

City of Brampton

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## Discussion Paper #2: Community Engagement

July 6, 2016

This Discussion Paper has been prepared as an initial background report as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The intent of this working paper is to summarize themes emerging from the initial consultation activities undertaken for the Master Plan in order to support the analysis and recommendations to be developed in subsequent phases of the Master Plan. It is intended to inform the Project Steering Committee of inputs that may be considered in the Master Plan's formulation. This Discussion Paper is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of input received through consultations but instead provides a high level summary of the perspectives and advice provided by participating residents and stakeholders. The information contained herein should not be construed as recommendations, nor has public input been altered even in instances where some comments may not reflect the City's actual policies, practices, or level of provision.

This Discussion Paper is a building block in the development of the Master Plan and should not be construed as part of the final Master Plan. Accordingly, no information contained herein should be relied upon for long-range decision-making as the Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan will contain finalized, verified information for such purposes.

Other Discussion Papers that have, or will be developed over the course of the Master Plan's preparation include a Background Information Report, an Interim (Needs Assessment) Report, and a Financial Analysis Report. Together, each Discussion Paper will provide information that will ultimately be integrated into the Draft and Final Master Plan documents.

Prepared by:

## Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Summary of Common Themes from Phase 2	4
PRMP Branding & Awareness Campaign	6
PRMP Citizen Panel	9
PRMP Launch Event & Public Meeting	10
Public Survey	12
Stakeholder Survey	20
City Staff Roundtables	22
Stakeholder Group Workshops	26
Interviews with City Council & Senior Management	28
Pop-Up Intercept Events	31
Written Submissions	32
Next Steps	33
Appendix A: Citizen Panel Supplementary Information	
Appendix B: Public Meeting #1 Summary	
Appendix C: Public Survey Tabulations	
Appendix D: Stakeholder Group Survey Responses	
Appendix E: Stakeholder Workshop Summaries	
Appendix F: Letter from Peel Region Medical Officer of Health	



**LET'S CONNECT**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**MASTER PLAN**

**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

## Introduction

### Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (herein referred to as the 'PRMP' or 'the Master Plan') is a long-range document that provides a framework for the City of Brampton, along with its partners and stakeholders, to make future decisions aimed at ensuring a comprehensive system of parks and recreation facilities and services exists. The Master Plan is especially important to guide the parks and recreation system in a sustainable manner as the City's population continues to grow and diversify. The scope of the Master Plan focuses upon:

- Parks and open space systems, and outdoor sports and recreational facilities;
- Indoor sports and recreational infrastructure and buildings; and
- Programming and services.

The PRMP will be informed by a series of Discussion Papers prepared at critical points during the planning process. These Papers are intended to summarize relevant pieces of information that have been uncovered during the research and consultation phases that in turn will aid needs assessments. Discussion Papers informing the Master Plan will include:

1. Background Information (May 2016)
2. Community Engagement (this document)
3. Interim/Needs Assessment (estimated 2016 Q3)
4. Financial Analysis (estimated 2016 Q4)

Discussion Papers are not intended to be formally approved by City Council and thus are not considered to be part of the final PRMP since these Papers will contain information and assessments that are subject to change following their presentation and review.

## Overview of Consultation Initiatives

The PRMP represents an exciting and inspirational opportunity for residents and stakeholders to help shape the vision of Brampton's parks, recreation and sport system. Engaging the community is one of the fundamental building blocks of the PRMP process, with the following consultation activities taking place throughout the preparation of the PRMP:

- Creating the project 'brand' along with a print/digital awareness campaign;
- Formation and regular meetings of the PRMP Citizens Panel;
- PRMP Launch Event (with the Mayor, Councillors and Community Leaders);
- Public Meeting (40+ persons in attendance);
- Public Survey (1,122 responses);
- Stakeholder Group Survey (35 responses);
- Stakeholder Workshops (77 participants representing 25+ organizations)
- Council & Senior Management Interviews (31 interviews);
- City Staff Workshops (150 participants); and
- Pop-Up Intercept Events (5 outreach events in total).

The community engagement process was designed to collect feedback from residents, stakeholder and community groups, elected officials, and City of Brampton Staff in order to maximize representation from a broad range of people having a stake in the local parks and recreation system. Consultations have been collaboratively designed and delivered by members of the Consulting Team, the Planning and Infrastructure Services Department (namely its Engineering & Development Division), the Public Services Department (namely its Recreation & Culture Division), and the Office of Community Engagement.

Please note that **the information summarized herein should not be construed as recommendations, nor has public input been altered** even in instances where comments may not reflect the City's actual policies, practices, or level of provision.

## Principles Informing the Engagement Process

The engagement process for the PRMP is driven by the following principles:

### 1. Openness and Inclusivity

The engagement process will be open to any member of the public or stakeholder group that wants to be involved. The engagement process will be broadly representative, encouraging a broad cross-section of participants to share their views and perspectives and hear those of others. Engagement

materials and information will be made publicly available through the project website and other appropriate means and in a format that is compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

## **2. Transparency**

Transparency will be maintained by providing accurate, timely information through the engagement process and by demonstrating how participants' views and perspectives have informed the development of the PRMP.

## **3. Informative and Clear**

The PRMP team will clarify which decisions are open for influence through the development of the Master Plan and which decisions may be made through another related process. They will also provide useful and educational information to foster participant understanding, the contribution of relevant input and ultimately support for the PRMP.

## **4. Timeliness**

Engagement will begin as early as possible in the process to allow the greatest range of opportunities and issues to emerge and to maximize opportunities for successful issue resolution and implementation.<sup>1</sup>

## **5. Flexibility**

The engagement process will seek to accommodate the needs of participants, taking into account their different levels of interest, areas of expertise, geographic distribution, and availability. The timing of engagement activities will be responsive to the availability of information and analysis developed by the PRMP team.

## **6. Coordination**

The consultation process will connect and coordinate with any other relevant concurrent engagement processes.

## **7. Evaluation**

Throughout the engagement process, the PRMP team will monitor the implementation of the engagement plan and may modify it in order to respond to participant feedback or changing conditions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Despite the fact that the formal consultation phase is early on in the planning process, there will remain an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to contribute their thoughts and opinions through the Master Plan's development via the dedicated portal page and through formal meetings planned later on.



LET'S **CONNECT**  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## Summary of Common Themes from Phase 2

Each consultation tool, as presented in the pages that follow, was designed to engage different audiences and thereby involved a broad range of processes and questions. Through these discussions, a number of broad themes emerged. While not intended to be exhaustive, the following list articulates themes that were commonly identified within the consultation initiatives employed and are listed in no particular order:

- Continuing to build on the City's commitment to delivering **inclusive** parks and recreation facilities, programs and services in response to the considerable diversity that exists in Brampton in terms of persons from different social, cultural and religious backgrounds, low income earners, and persons with disabilities.
- Building on the City's multi-use design philosophy by positioning parks and recreation facilities to be **flexible, multi-seasonal, multi-generational and multi-cultural**.
- Balancing the **needs of neighbourhoods with the needs of the entire City** by strategically targeting specific programs, services and facilities based on their appropriate geographic scale while also being cognisant of financial and operational sustainability.
- The continued development of the **local sport system** is a priority for certain groups and individuals who believe that the City has a role to play in enabling opportunities for local athletes to be successful and showcase Brampton, the province and the country.
- Recognizing that while organized sports are still an important part of the City, **there are many people whose interests or abilities are oriented to unstructured, self-scheduled and drop-in forms of recreation** in Brampton, meaning investments in passive/socially-focused recreational areas should be balanced with traditional facility investments.

- Striving to provide **comfort, safety and welcoming atmospheres** through park and facility designs in a manner that encourages residents of all backgrounds to gather indoors and outdoors.
- Pursing **partnerships** along with creative and collaborative delivery of facilities and the programs offered within them, so that the parks and recreation experience offered to residents is maximized.



# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## PRMP Branding & Awareness Campaign

### Communications and Engagement Plans

A Communications Plan was prepared to guide the City's external and internal consultation activities while a Community Engagement Plan was developed to expressly articulate the external consultation process. Both documents were used by City Staff to coordinate outreach efforts and organize event/activity logistics.

### Developing the PRMP Brand

City Staff from various departments created a project brand to aid awareness and community outreach efforts leveraging the Office of Community Engagement's "Let's Connect" initiative. The brand was further developed through the creation of a graphical interface, shown at the top of this page, which showcases the role that parks and recreation play in the City of Brampton through:

- The availability of **greenspaces, trees and waterways** that characterize the parks system;
- Residents representing different genders and cultural backgrounds demonstrating the City's focus on providing **inclusive services**;
- People participating in **active sports in both organized and casual settings** (e.g. the soccer, cricket and lacrosse players);
- Recognizing the importance of **passive recreational activities** to complement sport (as shown by the dog walker and cyclist);
- The **commitment of City Council and City Staff** in providing quality parks, recreation and sport opportunities (demonstrated by the picture of City Hall on the right side of the image); and
- A tagline of "**Plan. Grow. Play. Together**" reinforcing the City's commitment to seeking input from the community to plan parks and recreation services in an inclusive manner as Brampton's population grows

and diversifies over the next fifteen years. The “Plan. Grow. Play. Together” tagline, in many respects, reflects the Vision for which the PRMP will be based upon.

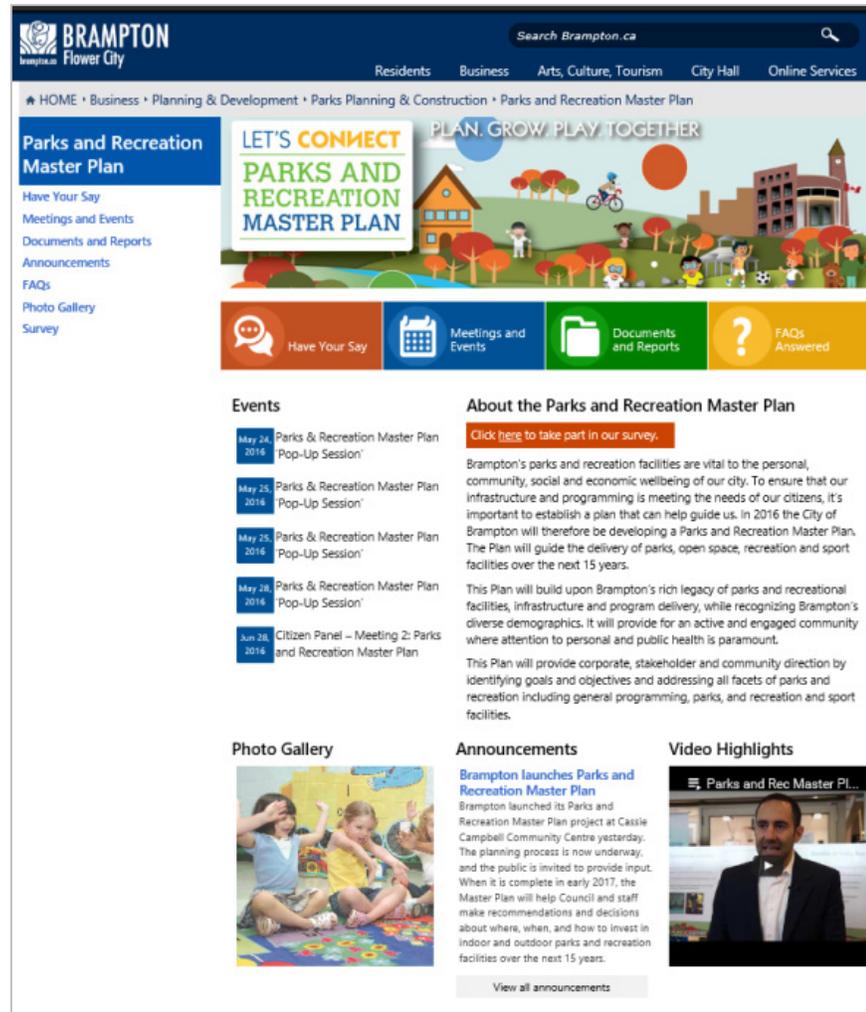
One or both of the PRMP graphic and the ‘Let’s Connect’ image have been included on all marketing materials, public and staff presentations, and other key communications documents to reinforce the project brand.

## PRMP Web Portal

City Staff from multiple departments worked on the creation of a public portal page dedicated to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Accessed under the URL [www.brampton.ca/PRMP](http://www.brampton.ca/PRMP), the web portal is being used to:

- Communicate the purpose of the PRMP and address any Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Advertise meetings and events
- Allow residents to submit questions and written comments via a feedback form
- Provide a direct link to the online public survey
- Show project progress
- Showcase images specific to the PRMP and Brampton’s parks and recreation system as a whole; and
- Provide a number of reports relating to the PRMP

A project email address ([PRMP@brampton.ca](mailto:PRMP@brampton.ca)) was created for residents to direct PRMP-specific questions and comments to the attention of City Staff and the Consulting Team, in addition to the City’s 311 Call Centre.



## Advertising and Awareness Efforts

A variety of advertising was rolled out during periods when consultation activities were taking place in order to create awareness of the PRMP and opportunities to participate. This included ads on the Garden Square big screen, various newspapers, in and on City buses and bus shelters, community centre posters, news releases, etc. that encouraged people to visit the PRMP website and to be part of the planning process.

City Staff also prepared a Discussion Guide in the form of a brochure that was placed at each community recreation centre, City Hall and distributed at the various consultation events. The brochure communicated information about the PRMP, along with key dates for community engagement activities.

Participants of all consultation activities also had the option of providing their contact information and being added to a PRMP distribution list. In addition, the City compiled a 'Stakeholder Register' using its existing databases in order to identify key groups and their contact information so that this information could be leveraged in order to establish communications relating to the PRMP. Staff from the Recreation & Culture Division actively contacted many representatives of stakeholder groups by telephone and email. City Staff expended considerable effort, including multiple follow-ups with major groups (three emails and at least one phone call), with the hopes of encouraging stakeholder groups to attend one of the Stakeholder Workshops and to submit a Stakeholder Survey so that the input of these groups could be considered through the master planning process.



**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

**Help us plan so our community can grow and play together.**

**What is the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?**

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will help the City ensure that the right parks and recreation facilities are built in the right locations, over the next 15 years, to make Brampton a healthy, active place to live.

Recreational trails, arts and culture facilities, and natural heritage lands (e.g. valley-lands) are not within the scope of the Master Plan – rather these are being looked at through affiliated plans and strategies including the City's Strategic Plan, the Active Transportation Master Plan, the Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy, etc.

**... help us plan to provide the most suitable parks and recreation facilities and programs, in the right location, at the right scale, to best meet the needs of the community.**

We will assess how infrastructure is being used now, study emerging trends, and develop recommendations to improve quality of life for all Brampton residents.

**... evaluate our parks, sports and recreation infrastructure.**

Much of Brampton's parks and recreation infrastructure was developed over the last 40 years. Some is in need of repair or replacement. Through the Master Plan, we will take stock of our infrastructure, evaluate it, and develop recommendations about building new or renewing older facilities.

**... develop a financial plan to guide future decision-making.**

Brampton, like all municipalities, must make difficult choices on how best to direct the dollars it collects through taxes, development charges and fees. The Master Plan will offer guidance on the most efficient way to distribute these dollars to develop and maintain parks, recreation and sport facilities for Brampton's future.

**Your input is important**  
**LET'S CONNECT**

Be part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process:

- Visit our website
- Take our survey
- Come to an event

**The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will...**

**... assess Brampton's changing population and its needs.**

Brampton is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada – how should Brampton's parks, programming and recreational and sports facilities change to address our expanding and increasingly diverse population?

The Master Plan will build upon Brampton's rich legacy of parks, recreational and sports facilities and program delivery. It will help to define the City's role in contributing to the health and well-being of Brampton residents.

The Master Plan will include a review of:

- Indoor recreation facilities - such as community centres, arenas, pools and gymnasiums.
- Outdoor recreation facilities - such as sports fields, splash pads, tennis and basketball courts.
- Parks and open spaces – evaluating service levels, park types and design elements.



**LET'S CONNECT  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN**

**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

## **PRMP Citizen Panel**

A Citizen Panel was formed to provide citizen-based guidance at key points within the PRMP's planning process by selecting a group of citizen and community stakeholders that collectively represents a broad cross-section of individuals and organizations with an interest in parks and recreation. Citizen Panel members were selected from existing City of Brampton's Citizen Advisory Committees who expressed an interest in being part of the PRMP. Guided by a Terms of Reference (see Appendix A), the Citizen Panel will convene a total of four times over the course of the project.

The Citizen Panel was and is, being asked to provide feedback on needs and opportunities, the results of the engagement process, the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives, and the draft master plan. By meeting regularly throughout the process, the Citizen Panel will provide opportunities to act as a sounding board to anticipate issues, opportunities and challenges, and to act as a conduit to distribute information about the master plan process and other engagement opportunities to organizations and members of the public associated with Citizen Panel members.

The initial meeting with the Citizen Panel was held on March 22, 2016 at which time members were introduced to the PRMP and its planning process, and subsequently a facilitated discussion period guided by a series of focus questions. A summary of Citizen Panel Meeting #1 is also contained in Appendix A.

Future Citizen Panel Meetings have been set as follows:

- Meeting #2: June 28, 2016 – Present this Discussion Paper #2 for review and consideration of key themes emerging through consultations;
- Meeting #3: Date T.B.D. – Present Discussion Paper #3 for review and consideration of the draft vision, principles and interim needs assessments; and
- Meeting #4: Date T.B.D. – Present the Draft PRMP for review and consideration prior to finalization.

# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## PRMP Launch Event & Public Meeting

The PRMP was formally launched to the public on April 12, 2016 at the Cassie Campbell Community Centre. The Launch Event was an open house format with speeches from the Mayor, Ken Hall who is the 2015 Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance Sport Event Volunteer of the Year and a Paralympic Coach, and Jesse Mermuys and Sim Bhullar from the Raptors 905 basketball club. Also in attendance were members of City Council, City staff, the Consulting Team and a number of local and regional partners.

As the Launch Event was focused more on disseminating information to the community and raising awareness of the PRMP, a subsequent Public Meeting was held on May 3, 2016 in order to receive feedback directly from residents. Held at Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre, the Public Meeting was attended by approximately 40 members of the public, in addition to staff and some members of Council.

The Public Meeting started with a presentation outlining the purpose of the Master Plan and the process through which it will be developed. The meeting then turned to a discussion where participants were asked to provide their views on the best things about Brampton's parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs, how they could be improved, and the main priorities that Brampton should address in providing for parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs.

The key themes below reflect feedback that multiple participants raised during Public Meeting #1 (a more detailed summary of all feedback is included in Appendix B). A



draft of the Public Meeting #1 Summary was shared with participants to review before it was finalized.

- The **quality and number of facilities** was identified as both one of the best things and as an area to improve. Participants generally felt that facilities were well maintained, however, they felt that there were some specific sites where quality could be improved and that more facilities should be added, as Brampton grows.
- **Access to facilities** was also identified as both one of the best things and as an area to improve. Participants generally felt that parks and facilities are well located and accessible by car and transit. There was interest in seeing a better balance of facility types across the city to help ensure that Brampton residents do not have to travel too far to access a wide range of programs.
- The **diversity and range of programs** offered by the City was identified as one of the best things about parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs. Participants suggested improvements such as improving the times that programs are offered, giving priority time slots to youth and ensuring adequate access to programs for seniors.

A second Public Meeting will be scheduled to present an overview of the Draft PRMP and its findings, once approved by the Steering Committee. The purpose of Public Meeting #2 will be to seek feedback pertaining to the PRMP before the document is finalized and presented to City Council for approval. It is estimated that Public Meeting #2 will take place in Q1 of 2017.

# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## Public Survey

An online community survey was undertaken between April 12 and June 1, 2016 to solicit public opinion, preferences, and priorities with respect to participation in parks and recreation activities. The survey was available through the PRMP website and advertised using municipal social media pages, pop-up stations, e-mail blasts, and leveraging stakeholder groups to spread the message via their members and community contacts.

In total, 1,122 surveys were submitted and analyzed. The following pages contain a high level summary of key findings from questions asked in the survey, although a greater level of detail of survey responses can be found in Appendix C.<sup>2</sup> As a non-random self-administered, **the survey results are not statistically significant nor should they be construed as being representative of the opinions of all residents.** As with other consultation tools, survey findings should not be considered in isolation but instead factored within the context of other input and assessment methodologies.

## Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

The most popular parks and recreation activities participated in by survey respondents over the past 12 months are illustrated in Figure 1, with the larger text size correlating with the frequency of mentioned activities.

Figure 1: Popular Parks and Recreation Activities During the past 12 months



<sup>2</sup> Survey respondents may not have answered each question; 'Don't Know' and blank responses have been removed from the results. Open-ended and 'Other' responses have not been summarized; however, key themes submitted by respondents have been considered as a part of this Master Plan.

The top five activities were:

- walking, jogging or running (51% of respondents);
- indoor swimming/aquatic fitness (48%);
- fitness classes (38%);
- recreational cycling (33%); and
- weight-training (30%).

In fact, the vast majority of the top fifteen recreational pursuits are typically unstructured activities that are generally flexibly scheduled, which is consistent with participation trends across other parts of the GTA and the Province (though some activities, such as basketball and swimming, can be pursued in organized or unstructured formats). The top organized sports were outdoor soccer (ranking ninth in frequency at 23%), winter arena sports (ranking thirteenth at 20%), and baseball/softball (ranking fourteenth at 19%).

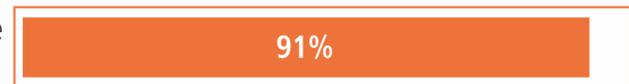
Survey respondents rated their level of agreement with a number of statements (see Figure 2) about parks and recreation opportunities in Brampton, with the majority stating that parks and recreation facilities play an important role in building communities and that they are important to their quality of life.

Figure 2: Agreement with Various Statements

92% of respondents felt that parks and recreation facilities play an important role in building communities.



91% of respondents said that parks and recreation services are important to their quality of life.



53% of respondents agreed that the City should consider selling older, under-utilized facilities to finance new recreation facilities.



52% of respondents agreed that there are enough parks and open spaces in their neighbourhood and surrounding area.



46% of respondents indicated that there are enough recreation programs in their neighbourhood and surrounding area.



'Don't know' and blank responses removed

The survey reveals that nearly half (46%, 488 respondents) of households are unable to participate in parks and recreation activities as often as they would like, primarily because households cannot access programs at a convenient time. This may be attributable to busy schedules of residents, as a lack of time is typically the number one barrier to participation found in municipalities across the Province, although

interesting the lack of time issue was identified as the fifth most common barrier in the Brampton survey as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Top Five Barriers to Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

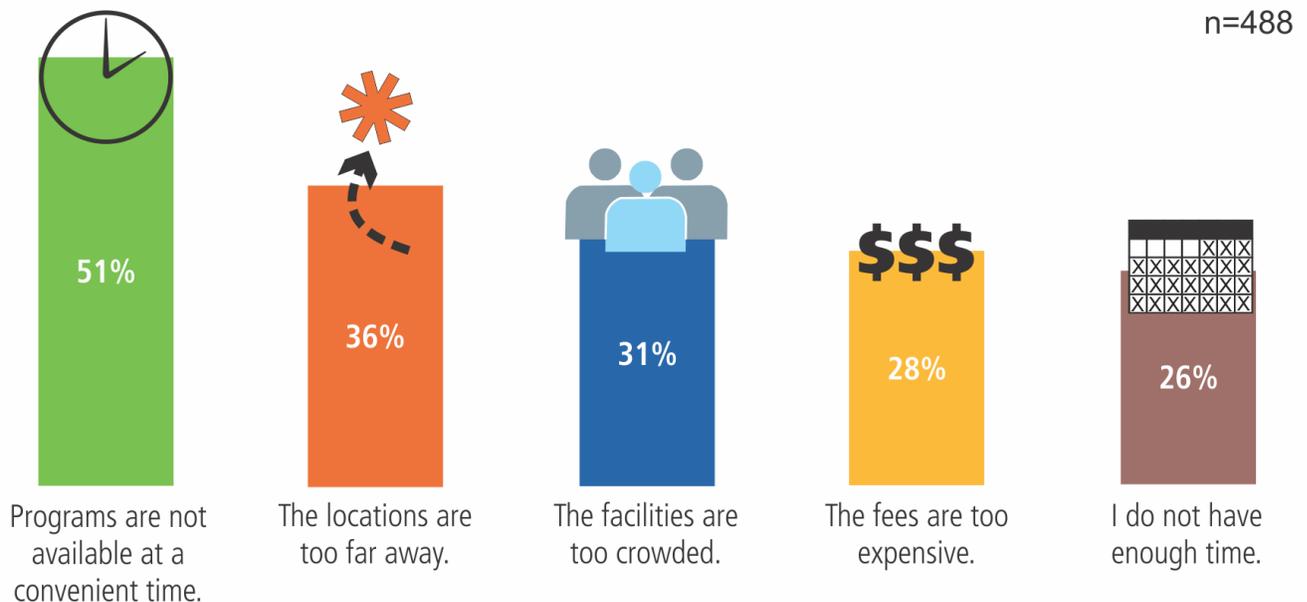
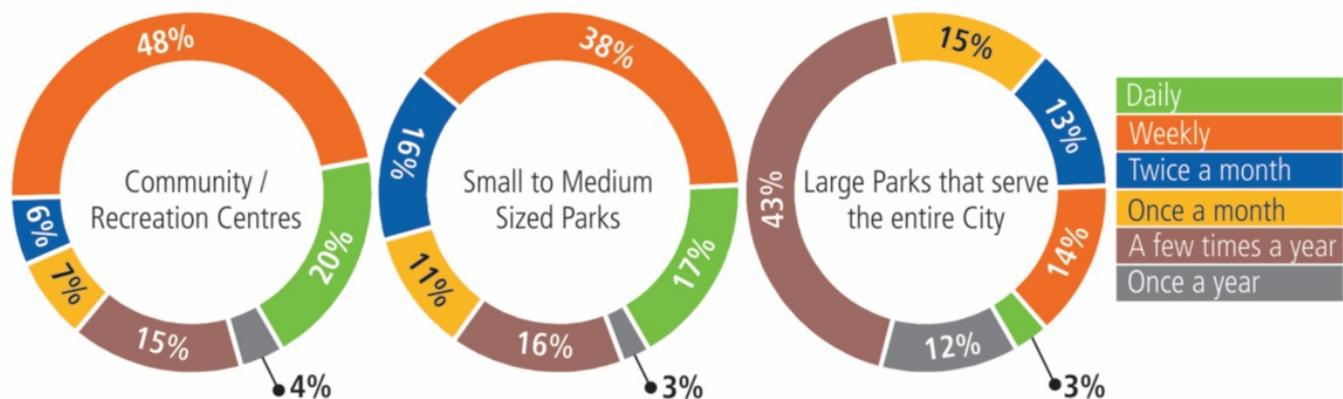


Figure 4: Frequency of Visiting Various Recreation Facilities



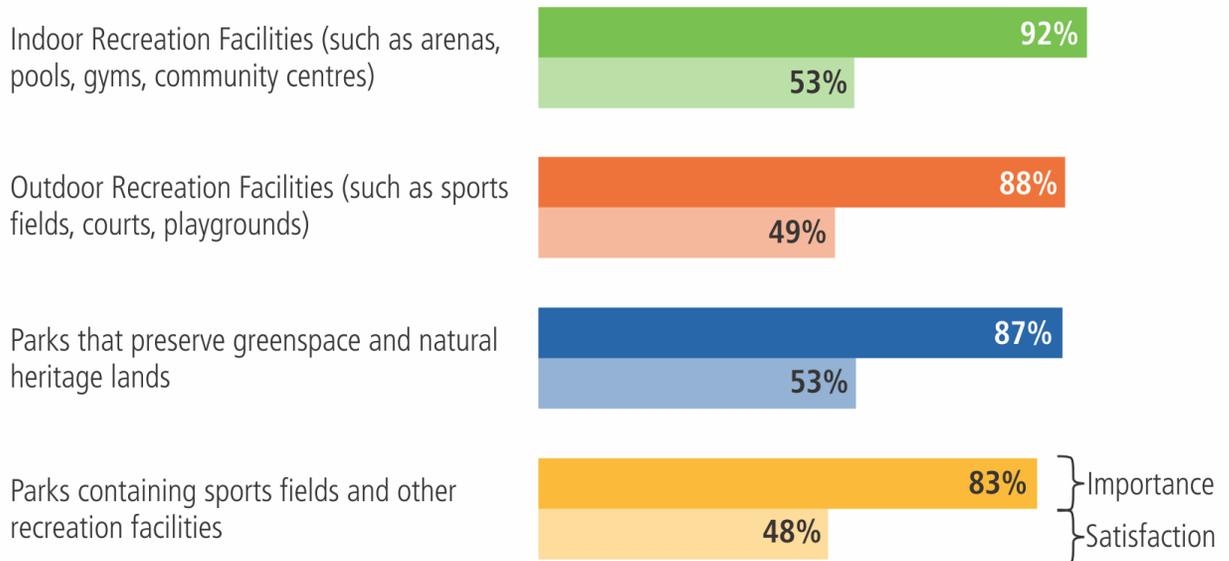
Note: 'Don't know' and blank responses removed from figures shown above

The frequency of visiting parks and recreation centres is shown in Figure 4 whereby half of respondents (48%) visit community / recreation centres on a weekly basis and 20% of respondents visit these types of facilities every day. Similarly, a large portion (38%) of respondents visit small to medium sized parks on a weekly basis, while 17% visit daily. By contrast, respondents less frequently visit large parks that serve the entire City with most respondents visiting these parks only once or a few times a year.

## Importance and Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreation facilities are very important to survey respondents, evidenced by the fact that between 83% and 92% of respondents stating various components of the system are important to their households as illustrated in Figure 5. However, much lower satisfaction levels were reported for all parks and recreation facility types, ranging between 48% and 53%, suggesting expectations may not be currently met.

Figure 5: Importance and Satisfaction of Various Parks and Recreation Facilities



A total of 591 respondents (59%) indicated that at least one household member participated in a recreational program and/or camp offered by the City of Brampton in the past 12 months. As illustrated in Figure 6, about two thirds (62%) of this subgroup were satisfied with their last recreational program/or camp, while one third (31%) of the respondents were somewhat satisfied and 7% were not satisfied.

Between one third and half of the survey respondents were satisfied with the parks and recreation opportunities for each age segment in Brampton (Figure 7). Satisfaction levels were highest among children between the ages of 5 and 12 (53%) and older adults over the age of 55 (51%). Lower levels of satisfaction were attributable to opportunities for teens between the ages of 13 to 17 years (37%).

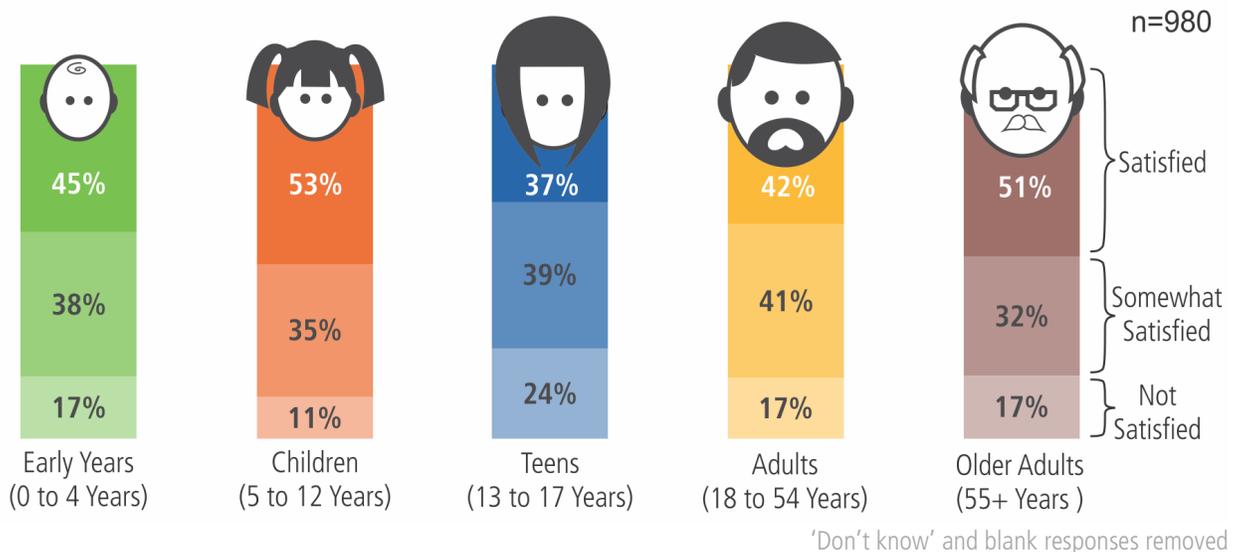
Figure 6: Satisfaction of Recreation Programs/Camps



Note: 'Don't know' and blank responses removed from figures shown above

Survey respondents recognized the importance of having a strong volunteer system in the delivery of parks, recreation, and sport services in Brampton. Figure 8 illustrates that 68% of respondents felt that volunteerism in parks, recreation, and sport services are important, while 28% felt that it was somewhat important.

Figure 7: Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Opportunities by Age Group

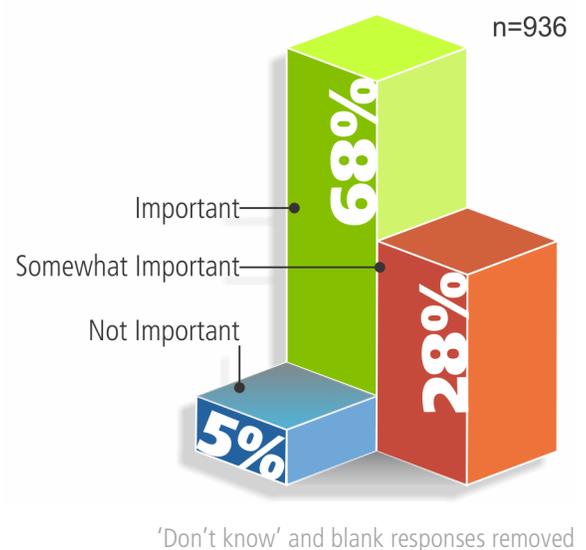


## Preferences in Parks and Recreation Development

A number of comments received through earlier consultations and discussions with staff suggest that Brampton residents appreciate the high quality, multi-use community centres that characterize the City's most recent facility developments but at the same time, some residents continue to seek, and appreciate neighbourhood-scale opportunities, having benefitted from the model employed for 40+ years in communities like Bramalea at facilities like Howden, Greenbriar, etc. The public survey tested this idea by asking whether residents have a preference for larger (but fewer) multi-use facilities versus smaller (but more) singularly focused facilities. The same query was applied to parkland as well.

As shown in the figures below, the majority favoured multi-use community-serving model for community centres (Figure 9) although opinion was almost equally split for parkland (Figure 10). For the latter, this suggests that parks embedded within neighbourhoods are as important for day-to-day use as are parks that are intended to

Figure 8: Importance of Volunteerism in Parks, Recreation, and Sport Services



bring the community together for sporting and special events. Of note, residents with postal codes associated with newer residential developments (largely along the periphery) were more likely to want the larger multi-use facilities and larger parks. For postal codes in more established areas, respondents were generally evenly split between city versus neighbourhood serving facilities, however, they were more likely to request smaller neighbourhood serving parks suggesting walkability to parkland is important to established areas.

Figure 9: Preferences for Facility Development Types

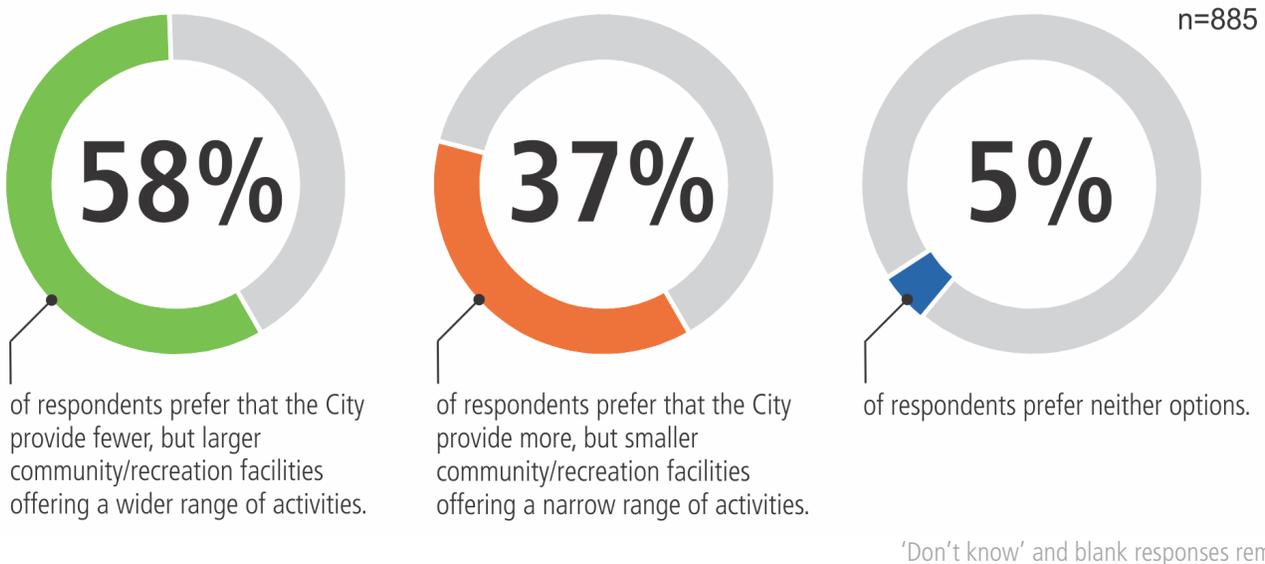
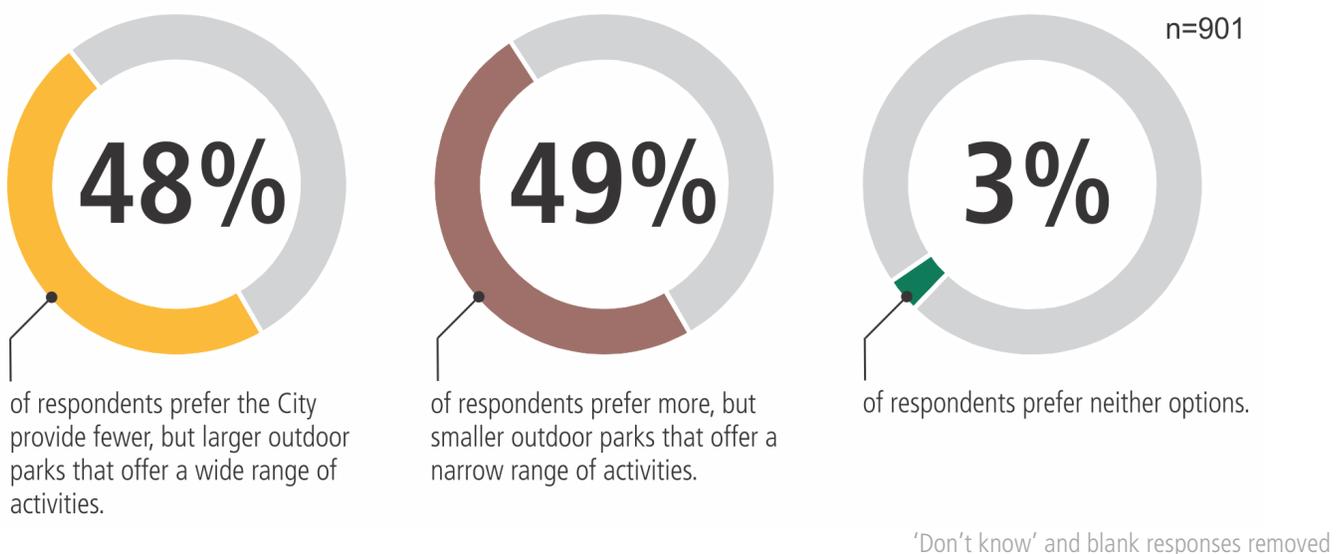


Figure 10: Preferences for Park Development Types



## Support for Spending

The highest priorities for additional public spending for parks and recreation facilities (for upgrades or new construction) is shown in Figure 11, with larger text sizes correlating with the frequency of mentioned support. The top five targets for additional investment are:

- an indoor pool (with 43% of respondents expressing support for such a facility);
- fitness/exercise space (28%);
- outdoor swimming pools (25%);
- bike parks (25%); and
- outdoor skating rinks (23%).

Once again, these top priorities generally centre upon facilities that facilitate a flexible range of both informal and structured activities - priorities for most traditional venues for organized sports, such as arenas and sports fields, placed outside of the top five.

Figure 11: Top Priorities for Additional Public Spending

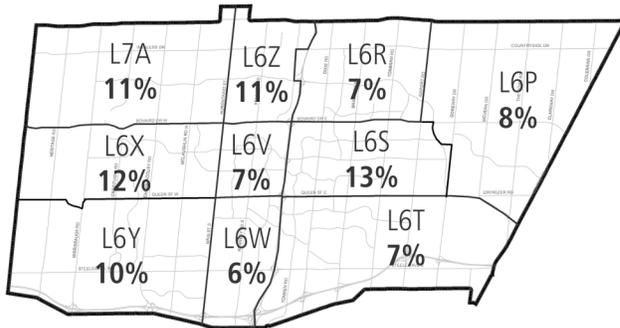
n=994



'Don't know' and blank responses removed

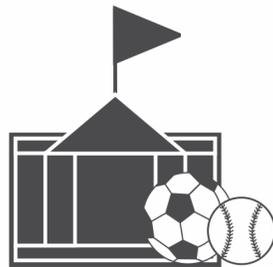
## Summary of Survey Respondent Characteristics

Distribution of survey respondents

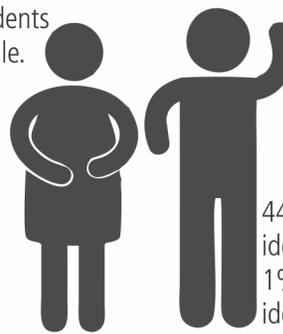



81% of responding households speak English the most at home. Other common languages were Punjabi (5%), Gujarati (2%), Hindi (2%), and Spanish (2%).

49% of respondents are members of a group or league that regularly permits or relies on City parks and recreation facilities.



55% of respondents identify as female.



44% of respondents identify as male.  
1% of respondents identify as other.

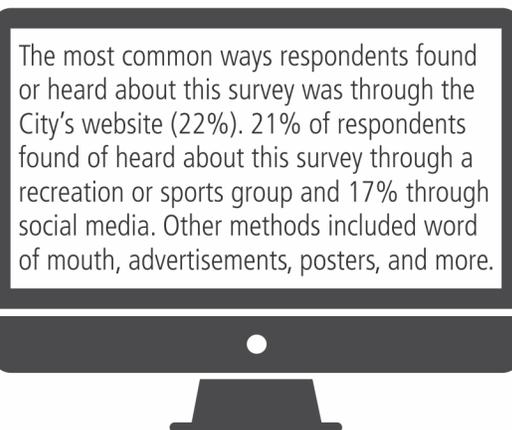
**45%**  
of respondents have lived in Brampton for more than 21 years.

11% have lived in Brampton for less than 5 years.  
14% have lived in Brampton for 5 to 10 years.  
29% have lived in Brampton for 11 to 20 years.



54% of respondents consists of a couple with children.

17% were couples living together  
9% were living with extended families  
6% were adults living alone  
5% were single parents  
5% preferred not to say



9% of respondents were children and youth (Ages 19 and under)  
23% of respondents were young adults (Ages 20 to 34)  
51% of respondents were adults (Ages 35 to 54).  
17% of respondents were older adults and seniors (Age 55+)





**LET'S CONNECT**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**MASTER PLAN**

**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

## Stakeholder Survey

A survey designed specifically for local stakeholder groups using City of Brampton parks and recreation facilities and services was sent to over 170 organizations in April 2016. The survey was available until May 30, 2016 after which a total of 35 completed surveys were received from the following groups.

### Arenas & Aquatics

1. Brampton Bombers Junior B
2. Brampton Newfoundlander & Friends Hockey Association
3. Brampton Ontario Speed Skating
4. Brampton Hockey Inc.
5. COBRA Swim Club
6. Draft Choice Hockey

### Soccer

7. First Touch Futbol
8. Mapola FC Academy

### Ball

9. Brampton Girls Softball Association
10. Brampton Minor Baseball Inc.
11. Brampton Men's Recreational Baseball League
12. Brampton Recreational Mixed Slo-Pitch
13. Extreme Slo-Pitch League
14. Heart Lake Mixed Slo-Pitch League
15. Heart Lake Adult Mixed So Pitch Association

### Other Field Sports

16. Brampton - Etobicoke & District Cricket League
17. Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club and BMLA
18. Brampton Field Hockey Club
19. Brampton Rugby Football Club
20. OKD Field Hockey Club

### Racquet Sports

21. Brampton Tennis Club
22. Brampton Sunday Morning Squash League
23. Saturday - Terry Miller Squash
24. Brampton Wednesday Squash Leagues
25. Brameast Badminton Club
26. City of Brampton Racquetball Association (CBRA)
27. Monday Night Interfacility Squash

### Other Activities

28. Bramalea Remote Control Flyers
29. Brampton Volleyball League
30. Brampton Ladies Ball Hockey
31. Indian Ball Hockey Federation
32. Retraite Active
33. Salaam Sports
34. The Journey Neighbourhood Centre
35. Tora Martial Arts
36. Women's Probus Club of Brampton Centre

The purpose of the Stakeholder Survey was to obtain information regarding the services provided by each organization, the number of registrants/members, and their priorities for improving and/or developing parks, facilities and services for the future. The following were common themes that emerged from the Stakeholder Survey, with input specifically received from each group summarized in Appendix D.

1. Specialized sport groups, such as ball hockey, speed skating, and racquetball, reported that a lack of facilities for their sport limited their group's ability to expand, despite demand. This also prompted a number of groups to book facilities outside of Brampton.
2. Ball hockey groups requested a year-round indoor concrete pad facility to allow them to play beyond summer months, when ice rinks are operational.
3. Long-standing groups offering 'traditional' sports, such as tennis, hockey, and soccer, reported that they were unable to expand their membership due to a limited supply of facilities and competition for booking time.
4. Price competition from neighbouring municipalities is prompting certain groups and individuals to use facilities outside of Brampton.
5. Most groups felt that there was little they could do to increase accessibility for people with disabilities due to the nature of the sport that they played. However, many indicated that they provided some sort of subsidy for lower-income families.
6. Though not a recurring theme, an interesting issue was raised by Salaam Sports regarding the concession options available at City facilities: Brampton's ethnic and religious diversity means that there are a variety of dietary preferences and requirements that are often unmet at concession stands. This limits the ability of different cultural groups to enjoy the full experience of the facilities that they use.

# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## City Staff Roundtables

Five staff roundtables to discuss the Parks and Recreation Master Plan were held in early May of 2016 to gather input from as many staff members at varying levels and from related departments within the organization. Approximately 150 staff were engaged in 2 hour meetings to hear about the Master Planning process and for the consulting team to receive their input. Discussions centred on the full range of programs and services provided, facility and park provision as well as changes and trends that staff are experiencing within the community. Staff were highly engaged in the staff workshop sessions and offered some sage advice to ensure that the Master Plan is truly reflective of the needs of Brampton residents.

The summary of the workshops is presented by functional area to capture the input on four components of facility provision and service delivery (note: the following represents the input received and are not recommendations):

- Community Trends;
- Facility and Park Provision;
- Program and Service Provision; and
- Organizational Capacity

## Community Trends

- **Cultural makeup** – Staff felt that the cultural makeup of the community tends to define how facilities are utilized and which sports and activities are experiencing increases in registration. Staff reports that there has been an increase in requests for field hockey, soccer, cricket and kabaddi, reflecting perhaps the cultural influences. There is an increased use of rooms, lobbies and parks for casual social opportunities and activities.



- **Aging population** – Staff saw aging as a prevalent theme and the City's actions are reflective in the volume of City-lead programming and the programs and services offered at the Flower City Seniors Centre. Staff see an opportunity for increased coordination to enhance the range of services and programs to meet current and emerging needs and gaps.
- **Inclusion** – Staff noted that the inclusion of diverse and underrepresented populations is critical to the successful provision of parks and recreation services. It was noted Brampton does an excellent job of including persons with disabilities and the satisfaction levels and quality of programs is of a high standard. Additional training of staff to welcome and increase programs and services for other diverse groups was an idea believed to be advantageous to both staff and other sport and service providers.
- **Risky play** – Staff felt that incorporating new and emerging elements into parks that could qualify as risky, would be beneficial. This is an emerging trend in Ontario following applications of naturalized playgrounds throughout the United Kingdom where the concept of "Risky Play" encourages children and youth to take more risks through climbing, exploring, moving vigorously, and creating their own activities using their own imagination. They can be successful in getting children and youth to stay outside longer, reduce screen time and reap the health benefits. Staff felt that an exploration of risky play is timely and appropriate to be included in the Master Plan considerations.
- **Sport Development** – Staff felt Brampton is well supported to ensure that residents can be active for a lifetime at a level of their choice. Sport and physical literacy, introduction to sport and support for sport stakeholders are part of the Canadian Sport for Life continuum but requires a gap analysis.

## Facility and Park Provision

- **Large community centres** – Staff felt that large community centres (Cassie, Gore Meadows, South Fletcher's) have been very successful in meeting a wide range of recreation and sport interests in Brampton. There is also staff support to maintain a mix of facilities that includes Neighbourhood Centres as well. The benefit of Neighbourhood Centres is that they are close to home and meet local needs for neighbourhood use for gathering space, programs and group directed opportunities. Staff also reported that for some older patrons, they appreciate the size of these small Neighbourhood Centres as well.
- **Community hubs** – Staff supported the concept of creating and growing community hubs within neighbourhoods through its recreation centres and schools. They are growing in popularity and support from the local institutions and

organizations and the Provincial government warrant an evaluation of Brampton spaces for such uses.

- **Parks assets** – Staff recognize the need to include additional park assets such as shade structures, accessible pathways, seating and water to better respond to the aging population, persons with disabilities and the needs of diverse cultural groups.
- **Youth centred assets** – Staff continues to see strong demand for youth-centred assets like BMX bike facilities, skateboard parks and XGames and sport courts. It is felt that these assets are well utilized and require equitable distribution throughout the City.
- **Facility design** – Staff expressed a desire to be included in design exercises for new indoor and outdoor facilities. Those staff who provide programs and services as well as those staff who maintain facilities should be included in these exercises.
- **Better use of schools** – Staff want to see existing school facilities better utilized to ensure that the use of public facilities is maximized and the public is served through access to local programs and recreational and sport opportunities.

## Program and Service Provision

- **Quality assurance** – Staff take pride in ensuring quality recreational programming. This is evident in Brampton through the High Five Quality Assurance program that addresses healthy childhood development. It was felt that the Recreation and Culture Division and community partners offer quality programs, sports and activities to a broad range of residents and quality assurance standards would best be built and agreed to as a collective.
- **Partnerships and community stakeholders** – Staff see its community sports associations and clubs continuing to play a strong role in the delivery of recreation and sport opportunities. Staff feels that annual joint planning sessions would ensure that all community partners are addressing gaps and trends as well as providing a full continuum of opportunities and including people of all ages and abilities.

## Organizational Capacity

- **Responding to community change** - Staff see this as a focus to the effective delivery of programs and services and those maintaining community assets. A nimble and flexible model of service delivery is encouraged by staff to allow staff to respond proactively to evolving trends and community needs with greater ease.

- **Training and development** – Staff appreciate training and development opportunities in the quest to continually improve service and program delivery. It was suggested that assessing training and development needs include all staff input to respond to emerging trends and needs.
- **Policy and procedural** – Staff saw many policy and procedural opportunities, including:
  - Permit and facility booking
  - Standard maintenance practises of sports fields and other community assets commensurate with their use and user fees
  - Reserve funding to proactively fund long term asset management plan requirements;
  - Ensure that operational costs (per hour) and unit costs (to provide programs and services) align with an equitable pricing policy
  - Additional sponsorship development processes
  - Build upon joint use agreements with school boards; and
  - Update program standards
- **Technology** – Staff thought that technology can play a bigger role in creating efficiencies - which staff would like to see explored as part of the master planning exercise (to support facility provision and service delivery).
- **Performance** – It was noted that performance (of an asset) is typically measured by assessing its use, meeting budget targets, assessing program satisfaction levels in certain programs and services as well as market penetration. Staff suggest broadening that assessment to include community engagement tracking, and the use of EnviroNics to compare facility and program use by location and geography. It was suggested that a report card for each facility would assist in sharing best practises and improving service.

# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## Stakeholder Group Workshops

On May 10 and 11, 2016, the City of Brampton hosted four stakeholder workshops – 2 at Chris Gibson Recreation Centre and 2 at the Chinguacousy Park Curling Club with various interested organizations. In total, 77 people attended representing approximately 20 organizations including various sports clubs, recreation clubs, seniors' groups, and others. The purpose of these workshops was to seek feedback to help identify gaps, opportunities and priorities with regard to parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs in the City of Brampton.

Each workshop started with a presentation outlining the purpose of the Master Plan and the process through which it will be developed. The workshops then turned to a discussion where participants were asked to provide their views on the current state of Brampton's parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, along with significant trends, how Brampton can work with organizations, and the main priorities moving forward.

The key themes below reflect feedback raised by multiple participants, either at one or more of the four workshops. A draft of the Stakeholder Workshops Summary was shared with participants for review before it was finalized, with this detailed summary of feedback included in Appendix E.

- **Sport is important to Brampton and its programs and facilities need to meet a high standard** - Many participants felt that Brampton's parks and recreation facilities need to be high-quality and follow international specifications. These



facilities should balance the needs of recreational sport, competitive sport, and elite sport.

- **Diversity and multi-use should be priorities** - The stakeholders in attendance felt it is important for Brampton's parks and recreation facilities to make space for many different sports. Some talked about specific sport facility needs (e.g. field hockey turf, racquet courts, cricket pitches). Others felt that the City could explore developing large, multi-purpose facilities that provide space for many sports.
- **Brampton's growth and cultural / socio-economic diversity should be important considerations in development the Master Plan** - many participants identified Brampton's changing demographics and diverse cultures as being important trends to consider, when identifying priorities and building new facilities and infrastructure.
- **The City and sports / recreation organizations should collaborate** - Many felt that increased collaboration between the City and sports organizations would result in better facilities and programs for Brampton residents. The City could consult more with sports organizations when designing sites and facilities, and could also work to make sure its programs complement, rather than compete, with sports groups. Several participants said the City could support organizations by helping them promote and advertise programs. They referenced, for example, the *Recreation and Culture Leisure Guide* and the desire for enhanced access (for nominal cost) to that semi-annual publication.
- **Funding and costs are key issues.** Most sports organizations are largely volunteer run and face funding challenges. The City could provide great support to sports organizations by providing permit discounts or minimizing the amount of paperwork organizations have to submit.



**LET'S CONNECT**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**MASTER PLAN**

**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

## **Interviews with City Council & Senior Management**

One-on-one interviews were scheduled with the Mayor and members of Council along with the City's Executive and Senior Management Teams spanning various Departments. A total of 31 interviews were held throughout the months of April and May 2016 with the following municipal representatives:

- Mayor and Members of Council;
- Chief Operating Officer, Chief Planning & Infrastructure Services Officer, Chief Public Service Officer, and Chief of Peel Region Police;
- Executive Directors of Brampton Transit, Engineering & Development Services, Facility Services, Finance/Treasurer, and Planning & Development;
- City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk;
- Directors of Building Design & Construction, Business Services, Capital Works, Economic Development, Finance Planning & Budget, Parks Maintenance & Forestry, Road Maintenance & Operations, Recreation & Culture, Service Brampton, Strategic & Enterprise Services, and Strategic Communications;
- Senior Managers and Managers of Arts, Culture & Theatre, Business Services, Central Services, Corporate Development & Strategy, Parks & Facility Planning, Recreation, and Sports Brampton; and
- Advisors of Capital Parks Construction and Community Events.

The following were the major common themes arising from the interviews, listed in no particular order of priority or frequency.

*Note: Verbatim transcripts of discussions are not presented since interviews were conducted under the premise that comments would not be specifically identifiable to any one person in order to encourage candid input.*

- **Facilities** – There were a variety of opinions regarding the future provision of new, replacement and/or expanded indoor recreation facilities. Many believe that the larger multi-use facility template has been well-received and should be the

preferred facility provision strategy, while others indicated a preference toward neighbourhood-based, indoor facilities, suggesting alignment with a “walkable” community concept. The same concept was suggested for outdoor facilities, through clustering like-facilities to create, for example, sports field complexes rather than placing fields in smaller Neighbourhood Parks that serve a localized population.

- **Diversity and Inclusivity** – As the City grows and diversifies, there is a need to take into account non-traditional facility and program offerings. Diversity of the population recognizes the many facets of Brampton’s community including cultural background, religious beliefs, level of income, ability or disability, age and sexual orientation. Accordingly, the City should be as inclusive as possible to residents from varying socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.
- **Affordability** – Building upon the previous theme of inclusivity, affordability was frequently cited in the sense that the City should promote and provide affordable opportunities for residents to participate in recreation, including offering opportunities that are free, low cost, and subsidized. The City should continue to work with other community providers and user groups as well as seek corporate sponsorships to create activities and/or programs in line with this direction.
- **Aging Population** – Address the needs of a growing population of older adults and seniors with a range of facility options and programs/activities aimed at all abilities/interests across the City. There were some that strongly believe that a new senior’s centre is needed to serve the City’s east end, building upon the success of the Flower City Seniors Centre in the west end, while others believed that the diversity of the population will require that alternative service delivery will be necessary.
- **Partnerships** – Working with other service providers will be essential in order to optimize available funding, to reduce service duplication, and to maximize use of existing infrastructure and programming. Partnerships were also viewed as opportunities to create community hubs that serve not only recreation needs, but needs associated with social well-being, health, etc. Improvements in the relationship with school boards to gain greater access to indoor and outdoor spaces was also desirable.
- **Evolving Recreation Interests** – A notable increase in the demand has been observed for indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate more casual, drop-in and unstructured activities and programs along with opportunities for social interaction.
- **Revitalizing Parks** – Concern about the City’s financial ability to revitalize older parks to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the evolving population. Some

suggested that parks were designed for the original occupants of neighbourhoods but that demographic shifts have and will continue to require engagement of local residents to redesign/revitalize parks to respond to current and future area populations of each area.

- **Comfort Amenities in Parks** – The demand for, and the provision of, shade shelters and complementary amenities (e.g., benches, picnic tables, washrooms) was a common thread throughout most interviews. Direction on the appropriate locations for shade shelters and washrooms within the City (possibly by park classification) was requested (*Note: the City recently developed “Shade Structure Locational Criteria” approved by Council in March 2016*).
- **Aging Infrastructure** – There are a number of older recreation facilities located primarily in the City’s older residential areas that have reached, or will soon reach, the end of their useful life. The City will need to determine if these facilities will be replaced, consolidated and/or repurposed to ensure that the needs of residents are met. For older infrastructure, repurposing to uses that are higher in demand should be evaluated.
- **Elevating Sport** – Some felt that the City should elevate its profile as a “leader” and create a vision for the City – e.g. what is the City’s role in the development of elite athletes, in providing facilities that inspire local athletes and in creating competitive ‘world class’ facilities that support athlete development, performance and opportunity to compete in and host events. Some suggested that the City should focus on one or two sports to draw athletes from across the Canada and beyond such as a basketball centre, sports field stadium, etc. There was support for the City to further embrace the Sport for Life model.
- **Monitoring Trends** – Some felt that the City should take a leadership role in collecting and analyzing trends in recreation and sport to ensure that the City is proactive in meeting the changing needs of the residents and sporting community while planning and responding to emerging interests.
- **Fiscally Responsibility** – Concern about the City’s ability to fund new and/or redevelop older parks and facilities, particularly those located in older neighbourhoods where Development Charges dollars are not being collected.

# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER

## Pop-Up Intercept Events

Between May 24 and May 30, 2016, the City of Brampton setup and staffed "Pop Up" Booths at South Fletcher's Sportsplex/Fletcher's Creek Library, Gore Meadows Recreation Centre/Library, Bramalea City Centre, Shoppers World Shopping Centre, and at Garden Square for Bike to Work Day. The purpose of the Pop-Up Events was to broaden the reach of the master plan process and engage people who might not otherwise learn about or participate in the process by engaging people within high traffic, publicly accessible spaces.

The Pop-Up Booths were intended to supplement PRMP awareness efforts to reach the general public, distribute the PRMP brochure, answer questions and collect feedback from people as they passed by, and to encourage residents to complete the public survey using iPads available at the booths. These events mimicked a small scale public open house using a select number of display panels and City staff on hand. While the exact number of residents stopping by the booths was not recorded, City Staff spoke to dozens of people over the course of the week (it is estimated that approximately 50 completed public surveys are directly attributable to the Pop Up events).





**LET'S CONNECT**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**MASTER PLAN**

**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

## Written Submissions

A project email address was created in March 2016 for residents to direct PRMP-specific questions and comments to the attention of City Staff and the Consulting Team. At the time this paper was drafted, a total of 11 written submissions had been received and generally had focused on the following topics:

- Brampton's aging population is creating needs for additional programs and facilities. There is recognition that interests and abilities of the 55+ market is varied, especially between those who still work (there were requests for additional older adult programs during the evening), those who continue to maintain an active lifestyle, and those whose age or health warrants passive or socially-oriented programming.
- Considering themes or memorials when designing parks so that new parks do not all look or function the same, showcase neighbourhood attributes or history, or pay respect/homage to the past (e.g. a Japanese Garden design commemorating the Fukushima nuclear disaster was a cited example).
- Emphasizing the importance of park maintenance and cleanliness to maximize the user experience.
- Facility-specific requests were articulated for a splash pad, tennis courts, a snowboard terrain park at the Chinguacousy Ski Hill, and an indoor field hockey/cricket facility.



**LET'S CONNECT**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**MASTER PLAN**

**PLAN. GROW. PLAY. TOGETHER**

## Next Steps

This **Phase 2 Discussion Paper** identifies the consultation activities that have taken place to date along with a summary of input and key themes that have emerged from community engagement efforts. It bears reiterating that this Discussion Paper does not contain any recommendations, which will be the focus of future phases, nor has public input been altered even in instances where some public comments may not reflect the City's actual policies, practices, or level of provision.

This Phase 2 Discussion Paper will remain in draft form until combined with subsequent reports to form the Draft Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

Looking ahead, the next deliverables include reports for Phases 3 and 4. The **Phase 3 Discussion Paper** will contain an Interim Needs Assessment where preliminary directions and recommendations will be presented and tested with the City. Financial analyses of the recommendations will form the **Phase 4 Discussion Paper** followed by the Draft and Final iterations of the PRMP in the fifth and final Phase.

# Appendix A: Citizen Panel Supplementary Information

## Terms of Reference

### 1. Statement of Purpose

- 1.1. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Citizen Panel will be asked to provide feedback on needs and opportunities, the results of the engagement process, the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives, and the draft master plan.

### 2. Composition

- 2.1. The Panel will consist of a group of citizen and community stakeholders that collectively represent a broad cross-section of individuals and organizations with an interest in parks and recreation.
- 2.2. The target size for the Panel is 10-20 persons.

### 3. Candidacy

- 3.1. The Panel will be selected from members that come from the existing City of Brampton Citizen Advisory Committees.
- 3.2. Members will be selected based on their interest or background in parks and recreation. An individual should be able to demonstrate their civic mindedness (i.e. past president of local stakeholder organization, former volunteer board member of a stakeholder organization, or representative of a stakeholder agency or organization).
- 3.3. Candidates are asked to respond, in writing, to John Spencer, Manager, Parks and Facility Planning ([john.spencer@brampton.ca](mailto:john.spencer@brampton.ca)) or Maria Doyle, Coordinator, Special Projects ([maria.doyle@brampton.ca](mailto:maria.doyle@brampton.ca)) before March 4, 2016 detailing why they think they might be suitable for the Panel.

### 4. Duties

- 4.1. Participate as a Panel member on the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016/2017
- 4.2. Provide feedback on needs and opportunities, the results of the engagement process, the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives, and the draft Master Plan.
- 4.3. Serve as a sounding board to anticipate issues, opportunities and challenges, about the Master Plan.
- 4.4. Act as a conduit to distribute information about the Master Plan process and other engagement opportunities to organizations and members of the public.

## 5. Term

- 5.1. The term of the Panel is anticipated to be from March 2016 to March 2017, coinciding with the anticipated timeframe for the project.

## 6. Frequency of Meetings

- 6.1. The Panel will be asked to attend approximately 4 meetings over the Term of the project. By meeting throughout the process, the Panel will act as a sounding board to anticipate issues, opportunities and challenges, and as a conduit to distribute information about the Master Plan process and other engagement opportunities to organizations and members of the public associated with Panel members.

## 7. Panel Governance

- 7.1. The Citizen Panel is acting in an advisory capacity to the Project Team and is not responsible for the decisions made by the Project Team or City Council. By participating in the Citizen Panel, members are not expected to waive their rights to participate in the democratic process and may continue to participate through other channels.
- 7.2. The Citizen Panel will report its advice to the project team with the assistance of a facilitator. The facilitator will provide facilitation services for Citizen Panel meetings, including developing meeting agendas in consultation with the Project Team and Citizen Panel, and documenting perspectives and advice shared at the meetings through meeting notes.
- 7.3. As an advisory group, the Citizen Panel will be asked to seek general agreement on guidance and advice to the Project Team. The Citizen Panel will be encouraged to openly discuss ideas, perspectives and viewpoints, and seek to develop common ground and narrow areas of disagreement to the best of their ability. Where differing viewpoints and opinions exist, these will be documented in the Citizen Panel meeting notes.
- 7.4. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project Leader (or designate) will serve as a staff support to the Panel.
- 7.5. The Project Team reserves the right to dissolve the Panel for any matter that compromises the integrity, transparency or accountability of the City, Panel and/or its mandate.

## 8. Vacancies

- 8.1. The Chairperson shall inform the City Clerk's Office of any vacancies.
- 8.2. Should a vacancy occur during the term of the project, the recruitment of a replacement member to join the Citizen Panel shall be conducted by the *Project Leader, Parks and Recreation Master Plan* to complete the balance of the term.

## 9. Conflict Of Interest

- 9.1. In the event that a Citizen Panel member becomes aware of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, he/she must declare the conflict immediately to the Chairperson.
- 9.2. Citizen Panel members must follow all applicable City Conflict of Interest and Panel Code of Conduct policies or guidelines related to the declared conflict of interest.
- 9.3. The Citizen Panel member with the actual or perceived conflict shall not use his/her influence to affect the outcome of a Panel's advisory ability regarding the individual or organization that is the subject of the conflict. The Chairperson reserves the right to order the Panel member with the actual or perceived conflict to leave the room during any deliberations regarding the subject of the conflict.
- 9.4. Failure by a Citizen Panel member to disclose a perceived, actual or pecuniary conflict of interest shall be grounds for dismissal by Council on advice of the Chairperson or Project Leader, Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## 10. Expectations of Panel Members

- 10.1. Members must attend all meetings as scheduled by the Chairperson throughout the year. Members will be expected meet a minimum of three (3) times to a maximum of five (5) over the course of the project to review materials from the Project Team.
- 10.2. Members will not have any materials or information sent to them in preparation of meetings. All materials will be reviewed within the context of the scheduled meeting. Members are expected to review materials thoroughly and with due diligence.
- 10.3. In the event that a member cannot attend a meeting, he/she shall be expected to provide notice in writing via email or hard copy to the Chairperson a minimum of forty eight (48) hours before a scheduled meeting.
- 10.4. Failure by a Panel member to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without a legitimate reason or proper documentation shall be grounds for dismissal by Council on advice of the Chairperson.

## 11. Media Contact

- 11.1 Individual Citizen Panel members' opinions are not necessarily representative of the views of the entire Citizen Panel. In the event that individual Citizen Panel members receive media enquiries about opinions expressed by the Citizen Panel, such inquiries should be referred to [City of Brampton contact].

## Citizen Panel Meeting 1 Summary

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

6:00 – 8:30pm

Brampton City Hall, West Tower, Boardroom 2C

### OVERVIEW

On March 22, 2016, the City of Brampton hosted the first of four Citizen Panel meetings as part of its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Over the course of the Master Plan process, the Citizen Panel will be asked to provide feedback on needs and opportunities, the results of the engagement process, the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives, and the draft master plan. The Citizen Panel is composed of members that come from the existing City of Brampton Citizen Advisory Committees and have been selected based on their interest or background in parks and recreation. 14 Panel members participated in the meeting (see attached participant list).

At this first meeting, Citizen Panel members were provided with an overview of the Master Plan Process and the project team's views on parks and recreation challenges and opportunities. Following these presentations, Citizen Panel members engaged in a facilitated discussion guided by a series of focus questions (see attached agenda for more detail).

This report is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting but instead provides a high level summary of the perspectives and advice provided by participants during the facilitated discussion.

### DRAFT SUMMARY OF ADVICE – FOR PARTICIPANT REVIEW

The perspectives and advice provided by Panel members have been grouped into the following 4 categories: best things / areas to improve; opportunities and challenges; master plan process advice; and, additional questions of clarification. Responses from the project team to questions of clarification are denoted by *italics*.

#### Best Things/Areas to Improve

##### Quality and Range of Facilities and Programs

Several Citizen Panel members said that the quality and range of facilities and programs is one of the best things about parks and recreation in the City of Brampton. Some spoke positively about how Brampton has invested in and expanded its offering of parks, sports and recreation facilities compared to other cities. Others felt that Brampton has a good mix of community-focused and city-wide facilities. Others still lauded neighbourhoods that are built around parks (e.g. Peel Village).

Other Panel members talked about improving the quality and range of facilities, including ensuring timely maintenance / accessibility updates for older facilities (e.g. Memorial Arena), ensuring that outdoor facilities and parks have adequate shelter structures and washrooms, making improvements to the amenities within facilities (e.g. adding kitchens to community centres like at Gore Meadows and formerly at Century Gardens), and providing for greater variation in park amenities (e.g. adding splash pads, benches, BBQ pits).

## Working with Others to Provide Facilities and Programs

One Panel member felt that the way the City works with minor league organizations to find playing fields / facilities and assist with special events is one of the best things about parks and recreation in Brampton. Another member felt that the City could improve how it partners with private organizations that also provide facilities (e.g. private gyms).

## Access and Connections Between Facilities

One member said that one of the best things about parks and recreation facilities in Brampton are the north-south links between them and suggested that these connections should continue in new growth areas.

Other members talked about the need to improve access to facilities, including existing parking challenges at specific facilities when they are at peak use (e.g. Cassie Campbell and Chris Gibson Recreation Centres) and planning for non-car trips (i.e. public transit, cycling, walking) as Brampton grows to 800,000 people.

## Raising Awareness and Encouraging a Sense of Ownership

A few members said that they liked how the design of the Cassie Campbell Community Centre and Chinguacousy Wellness Centre allowed visitors to see the wide variety of activities that people participate in and that this helps raise awareness about recreation opportunities.

Other members felt that the City could do more to promote awareness of opportunities to participate in free play (e.g. using recreation facilities like basketball courts in parks in an unstructured way) and for public ownership of parks and facilities to help discourage vandalism.

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Population Growth

Panel members said that it was important for the Master Plan to be driven by the anticipated population growth and demographic changes. One Panel member felt it was particularly important to understand how intensification may produce a different set of needs for parks and recreation facilities than the predominantly greenfield growth of the past.

One member felt that activity is being engineered out of people's daily lives as a result of increasingly longer commutes between home and work and that this trend would be heightened with the anticipated high residential growth and lower employment growth in Brampton. In light of this, it was felt that reintegrating recreation into people's daily lives should be a priority of the Master Plan.

One Panel member cited Sandalwood and Mississauga Road as an area in need of a new recreation centre.

A member asked if the Master Plan would be tied into the Official Plan and Secondary Plans. *A member of the project team responded that the City is currently undertaking a mandated review of the Official Plan and that this review process will be informed by the Master Plan process and vice versa.*

### Socio-Economic Diversity

Several Panel members felt that it is important that the Master Plan take into account the needs of Brampton's diverse population, including those who are aging, those who have immigrated to Canada, and youth. Some particularly underlined the growth in the number of young families, reflected in demand for schools, and

suggested that the City have conversations with the development community to better understand who is buying new residential units.

## **Aging Infrastructure**

A Panel member felt that it is very important for the Master Plan to include reinvestment in existing facilities and that this should take precedence over investment in new facilities. The Panel member felt that facilities are a key part of many neighbourhoods and their cultural identity and that they need to be well maintained and in some cases, require major renovations (e.g. beyond the work that was recently done at Century Gardens).

## **Funding**

Several Panel members discussed the importance of both larger, multi-use facilities and smaller, neighbourhood focused facilities. One Panel member felt that it is important to have larger facilities, but expressed a preference for fewer larger facilities and a greater number of local facilities. A Panel member discussed categorizing the differences between community centres and sports plexes, suggesting that the number and type of programs offered could be one way of defining differences.

It was suggested that the City should design facilities to so that they can be efficiently maintained and operated, with some criticism for current facilities with vaulted ceilings and other features that may have been costly to construct and may be costly to operate and maintain.

There was a range of views on how development charges and cash-in-lieu of land payments are used to fund new parks and recreation facilities. One Panel member felt that development charges should be increased to fund 100% of new park and recreation facilities in new growth areas. Another member felt that development charges are already high and that the money collected should be spent more wisely. It was also suggested that the City should explore cash-in-lieu payments only in areas of the City where there are constraints on the size of land that would otherwise be secured (e.g. in downtown where redevelopment sites are smaller).

A couple of members talked about how the City is reinvesting in the Flower City theme for its upcoming sesquicentennial and suggested that this theme should be carried through all parks and recreation investment and that there could be potential sponsorship opportunities associated with this.

## **Park and Facility Renewals / Upgrades**

Panel members were interested in better understanding what kind of data will be used to determine utilization and help make decisions about changes to facilities. A member noted that some facilities are reputed to be under used but have full parking lots when visited. Another member suggested that user permits could be one source of utilization data.

## **Emerging Trends**

A couple of Panel members highlighted cricket and kabaddi as emerging sports that may need new facilities to match the level of interest. One member noted that there are some cricket facilities already in Brampton, however they may not be widely known.

## **Master Plan Process Advice**

### **Suggested Clarifications to the Master Plan Scope**

Citizen Panel members sought clarification on the components that would be included in the Master Plan scope, including greenbelt lands, urban forest / open space that is naturalized, and implementation related to non-municipal assets / co-located assets. *The project team indicated that although greenbelt lands can serve a passive recreation function, planning for these areas will largely be dealt with through the Official Plan Review. The results of that process will help inform the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and vice versa. With regard to urban forest / open space that is naturalized, some of these areas will be included within the Master Plan and some will not – a determination will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the recreation function that these areas provide. Lastly, the Plan will make recommendations on potential partnerships with non-municipal providers (e.g. school boards).*

### **Suggested Revisions to the Presentation Materials**

Panel members suggested that the Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs) should be identified by letters and / or colour rather than numbers. They felt that this would help members of the public better visualize the RPAs as distinct from the City's wards.

### **Engagement Process Advice**

Panel members felt that it will be important to engage youth, religious organizations (particularly those that provide facilities), and sports user groups through the Master Plan process.

It was suggested that the project updates could be sent to Panel members every 15-30 days so that they could stay on top of developments and come to meetings as well prepared as possible.

It was further suggested that the City partner with religious and cultural organizations to help get the word out about the Master Plan.

### **Additional Questions of Clarification**

A member asked the project team why the 2007 Master Plan was not approved by City Council. *A member of the project team responded that Council at the time had concerns that the plan might be too restrictive and that the consultation process wasn't as successful as had been hoped, leading them to receive the plan for information. Although the plan was not fully endorsed by Council, the City has been able to use its recommendations to help guide work on developing parks and recreation over the following years.*

A member asked what criteria are used to determine if a park is needed in a particular neighbourhood. *A member of the project team responded that when planning new communities, the City looks at overall population, density, the inventory of existing facilities and service level criteria. Developers of those communities are then required to convey land to the City at ratios set out in the Planning Act. The City sometimes receives cash-in-lieu of land and uses this money to assemble properties to provide larger parks.*

### **NEXT STEPS**

The meeting concluded with a brief overview of next steps in the process. Panel members were asked to help get the word out about the resident survey that will run from April 1 to June 3. Panel members were also told that a Master Plan Launch Event, Public Meeting and series of stakeholder workshops are planned for April and May 2016. Lastly, Panel members were informed that the second Panel meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2016.

### Citizen Panel Meeting 1 Participants

The following is a list of Citizen Panel members (members are listed alphabetically by last name). All of the members below attended the first meeting

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Patrick Doran - Brampton School Traffic Safety Council    | 9. Joe Pimentel - Inclusion and Equity Committee         |
| 2. Daminder Ghuman - Brampton School Traffic Safety Council  | 10. Frank Raymond - Accessibility Advisory Committee     |
| 3. Angela Johnson - CaraBram                                 | 11. Mario Russo - Brampton Sports Hall of Fame Committee |
| 4. David Laing - Environmental Advisory Committee            | 12. Rajinder Saini - Inclusion and Equity Committee      |
| 5. Michael Lobraico - Brampton School Traffic Safety Council | 13. Ken Wilde - Heritage Advisory Committee              |
| 6. Kevin Montgomery - Cycling Advisory Committee             | 14. Laila Zarrabi Yan - Environmental Advisory Committee |
| 7. Ron Noonan - Brampton Sports Hall of Fame Committee       |  |
| 8. Karyn Pelkie - Accessibility Advisory Committee           |  |

### Citizen Panel Meeting 1 Agenda

- 6:30 Welcome
- 6:35 Introductions and Agenda Review
- 6:50 Overview Presentation
- 7:10 Questions of Clarification
- 7:20 Facilitated Discussion

Focus Questions:

1. What are the best things about Brampton's parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs?
2. How can Brampton's parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs be improved?
3. How can Brampton best respond to the challenges and opportunities associated with its park and recreation facilities and programs? Are there additional challenges and opportunities that should be considered?
4. Over the next fifteen years, what are the main priorities that Brampton should address in providing for parks, recreation and sport?

- 8:20 Wrap Up & Next Steps
- 8:30 Adjourn

## Appendix B: Public Meeting #1 Summary

May 3, 2016

6:30 – 8:30pm

Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre

### OVERVIEW

On May 3, 2016, the City of Brampton hosted the first of two public meetings as part of its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. About 40 people participated in this first public meeting, including Regional Councillor Michael Palleschi and City Councillor Gurpreet Dhillon. The purpose of the meeting was to seek feedback to help identify gaps, opportunities and priorities with regard to parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs in the City of Brampton.

The meeting started with a presentation outlining the purpose of the Master Plan and the process through which it will be developed. The presentation also featured highlights of six future challenges and opportunities that will be considered in the development of the Master Plan. The meeting then turned to a discussion where participants were asked to provide their views on the best things about Brampton's parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs, how they could be improved, and the main priorities that Brampton should address in providing for parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs.

### KEY THEMES FROM THE REPORT BACK

The key themes below reflect feedback that multiple participants raised during the report back of table discussions. A more detailed summary of all feedback shared is included in the section that follows.

#### Facilities

The quality and number of facilities was identified as both one of the best things and as an area to improve. Participants generally felt that facilities were well maintained, however, they felt that there were some specific sites where quality could be improved and that more facilities (and potentially multi-purpose facilities) should be added as Brampton grows.

#### Access

Access to facilities was also identified as both one of the best things and as an area to improve. Participants generally felt that parks and facilities are well located and accessible by car and transit. There was interest in seeing a better balance of facility types across the city to help ensure that Bramptonians don't have to travel too far to access a wide range of programs.

#### Programs

The diversity and range of programs offered by the City was identified as one of the best things about parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs. Participants had some suggested improvements, like improving the times that programs are offered, giving priority time slots to youth and ensuring adequate access to programs for seniors.

## DETAILED SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Participant feedback has been organized into the following five categories: (1) best things; (2) areas to improve; (3) main priorities; (4) consultation process advice; and, (5) questions of clarification. Responses from the project team to questions of clarification are denoted by *italics*.

### **What are the best things about Brampton's parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs?**

#### **Facilities**

Participants said they felt that Brampton had clean, well maintained and well organized facilities and a variety of quality parks and open spaces. Gore Meadows Community Centre and Cassie Campbell Community Centre were brought up as examples of high quality facilities.

Several participants felt that the number of facilities needs to increase as Brampton's population grows and needs evolve. Some of these participants emphasized adding more field hockey facilities that could be used year-round.

Participants also talked about building higher quality facilities to help attract high quality tournaments and events, raising Brampton's profile. Some participants talked about creating a "sport park" with high quality facilities for many types of sports and offices that could be used by provincial or national sport organizations.

A few participants identified facilities that they felt had been neglected in terms of maintenance.

#### **Access**

Participants talked about how parks and facilities are generally well located and accessible by cars and transit. They also felt that programs were generally affordable and that parks and facilities were places where a variety of Bramptonians can come together, meet one another and feel welcomed.

#### **Programs**

Participants said that they liked the diversity of programs offered and felt that the quality of instructors was high. They also liked that there are programs for a variety of age groups, including youth and seniors.

### **How can Brampton's parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs be improved?**

#### **Facilities**

Several participants felt that the number of facilities needs to increase as Brampton's population grows and needs evolve. Some of these participants emphasized adding more field hockey facilities that could be used year-round.

Participants also talked about building higher quality facilities to help attract high quality tournaments and events, raising Brampton's profile. Some participants talked about creating a "sport park" with high quality facilities for many types of sports and offices that could be used by provincial or national sport organizations.

A few participants identified facilities that they felt had been neglected in terms of maintenance.

One participant felt that the Bramalea area is underserved and suggested that the Howden Community Centre be rebuilt with a full-sized swimming pool, weight room, fitzone, multi-purpose rooms, fitness / dance studios and a youth room for drop-in activities.

### **Access**

A few participants talked about ways that access to facilities could be improved, including ensuring a better balance of programs across all facilities so that residents don't have to travel to facilities too far from their homes.

Participants also talked about issues with parking capacity at some facilities and limited access to certain types of facilities (e.g. tennis courts and Chinguacousy Park which are kept locked and exclusive to tennis club members).

### **Programs**

Participants had a number of suggestions for improving programs, including:

- Discounted fees and rates for Brampton residents
- Improving the times that programs are offered (e.g. mother / child programs that start in the morning)
- Better engaging youth and giving preference to youth programs in peak hours
- Ensuring that seniors have adequate access to programs, including inter-generational programs
- Improving community engagement and involvement in programs
- Improving the website to make it more user-friendly

### **Working with Others**

Participants suggested that the City could better coordinate with school boards to provide programs and access to facilities for community use.

## **Priorities to address in providing parks, recreation and sport over the next 15 years**

### **Facilities**

Several participants said that the City should focus on building more facilities over the next 15 years, particularly since the population of young children will be growing.

Participants said that there was a need for more swimming pools (rectangular swimming pools) and field hockey facilities.

They also felt that there was a need for multi-purpose facilities in older parts of the City, similar to Cassie Campbell Community Centre.

### **Access**

Participants felt that the City should continue to focus on making its parks and facilities safe and happy places, accessible and welcome to all. They also suggested that the City look at better connecting parks and facilities to public transportation.

## Programs

Participants had a number of suggestions related to program priorities, including further diversifying program offerings, increasing hours, including more drop-in programs and further focusing on seniors, children and teenagers.

## Environment

Several participants talked about increasing the focus on environmental protection and sustainability, both in terms of seeking to involve youth, adults and seniors in park and open space clean up days and also in terms of building upgrades like LED lighting and solar panels.

## Economic Driver

It was suggested that the City focus on sport as an economic driver and seek out ways to support high performance tournaments and sporting events.

## Consultation Process Advice

### Communication

A few participants strongly felt that the City should explore ways to better communicate consultation opportunities for the Master Plan. One participant felt that the community meeting could have been better advertised through things like mailings and large signs in community centres.

### Survey

A few participants had specific concerns about and suggestions for improving the survey. One participant felt that the questions are too vague and consequently, the responses could be open to broad interpretation. Another felt noted that field hockey was not amongst the activities listed in the survey and should be added in.

## Questions of Clarification

In reading through the minutes of a Council Committee, it looks like there's consideration for an LRT through the Etobicoke Creek Valley. Will the Parks and Recreation Master Plan therefore consider transit? *The Master Plan will take a number of different City studies and plans into consideration. We look at public transit specifically as a layer of access to facilities. Access by public transit could be one of the criteria we look at when making recommendations for additional parks or facilities.*

How will recreation needs be measured and evaluated? *Partially through tonight's meeting and other consultations (e.g. stakeholder workshops, survey). Through these mechanisms, we will be looking to identify where there are needs and what trends are emerging. We will also look at how current facilities are being used, e.g. are they fully booked and if not, why.*

For the remainder of the survey period, will there be additional advertising to help get the word out? *The City has been sending out e-blasts through a master plan newsletter, printing flyers and asking people to retweet the survey link. Also, posters will be going up in all community centres and there will be advertisements in the newspaper and on public transit. In the past we've found that one of the most effective ways to get the word out is when community members post the link to their social media accounts.*

Is it possible to send an email to people enrolled in programs? *The master plan team will coordinate with Recreation Services to see if the enrolment list can be used to help advertise the survey.*

What role will Brampton Sports Alliance play in this process? *We would like them to come to the stakeholder workshops next week. It's a mechanism for specifically for sports associations.*

What will the City do to make our recreation centres safer? The skate park has been neglected and it is very unsafe. *The quality and safety of facilities is a consideration in the master plan. One option for improving safety is to locate facilities in areas that are highly visible so that people walking by can easily see what is going on.*

## **NEXT STEPS**

The meeting concluded with a brief overview of next steps in the process. Participants were reminded that the study team would be undertaking analysis over the summer and developing the draft plan in the fall of 2016. A second public meeting will then be held in early 2017 to test the draft Master Plan.

## Appendix C: Public Survey Tabulations

1. During the past 12 months, please indicate the types of parks or recreational activities that you and/or any members of your household have participated in (either in Brampton and/or somewhere else).

Response	%	#	Response	%	%
Walking / Jogging / Running	51%	569	Soccer - Indoor	15%	170
Swimming / Aquafit - Indoors	48%	535	General Programs (e.g., cooking, social, after-school programs)	13%	145
Fitness - Programs (e.g., group fitness, aerobics, yoga, tai chi)	38%	427	Badminton	11%	120
Cycling - Recreational	33%	370	Volleyball	10%	114
Fitness - Weight-Training	30%	341	Tennis - Indoor	8%	85
Pleasure Skating	28%	318	Skateboarding	6%	69
Playground Usage	28%	313	Cricket	6%	68
Gardening	24%	270	Cycling - BMX or Mountain Biking	6%	68
Soccer - Outdoor	23%	260	Curling	5%	61
Dog Walking	22%	252	Senior Programs (e.g., cards, bus trips, carpet bowling)	5%	59
Swimming / Water Sports - Outdoors	22%	243	Football	5%	56
Wading Pool / Splash Pad Usage	21%	232	Lacrosse	4%	49
Ice Hockey, Ringette or Figure Skating	20%	219	Bocce	3%	29
Baseball or Softball	19%	218	Rugby	2%	23
Basketball	18%	206	Kabaddi	2%	17
Dancing	16%	183	Pickleball	1%	12
Tennis - Outdoor	16%	178	<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>1,122</b>

2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Statement	Strongly / Somewhat Disagree		Neutral		Strongly / Somewhat Agree		Total Respondents
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Parks and recreation facilities play an important role in building communities.	63	6%	19	2%	1009	92%	1091
Parks and recreation services are important to my quality of life.	62	6%	34	3%	1005	91%	1101
The City should consider selling older, under-utilized facilities to finance new recreational facilities.	270	25%	231	22%	563	53%	1064
There are enough parks and open spaces in my neighbourhood and surrounding area.	393	36%	131	12%	566	52%	1090
There are enough recreation programs in my neighbourhood and surrounding area.	391	36%	193	18%	497	46%	1081

3. Do you feel that you and/or members of your household are able to participate as often as you would like in the parks and recreational activities that are of most interest to you?

Response	%	#
Yes	54%	547
No	46%	475
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>1,022</b>

4. You mentioned that you and/or your household are unable to participate in the desired types of parks and recreation activities as often as you would like. What are the top three reasons preventing you and your household from doing so? (select up to three responses)

Reason	%	#
Programs are not available at a convenient time	51%	230
The locations are too far away	36%	161
The facilities are too crowded	31%	141
The fees are too expensive	28%	126
I do not have enough time	26%	115
I am not satisfied with the quality of the City's recreation facilities	19%	85
The facilities or programs do not exist in Brampton	16%	73
I am not aware of what facilities and programs are available	15%	67
Parking is not available or convenient	2%	8
It is difficult to access the facilities due to cultural or language barriers	2%	7
The City's parks and recreation facilities are not accessible for persons with disabilities	1%	5
I'm not interested in participating in parks and recreational activities	0%	2
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>448</b>

5. Does anybody in your household regularly visit parks or participate in recreation activities outside of the City Brampton?

Response	%	#
Yes	51%	543
No	49%	524
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>1,067</b>

6. Why does your household participate in these activities outside of the City of Brampton (select up to 2 responses)?

Reason	%	#
Facility/program is not offered in Brampton	26%	127
Tournaments / special events / travel teams	25%	125
Quality of the facility/program is superior	24%	120
Closer to work or school	21%	106
Connected' to the other community / used to live there	15%	73
Less expensive	12%	62
Facility/program is not offered at my preferred time	11%	54
Closer to other activities or shopping	6%	32
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>448</b>

7. On average, how frequently do you visit the following?

Facility Type	Once a Year		Few Times a Year		Once a Month		Twice a Month		Weekly		Daily		Total Respondents
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Community / Recreation Centres	39	4%	154	15%	74	7%	60	6%	474	48%	195	20%	996
Small to medium-sized parks	25	3%	152	16%	107	11%	152	16%	372	38%	169	17%	977
Large parks that serve the whole City	121	12%	416	43%	143	15%	127	13%	137	14%	31	3%	975

8. In general, how important are the following types of facilities to you and your household?

Facility Type	Not Important		Neutral		Very Important		Total Respondents
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Indoor Recreation Facilities (such as arenas, pools, gyms, community centres)	31	3%	55	5%	932	92%	1018
Outdoor Recreation Facilities (such as sports fields, courts, playgrounds)	41	4%	80	8%	894	88%	1015
Parks containing sports fields and other recreation facilities	49	5%	121	12%	843	83%	1013
Parks that preserve greenspace and natural heritage lands	36	4%	90	9%	881	87%	1007

9. In general, how satisfied are you with the following types of facilities that are located in the City of Brampton?

Facility Type	Not Important		Neutral		Very Important		Total Respondents
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Indoor Recreation Facilities (such as arenas, pools, gyms, community centres)	206	21%	266	26%	532	53%	1004
Outdoor Recreation Facilities (such as sports fields, courts, playgrounds)	168	17%	328	33%	486	49%	982
Parks containing sports fields and other recreation facilities	143	15%	356	37%	469	48%	968
Parks that preserve greenspace and natural heritage lands	168	17%	288	29%	521	53%	977

10. Has anybody in your household participated in a recreational program and/or camp offered by the City of Brampton in the past 12 months?

Response	%	#
Yes	59%	591
No	41%	406
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>997</b>

11. How satisfied were you with the last recreational program and/or camp that you registered for through the City of Brampton?

Response	%	#
Extremely Satisfied	18%	103
Very Satisfied	44%	258
Somewhat Satisfied	31%	181
Not Very Satisfied	31%	31
Not at all Satisfied	2%	11
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>584</b>

12. In general, please rate how satisfied you are with recreation programs available in the City of Brampton to the following age groups.

Facility Type	Not Satisfied		Neutral		Satisfied		Total Respondents
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Early Years (0 to 4 years)	63	17%	145	38%	169	45%	377
Children (5 to 12 years)	60	11%	187	35%	280	53%	527
Teens (13 to 17 years)	94	24%	150	39%	141	37%	385
Adults (18 to 54 years)	115	17%	286	41%	294	42%	695
Older Adults / Seniors (55+ years)	63	17%	116	32%	187	51%	366

13. If the City were to build new community / recreation facilities in the future, would you prefer...

Response	%	#
The City provide fewer, but larger indoor community / recreation facilities that offer a wide range of activities.	58%	511
The City provide more, but smaller indoor community / recreation facilities that offer a narrow range of activities.	37%	331
Neither	5%	43
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>885</b>

14. If the City were to build new outdoor parks in the future, would you prefer...

Response	%	#
The City provide more, but smaller outdoor parks that offer a narrow range of activities.	49%	442
The City provide fewer, but larger outdoor parks that offer a wide range of activities.	48%	429
Neither	3%	30
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>885</b>

15. Please select your top five recreation facility types that you think should receive additional public investment, such as upgrades or new construction.  
 (select up to five responses)

Facility Type	%	#		%	#
Swimming Pools - Indoor	43%	423	Dogs Off-Leash Areas	15%	147
Fitness and Weight Rooms	28%	275	Basketball Courts	14%	141
Swimming Pools - Outdoor	25%	249	Ball Diamonds	13%	133
Bike Parks	25%	244	Wading Pools	11%	113
Outdoor Skating Rinks	23%	228	Community Halls / Banquet Rooms	10%	99
Arenas	23%	226	Skateboard Parks	8%	79
Splash Pads	22%	216	Tennis Courts - Indoor	8%	78
Dedicated Youth Centres	22%	215	Sand Volleyball Courts	8%	76
Dedicated Seniors Centres	18%	175	Cricket Fields	7%	72
Gymnasiums	17%	170	Football Fields	4%	36
Soccer Fields	16%	164	Rugby Fields	2%	16
Tennis Courts - Outdoor	15%	154	Bocce Courts	1%	13
Indoor Sports Fields	15%	149	Lawn Bowling Greens	1%	13
			<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>994</b>

16. How important do you think volunteerism is in the delivery of parks, recreation and sport services?

Response	%	#
Extremely Important	31%	292
Very Important	36%	340
Somewhat Important	28%	258
Not Very important	3%	27
Not Important at all	2%	19
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>936</b>

17. Do you have any ideas how to better provide parks and recreation services in the City of Brampton, or any additional comments that you think are important for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

Due to the open ended nature of this question, the responses have not been included. However, the key themes expressed by respondents will be considered as a part of this Master Plan.

18. Are you a member of a group or league that regularly permits or relies on City of Brampton parks and recreation facilities?

Response	%	#
Yes	49%	463
No	51%	479
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>942</b>

19. Which choice best describes your household?

Response	%	#
Couple with children	54%	520
Couple living together	17%	162
Extended family	9%	91
Adult living alone	6%	58
Single parent	5%	49
Prefer not to answer	5%	45
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>963</b>

20. Please tell us how many persons in your household fall within the following age groups.

Response	Number of Persons					Total Persons
	1	2	3	4	5	
Under 10	203	130	26	5	0	364
10 to 19 years	212	158	31	4	1	406
20 to 34 years	192	147	26	6	2	373
35 to 54 years	165	460	17	4	1	647
55 to 69 years	117	146	2	1	0	266
70+ years	53	34	2	2	0	91
<b>Total Respondents</b>						<b>948</b>
<b>Total Persons</b>						<b>2,147</b>
<b>Average Household Size</b>						<b>2.3</b>

21. What is your age?

Response	%	#
Under 15 years	1%	8
15-19 years	8%	79
20-24 years	6%	56
25-34 years	17%	157
35-44 years	29%	276
45-54 years	21%	199
55-64 years	13%	120
65-74 years	4%	39
75-84 years	0%	2
85+ years	0%	3
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>939</b>

22. How long have you lived in Brampton?

Response	%	#
Less than 5 years	11%	108
5 to 10 years	14%	138
11 to 20 years	29%	272
21 to 30 years	20%	193
More than 30 years	25%	242
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>953</b>

23. What language is most regularly spoken in your home?

Response	%	#	Response	%	#
English	81%	779	Tamil	1%	8
Punjabi	5%	51	French	1%	6
Gujarati	2%	17	Portuguese	0%	4
Hindi	2%	16	Polish	0%	4
Spanish	2%	15	Tagalog	0%	4
Urdu	1%	10	Vietnamese	0%	2
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>965</b>		

24. What are the first three digits of your postal code?

Response	%	#	Response	%	#
L6S	13%	129	L6R	7%	72
L6X	12%	115	L6V	7%	69
L7A	11%	105	L6T	7%	64
L6Z	11%	103	L6W	6%	60
L6Y	10%	100	Prefer not to answer	-	67
L6P	8%	80	<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>979</b>

25. Do you identify as:

Response	%	#
Female	55%	524
Male	44%	426
Other	1%	9
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>959</b>

26. What is the best way to inform residents about the Master Plan?

Response	%	#
Media and news releases	38%	338
City of Brampton website	25%	227
City of Brampton social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	20%	178
E-Mail message	17%	157
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>967</b>

27. How did you hear about this survey?

Response	%	#
City of Brampton website	22%	211
Recreation / Sports group	21%	198
City of Brampton social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	17%	163
Personal social network	7%	66
Advertisement	3%	29
Recreation centre poster	3%	29
Residential neighbourhood group	3%	25
City Councillor notice	2%	21
Newspaper article	1%	8
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>962</b>

## Appendix D: Stakeholder Group Survey Responses

The Stakeholder Group Survey captured a wide range of sports and activity groups that use City of Brampton recreation facilities. The 36 groups that completed this survey are listed below. A summary of each group and their responses is provided on the following page.

### **Arenas & Aquatics**

Brampton Bombers Junior B  
Brampton Newfoundlander & Friends Hockey Association  
Brampton Ontario Speed Skating (BOSS)  
Brampton Hockey Inc.  
COBRA Swim Club  
Draft Choice Hockey

### **Soccer**

First Touch Futbol  
Mapola FC Academy

### **Ball**

Brampton Girls Softball Association (BGSA)  
Brampton Minor Baseball  
Brampton Men's Recreational Baseball League  
Brampton Recreational Mixed Slo Pitch (BRMSA)  
Extreme Slo-Pitch League  
Heart Lake Mixed Slo-Pitch League  
Heart Lake Adult Mixed Slo Pitch Association

### **Other Field Sports**

Brampton – Etobicoke & District Cricket League  
Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club and BMLA  
Brampton Field Hockey Club  
Brampton Rugby Football Club  
OKD Field Hockey Club

### **Racquet Sports**

Brampton Tennis Club  
Brampton Sunday Morning Squash League  
Saturday – Terry Miller Squash  
Brampton Wednesday Squash Leagues  
Brameast Badminton Club  
City of Brampton Racquetball Association (CBRA)  
Monday Night Interfacility Squash

### **Other**

Bramalea Remote Control Flyers  
Brampton Volleyball League  
Brampton Ladies Ball Hockey  
Indian Ball Hockey Federation  
Retraite Active  
Salaam Sports  
The Journey Neighbourhood Centre  
Tora Martial Arts  
Women's Probus Club of Brampton Centre

## Stakeholder Group Survey Responses

### Arenas & Aquatics

#### Brampton Bombers Junior B

The Brampton Bombers Junior B hockey team has a stable membership of 30 youth between the ages of 16 and 20. The group reported 10 individuals on the waitlist in each of the past three years. 30% of participants live in Brampton. The group primarily uses the City's arenas and reported a need for new dedicated dressing rooms at Victoria Park Arena<sup>3</sup>, updates to existing dressing rooms, a press box area, and coach's room. The group also reported that playing out of an older facility made it difficult to recruit new players and hindered the fan experience. The lack of accessibility at Victoria Park Arena also created challenges in providing a barrier-free environment.

#### Brampton Newfoundlander & Friends Hockey Association

The Brampton Newfoundlander & Friends Hockey Association is an adult recreational ice hockey group serving adults between the ages of 45 and 65. The group reported a stable membership of 56 participants with 85% to 90% living in Brampton. The group has had a similar ice time at Chris Gibson Recreation Centre for over 35 years and maintains a consistent membership year after year. To serve their members better, the group reported a need for larger dressing rooms and a canteen at Chris Gibson Arena. While the group is not looking to grow, they welcome anyone onto their spare list. The group fears that they will one day be displaced from their long-held ice time.

#### Brampton Ontario Speed Skating (BOSS)

Brampton Ontario Speed Skating (BOSS) serves 42 members, ages 5 and over. 75% of their members live in Brampton and they expect their membership to grow during large international competition years. The group primarily uses Century Gardens Recreation Centre and would benefit from an Olympic-sized rink. The group reported that they sometimes feel that the current facility allocation policy prioritizes hockey teams over their group and that they must fight for ice time each year.

#### Brampton Hockey Inc.

Brampton Hockey Inc. provides youth hockey opportunities to residents of Brampton (95% of members) between the ages of 5 and 20. The group has a membership of 2500, a small decrease from 2700 in 2014. However, they expect membership to increase over the next three to five years through targeted engagement of new demographics and the implementation of new programs. They regularly use multiple facilities throughout the City and would like to see the City invest in a multi-pad, multi-use facility in the future. The group faces ongoing issues with the current facility allocation policy and indicated they would like further in-person engagement on this issue. They reported that a lack of communication with the City was the group's biggest concern.

#### COBRA Swim Club

COBRA Swim Club offers high performance and developmental swim programs for youth ages 5 to 19. They reported a consistent membership of 500 individuals in each of the past three years with 160 waitlisted in 2016. The Club expects its membership to grow when it gains access to the new aquatic facility at Gore

---

<sup>3</sup> The Bomber's response was received prior to the May 27, 2016 fire which destroyed much of the building's interior.

Meadows in 2017. The vast majority of their membership lives outside of Brampton, with only 6% living in the City. To promote access, the Club offers financial assistance and facilitates the participation of those with disabilities. The group has a positive working relationship with the City but would like to have more pool time to better serve the club's growing membership. They would like to see a 50-metre pool built for competitive aquatic sports and are looking forward to the opening of the new Gore Meadows pool.

### **Draft Choice Hockey**

Draft Choice Hockey runs a hockey development program for youth ages 6 to 16, with 25% living in Brampton. They expect their membership to decrease due to high ice costs and competition from the (less expensive) PowerAde Center. The group uses arenas at South Fletcher's Sportsplex, Earnscliffe Recreation Centre, and Century Gardens Recreation Centre. The group reported that a lack of advertising opportunities at arenas has hurt their ability to recruit new participants. The group's most pressing issue is the cost of ice in Brampton compared to neighbouring communities.

## **Soccer**

### **First Touch Futbol**

First Touch Futbol is a soccer academy serving 60 youth between the ages of 7 and 15, 70% of whom live in Brampton. The group expects their membership to increase due to offering high quality training with professional coaches and their good record of success. The group uses City outdoor soccer fields in the summer and school gyms and indoor turf facilities in the winter. They would like to see the City invest in more indoor and outdoor turf fields. The current facility allocation policy has been difficult for them as they are not an affiliated group and are not able to schedule their practices and games until May. While the group understands the preference given to affiliated groups, they would like to see the City allow non-affiliated groups to book time earlier in the year.

### **Mapola FC Academy**

Mapola FC Academy offers training for competitive soccer players between the ages of 7 and 18. The group's membership has grown from 89 in 2014 to 145 in 2016 and is expected to increase; however, this is dependent on facility availability and cost. They utilize most outdoor fields in the City including those at Chris Gibson Recreation Centre, Greenbriar Recreation Centre, and the Brampton Soccer Centre. They would like the City to invest in a bigger indoor turf or to put a dome over one or two outdoor turf fields to increase winter opportunities. The group highlighted that they offer opportunities for youth with disabilities, from different background, and who face financial constraints. They offer scholarships to families that are unable to afford fees. The group feels there is a bias in the current facility allocation policy which only prioritizes three groups and would like to see this policy changed.

## **Baseball/Softball**

### **Brampton Girls Softball Association (BGSA)**

BGSA programs serve youth between the ages of 5 and 19 and consist of indoor and outdoor training for Rep and House Leagues. The association estimated its membership at 500-600 athletes in 2016, with the vast majority living in Brampton. The group reported that they are working with the City to promote softball and increase membership. The Association is willing to generate funding to expand the availability of softball

diamonds and would to collaborate with BMBI and the City towards this goal. BGSA reports that their relationship with the City is positive and productive in supporting their group. The group's major priority is relocating the BMBP Boys' Hardball to a different location and expanding the number of softball diamonds. BGSA uses the FCC for all meetings and practices are held mostly on fields at South Fletcher's Sportsplex, Duggan Park, Fred Kline, Rosalea, and Brampton Fairgrounds. Accessibility and inclusion are provided through membership discounts and free memberships to those who need them. They are also seeking to bridge cultural barriers to promote the sport across different communities.

### **Brampton Minor Baseball Inc.**

Brampton Minor Baseball Inc. offers baseball to 1,600 members, 98% of who live in Brampton. This membership increased over the past year and is expected to continue increasing due to the success of the Toronto Blue Jays, promotion of the league, and coaching development. The group uses most baseball fields as well as the FCCC meeting rooms. To better serve their membership, the group identified a need for a turf field and a stadium venue. While they reported that the current facility allocation policy serves them well, they need to use school diamonds to keep up with demand and these are not as well maintained. Their most pressing concern is securing diamond time.

### **Brampton Men's Recreational Baseball League**

The Brampton Men's Recreational Baseball League provides recreational baseball opportunities for men over the age of 21, 89% of who live in Brampton. Its membership of 480 has been stable over the past three years and the League reported 210 waitlisted members in 2016. The League expects to grow over the next three to five years as players graduating out of Minor Baseball seek opportunities to continue participating in the sport into adulthood. The success of the Toronto Blue Jays has also prompted more interest in the sport. The group plays at all six of the City's major hardball diamonds: Dave Dash Park, Chris Gibson Red, FCCC, Teramoto Red and Yellow, and Morris Kerbel. They reported an immediate need for at least two more hardball diamonds to add 8 teams to their roster and would like one of these diamonds to have stadium seating for 1,000 to 2,000 fans, along with a scorer's booth, concrete dugouts, a scoreboard, and washrooms. They also reported a longer-term need for an additional third diamond. The current facility allocation policy and lack of additional diamonds has restricted the group's ability to schedule practices and expand teams. The lack of diamonds and difficulty booking facilities has also restricted their capacity to host a national tournament.

### **Brampton Recreational Mixed Slo Pitch (BRMSA)**

Brampton Recreational Mixed Slo Pitch (BRMSA) serves 170 members between the ages of 19 and 70, 85% of who live in Brampton. The group expects its membership to remain stable and seeks to provide a fun, social league. They use diamonds at Drinkwater, County Court, Roselea, and Kerbel, as well as Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre for their year-end banquet and the Chris Gibson meeting room for their AGM.

### **Extreme Slo-Pitch League**

The Extreme Slo-Pitch League serves a membership of 2800, growing from 1800 in 2014, 80% of who live in Brampton. The League is geared toward adults over the age of 19 and they expect their membership to remain stable in the near future. The group uses the PowerAde Centre and Sesqui-Centennial Park. Their most pressing need is additional A-class diamonds.

### **Heart Lake Mixed Slo-Pitch League**

The Heart Lake Mixed Slo-Pitch League provides recreational play for adults over the age of 19. Its membership of 154 primarily live in Brampton (80 to 85%) and the League expects its numbers to remain stable. They use City outdoor softball diamonds and would like to see an increase in the diamond inventory as they are currently required to play some games on shared school/city facilities. The League feels that the current facility allocation policy does not appropriately assign facilities. They found that diamonds better suited for adult leagues are being booked by youth leagues and diamonds better suited for youth leagues are being booked by adult leagues. They would like to see the sports fields allocation policy revised to better suit their needs.

### **Heart Lake Adult Mixed Slo-Pitch Association**

The Heart Lake Adult Mixed Slo-Pitch Association provides a weekly recreational night for adults between the ages of 19 and 55. Their membership of 80 primarily lives in Brampton (75%) and the group expects this membership to remain constant.

## **Other Field Sports**

### **Brampton-Etobicoke & District Cricket League**

The Brampton-Etobicoke & District Cricket League seeks to promote and grow cricket in Brampton within all cultural communities. The League works closely with the City to meet its needs but feels that demand for cricket facilities surpasses supply. They seek a plan which addresses these concerns. The League has been growing steadily over the past few years and in 2016, reached 3600 members over 150 clubs and had to turn away 15 clubs with more than 600 potential members due to lack of facility space. Members are between 15 and 55 years of age and 80% or more live in Brampton. They expect their club to continue growing due to its popularity among different cultural groups in Brampton and its popularity across Canada. They reported that they use all current cricket facilities in the City and have an urgent need for training facilities, lighted fields, proper cutting and rolling machines, and inclement weather equipment. The League finds that the current allocation policy and lack of facilities is stifling the growth of the sport.

### **Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club and BMLA**

Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club and BMLA is a long-standing club (established in 1872) promoting lacrosse in Brampton for ages 4 to 65. Its membership has been stable at 1000 for the past three years and 80% of members live in Brampton. They expect their membership to increase in the next three to five years. The Club uses arena floor space at Memorial Arena, Chris Gibson Recreation Centre, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, and Victoria Park Arena. As the current facilities are available only in the summer, the Club would like to see the City invest in a year-round facility with artificial turf to serve the lacrosse community. They are welcoming to all cultural background and provide a subsidy for players who cannot afford membership fees.

### **Brampton Field Hockey Club**

The Brampton Field Hockey Club promotes field hockey in Brampton and offers programs for ages 6 to 60 years old. Its membership has grown rapidly from 20 in 2014 to 85 in 2016. 85% of its members live in Brampton and the Club expects its membership to continue growing. They primarily use the field at the Cassie Campbell Community Centre. However, this facility faces competition for booking time among many clubs and teams. To better support their group, they would like to see a dome built over the field to allow play during the winter season and a new dedicated field for field hockey. To ensure the sport is accessible to all, they offer a free year

of membership for lower-income membership and subsidize club and tournament fees for families with three or more persons in their household.

### **Brampton Rugby Football Club**

The Brampton Rugby Football Club is a long-standing group (established in 1962) that was originally created to enable British immigrants to continue playing the game. They are still the only rugby club in Brampton and now seek to support the participation of all genders and age groups. In recent years, they have begun providing programs and clinics for youth and beginners. Participants are primarily between the ages of 6 and 60. The group reported 300 members in 2016. Of their membership, close to 100% of youth live in Brampton, while about 60% of their senior division live in Brampton. They expect membership to grow over the next three to five years due to increasing television exposure of rugby and international competitions. Since 1989, the group has leased fields and meeting rooms in the Brampton Sports and Entertainment Complex from the City. They would like to see an undeveloped City-owned parcel adjacent to one of their fields (understood to be at the PowerAde lands) developed to support the group's long-term needs. The group prides itself for being the most culturally diverse club in Ontario and have made efforts to reduce costs for youth.

### **OKD Field Hockey Club**

The OKD Field Hockey Club serves 55 youth members ages 6 to 18, 97% of whom live in Brampton. They expect their membership to increase over the next three to five years. The group primarily uses field hockey turf at Cassie Campbell Community Centre and would like to see an additional field hockey turf in Brampton as they feel they could double their membership if they had access to more space. They would also like to see a dome built to allow for winter play.

## **Racquet Sports**

### **Brampton Tennis Club**

The Brampton Tennis Club promotes the sport of tennis and provides facilities for the game. They reported over 400 members in 2016, relatively stable over the past few years and they serve ages 6 to 88, 90% who live in Brampton. They reported that their clubhouse is approaching the end of its useful life and is not barrier-free. They would like to see an increase in the number of tennis courts to allow them to grow their membership. The current facility allocation policy does not allow for growth as there are no planned court additions. They also reported that their lease with the City expires in 2018 and that they are unsure what the future holds for them.

### **Brampton Sunday Morning Squash League**

The Brampton Sunday morning Squash League offers weekly play from September to April. The group's membership stands at 75 members from 16 to 74 years of age, relatively stable over the past few years. 90% of their members live in Brampton. They expect membership to grow over the next three to five years due to the popularity of the sport in the South Asian community. The group uses facilities at Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre and Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre. To better serve their needs, they would like to see adjacent fitness rooms installed at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre. They reported that the current allocation policy does not allow for growth and that no new squash facilities have been built in Brampton in over 30 years.

### **Saturday - Terry Miller Squash**

Terry Miller Squash offers a weekly recreational squash opportunity for 49 members between the ages of 30 and 60, 90% of who live in Brampton. The group expects its membership to remain stable. They would like to

see squash courts in Brampton changed from North American to International-sized courts and for courts to be better maintained.

### **Brampton Wednesday Squash Leagues**

Brampton Wednesday Squash Leagues is a social/competitive group serving players of all skill levels between the ages of 18 and 60, with 95% living in Brampton. The group reported a membership of 65 in the 2015/2016 winter season and 50 in the 2016 summer season, stable over the past three years. They expect their group's membership to grow due to population growth in Brampton. The League reported that they need more squash courts throughout the City and that the limited number of squash courts limits the number of players they can accept in the leagues.

### **Brameast Badminton Club**

The Brameast Badminton Club describes itself as a meeting place for the community through the sport of badminton, serving adults from 18 to 70 years of age, most of who live in Brampton (90%). It counts 100 players in its membership, growing from 80 in 2014, with an additional 20 on its waitlist. The Club expects its membership to increase over the next three to five years due to growing interest in badminton. The club primarily uses the Castlebrook S.S. Gym and would like to see more indoor gyms for badminton with cushioned floors and better lighting in future facilities. The club also expressed a need for more booking time in the evenings and felt that they could not obtain enough gymnasium time to meet their needs. The most pressing concerns for this group were the availability and cost of gymnasium space.

### **City of Brampton Racquetball Association (CBRA)**

The City of Brampton Racquetball Association serves 50 members ages 40 to 60, 80% of who live in Brampton. The group's season runs from September to April. They primarily use the Ellen Mitchell and Chris Gibson Recreation Centres. To better serve their members, the group would like the City to invest in outdoor racquetball courts. This would also serve to create greater exposure for the sport. The group is open to players with disabilities and provides promotional rates to allow more people to join. The group reported a need for better advertising to spread the word about racquetball.

### **Monday Night Interfacility Squash**

Monday Night Interfacility Squash offers recreational play for 30 members between the ages of 25 and 65, 90% of who live in Brampton. They expect their membership to remain stable. They would like to see more squash courts added to the inventory and find that the current facility allocation policy prioritizes individual bookings over League bookings. Their most pressing issue is engaging youth to join the sport.

## **Other Activities**

### **Bramalea Remote Control Flyers**

Bramalea Remote Control Flyers is a hobby group devoted to the enjoyment of remote control aircraft. In 2016, they reported 65 members between the ages of 10 and 65. 80% of their members live in Brampton and they expect their membership to increase due to a resurgence of interest in remote control aircraft. This group meets at Sesquicentennial Park where they have a dedicated space with member-only access. The group expects that there will be congestion pressures from increasing membership and that a larger space will be needed in the near future.

### **Brampton Volleyball League**

A not-for-profit league run by volunteers, Brampton Volleyball League operates recreational volleyball year-round and serves adults between the ages of 18 and 70. The league reported an estimated 3300 participants in 2016 and has been slowly growing over the past several years with 30 people on the waitlist in 2016. 67% of League's participants live within Brampton. The league expects its participation numbers to increase in the future due to increasing demand for beach volleyball. They keep costs low to encourage participation and make their group as accessible as possible. However, static or decreasing numbers are expected for indoor volleyball due to the challenges associated with acquiring indoor space and this is their biggest priority. They have lost space through competition with youth groups and school board uses. This group uses a number of facilities including: gyms at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, Terry Miller Recreation Centre, Cassie Campbell Community Centre, Gore Meadows, Gore Meadows Community Centre; beach courts at Chinguacousy Park; and meeting rooms at Jim Archdekin and Chris Gibson Recreation Centres.

### **Brampton Ladies Ball Hockey**

Brampton Ladies Ball Hockey has been offering programs for girls and women, ages 14 to 60, for over 25 years. In 2016, they reported 75 members, decreasing from 100 in 2014 and 2015, and they expect to remain stable because they have no space to play in the winter. 90% of the group's membership lives in Brampton. The group uses the Greenbriar Recreation Centre. They would like to be able to play one night a week in the summer and have a concrete pad in the winter. They also indicated that parking was a challenge at Greenbriar Recreation Centre.

### **Indian Ball Hockey Federation**

The Indian Ball Hockey Federation offers recreational play for all ages with 800 members between the ages of 10 and 55 reported in 2016. 85% of members live in Brampton. The group has grown by 100 members over the past two years and expects demand to continue to be strong if they are able to secure a dedicated facility. Because of the lack of ball hockey facilities in Brampton, the group uses facilities in Mississauga and Oakville. The group reported that the current facility allocation policy does not allow the use of gymnasiums at the seniors' centre or Gore Meadows Community Centre to be used for ball hockey. Their biggest need is a year-round facility for ball hockey offered at a reasonable cost.

### **Retraite Active**

Retraite Active offers a variety of athletic, cultural, and social activities for francophone seniors. They currently have 100 members between the ages of 55 and 90, 30% of who live in Brampton. Their membership has grown over the past three years and they expect it to continue increasing as they initiate new engagement approaches for recruiting members. They would like to gain access to an accessible and affordable facility for their programs. They currently do not use City facilities but are working to become affiliated as a seniors' group with the City. They would also like a facility with a kitchen or capacity to offer meals, access to green space, washrooms, and parking.

### **Salaam Sports**

Salaam Sports offers basketball and ball hockey to Muslim youth to encourage their participation in sports and competitions. The group reported a membership of 1400 in 2016, growing from 900 in 2014. Their members are between the ages of 8 and 45 with 20% living in Brampton. The group expects their membership to continue growing due to population growth and they reported that they need more outdoor ball hockey rinks

and better basketball facilities to meet demand. They are challenged by the lack of indoor and outdoor ball hockey facilities and the lack of viewing areas in gymnasiums. The group exists to provide access to sports for Muslim youth who may lack the means or skills to join ice hockey or basketball teams. Their effort is to engage this group and promote their participation in sport. Their most pressing needs are greater access to facilities and meeting the dietary restrictions of their membership. Concession stands at recreation facilities often do not provide good options for Muslim youth.

### **The Journey Neighbourhood Centre**

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre offers a variety of programs for children, youth, and families. Over 300 youth ages 6 to 15 participate each year, 99% of who live in Brampton. As a relatively new organization, they expect their participation numbers to increase as they launch new programs and engage the community that they serve. Most of their participants do not have access to a car so booking nearby facilities is a priority for them. They currently use City facilities at Centennial Park, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, Chinguacousy Park, Professor's Lake Recreation Centre, and the PowerAde Centre. The group reports that they need more recreational opportunities in the Ardglan/Orenda area and suggested installing more amenities and facilities in Centennial Park. The group also reported that their access to meeting space is limited and this hinders their programming.

### **Tora Martial Arts**

Tora Martial Arts is a volunteer, non-profit organization that seeks to provide affordable martial arts to Brampton residents. They currently have a membership of 281, growing from 225 in 2014, with a waitlist of 30. They serve youth ages 5 to 16, the vast majority of who live in Brampton, and expect their membership to increase over the next three to five years. The group uses the Terry Miller Recreation Centre. They would like to have better heating and cooling control in the rooms that they use and better maintenance of mats. Because of their need for mats, they are limited to using the Terry Miller Recreation Centre; however, they reported the need for additional time to accommodate expansion of their programs. The group reported that they are committed to accessibility and provide programming for youth with disabilities. They also offer reduced fees to lower-income participants.

### **Women's Probus Club of Brampton Centre**

The Women's Probus Club of Brampton Centre is a social club for retired professional and business women. The group's membership of 140 has been stable for the past three years with 20 to 25 individuals on the waitlist. They maintain the present membership size due to the size of the meeting room at Century Gardens where they hold monthly meetings. The group reports being satisfied with the current room booking arrangement with the City.

## Appendix E: Stakeholder Workshop Summaries

May 10 & 11, 2016

Afternoon Sessions: 1:30 – 3:30pm

Evening Sessions: 6:30 – 8:30pm

Chris Gibson Recreation Centre and Chinguacousy Curling Club

### OVERVIEW

On May 10 & 11, 2016, the City of Brampton hosted a series of four stakeholder workshops with various interested organizations. In total 77 people participated, representing approximately 20 organizations, including various sports clubs, recreation clubs, seniors' groups, and others. The purpose of these workshops was to seek feedback to help identify gaps, opportunities and priorities with regard to parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs in the City of Brampton.

All four workshops started with a presentation outlining the purpose of the Master Plan and the process through which it will be developed. The presentation also featured highlights of six future challenges and opportunities that will be considered in the development of the Master Plan. The workshops then turned to a discussion where participants were asked to provide their views on four focus questions: (1) the current state of Brampton's parks and recreation facilities, programs and services; (2) the most significant trends or factors that are (or should be) shaping the provision of facilities, programs and services; (3) ideas on how Brampton can work with organizations to improve facilities, programs and services; and, (4) the main priorities that Brampton should address in providing for facilities, programs and services.

### KEY THEMES

The key themes below reflect feedback raised by multiple participants, either at one or more of the four workshops. A more detailed summary of all feedback shared is included in the section that follows.

**Sport is important to Brampton, and its programs and facilities need to meet a high standard.**

Many participants felt that Brampton's parks and recreation facilities need to be high-quality and follow international specifications. These facilities should balance the needs of recreational sport, competitive sport, and elite sport.

**Diversity and multi-use should be priorities.** It's important for Brampton's parks and recreation facilities to make space for many different sports. Some talked about specific sport facility needs (e.g. field hockey turf, racquet courts, cricket pitches). Others felt that the City could explore developing large, multi-purpose facilities that provide space for many sports.

**Brampton's growth and cultural / socio-economic diversity should be important considerations in development the Master Plan.** Many participants identified Brampton's changing demographics and diverse cultures as being important trends to consider when identifying priorities.

**The City and sports / recreation organizations should collaborate.** Many felt that increased collaboration between the City and sports organizations would result in better facilities and programs for Brampton residents. The City could consult more with sports organizations when designing sites and facilities, and could also work to make sure its programs complement rather than compete with sports groups. Several participants said the City could support to organizations by helping them promote and advertise programs.

**Funding and costs are key issues.** Most sports organizations are largely volunteer run and face funding challenges. The City could provide great support to sports organizations by providing permit discounts or minimizing the amount of paperwork organizations have to submit.

## **DETAILED SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK**

Participant feedback has been organized first by workshop and then by the following 4 categories: (1) current state; (2) trends / factors; (3) collaboration ideas; and (4) main priorities. Responses from the project team to questions of clarification are denoted by *italics*.

### **Stakeholder Workshop #1 – May 10 Afternoon**

#### **Current state of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services**

##### **Facility Quality**

Participants identified specific facilities they feel are working well and need improvements. Some participants said that track and field is working well at Chinguacousy Park. Other participants said that Gore Meadows Community Centre has good access, Cassie Campbell Park has great exposure and both could use a second gym.

Some participants said Brampton's facilities are tired and its sports infrastructure is behind the times. Participants also said there needs to be an increased emphasis on renewal of aging facilities.

##### **Number and Types of Facilities**

Several participants felt that existing facilities are well utilized and there is a need for more facilities across the City to accommodate Brampton's expanding population. Some participants said Brampton needs additional facilities and programs for seniors. One participant said there is a real need for additional facilities in the northeast part of Brampton because of the population growth in the area.

Some participants said that many schools are lacking play spaces and suggested Parks and Recreation work with schools to promote the use of nearby / attached parks and recreation centres. Judith Nyman Secondary School and Terry Miller Recreation Centre was provided as an example.

One participant said that in the last 10 years half of Brampton's racquet courts (squash, tennis, and pickle ball) have closed.

## Multi-use Facilities and Parks

Several participants said that many existing facilities and parks are exclusive to one or two types of sports / activities and that Brampton could benefit from providing facilities and parks that can accommodate a variety of sports, recreational programs and community groups.

## Parks and Open Spaces

Participants said that parks in Brampton need more amenities, including shade structures, benches, and colourful spaces for children and equipment for adults. Several participants agreed there is a need for equipment and programming for adults so entire families can be active at parks, not just children. Participants suggested looking at how other municipalities are providing equipment and programming for adults.

## Accessibility

Participants said that different facilities have different levels of accessibility and felt it would be beneficial to standardize accessibility across all facilities. Participants suggested some specific physical amenities that could be made more accessible, including showers, benches, gyms, washrooms, and rink surfaces.

## Information and Services

One participant said they would like to see information on community resources for mental health, especially for youth, at community recreation facilities. Another participant felt that summer students could use more customer service training.

## Significant trends / factors affecting parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

### Population Growth and Socio-Economic Diversity

Participants felt that facilities and programs being provided should to be based on Brampton's demographics. Participants also said that facilities should be designed to be nimble / flexible to accommodate a variety of uses and respond to changes in age and culture. Some participants suggested making new and existing facilities multi-purpose to accommodate a wide variety of community needs; one participant suggested following the community hubs model.

### Healthy Living

Participants said that facility design should promote and provide opportunities for physical activity and overall healthy living for all age groups, especially youth and seniors. One participant felt that current health trends, e.g. diabetes and heart disease should be considered when designing facilities.

### Different Levels of Competition

Some participants felt that different levels of competition (play, recreation, elite sports) should be taken into account when designing and locating facilities.

## Accessibility

Participants said that facilities and services will need to meet the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, including universal design and diversity and inclusion training for staff.

## Environmental Sustainability

Participants said that new and existing facilities should be designed to be more environmentally sustainable.

## Collaborating to improve parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

### City Departments

Participants said the Parks and Facility Planning and Recreation and Culture Departments should coordinate with other City departments to ensure city resources are used efficiently and avoid duplication of services.

### Community Services and Facility Providers

Participants suggested working with external service providers such as the YMCA in Peel Region to expand the services and programs offered in Brampton. Participants also suggested partnering with organizations that have existing facilities, e.g. schools, places of worship, to provide additional spaces and programming.

### Ongoing Consultation

Participants felt that consultation should happen on a regular basis and should involve as many people as possible that use parks and recreation facilities. Participants also said that the City should use a variety of methods to consult the public. Some participants said that surveys should be provided at different parks and recreation facilities and by mail because not all people have access to online surveys. Others said that consultation should include in person events at parks, schools, community centres and places of worship. Some participants suggested connecting with schools to distribute surveys.

### Funding

Some participants said the City should explore public-private partnerships as a way to generate funds for services and facilities. One participant suggested the City revisit their rental fees for facilities, noting that it is less expensive to rent from the school board and that the City may lose revenues because of this.

## Priorities for parks, recreation and sport over the next fifteen years

### Develop a Clear Vision

Participants said the City should develop a clear vision to help guide the development of this 20-year Master Plan.

### Promoting Use and Access

Participants suggested building facilities that are adaptive to many different uses to promote increased usage. Other participants suggested using more domes during the winter to increase access to different

sports and activities. Participants also said that the requirements for the different levels of sports should be considered when allocating planning facilities and programming because different levels of sport require different amounts of time for practice and games.

One participant said that for para sport the key factor in promoting use is providing accessible facilities. Participants also said that barriers to getting to and from facilities needs to be considered when thinking about increasing access.

## Youth

Several participants said they want to see parks and recreation facilities and programs used to engage youth and provide them with opportunities to volunteer their time, find employment and co-coach / co-train with professionals.

## Seniors

Participants discussed Brampton's growing seniors population and identified a need to provide space and programming for seniors throughout the entire year, especially during the winter months.

## Level of Service

Participants suggested providing frontline workers with additional training to empower them to make sound customer service decisions.

## Stakeholder Workshop #2 – May 10 Evening

### Current state of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

#### Facility Access and Availability

Participants said that facilities are overcrowded and that there is demand for additional facilities and programming. Some participants said there is need for additional seating and covered areas in parks. Some participants also suggested putting up more domes during the winter to accommodate demand. One participant felt that some sports may be declining because of lack of available space and suggested that an increase in available space might also increase interest in these sports / activities. One participant said the use of facilities and permits needs stronger enforcement.

#### Types of Facilities

Participants discussed different activities and sports and identified specific improvements they feel are needed. Some participants discussed track and field and said there is a need for a large high-quality facility, similar to the one at York University, to attract athletes and spectators. Participants said there is significant demand for cricket in Brampton, over 150 teams, and need for cricket pitches that are properly maintained (e.g. proper grass height and lighting) and can accommodate a large number of spectators. Participants also said that interest in baseball is growing rapidly and there is a need for additional baseball diamonds across the City. One participant said that each additional baseball diamond could accommodate four additional teams. Another participant suggested increasing the number of courts for racquet sports to

increase interest and participation. Some said Brampton would be a great place to have a cricket facility with lights to allow for play at night.

Several participants felt that Brampton would benefit from additional multi-use facilities that can accommodate a wide variety of sport and recreational uses. The Cassie Campbell Community Centre was identified as an excellent example.

## **Parks and Open Spaces**

Participants said that plans for new communities must include adequate park space that is built in conjunction with residential use, not afterwards. Participants also said that both existing and new communities should have local neighbourhood parks that residents, especially children, can access without the use of a car. One participant said there are two communities in the Steeles and Chinguacousy area that do not have any community parks.

## **What are the most significant trends / factors affecting parks and recreation facilities, programs and services?**

### **Socio-Economic Diversity and Population Growth**

Several participants discussed Brampton's cultural diversity and said there is a need and an opportunity to provide a variety of culturally diverse sports and recreational activities.

Participants felt that population growth would be a significant factor and would mean that additional parks and recreation facilities will be needed, especially in the west and northeast parts of Brampton.

Participants suggested increasing family-oriented activities and programs to allow children and parents to participate at the same facility and the same time. Providing swimming and skating lessons for both adults and children was suggested as an example. Other participants said that interest in individual sports (e.g. tennis) is growing and there will be a need for facilities to accommodate these types of sports.

### **Emerging and Re-Emerging Activities**

Participants identified different sports, activities and hobbies they feel are becoming more popular and will be a significant factor affecting parks and recreation facilities, programs and services (e.g. radio controlled flying, tennis and other racquet sports, track and field, cycling, cricket and baseball). Some participants suggested establishing clubs for emerging hobbies because they can help to establish responsibility with participants.

### **Funding**

Several participants said that cost can be a barrier to different programs / activities and that many groups require funding. Participants also suggested the City consult with individual sports groups to better understand their financial needs. Participants suggested reducing advertising fees to help organizations promote their programs.

## **Collaborating to improve parks and recreation facilities, programs and services**

### **Ongoing Consultation**

Several participants said they appreciated this consultation process and suggested having meetings on a regular basis to provide opportunities for feedback on facilities and programming. One participant suggested having an annual survey to get feedback, another participant suggested having 2-year reviews with organizations to assess how the Master Plan is being implemented.

Participants suggested increasing awareness of consultation activities by promoting them at local parks and recreation facilities and through emails to all organizations that use these facilities.

### **Youth**

Several participants said there is a need to connect with Brampton's youth to get them more involved with sports and recreational programs. Participants suggested working with youth to help make facilities and programs more attractive to them. Participants also suggested providing youth with opportunities for mentoring, training, volunteering and employment.

### **Promoting Healthy Living**

Some participants said that the City should work with local health and social services to promote and emphasize the physical and mental health benefits associated with sports and recreational activities.

### **Partnership Events**

Some participants suggested the City work with local sports and recreation organizations to help coordinate and promote different partnership events (e.g. radio controlled flying days / rallies, tennis tournaments, etc.)

### **Education**

Some participants suggested using facilities to run sessions to educate people on the different facilities and programs offered in Brampton. Participants said these sessions could help get more people interested and active in sports and recreational activities.

## **Priorities for parks, recreation and sport over the next fifteen years**

### **Facilities**

Participants said a key priority Brampton should address is providing high quality / premier facilities. Some said there is a need to balance providing large premier facilities with providing smaller local facilities that can be accessed by all residents, regardless of age, income and access to a car

Other participants said there is a need for a large multi-sports complex for major track and field events. Some participants suggested providing additional indoor space for sports and recreation activities during the winter months (e.g. additional indoor facilities and domes).

## **Monitoring Demand and Usage**

Participants said that the City of Brampton should continually monitor trends in sports and recreation to understand and meet demand.

## **Space for All Ages**

Participants said that providing safe and accessible space for all ages, including seniors and children should be a main priority.

## **Facility Maintenance**

Participants said the City should continue to explore opportunities to fund the maintenance of facilities to keep them in good repair. Some participants said they are worried that some facilities (e.g. Howden Recreation Centre) may need to be closed due to poor maintenance.

## **Additional Feedback**

### **Continuing Communication**

One participant said that organizations get notice of listings updates in the City's calendar only a few days in advance and asked if they could be given two to three weeks to allow them adequate time to provide an update. Another participant said they would like to know more about what the City does with the membership data they provide to the City and if there are ways to share this information more broadly. One participant said that their organization has been trying to connect with the Mayor and said any help the City could provide with this would be appreciated.

## **Stakeholder Workshop #3 – May 11 Afternoon**

### **Current state of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services**

#### **Facility Quality**

Participants felt that facility maintenance and supports could be improved and talked about things like field quality (e.g. grass cutting, holes, mud), adding outdoor change rooms (e.g. for cricket grounds), and adding separate entrances to some facilities (e.g. separate entrances for curling and tennis at Chinguacousy).

Several participants talked about field and court standards / specifications. Participants generally agreed that the standards / specifications should be informed by the sport(s) being played at the facility and the age / level of competition that will use the facility. They suggested that user groups and sport experts should be involved in helping to set standards / specifications and that as a starting point, the City should look to international standards (e.g. cricket pitches should always be oriented north-south).

Several participants felt that older facilities needed to be updated to be more multi-sport rather than dedicated to a specific sport / use. One participant talked about upgrading older facilities to make them suitable for year-round activity (e.g. using bubbles over soccer pitches and / or creating indoor training space).

## Programs

Several participants suggested that the facility booking process could be improved. Specific suggestions included moving the booking process online, improving booking communications (e.g. not having all communications go through general mailbox), and staff training / retention to help forge ongoing relationships to assist with booking.

Participants also talked about the cost of programs. Some felt that there is a good variety of affordable programs for seniors. Others felt that the cost of non-senior and youth programs is becoming prohibitive and should be improved. Still others said that specific types of facilities are well priced, including arenas and outdoor grass fields.

## Other Suggested Areas to Improve

One participant felt that access to parks needed to be improved through improvements to / additions of crosswalks, signage, and lighting.

A few participants felt that the City should take a leadership role around the issue of dogs-off-leash in parks, particularly parks with natural heritage / systems elements. These participants also stressed the importance of understanding how parks and open space interface with the broader trails network.

## Significant trends / factors affecting parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

### Population Growth and Socio-Economic Diversity

Several participants felt that population growth would be a significant factor and would mean that additional parks and recreation facilities will be needed. One participant focused in on parks and noted that population growth is expected to happen through intensification, making parks and open space all the more important.

A few participants felt that Brampton's socio-economic diversity was an important factor since the city has an aging population who is staying active later into life. They felt there was a need for more adult and senior programs while others felt this was an opportunity to promote preventative health through recreation.

Participants also talked about Brampton's cultural diversity and felt that there were opportunities to introduce new sports to new Canadians and vice versa.

### Funding

One participant felt that it would be important to strike a balance between funding for new facilities and repairing / maintaining existing facilities.

### Renewal + Upgrades

Several participants talked about facility renewal and upgrades as a significant factor. They talked about upgrading facilities to be more flexible so that they can adapt to changing recreational needs. They also talked about upgrading facilities to match or exceed the standards in adjacent municipalities (or even

provincially / nationally) so that Brampton could compete for athletes, tournament hosting and national / international level training.

## **Partnerships**

Participants felt that partnerships were in an important factor affecting parks, sport and recreation and suggested that the city collaborate to promote events and focus on working with the school boards and post-secondary education institutions to help promote recreation.

## **Collaborating to improve parks and recreation facilities, programs and services**

### **Facility Design**

Several participants talked about engaging user groups in the design of facilities. They suggested that the City involve user groups at all stages of the planning / design process and develop a standardized template for user groups to submit their requirements.

Participants also talked about collaborating with user groups to help identify parks and facilities that are in need of rehabilitation, solicit potential cost-sharing ideas, and coordinate conversations between user groups to talk about resourcing and rationalizing facility space.

### **Programs**

Several participants talked collaboration to improve program delivery, including better integration between groups (e.g. management agreements) and facilities (e.g. City and YMCA or schools). They talked about collaborating with schools in particular to help raise awareness of all the programs the City offers, bringing programs into schools to introduce students to sport, and increasing registration for City programs.

## **Priorities for parks, recreation and sport over the next fifteen years**

### **Usage**

Participants discussed maximizing the usage of facilities over the next 15 years. Several felt that there were many cases today where facilities were booked and not being used. They felt that the City could work to help raise awareness of when facilities are available (i.e. booked but not in use) and that aiming towards full usage would help get more people involved in sport and recreation.

### **Greenspace**

A few participants felt that the City should emphasize protecting greenspace, particularly as the population increases and land use intensifies, leading people having less green space in their own backyards.

### **Access**

A few participants felt that the City should focus on access to facilities, ensuring that they are well connected to the transportation network and have ample parking capacity for peak usage periods.

## Working with others

Several participants felt that the City should focus on working with others in the delivery of parks, sport and recreation over the next 15 years. Participants talked about connecting schools and sport / recreation groups to help bring sport instruction and training in to schools. They also talked about working to raise awareness of sport and recreation opportunities offered through umbrella organizations like the Brampton Sport Alliance and through the City. Lastly, they talked about raising the profile of sports and recreation through recognizing and awarding junior sports.

## Funding

Participants talked about focusing on full lifecycle costs when considering funding over the next 15 years, including both capital and operating costs, to ensure that the City can fund recreation over the long term. Participants also talked about seeking out corporate sponsorships / selling naming rights to facilities as a means of raising funds.

## Additional Feedback

### Sports Hub

Participants talked about the potential of creating a multi-purpose sports complex that could feature elite / international level facilities, a range of recreation facilities, and entertainment uses like restaurants and shops. Some participants felt that the area around the PowerAde Centre could be a site for such a sports hub because of the amount of land around it and its proximity to Highways 407 and 410, but others felt that the site was too constrained from a transportation perspective.

### Communication

When a program is cancelled or re-scheduled, the only way for people to find out is to visit the City's website, which is difficult to navigate (especially on mobile devices). The City could develop a mobile app or "push platform" (like SMS or a Google calendar) that would notify people when programs that they care about are cancelled or re-scheduled.

### Process

One participant felt that parks and facilities planning should rely on data and analysis with Council then setting the budget that would allow for the implementation of the plan.

## Stakeholder Workshop #4 – May 11 Evening

### Current state of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

#### Brampton has a culture of sport

Several participants said that Brampton has a fantastic sporting culture and produces more top-grade athletes than any city of its size in Canada. The City's parks facilities, programs, and services are key contributors to this culture.

## Facility Diversity, Quality, and Access

Participants felt that Brampton needs more diverse sport facilities, including: a dome (that could help people play soccer in the winter), more turf fields for soccer, a new recreation centre (especially in Ward 3), outdoor racquetball courts, and more cricket pitches. Some participants felt Brampton parks should have more clubhouses—Chinguacousy Park, for example, lacks a clubhouse for tennis groups, and tennis groups often aren't allowed into the Curling Club building because it's booked for other events. The City could consider developing a facility for multiple racquet sports (like racquetball and badminton) so that these groups could share space and save costs.

Several participants said they were frustrated that many schools seemed to allow their facilities to fall into disuse—especially soccer and baseball fields. Since some of residents' taxes go to the school board, these facilities should be well-maintained and more accessible for public use. It can also be difficult to get a permit to use school facilities.

## Programs and Service Delivery

Some participants felt that some City staff could benefit from more training or sport-specific experience. Sometimes, staff responsible for administering a sport don't have a thorough understanding of the sport, which can impact the quality of service residents get from the City. At other times, staff responding at 311 don't seem to know the location of the City's sports fields. Participants felt it's important for staff to be well-trained about sports to provide great service to Brampton residents.

## Funding and Costs

Sports clubs and associations face some big challenges in terms of funding and increasing costs. One tennis group said that a 61% jump in price of hydro has had a big impact on their club, and without a huge volunteer base, the club would be in a deficit.

Several participants also said that their organizations are forced to host events in other cities' facilities (like the Hershey Centre) since Brampton's own facilities (like the PowerAde Centre) are too expensive.

## Significant trends / factors affecting parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

### Changing Lifestyles

One person felt that Brampton's older facilities were conceived and built in a different era—when facilities were smaller, scattered across the City, and people could walk to them. As a result, many facilities don't offer very diverse sports. Since Brampton has become more of a bedroom community, where most people have cars, new facilities might need to be larger, multi-purpose facilities that people can drive to.

### Changing Demographics

Brampton's population has grown and its cultural composition has changed a lot. Participants felt that the Parks and Facilities Master Plan should be based on the needs of the different cultures that make up the City.

## Making Use of Existing Space

Participants said that Brampton doesn't have much un-developed country space left—all the woodlands and farms have been re-developed—so it will be key for the master plan to figure how to make best use of existing spaces. One person felt that the Hoop Dome in Toronto was a good example: it re-purposes a hangar as a multi-court basketball facility.

## Big, Multi-Purpose Facilities

Many communities have started developing big, multi-purpose facilities (like the Kinsmen Sports Centre in Edmonton). These kinds of facilities have big parking lots, host many different sports, and have places for people to shop. They have become magnets for people and could be a model for Brampton to follow.

## Climate Change

Some participants said that climate change could affect the kinds of facilities the City should be developing. The City could prioritize more indoor facilities—especially for skating—since outdoor facilities might not be as useful if winters are milder. One person suggested the northeast part of the City would be a good place to start adding new indoor skating facilities. *John Spencer, City of Brampton, said the popularity of the outdoor skating track at Gage Park has led to more demand for similar outdoor facilities.*

## Collaborating to improve parks and recreation facilities, programs and services

### Funding

Funding was a big issue for many participants. They suggested the City could help address funding challenges sports clubs and associations face by providing discounts for youth (especially if it's to provide programming and facilities that aren't being used) and helping with or reducing the amount of paperwork necessary to deliver programs. Many clubs and associations run with minimal staff and volunteers who have fulltime jobs, and they're frustrated when City paperwork requirements (such as requirements to submit insurance) stretch their limited resources.

### Programs

Some participants felt they were in competition with the City to deliver programs (which they described as an unfair competition, since small organizations cannot match the City's resources). They felt the City might compete with clubs since its programs are a source of revenue. Others felt that the City and clubs provided different programs and that they were complementary rather than competitive: a person might register for a general skating program with the City, for example, but then register with a club for a more advanced, specialized program. Participants said it was important for the City to minimize duplication between club and City programs—clubs could provide coaches to assist with City-run programs, for example. Through more collaboration, the facilities would be better used, clubs would get more members, and participants would get high-quality coaching.

### Facilities and Facility Quality

Participants felt it's important for the City to involve sports groups in site design for future parks and facilities. One person gave the example of how, at Chinguacousy, tennis players need to go through the

Curling Club building in order to access the balcony that overlooks the tennis courts. Since the building or balcony are sometimes inaccessible, tennis players aren't able to watch the games. Another person said that facilities don't all need to be expensive "super centres" like Cassie Campbell; it's more important that people have a facility that they can use. Finally, one person said the City should be surveying the quality of its existing facilities to identify which facilities—if any—need to be completely replaced.

## Promotion and Communication

Because many organizations are non-profits that try to keep rates low for their members, they struggle with getting the word out, especially with the high costs of advertising. Many participants said that the City could help sports organizations with promotion and communication about their programs, suggesting: the City expand the number of pages in the Brampton Sports Guide (to provide more space for clubs to advertise), provide an online booking system for clubs' programs, give sports organizations a page on the City's website to promote their existence and their programs, and provide league management software that clubs could use. Promotion and web tools are big burdens for many organizations, and it would be a big help if the City could help with them.

## Priorities for parks, recreation and sport over the next fifteen years

### Long-term Athlete Development

Some participants were concerned that some kids are leaving Brampton to go to Mississauga because of the availability of different sports, facilities, and coaching. They felt that long-term athlete development should be a priority for the Master Plan, and that it was important to provide the kinds of programs and facilities that will keep kids in Brampton.

### Funding

Participants asked how funding will be allocated to different sports over the next 15 years. *Todd Brown said that the Master Plan does not recommend allocations of money to specific sports, but will identify must-haves, nice-to-haves, and how to best allocate resources to meet the needs of the community.*

## Additional Feedback

### Citizen Panel

Several participants asked about the representation of the Citizen Panel being consulted as part of the Master Plan process (including the diversity and qualifications of the group). *John Spencer, City of Brampton, said that the group is made up of representatives from different committees and was deliberately designed to have generalists that represented a gender and interest diversity. He also said that the Citizen Panel is one among many groups—including the sports and recreation organizations participating in these stakeholder workshops—providing input into the process.*

### Survey

Several participants said they hadn't received the stakeholder survey. *John Spencer explained that the team identified contacts using Sports Brampton and sent it to 300 points of contact for approximately 170*

organizations. The City said it would share the link to the survey with participants after the meeting and said it was very important to the process that they submit it on behalf of their organization.

## Reporting

Participants asked who the consulting team would ultimately report to: City council or City staff? *Todd Brown explained that the Master Plan will involve consultation with the public, stakeholders, a steering committee, and councillors. Informed by this consultation, the consultants will ultimately make a recommendation to staff, who will then present it to Council for their consideration.* Participants said it was important for the process to involve user groups, since they might be able to provide important information about time allocation and other issues.

Participants also asked when the financial sustainability of the master plan would be considered. *Todd Brown said that financial sustainability would be considered after developing preliminary recommendations and before producing a Draft Master Plan.*

Several participants applauded the City and the consultant team for its approach, saying it was refreshing to see the City take an open approach to engagement.

## Other Questions

Participants asked if the current plans for Gore Meadows will be re-thought as a result of this Master Plan exercise (specifically to put in a 50 metre pool). *John Spencer said that construction has commenced, so it likely couldn't be changed, but that this feedback highlights a need for the City to consult with organizations and user groups to make sure it's building the right facilities.*

## NEXT STEPS

The meeting concluded with a brief overview of next steps in the process. Participants were reminded that the study team would be undertaking analysis over the summer and developing the draft plan in the fall of 2016. A second round of consultation activities will then be held in late 2016 / early 2017 to test the draft Master Plan.

## List of Participating Organizations

### Workshop #1, May 10, 1:30pm

Brampton Minor Baseball Inc.  
Brampton Hockey  
Brampton Basketball  
Brams United Girls Soccer Club  
Cobra Swim Club

### Workshop #2, May 10, 6:30pm

Bramalea RC Flyers  
City of Brampton Racquetball Association (CBRA)  
RBI Sports Academy – Baseball  
Brampton Elite Soccer  
Brampton Men's Recreational Baseball League

### Workshop #3, May 11, 1:30pm

Brampton Bombers Junior Ice Hockey Team  
Brampton Beast – Hockey Team  
AC Field Hockey – Brampton Field Hockey Club  
Brampton Old Timers Hockey League  
Brampton Minor Lacrosse Association  
Brampton Cricket League  
Credit Valley Conservation Authority  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

### Workshop #4, May 11, 6:30pm

Bramalea Tennis Club  
City of Brampton Racquetball Association (CBRA)  
Brampton Elite Soccer  
Area Pro Youth Hockey  
Sledge Hockey  
Brampton East Soccer  
Skate Canada Brampton

## Appendix F



July 19, 2016

Mr. John Spencer  
Manager, Parks and Facilities Planning  
Engineering and Development Services  
City of Brampton

Dear Mr. Spencer,

**Re: City of Brampton - Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP)**

Thank you for including Peel Public Health in the City of Brampton's Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) stakeholder workshops, and for the opportunity to provide additional input.

Diabetes rates in Peel are higher compared to rates across the Greater Toronto Area and Ontario; the majority of neighbourhoods with very high rates of diabetes are located within Brampton. Diabetes rates are strongly correlated with physical activity levels. Over 90 per cent of Canadian children and youth, and almost 80 per cent of adults do not meet the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines. The physical activity rates are strongly influenced by the availability, accessibility, and the quality of parks and recreation programs and infrastructure.

The PRMP provides an opportunity for the City of Brampton to take a leadership role in impacting the health and well-being of Brampton residents by:

1. Ensuring the design and placement of parks, open spaces and recreation infrastructure and buildings contribute to walkable, safe and socially connected communities.
2. Partnering with community settings where residents naturally congregate to offer programs and services to a variety of population groups across the lifespan.
3. Demonstrating a commitment to broader health promotion through a concerted focus on healthy eating policies and initiatives.

Design and Placement

- Connectivity (e.g., paths, trails), accessibility (e.g., proximity, access to public transit) and safety (e.g., lighting, rest spots) impact the use of parks, recreation facilities and open spaces
- Applying Universal Design principles to existing and new parks, recreation facilities and infrastructure, and open spaces will support use by all Brampton residents, regardless of age and ability

**Peel Public Health recommends that the City of Brampton utilize the *Sustainable Community Development Guidelines* through the development application process to ensure that site selection for parks, recreation facilities and open spaces maximizes opportunities for residents' access and creation of public realm.**

---

**Health Services**

PO Box 667 RPO Streetsville, Mississauga, ON L5M 2C2  
Tel: 905-799-7700 peelregion.ca

**Public Health**

Office of the Medical Officer of Health

#### Programs and Services

- Transportation, seasonal variation and social marginalization and isolation present potential barriers to accessing parks, recreation facilities and open spaces
- The City of Brampton's Recreation and Culture Department has already demonstrated a desire and collaborative approach to working with non-traditional partners in the delivery of programs and services

**Peel Public Health recommends that the City of Brampton build upon this culture of innovation to expand the scope and reach of delivering programs and services outside of the City of Brampton's recreation centres to community settings, such as parks, schools, places of worship and multi-cultural centres.**

#### Healthy Eating

- Residents of all ages, particularly children and youth, spend a significant amount of time in parks, recreation facilities and open spaces
- Food and beverages typically sold in parks and recreation facilities are not required to adhere to nutrition standards and may not contribute to a healthy diet
- Offering unhealthy food and beverages in parks and recreation facilities sends an inconsistent health message to patrons who are using facilities for physical activity

**Peel Public Health recommends that the City of Brampton adopt healthy food standards across recreation facilities' concession, vending, summer camps, and program areas (e.g., cooking classes), and to consider opportunities to host farmers' markets and/or community vegetable and fruit gardens in parks, open spaces and at recreational facilities to encourage healthy eating, develop food skills and to provide opportunities for light physical activity.**

We hope that you consider these recommendations as you move forward with the City of Brampton's PRMP.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Olha Dobush, Director – Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention at 905-791-7800, ext. 2617 or via email at [Olha.Dobush@peelregion.ca](mailto:Olha.Dobush@peelregion.ca).

Sincerely,



Eileen de Villa, MD, MBA, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

- c. Ms. Donna-Lynn Rosa, Director, Recreation and Culture, City of Brampton  
[Donna-lynn.rosa@brampton.ca](mailto:Donna-lynn.rosa@brampton.ca)

---

#### Health Services

PO Box 667 RPO Streetsville, Mississauga, ON L5M 2C2  
Tel: 905-799-7700 [peelregion.ca](http://peelregion.ca)

#### Public Health

Office of the Medical Officer of Health