

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: February 14, 2024 To: Chair and Members of General Committee	Originator's files:
From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services	Meeting date: March 27, 2024

Subject

2024 Future Directions Plans – Final Reports for Recreation, Parks, Forestry & Environment, Library, Culture and Fire & Emergency Services

Recommendation

That the five (5) 2024 Future Directions Plans for Recreation, Parks, Forestry & Environment, Library, Culture and Fire & Emergency Services appended to this Corporate Report dated February 14, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community Services including the recommendations contained therein, be approved subject to the annual budget and business plans.

Executive Summary

- The 2024 Future Directions Plans serve as the guiding document for the provision of facilities, services and programs in the City's Recreation & Culture, Library, Fire & Emergency Services and Parks, Forestry & Environment divisions.
- The draft plans, developed through extensive research, collaboration, and public engagement, were presented to [General Committee on November 1st, 2023](#) and approved to be disseminated to the public for feedback.
- The engagement results demonstrated widespread support for the draft recommendations with no significant changes to the draft plans required. The final Future Directions Plans provided in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, include a Feedback Report that summarizes the feedback received for each plan.
- The implementation of the final plans will be phased over the five to ten year planning horizon following ongoing validation and capacity to fund.

Background

The Future Directions Plans serve as the guiding documents for the provision of facilities, services and programs in the City's Recreation & Culture, Parks Forestry & Environment, Library and Fire & Emergency Services divisions. The plans provide a structured and forward-thinking approach to funding and resource allocation for capital and service delivery needs in the short (1-4 years), medium (5-9 years) and long terms (10+ years). To ensure the actions and recommendations remain relevant, the plans are updated every five years with the previous iteration completed in 2019.

Below is an outline of the project's key phases and timeline:

Project Phase	Timeline
Develop Background Reports	October 2022 – March 2023
Public Engagement	October 2022 – March 2023
Develop Draft Plans	April – October 2023
Present Draft Plans to Council	November 2023
Public Feedback on Draft Plans	November 2023 – January 2024
Present Final Plans to Council	March 2024

On November 1st, 2023, the draft plans were presented to General Committee, and the Future Directions project team was approved to initiate the Feedback Phase for public consultation.

Comments

The engagement results demonstrated widespread support for the draft recommendations with no significant changes to the draft plans required. The final Future Directions Plans provided in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, include a Feedback Report that summarizes the feedback received for each plan.

Enhancements to all plans include:

Alignment and support for Mississauga's Housing Strategy.

- A shift in the implementation timeframe from medium term to short term pertaining to the recommendation to explore the creation of a Community Circle with our Indigenous partners.
- Inclusion of each plan's Feedback Report.

Adjustments to the Future Directions Recreation Plan include:

- A reduction in the implementation timeframe for the recommendation to redevelop the Small Arms Inspection Building (North Building) from long term to medium term.

- A reduction in the implementation timeframe for the recommendation to review the Active Assist fee assistance program from medium term to short term.

Adjustments to the Future Directions Parks, Forestry & Environment Plan include:

- An increase in the recommended number of spray pads from six to eight upon further review of high priority areas.
- An increase in the recommended number of leash-free zones from six to seven upon further review of high priority areas.

Adjustments to the Future Directions Culture Plan include:

- Additional information on advancing the Music Strategy and the utilization of Streetsville Village Square.

These revisions, together with a planned update on the status of recommendations in 2026, underscore the City's commitment to responsiveness and continued alignment with the community's evolving needs and aspirations.

Strategic Plan

The 2024 Future Directions Plans align with the City's five Strategic Pillars: Move, Belong, Connect, Prosper and Green. These pillars reflect a common purpose: a collective desire for success in leadership, quality of life, and civic pride – elements integral to the Future Directions Plans.

Deliberate efforts have been made to ensure alignment between the 2024 Future Directions Plans and the updated Strategic Plan scheduled to be launched next year.

Engagement and Consultation

During the initial stages of the project, over 15,000 people were engaged in the shaping of the Future Directions Plans through a variety of methods including, focus groups, face-to-face meetings, and an online survey that garnered over 7,000 responses.

During the project's Feedback Phase, a variety of engagement strategies were conducted to gather feedback including an online survey that garnered 10,920 responses, virtual meetings, pop-up engagements throughout the city, and feedback via email and/or meetings.

Online Survey

The 2024 Future Directions online survey played a key role as the primary means of collecting feedback, chosen for its accessibility and capacity to engage a broad audience. The survey launched on November 6, and closed on December 15, 2023 garnering 10,920 responses. It was promoted through a number of marketing channels to ensure a high response rate. The

survey contained questions on select strategic priorities and key recommendations from all 2024 Future Directions Plans. Respondents were asked if they agreed, disagreed or were neutral on these select strategic priorities and recommendations and could include additional feedback in a comment box if desired.

Virtual Public Feedback Meeting

The Future Directions Virtual Public Feedback Meeting provided an opportunity for members of the public to express feedback through verbal discussion with plan consultants and City of Mississauga staff. The meeting was held on November 22nd, 2023, at 6-7:30pm. The meeting had a total of 156 registrations, with actual attendance recorded at 28. The agenda included a brief overview of each plan followed by poll questions on the plan's key recommendations and a question and answer period.

Pop-Up Engagements

A number of pop-up engagement events were organized at various locations throughout the city, serving as a supplementary approach to gathering valuable feedback. The locations were selected with consideration for foot traffic, targeting diverse demographics such as youth, older adults, users of City services, and those who may not have previously participated in City programs. The online survey was promoted at each of these events and the opportunity for verbal feedback was provided. Over 200 people were engaged across the 15 pop-up engagements held.

Feedback Via Email/Meetings

A selection of previously engaged external groups were either invited to provide feedback via email or participate in a feedback session aimed to gather their perspective on recommendations that may impact or involve them. Over 50 groups were re-engaged and actively participated.

Throughout the project, the Future Directions 'Have Your Say' engagement webpage, mississauga.ca/futuredirections, and yourfuture@mississauga.ca email address provided additional forums for input.

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 Plans will be subject to approval of the annual budget and business plan.

Conclusion

The 2024 Future Directions Plans respond to themes of intensification, population growth, and capital and service delivery needs for the short, medium and long terms. The draft reports were

tested during a comprehensive Feedback Phase prior to finalization. With Council's approval of the final 2024 Future Directions Plans as recommended in this report, the City is poised to meet the evolving needs of its diverse and growing population, and will continue to enrich the experiences of its residents and visitors.

Attachments

- Appendix 1: 2024 Future Directions Recreation Plan
- Appendix 2: 2024 Future Directions Parks, Forestry & Environment Plan
- Appendix 3: 2024 Future Directions Library Plan
- Appendix 4: 2024 Future Directions Culture Plan
- Appendix 5: 2024 Future Directions Fire & Emergency Services Plan

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

Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

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