

Mississauga

ALIGNING THE CITY'S RECREATION MASTER PLAN AND THE FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA



**ACTIVE
LIVING**



**INCLUSION
AND ACCESS**



**CONNECTING PEOPLE
AND NATURE**



**SUPPORTIVE
ENVIRONMENTS**



**RECREATIONAL
CAPACITY**

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

Like many communities across Canada, the City of Mississauga faces challenges related to aging infrastructure, changing demographics, and the need to reduce access and inclusion barriers to programs and facility use. In order to address these challenges, city recreation staff embarked on a process to develop a new Recreation Strategic Master Plan. This involved a review of existing conditions and the development of recommendations on how to address these challenges. The *Framework for Recreation in Canada* served as a support document to the Strategy process and document, as its goals, specifically goals 1, 2 and 4 directly align with the issues the city is facing.

IMPLEMENTATION

In order to build a Recreation Strategic Master Plan, city recreation staff used the Recreation Framework as a base to test some of the ideas they had garnered through their consultation with stakeholders and staff early in the planning process. The Framework was also used as a guide, along with other sector documents, to gauge what other municipalities were doing.

The Master Planning process included:

- consultations with Council, stakeholders, staff and the public;
- development of background studies and reports;
- development and review of the draft Master Plan;
- staff and public feedback on the draft Master Plan; and,
- finalizing the Master Plan and presentation to Council.

The consultation and information-gathering stage of the work connected with close to 2,000 residents. It consisted of an online survey, augmented by a household phone survey (upwards of 800 residents, with an equitable distribution of responses from younger and older residents, females/males, etc.) and multiple facilitated stakeholder consultations. This comprehensive consultation helped to leverage relationships with the Department's many affiliated groups and to get their input for the draft master plan.

A workshop introducing the Recreation Framework, was held early in the process, during the consultation phase, which focussed on potential gaps and how the recommendations that staff would put forward for the Master Plan tied into the Framework.



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OUTCOMES

The City of Mississauga is developing five different Master Plans, all of which are connected to each other. The other Master Plans are for Culture, Fire, Library and Parks and Forestry.

The Recreation Framework for Canada aligns with many of these Master Plans. For example, the Parks & Forestry Plan reflects the principles and priorities of Goal 3 of the Framework - Connecting People and Nature.

Though the Master Plan for Recreation will not feature an explicit narrative comparing the Master Plan with the Framework, it is mentioned in the preamble. Those familiar with the Framework will see the principles and goals reflected in the recommendations.

A draft Master Plan for Recreation has been developed with a focus on the following goals and areas that are deemed to be significant priorities to address over the next five years:

1. Recreation facility needs
2. Access and inclusion
3. Service delivery for youth and older adults
4. Expanded program quality initiatives
5. Validating mandates for selected services
6. Core services and specialty programming
7. Recreation needs in intensification areas

The Draft Plans were presented to Council in December after which we conducted an Online Public Survey and held Public Information Centers to collect feedback on the Plans. A summary of the feedback was included in the Plans and we are currently preparing to take the Final Plans to Council on Jan 30, 2019 for approval.

The City expects to implement close to 80% of the recommendations over the next ten years. The plans, for the most part, provide strategic direction for each division so where they can collaborate across departments, they will.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Use the Recreation Framework as a guide but allow your process to unravel organically. Do not try to tie your Master plan exclusively to the Framework.
- Find the right time and way to introduce the Framework to the team developing the consultation and draft plan. And, being flexible, helps!
- Introduce City Council to the Framework before the planning process begins. This really helped in Mississauga. Councilors understood the content and importance of the Framework, which ultimately helped to get buy-in at the political level.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Framework Goal and Priority	Overall Framework (all goals as they relate to City master plan)
Population Addressed	All residents of the City of Mississauga
Community	Mississauga is the largest city in Peel Region of Ontario (population 750,000) 87% of residents are Canadian citizens; 53% are immigrants to Canada The 55+ population (currently 27%) is growing faster than other age groups. City of Mississauga recreation facilities Include: 11 community centres and 1 older adult centre, 13 arenas, 11 indoor pools, 7 outdoor pools, 6 community halls, 2 golf courses, 1 sport/event complex
Setting	Urban
Lead Implementer and Organization	City of Mississauga Recreation Division steered by the Recreation Leadership Team.
Key Partners	Community-based groups such as sport groups, healthcare providers, older adult and youth groups
Activity Focus	Master planning
Stage of Development	The City is developing five Master Plans, including one on Recreation. The draft plans were released on Dec 5th, 2018. Final Plans went to Council on Jan 30, 2019 for approval.