

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



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| <p>Date: October 10, 2023</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p> | <p>Originator's files:</p> |
| <p>From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services</p> | <p>Meeting date: November 1, 2023</p> |

Subject

2024 Future Directions Recreation Draft Plan

Recommendation

1. That staff be directed to consult with the public and groups with interest to obtain feedback on the draft plan outlined in the "2024 Future Directions Recreation Draft Plan" appended to this Corporate Report dated October 10, 2023 from the Commissioner of Community Services.
2. That the final plan be presented to Council for endorsement in the first quarter of 2024.

Executive Summary

- The 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan serves as the guiding document for the provision of facilities, services and programs in the City's Recreation & Culture division for both the short and long term.
- The draft plan assesses current and future capital and service delivery needs with a focus on areas of intensification, subsidized programming, access and inclusion, and space use and allocation.
- The draft plan contains 16 recommendations shaped and developed with input from staff, the public and groups with interest. Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability were key lenses used throughout the plan's development.
- This draft plan now requires further input and feedback from the public and groups with interest before being finalized.
- The implementation of the plan will be phased over the five to ten year planning horizon following ongoing validation and capacity to fund.
- The final plan is slated for presentation to Council in the first quarter of 2024.

Background

The Future Directions Recreation Plan serves as the guiding document for the provision of facilities, services and programs in the City's Recreation & Culture division. The plan provides a structured and forward-thinking approach to funding and resource allocation for capital and service delivery needs in the short and long term. To ensure the actions and recommendations remain relevant, the plan is updated every five years with the previous iteration completed in 2019.

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was the consulting firm awarded to undertake the 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan. Below is an outline of the project's key phases and aimed timeline:

| Project Phase | Timeline |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Develop Background Reports | October 2022 – March 2023 |
| Public Engagement | October 2022 – March 2023 |
| Develop Draft Plan | April – October 2023 |
| Present Draft Plan to Council | November 2023 |
| Public Feedback on Draft Plan | November – December 2023 |
| Present Final Plan to Council | February/March 2024 |

The updated Draft Plan (see Appendix 1) contains 16 recommendations developed in consultation with user and community groups, staff and the public. In addition to engagement, several background reports on population, benchmarking and service provision levels helped to inform the plan. Some of the common themes throughout the plan include:

- Capital and Service Delivery Needs
- Areas of Intensification
- COVID-19 Impact
- Reconciliation
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

City Structure and Population Growth

Since 2004, Future Directions Plans have organized the City into six functional service areas as a basis for sub-geographic analysis. In 2022, the six original service area boundaries were revised to better reflect the evolution of the City's urban structure, transportation network and growth patterns. The 2024 Future Directions Plan now includes eight service areas that align with the City structure outlined in the new Mississauga Official Plan.

As part of the planning process, an analysis of projected population growth was conducted. Growth forecasts show that Mississauga's overall population will grow from the 2021 estimate of

795,040 to 852,060 by 2031. Beyond the current Future Directions planning period, Mississauga's population is projected to reach 995,040 by the year 2051.

There are a number of Intensification Areas (as defined through the Mississauga Official Plan) in which development will primarily take place. By 2031, 47 per cent of forecasted residential population growth in Mississauga, amounting to 26,500 people, is being directed to the Urban Growth Centre (referred to as the Downtown in the previous Official Plan) and its associated character areas. The majority of the remaining forecasted growth is directed at Mississauga's Major Nodes (25 per cent) and Neighbourhoods (21 per cent).

Support for Mississauga's Housing Strategy

Recommendations in the Future Directions Plans help to support Mississauga's housing strategy through the construction of new community infrastructure and redevelopment of existing facilities. This includes but is not limited to community centers, libraries, fire stations, parks, and spaces for culture activities and creative sector use.

Comments

Strategic Priorities

The Recreation and Culture Division prioritizes programs and services that are inclusive, high quality, innovative and fiscally responsible. Strategic priorities for Recreation include:

- **Maintain Recreation Facility Needs:** Infrastructure renewal and redevelopment activities are key priorities to ensure optimization of the supply and condition of facilities for current market and operation conditions.
- **Promote Access and Inclusion:** Through targeted and focused efforts to include equity deserving groups, and further identify opportunities, understand barriers and remove those barriers to increase participation.
- **Increase Service Delivery for Youth and Older Adults:** While all age groups benefit from participating in recreational activities, youth and older adults are a priority.
- **Strengthen our Programs and Services:** Continued quality assurance in program delivery and dedication to ensure the cost recovery model is fiscally aligned to the services provided.

The recommendations within the 2024 Future Directions Recreation Draft Plan are centered on identified key areas of focus for the division. The following further details these areas and includes some of their associated recommendations. The full list can be viewed within the appended 2024 Future Directions Recreation Draft Plan (see Appendix 1).

Capital Infrastructure and Review of Amenities

An assessment of indoor recreation facility needs was undertaken to identify gaps in areas related to future growth or existing developed areas. Some of the priority projects recommended include:

- Construct a new community centre in Service Area E (Cooksville).
- Redevelop the Small Arms Inspection Building (North Building).
- Prioritize redevelopment of the aging Mississauga Valley Community Centre.

Subsidized Programming

Income can significantly influence participation in recreation programs. To improve access for residents experiencing low income, the recommendations include:

- Conduct a review of the ActiveAssist fee assistance program.
- Engage the City's affiliated groups to share resources and best practices for supporting residents experiencing low income through service delivery.
- Explore the potential of low-cost programming for older adults, multi-generational opportunities and families through sponsorship.

Access and Inclusion

Mississauga is committed to quality service provision for all residents to support equitable opportunities and foster a sense of belonging for all individuals. In addition, supporting Truth and Reconciliation efforts is a crucial step towards healing historical wounds, and acknowledging past injustices. Some of the actions include:

- Identify equity-deserving populations in Mississauga and work with representative groups to assess needed supports, gaps in service delivery and co-develop appropriate programs and services.
- Support the creation of the City's Reconciliation Plan and actively explore the creation of a Community Circle with our Indigenous partners which will inform and guide programming and initiatives across the City.

Space Use and Allocation

It is important for the division to maximize the use of space for the highest public good. To help achieve this, the following is recommended:

- Monitor the capacity and the use of recreation and culture spaces to identify under represented users. Support equity deserving groups by addressing gaps and prioritizing access in alignment with divisional objectives and applicable allocation policies.

The full list of recommendations are contained within the appended 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan (see Appendix 1).

Strategic Plan

The 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan aligns with all five of the City's Strategic Pillars: Move, Belong, Connect, Prosper and Green. The strategic pillars reflect a common purpose: a collective desire for success in leadership, quality of life, and civic pride – all of which are relevant to the Future Directions Plan.

Steps have been taken to ensure the 2024 Future Directions Plan also aligns to the updated Strategic Plan scheduled to be launched in 2024.

Engagement and Consultation

Over 15,000 people were engaged in the shaping of the Future Directions Recreation Plan through a variety of methods including, focus groups, face-to-face meetings, and an online survey that garnered over 7,000 responses. The Future Directions 'Have Your Say' engagement webpage, mississauga.ca/futuredirections, and yourfuture@mississauga.ca email address provided additional forums for input.

The consultation phase initiated with staff meetings and focus groups in October 2022, followed by the launch of the online public survey in November 2022. Some of the various staff groups that were consulted include Environment, Indigenous Relations, Diversity and Inclusion, Facilities and Property Management and Planning and Building.

The next step in the planning process is to obtain feedback on the draft plan from the public and those previously engaged. This phase is set to occur from November to December 2023, and any required revisions to the draft will be completed in early 2024. The final plan is slated for presentation to Council in the first quarter of 2024.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact resulting from the recommendations in this report. The implementation and funding of initiatives included in the 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan will be subject to approval of the annual budget and business plan.

Conclusion

The Future Directions Recreation Plan responds to themes of intensification, population growth, and capital and service delivery needs for both the short and long term. The draft plan was developed through extensive research, collaboration, and public engagement, and serves as a comprehensive guide for the future of recreation in the City. With Council's approval as recommended in this report, the draft plan will be presented to the public and groups with interest before being finalized.

This process ensures that the City's recreational facilities and programs evolve to meet the changing needs and preferences of its diverse population, while creating a vibrant and inclusive recreational landscape that fosters physical and social well-being for all.

Attachments

Appendix1: 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Robillos", is written over a horizontal line.

Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Julia Giovinazzo, Business Advisor, Business Planning