City work with local school boards and community partners to further develop and provide after-school programming and drop-in opportunities in order to ensure that children and youth have the option to participate in recreational activity. This can effectively address some of the “latch-key kid” issues associated with a households where the caregivers may be commuting, shift-workers, etc. and children are left alone after school. Furthermore, a coordinated approach can target neighbourhood-specific program delivery based on local socio-economic characteristics and interests, reduce duplication of service and ensure that outreach efforts eliminate accessibility gaps.

The City of Mississauga has been proactive in addressing a number of youth-related issues, largely through the *Youth Plan* that is presently being finalized. The Draft Youth Plan advances 46 recommendations to improve the overall quality of life of local youth (refer to Appendix B), which are centred around the following principles:

- Improving youth access to public transit;
- Ensuring youth have access to programs, public space and skill development opportunities;
- Involving youth more in the decision making process;
- Helping youth to be more socially responsible; and
- Making the City more youth friendly.

The following summary of recommendations from the Youth Plan is particularly relevant to the Recreation Master Plan:

- Improve transit-based accessibility for youth by ensuring transit stops are located in proximity to major recreation facilities, while exploring the provision of transit strip tickets to ‘Active Assist’ participants.
- Introduce and expand low cost and no-charge drop-in programming in priority neighbourhoods directed at youth (ages 15 to 17) at a total of 23 new locations by 2011:
 - Malton – six locations
 - Dixie-Bloor – two locations
 - Mississauga Valley – two locations
 - Woodlands – two locations
 - Lakeshore – two locations
 - Cooksville – two locations
 - Acorn Neighbourhood – two locations
 - Central Civic – two locations
 - Credit View/Eglington – three locations
- Allocate additional annual budget support to address youth event programming and drop-in recreation targeted at ages 15-24.
- Expand the ‘At Play’ program and develop a mentoring component in priority neighbourhoods.
- Develop an awareness campaign to encourage youth volunteerism in civic and community-based programs and activities.
- Explore additional facilities for extreme sports and a community centre in the North West.
- Develop an Advisory Committee of youth in each community centre/library to regularly engage and consult with youth.
- Train those involved in the delivery of youth services to work with youth effectively (i.e. “Youth-friendly training”).
- Increase the locations of informal/drop-in equipment within the city by working with community partners.

- Work with the school boards to access local schools to deliver collaborative programs with social service partners.
- Investigate the feasibility of sustaining community-based youth spaces with community partners based on need.

Emerging Markets

Youth and younger adults, in particular, are increasingly seeking more extreme types of recreational activities, driven by adventure and adrenalin; while skateboarding and BMX are the “traditional” extreme sports, activities such as rock-climbing, wakeboarding, wilderness excursions, etc. are now entering the mainstream. California State Parks (2006) found that many youth under the age of 18 are seeking ever riskier outdoor opportunities, including mountain biking, off-road vehicle riding, trail boarding and BMX courses.

Similarly, there are emerging programs and facility requirements associated with higher demands of a greater number of residents. While cricket is considered to be an emerging sport in many other municipalities across Ontario, demands have been apparent in Mississauga for quite some time. However, the sport can still be considered to be “emerging” at a local level as greater numbers of residents are coming forward in pursuit of the activity and the number of existing facilities may not be sufficient to address the entire demand spectrum.

The City of Eden Prairie (2003) determined that emerging trends in recreation included dog parks, skateboard parks and BMX trails and facilities. These facility types have continued to benefit from ever-increasing interest and are becoming the norm. Between 1993 and 1998, the National Sporting Good Association’s top four growth activities were inline skating (118.0% growth), roller hockey (106.2%), snowboarding (102.0%) and off road mountain biking (87.2%). These sports bring with them a high degree of specialized equipment and

the need for new facilities at which to participate, but are primarily self-scheduled activities that can be incorporated into busy lives.

A similar ideology can be applied to “emerging” needs for waterplay facilities, artificial outdoor ice rinks, leisure pools, and accessible/barrier-free playgrounds to name but a few. The City’s *Recreation & Parks Business Plan* for 2009-2010 suggests that there is a greater need for the City to remain informed of current community preferences as the variety of activities to which residents are exposed continues to increase. Consideration for extreme sports needs to be given in appropriate locations.

Summary of Age-Specific Directions

- ❖ *The provision of early childhood development rooms for preschool programming continues to be encouraged at new and existing recreation facilities. These spaces are envisioned as providing drop-in programs for those aged 0-5 years in order to introduce children to physical and creative activities, education and social interaction, as well as removing barriers associated with supervision so that caregivers have an opportunity to participate in municipal leisure programs. These spaces are not intended to act as licensed daycare facilities, however, this option may be pursued if the City wishes to lease tenant space to a private provider who would bear all operational responsibility and meet the criteria of the City’s partnership framework.*

Summary of Age-Specific Directions

- ❖ *Implement the findings of the Youth Plan, as they pertain to the delivery of recreation facilities and services. The Youth Plan recommendations are aligned with, and support the City's and Region's various strategic plans and work plans. (See Appendix B)*
- ❖ *Implement the directives of the Older Adult Plan in accordance with the implementation matrix provided in that report. (See Appendix B)*
- ❖ *The existing older adult centres will continue to be needed to serve Mississauga's older adults, particularly as the number of frail or elderly older adults increases. Community Centres in areas with higher concentrations of older adults such as Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, Mississauga Valley Community Centre and Malton Community Centre should consider converting kitchens to commercial kitchens for meal provision.*
- ❖ *A focus should continue to be placed upon enhancing the service delivery model for older adults through the development of innovative, inclusive and accessible programs focusing on wellness and active living.*

2.4 Barriers to Participation

Facilitating participation in recreation activities is a means to minimize health-related issues that are associated with sedentary behaviours. Despite an increasing awareness of the long-term social, health and economic costs associated often with unhealthy lifestyles, overall Canadians are becoming increasingly sedentary.

Sedentary behaviours have a cost to individuals and government. Studies indicate that around half of those living in Ontario are not sufficiently physically active, and nearly one third of Canadian children are considered to be overweight.

To improve physical activity, the City and other service providers will be challenged with mitigating a number of barriers (such as time) to participation. The following table illustrates barriers to recreation that were reported through the household survey.

Table 3: Barriers to Participation in Recreational Activity

	Not at all or Not Very Likely	Somewhat or Very Likely	Don't Know/No Response
A lack of time to get involved	42%	54%	3%
Other responsibilities that keep you - or others in your household - from doing things	48%	48%	4%
A lack of interest	60%	36%	4%
A program or facility being too far from your home	61%	35%	3%
A lack of facilities for what you want to do	61%	35%	4%

	Not at all or Not Very Likely	Somewhat or Very Likely	Don't Know/No Response
A concern that there are too many people using the facility, or taking the program, to be able to enjoy the experience	60%	34%	5%
A lack of awareness	60%	34%	6%
A lack of money to pay for the program or use the facility	63%	33%	3%
A lack of convenient hours	61%	33%	5%
Mobility or health issues	74%	21%	4%
A preference for privately-run operations	76%	18%	6%
A lack of comfort with the English language	86%	10%	3%

Source: Recreation Master Plan Household Survey, 2009

The City of Mississauga promotes the benefits of leisure through its commitment to the *Get Active Mississauga* program and its various physical, educational, cultural, social and other activities. *Get Active Mississauga* is supported by a number of community partners, including the Region of Peel Health Department, Mississauga News, Active2010 – Ministry of Health Promotion, and the Mississauga YMCA, among others. For the summer of 2009, the City is offering a discount on its summer fitness memberships through a program called *Get Fit in the City*.

Barriers for Older Adults & Seniors

The *Seniors Report Card*, published by the Government of Canada in 2006, found that 45% of persons age 65-74 and 72% of those aged 75 plus face activity limitation in their daily lives. This underscores the necessity to ensure that barriers to participation are addressed.

According to the Active Aging Coalition for Older Adults (1999), there are six key factors that, in general, prevent the older adults from participating in municipal services, facilities, and programs:

- Poor accessibility, which can include a lack of transportation or a lack of available facilities;
- Safety concerns, including fear of injury and a lack of a safe place to be active;
- Lack of available or accessible information on available programs and services – this is a particular concern for those who are not able to understand English;
- Little physical and emotional support from family or friends;
- Lack of motivation, which is often a result of lower self-worth and view that they are not valuable to society; and
- Inability to afford the cost of participating in programs or receiving particular services.

Furthermore, barriers in the physical landscape can prevent older adults from participating. The Cities of Toronto (1999) and Kelowna (2006) provided examples of tools that assist in mitigating barriers in the physical landscape, including: power sliding doors, escalators, edge warning tiles, elevators, way finding tiles, improved lighting, railing and hand hold markings, Braille at designated waiting areas, accessible washrooms and low floor buses. To assist in providing more information to older adults, emphasis should be placed on outreach activities where there are concentrations of older adult housing arrangements (e.g., older adult retirement homes). Partnering with community organizations will aid in ensuring that information is provided to the more vulnerable older adult groups.

The World Health Organization (2006) prepared a report entitled *Promoting Physical Activity and Active Living in Urban Environments*, within which the specific needs of older adults and seniors are among

those discussed. The need for these age groups to be able to conveniently access trails, parks, shopping, and other amenities within aesthetically pleasing surroundings was expressed as a way to address the interaction between the built environment and physical activity. This is particularly important for seniors, who are often not as mobile and may not feel comfortable in certain situations or locations. In a study by the Government of Western Australia's Department of Sport and Recreation, the top barrier to participation was 'poor health' (24.4% of Western Australians aged 60 and over in 2002), and others included: limited or inappropriate opportunities; lack of information and negative attitudes towards fitness; lack of confidence; lack of time; and cost.

The City of Mississauga will need to examine its current inventory of facilities and assess the possibilities for eliminating physical barriers. The 2008 Older Adult Plan recommended a number of actions for the City to undertake with regards to removing or diminishing the impact of many of the barriers to participation experienced by the older adult and senior population of Mississauga, including:

- Offer a variety of services at community centres and/or libraries to reduce travel barriers;
- Develop a Retrofit Plan to enhance City roadway signage to improve way finding for drivers, where feasible;
- Develop a checklist for development plan review to determine barriers that may exist for older adults;
- Enhance communication strategies to accommodate sensory disabilities; and
- Promote the inclusion and support of seniors and older adults through visitation, assistance, programming, etc.

2.5 New Needs Associated with Diversity

Ethnic diversity in communities is increasing, and subsequently, recreation, leisure and cultural needs are evolving. Many cultures see recreation and leisure as a family event and are more inclined to do activities together. This growing diversity also creates the need for a wider range of activities and facilities, such as cricket, picnicking, continued growth in soccer (despite overall declining team sport participation), etc.

According to the 2006 Census, 52% of Mississauga's population are immigrants, which is nearly double the provincial figure of 28%. For populations 15 years of age and over, those that were First Generation Canadians represented 61%); Second Generation (20.0%); and Third Generation (18.9%).

The 2006 Census also revealed that 49% of Mississauga's population was a visible minority as compared to 22.8% for Ontario. The most common visible minorities in Mississauga in 2006 were: South Asian (20.2%); Chinese (6.9%); Black (6.2%); Filipino (4.6%); Arab (2.5%); Southeast Asian (2.1%) and Latin American (1.9%).

The 2006 Census Data demonstrated that 57.3% of immigrants to Canada between 2001 and 2006 were between the ages of 25 and 54. In the next twenty years, members of this cohort will move towards retirement and form a significant portion of the older adult population. As it has been shown that immigrants in the 55 to 64 age group are significantly more likely to report poor health compared to non-immigrants, it is critical that their needs be identified and assistance provided to them. Poor rating of personal health amongst immigrant seniors can be a result of loneliness, depression, or lack of understanding of the dominant culture.

In addition, 54% of respondents to the household survey stated that they spoke at least one language other than English; 10% of the sample suggested that a lack of comfort with the English language was a barrier to their participation in recreational activity. The City should be cognizant of the needs of under-represented groups to integrate their preferences with those of the entire community.

Table 4: Top Unofficial Languages Spoken by Service Area, 2006

Service Area	Top Five Unofficial Languages Spoken
1	Urdu (4%), Polish (2%), Cantonese (2%), Chinese (2%), Spanish (2%)
2	Punjabi (4%), Urdu (4%), Cantonese (4%), Chinese (3%), Vietnamese (3%)
3	Punjabi (22%), Urdu (3%), Gujarati (3%), Italian (2%), Hindi (2%)
4	Urdu (3%), Polish (3%), Chinese (2%), Tagalog (1%), Cantonese (1%)
5	Polish (5%), Urdu (3%), Tagalog (2%), Arabic (2%), Spanish (2%)
6	Polish (3%), Portuguese (1%), Spanish (1%), Italian (1%), Tagalog/Cantonese (1% each)

Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2006

In Canada's bilingual context, 5% is often used as an indicator of when French should be available as an alternative communication. Despite the large immigration composition of Mississauga, only Service Area 3 has a single unofficial language in excess of 5%, suggesting that language-based outreach may be of benefit to the large Punjabi population who constitute 22% of this market.

There is a need to be sensitive to cultural preferences in developing appropriate programs and activities. In select areas, language sensitive signage may be required and linkage to Peel Region Translation Services may be warranted. The City should continue with sensitivity training and monitoring of local interests for area-specific programs.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has also awarded a number of grants during the past year aimed at developing the ability of ethnic groups to provide services and engage in community outreach activities. Some of these grants include:

- \$20,000 to enhance the cultural presentations of the Africa Pavilion at the 2008 Carassauga festival;
- \$44,000 to Bridging the Gap Productions to produce a play that engages the diverse multicultural community in exploring sensitive issues of marriage and relationships;
- \$53,000 to celebrate South Asian artistic culture by holding the dynamic Mosaic Festival 2008 in the downtown;
- \$375,000 to the Malton Early Years Advisory Committee to implement a community leadership and engagement project for youth and adults within Malton's black community;
- \$22,000 through the Mississauga Mandarin Association to improve cultural and recreational events, volunteer recruitment and fundraising in the Chinese community; and
- \$123,100 to the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga to develop the centre's school-outreach program in French.

By investing in Mississauga's multicultural assets through recreation and leisure, the City and its partners are helping to showcase the benefits offered by its diverse community, and moving towards a goal of interculturalism.⁵ Furthermore, populations who may otherwise be under-represented are provided with opportunities for self-fulfillment, higher quality of life, community pride and shared learning experiences with others.

⁵ The concept of "interculturalism" is advanced by Phil Wood and Charles Landry in [The Intercultural City, Planning the Diversity Advantage](#) (2007) which suggests that interculturalism is a more integrated approach to encouraging diverse groups to interact with each other as opposed to showcasing their individuality to the community (the latter which is considered to be "multiculturalism").

There is a common perception that the influx of newcomers will generate considerable demands for new types of “non-traditional” facilities and programs. While this is true to a certain extent, it is important to realize that newcomers will also be looking for “traditional” activities as they assimilate in to Canadian culture. Furthermore, while the demand for activities such as cricket is going to keep increasing, soccer will remain the number one team sport, and badminton, table tennis and tennis will remain popular, there are also strong indications that recreation is not the number one concern of most new Canadians.

All research on issues with new Canadians point to jobs, housing, language education, and other social issues. Many have indicated that they understood what Canada was like before they arrived and have every intention of assimilating, not remaining isolated, or expecting their new municipality to accommodate interests they may have had in their native country. Others have noted that by the second or third generation, it would be hard pressed to find any differences in their recreational interests from any other Canadian.

The surveys undertaken over the years in Mississauga would indicate that this is accurate. There are no significant differences in recreational pursuits by ethnicity in Mississauga. Some have noted that if the facilities are built, they will be used. This is true of cricket; the more cricket pitches that the City develops, the more cricket players will emerge.

Some facilities such as table tennis and pickle ball have not been developed by the City and have not been noted as an area of interest in the surveys. Test facilities or pilot projects in appropriate neighbourhoods, however, may be a better way of measuring interest.

Soccer does show a different story as the highest participation rates are found in Lorne Park and Port Credit while the lowest are found in

Malton. With Malton being one of the areas containing the highest concentration of new immigrants, one might expect the highest concentration of soccer players; however, other priorities such as family commitments, transportation issues and income issues may all influence the lower participation rates.

Summary of Diversity-Related Directions

- ❖ *Continue to place a focus upon integration of immigrants and ethnic groups into the spectrum of recreation program opportunities available to residents of Mississauga. Posters should be placed in select community centres and libraries, in the more prominent languages of the immediate community, identifying programs that are available and the number to call at the Region for more complete translations. When refurbishing pools, consider appropriate designs for all cultural concerns.*
 - ❖ *Consider the provision of awareness materials and/or delivery of programs using language or sensitivity to cultural preferences of local residents, in neighbourhoods which warrant such outreach.*
-

Summary of Diversity-Related Directions

- ❖ *Continue with sensitivity training for service providers regarding the needs associated with diverse cultures and monitoring of local interest in the development of community-specific programs. Monitoring should be conducted through consultation and feedback opportunities (e.g. surveys, comment sheets, forums, etc.), preferably in partnership with the Mississauga Public Library as libraries tend to be the first point of contact that newcomers have when seeking information about the community.*
-

2.6 Ensuring Accessibility & Affordability

Accessibility

Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* of 2005 (AODA), the Ontario Government defines a barrier as anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including physical, architectural, informational, technological, communicational, attitudinal, or policy/practice barrier(s). The AODA states that Ontario municipalities, as well as businesses and organizations, will have to meet certain accessibility standards in the five following areas: customer service; transportation; information and communication; built environment; and employment. Staff and volunteer training is

necessary to provide a better understanding of the breadth of disabilities that people are confronted with and the barriers they face.

The range of recreational activities, both competitive and non-competitive, for people with disabilities has increased significantly in recent years. Providing residents of all ages and abilities with opportunities to recreate is important in achieving inclusivity among all. Furthermore, research suggests that youth with special needs who participate in recreational activities are more likely to do well in school, have higher self-esteem and good social skills, and are less likely to be involved in criminal activity⁶. The City presently works collaboratively with over twenty agencies and associations who offer recreational services and opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Unfortunately, people with disabilities still face considerable barriers (e.g., transportation, cost, etc.) when it comes to participating in recreation activities. The household survey found that 21% of the sample was unable to participate in recreational activities due to mobility or health-related issues. Although it is not exactly comparable to household surveys conducted in other municipalities, this percentage is higher than all other municipalities surveyed in the Greater Toronto Area.

As the goal of the Ontario government, through the AODA, is to “achieve accessibility for persons with disabilities in Ontario by 2025”, the City will need to continue to plan for financial implications with respect to retrofitting older structures and ensuring that new buildings meet AODA standards. The City should continue to offer inclusive activities as well as adaptive programming and facilities (e.g., barrier-free playgrounds, zero depth entry at pools, visual alarms, etc.).

⁶ Canadian Council on Social Development. (2002; 1984). The Progress of Canada’s Children; Crime Prevention Through Social Development: A Discussion Paper for Social Policy Makers and Practitioners.

A number of initiatives have been implemented through the City's *Accessibility Plan (2007)*, including: training and workshops regarding the AODA; the creation of partnerships with Peel Region; review of facilities; updates to the zoning by-law; and the updating of the *Accessibility Design handbook*. The City should continue to consider accessibility as a driver to all physical development (new construction, upgrades, additions), programming and communication activities.

Community groups and private sector organizations also have a responsibility to meet the legislative requirements of the AODA. There are also a number of organizations oriented to further the recreational opportunities available for those with disabilities or special needs. These groups traditionally have relied upon external agencies for funding, and it is in the interest of the City and its partners to ensure that such organizations have the resources and capacities to deliver such services. As an example, the Ontario Trillium Foundation recently provided the Applewood Centre for Adult Learning with a \$170,000 grant to establish the organizational infrastructure for a learning centre that will provide recreational and social day programs for young adults with developmental disabilities in the Mississauga area.

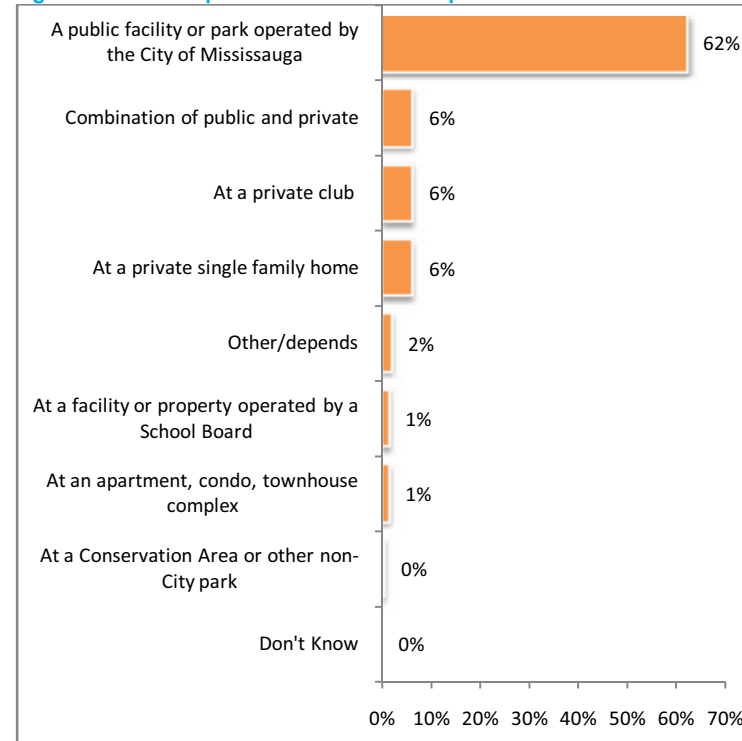
Accessible Transportation

The provision of accessible transportation choices to reach recreation services is also of critical importance, particularly when serving disadvantaged, disabled or special needs populations. The City of Mississauga's *Accessibility Plan (2007)* outlines the need to improve the accessibility of Mississauga Transit, which includes a partnership with Peel Region and TransHelp.

Residents participate in recreational activities at a variety of destinations across Mississauga, therefore connectivity and accessibility considerations are paramount. The following graph

articulates where household survey respondents were most likely to participate in recreation, shown to be primarily at a public facility or park operated by the City. Accessibility to public facilities should, therefore, be a strong consideration particularly when serving vulnerable, under-represented or disabled patrons. The City should strongly consider, as an example, providing those qualifying for the Active Assist program with transit strips for the purposes of accessing recreational facilities and services.

Figure 4: Most Frequent Location of Participation



Source: Recreation Master Plan Household Survey, 2009

The City operates a number of designated accessible routes and buses, with five new fully accessible routes being added in 2007. The City also allows personal care attendants travelling with passengers with disabilities to travel at no charge and is currently working with the Region to increase the usage of transit by persons with disabilities through special initiatives. Mississauga also provides an *Accessible Transit Rider's Guide* that outlines how to use accessible buses. Although the household survey shows that only 2% of Mississauga residents use public transit to access indoor facilities, 4% bike and 17% walk, most drive (76%). As such, there is a responsibility by all to reduce automobile trips and to increase transit use, particularly to public places.

Affordability

A similar barrier, as it pertains to inclusivity, has been found to be related to an individual or household's ability to pay for recreation opportunities. Income, therefore, is directly correlated with level of participation, with higher income groups tending to have higher participation rates in recreation.

The median income of Mississauga residents in 2005 from all households was \$71,393 compared to the Province at \$60,455 (based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census). Similarly, Mississauga had a higher median household income than the Province noted in the 2001 Census. As median income is not easily determined by Service Area, average household income was used for comparison from a distribution point of view.

Service Area	Average Income
1	\$94,208
2	\$88,036
3	\$62,126
4	\$101,967
5	\$68,014
6	\$102,156

Despite the higher average median income in Mississauga, the percentage of persons with low income before taxes was 15.7% for Mississauga compared to 14.7% for Ontario in 2006.

Higher insurance costs are driving up the cost of facility rentals and forcing some community organizations to seek other sources of funding or reduce the scope and scale of their programming. The challenge is to maintain equity and fairness and to ensure that lower income households are not excluded. As economic data indicates, seniors programs have traditionally been subsidized, however, this group as a whole is no longer the most economically disadvantaged. With the Baby Boomer generation approaching retirement, the traditional subsidy for seniors no longer seems appropriate (from an economic standpoint). As such, there is a need to rebalance pricing strategies so that low-income families and youth are not subsidizing high-income seniors.

Some municipalities employ a system wherein one's ability to pay, not their age, dictates the level of subsidy that they receive. Statistics Canada Census data confirms that wealth and family income increase with age and that the highest net worth is associated with the 55-64 age bracket. As income is strongly identified as a factor affecting leisure-time participation, the ability to pay should be the basis for offering subsidies to all residents, including older adults.

The general trend of aging populations will be experienced in Mississauga as well as across Ontario and Canada. The 1999 Future Directions, the 2004 update, and the 2008 Older Adult Plan all confirmed that Mississauga residents believe it is the ability of the person to pay and not their age that should determine subsidy. The City of Mississauga adopted a corporate policy for a Fee Assistance Program in Spring 2009, also known as the 'Active Assist' program, within which eligibility is based on economic need, derived from Low Income Cut Offs (LICOs) as determined by Statistics Canada.

The recently adopted Active Assist program provides enrolled residents with an account credit of \$275 to be used for most recreation programs offered by the City (some programs are excluded due to higher program delivery costs or the inability to register via the City's central registration system). The Jerry Love Children's Fund provides a subsidy for children who would not otherwise be able to afford to participate in recreation programs offered by the City of Mississauga. Tim Horton's free holiday skates and Tim's Swims are also offered by the City of Mississauga. The City must not only consider the cost to participate in activities, but also the ancillary costs of participation (e.g., public transit and the cost of hiring a babysitter), particularly in less affluent neighbourhoods.

Youth at Risk

There are a number of children and youth who are considered to be vulnerable or "at risk", broadly defined as those functioning at a disadvantaged level as a result of detrimental influences in their lives. Literature suggests that engaging these youth in recreation reduces "risk" by influencing positive behaviour patterns such as healthy living, deterring them from crime, improves social skills, conflict resolution and creates a positive connection between youth and their community. The Clarkson at Peace event held this past year is an example of how Mississauga is working with the community to address this issue, while implementation of the Youth Plan will also help in this regard

A recent study⁷ examines dissemination areas according to the Social Risk Index (SRI), which is a tool for providing a general picture of a community's potential risks (according to nine indicators). As a whole, Mississauga's SRI decreased between 2001 and 2006, with 33% of

Census dissemination areas being categorized as either somewhat high or high risk.

According to the Study, Mississauga had the ten highest SRI scores (high priority schools) for elementary schools in Peel Region, and had twenty-eight high risk elementary schools in total.

The following map illustrates the distribution of schools identified as having "high" and "somewhat high" SRI scores to provide an illustration of priority areas.

The top ten schools at risk were:



- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Oakridge P.S. | 6. Byngmount Beach P.S. |
| 2. Havenwood P.S. | 7. Marvin Heights P.S. |
| 3. Lancaster P.S. | 8. Morning Star Middle School |
| 4. Dunrankin P.S. | 9. Glenhaven Sr. P.S. |
| 5. Floradale P.S. | 10. Fairview P.S. |

Furthermore, the three most high risk secondary schools were located in Mississauga (Lincoln M. Alexander S.S., T.L. Kennedy S.S., and Glenforest S.S.) while another fifteen elementary schools and seven secondary schools were categorized as 'somewhat high SRI schools'. The implications of these findings are that youth in these areas are likely to have a higher propensity to be at risk.

While the City, community-based youth organizations, and the schools all play a role in delivering services to engage children and youth (of all spectrums) in recreation, it is necessary for added efforts in vulnerable areas.



⁷ Peel District School Board. Paul Favaro, Tom Lam and Lisa Durocher. Social Risk Index: Elementary and Secondary Schools. October 2008.

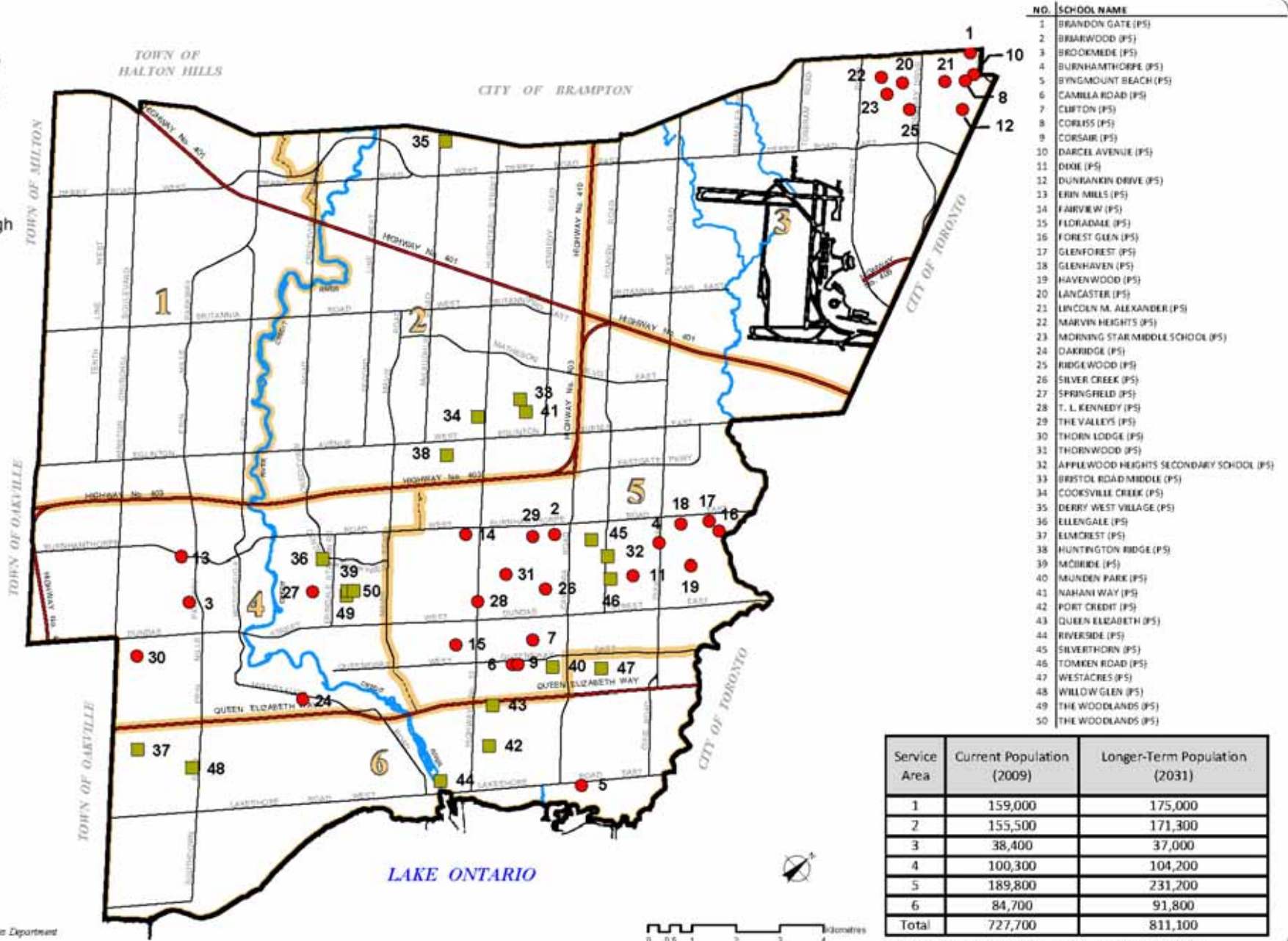
Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Service Areas

Schools

Social Risk Index

-  High
-  Somewhat High



NO.	SCHOOL NAME
1	BRANDON GATE (PS)
2	BRIMWOOD (PS)
3	BROOKMEDE (PS)
4	BURNHAMTHORPE (PS)
5	BYNGMOUNT BEACH (PS)
6	CAMBIA ROAD (PS)
7	CLIFTON (PS)
8	CORLISS (PS)
9	CORSAIR (PS)
10	DARCEL AVENUE (PS)
11	DIXIE (PS)
12	DUNBANKIN DRIVE (PS)
13	ERIN MILLS (PS)
14	FAIRVIEW (PS)
15	FLORADAE (PS)
16	FOREST GLEN (PS)
17	GLENFOREST (PS)
18	GLENHAVEN (PS)
19	HAVENWOOD (PS)
20	LANCASTER (PS)
21	LINCOLN M. ALEXANDER (PS)
22	MARVIN HEIGHTS (PS)
23	MORNING STAR MIDDLE SCHOOL (PS)
24	OAKRIDGE (PS)
25	RIDGEWOOD (PS)
26	SILVER CREEK (PS)
27	SPRINGFIELD (PS)
28	T. L. KENNEDY (PS)
29	THE VALLEYS (PS)
30	THORN LODGE (PS)
31	THORNWOOD (PS)
32	APPLEWOOD HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL (PS)
33	BRISTOL ROAD MIDDLE (PS)
34	COOKSVILLE CREEK (PS)
35	DERRY WEST VILLAGE (PS)
36	ELLENGALE (PS)
37	ELMDREST (PS)
38	HUNTINGTON RIDGE (PS)
39	MOORIDE (PS)
40	MUNDEN PARK (PS)
41	NAHANI WAY (PS)
42	PORT CREDIT (PS)
43	QUEEN ELIZABETH (PS)
44	RIVERSIDE (PS)
45	SILVERTHORN (PS)
46	TOMKEN ROAD (PS)
47	WESTACRES (PS)
48	WILLOW GLEN (PS)
49	THE WOODLANDS (PS)
50	THE WOODLANDS (PS)

Service Area	Current Population (2009)	Longer-Term Population (2031)
1	159,000	175,000
2	155,500	171,300
3	38,400	37,000
4	100,300	104,200
5	189,800	231,200
6	84,700	91,800
Total	727,700	811,100

mbpc
Monteith•Brown
 planning consultants
 Base Mapping Provided by
 City of Mississauga Community Services Department

Source: Henson Consulting Inc., 2009; Monteith•Brown Planning Consultants, 2009.



**High / Somewhat High Risk Schools
 Peel Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The schools are the best positioned to deal with such issues, given the human and facility resources (e.g. guidance, availability of space, effective ability to make youth aware of opportunities, etc.), and improved coordination between all youth-oriented providers will be necessary. For example, targeting the most at-risk schools with outreach efforts aimed at encouraging participation in recreation and leisure (e.g. drop-in programs, special interest camps, etc.) can address issues/barriers pertaining to access, awareness and availability of space.

Many of the top ten social risk index elementary schools do not offer after-school programs and all are usually closed for the summer months. The Province's new initiative to make schools more accessible to the community and improve community outreach has resulted in the appointment of a Community Outreach person who is working on making schools available to the community on weekends and is investigating selective summer programming opportunities.

Summary of Inclusivity-Oriented Directions

- ❖ *The City should continue to offer inclusive activities as well as adaptive programming and facilities, while continuing to consider accessibility as a driver to all physical development, programming and communication activities (e.g. sensitivity training, barrier-free modifications to recreation facilities, integrated active living programs, etc.).*
-

Summary of Inclusivity-Oriented Directions

- ❖ *Accessibility to public facilities should be a strong consideration particularly in areas where access to transit may be a financial challenge. Smaller neighbourhood hubs, whether they are libraries, elementary schools, community centres or other publicly accessible facilities, should ideally be within walking distance of the community. This may be of greater concern in areas of vulnerable, under-represented or disabled persons. Where easy access to a public facility is not available the City should strongly consider providing those qualifying for the Active Assist program with transit tickets for the purposes of accessing municipal services as part of the registration to a program. To assure attendance they could be provided to qualifying registrants at the end of each session.*
 - ❖ *The City should facilitate the provision of outreach activities (e.g. after school or drop in programs) at high risk schools in partnership with local school boards and other youth-oriented service providers.*
-

2.7 Programmatic & Infrastructure Delivery Considerations

Providing Valued Opportunities

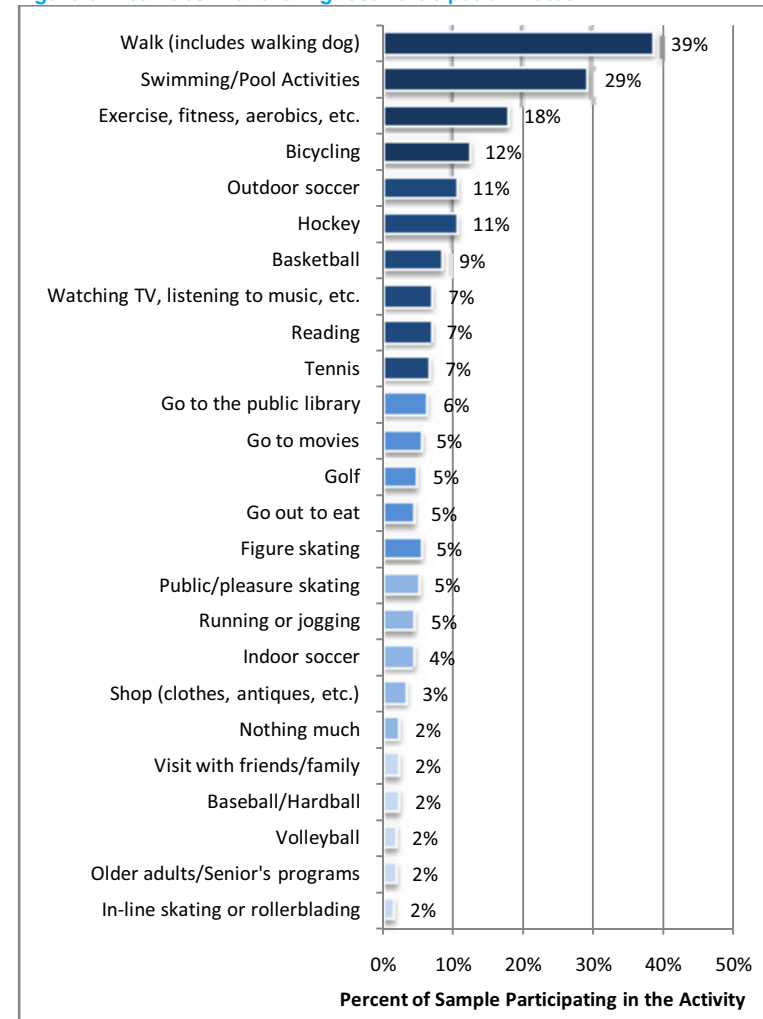
At a national, provincial and local level, there has been a noticeable shift in lifestyles which have had profound influences on participation in recreational activities.

The most notable trend has been a lack of time to participate in recreation, driven by a number of factors such as commute times, lone-parent or other family responsibilities, greater workloads, competing interests for disposable time, etc. Lack of time was the main barrier to participation in 1999 and remains so today; the household survey carried out as part of this Master Plan revealed that 54% of respondents stated that “a lack of time to get involved” prohibited them from engaging in recreational activities as often as they would like.

As a result of the “time crunch”, greater demands have been observed over the past number of years for self-scheduled and spontaneous activities which are more readily able to fit into personal schedules are still the preferred method of participation.

As can be seen in the following graphic, walking was ranked as the most popular activity (39%), followed by swimming and pool activities (29%), exercise, fitness and aerobics (18%), bicycling (12%), outdoor soccer (11%) and hockey (11%). It is worth noting that the four most popular activities are largely undertaken as drop-in style activities that are flexibly scheduled, which is a common trend throughout Ontario.

Figure 5: Activities with the Highest Participation Rates



Source: Recreation Master Plan Household Survey, 2009

To compare the most popular activities in Mississauga to other communities, the Table (below) displays the top three most popular activities in other communities across the GTA. Generally, walking was listed as the most popular activity, which parallels the findings in Mississauga and the survey conducted by Ipsos Reid for the Region of Peel.⁸ In the previous Master Plan, reading had been listed as the most popular activity, which has now been surpassed by walking.

Table 5: Comparison of Most Popular Activities across the GTA

Community	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Mississauga (2008)	Walking (includes walking dog)	Swimming/Pool Activities	Exercise, Fitness
Markham (2008)	Walking for Leisure or Hiking	Use of Playground Equipment	Family or Social Gatherings in Public Parks
Vaughan (2007)	Walking for Leisure	Swimming	Aerobics, Fitness or Weight-training
Richmond Hill (2005)	Walking for Leisure	Swimming	Cycling
Oakville (2004)	Walking	Reading	Bicycling
Mississauga (2003)	Reading	Walking	Swimming

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

Evaluating Which Services are Truly Required

One of the greatest challenges facing Mississauga is that as the face of the community evolves (aging, vulnerable communities, new sporting and leisure preferences, ethnicity, intensification and build out) programs do not get to stop and facilities do not get to close only more need to be added. The attempts to close underutilized outdoor

pools and libraries are perfect examples of the city not being able to truly restructure the provision of services or facilities.

Just a few of the new initiatives that are needed to meet the changing face of Mississauga are:

- New programs will be required to accommodate the interest of a growing aging population (see Older Adult Study).
- Older adult-oriented spaces within existing community centres or as additions to existing community centres are needed (see Older Adult Study).
- Needs for youth-oriented space within many existing community centres, particularly those serving vulnerable communities, as well as the development of drop in programs as recommended in the Youth Study.
- Assess to schools offering year round programs, particularly those that are located in “walk to” locations serving those with limited transportation opportunities).
- New facilities such as cricket, pickle ball and table tennis will be needed to match the interests of many new immigrants. Some emerging activities can also be accommodated in existing facilities provided the space is flexible enough.
- Facilities catering to the unstructured needs of youth such as skateboard parks, basketball hoops and BMX bike parks have supply levels that are lagging behind local demand.
- New facility designs will be needed in areas of intensification as green space becomes increasingly scarce and land costs are prohibitive. Development of condominium-style community centres and/or partnerships with condominium developers and office towers will need to be considered, particularly along the intensified nodes.

⁸ Ipsos Reid Public Affairs. Region of Peel 2008 Recreation & Physical Fitness Survey. February 2008.

- Shifts to more year-round indoor facilities will need to be developed to address the leisure needs of persons with limited time (soccer, tennis, rock climbing and those who do not have time for recreation affected by weather) or older adults (tennis, lawn bowling, bocce, golf).
- Fewer hockey players may not allow for the removal of ice rinks but will allow for improved program time slots for family skates, teen skates, learn to skate programs or free skates.

As mentioned, lack of time is still the primary barrier to an individual being unable to recreate or attend cultural events. Trends across Mississauga, North America and Australia indicate that time is the number one barrier to participation in leisure pursuits across these areas. Although the City would be hard pressed to accommodate all citizens should they have the time to do all the things they would like to in their leisure hours, there are implications to the City about the time barrier.

Some implications for the City are that when people finally find the time to participate, their expectations are that facilities will be available to them and be of a high quality. More indoor facilities are expected as the busy person does not have time to adjust to rain, wind or excessive heat. There is also an expectation that a library or community centre will be open when they have the time to get there – more like store hours and beyond. Access to community centres on Sundays and Friday nights, as well as late night basketball are just a few of the demands that busy residents generate for City services. Additional hours are generally the only way to increase participation among those with time constraints, however, even this option may not be effective in attracting exhausted individuals to facilities; the City may wish to establish a pilot project in appropriate areas to gauge the demand for extended hours at recreation facilities.

Added to the time constraint is the fact that technology now allows employment responsibilities to permeate into free time, well after working hours have elapsed. From e-mails, text messaging and cell phones, the stress that is placed upon individuals extends beyond a typical work day. When “down time” is finally found, many are too exhausted to consider physical activities.

Multi-Use Templates

The inclusion of multiple recreational amenities in one location is now the norm, although in 1999, this was still an emerging trend. This concept applies to both indoor (e.g. community centres) and outdoor (e.g. multi-field sports field complexes) recreational facilities.

Multi-purpose facilities have allowed municipalities to benefit from operational efficiencies (e.g., shared staff, maintenance, etc.) and respond to the desire for one-stop recreation opportunities. Mississauga’s residents continue to prefer high quality facilities rather than total quantity, if required to choose. Multi-purpose facilities provide opportunities for accommodating cross-programming demands, family recreation outings, rising expectations for quality service, and value for money, which are all issues to be considered in facility design. In addition to providing access to varied recreation opportunities (e.g., swimming, fitness, basketball, squash, etc.), multi-purpose fitness facilities are increasingly being integrated with other community services (e.g., library, community centre, etc.).

Within vulnerable neighbourhoods, however, the distance to a larger multi-purpose community centre may be beyond walking distance or may not be on the most convenient transit schedule or route. Within vulnerable neighbourhoods, partnerships with schools, places of worship or social clubs may be required to create an accessible recreational opportunity. Combining social services and recreation opportunities at the same location may be a model that reaches out

most effectively to the newcomers or underrepresented populations. (See also Section 3.8)

Multi-purpose facilities may also be required in areas of denser population. While they may not have the traditional park-like setting, it is possible to have all the amenities of a multi-purpose recreational facility within an 'urban' format such as occupying (through a condominium arrangement) a floor or floors within office buildings or residential buildings and still be available to all the surrounding community. Replacing the small recreation facilities being developed in condominiums with an appropriately scaled larger municipal multi-purpose community centre may also be an excellent partnership opportunity for developers (i.e. using cash-in-lieu receipts instead of their own investments in their developments).

Facility Design Considerations

The way in which facilities are designed is a critical factor in their success. Facilities must be responsive to community need, flexible enough to cater to a broad range of interests, functional from a cost perspective, and aesthetically appealing to invoke a sentiment of comfort and pride among its community users. As such, indoor and outdoor facilities should be designed to be inclusive; for example, they should serve multiple age groups (e.g. youth, older adults, etc.), abilities (i.e. they must be accessible) and socio-demographic backgrounds (i.e. they must be affordable, multicultural, etc.).

Within aquatics, spray pads and leisure pool elements remain popular options for facilities (instead of wading pools, outdoor pools and straight competition pools). Multi or universal field templates that allow for ease of conversion are a trend in the provision of outdoor sports fields, and many municipalities are designing indoor field houses to serve broad markets such as indoor soccer, field hockey, lacrosse to address emerging sports and increased adult demands.

It should be noted that the 2004 Future Directions included volleyball, basketball, badminton, etc., but it is now thought that these activities would be better placed within a gymnasium, with the indoor field house becoming an indoor field sport venue only. Municipalities are also dealing with demands for higher quality outdoor amenities (e.g., rest areas, washrooms, benches, field turf, etc.) and mandated play structure improvements.

Mississauga currently has a number of spray pads, outdoor pools, and competition pools (i.e., lane pool kept at cooler temperatures). The upcoming 2015 Pan American Games bid by the City of Toronto includes a number of venues in satellite communities, some of which are to be constructed in the event the bid is successful. While events will be hosted at the Hershey Centre, Classic Bowl and Mississauga Iceland, the City will not be the recipient of new facilities.

Environmental Responsibility in Facility & Program Delivery

Given the City's focus on environmental responsibility, as advanced through its Strategic Plan, new facilities would preferably incorporate "green" technologies to the greatest extent possible, such as the inclusion of green roofs, designing facilities according to LEED equivalent specifications, eco-friendly landscape design and facility orientation, drawing energy from "off-the-grid" sources (e.g. geothermal or solar energy), etc. Certain municipalities (e.g. Town of East Gwillimbury) have established corporate policies which mandate the design of municipal buildings to meet a LEED Silver certification.

Although there is usually an inherent cost associated with "going green", the City's leadership role may provide an example for those in the newly developing commercial, industrial and residential sectors to follow. Furthermore, the payback period of incorporating energy efficient initiatives can be fairly short through reduction in operating expenses. Defining the payback period more definitively is part of the LEED (or equivalent) design process.

Not only is incorporation of green technology important in terms of facility design, but as stewards of the environment, the City should also continually seek ways to integrate “green themes” into its program delivery model. The integration of interpretive opportunities at local parks and facilities, through the delivery of programs which capture the growing interest in natural processes and environments (e.g. horticulture, orienteering, etc.), can effectively stimulate interest and action among residents of all ages. Working with experts in the field of ecology and environmental studies (e.g. conservation authorities) to deliver programs can maximize the strengths of all parties involved to provide a high quality experience for the end user.

Investing in New & Existing Assets

Investing in infrastructure is important to ensure that services are provided at a level of high quality. In this regard, aging infrastructure is a challenge across the province, forcing municipalities to constantly weigh the costs and benefits of upgrading and new construction.

A 2006 study by Parks and Recreation Ontario identified that the majority of recreation facilities in Ontario are over 25 years old and 30% to 50% of these are near the end of their useful life⁹. In fact, infrastructure province-wide is chronically under-funded. The Super Build program in recent years provided some relief to select municipalities, but really only scratched the surface. The 2006 study investigated the age of Ontario facilities and found that 80% of community centres, 80% of ice pads, 53% of indoor pools and 81% of outdoor pools are over 25 years of age.

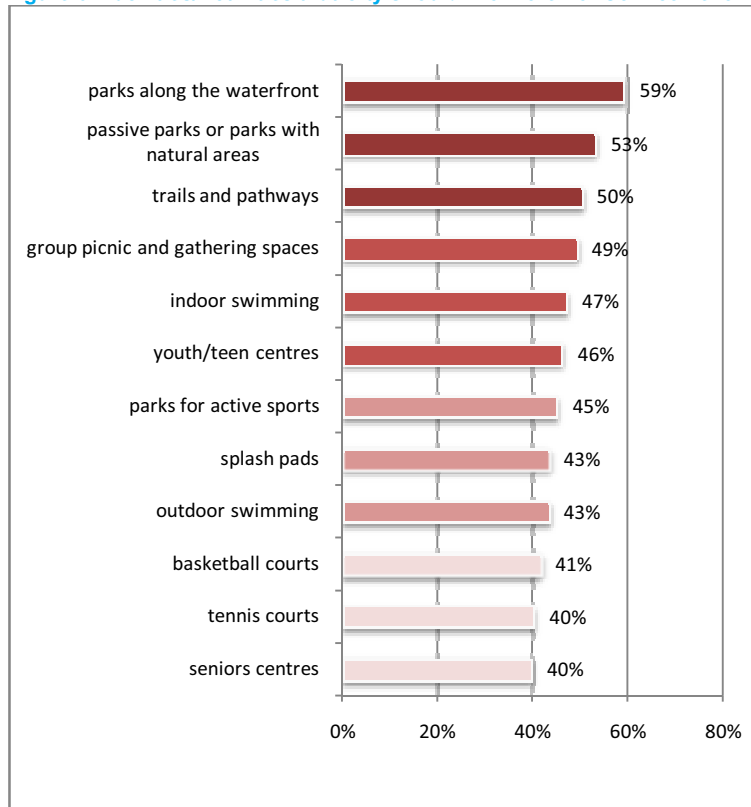
⁹ Parks and Recreation Ontario. (2006). Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Study. Available online at <http://216.13.76.142/PROntario/index.htm>.

To remain ahead of issues associated with aging infrastructure, the City should reinforce the regular undertaking of Lifecycle Replacement Plans for its recreational facilities.

Although there are some geographic variances, most residents are generally satisfied with the facilities that are available in Mississauga. In response, rather than building new facilities, the City recently implemented an aggressive community facility redevelopment program, which is prudent, given that investment in existing infrastructure needs to be strategic and based on a complete evaluation of current and future needs, accompanied by a financial plan that maximizes the use of available dollars.

To assess the recreation priorities of the household survey sample, respondents were asked whether the City should ‘do less’, ‘keep the level of service the same’ or ‘do more’ for 24 different facilities and activities. The previous graph illustrates the facilities that a higher proportion of respondents stated the City should ‘do more’ as compared to those suggesting to do less or maintain the status quo.

Figure 6: Facilities/Activities that City should 'Do More' for Service Level



Source: Recreation Master Plan Household Survey, 2009

Any investment in existing or new facilities should seek to employ the most current design trends, in terms of construction, operations and facility amenities. For example, incorporating technologies and multi-media services (e.g. active gaming such as Nintendo Wii technologies), creating Wi-Fi hotspots, etc. is appropriate in indoor recreation facilities as well as parks and outdoor facilities.

Summary of Program & Infrastructure-Related Directions

- ❖ The City should continue to regularly evaluate its mix of leisure programs (e.g. through usage statistics, financial performance, emerging trends, customer feedback, etc.) as well as promotion and marketing practices in order to monitor the effectiveness of programs in meeting community need and their ability to reach target markets.
- ❖ Strive to incorporate current and emerging best practices in facility and program design to meet social trends and demands such as environmental stewardship, fiscal efficiency, integration of technology, and the desire for safe and attractive spaces.
- ❖ Regularly undertake lifecycle assessments at appropriate municipal recreation facilities to ensure that capital planning processes anticipate any issues that may arise as a result of aging infrastructure, as well as to identify opportunities to enhance/revitalize the facility to better serve market needs.

2.8 Involvement in Elite Athletics

Elite athletes consist of higher level competition players who train, tryout and represent the Olympic Team, Pan Am Games, World Championships, as well as other elite tournaments and Provincial level competitive teams.

The National Sports Survey of Finland carried out during 2005-2006 indicates that 75% of citizens regard Finland's success in international sports as fairly or absolutely important while only 6% of the population thinks that success at international level has no importance at all. Success was also highly valued also among Finland's decision makers. A survey from 2004 indicates that over 83% of Finland's Members of Parliament believe that it is important that Finnish elite athletes succeed at the international level.

To date a similar study has not been conducted in Mississauga, Ontario or even Canada to weigh the importance Canadians put on "the podium" success, as compared to the need to provide recreational facilities and programs at a local level. As Mississauga is still in the position of resolving facility and programming gaps at the local level, it is difficult to assess what (if any) proportion of the City's recreational budget is appropriate for allocation towards more elite sporting pursuits.

The City has already developed numerous high quality sporting venues such as the Hershey Centre, Ice Land, artificial turf soccer fields and other tournament level sports fields. The competitive sports organizations do not represent a significant number of individuals when compared to the minor sports programs or the unstructured / unorganized recreational users of Mississauga.

Although status comes with provincial, national and international recognition, priority should remain on meeting the needs of the

majority of leisure users within the city. Council's recent decision to not pursue a joint 50 metre pool with the neighbouring municipalities of Oakville and Milton would indicate a caution on major facility commitments during an economic downturn. Even the image and status of hosting an Olympic Games can fast become a distant memory as it is difficult to determine whether Calgary or Lillehammer, as examples, have raised their global profiles to the degree originally envisioned (although the perception of what defines a "world-class" city is difficult to quantify).

Research in Australia has found that the movement toward developing more elite sports venues and programs has displaced the dollars available to building local venues and programs. It has also found that the "trickle down" effect is removing or diminishing the fan base for local sport groups as the big ticket events grab the attention and disposable dollars of area residents. Even sponsorships have been found to be reduced for community level events as a result of a tighter economy placing sponsor dollars on the more elite venues instead of on the local events.

In Finland, Japan and in China, the development of elite athletes and supporting venues are a national initiative rather than a municipal responsibility. Research in Japan noted that interest in developing a national elite athletic training centre has fluctuated in line with the successes and failures at the Olympics. Like most countries, support for Korea's national elite program received more support after seeing the effects upon Korean athletes after they were provided with high quality training facilities developed for the Seoul Olympics.

In the Canadian example, the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary has left the city with a number of world class facilities such as the Canada Olympic Park (ski facilities which are now also used as a premier mountain biking park in the summer) and the Olympic Oval (ice

sports) at the University of Calgary, and a number of supporting facilities.

The legacy of the structures that remain after a Pan Am or Olympic event is that these facilities become a primary access point to elite sports development. Well after hosting the Olympic Games, Calgary's venues continue to generate considerable economic impacts for the city by attracting numerous national and international competitions, as well as drawing national sporting teams to train in the area. Furthermore, the City has also become a leader in sports medicine and sport education as it has become a national hub for elite-level athletics. It is expected that the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver will position that city in a similar regard.

Without the venues and the support of the Federal government and Provincial government in funding these multi-million/billion dollar facilities, it is not a realistic endeavour for a municipality to venture into the world of elite sports facilities without the financial support required by the Pan Am or Olympic Games, at least for the construction of the infrastructure. If a neighbouring municipality is lucky enough to be awarded the Pan Am bid and receives the venues, it is almost a guarantee that they will be the host of all future national and international events, therefore, building a peripheral venue is not likely to be selected for these rare competitions.

In many respects the entry into elite athletics poses "the chicken and the egg" dilemma; without the venues, there is little hope of attracting the elite sporting events or athletes or of beating out a city that has won a bid or already has the facilities (like Calgary and Vancouver) from a past event.

The Consultants would recommend that unless Ontario is successful in landing the PanAm games and Mississauga is selected as a venue provider (likely to occur as a result of an already selected municipality withdrawing), the City should continue to concentrate on the needs of the local residents as the primary function.

The development of any elite venue is a decision that is beyond a master plan analysis and moves into the world of economic development. The issue of imaging and promotion of Mississauga into the world of elite sports needs also to determine what sport or sports are to be pursued. For example, with the winter venues already available in Calgary and Vancouver, there is a likely a need to consider sporting events that would differentiate Mississauga and attract elite talent locally. City Council has already turned down a 50 metre pool proposal in partnership with Oakville and Milton, Vaughan and Oakville have already made substantial inroads in the development of high quality soccer infrastructure, while a velladrome already exists in London and another one has been proposed for Hamilton.

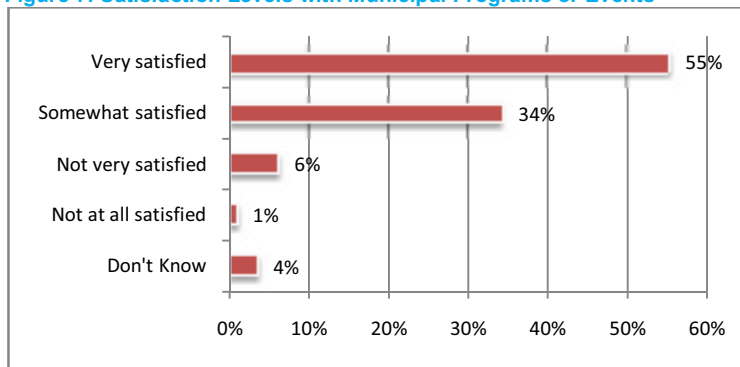
2.9 Delivering Services Effectively

Satisfaction with Services

Achieving high levels of resident satisfaction with programs and services delivered by the City is a way to ensure higher degrees of participation. 25% of household survey respondents stated that they had participated in a program or special event, and an additional 6% stated that a member of their household had participated.

Satisfaction levels were high; using a scale of 1 (“not at all satisfied”) to 4 (“very satisfied”) to rank satisfaction 89% of respondents were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with their experience attending a municipal program or event.

Figure 7: Satisfaction Levels with Municipal Programs or Events



Source: Recreation Master Plan Household Survey, 2009

Financing Investment

Enhanced program and facility delivery requires ongoing investment; not only are capital expenditures required to construct new facilities, but annual operating expenditures can put a strain on municipal budgets if revenues are not generated to match.

Capital investment can be challenging, although the *Development Charges Act* provides the mechanism for municipalities to “let growth pay for growth.” In the case of “soft services” such as recreation facilities, up to 90% of the new facility cost is Development Charge eligible. In instances where a municipality cannot sufficiently rely on Development Charges, other funding avenues have to be explored such as grants (and thus competing with a variety of other municipalities and agencies for the same dollars), debentures, and tax increases to name but a few.

The following table reflects the percentage of households who were willing to pay more for improved recreation programs and facilities, and the means through which they were willing to do so, either through user fees, taxes, or fundraising. Note that percentages will not total 100% as not all households were willing to pay more for improvements to the recreation system.

Table 6: Likelihood of Payment through Various Funding Sources

	Not at all likely	Not very likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Don't Know
User fees	4%	11%	26%	11%	1%
Taxes	23%	11%	13%	5%	1%
Fundraising	6%	10%	22%	14%	1%

Source: Recreation Master Plan Household Survey, 2009

With regard to willingness to pay more for new or improved recreation programs and facilities, the survey found that:

- Households that have used an indoor recreation facility within the past 12 months were more likely to be willing to pay more for improved or new recreation programs or facilities.
- Households that have used an indoor recreation facility within the past 12 months were more likely to be willing to pay more for improved or new recreation programs or facilities through fundraising.
- Households living in Service Area 4 are more likely to be willing to pay more for improved or new recreation programs or facilities through fundraising (when compared to households living in Service Area 2).

On the operating side, new and existing facilities have overhead costs that are an annual operating expense. Staffing, maintenance, utilities, are some of the major operational costs incurred by the City and the

development of new and expanded facilities must consider the capabilities of existing resources to meet the added level of service.

It is therefore critical that the City focus on providing facilities and services that are truly required to meet community needs. Furthermore, in addition to meeting the needs of established community-based service providers it will be important to consider the provision of venues (supported by appropriate business planning) that aimed at assisting and encouraging casual community leagues (e.g. hockey, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.) to formalize their operations; doing so may further increase penetration/participation rates within recreational activities.

Partnerships

Emerging consumer demands and shifting economic conditions have caused many communities to pursue partnership approaches that dramatically differ from traditional service delivery mechanisms. Partnerships, alliances and collaborative relationships of varying types are required in today's economy to effectively and efficiently provide for the leisure needs of citizens. Collaborative agreements with Mississauga's schools, places of worship, social clubs, user groups, etc. can be extremely effective in delivering sustainable and fiscally responsible recreation services to the community.

Facilitating partnerships with external service providers and maximizing on the internal strengths of the community will allow Mississauga to provide the best possible service to its residents.

Throughout this Master Plan has been a recurring theme about the need to foster better collaboration with the local school boards. The

recent addition of the liaison position between the City and school boards should assist in maximizing the sharing of resources between the parties involved, which will translate into more effective services being delivered to residents of all ages. The City of Brampton, for example, appears to be successfully working with the Peel District School Board, suggesting that the schools acknowledge the vested interest in joint provision of facilities and programs. Continuing to devote efforts in strengthening the relationship between the municipality and school boards should be a priority area of focus for City. Furthermore, working with school boards to remain apprised of potential school relocations/closures may pose an opportunity for the City to adaptively reuse vacated school properties for recreational uses, particularly those with sports fields and gymnasiums.

Not only is there growing interest in public-private partnerships (P3s), but also in arrangements with Trusts acting on behalf of community organizations and formal operating or cost sharing relationships with school boards as well as user/community groups. A 2006 survey that investigated the level of support amongst Canadians for P3s, found that 9 out of 10 Canadians believe that Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments are not keeping pace with demand for new or improved public infrastructure services.¹⁰

Partnerships should use a standardized protocol and be subject to consistent monitoring in order to ensure that maximum and equitable benefit is provided to all parties, especially the end user.

Mississauga currently employs partnerships in a variety of areas, including the *Next Step to Active Living* program, which is a joint effort between the City and the Credit Valley Hospital with funding support

¹⁰ The Canadian Council for Public Private Partnership (2006). *Trends in Canadian Support for Public Private Partnerships*. Available online at: www.pppcouncil.ca

from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. In 2002, the World Health Organization Kobe Centre created the Mississauga Model, which is a reflection of the relationship between the University of Toronto and the City of Mississauga that helped to “bridge the gap between research and policy-making.”

The 2004 Future Directions articulated a standardized partnership approach to assist the City in identifying appropriate projects for which partnerships are suitable; this approach remains relevant today and should continue to be employed. Some of the key considerations of the partnership framework include:

- To what extent will potential partners be expected to comply with municipal values and philosophies?
- What are the minimum attributes a potential partner must bring to a relationship with the City and what mechanisms will be necessary to validate the partner’s true capacities?
- Under what conditions will the City absorb risk and what will determine the municipality’s risk tolerance threshold?
- How (if at all) will stakeholders and others with a vested interest in the project be included in deliberations regarding the partnership?
- What will be City’s financial expectations for a partnership and under which conditions will certain types of investments to a partnered project be considered?

An opportunities audit is a series of steps that act as a filtering process helping the City define suitable projects for which partnerships should be considered. The following steps are generally included in the audit process.

- Identify a range of services/facilities that may be potential partnership candidates.

- Determine cost and revenue implications of the traditional municipal model.
- Determine the preferable partner contributions to the project.
- Identify a range of potential partners.
- Determine appropriate public sector contribution to the project.
- Identify potential partnership models.
- Identify areas where services must fall outside identified models.
- Identify potential stakeholder concerns.
- Identify mitigating factors to stakeholder concerns.
- Identify service delivery mechanisms that fit within the model.
- Determine potential cost/revenue gains by applying a model.
- Determine operating gains to the system inherent with implementing the model.
- Determine potential costs to the system inherent with implementing the model.
- Identify the priority of the opportunity within the leisure system.
- Identify procedures and desired timetable for the pursuit of partners.

The partnership framework is illustrated in the following graphic. Stage One of the selection process usually involves a Request For Interest to which partnership candidates attempt to demonstrate their worthiness for the project. This stage normally concludes with recommended short listed proponents proceeding to Stage Two.

Figure 8: Solicited Partnership Review Framework



Source: City of Mississauga, 2004 Future Directions

Stage Two involves a response to a detailed Request For Proposals and varies depending upon the nature of the project. It is at this point where detailed evaluation criteria based upon the planning principles are employed to evaluate and rank proposals.

Based upon the elements of the propositions and the nature of the venture, the City would decide upon its desired relationship structure. The level of municipal contribution to the project (financial and other resources), the level of control the City wishes to maintain and its risk

exposure will likely determine the structure that is most appropriate. Stage Two concludes with a selection of the preferred proponent.

City staff indicate that there are over one hundred current agreements in place with various community partners. Additional staff resources (e.g. a Partnership Specialist) would benefit the City in determining which existing partnership agreements remain appropriate and of benefit to the municipality and ratepayer. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure that new and better partnerships are formed which are deemed as mutually beneficial for the City and its potential partner, but most importantly are of maximum benefit to local residents.

The City should continue to enter into partnerships with public and not for profit organizations wherever the outcome benefits either the local community or the overall City, and results in a reduced burden to the tax payer while either expanding needed services or improving cost efficiency. All funding and service partners should be brought together on a regular basis to acquaint those in the business of funding recreation with the programs and facilities that the City offers, as well as sources of funding from other levels of government. All partners should be required to report regularly to the City on how their partnership continues to address key priority needs within the City.

Shifting Interests in Volunteering and Social Commitment

According to Imagine Canada's 2004 report, entitled *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, seniors in Canada have traditionally provided the greatest number of volunteer hours of any age group. In Canada, the average number of volunteer hours for those aged 45 to 64 was 190 hours per year, compared to those aged 65 plus who volunteered on average 245 hours per year. However, the volunteer participation rate (the percentage of individuals in a particular age group volunteering) is higher for those aged 45 to 64 than Canadians 65 years of age or older.

As the Baby Boomer generation begins to reach retirement, there is concern that this group as a whole may not be as dedicated as past generations. The household survey conducted as part of the City of Mississauga's Older Adult Plan found that in a typical month, two-thirds of respondents (who were older adults) did not spend any time volunteering in their community, suggesting that the City or community organizations simply cannot rely upon older adults to volunteer to the degree that past seniors did.

A recent publication by the United States Corporation for National and Community Services (USCNCNCS) found the following characteristics of Baby Boomers in relation to volunteering:

- Baby Boomers have higher volunteer participation rates than past generations had at the same ages – but a lower number of volunteer hours per year per person.
- Baby Boomers have different volunteer interests (e.g., education and cultural organizations) than past generations.
- Approximately 3 out of every 10 Baby Boomer volunteers dropped out of volunteering each year, which highlights the necessity for awareness and promotion of volunteering.
- The likelihood of continuing to volunteer increased as an individual's participation hours in volunteer activities rises.
- Retention of Baby Boomer volunteers is related to the type and nature of volunteer activity – volunteer retention is lowest for those who provide general labour.

Recognizing that Baby Boomers will need to be targeted to promote volunteering, the USCNCNCS has undertaken an awareness campaign. Their slogan, published across the United States reads '*Get Involved! Lead. Inspire. Change the World. Again.*' The study also identified the shift in the types of organizations that 41 to 59-year-olds volunteered with in 1989 and in 2003-2005. The data suggested that

while overall volunteer participation rates within this age group are declining in most sectors, growth is being seen in educational and youth service, as well as social and community service sectors.

The City of Mississauga has an active volunteer force, and the City's Recreation and Parks Division utilizes volunteers in a variety of ways, including program delivery, parks maintenance and interpretation. The City focuses its volunteer resources in the areas of aquatics, camps, youth activities, museums and special interest. The City also has a Parks Community Stewardship Program that allows residents with an interest in horticulture and the environment the opportunity to contribute to community parks.

Organizations relying upon volunteers face communication-based challenges, often working in isolation from other groups in similar positions and relying upon their own internal capacity to recruit, train and retain committed individuals. The City should continue to act as a liaison between community groups and facilitate access to volunteer networking opportunities, such as the inter-municipal Volunteer MBC network which connects organizations in Peel Region. Through the sharing of resources, both in terms of expertise and capacity, volunteer groups with common areas of interest can more effectively sustain their operations and are better positioned to deliver their programs over the long run.

The Mississauga Seniors' Centre also provides its members with opportunities to volunteer in a number of capacities, including positions with committees that serve the senior community. For example, the Garden Café at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre is operated by a group of senior volunteers. As volunteer numbers decrease, greater pressure will be placed on staff to provide for services. Consideration may need to be given to increasing support to volunteers.

Demands for Specific Types of Facilities

Subsequent sections of the Recreation Master Plan provide detailed analyses surrounding the need for specific recreation facilities; the list of facilities assessed tend to be core levels of municipal service or whose popularity has been demonstrated in the community. Inevitably, there will be certain types of activities and facility requirements which City staff may receive inquiries for but are not explicitly considered as part of this master planning process. Examples may include, but not be limited to: bocce courts, lawn bowling, fields for Ultimate Frisbee or disc golf, kabbadi, etc.

It should be noted that the examples noted above were not highly requested during the consultation process for the Recreation Master Plan and, therefore, sufficient demand for their provision is not currently warranted.

When requests are brought forward for investment in non-traditional, emerging and/or non-core municipal services, the City should evaluate the need for these pursuits on a case-by-case basis. This should involve an examination into (but not be limited to):

- local/regional/provincial trends pertaining to usage and popularity of the activity/facility;
- examples of delivery models in other municipalities;
- local demand for the activity / facility;
- the ability of existing municipal facilities to accommodate the new service;
- the feasibility for the City to reasonably provide the service / facility as a core service and in a cost-effective manner;
- the willingness and ability of the requesting organization to provide the service if provided with appropriate municipal supports.

Summary of Delivery-Oriented Directions

- ❖ *Continue to utilize the standardized Partnership Framework as a means to identify suitable partnership agreements in order to augment the current service delivery model. Partnerships which the City deems to sufficiently benefit the local community or the municipality as a whole should continue to be pursued.*
- ❖ *Create a targeted strategy aimed at recruiting and retaining the number of volunteers involved in the delivery of recreation services, in attempt to maximize the benefits that a diverse local volunteer base (i.e. of all ages and backgrounds) brings to Mississauga.*
- ❖ *Continue to facilitate volunteer-based networking (e.g. Volunteer MBC) to provide organizations with municipal and community-based supports to bolster their volunteer operations through shared resources and common interests.*
- ❖ *The City should respond to requests for facilities presently not part of the core mandate on a case-by-case basis by evaluating the municipality's role in providing the service in relation to quantified market demand and cost-effectiveness of such services, while also identifying potential strategies to address long-term need for such requests should a sufficient level of demand be expressed.*

Section 3: Indoor Recreation Facilities

3.1 Summary of Indoor Facility Directions

Through the assessment of indoor recreation facility needs, the following key directions have been advanced:

- If, at some point in the future, the City decides to revisit the joint municipal provision for the provision of an elite competition facility (between the municipalities of Mississauga, Milton and Oakville), it is assumed that the facility would be provided in the west end of Mississauga. Should a joint venture be established, the City should consider investing additional capital dollars to construct a gymnasium and any other required components to turn this facility into a community centre capable of serving the Churchill Meadows community.
- Unless a joint agreement is revisited with regard to a elite competition facility, the City should only consider a community centre if it can be done in partnership with the YMCA, or another third party, to construct and operate a new community centre in the Churchill Meadows community which would include, at a minimum, an indoor aquatic centre and fitness space, on the condition that it is fully accessible to the residents of Churchill Meadows for fees equal to Erin Meadows or Meadowvale Community Centres.
- In the event that a future joint agreement cannot be reached with regard to a elite competition facility or a partnership with the YMCA or a another third party, the City should consider bolstering its existing plans to enclose the artificial fields being proposed on 9th line to include washrooms, meeting

space and any other desired components on the condition that a partnership can be reached with indoor soccer, indoor tennis or other users interested in an all-weather facility.

Furthermore, the high degree of intensification expected to occur along the Highway 5/10 corridor will create recreational needs associated with a significant influx of population. Given that any new development of recreation facilities will have to occur in an infill capacity, the City should explore the provision of a condominium-style community centre with achieved intensification in this area as a necessary precursor to implementation. This development should be conducted in concert with the area's development industry and include, at a minimum, an indoor aquatic centre, gymnasium space, and fitness space. Partnership with the Mississauga Library system should also be considered in this area.

It is believed that the City's supply of arenas and indoor turf facilities (other than the fields currently planned along 9th line) are sufficient over the course of the master planning period (to the year 2014). Similarly, spaces specifically designed with youth and older adults in mind should only be developed within the planning period after market demand studies confirm/justify the need for such.

3.2 Community Centres

Mississauga has a number of community centres which address a wide range of recreational needs, although there is no defined level for their provision as need is generally dictated through individual facility components (e.g. arenas, aquatics, gyms, etc.). The City's major community centres are typically of a multi-use design, offering a number of components (e.g. arena, indoor aquatics, fitness, gymnasiums, program spaces, etc.) at a single location. There are also a few minor community centres which are typically single purpose venues suited to meetings, gatherings and limited program delivery options. As shown on the following page, a satisfactory distribution of all of these facilities exists, with the only gap area being located in the northern portion of Service Area #2 and the periphery of Service Area #1. It is anticipated that access to a school in these gap areas should be viewed as opportunities to address coverage gaps.

In the analyses that follow, community need has been demonstrated for a number of indoor recreation facilities which would ideally be placed within a community centre template that has traditionally been employed by the City of Mississauga. Major indoor recreation facilities that have been identified as being needed include an indoor pool, gymnasium and spaces designed for the consideration and use of youth and older adults, respectively.

A Community Centre in the 5/10 Node

Service Area #5 is expected to experience a significant increase in population in the Highway 5/10 corridor (notably at the Dundas and Hurontario node). In fact, a total of 41,000 new residents are projected for the Service Area as a whole which, based upon service provision standards set out through this Master Plan, would generate nearly enough demand for major indoor recreation facility components such as an indoor pool, gymnasium, fitness space and

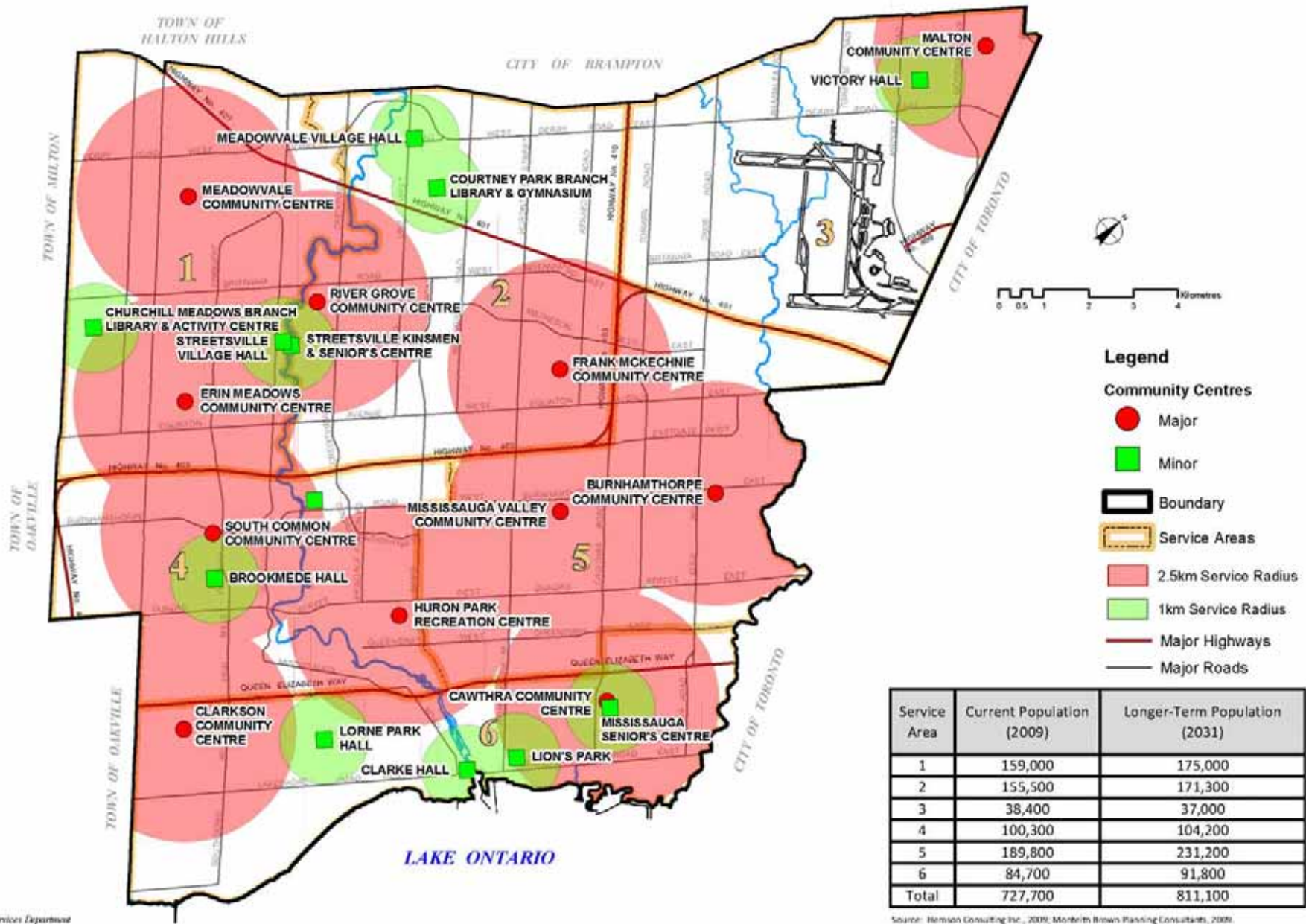
multi-purpose spaces for community use. As suggested through the Library Master Plan, a relocated library branch is also required for this area which would form an ideal complement to a new community centre (as employed through existing models such as the Mississauga Valley Community Centre).

Achieving the desired level of intensification is considered to be necessary prior to embarking on such an initiative. Should this population growth occur as a result of long-term demands, the City should proactively look for a potential site capable of accommodating a future community centre(s). Land scarcity will become a much more difficult challenge for facility provision, as development moves from Greenfield to intensification scenarios which will result in the need to revisit the design of a traditional community centre (with large building envelope).

To address land scarcity issues and work within an intensification scenario, a new community centre in the 5/10 node should be developed in a condominium format, in partnership with area developers. The City should leverage any contributions through the application the Planning Act (specifically Section 37) to encourage the non-duplication of facilities in abutting condominiums at the time of development (as recommended in the Indoor Aquatics Section).

Community Space in the Churchill Meadows Community

Analyses contained later in this Section suggest that indoor facility levels are generally satisfactory at present. The most notable service gap that has been identified pertains to the availability of indoor aquatics to serve the Churchill Meadows community (refer to the Indoor Aquatics Section for greater detail). The western portion associated with this community is segregated from both the Meadowvale and Erin Meadows Community Centres by Winston Churchill Boulevard.



- Legend**
- Community Centres
 - Major
 - Minor
 - Boundary
 - ▭ Service Areas
 - 2.5km Service Radius
 - 1km Service Radius
 - Major Highways
 - Major Roads

Service Area	Current Population (2009)	Longer-Term Population (2031)
1	159,000	175,000
2	155,500	171,300
3	38,400	37,000
4	100,300	104,200
5	189,800	231,200
6	84,700	91,800
Total	727,700	811,100

Source: Remson Consulting Inc., 2008; Montelith Brown Planning Consultants, 2008



Base Mapping Provided by: City of Mississauga Community Services Department



Community Centres

Churchill Meadows represents one of the more recent traditional Greenfield growth areas in terms of development; in fact, it is the last suburban type of development before intensification becomes the predominant form of growth. In previous iterations of Future Directions and other studies carried out by the City, community space needs were believed to be met in Churchill Meadows. These documents, however, did not anticipate the degree of population growth and associated demographic characteristics that are now apparent in Churchill Meadows. The result is now an elevated level of need for facilities to serve this community.

Although the provision standards articulated for indoor aquatic centres and other major facilities does not necessitate the provision of a new recreation centre over the next ten years (at a City-wide level), the Churchill Meadows community will generate sufficient demand for services for a number of reasons:

- this community is home to a large market that has the population characteristics (i.e. younger families with younger children) that would benefit from facilities such as aquatics, gymnasium space, etc.;
- surrounding pools are near or at capacity (such as the Erin Meadows or Meadowvale pool);
- existing pools with available capacity are located beyond a travel-distance threshold for the Churchill Meadows community, resulting in a decreased propensity for these residents to utilize them; and
- provision of community facilities in this area would support original planning principles for the development of Churchill Meadows by creating community hubs for physical and social activities.

To reconcile the demands associated with aquatics and general community space in the Churchill Meadows area, the Master Plan advocates a “*provision by opportunity to partner*” approach.

Providing community facilities in the Churchill Meadows area would best be achieved by **seeking out a partner** to assist the City with the capital and operational resources required to deliver the facilities and programs. The partnership approach is ideally suited to this community given the current economic climate as well as evidence of latent demand and lack of access to residents in this area, despite not yet attaining population thresholds for City-wide facility provision standards. Furthermore, the delivery of facilities and programs in this area positions the City with flexibility to address long-term needs which may arise should population growth patterns exceed planned projections (as has historically occurred).

Recently, the City of Mississauga decided to absolve itself from a potential partnership with the Towns of Milton and Oakville to provide a 50 metre pool facility. If the City, at a future time, decides to revisit the evaluation of a partnership with Milton and Oakville regarding the development of an elite competition facility in the 9th Line area of the Churchill Meadows community, the facility should be enhanced with a gymnasium to allow it to co-function as a community centre for the Churchill Meadows community.

Similarly, there are early indications that the YMCA may be looking at Mississauga as a potential market in which to expand their presence. While the YMCA has not confirmed its entry into this area of Mississauga, their presence (or that of another major potential community-based partner) could be focused towards the Churchill Meadows community. Should a YMCA or other third party wish to

proceed with an aquatic facility west of Winston Churchill Boulevard, the City should consider a potential partnership to provide a community centre with pool and fitness to the Churchill Meadows community, so long as true community access can be assured. This scenario is only deemed plausible if the City does not proceed with a joint municipal venture to build a 50 metre pool.

Furthermore, there are plans to construct an outdoor artificial turf field along the 9th Line of the Churchill Meadows Community. Again, by applying a “provision by opportunity to partner” approach it is plausible to consider the eventual enclosure of this artificial turf to create another venue for indoor field sports (as discussed in the Indoor Turf Section). Tennis courts are also a possibility for this area, thus the City should consider seeking a partnership with the soccer and/or tennis association to develop indoor facilities in this community along 9th line as the provision of artificial soccer fields (with the long-term intention of enclosing them) has been recommended. Note that the Master Plan finds sufficient evidence for additional investment in outdoor soccer fields (a market study will be required prior to investing in another indoor turf venue) and tennis courts.

A recommendation to enhancing an indoor soccer/tennis complex as a means to provide community space is contingent upon the basis that the City does not proceed with the 50 metre pool venture and that a successful partnership agreement can be negotiated with an interested group(s). Should this be the case, consideration should be given to providing accessible washrooms and meeting rooms to allow the facility to function as a community centre space (in addition to a potential pool/fitness area) for the Churchill Meadows community.

Should no forthcoming suitable partner be found after the next two years, and once the Meadowvale Community Centre has become operational after its reconstruction has been completed, the City should undertake an assessment of excess capacity at the

Meadowvale and Erin Meadows Community Centres. If it is determined that insufficient capacity exists, a swimming pool should be constructed as part of the indoor sports field proposed for development in the Churchill Meadows community.

Improving and Enhancing Existing Community Centres

The focus over the next five years should be placed upon improving existing community centres in order to ensure that they are adequately responding to the markets that they serve. Utilization of existing facilities to meet new facility demands can be an effective way to provide new services without incurring large-scale capital expenditures associated with the costs of land acquisition and new facility construction. An existing facility, however, needs to be an ideal candidate in terms of its structural condition, capability of its site, and proximity to the market it will serve; otherwise, capital costs associated with expansion or upgrade may in fact be on par or even higher than those associated with new facility development.

The planned reconstruction of the Meadowvale Community Centre is an example of modifying/redesigning an existing facility to better meet local needs. This reconstruction is expected to be initiated in 2011 and cost a total of nearly \$30 million over a three year period. It is recommended that this facility continue to incorporate its aquatic and fitness components, but also include a gymnasium and a library branch. The co-location of multiple civic services within the community centre is endorsed as a necessary consideration of all development and redevelopment opportunities.

Recognizing that the Meadowvale Community Centre reconstruction project is an example that cannot readily be applied across the board due to the cost involved, other community centres should be evaluated for interior modifications or upgrades of certain components.

Furthermore, minor community centres such as Clarke Hall, Lorne Park Hall, etc. should be evaluated for their ability to accommodate a broader degree of use. Prior to the redesign of any existing community facilities, members of the community should be consulted as to the desired types of use and the facilities required to satisfy local demands. Similar to the Vic Johnston Community Centre and Streetsville Arena fundraising campaigns, the City should encourage local community associations and user groups to fundraise a portion of the costs required for the capital outlay that would be associated with facility enhancements. Over half of organizations responding to the stakeholder questionnaires indicated that they were willing to contribute their own funds towards new capital projects.

Design Considerations

In terms of the design/redesign of new or existing facilities, the modern template is to employ a user-friendly layout which creates an inviting and comfortable environment. This may include functional layouts which are open concept, easily facilitate customer access to reception and facility staff, easy to navigate, wheelchair and stroller accessible, incorporate public art, etc. The facility could also contain leasable spaces for potential tenants (e.g. health services, smaller-scale retail outlets, library, child care centre, etc.) which complement the services offered at the complex, enhance the user experience and provide the City with cost-recovery opportunities. New facilities should be designed to facilitate expansion opportunities in advance of new demands that may arise as the City approaches its build-out population.

As mentioned earlier in this Master Plan, there is a strong trend towards incorporating environmentally-responsible designs when providing new facilities, as well as examining ways to improve environmental efficiencies of existing facilities. The City should consider “green” technologies for its recreational facilities which at a

minimum, seek to achieve efficiencies in energy consumption, water conservation, and impact on surrounding ecological zones.

Finally, designing safe facilities should be of the utmost importance, thus the City should incorporate CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) or similar principles into the design of new facilities. For example, this may involve (but not be limited to) ensuring that highly lit and visible spaces in indoor and outdoor spaces (e.g. hallways, parking lots, etc.) are developed, suitable access to phones or emergency communications equipment, installation of surveillance equipment in key areas, etc.

Summary of Community Centre Directions

- ❖ *Continue with the planned reconstruction of the Meadowvale Community Centre.*
 - ❖ *Existing municipal facilities should be evaluated for their ability to be retrofitted/redesigned in order to accommodate any shifts in recreational needs that may arise as a result of emerging trends, changing neighbourhood demographics, etc.*
-

Summary of Community Centre Directions

- ❖ *Employ a “Provision by Opportunity to Partner” approach in pursuit of providing the Churchill Meadows community with necessary community space. Ideally, this would be attained by actively seeking out one of the following options:*
 - i. *Provide a gymnasium and meeting space if the City decides to revisit the joint municipal venture of a 50 metre indoor pool with a competitive tank, smaller warm up and teaching pool, and associated fitness facilities. This would allow the facility to function as a community centre for the residents living in the western portion of Service Area # 1.*
 - ii. *Consider a community centre along 9th Line after engaging in discussions with a third party such as the YMCA and/or local soccer and tennis organizations. If a suitable agreement can be reached, inclusion of a pool, fitness space, indoor soccer and/or indoor tennis opportunities should be pursued on the condition that residents have similar access to the facility as they would in a municipally owned and operated community centre.*
 - iii. *If a suitable partner cannot be found, undertake a capacity analysis at the Erin Meadows Community Centre and the reconstructed Meadowvale Community Centre to determine whether a new indoor pool can be justified in the Churchill Meadows community.*
-

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- ❖ *New or reconstructed facilities should be designed according to LEED Silver standards, at a minimum, while also incorporating other appropriate “green” technologies to showcase the City’s leadership role in energy efficiency, innovation and environmental stewardship.*
 - ❖ *Continue to ensure that new public leisure facilities are designed with the user’s safety in mind, through use of CPTED or similar principles.*
-

3.3 Arenas / Ice Pads

Indoor ice sports continue to be a favoured recreational activity in Mississauga and elsewhere throughout the country. On a national scale, participation rates have generally levelled off, with the notable exception of girl's hockey which has seen considerable growth. There are a total of 25 ice pads located at 11 City-owned arenas.

Arena	No. Of Rinks
Cawthra Arena (Cawthra Community Centre)	2
Chic Murray Arena (Burnhamthorpe Community Centre)	1
Clarkson Arena (Clarkson Community Centre)	1
Erin Mills Twin Rinks	2
Hershey Centre*	3
Huron Park Arena (Huron Park Recreation Centre)	1
Iceland	4
Malton Arena (Malton Community Centre)	1
Meadowvale 4 Rinks	4
Mississauga Valley Arena (Mississauga Valley Community Centre)	1
Port Credit Arena	1
Tomken Twin Rinks	2
Streetsville Arena at Vic Johnston Community Centre**	1
Total	25

* the Hershey Centre contains one event rink and three community rinks

** Streetsville Arena is managed by an independent community organization but accommodates local user groups, thus is included in the supply

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

Locally, the household survey reported that 11% of the sample had a household member participating in hockey, while 5% reported figure skating and another 5% participating in public/pleasure skating activities. The survey also suggested that respondents were most likely to state that the City should be providing more ice times for

youth (39% felt this way) and that the ice time for adults should be kept the same (41% felt this way).

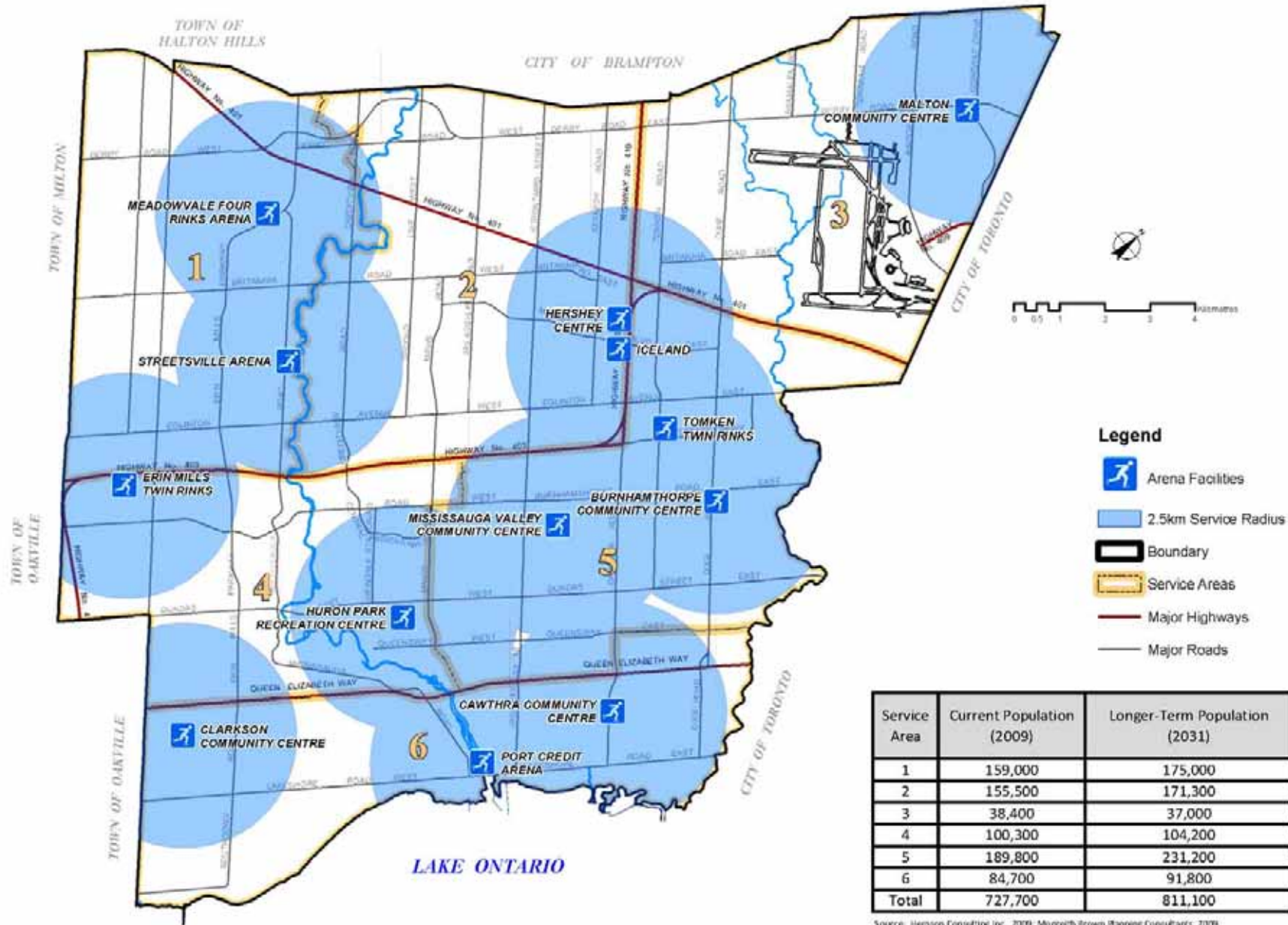
The previous Future Directions and *Arena Strategy* have recommended the provision of ice pads at a rate of one ice pad per 29,000 residents; the City is currently providing ice at a rate of one ice pad per 29,108. This is one of the lowest rates benchmarked across the GTA, as shown in the following table.

Table 7: Benchmarking of Ice Pad Provision

Municipality	Population	Ice Pads	Provision
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	4	13,822
London (2007)	355,675	22	16,167
Barrie (2009)	139,938	8	17,492
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	26	18,278
Ajax (2007)	93,553	5	18,711
Caledon (2006)	57,050	3	19,017
Milton (2009)	87,045	4	21,761
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	7	23,243
Oakville (2006)	165,613	7	23,659
Brampton (2006)	433,806	17	25,518
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	25	29,108
Vaughan (2008)	260,000	8	32,500

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

Evaluation of the City's ice schedules suggest that arena utilization is fairly high across individual ice pads; when considered system-wide, however, there are 27.5 unbooked prime time hours at eleven municipal arenas (excluding the Hershey Centre and its four rinks). If assuming a total of 62 prime hours available per week (i.e. 5pm to 11pm on weekdays and 7am to 11pm on weekends), the number of unbooked prime hours would account for 0.4 ice pads.



Monteth Brown
planning consultants
Base Mapping Provided by:
City of Mississauga Community Services Department

Source: Henson Consulting Inc., 2009; Monteth Brown Planning Consultants, 2009.

The Arena Strategy suggests that Mississauga was likely to experience a peak in demand for ice pads around the year 2009, due to the pressures that the City's children and youth are placing on the facilities. The number of children, particularly those between 10 and 19 years of age, had been increasing according to Census data but has now levelled off.

It is important to consider, however, that Mississauga's aging population profile may translate into fewer ice sport participants in the future, as suggested through the Arena Strategy, therefore additional capacity will likely become available. In this regard, adult ice usage could be repatriated during prime hours implying participation rates (within prime time hours) could remain at a consistent level, at least over the master planning period.

Furthermore, newcomer populations may eventually constitute a larger market share of ice sport participants. Given the significant immigration characteristics in Mississauga, there are many who believe a greater education or promotion of the benefits of skating are needed to ensure these important community assets continue to be used.

An outreach program is being delivered by a local hockey organization to attract new Canadians to participate in the sport while others, including the City, are offering skating instruction programs as a means to encourage those who would not normally skate to do so. Malton was the first to introduce a program called "Got skates?" which provides skates, protective gear, and lessons to participants in grades 3, 4, and 5. The program currently has 200 pairs of skates and is looking to expand the program into Cawthra Twin Rinks, Clarkson Arena, Mississauga Valley Arena and the Chic Murray Arena if sufficient sponsorships can be found. These initiatives are a necessary component of program delivery and serve to increase the longer-term sustainability and popularity of ice sports.

Trends suggest that newcomer populations, particularly first generation Canadians, cannot be expected to create a substantial demand for ice sports (or any other leisure activity for that matter); for these newcomers, recreation is usually a secondary consideration as priorities are focused towards acclimating to the Canadian way of life such as learning the language, finding employment, and ensuring their children's needs are met. As new immigrants give way to second and third generation Canadians, there is the possibility that more will assimilate into mainstream Canadian sports such as hockey and figure skating. This change needs to be carefully monitored before arenas are either closed and new arenas are built.

Nonetheless, ice sport stakeholders submitting a completed questionnaire as part of the Master Plan outreach process appear to be generally satisfied with ice times available to them. Given ice usage and population trends, it is once again reinforced that the one ice pad per 29,000 population standard remains appropriate at this time.

Within the timeframe of this Master Plan (i.e. until the year 2014), about 21,000 additional residents are forecasted to be added to the City's population. Although the addition of 21,000 people is almost enough to justify one additional ice pad, none are recommended.

With the ice provision standard currently being achieved and prime time hours available for booking, it is not expected that the new population will generate sufficient demand for another ice pad in the next five years. While the City's population is expected to increase by 83,400 to the year 2031 (translating into nearly three new ice pads based upon the current standard), the declining proportion of youth in the community may necessitate a review of the service level standard at the time of the next Recreation Master Plan update.

For the time being, it is recommended that the City continue to operate all of its current arena facilities. While the City's single pad arenas may not be the most operationally efficient by current standards (i.e. as compared to multi-pad arenas), they continue to fulfill a need based on geographic access. The Malton Arena, for example, is conveniently located in proximity to two major 400 series highways and is observed to book the majority of its prime time ice. Sustaining this arena and facilities like it, until a time at which either higher or lower demand for ice sports is observed, is the preferred course of action (so long as it remains financially viable to do so from the municipality's perspective).

Implementation of the City's formalized public ice allocation policy (which is currently being updated) is a line of thought that is supported by the 2004 Future Directions and Arena Strategy, and continues to be supported by this Recreation Master Plan. As such, the City needs to fully implement this initiative as well as collect market-related participant information for all users (including youth and adults) in order to effectively and sustainably manage the provision of its ice pad supply.

The City should implement any outstanding recommendations from the Arena Strategy (refer to Appendix B for a list of all directions), as appropriate, to adequately address its arena-related demands.

Summary of Ice Pad Directions

- ❖ *No new arenas are recommended for development in the next five years, however, needs should be re-evaluated through a five year update to the Master Plan. The longer term focus should remain upon operating all existing arenas until a time at which they are no longer deemed to fulfill a community need or they are financially unsustainable from an operating and maintenance perspective.*
 - ❖ *The Master Plan concurs with the directions set out through the 2004 Arena Strategy. Outstanding recommendations advanced should be implemented as a guide to effectively addressing arena-related needs.*
 - ❖ *At the next review of the Master Plan, better accounting practices (e.g. data collection, performance measurement statistics, etc.) by the City as to the number and location of users including adults should be in place to more accurately assess ice pad needs.*
-

3.4 Indoor Aquatics

Swimming continues to be an activity favoured both at a national and local level, due in part to the ability of the activity to reach all age groups and the range of programmable and unstructured opportunities (i.e. lessons, drop-in swims, competitive activities, etc.). The design of indoor aquatic centres has evolved significantly from the traditional lane pool to more leisure-based concepts and therapeutic facilities targeted to the older adult population. Staff report that the City's multi-tank leisure-orientated pools outperform single tank and school pools in attendance and use. Furthermore, the addition of the therapy tank at Huron Park has added 20,000 annual visits to the pool.

Swimming and other pool-based activities were the second most popular activity among respondents of the household survey, with 29% of the sample participating in such activities. This is comparable with many other communities in the GTA. Furthermore, nearly half (47%) of the survey's respondents placed a high priority on providing additional municipal investment to facilitate indoor swimming, ranking fifth among other facility investment possibilities.

There are a total of 11 indoor aquatic centres located in Mississauga, providing lane pools (9 tanks), leisure pools (2 tanks), therapeutic pools (1 tank) and children's play pools (3 tanks). The average age of Mississauga's indoor pools is 27 years, with nearly three-quarters (73%) of pools over 25 years of age, thus entering a life-cycle stage for repair and renovation.

The City's aging pools pose an interesting dilemma, particularly the shared-use pools. While certain pools have recently been renovated (i.e. Huron Park) or planned for renovation (i.e. Meadowvale), it will be important to consider which other pools, if any, are in need of

major upgrades to be able to adequately respond to community needs and/or the municipal ability to sustainably operate the facility.

Indoor Pool	No. Of Tanks	Pool Type
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre (Glenforest Pool)*	1	25m lane
Cawthra Community Centre (Cawthra Pool)*	1	25m lane
Clarkson Community Centre (Clarkson Pool)*	1	25m lane
Erin Meadows Community Centre	1	25m lane
	1	Children's play
Frank McKechnie Community Centre	1	25m lane
	1	Children's play
Huron Park Recreation Centre	1	25m lane
	1	Therapeutic
Malton Community Centre (Malton Pool)*	1	25m lane
Meadowvale Community Centre	1	25m lane
Rivergrove Community Centre	1	25m lane
	1	Children's play
South Common Community Centre	1	Leisure
Mississauga Valley Community Centre (Terry Fox Pool)	1	Leisure
Total	15	

* shared use pool with local School Board

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

It is also important to consider that the 2004 Future Directions articulated a provision standard of one indoor aquatic centre per 65,000 population; at present, the City's level of service is slightly below this standard at one indoor aquatic centre per 66,155 residents.

Table 8: Benchmarking of Indoor Aquatics Provision

Municipality	Population	Indoor Aquatics Locations	Provision
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	3	18,430
Caledon (2006)	57,050	3	19,209
Oakville (2006)	165,613	6	27,602
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	17	27,955
Vaughan (2008)	260,000	9	28,889
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	5	32,541
Brampton (2006)	433,805	11	39,437
Barrie (2009)	139,938	3	46,646
Ajax (2007)	93,553	2	46,777
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	11	66,155
Milton (2009)	87,045	1	87,045
London (2007)	355,675	3	118,558

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

By the year 2014, the City's level of service is expected to be one indoor aquatic facility per 68,069 population, which is still considered to be reasonable given that demands for new pool facilities are generally driven by child and youth-related demands, a market which will be expected to constitute a lower proportion in the future.

Although no new indoor aquatic centres are recommended over the master planning period (to 2014), the addition of 83,400 new residents by the year 2031 and the removal of one pool from the public inventory (i.e. Glenforest, as discussed later in this subsection) would necessitate the addition of at least one new pool, based upon the current standard. If developed in partnership, additional pools can be considered in underserved areas such as Churchill Meadows.

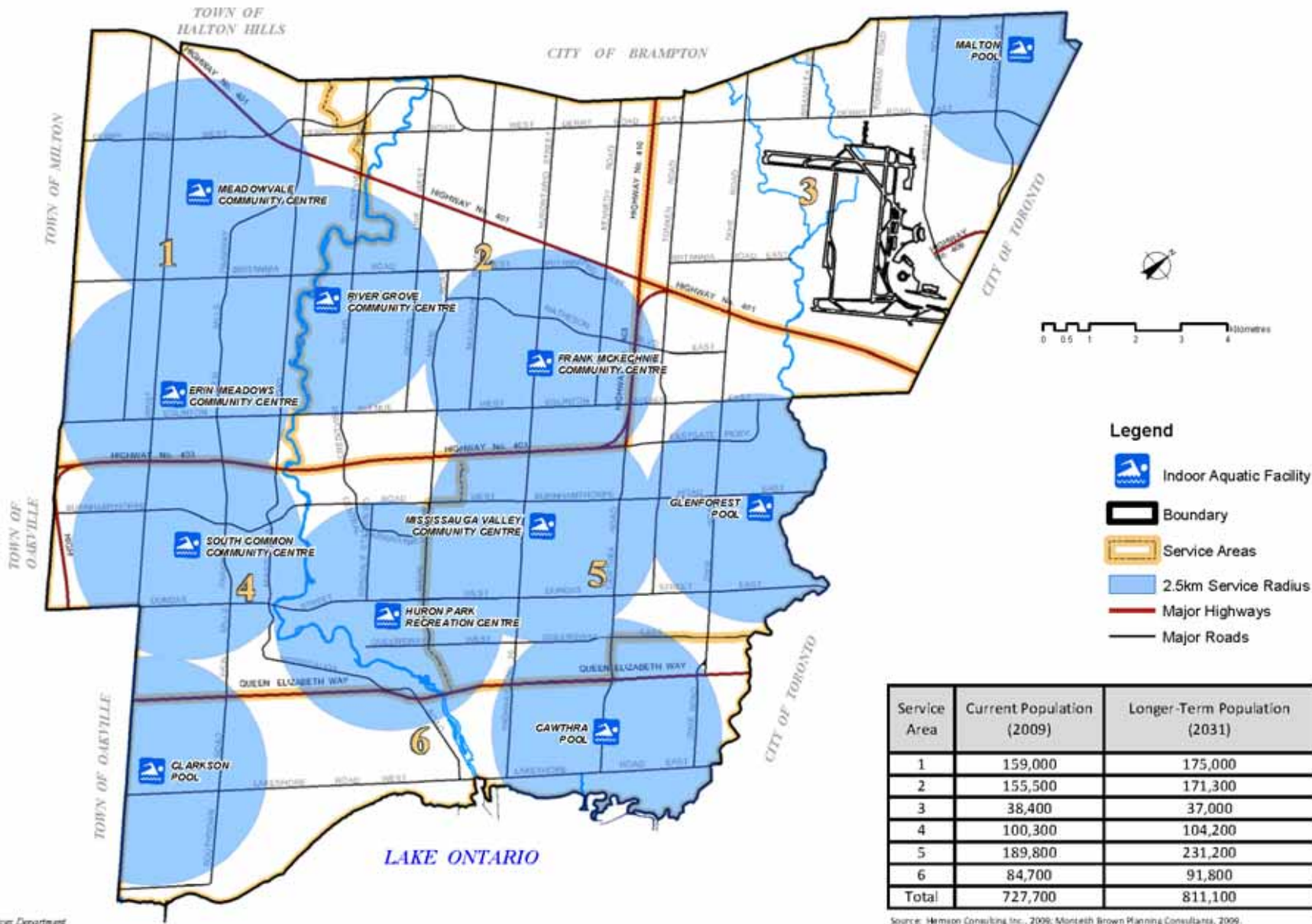
Service Area #1 contains the greatest concentration of children and youth; unfortunately, the Meadowvale Community Centre is going to be closed while it is being redeveloped and the Erin Meadows facility

is at capacity. Residents in this service area, therefore, will have to travel east to Rivergrove and/or Frank McKechnie if they are to access available swim opportunities.

Options such as partnering with Milton and Oakville, or a third party (such as the YMCA) for a pool in the 9th Line area of Winston Churchill needs to be considered particularly if the Glenforest Pool is removed from the public use in favour of becoming a dedicated organized aquatic club facility.

Through the intensification process, many of the residential buildings likely will take the form of apartments and condominiums that provide their tenants/owners with access their own private pools. The City, therefore, will have to monitor the number and type of private pools serving high density residences in order to determine municipal aquatic requirements and possibly explore the provision of outreach aquatic programs at private pools which may be more financially sustainable than constructing additional municipal aquatic facilities.

Nonetheless, it is believed that one additional indoor aquatic tank is required within the Dundas and Hurontario corridor as intensification plans call for the addition of another 41,000 people to this area of Mississauga. While further evaluation will be required pertaining to the size of the tank, a leisure and/or therapeutic design will likely be a preferred template. As part of the redevelopment of the 5/10 node, a community centre is being recommended as an integrated component of the intensification process, and should include a swimming pool due to the forecasted population density of this area.



mbpc
Moneth Brown
 planning consultants

Base Mapping Provided by
 City of Mississauga Community Services Department

At the time of the next Master Plan Update, the design template of a new pool (if required) should be confirmed based upon the City's age profile (i.e. whether the proportion of children has declined as forecasted), although it is safe to say that need for a therapeutic pool would become increasingly apparent with the burgeoning older adult population.

It will also be important to evaluate the ability of existing pools to respond to emerging aquatic trends, such as demands for multiple tanks that can accommodate a range of leisure-based aquatic programming and therapeutic uses. For example, to serve the needs of older adults and the pre-school market, therapeutic and/or teaching tanks would respond well to market demographics; staff suggest that priority locations for such pools could include Mississauga Valley, Meadowvale (as part of the redevelopment), and relocated school pools at the Clarkson and Malton Community Centres. Any redevelopment of a municipal facility should be conducted on a case-by-case basis at the time when a major capital upgrade is required and be conducted in consultation with the surrounding community.

Shared Use Pools

The four pools shared with the Peel District School Board are the oldest (they have an average age of 35 years) and have the greatest need for repair. These pools have not had any major refurbishments and without renovations, it is unlikely that these pools will meet the future expectations of the public. The City's *SPLASH Aquatic Strategy*, currently being prepared, will provide ultimate guidance with respect to shared-use pools in Mississauga.

A significant challenge with the shared-use pools is that the City of Mississauga owns these facilities and is responsible for operating costs and capital repairs, however, the City has access to only two-thirds of programmable hours.

From the Master Plan's perspective, shared-use pools are viewed as contributing to community access, however, they are being underutilized under the present delivery model. This is not considered to be sustainable in terms of meeting community needs nor from a municipal fiscal perspective.

Furthermore, school pools are not fully utilized during the day time hours and typically attract one-third to one half of the annual attendance of non-shared pool. Unfortunately, even with investment to refurbish these pools, it is unlikely that this course of action would increase attendance/utilization as compared to attaching tanks to an adjacent or nearby community centre.

It also appears as though the School Board is unwilling to assume capital or operational responsibility for any of the pools as it is considered to be a fiscal drain on their resources. Unless a more suitable agreement can be negotiated with the School Board, it does not appear to be of benefit to the City to continue operating the shared-use pools at their current locations.

Not only are the limited revenues (associated with limited access) further exacerbated by the City's high capital and operational debt load for the shared-use pools, as stand-alone facilities, these pools do not benefit from cross programming opportunities available at the multi-use community centres (which may be a factor in the lower attendance figures), and they are unable to respond to modern aquatic demands for leisure and therapeutic uses without major reinvestment.

As such, the relocation of two shared-use pool facilities to a dedicated municipal community centre is deemed to be the most ideal course of

action, should the City decide to continue to maintain its existing level of service. It is recommended that the City relocate the Clarkson (short-term) and Malton (long-term) pools to their respective community centres, although the cost of doing so is expected to be around \$10 million per new pool. With regard to the proposed Malton relocation, it should be noted that a number of external issues will need to be reconciled such as existing parking constraints and the stormwater management and flood plain restrictions at the existing community centre. Discussions with the school board will be necessary to determine the future of the existing shared-use tanks upon their relocation, with a decision required as to whether they are to be decommissioned or repurposed.

Furthermore, discussions carried out as part of the Aquatic Strategy suggest that local aquatic organizations may be willing to assume operational responsibility of one shared-use pool, under the condition that it would be upgraded to provide a higher quality level of service and amenity. It is believed that the Glenforest Pool would be a good candidate in this regard, although capital estimates to upgrade this pool could be as high as \$1.3 million.

This would leave Cawthra pool as the municipality's remaining shared use pool. It is believed that the capital required to refurbish this pool is approximately \$750,000, which is deemed to be acceptable in order to maintain indoor aquatic access to the east part of Service Area #6. It is believed that the existing community centre site is capable of accommodating a relocated pool and, over the longer term and subject to capital funding, this option should be kept in mind.

Summary of Indoor Aquatics Directions

- ❖ *While no new indoor aquatic centres are recommended over the next five years (unless the Highway 5/10 corridor intensifies at a rate faster than expected), the City should consider partnerships with either the municipalities of Milton and Oakville, or the YMCA, or another suitable third party to develop a pool in the western portion of Service Area #1. The latter option should be contingent on the elimination of Glenforest Pool from the pool inventory for the general public and full access being available in any YMCA (or other third party) agreement for the residents of Mississauga.*
 - ❖ *If the "smart growth" principles of intensification along the Highway 5/10 corridor are achieved, the development of a community centre containing a gymnasium, fitness centre and an indoor pool is recommended (also see Library Study). The pool, or any other municipally associated pool developed in the future, should be a high quality "Class A" pool to provide an acceptable level of service for residents with consideration of the demographics of the area determining the number of lanes, the size of a therapeutic pool and or the presence of leisure components. Application of Section 37 of the Planning Act to encourage the non duplication of facilities in abutting condominiums should also be applied at the time of development.*
-

Summary of Indoor Aquatics Directions

- ❖ Unless a more suitable agreement can be negotiated with the Peel District School Board, with regard to the capital and operating responsibilities, it is recommended that the City consider the relocation of shared-use pools to municipal multi-use community centres. It is believed that the Clarkson pool and Malton pool are the ideal choices for relocation.
- ❖ The City should facilitate discussions with organized aquatic user groups to consider repurposing one shared use pool (preferably the Glenforest pool) for the use of organized aquatic sports. Should this occur, operating responsibilities should be transferred to the organized users, with capital investment contributed by both the City and its partners.

3.5 Gymsnasiums

Gymnasium sports continue to exhibit high levels of demand, especially among youth and younger adults who participate in programs such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc. These facilities accommodate a wide range of programming across the age spectrum, and the City of Mississauga provides a total of 15.5 gyms (effective supply) located at 14 community centres.

Gymnasium	No. Of Gyms
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre	1
Cawthra Community Centre	1
Clarkson Community Centre	1
Churchill Meadows Community Centre	3 (1.5)*
Courtney Park Community Centre	3 (1.5)*
Erin Meadows Community Centre	3 (1.5)*
Frank McKechnie Community Centre	1
Hershey Sports Complex	2
Huron Park Recreation Centre	1
Malton Community Centre	1
Meadowvale Community Centre	1**
Mississauga Valley Community Centre	1
Rivergrove Community Centre	0.5^
South Common Community Centre	0.5^
Total	20
Effective Total	15.5

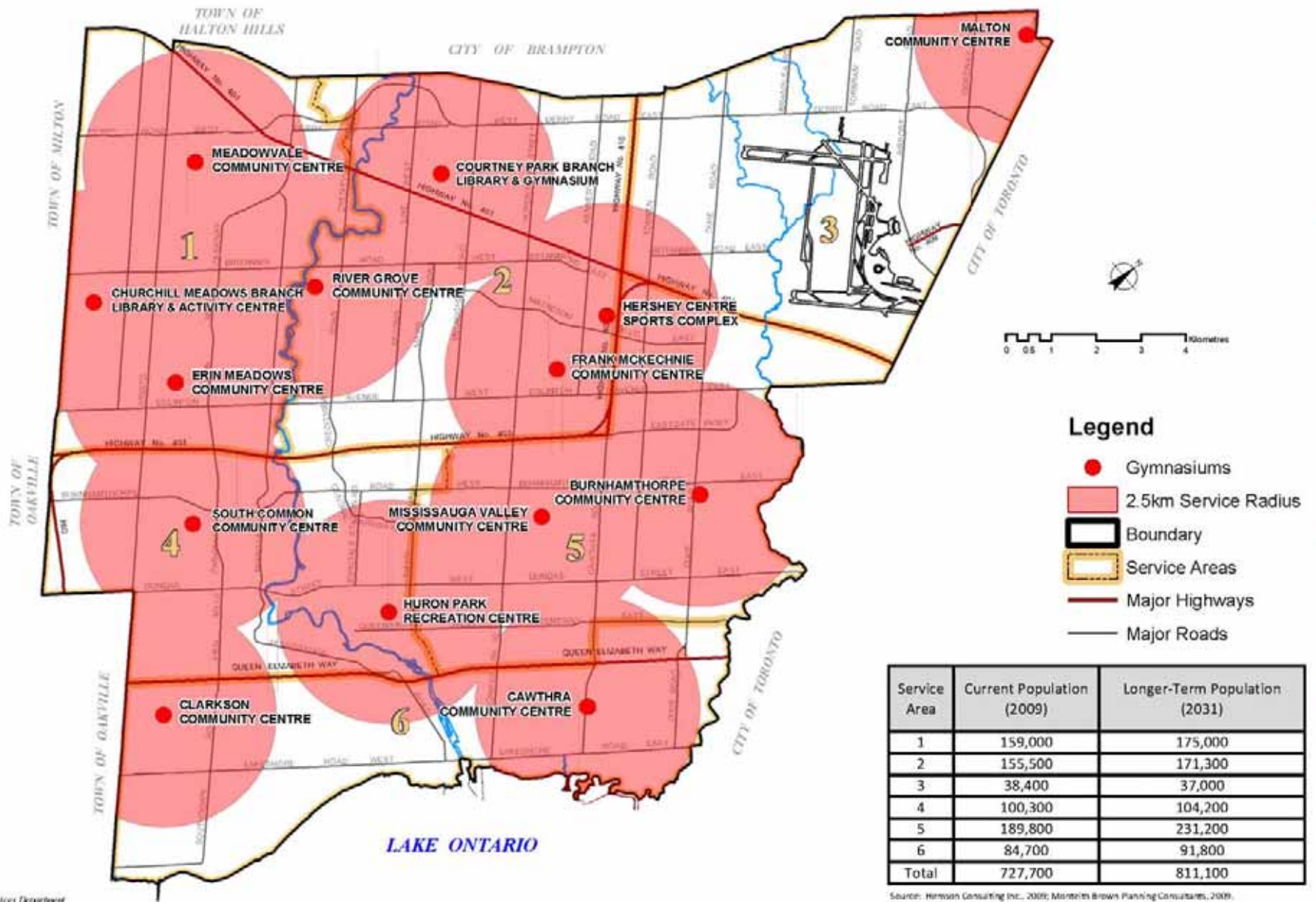
* gym shared with a school and is counted as 0.5 City gyms

** gym is undersized but is slated to be reconstructed as a full gym

^ gyms are counted as 0.5 due to limitations

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

The effective supply of municipal gyms translates into a service level of one gym per 46,948 residents. Residents also have limited access to a number of school gymnasiums which increases this level of provision, however, school restrictions regarding type, cost and time of use may deter certain groups from using school facilities (recent availability of access grants have mitigated these issues somewhat). It is worth noting, however, that the gymnasiums in Churchill Meadows and Courtney Park both have an excellent access policy.



Base Mapping Provided by:
City of Mississauga Community Services Department

Table 9: Benchmarking of Gymnasium Provision

Municipality	Population	Gyms	Provision
Vaughan	260,000	13	20,000
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	5	32,541
Barrie (2009)	139,938	4	34,985
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	15.5	46,948
London (2007)	355,675	7	50,811
Oakville (2006)	165,613	3	55,204
Caledon (2009)	57,626	1	57,050
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	8	59,405
Brampton (2006)	433,805	5	86,761
Ajax (2007)	93,553	1	93,553

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

Strong reliance upon school gymnasiums is common in municipalities across the province, although concerns have been voiced regarding the affordability of these spaces as school boards have been constrained. The Provincial Government, however, has made funding available to increase the community use of schools by assisting user groups through making rental costs more affordable.

Review of gymnasium schedules suggests that municipal facilities are fairly well utilized, particularly during prime hours (i.e. between 5pm and 10pm) on weekdays. There does appear to be sufficient time available at municipal gymnasiums on the whole, particularly on weekends.

A new gymnasium has been planned for construction at the Meadowvale Community Centre. It is believed that this gym will be well utilized and fulfill a need within Mississauga. Unless the City loses significant access to a local school(s), it is believed that with the planned addition of the Meadowvale gymnasium, community needs will be well served until 2014.

With the addition of another 83,400 residents by 2031, however, it is plausible that at least one more municipal gym will be required. The need for additional gymnasiums should be confirmed after the Meadowvale gym is operational and sufficient demand is observed at that time.

Summary of Gymnasium Directions

- ❖ *The City should proceed with the development of a gymnasium planned as part of the Meadowvale Community Centre's renovation/reconstruction.*
- ❖ *As a longer term strategy, the proposed construction of a community centre in the Highway 5/10 corridor should contain a gymnasium.*
- ❖ *Increase access to gymnasiums contained within high social risk index elementary schools and in underserved areas of the City. In areas where school boards are contemplating closure of schools close attention to the provision of services in such areas needs to be undertaken to ensure the community continues to have access to a gymnasium, meeting space and playing fields.*

3.6 Fitness Space

The City of Mississauga offers a number of fitness and wellness opportunities in a variety of spaces, ranging from gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, activity studios and fitness centres.

The supply of spaces, designed specifically to accommodate indoor fitness activities is listed below. The City operates seven full service fitness centres and provides active living spaces (e.g. studios for aerobics, yoga, dance, etc.) at each major community centre.

Location of Fitness Spaces	#	Type
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre	1	Activity Studio
Cawthra Community Centre	1	Activity Studio
	1	Indoor Walking Track
Clarkson Community Centre	1	Activity Studio
Erin Meadows Community Centre	1	Activity Studio
Frank McKechnie Community Centre	1	Activity Studio
Huron Park Recreation Centre	1	Fitness Centre
	1	Activity Studio
Malton Community Centre	1	Fitness Centre
Meadowvale Community Centre	1	Fitness Centre
	3	Squash Courts
Rivergrove Community Centre	1	Fitness Centre
	1	Activity Studio
	3	Squash Courts
South Common Community Centre	1	Fitness Centre
	1	Activity Studio
	2	Squash Courts
Mississauga Valley Community Centre (Terry Fox Fitness Centre)	1	Fitness Centre
	2	Squash Courts
Civic Fitness Centre	1	Fitness Centre
	2	Squash Courts

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

Fitness Centres

The fitness industry has been observed to be growing across the province, largely in response to public awareness of the benefits of physical activity, as well as strong competition within the industry itself. Municipal operation of equipment-based training clubs is seen as a core level of service in some communities and not a preferred delivery option in others.

Table 10: Benchmarking of Fitness Centre Provision

Municipality	Population	Fitness Centres	Provision
Barrie (2009)	139,938	4	34,985
Ajax (2007)	93,553	2	46,777
Vaughan	260,000	5	52,000
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	3	54,235
Oakville (2006)	165,613	3	55,204
Caledon (2009)	57,626	1	57,626
Milton (2009)	87,045	1	87,045
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	7	103,957
Brampton (2006)	433,805	4	108,451
London (2007)	355,675	1	355,675

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

This trend largely stems from the prevalence of the private sector in meeting these services and certain municipalities avoid duplicating/competing with services already provided, while others view the service as a differentiated product promoting healthy living. The decision to provide equipment-based clubs is largely a product of the municipality's philosophical orientation and corporate values.

Fitness centres are considered to be equipment-based training clubs that include amenities such as treadmills, free-weight benches and other exercise machines. The City's fitness centres appear to be a fairly successful municipal service that provides cost-effective and introductory-level fitness facilities to residents of Mississauga.

Municipal fitness centres are facilities that are able to recover their operating costs, which make them a self-sufficient service from the municipal perspective. The facility competes for many of the same users as private sector enterprises; however, the municipality's focus is largely placed on providing affordable physical activity to its residents with fewer amenities than the private sector generally offers.

Due to the competition with the private sector, municipal provision of fitness centres can be a controversial level of service. The decision to operate a training club is largely a product of the municipality's philosophy and corporate values with regard to providing physical activity opportunities that are already met by non-municipal providers. For example, the municipality may deem that the services it provides reach a different target market, offer long-term stability through programming, achieve physical activity goals, etc.

Mississauga has well exceeded the point where the private sector offers many of the same kinds of services that are catered to the City's target market. The municipal fitness centres, however, provide an opportunity for residents to increase their physical activity levels and commitment to leading a healthy lifestyle. Offering a range of choice between memberships, personal training and fitness classes ensures that residents can fit in at a level of comfort and work toward reaching an optimum fitness level. The excellence of the fitness facilities at Mississauga's community centres greatly enhances their role as multi-purpose facilities.

With regard to the City's ongoing role in the provision and operation of fitness centres, it is recommended that the City continue to operate its existing facilities as they are revenue generators that offset operating losses incurred by other multi-use facility components (e.g. aquatics centre, banquet hall, etc.).

It is not recommended, however, that the City develop additional

fitness centres, other than as a complement to existing community centres, as it is believed that the private sector is able to effectively meet market demand. All community centres that contain a pool and/or gymnasium should also have a fitness component to complement active living programs being delivered out of these facilities.

Fitness / Activity Studios

Although no new fitness centres are recommended over the course of the master planning period, the provision of fitness and activity studios will continue to be an ideal complement to any new municipal leisure facility that is developed in the future.

These studios would ideally focus on active living programming and encouraging holistic health opportunities, and would not offer equipment-based training opportunities.

Studio space should be designed with appropriate features to allow a range of active living and wellness program options, preferably with a surface that is low-impact yet can also accommodate multiple uses without damage (e.g. wood-sprung floor), mirrored walls, ceilings that are of sufficient height (e.g. to encourage golf club swings, ball tosses, etc.), adequate storage spaces, and that can potentially cater to other users (e.g. sinks for arts and culture groups). These types of studios should be flexible enough to accommodate programming opportunities targeted to a variety of ages and interests.

The aging population trend becoming apparent in Mississauga will result in a greater demand for fitness programming for the older adult

market, thus the City will have to position itself to respond to these specific needs.

In addition to the older adult segment, active living opportunities also appeal to the younger adult and even the teenage market. For example, the health-related benefits of spiritual-based fitness (e.g. yoga, tai chi, dance, etc.) have been well documented and have been observed to be popular from the teenage to senior years. Mississauga's ethnically diverse population is already generally familiar with these fitness philosophies, therefore, it is expected that the popularity of the City's existing fitness programs will continue throughout the future.

Other Fitness-Related Amenities

The indoor walking track has been observed to be well used at the Cawthra Community Centre, and these types of facilities are becoming a more common level of service in other municipalities. Although little feedback has been received about the demand for additional indoor tracks, walking for leisure is consistently identified as one of the most popular leisure pursuits (confirmed in Mississauga through the household survey) and appeals to all age groups.

An indoor track is well suited to encouraging walking and jogging in a controlled environment, making it an all-season facility and responds well to time pressures faced by residents. As such, it is recommended that an indoor walking track be included as part of any new or reconstructed, as appropriate (City staff indicate that Meadowvale Community Centre is an exception as the space does not exist to construct an indoor walking track as part of its redevelopment).

With regard to the City's squash courts, trends indicate that while indoor racquet sports are a popular fitness activity, they are not attracting a high number of younger players, thus future demand is uncertain. Furthermore, squash and racquetball courts are not

viewed as being efficient from a space per user perspective, as well as a net revenue per square foot basis, unless there is consistent high volume usage throughout the week. The facilities exist at three community centres and are well used. Due to the Meadowvale redevelopment, coordination is required with Rivergrove Community Centre to determine if capacity exists to accommodate the displaced players during the renovation.

It is recommended that the City refrain from providing new squash courts (other than as part of the Meadowvale Community Centre reconstruction) at the present time as it appears that the courts at the Meadowvale, Rivergrove and South Common Community Centres, in conjunction with private facilities, are sufficient to serve community demand. The seasonal nature of squash and racquetball (court bookings tend to significantly increase in the winter) suggests that providing additional courts at new or existing facilities would not be the best use of municipal resources. The private sector is deemed to be the best provider of these facilities as they are more readily able to adjust their fee structures in response to uncertain long-term demand for the sport.

Outdoor Fitness Space

Through the parkland development and renewal process, the City should consider promoting areas for personal fitness and reflection in the outdoors. The recognition that parks are active and programmable spaces where both organized and unstructured leisure activities can take place can be used to maximize opportunities for residents to engage in physical activity. For example, designing internal trail loops will promote walking, integrating stations for stretching and basic exercise will promote wellness opportunities, and integrating open spaces with natural surroundings can promote outdoor aerobics, tai chi, etc.

Combined with a connected active transportation system (a desirable objective to encourage non-motorized uses of transport), the outdoors can offer as many opportunities for leisure activities as indoor facilities might. Furthermore, attracting additional park users by providing opportunities for outdoor fitness can result in higher levels of social interaction among residents and contribute towards safety (e.g. visibility within the park and from the street).

Summary of Fitness Directions

- ❖ *The City should continue to operate its existing fitness centres to provide a differentiated experience compared to the private sector, at an affordable but cost-effective rate in order to encourage municipal physical activity objectives.*
 - ❖ *Full-service fitness centres (equipment-based) are only recommended in new and existing community centres which contain an indoor pool and/or gymnasium. Furthermore, the City should continue to integrate fitness/activity studios within new and existing facilities in order to ensure that residents are provided with such programs and activities that are offered in proximity to their neighbourhoods.*
-

Summary of Fitness Directions

- ❖ *The provision of an indoor walking track is recommended for inclusion as part of any new or redesigned/reconstructed community centre, where structurally feasible to do so.*
 - ❖ *No new squash or racquetball facilities are recommended over the next five years, however, the City should attempt to accommodate the players who will be displaced during the Meadowvale Community Centre renovation at the Rivergrove and/or South Common courts.*
-

3.7 Indoor Turf

An indoor field house containing one full size FIFA indoor turf field is provided at the Hershey Sports Complex. The turf field can be split to a quad format for tournament play or single field rental with a state of the art custom curtain system. Key non-municipal field houses include Rink City and the recently constructed facility operated by the Mississauga Soccer Club.

As it is a relatively new level of service, there are no set municipal service provision standards for the provision of indoor turf facilities. Mississauga's entry into the provision of the indoor soccer market was largely driven by the growth in the sport. While once traditionally

a private sector venture, indoor turf is now generally available in most municipalities with over 100,000 residents and demand within the GTA remains strong with some smaller municipalities developing these facilities as well (e.g. New Tecumseth, Halton Hills, Clarington, etc.). The indoor turf at the Hershey Sports Complex has just completed its second full year of operation, and by all accounts appears to have been a successful endeavour.

Indoor soccer is a sport growing in popularity and demand can be expected to increase locally if regional trends are any indication. Furthermore, numerous organized field sports (e.g. football, lacrosse, baseball, cricket, tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.) benefit from the availability of winter play and dry land training opportunities, although soccer currently books the vast majority of the time in Mississauga. The household survey sample contains 4% of households with a member playing indoor soccer and suggests that the sample is split between maintaining a similar level of service as present or doing more (with 34% stating a preference for each course of action).

There are presently plans to construct two artificial turf fields at P-459 (a park yet to be named) on 9th Line for the year 2012. The cost of these fields is estimated at approximately \$6 million. The City's capital program also identifies a potential construction of an indoor bubble over these fields for the year 2017, at a cost of \$2.5 million, thereby bringing the total cost to almost \$8.5 million for the initiatives. The costs associated with this level of provision are eligible for Development Charge funding.

It is also worth noting that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided Mississauga Soccer Club with an \$89,000 grant to assist with the installation of artificial turf in three new indoor soccer fields; this will allow the club to meet the demand for additional year-round venues to train players and coaches.

There is every indication that a second indoor soccer venue would be well utilized based on present levels of demand, the distance from the Sports Complex (about 15 kilometres) and access to regional markets due to proximity to Highways 403 and 407.

It is recommended that the City proceed with the development of the artificial turf fields for outdoor use at P-459 on 9th Line; however, it would be fiscally prudent to re-evaluate the need for a bubble facility after usage and performance measures are collected for at least three years for the Hershey field house in order to better understand the demand and local market for indoor soccer. The City should only consider involvement in a second all-weather indoor turf facility (i.e. with a bubble) if a community-based partner (soccer or tennis clubs and/or other organization) is willing to enter into a partnership agreement with regard to dedicating capital and operational resources towards it.

All-weather facilities, such as bubbles, have a number of benefits and challenges when compared to a permanent structure. Temporary enclosures allow for both indoor and outdoor play, and provide flexibility in choosing a site for the venue. These structures, however, generally have high operating costs associated with utility costs (e.g. a bubble requires constant pressurization), installation and removal, and storage. On the other hand, a permanent structure has high construction costs, requires an adequate site, and if can generate substantial operating costs in a stand-alone model. Permanent field houses, however, can benefit greatly in a multi-use complex environment as they can share operational overheads and allow for cross programming opportunities.

If an all-weather structure is deemed to be a justifiable endeavour, the City should ensure that the development of the facility is a joint endeavour with interested organized field user group(s). The terms of the partnership should define capital and operating responsibilities,

and ensure the availability of community access and municipal programming opportunities at a minimum.

Involvement into a potential new artificial structure should also be contingent after implementing an allocation policy and set definition of prime time hours for indoor turf use. As a capitally intensive facility, prime times should extend into the weekends as is done with arena usage. Organized groups, therefore, should not expect to deliver their programs solely on weekdays and the City should ensure that the existing field house is being used close to, or at capacity across all seven days of the week prior to investing in a new indoor turf facility. Adjoining municipalities with indoor turf facilities should also be monitored prior to the development of any additional City facilities.

Summary of Indoor Turf Directions

- ❖ *Proceed with the development of outdoor artificial turf fields as currently planned, however, the provision of an all-weather structure should only be considered after a market demand study is completed and considers the impact of usage of the field house at the Hershey Complex, and if a suitable partnership can be reached with a community-based provider(s). Impacts on abutting municipalities with similar facilities also need to be part of the market assessment.*
-

3.8 Community & Program Delivery Space

The majority of municipal community and program spaces are available for use throughout the week, depending upon the operating hours of the facility. These spaces provide for a range of uses including, but not limited to, programs offered by the City, meetings and gatherings, and other community events.

The community benefits from having well distributed multi-purpose program space as it provides residents with flexible, well maintained and competitively priced facilities (as compared to private facilities such as hotels, social clubs, etc.) for a variety of gatherings, celebrations and meetings.

This space is equally essential to the delivery of community programs directly provided by the City and other organizations including local senior's groups, minor sports, cultural groups, etc.

Staff have noticed a significant drop in "party rentals" at community centres (partly due to the City's alcohol policy and new laws targeting impaired driving), resulting in a loss of revenue. Nonetheless, the family-oriented atmosphere desired at municipal facilities is deemed to be worth the cost and is supported by the Master Plan.

Population growth, age and other changing demographic indicators, as well as current utilization, program participation rates and survey results are important indicators of need, and have been considered in the assessment of need. Usage trends are likely to continue to increase over time requiring additional venues for the delivery of municipal programs, services and spaces for the community to use.

Maximizing existing community spaces to accommodate a wider variety of uses is a preferred approach to providing the public with access to new multi-purpose community and program space. The City should continue to make use of its existing assets and invest in appropriate upgrades in order to ensure that a sufficient distribution of rental and program delivery spaces exist, while also recognizing that land supply constraints will limit the ability of the municipality to construct new facilities in the future. Prior to any investment in existing facilities, the municipality will need to assess the costs of carrying out any improvements and rationalize this expense through a cost-benefit evaluation.

In line with municipal intensification and infill objectives, the City should evaluate opportunities to acquire an existing hall-type facility (e.g. service club building, vacant school, etc.) so long as the facility has an ability to be reprogrammed to offer as many appropriate uses as possible. Doing so would allow the City to provide program opportunities in established areas of Mississauga (and possibly enhance distribution of service) while reducing the urgency to secure new land for multi-purpose program opportunities.

The construction of new single purpose halls, however, should be discouraged in favour of providing multi-purpose spaces within multi-use facility templates. These spaces are easily incorporated in the facility design and can provide a great deal of community benefit at a low marginal cost associated with construction of the larger facility. As mentioned, these spaces should be flexible enough to allow a wide range of recreation and leisure uses to take place.

One of the pillars of the City's Strategic Plan is "completing our neighbourhoods". While this Master Plan has divided the City into six different areas for analysis purposes, a review of maps 6, 7 and 8, combined with knowledge of the locations of the public libraries, reveals that the City has an excellent geographic distribution of

recreational, gathering and programming space. The distribution for a walkable city, however, would need to be supplemented with access to elementary schools. Map #10 shows the City's community centres and libraries with an 800 metre radius, and identifies the location of all elementary schools (including middle schools) within the City.

In neighbourhoods that show elements of vulnerability, or at-risk features, and where there is no library or community centre space within walking distance, priority should be given to enhancing both the access and programming opportunities at select elementary schools located within these gaps.

If school sites within the gap areas are slated for closure, careful assessment of the recreation resources such as gymnasiums and playing fields needs to be considered, and acquisition may be an option.

Summary of Community Space Directions

- ❖ *Continue to offer a variety of recreation program and rental opportunities out of existing municipal facilities, to the greatest degree possible with the goal of utilizing available capacity to the highest degree possible (i.e. a "no room sits empty" philosophy).*
-



Summary of Community Space Directions

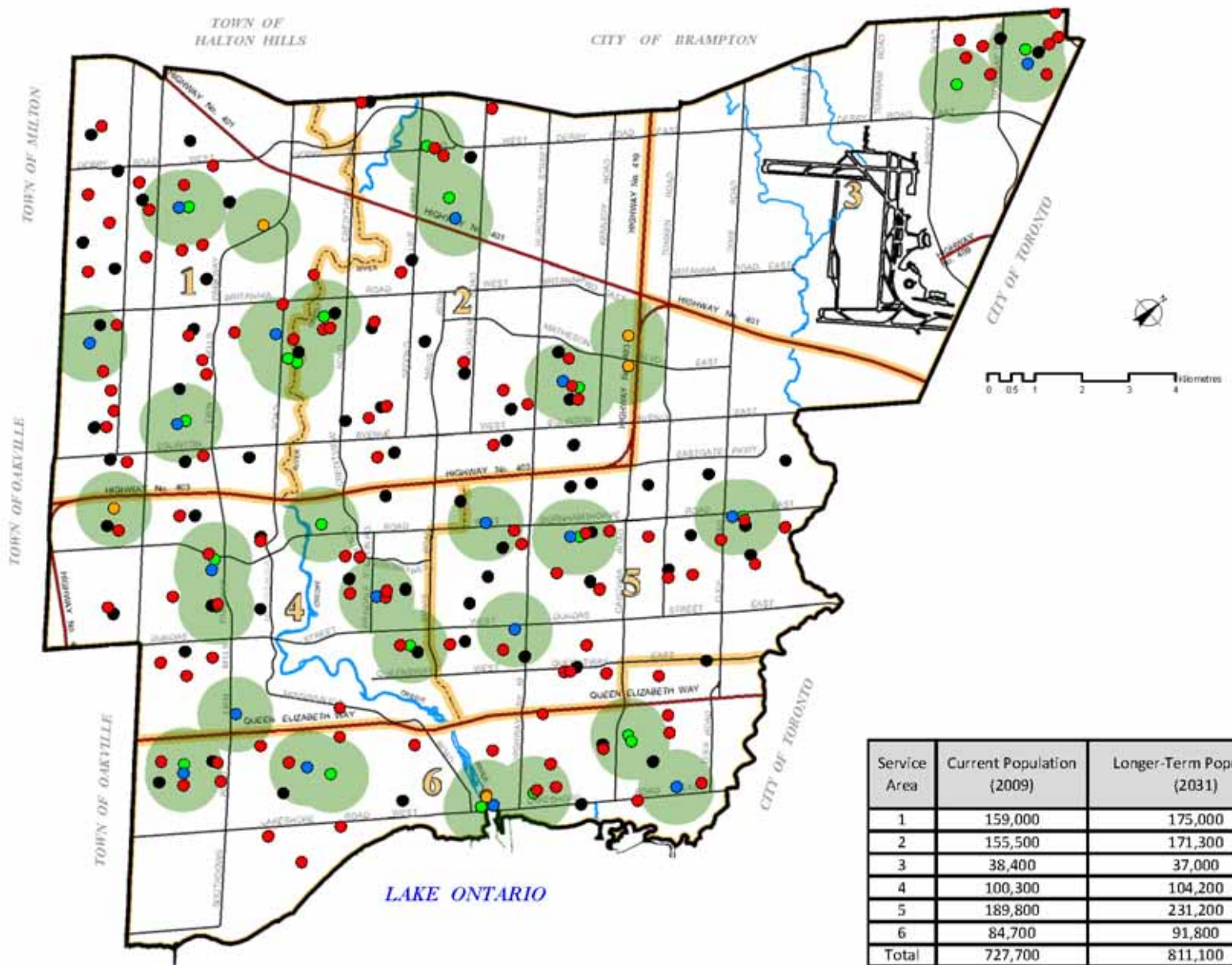
- ❖ *Explore opportunities to convert existing municipal facilities to higher quality multi-use community and program space, while also evaluating the merits of obtaining underutilized or vacant community buildings whose design would be conducive to allow the City to deliver increased program opportunities.*
 - ❖ *Any new recreation facilities developed in the future should contain flexible community rental and program spaces.*
 - ❖ *Work with the school boards to increase access and programming at select school sites located within gaps of walkable access in higher-risk areas. This may include acquisition of school sites slated for closure.*
-

Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Service Areas
-  Arenas without Community Centres
-  Community Centres
-  Libraries
-  800m Service Radius

Elementary Schools

-  Public
-  Catholic



Service Area	Current Population (2009)	Longer-Term Population (2031)
1	159,000	175,000
2	155,500	171,300
3	38,400	37,000
4	100,300	104,200
5	189,800	231,200
6	84,700	91,800
Total	727,700	811,100

Source: Wemson Consulting Inc., 2006; Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009.



Base Mapping Provided by City of Mississauga Community Services Department

Section 4: Outdoor Recreation Facilities

4.2 Soccer Fields

4.1 Summary of Outdoor Facility Directions

Through the assessment of outdoor recreation facility needs, the following key directions have been advanced, largely as a result of forecasted population growth:

- There is a need for additional sports fields, such as soccer fields, ball diamonds football/lacrosse fields, and cricket pitches. To effectively address these needs, whose large space requirements are challenging to achieve in an intensification scenario, the City will need to find ways to increase the capacity of existing sports fields through selective improvements ranging from enhancing irrigation and drainage systems, installing field lighting, and considering conversion of natural turf grass to artificial turf.
- Underutilized sports fields should be evaluated for their ability to shift existing uses elsewhere as a means to open up space that can meet neighbourhood-level program delivery demands and improve the general distribution of “walk-to” facilities such as playgrounds, basketball courts, spray pads, etc. and to a lesser extent, tennis courts.

Continued focus on encouraging unstructured and passive recreation opportunities across City parks is encouraged by providing the appropriate spaces, either by way of large open fields, public squares, etc. Using the directions set out by the Waterfront Parks Strategy is also recommended to enhance the user experience along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Soccer continues to be a growth sport in the GTA, however, there are indications that participation rates are stabilizing. The household survey suggests that 11% of the sample participated in outdoor soccer, ranking fifth amongst most pursued recreational activities.

The City provides a number of soccer fields including lit fields, artificial turf and varying field sizes. In recognition that lit fields and artificial turfs offer a higher capacity for playable hours, lit fields are considered to be the equivalent of 1.5 unlit fields (according to program hours) while artificial turfs are considered to be the equivalent of 3.0 unlit fields. Based upon this total, the City’s supply of soccer fields is as follows:

Field Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Soccer Fields (lit)	2 (3)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)	3 (4.5)	3 (4.5)	1 (1.5)	11 (16.5)
Major Artificial Soccer Fields (lit)	0	5 (15)	0	1 (3)	0	0	6 (18)
Senior Soccer Fields (unlit)	32	16	7	8	10	7	80
Minor Soccer Fields (unlit)	13	24	4	10	12	3	66
Mini Soccer Fields (unlit)	15	2	1	12	9	7	46
Total (lit = 1.5, lit artificial =3)	63	58.5	13.5	37.5	35.5	18.5	226.5

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

The City’s provision level currently stands at one soccer field per 3,213 residents, which is slightly below the service level of one field per 2,800 population recommended through the 2004 Master Plan.

When including the 30 fields located on school property, the supply of 256.5 fields increases the service level to one field per 2,837 which almost achieves the recommended service standard. City staff have observed that lit fields are generally heavily utilized on weekday evenings and on the weekend, however, they also note that many unlit minor fields are underutilized, particularly on weekends.

Table 11: Benchmarking of Soccer Field Provision

Municipality	Population	Soccer Fields*	Provision
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	38.5	1,436
Milton (2009)	87,045	35.5	1,519
Ajax (2007)	93,553	56	1,671
Vaughan	260,000	143	1,818
Caledon (2006)	57,050	31.5	1,829
Oakville (2006)	165,613	87	1,904
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	204.5	2,324
Barrie (2009)	139,938	51.5	2,717
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	226.5	3,213
London (2007)	355,675	101.5	3,504
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	46	3,630

* Effective supply where each lit field is equivalent to 1.5 unlit fields
 Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

The 1:2,800 standard continues to be an appropriate target that the City should strive to achieve. Despite forecasted declines in the youth market, adult soccer is becoming increasingly popular and while it may not offset long-term declines in youth participants, it supports the current provision standard for the next five years. The household survey also finds support that residents may view soccer field provision as being adequate with the majority of the sample articulating a status quo approach to field development.

Based on the standard of one field per 2,800 residents, a total of 260 soccer fields are presently required, implying a present deficit of 22.5

fields although this shortfall is more than reconciled by the thirty school fields presently available to the community.

By 2014, a total of 267 fields would be required resulting in about 11 new soccer fields being required to meet needs, assuming that access to the present supply of school fields is maintained.

It should be noted that three new artificial turf fields (which act as the equivalent of nine unlit fields) have been planned for the year 2012, while senior goal posts are being placed at the Sandford Farm and Heatherleigh fields. Therefore, it is expected that soccer field requirements will be reconciled over the master planning period if these fields are developed and access to key non-municipal fields is maintained. It is also worth noting that the City has a total of 16 new soccer fields proposed or under construction, which should be developed as soon as possible to address the deficits in soccer field provision.

Given that it would be extremely challenging to accommodate future field needs through new field development (and associated acquisition of new lands) due to intensification and developable land scarcity, the City will have to find ways to optimize the fields that it already has in its supply. Doing so will increase the capacity of fields to accommodate additional hours of play. Given the scarcity of fields in Service Area 5, consideration of an indoor soccer facility on one floor of the recommended community centre (when population justifies) at the 10/5 intensification node is another option for addressing this land challenge.

To increase the capacity of fields, the City should begin a process of identifying appropriate candidates whereby improvements such as the

installation of irrigation/drainage systems, lighting standards, and/or artificial turf systems are undertaken. Parks with multiple fields are the ideal candidates for such improvements, although proximity to nearby residents will need to be considered due to light and noise spillage, parking, etc. Furthermore, fields located on school board properties should be utilized to a greater degree, however, cooperation between the City, schools and user groups will be required in order to ensure appropriate access and high quality fields are available. A process to inventory and assess the quality of school fields (including those which are not presently permitted) should continue to be undertaken in order for the City to remain apprised of the potential capacities available at key non-municipal sports fields.

Encouraging weekend use of sports fields is also another way to increase capacity (i.e. moving to a six day schedule), however, the City will have to remain cognisant that natural turf fields require a “resting” period to allow them to regenerate. Only appropriate fields (i.e. those which are hardier and/or contain sufficient irrigation or drainage), therefore, can be used for extended use, however, it should be noted that this approach generally requires additional field maintenance and replacement costs associated with the more extreme levels of use. Weekend use during the summer months is also challenging from a programming perspective due to vacationing among participants and their families.

With regard to its supply of unlit minor and mini fields, the City should examine the possibility of relocating usage away from underutilized facilities towards larger fields that have been upgraded to support additional usage. Mini fields, for example, can be played across the width of a senior field which provides an opportunity for two simultaneous practices and/or games to take place on one larger field. It is believed that by reallocating usage away from underused fields, the City can then use that space within the park to provide more neighbourhood-specific programming.

To estimate soccer field requirements to build-out (using current population forecasts as the basis for assumption), the existing provision standard of 1:2,800 would necessitate a total supply of 290 soccer fields, suggesting an additional 63.5 fields are needed by the year 2031. After this five year master planning period has elapsed, however, the service standard should be re-evaluated based on local participation in soccer, notably the youth market. With the considerable population growth forecasted for Mississauga, it will be important to reconfirm the standard every five years to ensure that sufficient fields are being provided.

Summary of Soccer Field Directions

- ❖ *A total of eleven new senior soccer fields are required over the next five years, assuming access to key school fields is maintained. It is expected that the City's current field development plans will address this shortfall. Furthermore, the City should continue to work with the local school boards to ensure that access and field quality at local schools remains appropriate for community use.*
-

Summary of Soccer Field Directions

- ❖ *The construction of dedicated mini soccer fields is discouraged in favour of programming mini fields across the width of senior soccer fields, in order to maximize space dedicated to these sports fields. Consideration should be given to maximizing user safety in this instance by providing temporary mini nets (which can be removed when the senior field is being used by older players) and supporting features such as storage.*
- ❖ *The City should evaluate its existing supply of soccer fields for their ability to support higher playing capacities through the installation of irrigation, drainage, lighting, and/or artificial turf systems in order to raise its effective supply should access to key non-municipal fields be lost in the future. Priority should be given to upgrading lower quality fields (as opposed to fields that the City has already invested considerably in) as well as those that have the potential to be grouped together in a multi-field format.*
- ❖ *The City should evaluate underutilized minor and mini soccer fields for their ability to shift organized soccer use to another field and use the existing space for the purposes of neighbourhood-based program delivery within the park.*

4.3 Ball Diamonds

The City provides a range of diamond types for baseball and softball, as shown below. An equivalency factor has been applied to lit diamonds due to their ability to generally accommodate twice as much usage as an unlit diamond, as a result of allowing evening play.

Diamond Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Baseball Diamonds (lit)	3 (6)	2 (4)	0	4 (8)	3 (6)	2 (4)	14 (28)
Baseball Diamonds (unlit)	2	0	0	1	1	2	6
Softball & Multi-Purpose Diamonds (lit)	4 (8)	6 (12)	4 (8)	3 (6)	6 (12)	2 (4)	25 (50)
Softball & Multi-Purpose Diamonds (unlit)	16	17	4	6	12	9	64
Universal Diamonds (lit)	0	0	0	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)
Ball Diamonds – TOTAL (lit =2)	32	33	12	21	33	19	150

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

Baseball and softball have had their share of challenges in attracting growth within their programs on a provincial level. Ball groups responding to the stakeholder survey report that their membership levels have remained stable, while the household survey reports that only 2% of the sample had participated in ball during the past year.

Table 12: Benchmarking of Ball Diamond Provision

Municipality	Population	Ball Diamonds*	Provision
Milton (2009)	87,045	42	1,284
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	33.5	1,650
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	261.5	1,817
Caledon (2006)	57,050	28.5	2,022
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	62	2,624

Municipality	Population	Ball Diamonds*	Provision
Oakville (2006)	165,613	57	2,905
Ajax (2007)	93,553	32	2,924
Vaughan	260,000	85	3,059
Barrie (2009)	139,938	45	3,110
London (2007)	355,675	87.5	4,065
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	150	4,851

* Effective supply where each lit field is equivalent to 2.0 unlit fields
 Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

The City is presently providing ball diamonds at a rate of one per 4,851 residents, which is a slightly higher level of service than the one diamond per 5,000 population recommended through the 2004 Future Directions. Given participation trends in ball at a provincial and local level, as well as the fact that heavy utilization of lit diamonds is reported by City staff, this standard continue to be applied.

With approximately 21,000 additional residents forecasted to be added over the next five years, a total of five new ball diamonds would be required.

The preferred course of action to address this need would be to light five existing ball diamonds which would effectively increase the supply by five fields. Evaluation will need to be conducted to determine which ball diamonds are suitable candidates for lighting and will need to consider light and noise spillage impacts on adjacent residences and/or environmentally sensitive areas. Lighting diamonds at P-121 and P-242, as articulated in City plans, should be implemented as planned meaning three more diamonds will need to be evaluated for their ability to be lit.

Additional diamonds should also be considered for lighting so that the City can shift usage away from underutilized diamonds and subsequently repurpose them to accommodate neighbourhood-specific programming that is oriented to the socio-demographic characteristics of the surrounding community. To illustrate ball diamond requirements for the forecasted build-out population, a total of 12 new diamonds would be required by the year 2031 assuming all variables remain constant.

Summary of Ball Diamond Directions

- ❖ *A total of five new senior ball diamonds are required to meet needs over the master planning period. It is recommended that a minimum of five existing ball diamonds be lit, where feasible, to accommodate the increase in use associated with population growth.*
- ❖ *The City should evaluate its underutilized ball diamonds for their ability to be repurposed for other uses, such as providing space for neighbourhood-based program delivery including multi-use pads, practice cricket pitches, etc.*

4.4 Other Field Sports

Historically, organized sports such as football, lacrosse and rugby have relied more heavily upon school fields more so than soccer. This is more of a result of the popularity of soccer, which has booked

most municipal fields. Although football, lacrosse and rugby also utilize soccer fields, they do so largely before, during and after the soccer season (i.e. lacrosse takes place in the spring, football takes place in the fall, etc.). The degree of use on fields used by all sports field users is extremely heavy and takes a toll on the quality of field.

Field Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Cricket Pitches*	1	4	1	0	0	0	6
Football Fields (lit)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Football Fields (unlit)	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Lacrosse Boxes	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

* only three of these pitches sufficiently accommodate regular play (Courtney Park, Wildwood and Iceland)
Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

Although there are no set service provision standards specifically applicable to lacrosse and football fields, it is believed that the existing supply of these field types are sufficient to meet the demands of field sports other than soccer over the course of the master planning period. To provide an indication of latent demand, a local touch football league, however, states that they would benefit from additional fields as they presently have a waiting list of between two and four teams and suggest that their organization has steadily increased its membership in recent years. Furthermore, the lacrosse boxes at City parks are well utilized for practices, however, they appear to be undersized for games.

Rather than constructing a dedicated football field, the City should first place a focus upon improving the quality of existing fields, as necessary. If latent demand continues to be observed, the provision of a new multi-use field may be warranted. In the interim, the City should continue to work to facilitate community access to the twelve school fields.

Should this be the case, the City should consider the development of a multi-use field (preferably with artificial turf), as has been done in the past. Mississauga is not alone in this practice as many municipalities are exploring the concept of providing 'multi-use' fields, which focus usage priority on sports other than soccer. Doing so minimizes the expectation from soccer organizations that the field will be of very high quality for their season, while providing other sports with more regular access to a municipally operated field.

The development of a multi-use field(s) may be warranted if football or lacrosse users lose access to existing fields, such as those on school lands. At present, there have been no indications from other field users such as Ultimate Frisbee, however, such users would also benefit from regular access to such a field. A multi-use field could possibly be developed using a model where a user group(s) leases municipal land from the City and is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the field and/or associated facility.

Cricket

The City has provided a number of cricket pitches which by all accounts, appear to be used to a satisfactory degree. Full cricket pitches are provided at Courtney Park, Iceland and Wildwood, however, the remaining pitches have limitations as fully functional cricket venues due to quality or joint usage with soccer (which limits access). The fact that City staff have observed cricket being played on baseball diamonds, soccer fields and open spaces may indicate that a latent demand exists for these facilities.

This is not entirely surprising as the demand for cricket has been observed in Mississauga over the last decade, and while the City has made strides in providing specialized facilities for the sport, it has not yet caught up to the demand. Given the high degree of demand for cricket, it is recommended that the City slightly increase its provision

standard from the 2004 Future Directions and adopt a provision standard of one cricket pitch per 100,000 residents.

Application of the 1:100,000 standard would require seven cricket pitches at present, with an eighth cricket pitch would be warranted upon reaching 800,000 residents towards build-out.

Considering only the three high quality cricket pitches as part of the supply, a need for five additional cricket pitches of sufficient quality are required. Three cricket pitches (two major at P-302 and one minor at P-322) are currently planned for development, implying that two more cricket pitches will be needed. P-302 is deemed to be a good choice for the two major cricket pitches given its proximity to Service Area 3, which contains a significant South Asian population and will complement the existing cricket pitch in that area. Although P-322 should be pursued as the opportunity exists to develop a pitch there, consideration should be given to providing a cricket pitch to service the southern part of the City, preferably located south of Highway 403/Eastgate Parkway corridor. This is because the existing distribution of pitches has been concentrated in the City's north.

If a suitable location cannot be found in the short-term to service the southern communities of the City, the two remaining pitches which are required would ideally be addressed by improving the existing substandard pitches, possibly Huron Heights or P-317 if feasible, to a level where they can be included in the City's cricket pitch supply. Upgrades may be targeted to pitch quality, installation of irrigation and drainage systems, or possible re-orientation of the pitches within the parks to ensure maximum playable areas. Appropriate upgrades should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, possibly through a park

master plan or redevelopment process, and consider the needs of all field users (e.g. soccer, cricket, etc. in the case of joint use fields).

Summary of Other Field Sport Directions

- ❖ *If improvements to selected football and lacrosse fields do not reconcile the latent demand for these sports, the City should consider the provision of a new multi-use field, preferably with artificial turf. In this instance, the City should share a portion of the capital and operational responsibility with an interested user group(s) and look at options of developing at least one more running track.*
 - ❖ *Proceed with the planned construction of three new cricket pitches, while evaluating opportunities to improve quality of play at two existing pitches and/or providing a cricket pitch to serve the City's southern areas. Furthermore, existing sports fields should incorporate practice/local-level features (e.g. wickets) to support neighbourhood-level cricket play, wherever feasible, particularly in areas demonstrating higher demand for the activity. Underutilized older ball diamonds may be an excellent location for adaptive reuse to practise pitches.*
 - ❖ *Continue to support local cricket and/or other field sport organizations to facilitate their internal developmental capacity to a level where they can sustainably operate and deliver programs to the community.*
-

4.5 Tennis Courts

Trend research is not conclusive when it comes to participation in the sport of tennis. While some studies suggest that tennis is not a growth sport, other trends point to participation levels increasing as the Baby Boom generation could fuel demand for the sport through their pursuit of active living opportunities. Experience also suggests that the interest in tennis varies greatly between municipalities and can be influenced by the existing level of service and ethnic composition.

Field Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Tennis Courts (public – lit)	0	3	0	4	6	2	15
Tennis Courts (public – unlit)	22	17	0	0	14	2	55
Tennis Courts (community club – lit)	4	0	4	26	12	22	68
Tennis Courts - TOTAL	26	20	4	30	32	26	138

Monitoring conducted by City Staff suggests that tennis courts are utilized extensively at all times of the day, throughout the week, and note that evening demand is particularly high with people waiting to play at the courts.

The City is currently providing tennis courts at a rate of one court per 5,273 residents. This is slightly below the recommended standard of one tennis court per 5,000, which would necessitate a total of 146 tennis courts at present and 150 tennis courts by the year 2014. For illustrative purposes, a total supply of 162 tennis courts would be required to meet the needs of the build-out population (implying a

total of 24 courts are required), however, the provision standard should be subject to re-evaluation during every five year update of the Future Directions initiative.

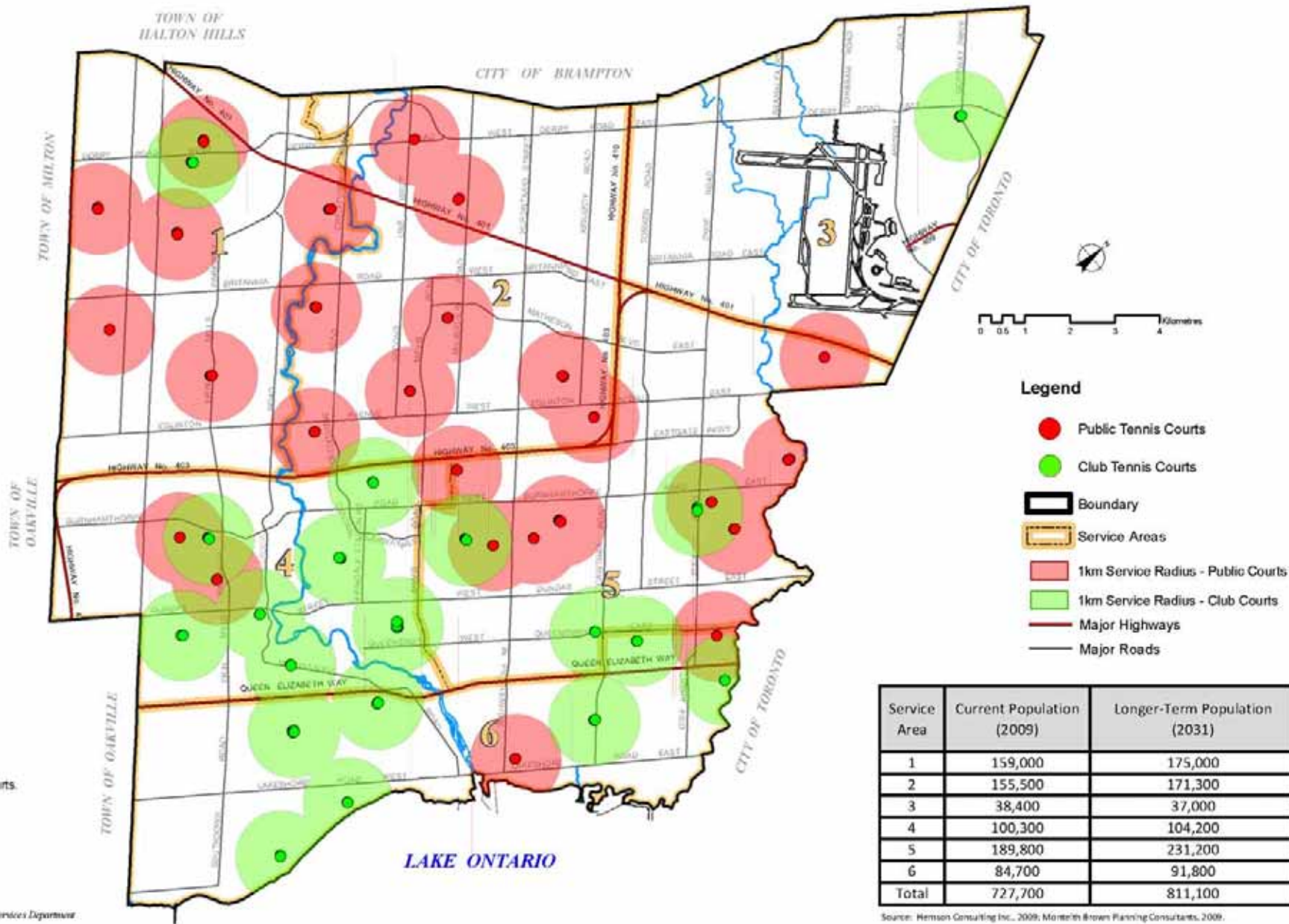
Table 13: Benchmarking of Tennis Court Provision

Municipality	Population	Tennis Courts	Provision
Vaughan	260,000	124	2,097
Oakville (2006)	165,613	73	2,269
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	68	2,393
Caledon (2009)	57,626	19	3,033
Barrie (2009)	139,938	35	3,998
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	11	5,026
Milton (2009)	87,045	17	5,120
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	138	5,273
London (2007)	355,675	66	5,389
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	87	5,463
Ajax (2007)	93,553	16	5,847

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

The City, therefore, should provide twelve new tennis courts over the next five years. A total of eight new tennis courts have been planned by the year 2014, estimated to cost \$467,000 according to the City's capital program; these courts, however, remain unfunded as of present time and it is recommended that they should be implemented according to the timelines through by the capital program.

With regard to public courts, which fit the neighbourhood delivery model as they are unencumbered by barriers such as affordability and transportation (walk-to facilities at the neighbourhood-level), Service Areas #4 and #6 are well below the City-wide average service level. Additional public courts are suggested for these areas, as well as in Service Area #3 which does not have access to any public courts at present time.



Note:
Includes Lit and Unit Courts.

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 Base Mapping Provided by:
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Service Area	Provision of Public Courts	Provision of Club Courts	Provision of All Tennis Courts
1	1 : 7,227	1 : 39,750	1 : 6,115
2	1 : 7,775	0	1 : 7,775
3	0	1 : 9,600	1 : 9,600
4	1 : 25,075	1 : 3,858	1 : 3,343
5	1 : 9,490	1 : 15,817	1 : 5,931
6	1 : 21,175	1 : 3,850	1 : 3,258
City-Wide	1 : 10,396	1 : 10,701	1 : 5,273

Competition level courts utilized by local clubs should also continue to be encouraged as it is believed that they are the primary source of tennis development and are necessary for the long-term sustainability of the sport. Service Areas #1, #2 and #3 are the most underserved in terms of the number of organized club courts, though it is recognized that clubs are formed when the community is willing to assume responsibility (there has been no indication, at present, for new community clubs).

Although community access can be an issues with competition level courts, provided that sufficient public/no fee courts be located made available, competition level courts are deemed to be an appropriate level of service in Mississauga. Should market demand demonstrate that additional capacity is warranted in these areas, the City should strongly consider the provision as such. Generally speaking, a competition-level tennis court should be provided for every 100 club players.

Appropriate parks within gap areas should be evaluated for their ability to accommodate public and/or competition-level tennis courts to serve their immediate community. This may occur through opportunity (i.e. if a new park is developed) or by way of a park redevelopment/renewal process and would preferably be conducted

in the short-term to ensure that supply levels match the deficit identified in meeting community need.

Summary of Tennis Court Directions

- ❖ *A total of twelve new tennis courts, consisting of a mix of public and competition-level courts, should be provided by the year 2014. A particular focus on providing public courts in Service Areas #3, #4 and #6 is recommended, while the need for additional competition-level courts should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.*
- ❖ *The eight tennis courts currently identified for development under current City plans should be funded and implemented according to the timelines established through the capital program. Furthermore, opportunities to improve quality and community access to courts located on school properties should be examined in cooperation with the school boards so long as day access can be achieved.*

4.6 Basketball & Multi-Use Courts

Basketball is considered to be a growth sport, especially among youth, and local popularity has benefited from the National Basketball Association's expansion into the Toronto market in the mid 1990s. The household survey suggests that 9% of the sample households had a member who played basketball in the past year, ranking as the seventh most popular activity.

The City offers 69 basketball hoops and 31 multi-purpose hoops. An effective supply of 65.5 multi-purpose/basketball pads has been established whereby each basketball hoop is considered to be the equivalent of 0.5 full basketball courts.

Field Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Multi-Purpose Pads / Basketball Hoops *	12.5	11	7.5	4.5	8	22	65.5

* reflects effective supply which considers each hoop as 0.5 full courts
Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

Demand for outdoor basketball courts has been found to be extremely high in many urban areas, particularly as they are easily incorporated into neighbourhood-level parks, thus allowing easy access (by foot or bicycle) and opportunity for spontaneous, informal play. City staff report that outdoor courts in certain areas were consistently in use at all times of the day throughout the week. Additional investment in basketball courts ranked fairly high on the household survey.

Municipalities, such as Mississauga, are beginning to construct multi-use courts rather than the dedicated basketball or tennis courts traditionally incorporated into park design. Multi-use courts can accommodate a wide range of neighbourhood interests, spanning all

seasons. For example, multi-use courts may offer a venue for basketball, tennis, ball hockey, and outdoor skating.

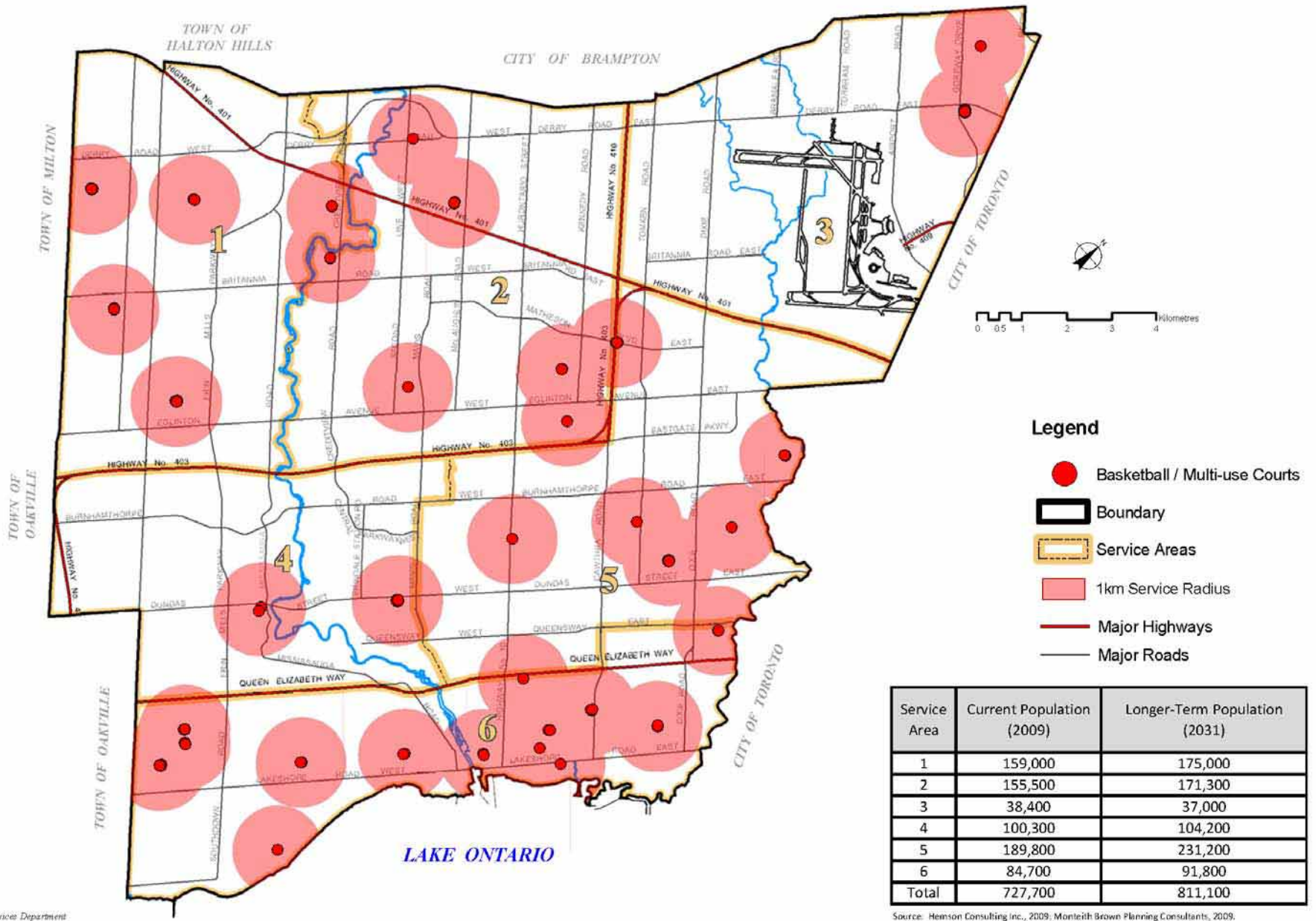
Table 14: Benchmarking of Basketball Court Provision

Municipality	Population	Basketball Courts*	Provision
Vaughan	260,000	83	3,133
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	32.5	5,006
Milton (2009)	87,045	9	5,993
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	84	5,658
Caledon (2009)	57,626	7	8,232
Ajax (2007)	93,553	9.5	9,848
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	65.5	11,110
Barrie (2009)	139,938	11.5	12,169
London (2007)	355,675	28	12,703
Oakville (2006)	165,613	6	27,602
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	2	27,645

* Effective supply noted in full court equivalents
Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

At present, the City is presently providing basketball courts at a rate of one court per 11,110 residents, a level which is below the rate of one court per 10,000 that was recommended in the 2004 Future Directions. This Master Plan continues to support the 1:10,000 standard which would suggest that a total of 73 courts are required at present, resulting in a deficit of 7.5 courts.

By 2014, this deficit is expected to climb to 9.5 courts. The City, however, presently has plans to construct a half court in 2009 and two full courts in 2012 and 2013, respectively. In fact, a total of 12 hoops (or six full court equivalents) and 4 multi-purpose pads have been identified by the City as being proposed or under construction, which if implemented as planned would reconcile the deficit over the course of the Master Plan.



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Base Mapping Provided by:
City of Mississauga Community Services Department

The City's eventual build-out population will ultimately require a total of 81 courts. The planned courts at P-489, P-322 and P-136 appear reasonable to reconcile some of these City-wide needs.

In addition to application of a population-based standard, it is important to consider geographic distribution of basketball/multi-purpose courts as their primary users tend to be children and youth, who require these facilities in accessible locations. Using a one kilometre radius, a number of gaps can be seen across all service areas, thus the City should make every attempt to fill these gap areas as it moves towards its ultimate provision total of 81 courts.

At present, gap areas are apparent across all service areas although Service Area #4 and #5 are deemed to be high priority areas given demographic characteristics associated with these areas. The City may consider underserved areas that have access to a nearby school court as being lower priority for municipal provision, provided that the school court(s) are of sufficient quality and in satisfactory condition.

Summary of Basketball & Multi-Use Court Directions

- ❖ *A total of 9.5 new basketball/multi-purpose courts are required, meaning 7 additional courts are needed over and above planned facilities, in order to meet needs over the next five years. It is expected that this shortfall will be reconciled by the number of basketball hoops and multi-purpose pads currently proposed or under development, as identified in City plans.*

4.7 Playgrounds

Playgrounds serve as a neighbourhood level amenity which can provide opportunities for early childhood leisure. The modern design template for these facilities focuses upon providing safe structures, as provincial hospitals are reporting an increase in the number of playground injuries.¹¹ Creative play structures have replaced the traditional steel design and include soft structures and surfaces, creative and cognitive stimuli and/or barrier free components for children with special needs.

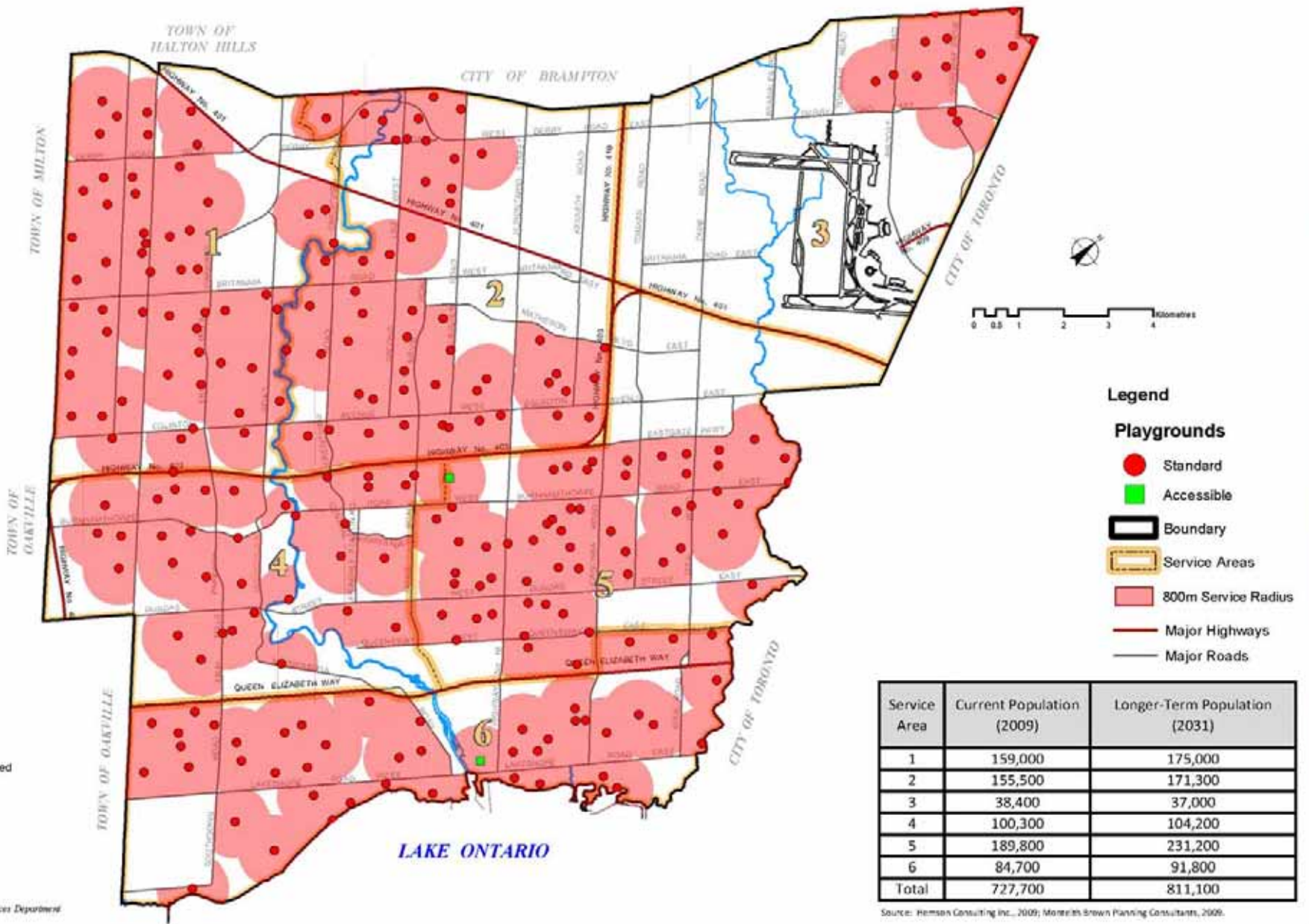
Playground Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Standard	56	46	15	36	57	43	253
Accessible	0	0	0	1	0	1	2

It is recommended that playgrounds continue to be provided within an 800m radius of residential areas, unobstructed by major pedestrian barriers such as arterial or collector roads or highways, rivers, rail lines, etc. The map on the following page illustrates this coverage.

The most notable gap areas can be seen in Service Areas #1, #2, #3 and #5. The gaps surrounding the airport are not necessarily gaps in service as these are associated with the commercial and industrial parks relegated to this section of the City.

Monitoring by City Staff suggest that a number of playgrounds are utilized extensively by a minimum of two people all times of the day throughout the week. The City should continue to work towards an ultimate target of 270 playgrounds, as suggested in previous Future Directions initiatives, despite the aging population, due to the need to provide playgrounds in areas accessible to pedestrians.

¹¹ Canadian Institute for Health Information. News Release – July 18, 2007.



Note:
All major roads, highways and waterways are considered barriers to park access.



Base Mapping Provided by:
City of Mississauga Community Services Department

Service Area	Current Population (2009)	Longer-Term Population (2031)
1	159,000	175,000
2	155,500	171,300
3	38,400	37,000
4	100,300	104,200
5	189,800	231,200
6	84,700	91,800
Total	727,700	811,100

Source: Hemson Consulting Inc., 2009; Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009.

At present, the following parks have been identified as candidates for playground provision:

- P-340
- P-358
- P-450*
- P-489
- P-493
- P-501
- P-502

*to be constructed

The provision of barrier-free playground equipment is another trend that the City of Mississauga should continue to implement. It is preferable that at least one fully accessible playground, owned and maintained by the municipality, be provided in each Service Area. This would imply that Service Areas #1, #2, #3 and #5 should have barrier free play apparatus in order to attain satisfactory distribution.

Three new inclusive playgrounds are currently identified in the City's capital program, to serve the north and east ends of Mississauga. These are planned for the year 2016 (east end) and 2017 (north end), while the third is planned for the west end, with a cost of approximately \$465,000 each. It is recommended that the City proceed with the development of these accessible playgrounds and procure a site for a third and fourth such facility.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that playground injuries are on the rise in Ontario; the most common injuries involved bone fractures to arms, wrists and elbows. While it is inevitable that injuries will occur on playgrounds, regular maintenance, inspections and staff training (i.e. Registered Playground Practitioner) can help minimize the risk. It is necessary that all new playgrounds be approved to CSA standards and inspected on a regular basis to avoid equipment-related injury and all playground sites be regularly inspected by trained municipal staff.

There may be certain playgrounds in Mississauga that employ outdated design elements that are over ten years old, some of which still contain wooden frames and harder surfaces that can pose a safety hazard. Through the park redesign or redevelopment process, the City should update these playground apparatuses in favour of new creative playgrounds, preferably with barrier-free elements; for example, playgrounds at P-322 and P-037 are being replaced.

Although not generally preferred, playgrounds may also be considered for removal/repurposing if they are found in overlapping zones of the 800 metre radius *and* where the neighbourhood profile can be demonstrated that children are no longer a primary market segment, as well as if the playground is of low quality/state of repair.

Summary of Playground Directions

- ❖ *The City should strive to provide playgrounds within 800 metres of residential areas, unobstructed by major playground barriers. At least 270 playgrounds should be the ultimate provision target, although this may be exceeded based upon geographic distribution.*
- ❖ *Proceed with the development of two new inclusive playgrounds to serve the north and east ends of Mississauga, as well as one additional barrier-free playground in the longer term. Other playgrounds, both new and existing, should be evaluated for their ability to incorporate smaller scale barrier-free elements.*

4.8 Outdoor Aquatics

Trends in municipal service delivery suggest that investment in outdoor pool construction is giving way to the provision of more cost-effective waterplay (e.g. splash / spray pad) templates. Outdoor pools require significant financial outlays in construction, maintenance and operation which is generally not a sustainable operation since they tend to be open for no more than two or three months of the year. Wading pools are also not seen as being cost-efficient or beneficial to a large proportion of families because of the limited age range they serve (generally 7 and under).

Splash/spray pad facilities, on the other hand, generally require a smaller capital investment in construction, depending upon the design and size, and can be used by children as old as 14. The real savings are achieved, however, by removal of direct staffing costs (no lifeguards, no staff required to test and treat water, etc.) as there is no standing water. Water can be treated on-site and recycled, metered and discharged into the storm sewer, or collected and used for other municipal operations (e.g. irrigation). The demand for additional new spray pads ranked a fourth in the household survey, with 11% of respondents placing their top priority on the development of these facilities.

Facility Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Outdoor Swimming Pools	0	1	0	2	1	3	7
Spray Pads	4	4	1	2	4	4	19

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

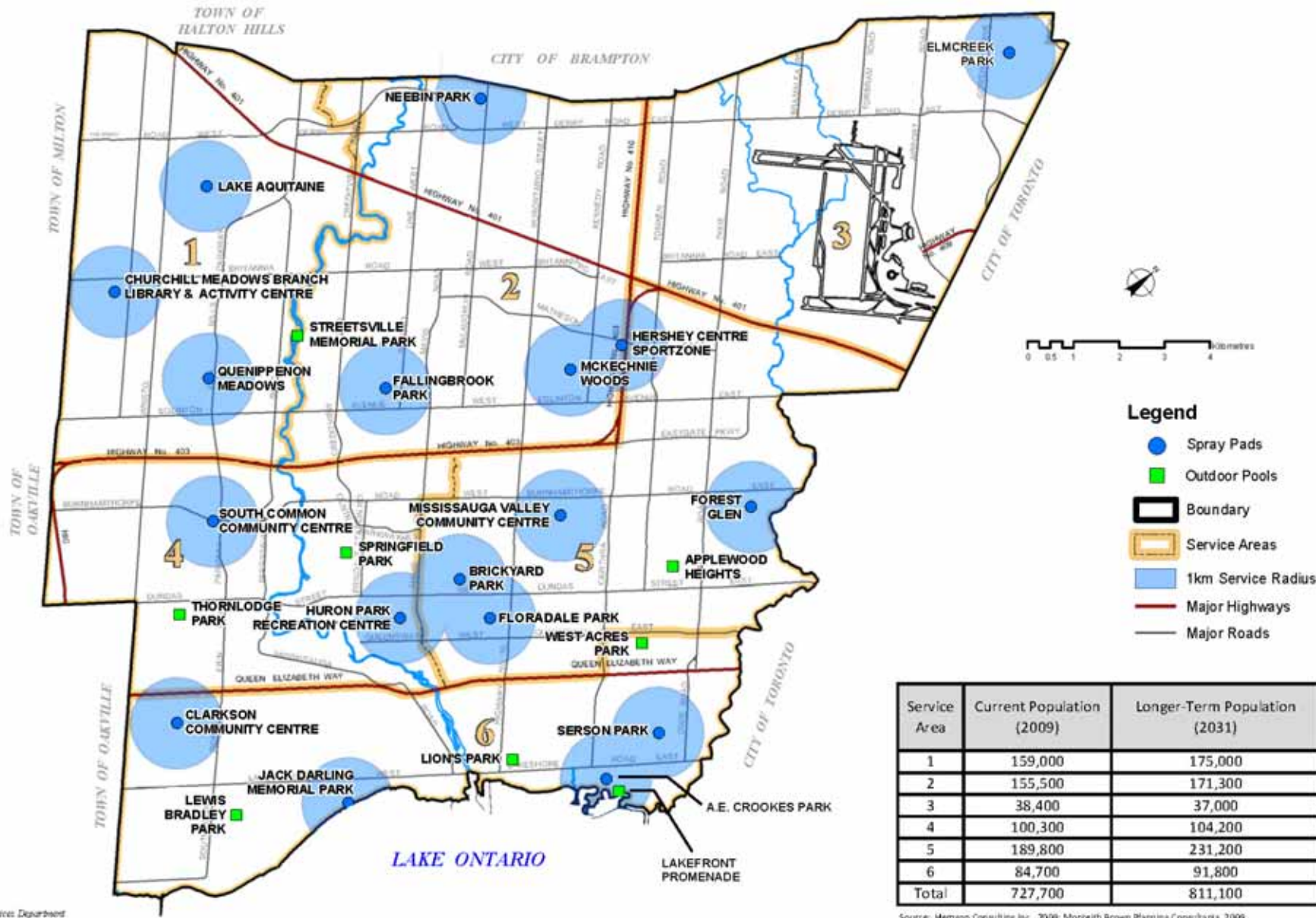
Outdoor Pools

The City's seven outdoor pools are all more than thirty years old and in need of building, mechanical, electrical and accessibility enhancements to continue to operate in the future. Outdoor pools provide an affordable and community oriented service, but are not cost-effective from an operating standpoint. These sites have the opportunity for adaptive re-use, however, outdoor pools in many neighbourhoods are considered to be local hubs and any facility changes (i.e. alternative reinvestment) would require consultation with the immediate community.

While no new outdoor pools are recommended in Mississauga, the role and level of service offered by existing outdoor pools is highly valued by the community. These facilities continue to be utilized to provide structured and unstructured activities, serving a population base that would not otherwise have readily available access to outdoor swimming opportunities.

As such, it is recommended that lifecycle reassessments be undertaken for outdoor pools to determine the appropriate level of investment required for the neighbourhoods that they serve, and extend their lifespan to the most appropriate degree possible (i.e. through replacement, repair, upgrade of amenities, etc.). Outdoor pools in high priority areas (i.e. serving populations with high proportions of children, under-represented or vulnerable populations, etc.) should be refurbished first.

An Aquatics Strategy presently being prepared suggests that the age and condition of outdoor pools would require a \$24 million investment to increase their lifespan, address accessibility, introduce shade and lounge amenities on deck; of this, only \$1.8 million is eligible through infrastructure or development funds.




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 Base Mapping Provided by:
 City of Mississauga Community Services Department

Source: Hemson Consulting Inc., 2009; Monith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009.

Spray Pads

With a supply of 19 spray pads, the City is currently providing a level of service of one spray pad per 38,300 residents. The recommended provision standard has been slightly decreased from the 2004 Future Directions to a current standard of one spray pad per 35,000 residents to reflect the aging trend anticipated for the future.

Table 15: Benchmarking of Spray Pad Provision

Municipality	Population	Spray Pads	Provision
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	51	9,318
Vaughan (2008)	260,000	18	14,444
Oakville (2006)	165,613	11	15,056
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	7	23,243
Caledon (2009)	57,626	2	28,813
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	19	38,300
London (2007)	355,675	9	39,519
Milton (2009)	87,045	2	43,523
Ajax (2007)	93,553	2	46,777
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	1	55,289
Barrie (2009)	139,938	2	69,969
Brampton (2006)	433,805	3	144,602

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

Based upon the aforementioned standard, Mississauga would require a total supply of 21 spray pads, suggesting that two additional spray pads are required to meet needs over the next five years (the City has identified five spray pads as being proposed or under construction which would reconcile needs beyond the master planning period). It is believed that these facilities would be well used as City staff have observed heavy utilization of spray pads at all times of the day throughout the week. Furthermore, the forecasted build-out population would require a total of 23 spray pads and suggests that current plans for spray pad provision are appropriate.

Based upon the population by Service Area, it is suggested that the new spray pads would ideally be located in Service Areas #4 and #5 to bring provision in these communities closer to the population-based standard. Residential age characteristics in these service areas,

Service Area	Current Provision Level of Spray Pads
1	1 : 39,750
2	1 : 38,875
3	1 : 38,400
4	1 : 50,150
5	1 : 47,450
6	1 : 21,175
City-Wide	1 : 38,300

however, should justify the provision of these spray pads (i.e. there should be sufficient numbers of children residing within them) in order to ensure that facility provision is appropriately targeted to the market served.

It is recommended that the provision standard be re-evaluated in line with changing community demographics in order to ensure that there is not an oversupply of spray pads once the City reaches its build-out population.

Geographic distribution of spray pads is also important, however, not all should be designed as “major” facilities due to the costs involved. A more effective approach is to supplement a few major spray pads with a number of “minor” or satellite spray pads that are smaller in scale, yet provide a neighbourhood level cooling amenity. Focusing on areas targeted for intensification will also be necessary, possibly occurring through parkland redevelopment process.

The City should provide basic splash pad amenities at selected park locations (i.e. in smaller communities, underserved areas, neighbourhoods with a high population of children, etc.) to provide a cooling feature for young children (these basic facilities would not be included in the application of the provision standard).

Summary of Outdoor Aquatics Directions

- ❖ *While no new outdoor pools are recommended, the City's seven existing pools should be evaluated through lifecycle assessments for their ability to be improved to provide a better level of service, extend their life span, and ultimately strengthen their position as summertime hubs for the neighbourhoods in which they are located. If redevelopment is not financially feasible alternative adaptive reuses need to be considered including spray pads.*
- ❖ *The provision of two new major spray pads is required, preferably to be located in Service Areas #4 and #5, as well as along the lakefront and/or areas targeted for major intensification, assuming that the future age characteristics of these areas justify provision.*

4.9 Skateboard Parks

Although once considered a fad, skateboarding has demonstrated sustained longevity and appears to have become a mainstream pursuit among children, youth, and to a lesser extent, young adults. Skateboard parks are increasingly being viewed as positive venues that respond to the interests of a number of youth; this includes skateboarders, trick cyclists and inline skaters.

	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Skateboard Parks (lit)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Skateboard Parks (unlit)	1	0	1	1	1	2	6

The City provides a total of seven skateboard parks, with each service area having access to at least one such facility. This translates into a service level of one skateboard park per 103,957 residents, which is slightly below the recommended provision standard of one skateboard park per 100,000 residents.

Table 16: Benchmarking of Skateboard Park Provision

Municipality	Population	Skateparks	Provision
Halton Hills (2006)	55,289	2	27,645
Ajax (2007)	93,553	2	46,777
London (2007)	355,675	7	50,811
Caledon (2009)	57,626	1	57,626
Brampton (2006)	433,805	5	86,761
Milton (2009)	87,045	1	87,045
Hamilton (2007)	475,240	5	95,048
Mississauga (2009)	727,700	7	103,957
Barrie (2009)	139,938	1	139,938
Richmond Hill (2006)	162,704	1	162,704
Oakville (2006)	165,613	1	165,613
Vaughan (2008)	260,000	1	260,000

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2009

City staff have observed heavy utilization of skateboard parks at all times of the day throughout the week, particularly the Iceland venue. Using the aforementioned population standard, the City would not require an eighth skateboard park until the population approaches 800,000 residents. Given that the existing distribution of skateboard parks appears to be reasonable, this is an appropriate course of action.

Instead of the development of new skateboard parks, the City should investigate the provision of smaller-scale minor/satellite skateboard facilities which are more readily integrated into neighbourhood level parks. Doing so will increase the ability of local youth to access skateboarding opportunities, as presently, there is a significant number of youth who must use transit or obtain a ride to reach the City's skateboarding destinations.

As recommended in the soccer and ball assessments, there may be opportunity to convert underutilized sports fields to other uses, and minor skateboard parks would certainly appear plausible where neighbourhood demographics support the provision of the facility.

Summary of Skateboard Park Directions

- ❖ *While the provision of a new major skateboard park is not recommended until the City's population reaches 800,000, the City should develop smaller-scale minor/satellite skateboard venues at appropriate neighbourhood parks.*
-

4.10 BMX & Mountain Biking

BMX

BMX (Bicycle Motocross) is another bike sport that has witnessed rapid growth since the 1980's. According to the Ontario Cycling Association, BMX racing is one of the fastest growing sports in North America. There are currently 40 BMX tracks in Canada, 5 of which are located in Ontario (Milton, Chatham, Kingston, Saugeen Shores, and Halton Hills).

The City of Mississauga offers two smaller scale BMX facilities, located in Service Areas #1 and #6. City Staff report that the BMX dirt jump park at Clarkson was constantly in use but observed minimal use of BMX dirt jump park at Meadowvale North Sports Park.

BMX racers compete on a dirt track that features jumps, berms and other obstacles within a few hundred meters to test the bike handling skills of the riders. BMX freestyle utilizes a similar BMX bike, but offers a different style of riding. "Trail style" makes use of more natural open space, combined with a number of built jumps (often called dirt jumping) while "park style" utilizes skatepark facilities along with skateboarders and inline skaters.

One issue with using BMX bikes in skateboard parks is the increased potential for damage to the skateboard park due to bike materials and construction (Mississauga allows bikes at its skateboard parks). While skateboard parks can be constructed with either wood, steel, or concrete, Skaters for Public Skateparks recommend the use of coping (high-quality steel edging), and higher quality concrete to reduce damage from bike handlebars, pedals and pegs. These materials,

however, incur additional expenses and would have to be weighed by municipalities in terms of budget constraints.¹²

The BMX tracks are usually leased by municipalities, but are run by non-profit organizations. In some cases, local bicycling organizations will contribute funds to assist in the development of the track. At the present time, it is believed that the existing BMX jumps in Mississauga are sufficient to meet community need as existing facilities are not being used to capacity and consultations did not reveal substantial demand for new facilities.

Mountain Biking

As a recreational pursuit, mountain biking is surging in popularity. Mountain biking provides the thrills and adventure of an extreme sport, but is becoming popular enough to be classified as a mainstream activity. As the number of Canadians involved in mountain biking increases, issues concerning biking facilities have arisen. The shifting trend towards various self-propelled activities has increased the number of participants using the same facilities, namely trails and natural spaces. Biking opportunities exist in urban areas, but are generally geared towards commuting or leisure biking. Mountain bikers seeking more specialized facilities have begun to create their own facilities throughout the urban area, such as in parks, on private land, the urban core and sometimes on environmentally sensitive land.

While significant growth is occurring in large, tourist-oriented mountain bike parks such as Whistler Mountain, there has also been an increase in smaller municipal parks, such as Anchor Park in the

¹² *Ride the New Wave: Skatepark Terrain for the 21st Century*. Kate Bongiovanni (Recreation Management)
<http://www.recmanagement.com/features.php?fid=200802fe01&ch=4>

Town of East Gwillimbury. These mountain bike parks provide riders of all ages and capabilities with a convenient means to enjoy the sport and improve their skills. The parks also make mountain biking accessible to a broader range of people, as seen in the increase in women's participation in the sport.¹³

Trail overcrowding and user incompatibilities, combined with mountain biker's desire to have more purpose-built facilities, has initiated the creation of parks designed and designated specifically for mountain biking. Various opportunities for mountain bike parks exist, including linear trail corridors, parks that capitalize on a specific feature (i.e. steep terrain, rock or water), or destination parks that serve as local, regional, or even national draws.

The City provides a mountain bike skills development park at Erindale Park (physically located on Hydro One lands) that appears to be well utilized. It is recommended that the City provide a designated mountain bike course to demonstrate local interest and subsequent demand for additional facilities. The provision of this facility is hoped to discourage informal mountain biking that may otherwise take place in ecologically sensitive areas, thereby preventing further damage and disruption to flora and fauna.

The location and design of the park should be developed in consultation with local mountain biking enthusiasts as well as input from other environmentally focused organizations such as local conservation authorities. It is our understanding that Eliss Leuscher Challenge Park is being considered for a bike park location. Other options could include the periphery along the BraeBen Golf Course, Hershey Sports Complex, Totoredaca, or currently undeveloped community level parkland.

¹³ *Exploring the Market Potential for Yukon Mountain Bike Tourism* (2005). Jane Koepke (Cycling Association of Yukon)

Summary of Bike Park Directions

- ❖ *One new mountain bike and/or BMX park is recommended for development to demonstrate local interest and demand for this activity. The location of the facility should be in a location well served by transit and/or trail linkages, while design of the park should be developed in consultation with youth, mountain bike enthusiasts, and environmentally focused organizations. Locations options could include BraeBen, Hershey, Totoredaca, or currently undeveloped community level parkland.*

4.11 Golf Courses / Driving Ranges

A number of municipalities in the province successfully own and operate their own golf courses, such as London and Burlington. The City presently owns and operates the BraeBen Golf Course (it is a joint venture with the Region) which offers an 18 hole course and 9 hole, par 3 course. A driving range is also available, however, use is relegated to irons due to the short driving distance. The City maintains a clubhouse facility at the golf course which is available for community rental. This facility is also a showpiece for the City's leadership in environmental sustainability, using a state-of-the-art green energy system that provides enough renewable energy to continually power over 5,000 Mississauga homes.

The City also owns and operates the Lakeview Golf Course, which is the closest golf course to Toronto and is a local landmark. This venue also contains an 18 hole course and provides clubhouse facilities. Lastly, it is understood that the City leases a driving range at Bathgate Andy's Golf Centre, however, this agreement is set to expire.

By all indications, the City's public golf courses are well utilized and are a revenue-generating venture for the municipality, which can be allocated towards costs associated with other revenue-neutral or subsidized recreational facilities (e.g. pools). The Lakeview course nets over \$1 million annually, and makes as much as all six of the City of Toronto's courses combined.

When considering whether to expand municipal golf operations, however, given the existing opportunities for golf and the high operating costs, municipal investment may better be suited for other and more needed leisure activities.

It is not recommended that the City construct any additional public golf courses or driving ranges during the planning period. Instead, focus may be better placed on marketing the existing municipal courses and continue to build upon diversifying the range of programs offered (e.g. Ladies Nights, camps, lessons, etc.) to make the sport more attractive to new and existing patrons. Furthermore, marketing the clubhouses (staff suggest that the BraeBen clubhouse is presently underutilized) to attract a broader range of functions would make the courses more fiscally sustainable and provide efficient use of municipally-owned spaces for community and City programs.

Summary of Golf Directions

- ❖ *The City should continue to operate its two existing municipal golf courses as they are seen as providing access to any resident interested in golf-related activities. However, the City should not seek to own or operate any new golf courses as it is believed that municipal investment should be targeted to higher need recreational activities.*

4.12 Mississauga's Waterfront

The City's 21 waterfront parks and greenbelts comprise about 186 hectares or 11% of all parks in Mississauga, as well as spanning 10.1 kilometres of the City's 22 kilometres of shoreline along Lake Ontario. As a lakefront community, outdoor aquatics is a key component in the quality of life for Mississauga's residents. The City should continue to enhance the waterfront by adding amenities (i.e. washrooms at key locations), ongoing beautification efforts (i.e. tree plantings, horticultural displays) and infrastructure development (i.e. paved pathways in strategic locations, lighting, performance venues, etc.).

Creating a vibrant and dynamic, yet environmentally respectful, waterfront setting is a major investment by the City and its community partners. Attracting people to the waterfront and showcasing its beauty creates a high sense of pride among local residents and appreciation and envy among visitors. The Waterfront Festival has

benefited from a \$150,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support long-term growth and viability of the festival. Special events such as these play a critical role in developing the waterfront's infrastructure for community gatherings and long-term use.

The waterfront area is also a space that can provide opportunities for a number of other marine uses such as angling, boating, canoeing/kayaking, kite flying, etc. and should be supported with appropriate amenities (e.g. piers, boat launches, beach areas, etc.) where appropriate. The Ontario Trillium Foundation recently awarded a grant of \$65,200 to the Don Rowing Club to acquire safety and training equipment, as well as hire part-time staff as part of a strategy to support increased programming and membership growth for Mississauga's only rowing club. Facilitating a range of marine uses is believed to be an appropriate direction for the City.

The expansion of tourism-based infrastructure (i.e. through extension of municipal servicing and development of special event venues, trail extensions, gazebos, concessions and leasable space, etc.) will create capacity and support for activities and events.

The City's *Waterfront Parks Strategy* was completed in 2008 to develop a comprehensive plan for City-owned and leased waterfront parks to address long-term enhancement, use, facility sustainability, redevelopment and/or additional land requirements. Some of its key findings with pertinence to the Recreation Master Plan include:

- Evaluate regularly if there is a surplus of sport field facilities; non-appropriate waterfront sport fields should be phased out prior to other city locations.
- Introduce additional exercise and education activity circuits along the waterfront trail (for children and adults).
- Introduce new water programs such as children's boating and water sport facilities into the thumb basin (in Area 2).

- Retrofit existing buildings (currently leased) and at gateway park (Area 1) to incorporate year round park programming. If not feasible remove existing buildings and expand park area.
- Screen neighbouring properties from sports fields at Douglas Kennedy Park with more substantial vegetative buffers and earthworks.
- Increase opportunities for active and passive uses and all ages activities including exercise stations along pathways, chess/activity tables, inlaid paving designs of local heritage (people of influence past and present) and nature (fish, fox, deer, turtles, leafs, etc). Inlaid paving designs could be used for rubbing art. Each Service Area would benefit from at least one such area incorporating such amenities and ideal locations, at a minimum, could include the Lakefront Promenade, Lake Aquitaine, trails near the Cawthra Seniors Centre (or other areas with high densities of older adults), and/or the Mississauga Valley area.
- Provide program elements suitable for cold season use (i.e. skating rink on field or designated kite flying areas at A.E. Crookes Park.
- Increase the children's play area (i.e. sand with shade structure, tricycle circuit, balance beam etc.) at Hiawatha Park, as well as Include additional activities such as exercise stations, tai chi locations, chess tables, etc.
- Existing sport facilities at Meadowwood Park (tennis and outdoor rink) should be retained and potentially expanded with a multi-purpose pad, and provide opportunities for winter activities such as skating.
- Key programming recommendations for the Waterfront Recreational Park (Area 7) include a spray pad, large event venue and new picnicking areas.

- Key programming recommendations for Gateway Park (Area 8) include a skating pond, festival venue, hard and soft surface trails, interpretive elements, children's educational activities, bird watching stations and walking paths, wedding venues and a reuse of the existing main house.

A demand has been observed in certain waterfront communities for outdoor beach volleyball courts. While these facilities do not necessarily have to be placed in waterfront areas, the facility lends itself well to a beach setting. Although little indication of demand was obtained through the consultation process, beach volleyball is a sport that is particularly popular among youth and younger adults. The sport is played in a flexible, non-structured environment and is low cost, which further adds to its appeal.

Since sand courts traditionally do not form part of the core service delivery mandate for many municipalities, there is no set provision target to benchmark. Sand courts should be considered by way of opportunity and any expressed resident demand.

Summary of Waterfront Directions

- ❖ *Implement the key directions of the Waterfront Strategy as they pertain to the delivery of recreation services. Proposals for facilities not considered as part of this Strategy need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure congruency with the strategic vision established for the waterfront.*

4.13 Informal Park Activities

Time-pressed individuals are seeking areas where they can enjoy park uses at their own convenience. Informal play fields have been observed to be popular, particularly at the neighbourhood-level for activities such as pickup field sports, frisbee, playing musical instruments, card playing, kite flying, sunbathing, etc.

In terms of picnicking, the City provides picnic tables at a number of parks which offer a venue for gatherings. Picnicking has been observed to be a use that is re-emerging in popularity, largely driven by the desire for family leisure opportunities and ethnic diversification (picnicking has been observed to be a popular leisure activity for many newcomers to Canada).

The key to the success of unstructured recreational areas is the flexibility that is afforded for the types of uses that can be pursued. These types of parks can bring people together to participate in physical activity, showcase cultural diversity through festivals and special events (e.g. Art in the Park). Larger parks are ideally suited to contain unstructured areas for recreation, although a neighbourhood park is also a place for unorganized activities, albeit at a smaller scale.

Similarly, the provision of spaces capable of hosting festivals, special events or other gatherings at a neighbourhood or community level should be encouraged, as appropriate, through park design. These programmable open spaces provide a tremendous opportunity to deliver events that foster a sense of community pride and interaction, generate low cost opportunities and contribute to the overall quality of life of local residents. Such spaces need to be supported by appropriate amenities and servicing such as hydro, washrooms, staging areas, etc.

Summary of Informal Park Activity Directions

- ❖ *Provisions to incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness and informal use opportunities should be paramount considerations in the design of parks in order to encourage use and facilitate activity levels.*
 - ❖ *Ensure that there is a coordinated special events strategy and suitable locations for special events such as festivals and the celebration of our lives. Current practises of multiple organizers and coordinators needs to be properly assessed against the resources of the departments being asked to help implement special events.*
 - ❖ *Consider the inclusion of Wi-Fi in select community parks where the population would support the benefit.*
-

4.14 Outdoor Ice

Historically, Canadians have had an affinity for outdoor skating rinks and there is a substantial demand in many communities for these facilities. Unfortunately, with warming temperatures observed in recent years, natural outdoor rinks are becoming less effective as they are severely impacted by weather conditions, and considering the limited operating season, they are generally a higher cost service.

The warming phenomenon has greatly contributed to the provision of artificial outdoor ice rinks which contain refrigeration systems that mitigate the effects of warmer weather conditions. Although artificial rinks are typically able to operate for a longer season, their costs can be substantially higher than those of natural rinks.

The provision of outdoor skating venues is one way to alleviate pressures on arena demand, as it can facilitate public skating and pickup shinny opportunities. The multi-use court template (as recommended in previous subsections) can be used to frame an outdoor rink in the winter season.

Rink Type	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Outdoor Ice Rinks (Artificial)	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Outdoor Ice Rinks (Natural)	12	11	3	7	13	5	51

Source: City of Mississauga, 2009

At present time, the present supply of natural and artificial ice rinks is deemed to be appropriate. Natural ice rinks should only be constructed if a neighbourhood association or other community organization is willing to be responsible for flooding the ice surface.

There have been discussions about creating a major skating rink in a central location, for the purposes of facilitating City-wide gatherings and serving as a tourism destination. Many municipalities have also developed skating paths in recent years (e.g. London, Brampton, etc.) to provide a different venue for ice skating. Skating paths are generally considered to be City-wide facilities due to the cost involved (they are generally artificial ice surfaces), thus overall provision is more important than geographic accessibility.

Opportunity may also exist to utilize existing trail or pathway routes as skating paths in the winter months, thus making trail-related infrastructure multi-seasonal; however, very little feedback was received from the public consultations for both outdoor rinks and skating paths. Given the investment associated with artificial ice needed for a skating path or a central skating park, and with no set targets for the provision of these facilities, it would be premature to recommend an outdoor skating path at this time without undertaking further study as to the costs involved in relation to anticipated use.

Summary of Outdoor Ice Directions

- ❖ *No new natural or artificial outdoor rinks intended to serve a community-level purpose are recommended over the next five years. Should a neighbourhood organization be willing to volunteer responsibility for the maintenance of a natural rink, this course of action should be evaluated by the City.*
- ❖ *The provision of a major skating park or skating path should only be pursued after a feasibility study and business planning process has been undertaken to justify the cost-benefit of such an endeavour and, if in the Waterfront area, in conformity and harmony with the Waterfront Strategy.*

4.15 Off-Leash Areas

With municipal by-laws regulating the use of leashes, dedicated off-leash areas provide pet owners with the opportunity to exercise and socialize their dogs in a controlled area; these parks also facilitate interaction between pet owners.

	Service Area						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Leash Free Area	2	1	0	0	2	2	7

A provision standard has not been established for leash-free dog parks, as they are a relatively new type of service in most municipalities across Ontario. These types of parks are best established by way of opportunity and are ideally developed when an affiliated organization is willing to take responsibility for their operation and/or enforcement.

Dog parks should not be viewed as facilities strictly for pets; observations in other municipalities suggest that they act as a venue for exercise and social interaction for residents. City staff have observed that the Leash Free parks were well utilized at all times and numerous observations were made where dogs were being walked off-leash in municipal parks.

The City should be prepared to respond to requests for additional leash free areas and should consider the following criteria, at a minimum, in location and design:

- safety of other park users and residents;
- an appropriate buffer from residences, schools and environmentally areas;
- provision of benches, water fountains, waste containers, shade, etc.

- spatial distribution considerations as these parks are largely drive-to types of facilities, thus, off-leash areas would benefit from proximity to a major trail route.

The City should work with interested community organizations in determining an appropriate site, preparing a capital funding strategy (the mix of municipal and community-based capital), and defining operational roles with regard to a potential dog park. The most plausible future destinations would appear to be in Service Area #3 and/or Service Area #4 as these do not have access to a leash free area in their respective boundaries. At present, off-leash areas are being proposed at P-358, P-456 and P-458.

Summary of Leash-Free Park Directions

- ❖ *The provision of new off-leash areas should be considered in partnership with a community organization(s) willing to contribute towards the capital and operational responsibility associated with the park.*

4.16 Community Gardens

Gardening is one of the most popular forms of leisure activity in Canada and visits to public gardens and historic sites is expected to increase as the population ages and demands more passive types of outdoor leisure activities. Both public gardens (e.g., floral displays, thematic displays, etc.) and allotment gardens (e.g., community garden plots, “Plant a Row – Grow a Row” programs, etc.) are being embraced by a number of municipalities seeking to beautify their communities.

Public / Horticultural Gardens

Many principles related to the New Urbanism planning movement involve centering significant residential and commercial areas around key focal points, including public gardens and parks. It is envisioned that by creating such “destinations”, people will be drawn to utilize the public space and, thus, fosters vibrancy and economic prosperity through socialization and the creation of a positive ambiance in the community node. The City has integrated a number of horticultural displays and gardens into its parkland design, many of which have included contributions from community organizations.

Partnerships between a municipality, community organizations and volunteers are common in the establishment of gardens in other communities and provide a means for sponsorship, cost sharing, and volunteer assistance. For example, the Communities In Bloom movement and “Doors Open” events are gaining popularity across Ontario and initiatives have been undertaken in several municipalities to encourage community participation in civic beautification including support for the local horticultural associations. This topic is anticipated to be detailed further in the Parks Master Plan.

Community Allotment Gardens

Community allotment gardens involve community members directly maintaining their plots – more municipalities are allocating space in municipal parks for allotment gardens. These gardens encourage social interaction, horticultural education and awareness of the benefits of healthy diets, while they can also create enhanced safety due to the presence of gardeners during the early morning and evening hours. Community gardens fit well with the eventual aging population forecasted for Mississauga, as older residents may be more inclined to participate in such activities.

Allotment gardens also bring about a social benefit, as evidenced by Plant a Row / Grow a Row programs across the Province, some of which grow and harvest garden foods for local food banks and soup kitchens. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has recently awarded a grant of \$300,000 to create community gardens and school-based learning gardens in Mississauga. The City should facilitate discussions with groups which bring forth an interest in developing an allotment garden program.

Currently the City has partnered with a community organization who has developed the “Garden of the Valley” community garden at Mississauga Valley Park which contains thirty-nine plots. The City and its partner are working together to identify potential locations for new community gardens at municipal parks.

Any lands intended for community gardens should have sufficient access to direct sunlight and a source of water and operations should be the responsibility of interested community groups. For example, potential partners could include local food providers, school boards, hardware retailers (to provide gardening tools), etc. The City or community organizations may also be able to leverage funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs’ Ontario Market Investment Fund which promotes local food sources.

In conjunction with any new allotment gardens, the City should also work with interested community groups to develop a community program which educates gardeners about relevant horticultural and garden maintenance practices and/or tie such programs with healthy diet / active living initiatives. This topic is anticipated to be detailed further in the Parks Master Plan.

Summary of Community Gardens Directions

- ❖ *Horticultural programs should accompany the development of new community gardens, and be delivered by the municipality and its community-based partners.*
-

Section 5: Implementation Plan

This Section will be developed after the City of Mississauga has reviewed and provided comments pertaining to the finalization of Sections 1 to 4.

Appendix A: Trend Benchmarking

The identification and consideration of existing and emerging trends are of paramount importance to effectively planning for facility and program needs. MBPC has completed two Future Directions (1999 and 2004) and an Older Adult Plan (2008) for the City of Mississauga, each of which has included a number of trends. The continuity of many of these ideas, actions the City has taken to address them, and emerging trends, are considered within this section. Major trends pertaining to participation, health, facilities, service delivery, and older adults are discussed herein from local and international perspectives.

A.1 Participation Trends

Time is the Primary Barrier to Participation

Lack of time was the main barrier to participation in 1999 and remains so today. Self-scheduled and spontaneous activities that fit more easily into personal schedules are still the preferred method of participation, perhaps even more so today. Commuting, home-based occupations, night shifts and weekend work require leisure services to remain open later and increase the need to offer and promote drop-in opportunities. Similarly, the changing face of the Canadian family, with many lone-parent households, is putting significant constraints on recreation and leisure participation. This is an important demographic group to consider, as 15.9% of all 2006 Census families in Mississauga were lone-parent, an increase of 0.8% over the 2001 data. The average Canadian has only 6 hours of free time a day and is presented with an unprecedented range of opportunities in the marketplace (e.g., television, Internet, video games, etc.) which are consuming more time. Not surprisingly, the 65+ age group has the greatest amount of free time and those in the 25-44 age group have the least (3 hours). This supports the notion that casual and

unstructured activities, as well as events and programs for older adults, will offer the greatest opportunity for growth.

International Research – The Planning Division of California State Parks (2006) described the need for recreationists to focus on teaching people how to relax, with new technologies (e.g., cell phones, data phones, laptop computers, etc.) enabling them to be in constant contact with their work with no clear separation between work and leisure. This report also found that with an increasing percentage of the workforce in the service industry, the need is for greater access at non-traditional hours (e.g., midnight basketball league). Research in Australia¹⁴ noted that with limited time available for recreation, residents were expecting higher quality facilities when they were able to find the time to participate. They also had greater demand for indoor recreational facilities as they did not want the one day of the week when they could participate spoiled by rain, excessive heat, cold, wind, or lack of daylight. Higher quality artificial turf fields (both outdoor with lighting and indoor), tennis, rugby, wall climbing and even cycling were all starting to be demanded by more residents and teams.

Mississauga's Situation – As in the household surveys conducted for the 1999 and 2004 Future Directions and a 2008 Ipsos Reid survey¹⁵, walking, swimming, exercising, and cycling remain the favoured activities of Mississaugans. Each of these activities is generally self-scheduled and can be done independently. Outdoor soccer and hockey remain the favoured team sports, with soccer still experiencing increased participation, especially with girls and at the adult level. Mississauga is also getting more frequent requests for

¹⁴ Phillip Gray & Associates. (2001). *West North West Tasmania Recreation Planning Framework: Information Module – Trends in Sport & Recreation*.

¹⁵ Ipsos Reid Public Affairs. (2008). *Region of Peel 2008 Recreation & Physical Activity Survey*.

indoor soccer and occasionally tennis. More drop-in unscheduled events and activities are also going to be needed in Mississauga with flexible access times.

Ensuring Access for Individuals with Disabilities

Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* of 2005 (AODA), the Ontario Government defines a barrier as anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including physical, architectural, informational, communicational, technological, attitudinal, or policy/practice barrier(s). The AODA states that Ontario municipalities, as well as businesses and organizations, will have to meet certain accessibility standards in the five following areas: customer service; transportation; information and communication; built environment; and employment.

The training of staff and volunteers is necessary to provide a better understanding of the breadth of disabilities that people are confronted with and the barriers they face. The range of recreational activities, both competitive and non-competitive, for people with disabilities has increased significantly in recent years. Unfortunately, people with disabilities still face considerable barriers (e.g., transportation, cost, etc.) when it comes to participating in leisure activities. It has been found that youth with special needs who participate in recreational activities are more likely to do well in school, have higher self-esteem and good social skills, and are less likely to be involved in criminal activity¹⁶.

¹⁶ Canadian Council on Social Development. (2002; 1984). The Progress of Canada's Children; Crime Prevention Through Social Development: A Discussion Paper for Social Policy Makers and Practitioners.

International Research – Each industrialized country has a legal act in place to address the treatment of people with disabilities; for example, the United States enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act in 2008 (the original act was created in 1990), Australia introduced the Disability Act in 2006 (which replaced previous legislation) and England enacted its Disability Discrimination Act in 2005. While each act has varying specific requirements, it is important to note that each has requirements for access, penalties for lack of adherence, treatment and building/retrofitting requirements. 'Del Webb Communities' is a U.S.-based builder of exclusively active adult communities for those aged 55 and up. The company offers its residents community centres, fitness centres, lifelong learning opportunities, golf courses and other active living opportunities. These age-specific neighbourhoods provide an example of how to mitigate some of the barriers for older adults and seniors by providing a safe and comfortable environment within which to live and recreate. Ontario planning directions would encourage a more integrated community while still addressing accessibility and walk-to facilities.

Mississauga's Situation – As the goal of the Ontario government, through the AODA, is to "achieve accessibility for persons with disabilities in Ontario by 2025", the City will need to continue to plan for financial implications with respect to retrofitting older structures and ensuring that new buildings meet AODA standards. The City should continue to offer inclusive activities as well as adaptive programming and facilities (e.g., playgrounds). The City completed an Accessibility Plan in 2007, and has implemented a number of initiatives thus far, including: training and workshops regarding the AODA; the creation of partnerships with Peel Region; review of facilities; updates to the zoning by-law; and the updating of the Accessibility Design handbook. The City should continue to consider accessibility as a driver to all physical (new construction, upgrades, additions), programming and communication activities.

Increasing Pressure on the Need for Accessible Transportation Opportunities

According to recent studies completed across North America, there are three key trends in providing accessible transportation opportunities to older adults:

- The need to provide specialized transportation opportunities for older adults with a range of disabilities;
- Public facilities need to be on transit routes to improve access;
- In general, existing urban road networks and directional signage are not older adult friendly, as there is need to provide more signage and navigation assistance; and
- Transit routing and scheduling must be cognizant of the unique route patterns and usage characteristics of older adult transit users.

According to the *Seniors in Canada 2006 Report Card* published by the National Advisory Council on Aging, the majority of seniors receive help with shopping or transportation from a family member or close friend. Only 11% of trips were provided by the government or an independent organization. As the proportion of older adults in the community increases, the number of able-bodied family members and friends to assist will begin to decrease. This will place additional strain on transit and government transportation programs.

International Research – The Government of Western Australia's Department of Sport and Recreation found that a lack of transportation and access to programs was given as a barrier to participation by senior citizens. Through an executive order in 2004, an interagency Federal initiative was created in the United States to assist states and their communities in the development of coordinated transportation systems that focus on meeting the needs of disadvantaged populations. This led to the *Safe Affordable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*

(SAFETEA-LU), which was passed in 2005, and spawned an organization called United We Ride, which is interested providing transportation service options to older adults, persons with disabilities and lower income families.

Mississauga's Situation – The City of Mississauga's Accessibility Plan (2007) outlines the need to improve the accessibility of Mississauga Transit, which includes a partnership with Peel Region and TransHelp. The City operates a number of designated accessible routes and buses, with five new fully accessible routes being added in 2007. The City also allows personal care attendants travelling with passengers with disabilities to travel at no charge and is currently working with the Region to increase the usage of transit by persons with disabilities through special initiatives. Mississauga also provides an *Accessible Transit Rider's Guide* that outlines how to use accessible buses. Although our research shows that only 2% of Mississauga residents use public transit to access indoor facilities, 4% bike and 17% walk, most drive (76%). As such, there is a responsibility by all to reduce automobile trips and to increase transit use, particularly to public places.

Increased Community Diversity

Ethnic diversity in communities is increasing, and subsequently, recreation, leisure and cultural needs are evolving. Many cultures see recreation and leisure as a family event and are more inclined to do activities together. This growing diversity also creates the need for a wider range of activities and facilities, such as cricket, picnicking, continued growth in soccer (despite overall declining team sport participation), etc.

International Research – The 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan found an increase in the cultural diversity of those who are taking advantage of outdoor recreation opportunities, leading to the need for multilingual education on appropriate interaction with the natural environment as

well as the benefits thereof. According to California State Parks (2006), immigrants make up 75% of the state's youth population, leading to increased ethnic diversity and the need to address the range of recreation opportunities desired by this group.

Mississauga's Situation – According to the 2006 Census, 52% of Mississauga's population are immigrants, which is nearly double the provincial figure of 28%. In addition, 54% of respondents to the household survey stated that they spoke at least one language other than English. The City should be cognizant of the needs of these groups to integrate their preferences with those of the entire community. A recent article¹⁷ provided a summary of a recent study investigating the public service needs of immigrants in Peel Region. The researchers studied specific enclaves in the Region that have a high concentration of South Asian immigrants. As of 2001, South Asians represented approximately 16% of the Region's population and 41% of visible minorities. One of the enclaves that formed part of the study was Erindale, in the City of Mississauga. Key findings included:

- Immigrants first turn to family and friends to find support or assistance;
- The service needs of immigrants were generally similar to the public-at-large except for a greater need for language training;
- Language was identified as the biggest barrier in the delivery of services;
- Immigrants were more satisfied with services if they were offered in a culturally sensitive manner; and

¹⁷ Agrawal, S.K., Qadeer, M., and Prasad, A. (2007). *Immigrants' Needs and Public Service Provisions in Peel Region*.

- Members of these ethnic enclaves could provide assistance in delivering culturally and linguistically sensitive services to that particular community.

The 2006 Canadian Census Data demonstrated that 57.3% of immigrants to Canada between 2001 and 2006 were between the ages of 25 and 54. In the next 20 years, members of this cohort will move towards retirement and form a significant portion of the older adult population. As it has been shown that immigrants in the 55 to 64 age group are significantly more likely to report poor health compared to non-immigrants, it is critical that their needs be identified and assistance provided to them. Poor rating of personal health amongst immigrant seniors can be a result of loneliness, depression, or lack of understanding of the dominant culture. There is a need to be sensitive to cultural preferences in developing appropriate programs and activities. In select areas, language sensitive signage may be required and linkage to Peel Region Translation Services may be warranted. The City should continue with sensitivity training and monitoring of local interests for area-specific programs.

A.2 Health-Related Trends

Increasingly Sedentary Population

Despite an increasing awareness of the long-term social, health and economic costs associated with unhealthy lifestyles overall Canadians are becoming increasingly sedentary. Studies indicate that around half of those living in Ontario are not sufficiently physically active, and nearly one third of Canadian children are considered to be overweight. Combining social services and recreation opportunities at the same location may be a model that reaches out most effectively to newcomers.

International Research – According to the 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan, increasingly sedentary work environments, longer working hours,

stress from commuting and pollution, and overall busy lives are leading to the need for recreation opportunities close to home that can be worked into family schedules. The lack of free time is a factor in people wanting to just relax and be at home during limited down time. An increased awareness of the benefits of being physically active will hopefully lead to greater participation (Recreation Planning Framework for West North West Tasmania, 2001), but according to the 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan, more and more children are not experiencing the outdoors. Richard Louv (2007) has defined this as 'nature-deficit disorder', in which those who are not exposed to nature are less likely to appreciate its importance.

Mississauga's Situation – *Get Active Mississauga* is a community network that has worked together to develop the Mississauga Community Action Plan, which encourages Mississaugans and those who recreate and work in the City to be active for 30 minutes per day. As an element of this initiative, the City, through its library system, has pedometers available for borrowing by residents of Mississauga so they can keep track of their steps and monitor their fitness activity. The City is also offering Loonie Swims at eleven different pools between April 20th and June 28th, 2009 (at least one location per day) to encourage participation. The City of Mississauga's Recreation & Parks Business Plan for 2009-2010 identifies the 'techno-potato' trend, wherein the population is increasingly tied to technology (e.g., computers, handheld gaming devices, data phones, etc.). The Business Plan suggests that the City offer "programs that deliver activity, engage our youth, and enhance wellness and rehabilitation".

Benefits of Leisure

Benefits-based performance measures are becoming more common. For example, in the past, municipalities measured outputs (e.g., number of people participating), while now the question is one of outcomes (e.g., how has this program benefited my community and at what cost?). The Canadian Parks/Recreation Association (CPRA)

published a paper entitled *The Benefits of Recreation* in 1992, which was broken down into personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits (note: Parks and Recreation Ontario is currently working on an update to this study, for release in 2009). While the individual is the primary beneficiary of recreation participation, the community as a whole experiences the positive impacts of widespread involvement. Physical health benefits are the most commonly discussed, with particular attention paid to inactivity, obesity, disease prevention, and overall personal wellbeing. The psychological benefits of recreation are also worth considering, as they can include a reduction in feelings of stress, increased self-esteem, fewer social problems, and enhanced intrinsic motivation to participate. The economic impact of recreation within a healthy community begins with healthy employees, as they incur lower healthcare costs, exhibit lower turnover, have reduced absenteeism and fewer medical claims, as well as increased productivity and morale¹⁸. Sport tourism is also a growing area of economic interest for municipalities. The provision of parks and open spaces can also contribute to community environmental health.

International Research – Many studies exist that espouse the physical health benefits of leisure, as society becomes increasingly aware and concerned about the detrimental effects of inactivity. The 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan outlined the need to link the economic benefits of eco-tourism (defined as: travel to "places having unspoiled natural resources, with minimal impact on the environment being a primary concern", Random House Dictionary, 2009) to healthy lifestyles. The long-term environmental impact of recreation needs to be assessed when offering recreation, parks and open space opportunities.

Mississauga's Situation – The City of Mississauga, through its commitment to the *Get Active Mississauga* program and its various

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. (1998). National Population Health Survey, 1996/97.

physical, educational, cultural, social and other activities serve to promote the benefits of leisure. *Get Active Mississauga* is supported by a number of community partners, including the Region of Peel Health Department, Mississauga News, Active2010 – Ministry of Health Promotion, and the Mississauga YMCA, among others. For the summer of 2009, the City is offering a discount on its summer fitness memberships through a program called *Get Fit in the City*. The City should continue to monitor activity levels.

A.3 Facility Trends

Multi-purpose High Quality Facilities

The inclusion of multiple amenities in one location is now the norm, although in 1999, this was still an emerging trend. Multi-purpose facilities have allowed municipalities to benefit from operational efficiencies (e.g., shared staff, maintenance, etc.) and respond to the desire for one-stop recreation opportunities. People continue to prefer high quality facilities rather than total quantity. Multi-purpose facilities provide opportunities for accommodating cross-programming demands, family recreation outings, rising expectations for quality service, and value for money, which are all issues to be considered in facility design. In addition to providing access to varied recreation opportunities (e.g., swimming, fitness, basketball, squash, etc.), multi-purpose fitness facilities are increasingly being integrated with other community services (e.g., library, community centre, etc.).

International Research - According to the 2001 Recreation Planning Framework for West North West Tasmania, one Australian trend in this area is toward convenience, as Australians want to participate in the activity of their choice at times and locations that are convenient to them and their lifestyles. The impact of this trend on facility design would suggest that co-located amenities that allow for multiple activities and access to programming for a variety of age groups.

Mississauga's Situation – Like the residents of Australia, Mississauga residents have consistently picked quality over quantity if they are required to choose. Within vulnerable neighbourhoods, however, the distance to a larger multi-purpose community centre may be beyond walking distance or may not be on the most convenient transit schedule or route. Within vulnerable neighbourhoods, partnerships with schools, places of worship or social clubs may be required to create an accessible recreational opportunity.

Multi-purpose facilities may also be required in areas of denser population. While they may not have the traditional park-like setting, it is possible to have all the amenities of a multi-purpose recreational facility within an 'urban' format such as occupying (through a condominium arrangement) a floor or floors within office buildings or residential buildings and still be available to all the surrounding community. Replacing the mini recreation facilities of a condominium with an appropriately scaled larger municipal multi-purpose community centre may also be an excellent partnership opportunity for developers.

Aging Infrastructure

Aging infrastructure must also be considered, forcing municipalities to constantly weigh the costs and benefits of upgrading and new construction. A 2006 study by Parks and Recreation Ontario identified that the majority of recreation facilities in Ontario are over 25 years old and 30% to 50% of these are near the end of their useful life¹⁹. In fact, infrastructure province-wide is chronically under-funded. The Super Build program in recent years provided some relief to

¹⁹ Parks and Recreation Ontario. (2006). Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Study. Available online at <http://216.13.76.142/PROntario/index.htm>.

select municipalities, but really only scratched the surface. The 2006 study investigated the age of Ontario facilities and found that 80% of community centres, 80% of ice pads, 53% of indoor pools and 81% of outdoor pools are over 25 years of age.

International Research – The 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan suggested that the increase in requests for more trails and facilities may be outweighed by the amount of funding available for parks and recreation infrastructure. This is further compounded by insufficient funds for maintaining and upgrading aging infrastructure – costs are increasing while funding is decreasing. The 2001 Recreation Planning Framework for West North West Tasmania study also found that if facilities are not in good condition, usage decreases.

Mississauga's Situation – Although there are some geographic variances, most residents are generally satisfied with the facilities that are available in Mississauga. In response, rather than building new facilities, the City recently implemented an aggressive community facility redevelopment program, which is prudent, given that investment in existing infrastructure needs to be strategic and based on a complete evaluation of current and future needs, accompanied by a financial plan that maximizes the use of available dollars.

Extreme and Emerging Sports and Facilities

There are emerging programs and facility requirements associated with higher demands of a greater number of residents. While cricket is considered to be an emerging sport in many other municipalities across Ontario, demands have been apparent in Mississauga for quite some time. However, the sport can still be considered to be “emerging” at a local level as greater numbers of residents are coming forward in pursuit of the activity and the number of existing facilities may not be sufficient to address the entire demand spectrum.

Furthermore, youth and younger adults are increasingly seeking more extreme types of recreational activities, driven by adventure and adrenaline; while skateboarding and BMX are the “traditional” extreme sports, activities such as rock-climbing, wilderness excursions, etc. are now entering the mainstream.

International Research – California State Parks (2006) found that many youth under the age of 18 are seeking ever riskier outdoor opportunities, including mountain biking, off-road vehicle riding, trail boarding and BMX courses. The City of Eden Prairie (2003) determined that trends in recreation included dog parks, skateboard parks and BMX trails and facilities. These facility types have continued to benefit from ever-increasing interest and are becoming the norm. Between 1993 and 1998, the National Sporting Good Association's top four growth activities were inline skating (118.0% growth), roller hockey (106.2%), snowboarding (102.0%) and off road mountain biking (87.2%). These sports bring with them a high degree of specialized equipment and the need for new facilities at which to participate, but are primarily self-scheduled activities that can be incorporated into busy lives.

Mississauga's Situation – A similar ideology can be applied to “emerging” needs for waterplay facilities, artificial outdoor ice rinks, leisure pools, and accessible/barrier-free playgrounds to name but a few. The City's *Recreation & Parks Business Plan* for 2009-2010 suggests that there is a greater need for the City to remain informed of current community preferences as the variety of activities to which residents are exposed continues to increase. Consideration for extreme sports needs to be given in appropriate locations.

Facility Design Elements

Within aquatics, spray pads and leisure pool elements remain popular options for facilities (instead of wading pools, outdoor pools and straight competition pools). Multi or universal field templates that

allow for ease of conversion are a trend in the provision of outdoor sports fields, and many municipalities are developing indoor field houses designed to serve broad markets, such as indoor soccer, field hockey, lacrosse to address emerging sports and increased adult demands. It should be noted that the 2004 Future Direction included volleyball, basketball, badminton, etc., but it is now thought that these activities would be better placed within a gymnasium, with the indoor field house becoming an indoor field sport venue only. Municipalities are also dealing with demands for higher quality outdoor amenities (e.g., rest areas, benches, field turf, etc.) and mandated play structure improvements.

International Research – High tech facilities, while in demand for sports rising in popularity (e.g., BMX biking, artificial turf, etc.), utilize new forms of technology and require additional knowledge to plan, design, construct and maintain²⁰. However, in the case of artificial turf, the increased playing season and reduced daily maintenance can offset these issues. An Australian study found the following design trends:

- Inviting atmosphere that includes good quality fixtures;
- Areas for socialization within the facility;
- Emphasis on safety, including physical features of the facility, as well as access to First Aid equipment;
- Parking should be adequate for the number of users and facilitate fast entry and exit;
- Consideration should be given to acoustics and soundproofing;
- Green practices should be employed in construction and operation; and

²⁰ SRF Consulting Group, Inc. (2003). Eden Prairie Park and Open Space System Plan.

- Spaces should be as flexible as possible to allow for maximum utilization.

Mississauga's Situation – Mississauga currently has a number of spray pads, wading pools, outdoor pools, and competition pools (i.e., lane pool kept at cooler temperatures). The upcoming 2015 Pan American Games bid by the City of Toronto includes a number of venues in satellite communities, some of which are to be constructed in the event the bid is successful. While events will be hosted at the Hershey Centre, Classic Bowl and Mississauga Iceland, the City will not be the recipient of new facilities.

A.4 Service Trends

Financing Recreation and the Ability to Pay

According to the 2004 Statistics Canada report, *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*, Canadian municipalities, on average, spent 12.3% of their annual budget on recreation and culture, and the Canadian Federal government spent 2% of its annual budget on this industry. As is evident from these statistics, municipalities allocate a larger percentage of their annual budget to recreation and culture. In addition, cuts to government grants limited capital construction in the 1990s. As downloading continues and cost recovery, risk assessment and liability become greater concerns, many communities are increasing user fees and rental rates. Recreation facilities are typically funded through Development Charges (only 90% of facility costs are eligible for this funding) and municipalities often utilize user fees as a cost recovery measure.

Higher insurance costs are driving up the cost of facility rentals and forcing some community organizations to seek other sources of funding or reduce the scope and scale of their programming. The challenge is to maintain equity and fairness and to ensure that lower income households are not excluded. As economic data indicates,

seniors programs have traditionally been subsidized, however, this group as a whole is no longer the most economically disadvantaged. With the Baby Boomer generation approaching retirement, the traditional subsidy for seniors no longer seems appropriate (from an economic standpoint). As such, there is a need to rebalance pricing strategies so that low-income families and youth are not subsidizing high-income seniors.

Some municipalities employ a system wherein one's ability to pay, not their age, dictates the level of subsidy that they receive. Statistics Canada Census data confirms that wealth and family income increase with age and that the highest net worth is associated with the 55-64 age bracket. As income is strongly identified as a factor affecting leisure-time participation, the ability to pay should be the basis for offering subsidies to all residents, including older adults.

International Research – The divide between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' in the United States is growing; the affluent have a broader range of options available to them, while poorer communities may have fewer and fewer facilities (Eden Prairie Park and Open Space System Plan, 2003). The 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan also found a greater division between the socioeconomic status of citizens, but 91.1% of Virginians still felt that they had access to outdoor recreation opportunities. The Eden Prairie report stated that the greater competition for residents' discretionary income with the private sector has led municipalities to diversify and/or enhance opportunities and facilities (e.g., waterslides in municipal pools, etc.).

Mississauga's Situation – The general trend of aging populations will be experienced in Mississauga as well as across Ontario and Canada. The 1999 Future Directions, the 2004 update, and the 2008 Older Adult Plan all confirmed that Mississauga residents believe it is the ability of the person to pay and not their age that should determine subsidy. The City of Mississauga has drafted a corporate

policy for a Fee Assistance Program (FAP), within which eligibility is based on economic need, derived from Low Income Cut Offs (LICOs) as determined by Statistics Canada. Once adopted by Council, the FAP will provide enrolled residents with an account credit of \$275 to be used for most recreation programs offered by the City (some programs are excluded due to higher program delivery costs or the inability to register via the City's central registration system). The Jerry Love Children's Fund provides a subsidy for children who would not otherwise be able to afford to participate to recreation programs offered by the City of Mississauga. Tim Horton's free holiday skates are also offered by the City of Mississauga. The City must not only consider the cost to participate in activities, but also the ancillary costs of participation (e.g., public transit and the cost of hiring a babysitter), particularly in less affluent neighbourhoods. The Peel Community Report, prepared by the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group in November 2008, identified that the Central-South area of Mississauga had the highest concentration of recent immigrants with 11,535, the highest percentage of recent immigrants by ward at 16%, and the highest rate of poverty, at 23%, as defined by the Low Income Cut Off. Recent immigrants had a median income of \$15,000 compared to the overall median of \$28,000.

Shifting Interests in Volunteering and Social Commitment

According to Imagine Canada's 2004 report, entitled *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, seniors in Canada have traditionally provided the greatest number of volunteer hours of any age group. In Canada, the average number of volunteer hours for those aged 45 to 64 was 190 hours per year, compared to those aged 65 plus who volunteered on average 245 hours per year. However, the volunteer participation rate (the percentage of individuals in a particular age group volunteering) is higher for those aged 45 to 64 than Canadians 65 years of age or older.

International Research – As the Baby Boomer generation begins to reach retirement, there is concern that this group as a whole may not be as dedicated as past generations. A recent publication by the United States Corporation for National and Community Services (USCNCS) found the following characteristics of Baby Boomers in relation to volunteering:

- Baby Boomers have higher volunteer participation rates than past generations had at the same ages – but a lower number of volunteer hours per year per person.
- Baby Boomers have different volunteer interests (e.g., education and cultural organizations) than past generations.
- Approximately 3 out of every 10 Baby Boomer volunteers dropped out of volunteering each year, which highlights the necessity for awareness and promotion of volunteering.
- The likelihood of continuing to volunteer increased as an individual's participation hours in volunteer activities rises.
- Retention of Baby Boomer volunteers is related to the type and nature of volunteer activity – volunteer retention is lowest for those who provide general labour²⁴.

Recognizing that Baby Boomers will need to be targeted to promote volunteering, the USCNCS has undertaken an awareness campaign. Their slogan, published across the United States reads '*Get Involved! Lead. Inspire. Change the World. Again.*' The study also identified the shift in the types of organizations that 41 to 59-year-olds volunteered with in 1989 and in 2003-2005. The data suggested that while overall volunteer participation rates within this age group are declining in most sectors, growth is being seen in educational and youth service, as well as social and community service sectors.

Mississauga's Situation – The City of Mississauga has an active volunteer force, and the City's Parks and Recreation Division utilizes volunteers in a variety of ways, including program delivery, parks maintenance and interpretation. The City focuses its volunteer

resources in the areas of aquatics, camps, youth activities, museums and special interest. The City also has a Parks Community Stewardship Program that allows residents with an interest in horticulture and the environment the opportunity to contribute to community parks. The Mississauga Seniors' Centre also provides its members with opportunities to volunteer in a number of capacities, including positions with committees that serve the senior community. For example, the Garden Café at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre is operated by a group of senior volunteers. As volunteer numbers decrease, greater pressure will be placed on staff to provide for services. Consideration may need to be given to increasing support to volunteers.

Partnerships

Emerging consumer demands and shifting economic conditions have caused many communities to pursue partnership approaches that dramatically differ from traditional service delivery mechanisms. Partnerships, alliances and collaborative relationships of varying types are required in today's economy to effectively and efficiently provide for the leisure needs of citizens. Not only is there growing interest in public-private partnerships (P3s), but also in arrangements with Trusts acting on behalf of community organizations and formal operating or cost sharing relationships with school boards as well as user/community groups. A 2006 survey that investigated the level of support amongst Canadians for P3s, found that 9 out of 10 Canadians believe that Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments are not keeping pace with demand for new or improved public infrastructure services²¹.

²¹The Canadian Council for Public Private Partnership (2006). Trends in Canadian Support for Public Private Partnerships. Available online at: www.pppcouncil.ca

International Research – King County, Washington utilizes a Community Partnerships and Grants Program that serves as a performance measure which guides the development of community-based partnerships. The County found that in 2007, recreational opportunities provided by structured community partnerships served 12,100 users. The County’s goal was to more than double this figure in 2008. An additional 12,500 users were served through non-structured community-based partnerships. The County has vowed to continue to make strategic investments through its Grant Program so that a greater number of its residents can benefit from community recreation opportunities.

Mississauga’s Situation – Facilitating partnerships with external service providers and maximizing on the internal strengths of the community will allow Mississauga to provide the best possible service to its residents. Partnerships should use a standardized protocol and be subject to consistent monitoring in order to ensure that maximum and equitable benefit is provided to all parties, especially the end user. Mississauga currently employs partnerships in a variety of areas, including the *Next Step to Active Living* program, which is a joint effort between the City and the Credit Valley Hospital with funding support from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. In 2002, the World Health Organization Kobe Centre created the Mississauga Model, which is a reflection of the relationship between the University of Toronto and the City of Mississauga that helped to “bridge the gap between research and policy-making.”

A.5 Trends Pertaining to Older Adults & Seniors

Given that the City of Mississauga recently commissioned an Older Adult Plan (2008), which was prepared by MBPC and recently presented to the General Committee, this subsection will revisit many of the trends identified in that report. The trends section of the 2008

Older Adult Plan was largely based upon trends brought forth in the 1999 and 2004 City of Mississauga Future Directions (also prepared by MBPC), serving to emphasize the importance of these ideas for the City of Mississauga, particularly as the Baby Boomer population enters the older adult and senior age groups. According to Statistic Canada’s 2004 report, *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*, older adults are the most vulnerable group to illness and injury and research has shown that it is critical that this age group continue to participate in physical activity. In Canada, the older adult population is the most sedentary segment of the adult population. With rising rates of diabetes, cancer and heart diseases, the importance of regular physical exercise and/or regular movement has never been stronger. As such, this subsection will focus upon the needs of these age groups.

The ‘New’ Older Adult

The clear message for trends relating to the new older adult is that ‘one size does not fit all’. Not only will the next generation of older adults be more culturally diverse, but many will have the financial resources to participate in any type of activity or program they choose. The active living concept and a great focus on the mind, body and soul will need to be reflected in the types of programs and services offered as the Baby Boomer population ages. An example of the growth in active living is the rise in participation rates for both yoga and Pilates.

This new generation of older adults is predicted to cycle through periods of work and leisure. While they may retire from their ‘career’, many will go on to work part-time or start new endeavours. This may shift the traditional hours at which municipal services, facilities, and programs need to be offered. Lifelong learning (the continuation and extension of education) will be considered a leisure pursuit, as opposed to work by many older adults, potentially creating pressures on library services. While certain pressures on library and other

community services will be alleviated as the proportion of children in Mississauga slowly decreases, the shift is not equal; there will be significantly more older adults added to Mississauga's population than the decrease occurring in the young population.

Furthermore, Baby Boomer women are more educated and independent than previous generations. It is predicted that there will be a larger shift in demand for City services, facilities and programs from women as their role in society has changed dramatically in the last 30 years. A recent study by Statistics Canada, entitled *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*, found that 55-64 year olds with a university degree are 5 times more likely to be involved in cultural, educational, civic or hobby activity than those with less than a high school degree (2006). This will be particularly important for Mississauga, as the 2006 Census found that 38.4% of residents over the age of 15 had either a college diploma or university degree, compared to the Provincial average of 34.7%.

Barriers to Participation for Older Adults and Seniors

The *Seniors Report Card*, published by the Government of Canada in 2006, found that 45% of persons age 65-74 and 72% of those aged 75 plus face activity limitation in their daily lives. This underscores the necessity to ensure that barriers to participation are addressed. According to the Active Aging Coalition for Older Adults (1999), there are six key factors that, in general, prevent the older adults from participating in municipal services, facilities, and programs:

- Poor accessibility, which can include a lack of transportation or a lack of available facilities;
- Safety concerns, including fear of injury and a lack of a safe place to be active;
- Lack of available or accessible information on available programs and services – this is a particular concern for those who are not able to understand English;
- Little physical and emotional support from family or friends;

- Lack of motivation, which is often a result of lower self-worth and view that they are not valuable to society; and
- Inability to afford the cost of participating in programs or receiving particular services.

Furthermore, barriers in the physical landscape can prevent older adults from participating. The Cities of Toronto (1999) and Kelowna (2006) provided examples of tools that assist in mitigating barriers in the physical landscape, including: power sliding doors, escalators, edge warning tiles, elevators, way finding tiles, improved lighting, railing and hand hold markings, Braille at designated waiting areas, accessible washrooms and low floor buses. To assist in providing more information to older adults, emphasis should be placed on outreach activities where there are concentrations of older adult housing arrangements (e.g., older adult retirement homes). Partnering with community organizations will aid in ensuring that information is provided to the more vulnerable older adult groups.

International Research – The World Health Organization (2006) prepared a report entitled *Promoting Physical Activity and Active Living in Urban Environments*, within which the specific needs of older adults and seniors are among those discussed. The need for these age groups to be able to conveniently access trails, parks, shopping, and other amenities within aesthetically pleasing surroundings was expressed as a way to address the interaction between the built environment and physical activity. This is particularly important for seniors, who are often not as mobile and may not feel comfortable in certain situations or locations. In a study by the Government of Western Australia's Department of Sport and Recreation, the top barrier to participation was 'poor health' (24.4% of Western Australians aged 60 and over in 2002), and others included: limited or inappropriate opportunities; lack of information and negative attitudes towards fitness; lack of confidence; lack of time; and cost.

Mississauga's Situation – The City of Mississauga will need to examine its current inventory of facilities and assess the possibilities for eliminating physical barriers. The 2008 Older Adult Plan recommended a number of actions for the City to undertake with regards to removing or diminishing the impact of many of the barriers to participation experienced by the older adult and senior population of Mississauga, including:

- Offer a variety of services at community centres and/or libraries to reduce travel barriers;
- Develop a Retrofit Plan to enhance City roadway signage to improve way finding for drivers, where feasible;
- Develop a checklist for development plan review to determine barriers that may exist for older adults;
- Enhance communication strategies to accommodate sensory disabilities; and
- Promote the inclusion and support of seniors and older adults through visitation, assistance, programming, etc.

Activity Choices of Older Adults

While there will be an inevitable shift towards less vigorous forms of exercise for some, there is strong evidence that the adult active recreation market is growing. More adults are interested in pursuing the recreational activities of their youth – this is true of both hockey and soccer. Trends indicate that older adults, on average, have a greater interest in fitness than previous generations, resulting in increased demand for facilities such as warm-water swimming and therapeutic pools. Older adults have less need for program subsidies due to higher average income levels; as previously mentioned, ability to pay should be the basis for any subsidy, not age.

International Research – The importance of planning for this age group is paramount in California, as California State Parks (2006) expects the state's senior population to double by 2020. The report also noted that while the Baby Boomers are currently reaching

retirement age, this group will be reaching the age of 85 between 2030 and 2040, which will necessitate an entirely new outlook on seniors' services and facilities.

Mississauga's Situation – The City of Mississauga currently has the Mississauga Seniors' Centre (for residents aged 60 and over), the Square One Older Adult Centre (for residents aged 50 and over), and numerous Seniors' Clubs (generally for residents of different ethnic backgrounds or area of residence). The City of Mississauga is making a concerted effort to promote active living and active aging among its older adult population through programs such as 'Keep Fit for Bones', 'Gentle Joint & Stretch' and 'Fit Fellows', as well as day trips, lifelong learning opportunities (e.g., computer skills, gardening and creative writing) and cultural groups (e.g., painting and dancing classes). In Peel Region, approximately 14% of seniors have been diagnosed with diabetes and Health Canada (2002) suggested that Canadian older adults that are most at risk for poor health include those: with low incomes, living in institutions, low income women, and/or are isolated individuals. Particular focus should be placed on ensuring that women become more physically active, as they tend to participate less in physical activities than men. Passive activities that appeal to the more traditional senior population (e.g., cards and bingo) are also offered.

A.6 Emerging trends

The following trends have emerged or become more prevalent since Mississauga's 2004 Future Direction.

Growth Patterns and Residential Intensification

The Places to Grow Act (2005) is a provincial initiative that ensures that "growth plans reflect the needs, strengths and opportunities of the communities involved, and promotes growth that balances the needs of the economy with the environment." The rapid expansion of

urban areas across the province, particularly in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, has necessitated the consideration of managing future growth through intensification of our existing footprint. Increased densities in existing urban areas can place significant pressure on older facilities, many of which were not built to sustain higher levels of use (nor are some built to modern standards). Furthermore, land is at a premium in intensifying areas and it will become increasingly difficult to acquire sufficient parkland to serve a growing population. Neighbourhood-based planning is becoming a trend in large urban municipalities who are trying to decentralize services to respond to specific neighbourhood demographics.

International Research – England is currently experiencing similar intensification pressures to those faced by many Canadian cities, including the City of Mississauga. The Design Council (2009) identifies the “battle between urban sprawl and compact City living”, which will necessitate the provision of more amenities in a higher density area. The Project for Public Spaces (PPS) has created mixed-use development plans that ensure infill development is planned while still integrating public recreation spaces into the community, thereby ensuring that all residents (not just those that live in the suburbs) have access to public space. For example, in Raleigh, North Carolina, PPS was able to assist the City in creating guidelines and a plan for updating a historic neighbourhood into a mixed-use (business, residential, historic area, parks, etc.) community.

Mississauga's Situation – Mississauga is projected to grow by approximately 21,060 people by 2014, the end of the master planning period. The City is currently preparing its Development Charges study, which may further refine this figure. Projected growth and future intensification plans will be key elements in the planning of parks, recreation, cultural and library facilities. One of the four key strategic directives that are serving as the basis for the City's Growth

Management Strategy is the need to build complete communities. The City has recognized that many past developments are not be able to easily accommodate the forthcoming intensification the Growth Management Strategy recommends. The City does, however, recognize the importance of providing multimodal neighbourhoods wherein active transportation (e.g., walking, cycling, etc.) is encouraged through both design and promotion.

The Master Plan's needs assessment will need to consider the impact of residential intensification on existing facilities and parks and their ability to handle the needs of future populations. *Building Mississauga Around Places: A Vision for City Centre Parks and Open Spaces in the 21st Century* is a document that was prepared for the Project for Public Spaces in 2006 to create a vision for revitalizing public spaces in and around downtown Mississauga. The City was commended on its safe environment, fast rate of growth, plethora of industry and commercial presence, outstanding facilities, above average income and educational attainment (2001 Census data), and the fact that it is a leader in the Healthy Cities movement. The City should continue to build upon these achievements as it moves forward with intensification. The City's Waterfront Parks Strategy (2008) suggests a number of strategies that are universal across the type of recreation facility or opportunity, and should be held in consideration by the City in its planning for growth and intensification to maintain a universal message. For example, the Strategy discusses the importance of connectivity (emotional, physical and visual), identity, sustainability, transportation, parking, natural and cultural heritage, signage, environmental design, circulation (of traffic), waterfront activities and facilities, education and interpretation, seasonal use, landscaping, buildings and structures, design amenities, service infrastructure, and accessibility. Each of these areas is applicable to the design and provision of growth-related infrastructure.

Neighbourhood-based Facility Planning

The successful management of growth and intensification may require any number of planning strategies, including a direct focus on the needs of individual neighbourhoods as they relate to the municipality as a whole. The goal of neighbourhood planning is “to build social capital, which is the ability of the neighborhood (sic) to organize itself to identify problems and solve them in partnership with elected officials, businesses, and public agencies.”²² On the level of facility planning, neighbourhood level considerations must include the history of the community, demographics, housing options that are applicable to the residents (existing and future), safety, and education and recreation opportunities.

International Research – The City of Madison, Wisconsin has more than 120 neighbourhood associations that each work with the City to develop plans that are reflective of each community’s needs and expected growth²³. Since 2001, the City of Portland, Maine has employed a Neighbourhood-Based Planning System, within which citizens of affected neighbourhoods are invited to be a part of the City’s Development Review Process through public notices, meetings and workshops, which will lead to the Neighbourhood Foundation Plan²⁴. The goal of this Plan is to strategically assess each neighbourhood, define its assets, and create a vision and goals. Land use, prioritized issues, physical planning and policy issues associated with each specific neighbourhood are considered in future

²² Colombo, L. & Balizer, K. (2005). *Introduction to Neighborhood Planning*. Available at: http://www.neighborhoodplanning.org/topic1_intro.htm.

²³ Department of Planning & Development. (n.d.). *The City of Madison’s Neighbourhood Plans*. Available at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/ndp/index.html>.

²⁴ Planning & Urban Development Department. (n.d.). *Neighborhood Foundation Plan*. Available at: <http://www.portlandplanning.org/neighborhood.asp>.

planning, as is the integration of each neighbourhood with the City’s overall Comprehensive Plan.

Mississauga’s Situation – The most applicable strategy for the City of Mississauga may be neighbourhood-based facility planning in part due to its commitment to completing neighbourhoods as one of its ‘Strategic Pillars for Change’ in the 2006 Strategic Plan. The City’s Growth Management Strategy is the document through which the Strategic Plan is to be implemented, and identifies a number of urban structures: Urban Growth Centre; Major Nodes; Community Nodes, Intensification Corridors; and Stable Residential Neighbourhoods. The last of these will require the City to focus on improving connectivity between facilities and residential areas. The City must weigh the benefits of large centralized facilities and neighbourhood level facilities that would be located in lower density areas. The City has sought community support on strategic planning issues through *Our Future Mississauga Community Engagement & Directions Report*, and the issues of place-making, land use and growth were identified as drivers for change by residents of Mississauga.

Creating Public Squares

With the trend toward intensification instead of further suburban sprawl, municipalities will be required to provide recreational spaces for a growing number of residents on a rapidly shrinking amount of land. Within an intensification scenario, such as that which Mississauga is entering, there are limited opportunities to receive land that might be smaller in area, but at a higher financial cost.

International Research – The public square is becoming a necessary magnet for downtown residents to recreate, with examples including: Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco; New York City’s Union Square; Piazza Maggiore in Bologna, Italy; St. Stephen’s Green in Dublin, Ireland; and squares in Verona, Italy and in Copenhagen, Denmark. These squares play important roles in the cities within which they are

located, as they offer public space where residents and visitors alike can participate in primarily passive recreation opportunities within walking distance of their homes.

Mississauga's Situation – Mississauga is entering a time of greater intensification and redevelopment within which much of the City's new population will be located in intensified neighbourhoods. The City of Mississauga must consider the inclusion of public space in the downtown core, and must determine whether it will be able to provide small scale creative play structures for children, spray pads or other cooling features, unprogrammed green space and/or small sports fields.

Summary

A number of trends are affecting the provision of recreation services and facilities ranging from those influencing a person's participation, ideal facility design templates and the way in which services are delivered. Remaining apprised of trends, both existing and emerging, positions the City to be able to respond to future requests and ensure its recreation planning practices remain current and effective.

Table A-17: Trends Mentioned in Previous Plans Prepared by MBPC for the City of Mississauga

Trend	Future Directions (1999)	Future Directions (2004)	Older Adult Plan (2008)	Applicable Going Forward?
Time as the Primary Barrier to Participation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Access for Individuals with Disabilities		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increasing Pressure on the Need for Accessible Transportation Opportunities			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased Community Diversity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increasingly Sedentary Population		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Benefits of Leisure		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Multi-purpose High Quality Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aging Infrastructure		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Extreme and Emerging Sports and Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facility Design Elements		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing Recreation, Parks and Culture and the Ability to Pay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shifting Interests in Volunteering and Social Commitment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barriers to Participation for Older Adults and Seniors			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Activity Choices of Older Adults			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The 'New' Older Adult		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Growth Patterns and Residential Intensification			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Squares				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: While these trends may not have been titled the same way in previous documents, this table addresses whether the ideas were expressed within the 1999 and/or 2004 Future Directions and/or the 2008 Older Adult Plan.

Appendix B: Recreation-Specific Recommendations from Other Studies

Youth Plan (Draft – May 2009)

1. Establish an equitable discounted fare system for all ages.
2. Explore the option for provision of transit strip tickets to youth Fee Assistant Participants.
3. Explore the combining of swipe cards with other City of Mississauga applications for facilities, programs and services.
4. Assess the need for increased service for specific routes and/or times for youth.
5. Assess the need for transit stops in proximity to community facilities such as community centres and arena, libraries and high schools.
6. Introduce and expand low cost and no charge drop-in programming in priority neighbourhoods directed at ages 15-17 to a total of 23 new locations by 2011.
7. Allocate additional annual operating budget to support city-driven initiatives addressing youth event programming and drop-in recreation targets at ages 15-24 (city-wide).
8. Continue and expand the At Play program and develop a mentoring component in priority neighbourhoods to address ages 10-14.
9. Develop more trade apprenticeship opportunities for youth within City departments.
10. Market City apprenticeship opportunities to high school students and co-op teachers.
11. Develop an awareness campaign to encourage young people to volunteer in civic and community based programs and activities.
12. Explore feasibility of additional facilities city-wide such as extreme sports and skateboarding and a community centre in the Northwest.
13. Dedicate 1 existing full time staff complement to support, monitor and implement the Youth Plan over the next 4 years.
14. Provide a budget allocation to support the Youth Plan Coordinator.
15. Develop a city-wide Advisory Team of youth to support the Youth Plan Coordinator in the implementation of the Youth Plan.
16. Develop an Advisory Committee of youth in each community centre/library to engage and consult youth on a regular basis.
17. Develop a city-wide staff network team to liaise with Youth Advisory Team (similar to the Environment staff network team).
18. That the Youth Plan Coordinator facilitates regular opportunities for City Councillors to engage with local community centre/library Youth Advisory Committees.
19. Identify and utilize existing youth-serving agencies and organizations to maximize communication with youth regarding existing opportunities available to them.
20. Develop and provide training on “working with youth effectively”, to City staff, Councillors and community organizations.

21. Provide training and support enabling youth to conduct “word of mouth” and “face-to-face” promotion of youth opportunities.
22. Promote opportunities for youth on boards, committees, or Council-appointed groups that relate to youth.
23. Host an annual youth-led symposium that brings together youth advisory groups, youth councils, and youth boards involved with both the City and community-based organizations.
24. Develop various means of communication such as walk-up (face-to-face) and on-line portals for youth to provide feedback on City services.
25. Develop mentoring programs in all priority neighbourhoods targeting ages 15-19 with community partners.
26. Address priority social issues, needs and supports for young people by working with community partners.
27. Develop promote and implement a corporate policy (Fee Assistance Program) to ensure that under-represented youth have the ability to participate in community and city-run programs.
28. Utilize “youth to youth” and contemporary methods of communication to increase awareness of programs and services available to underrepresented youth segments of the population.
29. Develop and ensure that all City corporate policies are youth-friendly.
30. Facilitate a series of citywide events that connect youth who are different from one another and build new relationships.
31. The City work with the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network to obtain Federal funding to address youth violence, gang issues and gang prevention in Mississauga.³
32. Request that the Region of Peel develop a full time advocate position to assist young residents to navigate social services, and ensure they receive adequate resources from regional and community organizations.
33. That Mississauga youth are involved in the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network initiative.
34. Increase the Corporate Grant program to support new partnership initiatives that address youth needs ages 15-24 within priority neighbourhoods of the city.
35. Increase opportunities and locations of programming related to entertainment (dance, music, video) and art activities for ages 19-24 within the city.
36. Increase the locations of informal/drop-in equipment (e.g. basketball backboards etc.) within the city by working with community partners.
37. Compile an inventory on-line of youth programs and services with community partners.
38. Work with the Boards of Education to gain access to local schools to deliver collaborative programs with social service partners.
39. Develop a community inventory of existing and potential new spaces to provide structured and unstructured youth activities.
40. Develop a peer (youth to youth) marketing approach to promote City programs, services and facilities available for youth.

41. Develop an awareness campaign to build a greater public understanding between generations.
42. Work with community partners to provide both structured and unstructured intergenerational programming and activities in public parks during the day and evening.
43. Encourage community partners to develop reciprocal mentorship programming across all age groups (youth to youth and intergenerational).
44. Investigate the feasibility of developing and sustaining “youth spaces” in the community with community partners based on community need.
45. Work with community partners to provide both structured and unstructured intergenerational programming and activities in public parks during the day and evening.
46. Encourage community partners to develop reciprocal mentorship programming across all age groups (youth to youth and intergenerational).
47. Investigate the feasibility of developing and sustaining “youth spaces” in the community with community partners based on community need.
48. Facilitate a network of employers and community organizations on a semi-annual basis to promote collaboration in the training and/or employment of youth.
49. Encourage the expansion of high school co-op placements with local businesses and community agencies.

Older Adult Plan (2008)

1. Form an Older Adult Advisory Committee (‘OAAC’) with staff resources to assist in implementing the Older Adult Project. Recommendations regarding older adult services and programs should come through the OAAC.
2. The Older Adult Advisory Committee should hold an annual forum with older adult service providers (e.g. recreational, cultural, educational, etc.) to identify gaps in service and monitor emerging trends related to Mississauga older adults.
3. The Older Adult Advisory Committee should establish an Older Adult Transportation Sub-Committee to monitor the travel needs of older adults, including transit, driving, cycling, walking, and hiking activities
4. Develop a new staff position at the City of Mississauga with the job title of ‘City-wide Coordinator of Older Adult Services’. This staff person will be a resource to the Older Adult Advisory Committee.
5. Remove the minimum age requirements for all leisure programs geared towards older adults.
6. Begin to incorporate the term “older adult” as opposed to “senior” for all facilities, services, and programs directed towards residents 55 years of age or older.
7. Incorporate components of the older adult segmentation terminology into descriptions of older adult programs and services.
8. In partnership with the Region of Peel, ensure that the Health City Stewardship Centre is provided with any information on programs and issues that will assist them in improving the local health of older adults.

9. Expand direct older adult programming in the prime time hours at select community centres, pools, parks, and libraries to accommodate those who are still working (test pilot a select group of Community Centres where there is a higher concentration of older adults in the area)
10. Develop an “Access Policy” that is based on annual personal income and the number of dependents.
11. Provide a transition period as the City of Mississauga implements the “Access Policy”. The following phasing could be:
 - a. Residents born prior to 1935 could receive the traditional senior subsidy.
 - b. Residents born between 1935 and 1944 could receive a variation of the traditional seniors’ subsidy for 5 years after the “Access Policy” is established.
 - c. Residents born between 1945 and 1954 could receive a lesser variation of the traditional seniors’ subsidy for 5 years after the “Access Policy” is established.
12. Develop an “Access Card” for entry to both municipal community centres and libraries. This card should be linked to information on individual users, including eligibility for subsidies. Consult with the Region of Peel to establish a ‘one card’ system to access both municipal and regional programs and services.
13. Develop an awareness campaign to ensure that Mississauga residents are cognizant of the fee changes associated with the Access Policy and the requirements necessary to receive subsidies.
14. Offer certain programs and activities for free to persons of all ages at specific facilities.
15. Certain services catering to older adults should strive to be provided at existing public facilities or Nodes (as defined in Mississauga Plan). The City of Mississauga should improve customer service by optimizing the services offered at community centres and libraries. Services could include but are not limited to:
 - a. The Post Office;
 - b. Health Nurses;
 - c. Foot Clinics;
 - d. Healthcare Aid Rentals;
 - e. Region of Peel and Province of Ontario pamphlets; and
 - f. City of Mississauga application forms, garbage tags, pet licenses, and possibly the ability to pay taxes.
16. Develop a Retrofit Plan to enhance City roadway signage to improve way finding for drivers, where feasible.
17. Fully Implement the City of Mississauga Accessibility Plan.
18. Staff and volunteers should continue to provide inclusive leisure programs and activities.
19. Update the 2007 Mississauga Accessibility Design Handbook to include the design of trail signs (name, length, maximum grade, width, surface, condition, etc). Establish Geographical Positioning System coordinates in Mississauga parks to assist users in identifying their location (way finding).
20. Fire and Emergency Services should continually monitor the frequency of calls placed by older adults for medical emergencies and fire. Response times should also be monitored.

21. Based on demand, improve transit frequencies during off-peak periods where there is a cluster of services geared towards older adults.
22. Provide transit stops in proximity to community facilities, such as, community centres, libraries, high schools, and arenas. Transit stops should be located at a controlled intersection (signal or all-way stop). Public Works may need to evaluate the locations for controlled access locations at community facilities.
23. Assist the Greater Toronto Transport Authority in fully implementing the GTA FareCard by 2010.
24. Under the next comprehensive review of the Mississauga Official Plan, identify that a goal of the Plan is to promote the location of vital services such as doctors, pharmacies, grocery stores and community centres to Nodes
25. Develop a checklist for development plan review (site plan, plan of subdivision, and plan of condominium) to determine what barriers may exist for older adults.
26. Install countdown walk signals at signalized intersections and provide pedestrian islands or roadway narrowings, where appropriate, to improve pedestrian safety.
27. Lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to offer property tax credits for individuals on low incomes.
28. Promote the benefits of employing Mississauga's skilled older adult work force to local employers. The City of Mississauga should set an example by considering older adults for jobs within the Corporation.
29. Encourage local professional businesses to offer educational classes through the library system, including nutritionists, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, eye care professionals, lawyers, financial providers, etc.
30. Increase the number of municipally facilitated educational courses geared towards older adults through partnerships with community education providers. Classes should focus on peer-learning to give older adults a sense of ownership over their learning.
31. Continue to monitor programs offered by service clubs, private recreation businesses, the City, and other service delivery agencies to determine which programs are well-liked amongst each segment of the older adult population. Using this information, the City should adjust new municipal programs to best meet the needs of the community.
32. Develop a partnership between the proposed Older Adult Advisory Committee, Mississauga Halton LHIN, and the Seniors' Integrated Model Committee, for the establishment of common health goals for residents of the City of Mississauga and other key players (e.g. Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing; 2020 Vision – Fair Share Task Force; Metamorphosis Network).
33. Develop a program series at certain community centres and libraries on preventing and/or living with ailments such as heart attacks, strokes, cancer, etc. Programs will be designed to provide tools to improve physical and mental health and to receive peer support.
34. Partner with local hospitals and medical providers to offer the following health resources at select community centres, libraries, and/or Nodes:
 - a. *Information on health matters;*
 - b. *Public health nurses;*
 - c. *Walk-in-clinics; and*
 - d. *Foot Clinics.*

35. Provide food services (coffee shops or snack bars) within certain community centres, where it is warranted. Seating and tables should be provided adjacent to the food services.
36. Establish a web page on the City's corporate website to act as the central municipal information resource for older adult residents.
37. Publish a guide of older adult services, facilities, and programs ('Older Adult Guide') to be posted on the City's Older Adult Webpage. Ensure that the guide is readable, with larger font sizes. The proposed Older Adult Guide should include information such as:
 - Information on community organizations (non-for profit and private providers) serving the older adult population;
 - Information on filing for the Canadian Transit Tax Credit;
 - Accessible Transit Route Maps; and
 - Tips from the Mississauga Emergency Plan.
38. Develop an information package for residents entering older adulthood, including the proposed Older Adult Guide and any brochures available on local programs, services, and volunteer opportunities. The package should be available at all City facilities.
39. Update the City of Mississauga website to:
 - a. *Have three font sizes available— small, medium and large;*
 - b. *Use a sans serif typeface (e.g. Helvetica);*
 - c. *Avoid using yellow, blue and green colours in close proximity; and*
 - d. *Avoid the use of patterned backgrounds.*
40. Provide a list of accessible facilities and programs on the City's proposed Older Adult Webpage.
41. Provide a link on the Older Adult Webpage to the City's Emergency Planning Webpage and the Region of Peel's older adult related web pages.
42. Develop promotional material to inform local businesses of the benefits of offering shuttle services to bring older adults to their place of business.
43. Develop an awareness campaign to encourage family members and friends to assist older adults in reaching required destinations.
44. Develop a campaign to promote the benefits of starting local community groups, such as walking clubs and tai chi in the park.
45. Develop a media campaign emphasizing that learning and physical activity can start at any age.
46. Ensure that Mississauga's older adults are aware of day/food programs offered by the Region of Peel.
47. Develop an awareness campaign, possibly in conjunction with the existing 'Good Neighbour' program, to encourage residents to assist older adults in snow and leaf removal.
48. Develop a forward thinking awareness campaign to encourage older adults to volunteer in the community. The campaign should focus on the valuable skills they offer and their ability to change the community for the better.
49. Hold special transit educational/marketing events where older adults can ride for a reduced fare to become more accustomed to using Mississauga Transit.

Chart 3-1: Service Areas for Recommended Public Facilities

Community Centre	Service Area*	Existing Older Adult Programs	Existing Facilities
Mississauga Valley Community Centre & Branch Library	7,828	Computer introduction for seniors, gentle low impact fitness, group weight training, aquafit, Bocce Club	Fitness centre, nature trails, multipurpose rooms, computer stations, fire place and lounge (library).
Frank McKechnie Community Centre & Branch Library	9,610	Low impact yoga, aquafit, daytime space for older adults.	Hydro massage tank and swimming pool, computer stations, full size gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, and fire place/lounge area (library).
Cooksville Branch Library	9,830	n/a	Internet workstations, lounge areas, and computer stations.
Malton Community Centre & Branch Library	7,500	Dancing, cards, Asian bingo, Caribbean cards & social, and exercise.	Lounge area/fireplace (library), swimming pool, double gymnasium, fitness centre, and meeting rooms.
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre & Branch Library	12,980	Seniors Room; euchre, cards, potlucks, Osteo Class, Croatian chess & cards, bingo, Indo Canadian cards & social, June seniors tea and displays, income tax clinic, Adult Book Club, Amica book club.	Full size gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, snack bar, and computer stations.

*Number of older adults (55+)
Source: Older Adult Plan, 2008

50. The following facilities should continue to place a high priority on programming and services for older adults:
- a. *Clarkson Community Centre & Clarkson Branch Library;*
 - b. *South Common Community Centre & South Common Branch Library;*
 - c. *River Grove Community Centre; and*
 - d. *Meadowvale Community Centre & Meadowvale Branch Library*

51. The following facilities will be the top priority for new programs geared towards older adults, as well as becoming community nodes for services:
- a. *Mississauga Valley Community Centre & Mississauga Valley Branch Library;*
 - b. *Frank McKechnie Community Centre & Frank McKechnie Branch Library;*
 - c. *Cooksville Branch Library;*
 - d. *Malton Community Centre & Malton Branch Library; and*
 - e. *Burnhamthorpe Community Centre & Burnhamthorpe Branch Library.*

52. The following physical improvements should be undertaken at the above-noted facilities to accommodate older adult needs:

Facility	Existing Setup	Recommended Improvements	Recommended Services
Mississauga Valley Community Centre	Fitness centre, swimming pool, nature trails, multipurpose rooms.	Lounge area, access to a light lunch and dedicated older adult program space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Post Office; ▪ Health Nurses; ▪ Foot Clinics; ▪ Healthcare Aid Rentals; ▪ Region of Peel and Province of Ontario pamphlets; and ▪ City of Mississauga application forms, garbage tags, pet licenses, and possibly the ability to pay taxes.
Mississauga Valley Branch Library	Computer stations, fire place and lounge area.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Frank McKechnie Community Centre	Hydro massage tank and swimming pool, full size gymnasium, and multipurpose rooms.	Lounge area, dedicated older adult program space, and access to a light lunch.	
Frank McKechnie Branch Library	Computer stations and fire place/lounge area.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Cooksville Branch Library	Internet workstations, lounge areas, and computer stations.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Malton Community Centre	Swimming pool, double gymnasium, fitness centre, and meeting rooms.	Lounge area, dedicated older adult program room, and access to a light lunch.	
Malton Branch Library	Lounge area with fireplace.	Access to snacks/beverages.	
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre	Full size gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, and snack bar.	Warm water pool, dedicated older adult program space, and access to snacks/beverages.	
Burnhamthorpe Branch Library	Computer stations with internet access.	Lounge area and access to snacks/beverages.	

Source: Older Adult Plan, 2008

53. Develop a campaign to raise awareness on injury and fall prevention and opportunities to promote safety.
54. The following facilities should continue to place a high priority on programming and services for older adults:
- Clarkson Community Centre & Clarkson Branch Library;*
 - South Common Community Centre & South Common Branch Library;*
 - River Grove Community Centre; and*
 - Meadowvale Community Centre & Meadowvale Branch Library*

Chart 3-2: Service Areas for Recommended Public Facilities

Community Centre	Service Area*	Existing Older Adult Programs	Existing Facilities
Clarkson Community Centre & Clarkson Branch Library	4,955	Yoga for seniors, Income tax clinics, Computer basics for seniors, Clarkson seniors association, Fitness, Crafts, Dancing, Cards, Tai Chi, Bowling, and Day trips.	Full size gymnasium and Outdoor Pool.
South Common Community Centre & South Common Branch Library	7,550	Yoga for seniors, Credit Valley Seniors use meeting rooms, Income tax clinics, Adult book club, Computer basics for seniors, Seniors tea in June, Seniors Room; Next Step to Active Living, Older adults swim time; Osteo fitness, Shuffle board, Blowing, Socials, Day trips, Low impact Fitness, Trail walk & tone, Cards, Dancing, Chair exercise, and Weight training.	Pool kept at 84F, multipurpose program space, meeting rooms, and full service fitness facility.
River Grove Community Centre	6,860	Dancing, Badminton, Cards, Fitness, Gentle Aquafit, Ping pong, and Tai chi.	Leisure pool, fitness centre, aerobic studio, meeting rooms, and public tennis courts.
Meadowvale Community Centre & Meadowvale Branch Library	5,820	Bowling, Crafts, Cribbage, Social, Cards, Fitness, Yoga, Aquafit, Partnerships with Community Police Station; Heritage Glen Book Club, Seniors' Open House, Computer basics for seniors, and Income Tax Clinics.	Swimming pool, fitness centre, and squash courts.

*Number of older adults (55+)

Source: Older Adult Plan, 2008

The Port Credit area was not identified as a priority due to its low number of older adults. As of 2006, the community had approximately 2,745 older adults.

55. Provide new older adult space in community facilities as opposed to constructing additional purpose built dedicated older adult facilities. The facilities listed in Action F-1 should be the first locations to develop new dedicated older adult space, followed by facilities in Action F-2. These dedicated spaces should be a quiet, yet warm and inviting room(s) where this group can go to socialize, seek support, and store their belongings.
56. The existing dedicated older adult centres (Square One Older Adult Centre, Mississauga Seniors Centre, and Streetsville Senior Citizens Centre) will continue to serve Mississauga Older Adults.
57. Provide an Older Adult Information Resource Centre space in certain large library branches with lounge areas or programming space, specialized directories, large print materials, and other resources of interest.
58. Deliver older adult programming, such that there is appropriate opportunity for the four segments of the older adult population to participate in programs and activities that suit their interests.
59. Consult and partner with local cultural organizations to determine gaps in programs geared towards ethnic groups and to develop inclusive programming.
60. Identify and brand clusters of ethnic enclaves to provide culturally and linguistically sensitive programming.
61. Prepare an information package on emergency preparedness for local organizations and groups to provide to their members.
62. On transit routes where stops are located at major intersections or transfer points, install digital information displays to show real time arrivals in the bus shelters.
63. Offer "Transit Travel Training" seminars to older adults.
64. Hold an annual volunteer fair to showcase the volunteer opportunities in Mississauga. The fair will provide an avenue for residents to meet with a variety of organizations.
65. Provide training sessions to all new and existing volunteers, as well as City staff, on the challenges, issues, and benefits of working with older adults. Provide diversity training where appropriate.
66. Develop a program to hire retired older adults to volunteer for the City (providing a nominal stipend) to assist with older adult programs, projects, and awareness campaigns.
67. Advocate for a volunteer resource centre to assist in volunteer recruitment, training, and placement.
68. Provide programming to allow older adults to mentor youth in the community, including tutoring and career information. Involve both the proposed Older Adult Advisory Committee and the City's Youth Committee in developing these mentorships.

Arena Provision Strategy (2004)

1. The City should reaffirm and, where necessary, revise its ice allocation policy to ensure that the policy meets the requirements of user groups, is consistent with current and emerging ice use trends and helps to maximize the efficient allotment of ice. This process should involve consultation with arena user groups and should consider setting a minimum threshold for adult use of arena ice time.
2. The City should develop an ice use policy to regulate the manner in which groups use allocated ice. This would involve obligations associated with minimum and maximum

participants per hour, implications of turning ice back to the City, codes of conduct, etc.

3. The City should establish a strategy through which the nuances of its ice use and allocation policies are effectively communicated to groups.
4. To facilitate the effective allocation of ice and to assist in accurately determining pent-up ice demand, the City should obligate its user groups to maintain waiting lists and to record the number of individuals who are prevented access to programs as a result of ice time shortages.
5. In order to meet the current and future ice time requirements of arena user groups for ice time, the City should undertake the following process:

(1) The City should investigate purchasing blocks of ice in arenas located in adjacent municipalities or from private sector operators. The ice time would be included in the City's inventory and allotted to user groups utilizing the allocation policy.

If the proceeding recommendation is either not possible or if insufficient ice time is available for purchase, then:

(2) The City should explore the development of a multiple pad, adult oriented facility in partnership with the private sector.

In undertaking this development strategy:

- a. 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.

- b. 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.
 - c. Given the economic and programmatic advantages of multiple ice surface facilities, any future municipal arena developments, including projects developed in partnership with private enterprise, should be either twin or quad pad complexes.
6. The City should automate its record keeping and administration functions including, where possible, administrative activities associated with ice allocation.
 7. The City should assign all associated costs to each arena unit.
 8. The City should revise the process of establishing ice rates to ensure that future rates are sufficient and consistent with the escalating costs of operations. There are issues that should be considered as part of the ice rate process revision.
 - The research for the Study suggests that the City could escalate its prime-time ice rate without placing significant stress on most user groups.
 - The City could extend its definition of prime-time to include the entire day on weekends, to maximize the application of the prime-time rate to the majority of marketable hours.

- The City could streamline and simplify its rate structure by reducing the number of price categories.
 - To maintain the relationship between price and operating costs, the City should establish a pricing approach that links rate escalations to a cost recovery threshold.
9. The City should control use protocols and procedures to ensure that ice within its inventory is utilized to its maximum efficiency. There are issues that should be considered as part of this recommendation.
- Allocated ice hours that become redundant and are no longer required by groups should be turned back to community services for re-allotment following the principles outlined in the allocation policy. Groups should not be allowed to trade ice or resell ice without the expressed approval of the City.
 - The City should use its web site or other technologies to promote the availability of ice and to encourage the uptake of ice for spot bookings, etc.
 - The City should encourage user groups to provide links from their individual web sites to the area on the City site promoting available ice. This would make it easier for coaches to become aware of open ice.
 - The City should attempt to assemble time that has been turned back or that has become available for other reasons, into blocks that may be suitable to accommodate tournaments and other uses.
 - The City should build on the notion of the Hershey and Iceland facilities being the City's primary tournament sites to reduce bumping and scheduling difficulties by having tournaments widely distributed throughout the arena system.
- The City should examine the use of "dangling hours" with a view to reducing the amount of unused ice (without creating scheduling or use complications for user groups).
 - While the Bowl (and to a lesser extent Rink 2) at the Hershey Centre is less available for unencumbered community use, it should be considered as a possible safety net of opportunity for available ice to assist the City when scheduling conflicts arise.
10. The City should maximize the financial performance of its ice inventory through adjustments to operating procedures, staff deployment and scheduling practices. Specific considerations include the following.
- The City should consider reallocating all daytime use to multiple pad facilities thereby allowing single pad arenas to remain closed until approximately 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. This rescheduling strategy would help to contain staff costs.
 - The City should consider consolidating use to certain arenas at the end of the ice season to facilitate the early removal of ice in other single pads in the inventory. Not only would this help to reduce operating costs, it would also expand the floor season and increase revenues by adding new hours available to floor users.