

## Recreation Master Plan: Facility Provision Decision-Making Framework Summary

### Overview

The Recreation Master Plan is currently in development. One component of the Plan is the identification of short and long-term facility requirements, such as community recreation centres, aquatic facilities, sports fields, and courts. Many of these amenities are needed to address growth-related needs, while others respond to emerging demands and make it easier for residents to access the services they require. An evidence-based decision framework based on demonstrated needs and projected future requirements will be used to guide the identification and prioritization of capital projects. The framework uses provision targets (population-based and/or service-based) that allow for long-term predictability. It also prioritizes equity and access across the entire city to ensure that areas of highest need are prioritized.

### Decision-Making Framework

For most facility types, the model involves four steps (shown below):

1. The needs assessment process starts with the examination of the current state of facility assets to establish a basis for identifying facility renewal or repurposing opportunities (“Opportunity Scan”).
2. This is followed by the creation of provision targets to determine geographic gaps (across and within each of the nine Recreation Planning Areas), growth-related needs (to 2051), and opportunities to improve and optimize existing facilities.
3. Strategies and priorities are then examined to determine the preferred approach for delivering on needs.
4. And finally, a fluid implementation stage begins as the City puts the Master Plan into action. In some cases, project-specific feasibility studies may be required prior to significant facility expansion, re-purposing, or development projects.

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## Factors Considered

The framework considers a range of factors and is aligned with the Master Plan’s guiding principles. Specific inputs considered throughout include:

- a. current supplies and levels of provision;
- b. facility size, capacity, condition, accessibility, level of amenity, utilization;
- c. public and stakeholder input (facility demand, willingness to travel, etc.);
- d. geographic distribution;
- e. areas and timing of future growth;
- f. recreation participation trends;
- g. socio-demographic trends and under-served populations;
- h. availability of other notable facility and service providers;
- i. targets and recommendations from previous facility studies;
- j. benchmarking against large urban communities in Ontario;
- k. alignment with complementary strategies and initiatives; and
- l. financial viability and partnership potential.

Recommended facilities will be assigned a general priority and timeframe. Timing may be influenced by the project’s status, population growth, and alignment with other civic initiatives or partnerships. Projects in advanced stages of planning, such as those that have initiated their design process, will proceed as planned.