



City of Brampton

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## Discussion Paper #1: Background Information

FINAL

July 25, 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 review a number of documents that are pertinent to 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, and for the Steering Committee to validate the accuracy of information as necessary.

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 will be developed over the course of the Master Plan's preparation include a Consultation Analysis 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:

The logo for Monteith-Brown, consisting of the lowercase letters "mbpc" in a stylized, cursive script.

**Monteith♦Brown**  
planning consultants

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# LET'S CONNECT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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## Section 1: Overview of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

### 1.1 The Importance of Parks and Recreation

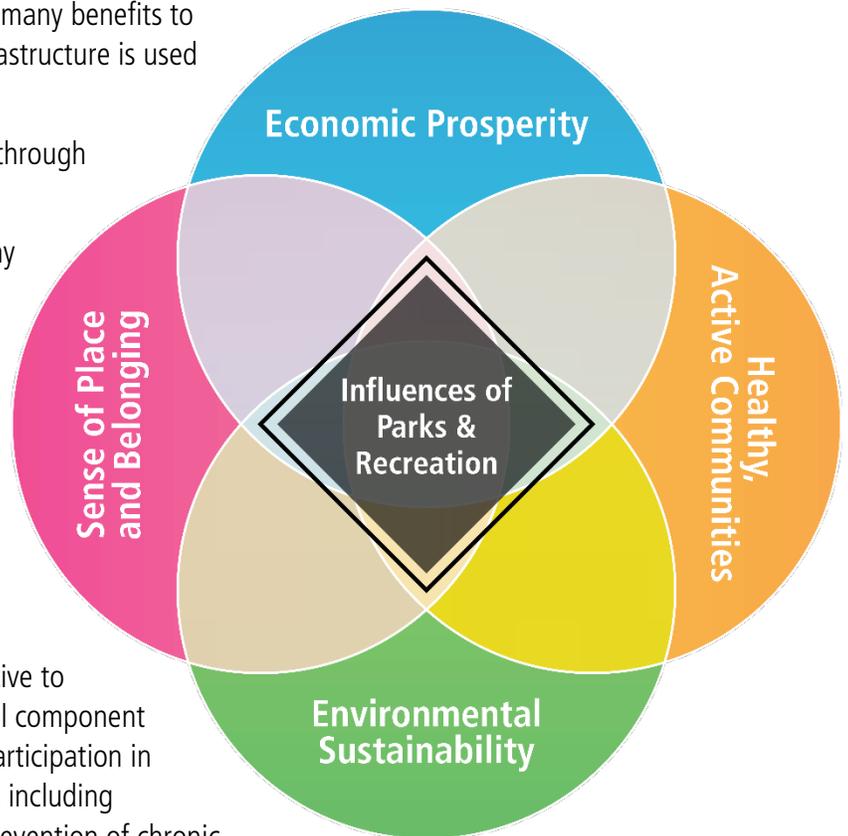
The City of Brampton has long valued parks and recreation, with the historical roots of formal parks and recreation services tracing back to 1903 when Gage Park was created as the first municipal park. Over the years, Brampton's parks and recreation sector has grown in tandem with the City's urban expansion while continuing to adapt to the unique mix of ages, incomes and cultures. The City's 2015 Community Service Satisfaction Survey found that residents are most proud of Brampton's parks, naturalized areas and recreation and sports centres.

Parks and recreation facilities and services offer many benefits to Brampton's residents. Parks and recreation infrastructure is used by the City of Brampton to:

- provide opportunities for healthy living through physical and social activities;
- aid in the planning and design of healthy communities;
- create a sense of place and belonging;
- spur economic development and tourism; and
- promote environmental health and sustainability.

#### A Chance to Be Healthy and Active

The parks and recreation sector is highly conducive to facilitating physical activity, which is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle and personal well-being. Participation in physical activity has a number of health benefits including improved physical and mental health, greater prevention of chronic



ailments and disease, increased self-esteem, and a higher propensity to engage in positive lifestyle and behaviour choices (particularly among children and teens).

In Canada, many people do not engage in sufficient levels of physical activity, for a number of reasons such as lack of time, automobile-centric community planning and development, growing disparities between various socio-economic status factors as they relate to health, and the prevalence of sedentary activities (e.g. watching television, online activities, etc.) as opposed to physically active pursuits. A 2012 survey<sup>1</sup> found that only a quarter of Peel Region residents are physically active during their leisure time – the provision of parks and recreation facilities and programs is thus an important part of counteracting physical inactivity and increasing overall health of residents.

### **Contributing a Sense of Place and Belonging**

The built form of a community can influence levels of physical activity, well-being and community vibrancy with parks and recreation infrastructure forming an important element of Brampton's urban design and place-making objectives. A number of the City's land use planning documents emphasize parks and recreation spaces in city-building efforts – documents such as the Official Plan, Secondary Plans, the Development Design Guidelines and Brampton's 'Grow Green' Environmental Master Plan, etc. Research from the University of California found that children who live in "smart growth" neighbourhoods (developments that are designed to increase walkability and have more parks and green space areas) get 46 percent more moderate or vigorous physical activity than children who live in conventional neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup> More regionally, many Peel Region residents believe it is important to live within a ten minute walk of parks and trails (90%), community centres and libraries (85%) and recreation facilities (83%).<sup>3</sup>

Brampton has designed a number of its parks and recreation facilities in a manner that has led to them to be major community focal points and destination areas where residents from all walks of life can gather. Examples include Gage Park, Chinguacousy Park and many of the City's major and minor community centres and associated parklands. Residents use these parks and recreation infrastructure to participate in physical and cultural activities together, interact at a social and personal level and partake in festivals and special events. All of these activities help Bramptonians to feel connected to their neighbourhood and the broader community.

### **Economic Development and Prosperity**

The parks and recreation system contributes towards economic development and tourism potential of the City. Having high quality parks and recreation spaces assists in attracting new businesses (e.g. manufacturing plants, company headquarters or satellite offices, etc.), highly demanded professionals (e.g. doctors, entrepreneurs), and new residential growth. Since these are highly sought amenities among employers and employees alike, having a strong parks and recreation system provides a

community with a competitive advantage. The system also facilitates tourism and sport tourism opportunities. Tourists may choose to visit the City to experience horticultural displays, partake in special events and festivals, or play in tournaments. Accordingly, many of the City's parks and facilities attract use from non-residents who generate economic spin-offs for local businesses.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Objectives related to the preservation, conservation and management of green space can be achieved through the parks and recreation system, while facilities and service delivery practices can also achieve goals relating to environmental sustainability. Securing parkland augments naturalized areas and adds green space capable of functioning as carbon sinks, onsite stormwater retention, habitat areas, etc. while parks and recreation facilities can be designed in a manner to minimize energy consumption or use renewable energy sources, integrate native plantings, and more.

## **1.2 Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The field of parks and recreation planning has emerged in response to the importance of the sector, effectively positioning decision-makers and service providers to meet the parks and recreational needs of a community in a sustainable manner. Municipalities frequently undertake assessments of their parks and recreation systems to develop policy frameworks, and quantify benefits and needs through broad guiding documents such as Master Plans, topic-specific specialty studies and other day-to-day tasks aimed at service improvements or supporting the annual budgeting process.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (herein referred to as the 'PRMP' or 'the Master Plan') is a long-range document. It will provide a framework for the City of Brampton to make future decisions aimed at ensuring a comprehensive system of parks and recreation facilities and services. 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 has a fifteen year planning horizon (to 2031).

### 1.3 Project Methodology

The preparation of the Master Plan is being overseen by the Planning & Infrastructure Services Department with support from the Public Services Department and the Office of Community Engagement. The City retained Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, Tucker-Reid & Associates, and Swerhun Facilitation as the project consultants responsible for developing the Master Plan.

The City has formed a Project Steering Committee to provide overarching advice and provide approvals of key deliverables. A Project Working Team oversees day-to-day aspects of the planning process including: providing direction on consultations, reviewing deliverables, as well as liaising with municipal departments and the senior management. Additionally, a Master Plan Citizen Panel has been formed with a broad cross-section of local residents from Brampton's Citizen Advisory Committees. The role of the Citizen Panel is to provide advice throughout the master planning process and help disseminate information to the community.

Key components of the project methodology include:

- A comprehensive community engagement programme supported by Communications and Engagement Plans that articulate a broad range of consultation tactics including project branding and awareness efforts, surveys, workshops and roundtable discussions, key opinion leader interviews, and public information sessions.
- Comprehensive reviews of quantitative and qualitative data from all other municipal documents, demographics and trends reports;
- Confirmation of the municipal inventory of parks and recreation facilities, supported through GIS mapping efforts and high-level observations regarding facility conditions;
- Assessments of parks and recreation facilities and programming including quantifiable metrics and service level standards; and
- A review of operational impacts and financial implications associated with major directions coming out of the PRMP including capital funding sources and financial strategies.

The Master Planning process commenced with a meeting with the Project Steering Committee and Project Working Team in January 2016, while the first Citizen Panel was held in March 2016. Initial community engagement activities are expected to occur in 2016 Q1/Q2, needs assessments in Q3, a draft Master Plan in Q4 and the final Master Plan completed in 2017 Q1.

As previously mentioned, the scope of the PRMP encompasses parks and recreation facilities and services. Although the City's parks and recreation infrastructure also accommodates for other facilities and services spanning arts and culture, trails, natural heritage system, etc., it is not within the scope of the PRMP to explore these elements as many are, or will be, addressed by documents such as cultural plans, active transportation master plans, natural heritage reviews or conservation plans, etc. As noted in the City's Terms of Reference, the development of the Master Plan provides an opportunity for the development of a *framework* from which more detailed "strategies" can follow (i.e. the Master Plan should be viewed as a *point of departure* through which subsequent, more detailed analysis can be and should be undertaken, where necessary).

## Discussion Papers

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 (this document)
2. Consultation Analysis (estimated 2016 Q2)
3. Interim/Needs Assessment (estimated 2016 Q3)
4. Financial Analysis (estimated 2016 Q4)

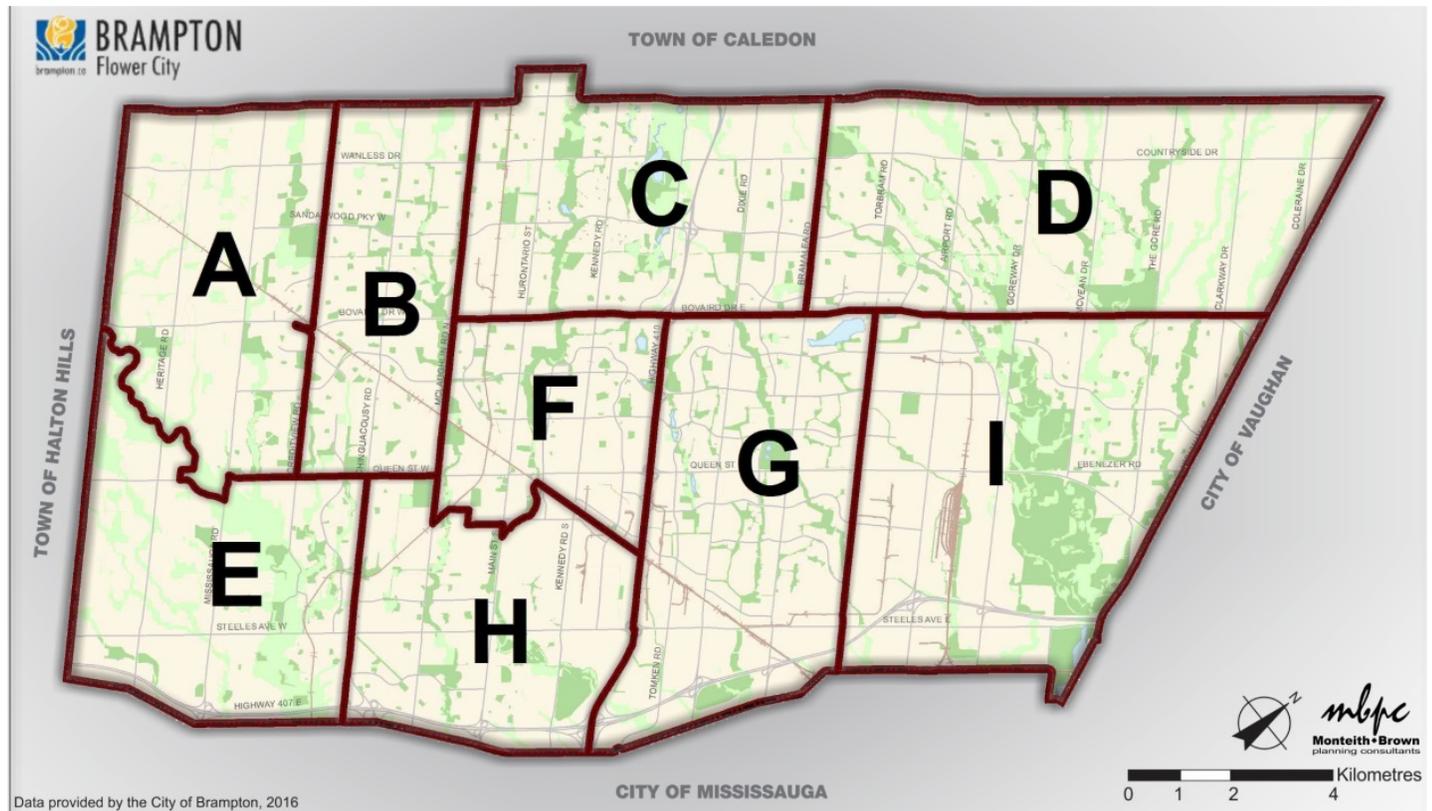
Discussion Papers are not anticipated to be formally approved by City Council and thus are not considered to be part of the final PRMP since these Papers will contain information and assessments that are subject to change following their presentation and review.

## Proposed Parks & Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs)

The City of Brampton covers a large geographic area of over 266 square kilometres, through which there are distinctive sub-communities with varying population densities and other socio-demographic characteristics. For the purposes of the PRMP, it is advantageous to segment the City into smaller geographic units.

Referred to herein as Brampton's 'Recreational Planning Areas (RPA)', the nine RPAs illustrated in Figure 1 represent relatively homogenous geographic units.

Figure 1: City of Brampton – Proposed Recreational Planning Areas



The boundaries for the RPAs were based upon a number of factors, including:

- Having access to at least one major park and/or recreation centre in each.
- Having comparable travel times to access major parks and recreation services.
- Possessing relatively similar population projections (@ 2031).
- Having discernable boundaries (such as major roads, river valleys, etc.) that tend to create neighbourhoods by virtue of their location.
- Incorporating and respecting historical and identifiable neighbourhood boundaries.
- Having regard for municipal operations boundaries relating to responsibilities of various units within the Planning & Infrastructure Services Department and Public Services Department (notably Parks and Recreation/Culture) that relate to parks and recreation infrastructure.

The parks and recreation service levels within each RPA can be evaluated in relation to other areas of Brampton of comparable size and character. RPA boundaries have been established with the assistance of City Staff representing multiple departments, and are consistent with previous methodologies employed in earlier planning processes -

such as the City's Parkland Dedication Discussion Papers, that were prepared in 2009/2010 and tabled to Council.

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*Note: It should be emphasized that in the identification of prospective RPA boundaries, there was a conscious decision to not use Wards as the basis of this analysis.*

*Ward boundaries are subject to change, over time, and are not consistent in terms of the variables noted above – which influence, or potentially influence the use of parks and recreation infrastructure.*

*Staff and the consultant team deliberated on this point and advocated for the boundaries as noted above. There is no requirement, nor recommendation at the time of writing of this paper, that these RPA boundaries will serve in the formal delivery of services and or programs. This will be assessed later in the planning process.*

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## Section 2: Policy Context

The City's built form and service delivery practices are influenced by a number of documents and policies. Since parks and recreation services also shape the way in which the City is designed and how services are provided, it is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to fit within the broad context of national, provincial, regional and local frameworks and initiatives. To aid in the planning and implementation of parks and recreation-related recommendations, the Master Plan should take into account relevant information and ensure it is to be consistent with provincial, regional and municipal objectives.

This Section summarizes relevant legislation, strategic frameworks and municipal priorities that influence and align with Brampton's parks, recreation and sport system. Information gathered through the background review provides baseline content for the Master Plan, while integrating and/or reinforcing appropriate findings that support the provision of parks and recreation facilities and services in Brampton.

### 2.1 Provincial Legislation

#### Ontario Planning Act

The Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 is the guiding document for all land use planning in Ontario to promote sustainable economic development in a healthy environment. The Planning Act establishes the basis for municipalities to secure parkland dedication on all new development through the application of Sections 42 and 51.1 of the Act.

The Act gives municipalities the power to impose parkland dedication requirements as a condition of development or subdivision of land through the enactment of a by-law. The City of Brampton's Parkland Dedication By-law (283-2013) was recently amended and affords the municipality the right to collect parkland, or cash-in-lieu of parkland (CIL) in accordance with the Act. The Planning Act is therefore the principle means by which the City acquires land for parks purposes, through dedication and/or cash-in-lieu of parkland. The city also uses CIL for other things in accordance with the

The Master Plan shall address regulations, policies, plans and programs...that address the City's parks and open space systems and associated recreational facilities.

*- Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Terms of Reference*

provisions set out in the Act. Recreation centre renewal has been the recipient of CIL funds in the past.

The provisions set out in the Planning Act are significant and greatly influence the amount of parkland Brampton can provide, and/or how much funding it can assign to recreational centres renewal. It should be noted Brampton does not use CIL for park development or park redevelopment, as this is contrary to the regulations set out in the Act.

A recent development is the passage of Bill 73 which reduces cash-in-lieu requirements when applying the 'alternative' standard (of 1 ha/300 dwelling units). The Bill amends the standard to one hectare for each 500 dwelling units, proposed. City Staff will be working on addressing the impacts of Bill 73 later in 2017, with the passage of the Bill into law.

### **Provincial Policy Statement**

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), issued under the Ontario Planning Act, sets a vision for land use planning in Ontario. A new PPS came into effect on April 30, 2014, replacing the previous version issued in 2005. The PPS is a significant document since it provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest as it pertains to land use planning and development, and accordingly, regional and local planning policies (including those prescribed through Official Plans) must have regard for, and be consistent with the PPS.

The PPS places an emphasis on building strong and resilient communities, through which recreation, parks and open space are part of what is considered to be necessary to sustain healthy, liveable and safe communities. Section 1.5 of the P.P.S. establishes policies for public spaces, recreation, parks, trails and open space, and states that healthy, active communities should be promoted by:

- a) Planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;
- b) Planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and where practical, water-based resources;
- c) Providing opportunities for public access to shorelines; and
- d) Recognizing provincial parks, conservation reserves, and other protected areas, and minimizing negative impacts on these area.

Among other things, the PPS also underscores the importance of active transportation and green infrastructure, mitigating impacts of climate change, building age friendly

communities, and conservation of natural heritage systems and their associated biodiversity.

### **Development Charges Act**

Development Charges are collected for new development and applied towards the projects identified in the City's Development Charge Background Study, with the intent of funding additional capital assets that are required in order for the City to maintain its service levels as its population increases. Development Charges are collected based on the Province of Ontario's Development Charge Act (1997).

Based on the Development Charge Act, parks, recreation and library capital projects can be eligible for up to 90% of Development Charge funding, while the remaining portion may have a tax impact as it must be funded through other sources. It should be noted that the Development Charge Act does not permit the collection of development charges for cultural, entertainment and tourism facilities, thus such funding would have to come from other sources even if required to service growth-related needs.

### **Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

The Growth Plan (2006) provides a framework to guide sustainable development within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). As one of the fastest growing regions in Canada, this growth plan was necessary to address urban sprawl putting Ontario's natural heritage areas at risk, encouraging the development of higher densities across the G.T.A. while improving quality of life and standard of living. With regard to parks and recreation, the Growth Plan maintains that urban centres will be the focal point for recreation opportunities, supporting large concentrations of residential, commercial and employment areas. The role of parks, recreation and sport will continue to be a key factor in urban areas, particularly given that the Growth Plan establishes a target of 40% of all new residential development will occur within the built-up areas.

The Growth Plan also guides development of less urbanized areas, referred to as Greenfield Areas. These areas will be promoted as livable areas, complete with a mix of parks, housing and employment opportunities, as well as a multi-modal transportation network that also supports walking, cycling and transit. This transportation network is generally encouraged throughout the GGH. In these Greenfield areas, the Growth Plan establishes a density target of fifty persons and jobs per hectare.

## 2.2 Strategic and Policy Frameworks

### A Framework for Recreation in Canada

In 2015, 'A Framework for Recreation in Canada' was released after a collaborative effort between provincial and territorial governments (except Quebec), the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, and the Provincial/Territorial Parks and Recreation Associations. Endorsed by the Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation and supported by the federal government, the National Framework intends "to guide and stimulate coordinated policies and practices in recreation and related jurisdictions in Canada that aim to improve the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and the built and natural environments."

The five Goals identified in the National Framework are to:

1. Foster active living through physical recreation.
2. Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.
3. Help people connect to nature through recreation.
4. Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help to build strong, caring communities.
5. Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

The PRMP for Brampton will have regard for these objectives.

### Canadian Sport Policy

The 2012 Canadian Sport Policy outlines a ten year strategy for governments, institutions, and organizations working to promote and support participation in sport. The Policy identifies the values of fun, safety, excellence, commitment, personal development, inclusion and accessibility, and respect, fair play, and ethical behaviour to guide its work. Overall, the document outlines five goals:



- **Introduction to Sport** to ensure that Canadians can participate in both organized and unorganized sport.
- **Recreational Sport** to ensure that there are opportunities to participate in non-competitive sport.
- **Competitive Sport** to ensure that there are opportunities for athletes to improve and measure their performance through competitions.
- **High Performance Sport** so that Canadians have the opportunity to systematically achieve world-class results at the highest levels of international competition through fair and ethical means.
- **Sport for Development** to utilize sport as a tool for social and economic development.

Like most municipalities, Brampton's parks and recreational infrastructure is primarily oriented to the 'Introduction to Sport' and 'Recreational Sport.' In more recent times, the City's investments in higher performing or specialized facilities such as Terry Fox Stadium and the Brampton Soccer Centre are examples of enabling opportunities for 'Competitive' and 'High Performance Sport.'

### **Game ON – The Ontario Government's Sport Plan: A Legacy of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games**

Following the conclusion of the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in Toronto, the Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport launched 'Game ON – The Ontario Government's Sport Plan' to provide an action plan for amateur sport in Ontario. This plan is divided into three pillars with accompanying goals:

- **Participation** with the goals of supporting all athlete's in safe, organized sport, creating opportunities for all Ontarians, and ensuring that athletes are provided with a positive experience.
- **Development** with the goals of ensuring that athletes receive support throughout their skill development and that they have access to trained coaches, officials, and volunteers.
- **Excellence** with the goals of ensuring that athletes can pursue excellence in high-performance sport and that they have opportunities for competitive training and development.

### **Building Enhanced Collaboration between Recreation and Sport**

In 2013, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and Canadian Sport for Life published 'Building Enhanced Collaboration between Recreation and Sport'. This document reviews the "Partnering 'Recreation' with 'Sport' Through Canadian Sport for Life" discussion paper. It outlines roles for municipal recreation in supporting sport, discusses key changes in sport policy, assesses the nature of partnerships, and identifies key areas to boost collaboration. The purpose of this document is to build

mutual understanding between the municipal recreation and sport systems in Canada and to identify collaborative steps for encouraging Canadians to participate in physical activity and sport.

## City of Brampton Strategic Plan

The City's 2016-2018 Strategic Plan is a blueprint for Brampton's overall development and management, and is the foundation upon which all future municipal plans are based, including the Official Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

There are four Strategic Priorities identified in the Strategic Plan, shown below. These priorities reflect a common purpose – a collective desire for success in leadership, quality of life, and civic pride and are relevant to the PRMP.

1

### **Good Government:** Credible leadership delivers trusted services to make a positive difference for citizens.

Goals include:

- Educate and engage citizens in open and accountable ways that show value and enhance the image of the City.
- Invest in a collaborative environment with supportive organizational and governance practices and policies.
- Practice proactive, effective and responsible management of municipal assets and services.

2

### **Move and Connect:** Well-planned infrastructure and efficient transit modes shape a livable city.

Goals include:

- Build on the strength of existing local and regional networks to expand opportunities for development.
- Increase local transit methods to help people access places, goods and services.
- Keep people and goods moving efficiently by investing in new infrastructure and maintaining a state-of-good-repair.

3

### **Smart Growth:** Managed growth achieves societal and economic success.

Goals Include:

- Build complete communities to accommodate growth for people and jobs.
- Cultivate economic growth and stability, innovation hubs and foreign investment.
- Preserve and protect natural and heritage environments with balanced, responsible planning

4

### **Strong Communities:** Distinct, lively spaces and activities unite people and business to instill civic pride.

Goals include:

- Celebrate citizens and create partnerships through arts, culture and social interaction.
- Create connected spaces in the heart of the city for people to live, work and play.
- Support diversity and enable wellness through health and recreation.

Each of the Strategic Priorities and their respective Goals has a list of detailed strategies that support the priorities. The PRMP has the potential to touch upon many of the priorities given the breadth of the plan. Particular emphasis, however, has been placed on the “Strong Communities” Priority with specific focus on the goal, “Support diversity and enable wellness through health and recreation”. This is a fitting goal to align the PRMP with its emphasis on diversity and health through parks, recreation and sport.

### **Peel Public Health Strategic Plan**

Participation in physical and social activities contributes to overall health. Municipal parks and recreation services align well with objectives of public health departments, notably their focus on chronic injury and disease prevention. Peel Public Health’s 10 Year Strategic Plan (2014 Revision) identifies its goals as ‘The improvement and maintenance of the health status of the population’ which emphasizes prevention while its priority of ‘End-to-End Public Health Practice’ involves a holistic approach by utilizing a number of community partners, through which a municipality could lend relevant expertise in the areas of recreation and wellness. Peel Public Health has also published a number of other resources that will be considered through the PRMP process relating to various health indicators, social determinants of health, a Diabetes Atlas that highlights the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in the City, etc.

### **Region of Peel and City of Brampton Official Plans**

The Region of Peel Official Plan<sup>4</sup> was adopted in 1996 with various amendments having been approved in the time since. The Region’s Official Plan contains broad land use policies which impact the Region’s diverse communities, providing a planning framework that all municipalities must conform to. It sets the regional context for more detailed planning by protecting the environment, managing resources and directing growth and sets the basis for providing regional services in an efficient and effective manner with an overarching theme of working towards sustainability. These regional policies guide economic, environmental and community decision-making to manage growth and assist lower-tier municipalities with establishing local-level policies.

The City of Brampton Official Plan<sup>5</sup> was adopted in 2006 and approved in part by the OMB in 2008. It charts the course for land use decision-making within the municipality for the next 25 years, guiding development and infrastructure decisions regarding land use, built form, transportation and the environment. This Official Plan sets the groundwork for addressing the challenges of growth and positioning Brampton’s future as a preferred choice to live, work and play. Notable elements of the Official Plan in relation to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan include:

- Integration of recreational areas in a manner that is complementary with residential and employment land uses.

- Recognition that healthy, sustainable communities integrate natural systems that provide for an accessible parks and recreation system (Section 2.4.3).
- Use of the Pathways System for transportation and recreational purposes.
- Supporting the Recreational Open Space land use designation with overarching policy objectives, establishment of a parkland hierarchy, etc. (Section 4.6).
- Provision of indoor and outdoor Public Recreation Facilities and programs to meet the needs of all residents to ensure physical, creative, social and intellectual opportunities (Section 4.8).
- Establishing policies to guide Parkland Dedication to satisfy the active and passive recreational and leisure needs of Brampton residents (Section 5.21).
- An objective of consulting and cooperating with the Conservation Authorities on matters and concerns of mutual interest (Section 5.24).

At present time, the City of Brampton Official Plan is undergoing its five year review as required by the Planning Act. It is estimated that the review will be largely complete in 2017.<sup>6</sup>

### **Previous City of Brampton Parks and Recreation Master Plans**

The first Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City (*'On the Move'*) was completed in 1990. It contained a 5-year vision and strategy for the future development of the City's park facilities and recreation programming. Throughout the early 1990's, the master plan's strategies and 'standards' were useful in guiding the City in the development of its parks and recreation facilities and programs.

More recently, the City embarked on the creation of a master plan resulting in the 'Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan' (2006-2008). This document was a comprehensive effort, resulting in a two-part document that was ultimately not endorsed by City Council. Notwithstanding the absence of formal endorsement of the plan, it has loosely served as a guide for staff since 2008. Notable recommendations arising from that plan include:

- 3 community centres, one in each of East Brampton, West Brampton and, beyond the 10-year period, a further facility in North West Brampton;
- 38 additional senior soccer pitches, 4 new hard ball diamonds, 6 cricket pitches; and 3 multipurpose fields;
- 1 major spray pad in each of the NE, NW, SW and SE quadrants of City;
- 1 permanent concrete skateboard facility plus 1 secondary facility;
- Annual provision for multi-purpose outdoor courts; and

- Major parkland acquisition and development.

It is the intent of this 2016 PRMP to update parks and recreation components the previous Master Plan in the context of current community conditions. As of February 2016, the majority of recommendations contained in the 2008 Master Plan are either ongoing or have been substantially/fully completed by the City.

## 2.3 Other Relevant Documents

The following is a list of other key documents that have been considered through the Master Plan. While not an exhaustive list, these documents span topic areas ranging from strategic priorities for the City as a whole, building and land use patterns, demographic and growth profiles, etc.

### Master Plans

- Brampton Library Facilities Master Plan Update
- Environmental Master Plan (Grow Green)
- Flower City Strategy
- Natural Heritage & Environmental Management Plan
- Pathways Master Plan
- Street Corridor Master Plan
- Transportation and Transit Master Plan

### Design Guidelines

- Accessibility Technical Standards
- Downtown Civic Design Guide
- Design Workbook for Upscale Executive Housing
- Sustainable Community Development Guidelines
- Wayfinding Design Guidelines
- Various Parks Construction Design Guidelines

### Other Documents

- Parkland Dedication By-law Review and associated Discussion Papers
- Departmental Organizational Structure
- Peel Public Health Rapid Risk Surveillance System data
- Development Charges Background Study
- 2015 Community Services Satisfaction Survey Findings
- Various Reports to Council / Committees of Council

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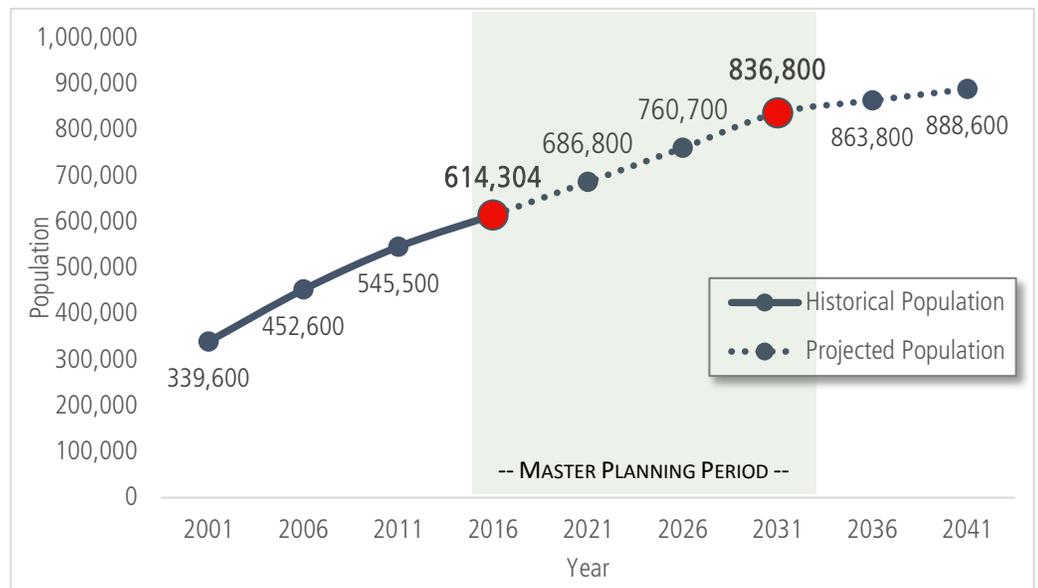
## Section 3: Community Demographics and Selected Trends in Parks and Recreation

### 3.1 Historical and Future Population Growth

The PRMP considers many demographic factors indicating ‘how many’ people reside in Brampton as well as ‘who they are.’ Community demographics are used to understand the prospective ‘market’ for parks, recreation and sport services as they dictate the number and type of facilities and programs that are required. The following pages present an overview of key statistics and trends associated with City’s demographic profile, with a view over the next fifteen years and beyond.

Although the PRMP spans a 15 year period between the years 2016 and 2031, it is useful to look at population growth that has and will occur shortly before and after this master planning period. Over the past decade, Brampton has grown substantially with a mid-year 2016 estimated population of 614,300 persons<sup>7</sup> representing an average annual growth rate of 3.6% per year since 2006 (+161,300 persons).<sup>i</sup>

Figure 2: City-Wide Historical and Forecasted Population Growth, 2001-2041



Note: forecasts represent mid-year population

Source: Statistics Canada Census (2001-2011 figures); Preliminary Population Forecasts, City of Brampton, Planning Policy and Growth Management, May 2015

<sup>i</sup> The 2006 Census population including net Census undercoverage was 453,000 persons, as derived from a City of Brampton Report to the Planning, Design & Development Committee on October 21, 2013 (File P00 GR – Preliminary 2013 Population and Employment Forecasts).

Over the master planning period, a similar annual growth rate is expected with a population of 836,800 expected by the year 2031 (+222,500 persons), and reaching a population of 888,600 by the year 2041.

Between 2016 and 2031, most population growth is forecasted to occur west of Creditview Road, as well as in northeast Brampton which are represented through RPAs A, D and E as is illustrated in Figure 3. Furthermore, a considerable proportion of growth within RPAs B and F is anticipated to occur through intensification and infill as these represent Brampton's historical core which encompass portions of the Hurontario and Queen Street corridors.

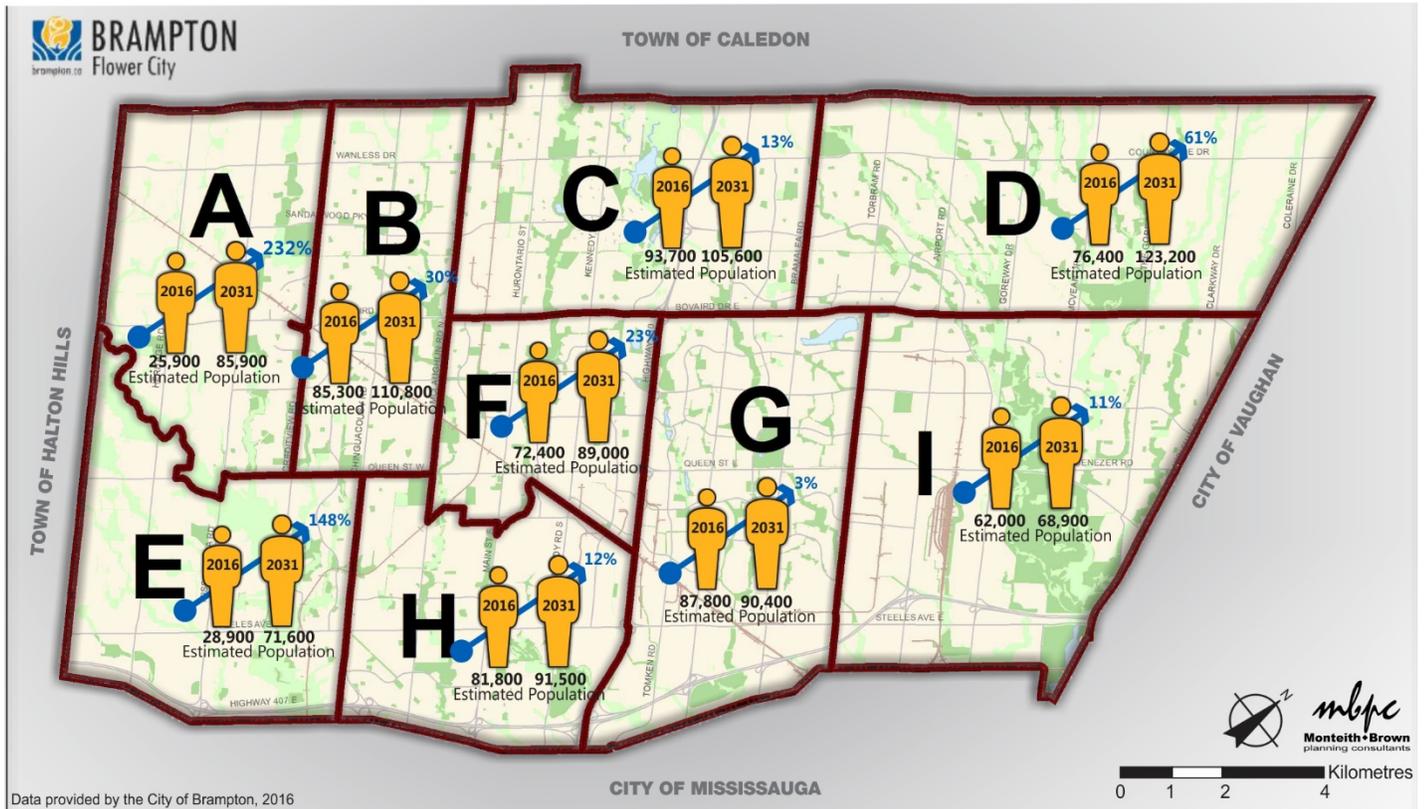
### **Urbanization / Intensification**

The City's Development Charges Study estimates 170,300 households in Brampton for 2016 and by the year 2041, projects the addition of more than 78,000 new households. Whereas 54% of households are projected to be in single-detached units in 2016, this proportion decreases to 49% by 2041 as the number of semi-detached, row housing and apartment units become more prevalent.

Based on the 2011 Census, Brampton has a higher level of occupancy per household (at 3.5 persons per household) than the Region (at 3.2 persons), and substantially higher than the province and the country (at 2.6 and 2.5 persons, respectively). Approximately 12% of Brampton's households have six (6) or more persons, which is nearly four times (4x) the rate of the provincial average. Brampton's higher number of persons per household likely reflects a prevalence of extended or multi-generational families living together, and/or multiple persons sharing a dwelling to reduce individual housing costs.

The implications of larger, possibly multi-generational households creates the potential for certain residential areas to have needs specific to many age groups whereas a more 'traditional' GTA household structure may be focused to only one or two specific age groups. For example, the GTA experience is that new Greenfield residential areas often attract two parent households with children which create pressures for playgrounds, splash pads, etc. in parks. In areas with high multi-generational households, park designs are more diverse indicating the need to also consider the needs of older adults through as seating, shade, social spaces, etc. Similarly, extended families may also imply a level of cultural diversity that may generate requests for 'non-traditional' ways of delivering parks and recreation services in a particular area.

Figure 3: Forecasted Population Growth by Recreational Planning Area, 2016-2031



RPA	2016	2021	2026	2031	2016-2031 Growth	
					#	%
A	25,900	47,500	68,300	85,900	60,000	232%
B	85,300	94,400	102,800	110,800	25,500	30%
C	93,700	98,000	101,600	105,600	11,900	13%
D	76,400	88,400	104,500	123,200	46,800	61%
E	28,900	45,600	59,800	71,600	42,700	148%
F	72,400	76,200	81,300	89,000	16,600	23%
G	87,800	87,900	88,600	90,400	2,600	3%
H	81,800	84,300	87,200	91,500	9,700	12%
I	62,100	64,500	66,500	68,900	6,800	11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>614,300</b>	<b>686,800</b>	<b>760,700</b>	<b>836,800</b>	<b>222,500</b>	<b>36%</b>

Source: City of Brampton Planning Policy and Growth Management, May 2015

### From the Backyard to the Public Realm

In Brampton, a number of factors and municipal/regional initiatives are shifting the focus away from Greenfield development towards intensification of urban centres and other established areas of the City. For example, land for traditional subdivision development characterized by single detached homes is becoming increasingly scarce

and expensive while the City's planned transit-oriented development will eventually stimulate additional growth along major corridors. The result is a growth in multi-unit, high rise dwellings, and increased population density – the Development Charges Background Study projects the construction of 151,000 new semi-detached, row and apartment units between 2014 and 2041.

With small or no backyards, people living in higher density dwellings rely heavily upon civic infrastructure to meet their recreational needs as the public realm essentially becomes their backyard. With such a growing dependence upon public areas to provide personal enjoyment, it is not simply about providing space but rather establishing a sense of place containing high quality amenities. The reality for many of Brampton's areas of transition, where infill and urban regeneration is starting to occur, is that parks and recreational spaces were built at a scale required to service historical needs. These spaces may not have the capacity, the types of infrastructure, nor the level of quality to meet the needs of the hundreds, if not thousands, of new persons surrounding them in intensifying areas.

Furthermore, the future demographic profile of communities originally served by parks and recreational spaces is likely to be very different than the characteristics of those persons living there today. For example, the preferences of those living in higher-density areas may be different than persons living in traditional lower density subdivisions. Accordingly, they will have different needs and expectations when it comes to using indoor and outdoor recreational space. For example, millennials choosing to live in condominium apartments without a backyard or a car may result in demands for more localized opportunities, while older adults choosing to downsize may require targeted services that differ from those previously available in the area.

Today, it is just as important that parks, recreation and sport infrastructure in areas of intensification and regeneration remain hubs of activity without becoming lost or forgotten pieces of the urban fabric. Not only do urban recreational spaces provide a wealth of outdoor opportunities and variety of uses, urban park and recreation projects can stimulate economic development and renewal (carrying on the intent from principles formed in decades past), and have been found to support highly populated, livable, urban areas.<sup>8</sup> Community groups and other stakeholders often desire public spaces as the location to hold community programs, special events in urban settings such as downtown or other open spaces. Integrating parks and open spaces in these areas have become a key component in providing livable urban spaces for a community to come together and contribute to 'place-making', while also softening the streetscape with green features.

In maintaining the dynamic nature of parks and recreation spaces and re-establishing them as focal points in redeveloping areas, the use of such services to form centralized community hubs is a key for high density developments. Public spaces should be inviting, accessible, bright, safe, and designed on a human scale. Key considerations in

planning of urban spaces include location, microclimate, surrounding land uses, and proximity to key destinations and amenities. Other factors such as accessibility, street views, seating, and vegetation contribute to the design of these spaces.

## Refocusing on the Neighbourhood

The trend to better understand local recreation needs and strengthen neighbourhoods has been gaining momentum in municipalities in Ontario within the last ten years, particularly in areas of growth where the defined sense of place/community is critical. The purpose from a parks and recreation service provision perspective is to animate neighbourhoods and increase recreational activity as well as to work with groups to self-determine and organize their own neighbourhood based activities. For example, the **City of London's Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy** encourages resident participation and engagement to help strengthen all of London's neighbourhoods through community grants to fund volunteer-driven neighbourhood improvement activities, Adopt-A-Park program, etc. This localized focus is combined with the City's **Place-making Guidelines** oriented to the development of outstanding communities that offer a distinct character, a strong sense of community and a context for healthy lifestyles and a high quality of life, of which neighbourhood-based recreational activities are a part of.

A neighbourhood-based approach goes a long way in increasing local opportunities by empowering groups and providing opportunities for social interaction given the number of working/commuting families. Staff works with community leaders and early adaptors to create a dialogue and assist residents to discuss and form opportunities for social interaction. The end goal is to create a greater sense of belonging, empowerment, pride and cohesion within local neighbourhoods. The strategies are at varying degrees of maturity and results are evident in the increasing percentage of residents that engage with their neighbours to address local issues and volunteer to develop neighbourhood events. As part of initiatives to strengthen neighbourhoods, municipalities are making each of their community centres, libraries, and/or local schools as community hubs or central meeting places for the neighbourhood. Inspiring results are occurring whereby residents are providing and implementing the solution with great ownership.

**Thornccliffe Park** is a neighbourhood in Toronto that was designed for 12,000 residents. Approximately 87% of the 30,000 residents are newcomers with language and settlement challenges. 98% of the residents live in 34 high and mid-rise units and 72% of the population is under 14 years of age. The very small park is bordered by a mall, 2 schools (20 all-day kindergarten classes) and a small community centre. The Thornccliffe Neighbourhood Office, City staff and the Thornccliffe Women's Committee work as a collective to address the critical social issues facing this community. Sharing resources and working toward one vision for a better quality of life has resulted in new equipment and opportunities through fundraising efforts. Community

engagement efforts, understanding priorities and maximizing all available resources is key to providing recreational pursuits in intensified and growing neighbourhoods.

## Finding the Space

With land at a premium in established areas, municipalities are centralizing their services within a common location to provide flexible, multi-purpose spaces that contain a variety of municipal services ranging from recreation, arts and culture, and libraries (the benefits of multi-use spaces are further explored in subsequent pages). In addition, strategic partnerships are being formed between different public agencies with synergistic mandates resulting in parks, recreation and sport facilities being often co-located with schools, hospitals, childcare or other community services.

There are many recent examples of Brampton's efforts to explore options to best serve community needs and both maximize capital resources and reduce operational ones. Efforts to make efficient use of lands include projects between the City and the Brampton Public Library (an autonomous department within the municipality) and the Peel Board of Education on the Mount Pleasant Community Centre and Library. The City of Brampton and Peel District School Board are working collaboratively on a joint Community Park/Secondary School campus at the southeast corner of Mississauga Road and Bovaird Drive West (Andrew McCandless Park).<sup>9</sup> The City has also had discussions in the past with the YMCA of Greater Toronto on the potential to explore expansion in the east end of Brampton, to complement the Y's offering at its Central Downtown facility,

Some communities are exploring use of the Ontario Planning Act's bonusing provisions (Section 37) and other tools by working with the land development community to integrate public parks and recreational facilities in condominium developments. This process of collaboration continues as private sector developments are not always inclined to integrate publically accessible spaces within private buildings, largely due to a perception that homebuyers may not want to share their buildings or be faced with increased traffic. That said, some GTA municipalities have successfully negotiated agreements with the development industry to accommodate parkland and rooms for community recreation in exchange for higher density, allowing the municipalities to deliver parks and recreational services in built-up areas where acquisition of dedicated land would otherwise be difficult and expensive.

Redeveloping underutilized brownfield sites including buildings and surface parking lots in urbanized areas to public open spaces have also been an increasing trend found in communities throughout Ontario. Repurposing these areas provide opportunities to turn underutilized lands into public open spaces offering opportunities to provide a range of outdoor recreation facilities to attract use by the community. Green amenities in urban areas can strengthen the surrounding community, promoting quality of life and trickle-down redevelopment and rejuvenation in surrounding areas through private investment.<sup>10</sup>

## 3.2 Characteristics of the Population

### Gender

Participation in different forms of physical activity and sport is often influenced by gender. In terms of the gender split, the 2011 Census (the last formal survey that recorded gender of residents) recorded 49% males and 51% females in the City of Brampton. The Sport Participation in Canada Study reports that the most popular sports among men are hockey, golf, and soccer, while women tend to favour sports such as swimming, golf, soccer, and volleyball.<sup>11</sup>

Gender inequality in sports and recreation has been historically prevalent due to the perception of traditional gender norms, however, it is clear in recent times that girls and women are increasingly breaking free of stereotypes that previously restricted their participation in certain activities. At the professional and amateur sport level, there are many examples of women's sports receiving recognition due to the high quality calibre of female athletes (national women's soccer and hockey programs are a notable example), some women are competing against men and setting a positive example for other females to strive to the highest calibre of competition, and a number of professional sports teams are employing women in their coaching staff and broadcasting/colour commentating (the NBA, NFL and MLB are notable examples). At a more localized level, female participation rates have been particularly strong in girls' hockey and soccer programs across the GTA and the rest of Ontario, and in some instances have offset participation declines in boys programs.

While there has been an evolution of female participation in sports, participation among males remains dominant. The Sport Participation in Canada Study identified that between 2005 and 2010, sport participation among males remained stable (36%), while female participation declined from 21% to 16%. Furthermore, the study found that female participation in sports declines considerably after their teenage years, although participation rates did increase among women ages 55 and over. One somewhat alarming statistic is that participation among female students decreased considerably from 44% to 26% between 2005 and 2010 (by contrast, male participation increased from 59% to 65%).<sup>12</sup>

Despite a wide variety of sport opportunities for females, a number of barriers continue to prevent or limit female participation and involvement. This is due to a number of factors, including females who only participated in school sports (and thus being less involved in out-of-school sports), lack of skill to continue, not being interested in sports, pursuing other leisure activities, and increasingly busy lifestyles. Other common barriers include the following:

- Physical (e.g., low physical fitness, lack of fundamental skills, etc.)
- Psychological (e.g., body image concerns, low self-esteem, lack of confidence or negative attitudes, etc.)

- Lifestyle / Personal (e.g., parental or family obligations, expectations for women to be at home, lack of social or spousal support, etc.)
- Access / Program (e.g., lack of culturally-sensitive opportunities, no female only opportunities, lack of female instructors/coaches, etc.)<sup>13</sup>

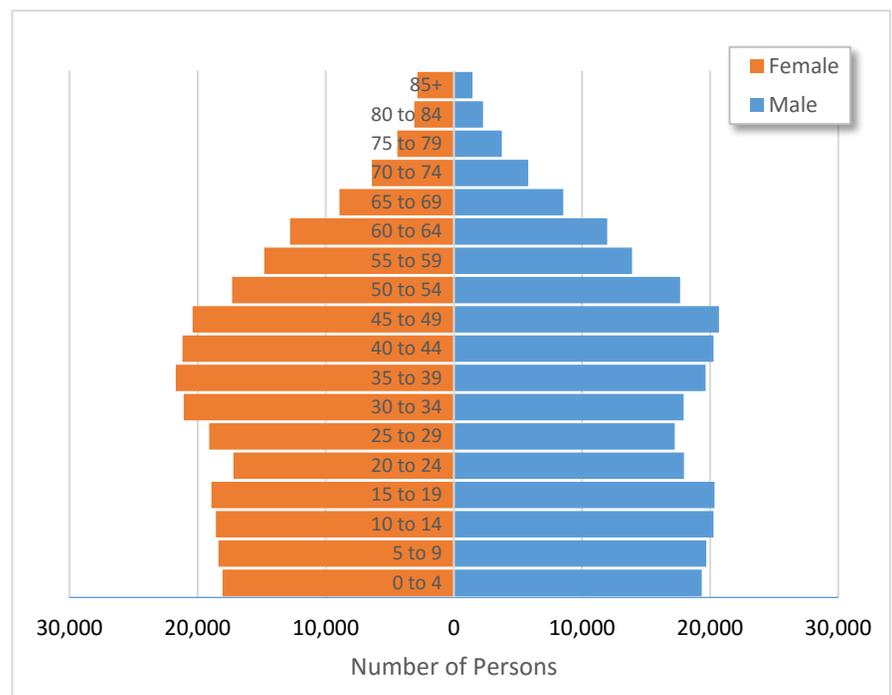
Groups such as the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity recognize the importance of this trend and have been implementing their 'On the Move' initiative that encourages physical activity among females between the ages of 9 and 18, and also engages females from aboriginal groups and newly landed immigrants,<sup>14</sup> the latter of whom are among the least active participants in the Canadian sport and recreation system.<sup>15</sup> The City of Brampton, through its commitment to inclusion offers a number of programs oriented to female and co-ed participation through its recreation portfolio. Like many others, the City continually evaluates ways to encourage females to carry on participation in recreation and sport beyond childhood so that physical and healthy living can be carried forward into adulthood as well.

### Age Distribution

Age plays an important role in determining the types of parks, recreation and sport activities that are pursued by residents. For example, children and teens are more likely to participate in active pursuits such as organized soccer or ball, whereas older adults tend to prefer more non-programmed passive activities such as walking and hiking.

The median 2011 Census age of Brampton's population is 34.7 years. This is much younger than the provincial and national medians (both are around 40 years) as well as the Peel Region median (37 years) which means that Brampton has the potential to have more active demands by younger age groups such as children, teens and younger adults relative to many other municipalities.

Figure 4: Distribution by Age and Gender, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2011

2011 Census data records the largest population of children and youth (19 and under) in RPA 'C'. However, when looking specifically at the percentage that individual age groups form as part of their RPA populations, RPAs 'A' and 'B' have the greatest proportions of children and youth (at 33%) as well as the highest proportion of 0-54

year olds, indicating these RPAs are home to a number of families with children at home. This finding is unsurprising since these two areas encompass many new residential areas that tend to be attractive to families with young children and teens. On the other hand, well established neighbourhoods such as those covered by RPAs 'G' and 'H' have the largest number of persons aged 55 or older.

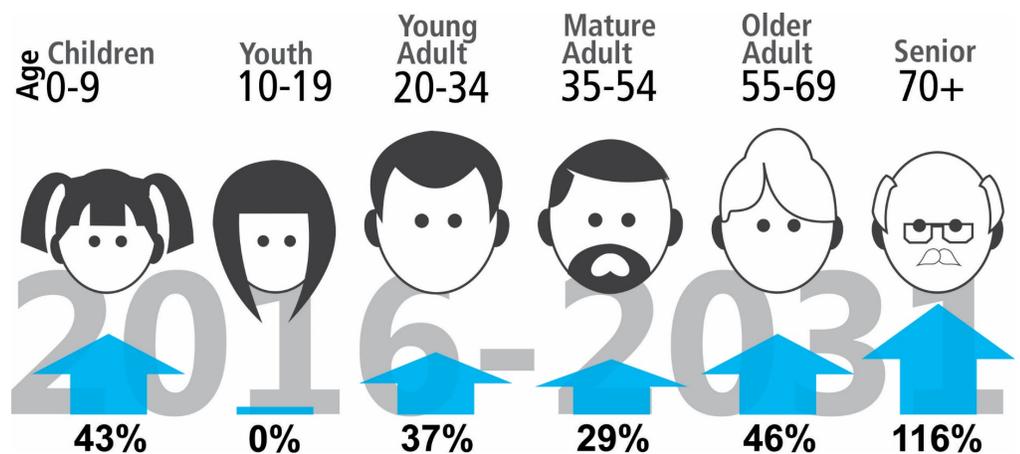
Table 1: Age Distribution by Recreational Planning Area, 2011

RPA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
0-9 yrs.	2,965	12,515	11,070	11,040	1,125	8,420	10,155	10,420	7,755
10-19 yrs.	2,250	11,345	13,055	11,410	905	8,690	12,045	11,395	7,025
20-34 yrs.	3,730	14,725	16,860	14,655	1,395	13,455	17,650	17,790	10,250
35-54 yrs.	4,850	23,060	25,245	20,955	2,165	19,880	25,770	23,400	13,580
55-69 yrs.	1,635	7,505	11,245	8,225	840	9,650	14,445	12,240	5,125
70+ yrs.	550	2,675	3,940	3,235	255	3,980	6,335	7,100	1,990
Total Pop. (2011)	15,980	71,825	81,415	69,520	6,685	64,075	86,400	82,345	45,725

Source: City of Brampton, using Statistics Canada 2011 Census data

Over the next fifteen years, the greatest proportional growth rates are expected in the older adult and senior populations. The number of persons between 55 and 69 years of age is projected to increase by 46%. Those persons 70 and over will more than double, collectively, accounting for over 205,000 persons by year 2031. This may increase or create new pressures on the parks, recreation and sport system as the City's population pyramid evolves over time to one that has a more sizeable population of older adults and seniors.

Figure 5: Forecasted Rate of Growth by Age Group, 2016-2031



Source: City of Brampton Planning Policy and Growth Management, December 2015

### Children

Preliminary forecasts prepared for the City of Brampton indicate that children between the ages of 0 and 9 form 13% of the 2016 population, representing an estimated 78,000 individuals. Net growth of 33,500 children is expected by the year 2031 at which the population of 0 to 9 year olds is estimated to reach nearly 112,000 persons.

Early childhood development is an important part of the City's service philosophy, with parks, recreation and sport services enabling residents to access valuable programming for pre-school and school age children and their caregivers. The City offers a number of parent and tot programs in aquatics, skating and fitness, forming part of the robust range of programs offered through the Recreation and Culture Division. The City's parks system also considers early childhood development and stimulates physical activity and mental cognition, with creative playground equipment being a notable example.

## Teens / Youth

Youth between the ages 10 to 19 have been a priority focus in recent years with an abundance of research published with respect to positive youth development and the importance of engaging youth in parks, recreation and sport as this market has been a challenging one to service from the service provision perspective (teen interests tend to be more diverse and frequently change in comparison to most other age groups).

With preliminary forecasts estimating 96,000 residents in this age cohort (16% of Brampton's 2016 population), youth are a key age group in the delivery of services. Over the next fifteen years, a projected 6,000 person increase in the 10 to 14 year old cohort is expected to be offset by a 6,000 person decrease in the 15 to 19 year old cohort. Although no net change in population size is forecasted in the 10 to 19 market, its share of the total population will decrease to 11% as populations within all other age cohort increase.

The City of Brampton has long supported investments in its youth and has been designated as a Platinum level Youth-Friendly Community since 2008, the highest designation available through the Play Works Partnership. The City recognizes that in servicing and building capacity for youth, many different resources and approaches are necessary. The most successful approaches result from face to face interaction with youth to form relationships of trust. Youth engagement has been shown to have positive effects on self-esteem; physical activity; school performance; and commitment to friends, families, and communities.

Providing flexible opportunities to participate is also an increasing trend that is not only observed among youth. Recreation activities typically compete with other time commitments such as homework, part-time jobs, and socializing with friends, leaving limited availability for structured recreation activities. As a result, self-structured and drop-in programs provide recreation opportunities that fit their schedule. The City of Brampton has provided these opportunities through initiatives such as discounted fitness memberships/tickets for teens (13 to 17), drop-in youth nights at selected community centres, open gymnasium times, drop-in soccer at the Brampton Soccer Centre, facility rental opportunities to youth and youth-serving agencies, etc.

## Adults

Persons between the ages of 20 and 54 are estimated to constitute about half of Brampton's current and long-term population. These 'younger' and 'mature' adult categories have a broad range of interests and abilities whose participation in physical activities are heavily influenced by their employment and stage of their careers, household and family structures, amount of free time available, and health status. Most of the City's programming for adults starts at age 18 and applies to all ages above that, and as will be discussed in subsequent paragraphs, segments programs again for the 55+ population wishing to partake in activities specifically for older adults.

The City of Brampton provides dozens of registered and drop-in program choices for the adult market, as well as rental opportunities, oriented to program areas including aquatics, fitness, sports, arts and culture, and general interests. In doing so, the City is striving to provide opportunities that keep adults engaged in physical activities and sports after secondary and post-secondary schooling is completed by building upon principles such as physical literacy and sport for life (described in Section 3.6).

### Older Adults and Senior Citizens

Although aging trends are not as apparent in Brampton as compared to many other Canadian communities, the 2011 Census records over 100,000 persons ages 55 years and over in the City who represent nearly one out of every five residents. Accordingly, there is a significant market of 'older adults' that also have specific needs for parks and recreational services, and in fact the 55+ population can be expected to grow as aging trends may become more prevalent. For example, the large population of 40 to 54 year olds shown by the bulge in the population pyramid (Figure 4) will be older adults within and at the end of the fifteen year master planning period. These 'new' generations of older adults are shifting away from traditional seniors' activities towards more active recreation, seeking quality wellness and active living opportunities, and will typically be wealthier and more physically active than seniors in previous generations.

Accordingly, a greater demand for services oriented to older adults is anticipated to occur over the master planning period, including services for active seniors' activities (fitness and sports) and personal interest activities (day trips and education). Activities for Brampton's older adults (ages 55 and over) span active and less physically rigorous pursuits such as skating and swimming programs, fitness and wellness, sports, dance, cooking, cards, etc. The Flower City Seniors Centre, Knightsbridge Community and Seniors Centre, and various municipal community centres offer such programs for the 55+ population. The City of Brampton is also hosting the 2016 Canada 55+ Games that is a four day national celebration of sport, culture and social wellbeing (with 24 sports/activities) that is expected to bring \$5 million in economic benefit. The Games are to be held in mid-August.

Since the growing older adult segment of the population is generally wealthier and more mobile compared to the past, they will seek quality services and will be willing to travel further to access them. Demand is also likely to rise for passive and less rigorous recreation activities that promote socialization and community cohesiveness. Specific considerations in addressing the delivery of services for older adults may include:

- An increase in the demand for, and the use of facilities and services serving the older adult market.
- Continued input into program offerings through the use of a seniors program advisory committee and opportunities for input through focus groups.
- Actively engaging and including the older adult population in the delivery of services.
- Recognizing that the percentage of persons with disabilities will increase over time as the population ages and that physical accessibility for all programs and services will become more critical for older adults.
- Providing affordable/subsidized drop-in programs and discounts for older adults with lower incomes, along with continued investment in public transit, ensures that these groups have access to parks and recreation programs and services.
- Considering park amenities such as shade, water, seating, and accessible washrooms.
- Increased daytime use of community centres and other recreation facilities.

## **Income**

Based on 2011 National Household Survey (N.H.S.), the median and average incomes of individuals in Brampton are approximately \$28,000 and \$35,000, respectively, while the median and average household incomes are \$78,000 and \$89,000, respectively. These incomes are lower than the Peel Region median and average for both individuals and households, and while individual incomes are also lower than those of the Province, Brampton's median and average household incomes are higher than the Province.

There is an abundance of research demonstrating that a household's level of income is proportional to participation in recreation activities. Across Canada, 62% of individuals living in households with incomes of less than \$20,000 were considered inactive.<sup>16</sup> According to N.H.S. data, there were nearly 11,000 households in Brampton with incomes below \$20,000. Additionally, the Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute found that nearly 40% of children among households earning over \$100,000 were involved in organized physical activities and sports, whereas only 21% of children were involved in these pursuits in households earning less than \$50,000. There were generally high participation levels in outdoor play across all income

groups, the highest among households earning between \$50,000 and \$80,000 (71%).

Another survey on sport participation in relation to income found that 68% of children from households with the highest income bracket are enrolled in sports, compared to 44% of children in the lowest income bracket.<sup>17</sup> A household's level of income can become a significant barrier to participation in recreation pursuits due to the cost of participating in recreation activities. This is especially problematic among young, lone-parent, or economically disadvantaged households as older, established or high-earning households typically have more disposable income to spend on parks, recreation and sport pursuits. Communities are, therefore, facing increasing pressures to provide more affordable programs and subsidies to promote participation among all user groups as well as no fee opportunities.

The term 'working poor' has been put forward in recent years to describe the financial situation of many Canadians who have a job but do not have any additional funds beyond paying for life necessities (due to increasing cost of living). Cases of obesity are also more commonly found among residents with a lower socio-economic status compared to residents with a higher income, reinforcing the need to provide opportunities for parks, recreation and sport activities to lower-income households. An analysis of Brampton's 2011 community profile indicated that the City has a similar proportion of low income residents (12%) compared to the Region and slightly lower than that of the Province (14%).<sup>18</sup>

To provide equal opportunities across all income groups, a number of policies, procedures, and programs have been established to remove income-related barriers to participation. In 2010, Parks and Recreation Ontario released a guide of best practices in delivering recreational opportunities to engage low-income families. This guide identifies a series of practices in communities throughout the GTA and surrounding area which focuses around five key themes which are described as:

- Community partnerships and inter-sectoral collaboration help ensure a holistic approach that maximizes resources and increases access to recreational, social and educational programming. Local examples of services coordinated with parks and recreation include (but are not limited to) collaborations with Brampton Public Library, Northwest Connects, Peel Children and Youth Initiative, Local Health Integration Network, and Volunteer MBC.
- Funding partnerships are key, as many practices are dependent on additional funding to ensure financial viability and long-term sustainability. Local partnership examples include those with the Brampton Beast hockey club, the Boys and Girls Club, and with corporate partners such as RBC (for funding).
- Fee subsidy programs that minimize or eliminate user fees, transportation costs and equipment costs enable low-income families to access recreational programs that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The City's 'Subsidy

and Program Development Unit' under the Recreation and Cultural Services Division helps residents access the City's Active Assist program (financial assistance for low income households) along with outside programs such as Canadian Tire JumpStart.

- A written access policy that is approved by a municipal council or board of directors formalizes the commitment of the organization and helps ensure the viability and long-term sustainability of the policy.
- Child and youth development programs foster leadership and self-esteem, which enhances physical and emotional health and increases social skills, resulting in healthier, more resilient adults who are able to effectively contribute to society.<sup>19</sup>

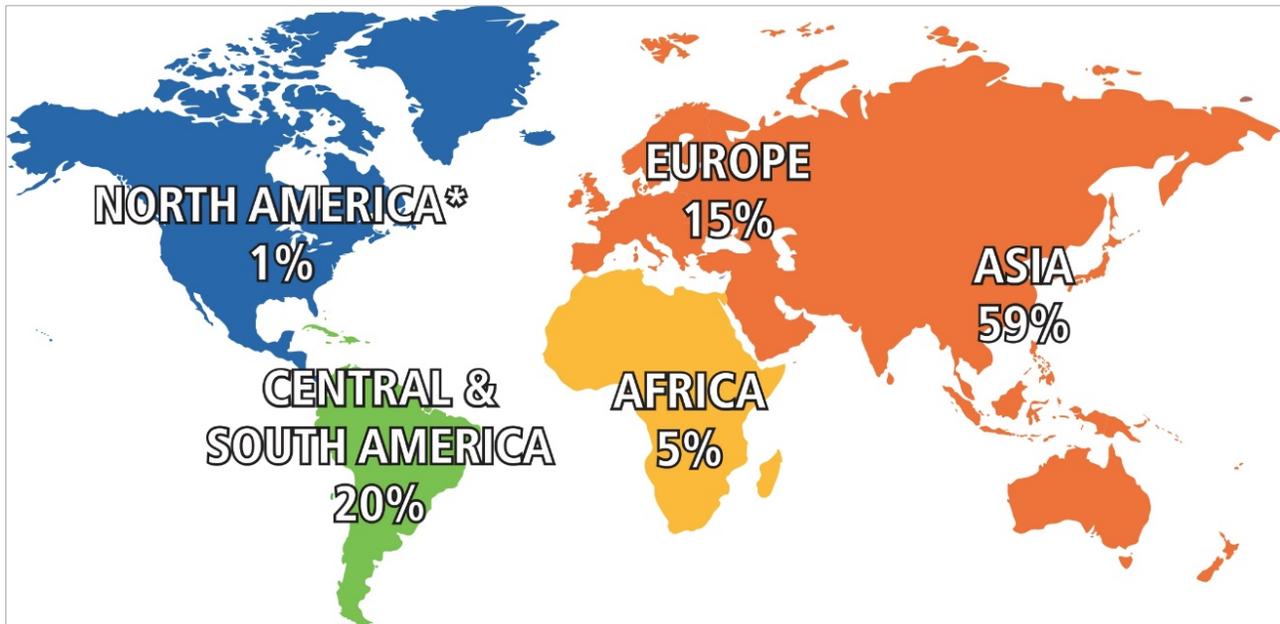
## Cultural Diversity

Many cultures view parks and recreation opportunities as a family event and are more inclined to pursue activities together. Brampton's cultural diversity often creates the need for a unique range of activities as well as grouping services into multi-use facilities, providing opportunities for all members of a family to participate at the same time without travelling to multiple facilities or parks. Planning is key as non-traditional activities such as bocce or badminton place pressures on parks and recreation services if they are not planned for in advance, particularly with respect to the provision of staffing, maintenance, space, and infrastructure.

The 2011 National Household Survey records approximately 49% of Brampton's population as being born in Canada. Of the other half of Brampton's population, representing over 260,000 immigrants to Canada, Asia is by far the City's largest source of immigration accounting for 59% of the foreign-born population (Figure 6).

Newcomers arriving between 2001 and 2011 constitute 17% of the population, meaning that the other 83% of Brampton's immigrants are fairly well established in Canadian culture. For residents born outside of Canada, the largest source of immigration comes from India (96,000 persons and newcomers from India also account for half of the City's recent immigrants) followed by Jamaica (20,000 persons). In total, visible minorities account for two out of every three persons in Brampton which is more than two and a half times the provincial rate. It bears reiterating the limitations associated with the National Household Survey's global non-response rate and the fact that its data is now five years old – the 2016 Census will shed greater light on cultural diversity in Brampton when ethnicity figures are released (anticipated in October 2017).

Figure 6: Continent of Origin for Immigrant Population, City of Brampton, 2011



\* North American percentage reflects persons born in the United States and Mexico

Notes: percentages apply to immigrant populations (i.e. individuals born in Canada are excluded)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011

New citizens appear to be attracted to activities that are classified as “active leisure” rather than organized sports, which is consistent with research that Canadians are generally spending less time playing organized sports. As documented in Table 2, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship finds that the top physical activities tried at least once by newcomers include walking (72%), swimming (64%), running (58%), working out at the gym (53%), cycling (50%) and fitness classes (45%). As with established Canadians, these are likely appealing to new Canadians since they are all self-scheduled, inexpensive and can be done alone or with others such as families. In terms of more organized sports, the most popular that are played regularly by newcomers include soccer (18%), badminton (12%), tennis (11%), table tennis (9%) and basketball (8%).

An encouraging statistic is that 44% of new citizens who are parents report that their children play sports, and that many newcomers felt that sport helped them to learn about Canadian culture and they felt more connected to their community. The report reveals that newcomers are often willing and want to participate in traditional Canadian sports, however, this can be difficult to manage into their schedules when their first years in the country are spent looking for housing, employment, schools and other supports.<sup>20</sup>

Table 2: Overall Participation Trends Among New Canadians in Canada

Sports	Played Before Immigrating	Tried Once in Canada	Played in First 3 Years	Regularly Play
Swimming	32%	64%	35%	32%
Running	31%	58%	31%	39%
Gym	n/a	53%	0%	0%
Cycling	22%	50%	25%	26%
Fitness Classes	n/a	45%	n/a	n/a
Soccer	25%	42%	23%	18%
Table Tennis	15%	42%	9%	9%
Badminton	18%	40%	15%	12%
Volleyball	13%	38%	8%	6%
Tennis	13%	37%	15%	11%
Basketball	14%	36%	10%	8%
Ice Skating	3%	32%	15%	7%
Skiing & Snowboarding	5%	29%	12%	8%
Martial Arts	7%	17%	4%	4%
Cricket	10%	13%	6%	5%
Baseball	3%	13%	3%	2%
Football	3%	12%	3%	2%
Squash	3%	12%	4%	3%
Field Hockey	2%	7%	1%	1%
Rugby	1%	5%	1%	1%
Curling	0%	5%	1%	1%
Ice Hockey	1%	4%	2%	1%
Lacrosse	0%	2%	1%	0%
No Sports	13%	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Institute for Canadian Citizenship, 2014

Newcomers to Canada are frequent users of parks and recreation facilities as they are ideal locations for social gatherings and interaction. In particular, picnicking is often the most popular social event among multi-generational ethnic groups. The variety of parks, recreation and sport pursuits between cultures is immense, with many activities serving to define cultures and how they interact. Social gathering spaces are perhaps the most sought after 'non-traditional' parkland use and these spaces serve as venues at which the City can offer special events such as festivals, concerts, and cultural celebrations. Engaging newcomers in sport and physical activity is also important through making them aware of benefits through physical literacy and life-long physical activity.

Brampton's continued cultural diversification has resulted in a growing emphasis on non-traditional activities and service delivery practices, both indoors and outdoors. Certain community centres have been adapted to accommodate private showers while women's only swims are now common across most aquatic centres to accommodate cultural/religious beliefs. The provision of fields for cricket and kabaddi are good

examples of the City's efforts in providing venues for the South Asian community, in particular, to engage in physical activity and sport. The popularity of emerging passive activities such as hiking, tai chi, and casual cycling may also encourage greater use of passive parks and open spaces.

As a result of Brampton's increasingly diverse community, the City can expect a demand for these and similar non-traditional sports and activities. Incorporating flexible park and facility designs in the provision of parks and recreation allow for multiple uses, as some activities may decline and others emerge. Brampton currently provides a variety of non-traditional activities that range from Bollywood dance, tai chi and yoga, martial arts, etc. Initiatives such as female-only programs or drop-in times also help to address cultural sensitivities while skate rentals at Gage Park is an example of a way to encourage participation among people that would like to try an activity without having to purchase equipment beforehand. The City also publishes many corporate materials in multiple languages - while English is the mother tongue for about 62% of residents, the top non-official languages are South Asian comprising Punjabi (over 91,000 residents), Urdu (14,000), Gujarati (11,000) and Hindi (10,000). There are also over 11,000 Portuguese speaking residents.

### **Persons with Disabilities**

The Participation and Activity Limitation Survey conducted by Statistics Canada in 2006 identified that approximately 4.4 million Canadians were challenged with a disability, with nearly one-quarter of those living in Ontario.<sup>21</sup> It is anticipated that this figure will continue to grow, increasing to 3.3 million Ontarians with a disability by 2025. As a result, the Province has been responsive to this growing segment through a enacting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

More recently, the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability finds that 14% of Canadians aged 15 years or older have a disability that limited them in their daily activities – an estimated 3.8 million people. Across the Region, 23% of surveyed Peel residents reported that disability limits their level of activity.<sup>22</sup> This is a barrier that affects such persons from achieving the benefits of participating in parks and recreational activity, as well as other aspects of daily life. Since play is essential for physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, engaging persons with disabilities within the parks, recreation and sport service spectrum is extremely important in providing such individuals with opportunities to bolster quality of life and health.

The intent of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act is to 'improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full

## Principles of Universal Design

1. **Equitable Use:** The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use:** Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
4. **Perceptible Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
5. **Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

- *The Centre for Universal Design, 1997*

participation in the life of the province' (c.32, s.1). Barriers are defined to include anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, or policy/practice barriers. In accordance with the Act, the City also has an Accessibility Advisory Committee whose mandate is to advise on the preparation of annual accessibility plans as well as to advise Council on a range of matters including access to publically-owned buildings.

The City of Brampton's Accessibility Technical Standards (2005) provides standards based upon 'universal design' that guide the design, development and construction of new facilities as well as the retrofit and renovation of existing facilities that the City owns, operates or leases. Universal design is different from accessible design in the sense that the former is designed for use by all people, including persons with disabilities (i.e. a single design can serve persons of different ages, abilities, genders, family structures, etc.).

For parks and recreation services, elements of universal design include (but are not limited to) barrier-free accessibility to facilities such as ramps to entrances, proper lighting, use of Braille and large print, clearly marked identification signs, appropriate surfacing for pedestrian paths, and integration of cognitive and sensory experiences into play areas. It is important to recognize that accessibility to enter and exit parks and facilities is part of barrier-free design, but so is the ability to access areas within a park or facility including the playing surface. As an example, the Town of Amherstburg and most recently the City of Ottawa have constructed accessible ball diamonds that are conducive to play by ball players with disabilities.

Inclusive program opportunities and customer service practices are also considered as a method of integration. For example, using words with dignity and adapting equipment and materials are simple attitudinal and action shifts that can be made to make a person with a disability feel included. The City of Brampton makes a conscious effort to provide integrated programming encourages participants who have a disability to take part in city-run registered programs with additional support on a 2:1 ratio. The City also offers programming designed specifically for persons with disabilities and special needs including Out and About at Loafer's Lake (oriented to teen and adult markets), Swim and Explore, and parasports such as sledge hockey and wheelchair basketball (the City also supports community groups that offer para-sports, largely through a rental and sport tourism focus). The benefits of such parks and recreational activities are especially important for persons with disabilities who are also be faced with issues of poverty, isolation, and secondary disabilities.

### 3.3 Trends in the Parks and Open Space System

#### Parks and Community-Building

Parks play a critical role in urban environments and increasing urbanization has heightened the role of parklands in providing important recreation opportunities for residents. This trends discussion examines the full range of parklands from manicured parks and open spaces to large naturalized tracts with ecological value. These include City-owned parks and open spaces, as well as privately owned spaces and natural heritage features that make up Brampton's natural heritage system (NHS) such as woodlands, wetlands and wildlife habitats, among others. In Brampton, 17% of the City's current land area is attributable natural cover while another 7% comprises manicured open spaces (as for the remainder, 55% of land cover is urban and 21% is agricultural).<sup>23</sup>

The City's parks and open spaces are classified through the Brampton Official Plan as City Parks, Community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks (defined more fully in Section 4) that encompass over 1,540 hectares (3,800 acres).<sup>24</sup> Additionally, there are over 4,600 hectares of natural heritage lands in Brampton, over half of which are located on public lands including 1,700 hectares owned by the City and 2,000 hectares owned by conservation authorities. These parklands and open spaces contribute to the regional watershed but also play an important role in province-wide ecosystem health as Brampton's watersheds (e.g. Credit River, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, Humber/West Humber River, etc.) connect to the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario.<sup>25</sup>

The value of parkland within communities is immense – parks offer environmental, economic and health benefits while beautifying the urban landscape. Green spaces in urbanized areas often offer places of respite and improve air quality, provide venues for physical activity, and conserve natural and cultural heritage landscapes. Furthermore, a number of studies and land development trends suggest that a home's proximity to parks and open spaces can increase its property value. Depending upon their size, location and function, parks have multiple applications and can act as:

- Facilitators of "place-making" and high quality urban designs;
- Catalysts for community improvement and revitalization;
- Hubs for special events and social interaction;
- Venues for programmed or spontaneous forms of physical activity;
- Educators and stewards of the natural environment; and
- Spaces for family gatherings and relaxation.

The increasing focus on the integration of "places" and "destinations" through urban design practices seeks to create comfortable, connected and sustainable streetscapes. Park development can increase the attractiveness and marketability of new

Trees in Peel are estimated to provide more than \$2.5 million in savings to residents through shading in the summer and acting as wind breaks in the winter; store more than 400,000 tonnes of carbon annually; and remove more than 890 tonnes of air pollution annually, a service of \$9.5 million.

*- Peel Region Urban Forest Strategy, 2011*

development areas, while redevelopment of parkland can similarly act as a catalyst for revitalizing established neighbourhoods.

As such, the importance of parks and open spaces as assets cannot be understated. Brampton offers a number of parks and open spaces that encourage physical and social activity, wellness, and informal use opportunities. Through the PRMP consultations that have been undertaken to date, it is clear that many residents place considerable value on the City's supply of parkland for meeting social and physical activities.

### **Increase in Popularity of Urban Parks**

As discussed in Section 3.1, Brampton is transitioning towards the intensification of urban centres and corridors, which will result in multi-unit, high rise dwellings, and increased population density, driving the need for high quality amenities. Between the 1980s and '90s, sports facilities and other major venues have been the solution for boosting local economic development, urban renewal, and revitalization.<sup>26</sup> Today, the demand for urban parks and public spaces in highly urbanized areas has become increasingly popular, particularly in areas where the availability of traditional parkland, open spaces, and amenities within walkable distance are limited. These urban spaces provide a wealth of outdoor opportunities and variety of uses, but urban park projects also can stimulate economic development and urban regeneration, are inexpensive compared to major facilities, and have been found to support highly populated, livable, urban areas.<sup>27</sup>

Urban spaces are dynamic and function as a focal point to facilitate passive recreational opportunities, or play a supporting role in complimenting surrounding land uses by providing places for people to meet, gather, and socialize. Community groups and other stakeholders often desire public spaces in urban settings to hold community programs and special events within the downtown or other well established areas. Integrating parks and open spaces in these neighbourhoods have become a key component in providing livable urban spaces for a community to come together, while also softening the streetscape with green features.

High quality urban spaces generate the greatest demand for socialization and passive unscheduled recreation activities; therefore, while providing the appropriate spaces to the community is important so is designing and maintaining them to be flexible enough to accommodate a range of uses. Public spaces should be inviting, accessible, bright, safe, and designed on a human scale. Key considerations in planning of urban spaces include location, microclimate, surrounding land uses, and proximity to key destinations and amenities. Other factors such as accessibility, street views, seating, and vegetation contribute to the design of these spaces.

## Park Comfort and Safety

Ensuring that parks provide attractive and comfortable experiences to the user are paramount in ensuring successful utilization and attracting a broad range of uses. Multiple elements go into contributing to user safety, comfort and convenience:

### a. Signage:

The presence of informative signage and attractive gateway features is the first impression that a user will have of the park and park system as a whole. The presence of consistent and effective signage is an important element in promoting recognition and stewardship in the community. Without proper signage, park users may be confused about the property's ownership and boundaries. Signage is also important as part of the tourism infrastructure that directs tourists easily to destinations and encourages them to return because of the ease of travel – they are also one of the first impressions of a site. Signs develop a sense of place and combined with good urban design, can create unique districts and foster aesthetic development. They also provide interpretive information that connects a user to the park and may encourage the person to take further interest in their surroundings. A good sign is clear, attractive and designed in a context to its surroundings.

Brampton has recognized that signage and wayfinding is imperative in user orientation. The City's Outdoor Wayfinding and Signage Program was introduced and approved by Council in June 2007. It was developed to:

- Present a unified, consistent and attractive design treatment for all corporate outdoor signage across the City.
- Establish a distinct identity that reinforces Brampton's reputation as Canada's Flower City.
- Assist residents and visitors to finding their way around Brampton.

The application of this signage portfolio across all city parks and recreational facilities remains ongoing.

### b. Parking:

The provision of parking is a convenience that many users look for in accessing parkland. Although, the provision of parking is best suited for parks which are more intensively used, such as those containing community centres or multiple sports fields. In Brampton's case, this typically means parking is reserved for Community and City parks, although there are many exceptions to this rule, historically. The provision of parking lots to serve Neighbourhood and some Community level parks may not be necessary if they serve a smaller catchment area and are walkable. The provision of parking at these locations may be counterproductive to goals promoting active transportation. Parking, however,

may be necessary for larger parks serving a City-wide or regional scale which are drive-to destinations.

**c. Comfort Elements:**

Once inside a park, patrons often look for a number of convenience and comfort-based features, depending upon their intended use. In non-programmed or passive parks where social activities such as picnicking, family or social gatherings and/or cultural events take place, users might be looking for amenities such as treed areas, shade structures, picnic tables, benches, washrooms or portolets. Where necessary, and where demand is high for a particular amenity, the identification of locational guidelines may be necessary. A recent example of this is Brampton's recently adopted (Spring 2016) 'Shade Structure Locational Guidelines' and 'Shade Structure Implementation Protocols'. These were necessary to lend guidance and objectivity to the placement of shade structures in parks.

Amenities like those noted above can be beneficial in strategic locations, and along major trail routes and at trail heads. Similarly, users at active parks such as sports field may be looking for similar amenities as well as features such as designated seating, change rooms, and concessions.

**d. Crime Prevention:**

Finally, parks are being designed with users' safety in mind through the application of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and other design principles. High volume areas should be well lit, low visibility areas should be limited, and neighbourhood level parks should be designed so that surrounding residents and streets have "eyes on the park", thus discouraging undesirable users and activities. Maintenance of parks is now accepted in the industry as a key component of perceived "safety" in parks and in deterring inappropriate behavior. Considering CPTED principles in park design will achieve safer, user-friendly parks in Brampton.

## **Connection with Nature**

Many people have a powerful connection with naturalized areas such as forests, valleylands and other landscapes that evoke feelings of spirituality, vitality, creativity, and a sense of being with lands that have been around for generations. The term 'nature-deficit disorder' emerged as many people feel their connection with nature has been ruptured due to rapid urbanization and modernization. Municipalities and their partners in conservation/naturalization efforts are seeking ways to restore this connection through natural playgrounds, parks naturalization projects, off-road trail systems, etc. Investments in nature-based recreation and interpretation can in turn foster a better understanding and appreciation of natural areas. These benefits to

society are complemented by the conservation and preservation of ecologically valuable lands that result in greater ecosystem health and biodiversity.

### **Increased Environmental Awareness, Conservation & Stewardship**

Since the 1980s, the importance of environmental protection has been increasingly recognized by Canadians and public opinion polls often rank the environment as the number one priority.<sup>28</sup> As people become more aware of the benefits of environmental protection, demand for passive settings that connect people to nature is growing. Many communities are placing a greater emphasis on the development of passive park space (e.g., woodlots, prairie grasslands, flower gardens, civic gathering spaces, etc.), often times ensuring that a portion of new active parks remains in a natural state.

Naturalized park spaces (whether achieved through 'maintaining' a site in its natural state or 'returning' a site to its natural state) are consistent with many principles related to environmental sustainability and stewardship, and is a key outcome of the City's Environmental Master Plan and the Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy (NHEMS). Naturalization typically involves reduced grass cutting, planting of native species, and public education to create awareness in the community. Interpretative signage in appropriate areas can help park patrons understand the significance of indigenous or significant plants and habitats.

As part of its commitment to being a leader in natural heritage management and environmental planning, the NHEMS is being prepared. Through this document, the City strives to conserve, restore and connect Brampton's abundant natural heritage and built green spaces to support the health and diversity of the natural and built environments. Presently ongoing, the NHEMS background report emphasizes a number of priorities, including: identifying areas for potential natural cover enhancements, preserving species habitat and managing invasive species, targeting ecosystem biodiversity, and securing Greenlands.

Furthermore, Brampton Grow Green is the City's first Environmental Master Plan. Completed in 2014, it functions as an environmental sustainability plan and establishes sustainable directions, policies, standards, actions and targets that conserve and improve upon the environmental qualities of Brampton's built and natural landscapes. The PRMP will have regard for both Brampton Grow Green as well as the NHEMS to support the City and its partners in effectively managing the parks and naturalized areas that form the local system of green space, as well as assist these documents in achieving their targets.

In addition to planning efforts, stewardship programs may be established locally by a municipality or community group to engage the community in the protection of environmental significant areas. These may be supported through partnerships with non-profit organizations – such as Ontario Streams (which does a lot of restoration work in Brampton), Ontario Stewardship and Evergreen – that promote green

community initiatives and provide funding opportunities (a common barrier). Stewardship initiatives can include shore-line restoration, enhancing wildlife habitats, tree plantings, restoring local ecosystems with native plant species, and education to share ideas about the environment. These programs provide opportunities to combine outdoor physical activities with education and action on environmental restoration. By facilitating education, interests, and understanding of natural processes through stewardship opportunities, many municipalities promote a philosophy that is aligned with overall sustainable development and shift the way community planning is imagined away from traditional urban sprawl.

Other stewardship objectives can be facilitated by incorporating sustainable design features into new parkland development. Green infrastructure such as onsite stormwater ponds, bio swales, pervious trails and parking areas can enhance ecological functions. Increasing tree cover and canopies, as well as creating 'urban forests' and engineered wetlands can also be effective design tools to create carbon sinks, offer shade to park users and surrounding residences, provide habitat opportunities for select wildlife, and contribute to naturalization or reforestation objectives. Furthermore, incorporating energy efficiency and water conservation measures into park and facility designs (e.g., LEED or Green Globes certification) can contribute to the overall greening of the community and showcase leadership in addressing environmental issues.

### **The Role of Parks in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

Intricately linked to sustainability and environmental goals are efforts to promote urban design features that integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation. The City of Brampton has been involved in a number of climate change and sustainability initiatives at the municipal level and in partnership with the Region of Peel, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and neighbouring municipalities, including the Brampton Grow Green Master Plan, the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan, and the Peel Climate Change Strategy, among others. Among its sustainability goals, the City commits to: "[m]aking decisions within an ecosystem approach that considers economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues when planning for the future."<sup>29</sup>

This focus on sustainability is motivated by growing concern over rising greenhouse gas emissions and near-term impacts of climate change such as more frequent extreme weather events and increased precipitation intensity. Across Canada, costs associated with extreme weather events between 1995 and 2010 alone were greater than all previous years.<sup>30</sup> The toll of climate impacts on human health, infrastructure, and natural habitats is considerable and municipalities globally are taking measures to both mitigate their climate change footprint and adapt to climate change impacts.

Parks play an important role in creating sustainable urban environments, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. Toronto Region

Conservation Authority promotes the role of greenspace in reducing pollution and controlling soil erosion and flooding through green infrastructure features that, among other things, retain stormwater onsite, act as carbon sinks, etc.

From the perspective of climate change mitigation, parks are integral to a City's urban forest canopy and often represent the highest concentration of trees in an urban area. Trees, plants, and soil sequester and store carbon (and other pollutants).<sup>31</sup> This helps not only reduce greenhouse gases, but also cleans the air and improves air quality in urban environments. Parks also support ecosystem-based climate change adaptation in the following ways:

- **Higher temperatures and urban heat island effect** - Parks have been called the "first and best line of defense" against local climate changes and urban heat island effect through the positive temperature effects of shading and evapotranspiration.<sup>32</sup> The City of Brampton's parks and open space are an important source of cooling to counteract the effects of both increasing temperatures and artificially higher temperatures caused by the urban heat island effect.<sup>33</sup> Wind passing through parks also cools neighbouring areas.<sup>34</sup> Shading provided by tree canopies provides a significant defense against ultraviolet radiation.<sup>35</sup>
- **Extreme weather events and increased precipitation intensity** - Parks help urban environments manage intense weather events when watersheds and rainwater management systems are functioning optimally and able to absorb and direct intense rainfall and snowmelt. Restoring features such as meadows, wetlands, forests, stormwater ponds, and other naturalized areas can help create a more resilient ecosystem that withstands the effects of extreme weather events and buffers adjacent communities from these impacts. Forested areas can also provide protection against wind during storms.

### **Contributing Towards Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship**

There are a number of opportunities to enhance the protective role of parks and recreation spaces, including:

- Enhanced Tree planting standards and protection of existing older, healthy trees and forested areas;
- Restoring and conserving natural features such as wetlands;
- Identifying existing manicured parkland areas that can be naturalized;
- Integrating green infrastructure to capture and harvest rainfall for irrigation;
- Using permeable surfaces to reduce the risks of runoff during rainfall events;
- Developing and implement green parking lot design standards;
- Reducing the use of fossil fuels in landscaping and maintaining vegetation;
- Using an integrated watershed management approach; and

- Promoting environmental design in building construction and maintenance to reduce waste, water, and electricity consumption, and promote recycling by providing adequate opportunities for users and using recycled materials in buildings.<sup>36</sup>

The City and Region have identified a number of these strategies within their planning documents. One example of the application of sustainable and climate-ready planning processes is the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP) program, developed through collaboration between the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Peel Region, and the City of Brampton. Among other objectives, this program works with residents at the neighbourhood level to enhance natural features, reduce energy consumption, reduce water usage, and increase natural cover to promote biodiversity.<sup>37</sup> The SNAP project in Brampton is taking place in the County Court neighbourhood to prepare that community for climate change and transform it to become more environmentally friendly in conjunction with area residents and businesses (a couple of its initiatives include renewal of County Court Park to better suit local recreation needs and integrate environmental education features and community gathering space, as well as a retrofit of the Upper Nine stormwater management pond to address water quality and volume objectives and serve as a community amenity and natural area destination).

Furthermore, actions initiated through the Grow Green Plan reflect the City's commitment to sustainability and environmental protection. Key actions relevant to the PRMP include:

- Establishing **bike-friendly** design requirements and infrastructure standards at municipal buildings, public spaces and parks;
- Promoting **water conservation** through building and park designs including water conservation plans for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, reusing swimming pool water and rainwater/snowmelt to irrigate local parkland and sports fields, planting rain gardens in City parks, etc.;
- Establishing **pollinator gardens** across the City, undertaking **wildflower/wild grass meadows pilot projects** to reduce mowing in parks and open spaces, and updating Landscape Standards tree planting in parks and boulevards;
- Expanding the **Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP)** program to existing neighbourhoods across the City in conjunction with the conservation authorities and the Region;
- Identifying spaces within the City's park inventory to expand the **Community Garden Program** (particularly in areas of high density in conjunction with private sector partners) and assess opportunities to use municipal green roof space for urban agriculture purposes;

- Developing policies and standards requiring **LEED Gold accreditation** (or equivalent) for new and retrofitted corporate buildings and facilities over 500 square metres, along with energy audits/Energy Conservation Plans for each municipal building and facility and identifying opportunities for **alternative and renewable power sources** at City buildings and facilities;
- Promoting **waste reduction**, reuse, recycling and composting for all City facilities, buildings and parks as guided by a Waste Management Strategy, Waste Reduction Plans and Recycling Strategy; and
- Creating a “no water bottle” policy for municipal buildings and facilities, and provide **alternative water bottling filling**.

Innovations seen through Brampton’s local planning initiatives, environmental stewardship programs, and other sustainability efforts play an important role in creating resilient ecosystems and communities.

### 3.4 Trends in Recreation Infrastructure Provision

#### Aging Infrastructure

A 2006 study by Parks and Recreation Ontario identified that 30-50% of recreation facilities in Ontario are approaching the end of their useful life.<sup>38</sup> In fact, infrastructure province-wide is chronically under-funded,<sup>39</sup> though these pressures have been somewhat alleviated through previous provincial and federal economic stimulus programs. In addition to job creation and stimulating economic growth, investment in recreation infrastructure renewal helps to stimulate higher levels of participation in physical and recreation activities. Provision of quality recreation infrastructure and facilities is a cost-effective, proactive solution to promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activity and participation.

The City of Brampton owns and manages more than 160 buildings across the purview of all municipal departments (i.e. over and above parks and recreation), with an average age identified at 34 years. Generally speaking, aging municipal buildings are suffering from increased physical deterioration that is resulting in greater maintenance requirements, repair and replacement activities, health and safety concerns and functional obsolescence. For 108 of these municipal facilities, 48% are identified as being in a critical or very poor state of condition while 43% are in a fair or excellent state (measured by the Facility Condition Index). Collectively, these 108 facilities have a replacement value of over \$800 million and a deferred backlog of repair and replacement activities of \$52 million.<sup>40</sup>

One local example of an aging facility is the Howden Recreation Centre that has been closed to the public since December 2015 in order to perform a comprehensive review of building components and systems, as part of the City’s ongoing building maintenance program. Howden Recreation Centre has received \$1 million in capital

reinvestment over the past ten years although the City's Buildings Project Validation Team estimates the facility is in need of approximately \$4.4 million in capital improvements, including a roof replacement, an entire retrofit of the pool and associated decking and change room areas, building foundation work, a completely new heating system, upgrades to meet current Ontario Disability Act standards, air conditioning and dehumidification system, and various other requirements. Howden Pool generally operates on an annual \$1.2M operating budget with a \$700K net operating tax based subsidy. Staff has recommended that the Howden Pool remain closed to the public until additional details can be finalized and has identified a desire for go-forward options to be presented to Council in Q2 2016 for consideration. Given the cost of undertaking capital renewal to bring the facility back to current quality standards, the costs and benefits of reinvestment in Howden Recreation Centre will need to be assessed to rationalize the most sustainable course of action required to meet long-term needs of Brampton residents.<sup>41</sup> PRMP consultations have identified the temporary closure of this pool as a concern largely due to the public's uncertainty about whether the facility will be renewed, and any such implications of future action for the pool on the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Some communities have undertaken facility-specific master plans and feasibility studies to evaluate the state of their recreation facilities and determine their suitability to accommodate future growth and the evolution of recreation trends. Single-purpose, older facilities have typically been deemed unsuitable in most communities to support the needs of expanding communities. They are often found to be smaller, inefficient, lack accessibility and appropriate space to meet the needs of user groups, or require costly maintenance. Older facilities were also typically single-purpose facilities. Opportunities may exist to expand or relocate elements in single-purpose facilities, into a multi-use complex to achieve economies of scale. This will be discussed in the following section.

Since 2009, the Canadian government has invested over \$12 billion in infrastructure projects and programs including the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program that invested in nearly \$200 million in the renewal and upgrading of recreation facilities and infrastructure.<sup>42</sup> In Brampton, this funding was secured for rehabilitation and improvements to a number of facilities including South Fletcher's Sportsplex, Greenbriar Recreation Centre, Brampton Soccer Centre, Chris Gibson Recreation Centre, Snelgrove Community Centre, Memorial Arena, the Brampton Curling Club, Ebenezer Community Hall, and the Chinguacousy Curling Club and Ski Chalet. The Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program is a more recent funding initiative oriented to upgrading cultural and community facilities, with the City of Brampton receiving approximately \$930,000 that will be used to make more playgrounds accessible and implement improvements to key sections of the City's trails and pathways system.

## Multi-Use Parks & Facilities

There is a growing demand for parks and facilities that contain something for everybody, rather than those designed solely for singular uses. While single use parks still have merit in appropriate locations (e.g. sports field complexes), parks that provide opportunities for a range of ages, family types, and abilities are viewed as spaces for inclusive recreational activity. Furthermore, there has been a considerable trend province-wide towards participation in non-programmed (spontaneous) outdoor activities such as pick-up sports, picnicking, family gatherings, special events, etc. In this sense, parks can be viewed as “outdoor community centres” that combine a number of programmed and non-programmed uses.

The provision of high quality, multi-field parks and open spaces in larger complexes or parks such as those found at Chinguacousy Park and Creditview Sandalwood Park not only encourage physical activities among all age groups, but are of high quality that provide opportunities for attracting tournaments at a regional and even international scale. When developing new or existing parks with sports fields, municipalities are considering the needs of local users and spectators with supplementary amenities such as washroom facilities, covered shelters, Wi-Fi, sport-friendly features, etc. Incorporating more non-programmed spaces and natural areas, as well as linkage to the trail network, will also become increasingly important in serving local needs.

Communities are also moving away from single-purpose, stand-alone, indoor recreation facilities in favour of multi-use facilities that integrate numerous activities and offer economies of scale with respect to construction, maintenance, staffing, and scheduling.

Multi-use facilities are often designed with flexible spaces (e.g. meeting rooms, gymnasiums, etc.) and the potential to expand and easily respond to changing trends and demands of future users. Multi-use parks can also achieve efficiencies through having common infrastructure such as irrigation, lighting and drainage systems, and common parking areas. In addition, the ability to offer cross-programming opportunities and their responsiveness to the ‘time crunch’ make them an attractive ‘one-stop shopping’ destination, particularly among households with a wide range of interests.

Brampton has developed new, multi-purpose indoor recreation facilities such as the Brampton Soccer Centre, Cassie Campbell Community Centre and the recent Gore Meadows Community Centre and Library. These buildings are examples that show Brampton as ‘leading edge’ in the field of indoor recreational offerings. This reflects positively on the City’s image. It can however, conversely set high expectations among residents with regard to the quality of facilities that residents expect and result in demands for ‘like’ infrastructure throughout the City. This will create pressures on staff and elected officials alike, in an effort to ‘keep pace’ with prior, completed projects. The ability to fund new capital development and redevelopment to levels that the

public have come to expect will be a challenge. Funding scarcity is anticipated. This will be evaluated further as the PRMP proceeds in its development.

A further limiting factor going forward is land availability. Increasing land scarcity will present challenges in accruing the land mass required to accommodate traditional service parkland service levels and may affect the ability to construct larger, multi-use facilities. Alternative facility templates may need to be explored.

### **Building 'Sport-Friendly' Recreation Facilities**

Organized sport in general, but particularly at high-performing levels, requires access to specialized facilities whether aquatic centres, arenas, sports fields, or others. While some population centres make full use of large competition facilities such as stadiums, there are many ways for recreation facilities to support the needs of athletes. The consideration of sport needs during the design of new facilities or renovation of existing ones can create significant opportunities for sport groups to utilize these facilities for training and/or competition. Examples of how recreation facilities can be 'sport-friendly' are provided below:

- **Aquatic centres:** While most national/international sanctioned swimming competitions require a 50-metre pool, modifications of traditional 25-metre pools can support athletic development. For example, by ensuring a minimum water depth of 1.8 metres, a pool will accommodate flip turns for swimmers and water polo games. The addition of bleacher seating can also create opportunities for local competitions.
- **Arenas:** Building arenas to NHL or Olympic regulation size or ensures that athletes are practicing and playing on an appropriate rink. The provision of bleacher seating allows for spectators during practices and competitions.
- **Sports Fields:** Building sports fields to regulation size and adding lights ensures that sports teams are able to meet their practice and competition needs. Bleacher seating supports spectator comfort during competitions. In addition, where possible, having multiple sports fields in one park further supports groups that wish to organize competitions.

In evaluating the needs of sport in the design of recreation facilities, municipalities must factor in existing and future demand, as well as opportunities for sport tourism. As will be discussed in subsequent pages, sport tourism offers a number of economic benefits, supporting amenities within a neighbourhood or city such as hotels, restaurants, and parking, among other things.

### **Multi-Season Usage**

While the majority of park usage occurs in the summer months, many communities are creating formal and informal year-round opportunities within their park and recreation systems. Recreational infrastructure such as hard surface courts (e.g. tennis or basketball) can be flooded during the winter to provide outdoor ice skating while

berms and hills can be used for tobogganing. Brampton has responded to this increased demand with projects like the Chinguacousy Park skating Trail – a multi-dimensional outdoor skating loop that will further focus 'Ching Park' as a focal point in central-eastern Brampton. The supply of multi-season outdoor facilities may, however, reduce the lifespan of infrastructure due to increased wear and tear.

Positioning parks to be year-round destinations is a way to maximize physical activity goals. Strategic tree planting and landscaping can create wind buffers to offset the winter wind chill and blowing snow, while ensuring that internal park walking circuits are free of snow can facilitate greater use. While there are inherent costs associated with winter maintenance (even if it is limited to plowing of parking lots), the availability of no-to-low cost activities throughout the year is a benefit to the community.

### **3.5 Trends in Service Delivery**

#### **Funding Challenges**

Many growing municipalities in Canada are faced with funding challenges when it comes to development and renewal of parks and recreation infrastructure. Investing in the municipal parks and recreation sector is often expensive and most Canadian communities have significant infrastructure deficits. There is a continued need to evaluate funding strategies in an effort to provide the right facilities/services in the right places at the right times, and mitigate costs and pass value onto taxpayers.

Fiscal policy in most growing communities relies heavily on funding from growth (such as development charges) and point-in-time inter-governmental transfers (such as grants). For example, many parks and recreation facilities across Ontario and Canada were built as centennial-era projects in the late 1960s or through the lottery-funded grant programs of the 1970s, including many single pad arenas and small community centres.

With many of these facilities approaching or beyond the end of their lifecycles, senior government instituted capital programs aimed at facility repair and development in the late 2000s. The programs were welcomed but woefully insufficient to deal with the mounting backlogs for parks and recreation facilities, not to mention the infrastructure needs of other sectors. As such, it can be argued that this system is inefficient and unreliable, resulting in substantial underinvestment in infrastructure at key times and key places when facilities are most needed. With the economy now experiencing historically low interest rates, many communities may look to different ways of leveraging additional funds to deliver on their infrastructure needs.

## Land Scarcity

A further trend in a rapidly growing municipality like Brampton is the competition for land and the impact on parkland assembly. Municipalities often find themselves competing with the development industry in the pursuit of land. This leads to escalating land values. In addition, with changes to the Planning Act and Development Charge legislation (e.g. through Bill 73) and other policy matters, municipalities capacity to acquire lands for parks and open space is likewise, challenged.

There is also the potential financial impact of an ongoing OMB decision in Richmond Hill, which is presently being appealed in the Ontario Divisional Court, that could set a precedent whereby municipalities in the province would have to replace traditional cash-in-lieu of parkland receipts through other means (including tax funding) to maintain park service levels, especially in higher density areas – Richmond Hill has estimated that this could result in a \$70 million shortfall for its own parks system.

## Volunteerism

Volunteers are essential to the operation and delivery of high quality parks, recreation and sport services where many communities rely heavily on their assistance; Brampton is no exception to this rule. The 2007 *National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating* indicated that volunteerism is rising slightly, but experience in several other communities suggest that many groups still struggle in finding volunteers. One key result of the national survey was that 18% of the volunteer hours in Canada are in the sports and recreation sector, which is the highest of all sectors.

At the same time, youth ages 15 and under represent the smallest proportion of volunteers, representing a need to engage this age group early to improve the likelihood of retaining volunteers in the future. The volunteer requirement to graduate high school has shown some promise to attract youth into volunteering, though success is largely measured by whether teens continue to volunteer beyond the 40 hour requirement. However, one of the most common barriers to youth volunteering is the lack of free time. More youth lead structured lives with school, and organized sports coupled with increasingly more employed youth, resulting in the inability to make long-term commitments to volunteering from leading dynamic lifestyles. Today's digital age and increasing sedentary activities also limit youth's level of community involvement. Other barriers identify that youth are unable to find opportunities or are unsure of how to get involved in volunteering, suggesting a gap in communication between organizations and the community. Lastly, today's youth feels that their opinions are not valued by organizations. Youth volunteers need to be engaged with community service delivery as they may provide new skills and perceptions that may be overlooked by other age groups.

Seniors currently represent the most active volunteer group; however, it is anticipated that this group will soon move on from the volunteer workforce, resulting in greater

pressures on the delivery of services and impact programming capacity. This gap in the volunteer base opens opportunities to attract new volunteers, particularly among youth but also the baby boomer generation as they move through the mature stage of their life cycle. As baby boomers enter into retirement, this age group will be seeking more opportunities to get involved in the community with less commitments, resulting in more available time and flexibility in schedules, although it is anticipated that many boomers will seek part-time work. Volunteers in this age group are also more likely to seek opportunities in new areas unrelated to their careers, allowing them to learn new skills, while others may seek volunteer opportunities where they can utilize their skills and experience.

Research has shown that Canadian immigrants represent a large proportion of the volunteer pool.<sup>43</sup> This is significant in the context of Brampton given that over half of the population is represented by immigrants, providing considerable opportunities to engage these groups. Immigrant volunteers provide a variety of benefits to organizations including multi-lingual assets, skill capacity, and providing a new outlook and perspective that may assist service delivery among organizations. Volunteering assists with self-development in social skills, confidence, and building community connections among immigrants, particularly crucial for those who struggle to find employment.

The City of Brampton provides a wide variety of recreational volunteer opportunities for all ages, particularly for teenage students required to fulfill their required volunteer hours. Opportunities range from year-round pre-school, children's, youth, adult, and seniors' programs in addition to City-run events and festivals.

## **Partnerships**

In addition to the City, organizations such as the conservation authorities, school boards, and non-profit organizations offer access to parks, natural areas, recreation activities, and community facilities throughout Brampton. The most successful partnerships are derived from common objectives (e.g. environmental conservation, community improvement, physical activity, trail development, etc.) to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, utilizing the skills and strengths of each group in delivering access and programming to parks and recreation while sharing responsibilities and minimizing risks (e.g. costs and liabilities).

Maximizing the resources of each party is seen as a beneficial way to increase the amount of publically accessible facilities provided that the public interest is maximized and that partnerships fulfill the desired objectives of the City and its partners. For example, many communities provide facility space for programming, events and activities while the staffing responsibilities are provided by a partnering community organization. Other partnership opportunities exist with private sector businesses through sponsorships, project funding, and donations. These types of partnerships allow businesses to give back to the community while gaining market exposure,

although some corporate partnerships may cause community opposition with respect to negative stigmas associated with certain businesses and products that may encourage unhealthy and inactive lifestyles. Nevertheless, this trend towards an integrated provision approach is growing with the realization that some communities cannot do it alone.

## **Tourism**

The provision of high quality parks, trails and facilities are a way to draw visitors and participants from external markets through sport, tournaments, festivals and special events, nature-based and historical experiences, etc. Promoting tourism requires exploring ways to improve awareness of the local resources to visitors. To encourage visitors and tourism, municipalities and communities often assess opportunities provided by their parkland and trail systems, as well as through the provision of high quality facilities and services that become destination points. While parks, trails, recreation facilities and conservation areas may not generate significant revenues and profits, they are often a destination for visitors. Furthermore, their ability to accommodate festivals, special events and tournaments often generate “multiplier effects” from tourism spending while also creating a sense of local pride, building community spirit, and offering tourists and residents alike with a variety of parks, recreation and sport opportunities.

Assessing the potential for promoting parks, recreation and sport activities as tourist attractions has become a growing trend as a result of increasing environmental and cultural awareness and the need to encourage physical activity. Communities are thus showcasing high quality park attractions and recreational facilities to draw participants and spectators from external markets to drive tourism dollars.

The development of a state-of-the-art multi-use recreation facility can often form the anchor to attracting recreation tourism, particularly with respect to hosting competitive regional, provincial, or national sports. These facilities often offer a wide range of competition level opportunities and given the scale of this type of project, many communities often develop partnerships with local or private sector groups to provide funding or share responsibilities. Chinguacousy Park, with its internationally certified track and field facility at Terry Fox Stadium, and the Brampton Soccer Centre are notable examples of facilities that draw from a regional or larger catchment area while many of the City’s arenas, community centres and sports field parks are attractive and responsive to the tournament market.

The City recognizes that both facilities and events are important in attracting general tourism as well as more focused aspects such as sports tourism, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, etc. Of note, the City plans to have a Sport Tourism Strategy completed in 2017 while the City’s continued investments in environmentally-friendly facility designs (e.g. solar shade structures, LEED buildings) will not only put it in line with its

internal stewardship goals but is also an opportunity to reinforce/showcase Brampton's brand as a 'green city'.

### **Technology & Customer Service**

In recent years, the adoption of new technologies has provided many municipalities and community groups with a more advanced and streamlined process to track participation levels, improve scheduling and provide quick registration for participants when used affectively. With the number of homes with high-speed internet access steadily increasing, municipalities are able to provide a wealth of pertinent information on municipal websites. In addition, most age groups are capable of navigating the internet, to varying degrees. At present, the City of Brampton website appears to be a well utilized resource for the promotion and coordination of parks and recreation opportunities with online registration resources for community programs. Staff have identified that improvements can and should be made to provide for things like increased promotion of indoor recreation facility offerings, and enhancement to the parks and sports facility database to improve knowledge about City facilities, how they are being used, and enhancing the online booking and permits process.

Social media and personal devices have also revolutionized the way people communicate and socialize while using very few resources. As a result, the application of these innovative communication techniques will require communities to understand and apply these methods in an effective manner to in inform all age groups in the community. Social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter provide the City as well as organizations an outlet to market City parks, events programs, and services to a wide market. Social media can also be used as a forum to collect valuable information using group discussions and surveys, providing effective and efficient opportunities to communicate feedback and requests and develop social connections with the community. Brampton and a number of community and private groups currently utilize multiple social media platforms for these purposes of communicating and collecting information. These tools can often be supported by the use of Quick Response codes or "QR" codes that have increasingly become popular in communicating information.

## **3.6 Other Trends**

### **Lack of Free Time & Physical Inactivity**

A lack of free time has historically been the primary barrier to participation for youth and adults, largely due to busy lifestyles and a number of socio-economic circumstances such as dual-income households, lone-parent families and low income households. Longer commute times, shift work and weekend work are creating the need to have community services and programs available at different times throughout the week while also promoting drop-in opportunities. Similarly, the changing face of the 'traditional' Canadian family, with more lone-parent families, is putting significant time pressures and constraints on community services, which is an important

consideration as the Statistics Canada National Household Survey revealed that lone-parents constitute 15% of all 'economic families' in Ontario (in Brampton, this figure was 10%).

Most GTA communities are faced with the challenge of overcoming time constraints from a service delivery perspective. Given that Brampton has a large commuter population, some residents find it difficult to commute from their place of work throughout the GTA back to Brampton for activities and programs offered during prime-time hours. A few ways to respond to these constraints include extending hours of operation at community centres, distributing popular program offerings throughout the week, and providing more drop-in opportunities as people are generally more likely to participate, if activities are of a casual or spontaneous nature.

While physical inactivity is closely linked to the lack of free time, today's digital age is filled with sedentary activities that has resulted in a growing trend in physical inactivity, most prevalent among youth and children, often leading to high levels of obesity and chronic disease. According to a Canadian Health Measures Survey, children and youth spend an average of nearly 9 hours a day in sedentary pursuits, a majority of which is dedicated to screen time. Adults have been reported to spend an average of 10 hours per day in sedentary pursuits, inferring that the level of physical inactivity increases with age.<sup>44</sup>

Further, the Canadian Health Measures Survey indicates that only 9% of children and youth accumulate at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity as recommended through the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines. Based on these less than optimal results, the ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth assigned a grade of "D -" for overall physical activity in 2016 for the fourth consecutive year.<sup>45</sup> While the ParticipACTION Report Card does not delve into adult physical activity levels, 2011 data from Statistics Canada also using the Canadian Health Measures Survey showed that 17% of adult men and 14% of adult women attained the recommended 150 weekly minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity, though usually concentrated in activities occurring infrequently throughout the week.

Between 2000 and 2010, the Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute found that participation declined in outdoor play, unorganized and organized physical activities and sports among children.<sup>46</sup> Other cases of physical inactivity among children and youth are linked to physically inactive parents. The role of the parent is an influential factor in determining a child's level of physical activity as they are typically the decision maker and guide for their child's daily lives including how much time is spent in sedentary activities.<sup>47</sup> Children and youth are more likely to participate in physical activities if they are encouraged by their parents, suggesting that opportunities exist to engage the entire family to being more physically active. This is further supported by a study conducted by Statistics Canada which found that children

and youth are more likely to participate in sport activities if their parents live active lifestyles or are actively involved in their children's pursuits, suggesting that opportunities should be provided to engage all age levels.<sup>48</sup>

Providing additional parks, recreation and sport opportunities and incentives to encourage physical activities may help address these issues among physical inactivity across all age groups. Incentives and opportunities provided by senior levels of government such as the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Active 2010 strategy, the federal Child Fitness Tax Credit, curriculum for health and physical education in schools, etc. may assist in stimulating physical activities. Coupling initiatives such as this with the variety of parks and recreation programs and services offered by the City, which endeavor to bolster physical activity levels, could be effective in promoting a healthy lifestyle.

### **Obesity Among all Age Groups**

As previously alluded, today's digital age is filled with sedentary activities and physical inactivity – a growing trend notably prevalent among youth and children. A recent report on obesity completed by the Public Health Agency of Canada found that 6% of children ages 2-5 and 9% of children ages 6-17 are obese. The risk of obesity increases with age where nearly one in four Canadian adults are considered to be obese, while over 60% of all Canadians are obese or overweight.<sup>49</sup> In Peel Region, obesity rates are on the rise as 12% of the population was obese in 2005 whereas 16% was reported to be obese in 2012 (and over half the Regional population was reported to be overweight or obese).<sup>50</sup>

Obesity has come to be known as the "new smoking", where many Canadians are leading unhealthy lifestyles, resulting in more cases of heart disease, stress on bones and joints, diabetes, blood clots, cancer, and other weight-related health problems. In fact, Peel Region and the City of Brampton have one of the highest rates of diabetes in Ontario which Peel Public Health partially attributes to community and neighbourhood planning designs that are unconducive to walking (or other forms of active transportation) as well as the presence of neighbourhood clusters home to immigrants that are prone to the disease.<sup>51</sup>

Encouraging local level governments to promote a healthy lifestyle and recreation opportunities and to provide parkland and programs are ways of combat obesity. Notable efforts by the City of Brampton to promote healthier lifestyles among its residents include the provision of a robust system of parks, recreation facilities and associated programs, establishing trails and active transportation routes that link destinations to residential and employment areas, and bolstering its public transit system to reduce reliance on private automobiles (most public transportation trips start and end with some form of active transportation).

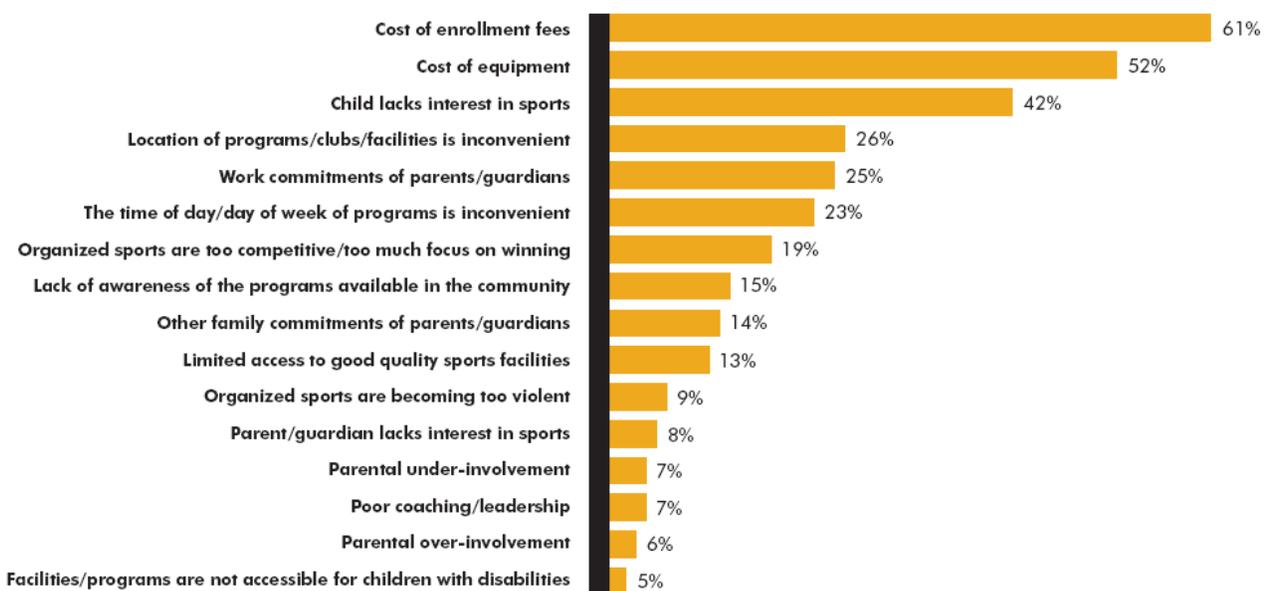
## Participation in Sport

### General Trends

Over the past number of years, the public has placed greater demands on spontaneous, non-programmed forms of activity due to evolving households, schedules, and lifestyles, prompting a transition of activities from organized to unorganized sports. The most recent Statistics Canada national survey on youth participation in organized sport, conducted in 2005, concluded that participation in organized sport had been steadily in decline.<sup>52</sup> However, a 2014 Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI) survey suggests that this trend may be reverting back having found that 75% of children and youth ages 5 to 19 participated in organized physical activity or sport<sup>53</sup> which is a slightly higher percentage than levels surveyed in 2007. The trend captured by the CFLRI survey represents a positive change from recent years and may be indicative of efforts to increase awareness of sport opportunities and increase financial assistance to families. Sport is also seen as an important part of life for children with disabilities, with a separate study finding that 75% of children disabilities participating in sport.<sup>54</sup>

Though participation in sport may be increasing, numerous barriers remain. For many, costs associated with sports are increasing and competing with other family demands. The pressure to succeed in school and increasing time spent in front of screens are also pulling youth away from sports. For many participants, sports are increasingly seen as overly competitive, accompanied by parental pressure for their children to succeed, and leading to early sport specialization which may be detrimental to a child's enjoyment of an activity.<sup>55, 56</sup> The graph below from the ParticipACTION 2015 Report Card summarizes the range of barriers to youth participation in sport.

Figure 7: Barriers preventing 3 to 17-year-olds in Canada from participating in organized sports



Source: ParticipACTION 2015 Report Card

Family structure also plays a role in children and youth sports participation. Of children who participated in sports, it was likely that one or both of their parents were interested in sport and that they came from a higher income background. Furthermore, children of recent immigrants are less likely to participate in sports.<sup>57</sup>

The CFLRI's 2014-2015 Physical Activity Monitor found that 34% of Canadian adults participated in sport, an increase of 4% from 2008.<sup>58</sup> Men were much more likely to participate than women (46% versus 22%, respectively).<sup>59</sup> The report also captured how often individuals were participating in sport:

- 7% participated in sport every day;
- 20% participated four to six times a week;
- 38% participated two to three times a week;
- 23% participated once a week; and
- 11% reported that their participation was variable or less than once a week.

In general, higher income households are more likely to participate in sport than lower income households.

### **The Canadian Sport for Life Model & Physical Literacy**

Sport for Life (CS4L) is a movement to improve the quality of sport and physical activity in Canada through improved athlete training and better integration between all stakeholders in the sport system, including sport organizations, education, recreation and health. A key feature of CS4L is Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD), a developmental pathway whereby athletes follow optimal training, competition, and recovery regimens from childhood through all phases of adulthood.

S4L has been gathering momentum since the publication of a 2005 LTAD resource paper, after which every national sport organization in Canada developed sport-specific LTAD guidelines for their athletes. Further work has been done by provincial organizations and governmental groups and agencies to promote S4L in their jurisdictions. The vision behind CS4L is to reshape how to support sport and train athletes at all levels in Canada – from children to adults, from towns to cities, from provinces and regions through to the National level. In realizing this vision, the aim is to keep more Canadians active for life with recreational sport and physical activity, and at the same time help Canadians in all sports win more medals internationally.

The seven stages of the Long-Term Athlete Development Pathway are:

- Stage 1: Active Start (Ages 0-6)
- Stage 2: FUNdamentals (Girls 6-8, Boys 6-9)
- Stage 3: Learning to Train (Girls 8-11, Boys 9-12)
- Stage 4: Training to Train (Girls 11-15, Boys 12-16)
- Stage 5: Training to Compete (Girls 15-21, Boys 16-23)
- Stage 6: Training to Win (Girls 18+, Boys 19+)
- Stage 7: Active for Life (Any Age)

The stages support the development of the 'whole' person (mind, body, spirit) and include the corresponding physical literacy stages. Physical literacy is defined as: the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life.<sup>60</sup>

Consistent with CS4L, recreation providers play an integral role in developing physical literacy in children and youth, as well as promoting lifelong physical activity for all Canadians. Because many different institutions, agencies, and groups are involved in delivering sports and physical activity programs, CS4L recommends that recreation, education and sport clubs coordinate their efforts for the greatest welfare of the children in their programs. In the past, the sport system has been divided into silos of program delivery: recreation, sport clubs, and physical education in schools. It has been expensive and inefficient. Under the CS4L framework, recreation works together with sport to harmonize programs and create a more effective system for every citizen in Canada.

Recreation and sport can work together more closely to create seamless delivery of quality sport and physical activity programming. Here are some key areas where the CS4L model can be a guide:

1. Physical Literacy Program Development
2. Municipal Planning and Sport Strategy Development
3. Sport Councils
4. Facility Planning
5. Access and Allocation<sup>61</sup>

### Organizations Working to Increase Participation in Sport

A number of national organizations exist to promote the personal and social benefits of sport. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of the groups working to raise awareness about sport, provide support to athletes, and/or provide financial assistance to youth facing barriers to participating in sport.

**Sport for Life**, as previously discussed, works to promote sport and physical activity. The organization is made up of leaders in the sport, recreation, education, health, and business sectors and works to educate and inform leaders to better deliver athlete development and physical activity programming.

**Own the Podium** grew out of a mission by Canada's 13 winter national sport organizations to increase the number of Olympic medals won by Canadian athletes through providing funding and other athlete development support.

**KidSport** is a national not-for-profit organization that provides grants to kids under the age of 18 to support their involvement in organized sports. Recognizing that the cost of participation is a major barrier for many young people, the organization works through chapters across the country to create opportunities for all kids to participate in sport.

**Jumpstart Charities** believes no kid should be left out of organized sports due to financial pressures. As a not-for-profit organization, Jumpstart fundraises through local chapters across the country to provide financial assistance for registration, equipment, and transportation.

**Sport Matters** is a platform that engages over 80 sport-related organizations and provides an opportunity for leaders to collaborate and address issues in sport.

**High Five** promotes a standard for children's recreation and sport programs. Its certification process seeks to offer assurance that children's programming is consistent with principles of healthy child development.



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## **Section 4: Inventory of Parks, Recreation Facilities and Programs**

This Section summarizes inventories of parks and recreation facilities and programs based upon information provided to date.

### **4.1 Parks and Open Spaces**

#### **Parks Hierarchy (City of Brampton Official Plan)**

Parkland takes many different forms, ranging from manicured parks and open spaces to large naturalized tracts with ecological value. In planning the parks system, primary considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Planning the appropriate function and use for each park;
- Providing well-balance opportunities for active and passive recreation, recognizing the value they contribute to the overall health and welfare of the community;
- Achieving a satisfactory distribution of parkland to ensure that they are easily accessible while maintaining the integrity of natural heritage systems; and
- Maintaining a high degree of walkability and connectivity among parks through active transportation infrastructure and key linkages.

Parks planning is thus an important part of the municipal land use decision-making process. Land use planning is guided by the City of Brampton Official Plan, which contains many specific policies regarding the provision of municipal parkland. Section 4.7.3 of Brampton's Official Plan prescribes a 'Parks Hierarchy' that is used as a guideline for the acquisition, spatial distribution, and development of parks and recreation facilities. Each park type defines specific functions, forms, size, and offers varying amenities. The Official Plan's classification system is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: City of Brampton Official Plan Parks Hierarchy

Park Type	Service Area	Function and Facilities	Size
<b>City Parks</b>	Entire City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as destinations for active recreation and become focal points for the City of Brampton.</li> <li>• Provide a range of opportunities for both outdoor active and passive recreation which may include but is not limited to the following: a large playground, shade structure, multi-purpose court, multiple sports fields, lighting, seating areas, walkways, open active area, landscaping, floral displays, buffer areas, and/or natural or cultural features.</li> <li>• Contain recreation facilities that have specialized location requirements (such as senior citizen recreation centres) or features that could be considered to be specialized in a city-wide context for any other specific reasons.</li> </ul>	The size of City Parks shall depend on the shape and constraints of the property, and the specific programs for the park.
<b>Community Parks</b>	Generally be located to serve 15,000 to 20,000 persons within a 3.0 kilometre (1.86 mile) radius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of opportunities for outdoor active and passive recreation which may include but is not limited to the following: a large playground, shade structure, multi-purpose court, splash pad, multiple sports fields and associated flood lighting, seating areas, walkways, lighting, open active area, landscaping, floral displays, buffer areas, and/or natural or cultural features.</li> <li>• Contain a recreation centre complex which may contain but is not limited to the following amenities, or combination of amenities: one or more arenas, one or more indoor soccer fields, indoor courts, swimming pool, fitness facilities, snack bar, and community space.</li> </ul>	Generally be in the range of 10 to 12 hectares (25 to 30 acres) of tableland.
<b>Neighbourhood Parks</b>	Generally serve 4,000 to 5,000 people within a 0.4 kilometre (1/4 mile) radius.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of opportunities and experiences for active and passive recreation which may include but is not limited to the following: a playground, shade structure, multi-purpose court, seating areas, walkways, lighting, open active area, landscaping, floral displays, buffer areas and/or natural or cultural features.</li> </ul>	Generally be in the range of 0.8 to 1.2 hectares (2 to 3 acres). Note: parks less than 0.5 hectares will only be provided in exceptional cases and special situations that are prescribed more fully in the Official Plan.

Source: City of Brampton Official Plan, Section 4.7.3 (under review)

Brampton’s parklands provide an opportunity to showcase a variety of City features, as reflected through other municipal documents. For example, parks and open spaces are identified as opportunities to showcase horticultural and environmental qualities through the Grow Green Master Plan and the Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Plan, and are used as key components of the Gateway Beautification Program. Parklands are also an important part of municipal sustainability initiatives with the City of Brampton’s Sustainable Community Design Guidelines supplementing the Official Plan Parks Hierarchy with certain functional directions:

- Parks will support, complement, and buffer the Natural Heritage System, where appropriate;
- Locate community parks in a central location for easy access and to serve all the surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Where possible, link community parks and recreation centres to the Natural Heritage System and any pedestrian/ bicycle paths;
- Where appropriate, locate community parks adjacent to Secondary schools to allow for shared use of facilities, such as parking;
- Centrally locate neighbourhood parks within a 400 to 800 metre distance (5 to 10 minute walk) of residents;
- Where appropriate, locate neighbourhood parks adjacent to school sites to allow for shared amenities such as recreational play fields and parking lots; and
- Locate parkettes as a central sub-neighbourhood feature for residents within a 200 to 400 metre distance (3 to 5 minute walk).<sup>62</sup>

### Parkland Supply

The City of Brampton maintains 517 hectares of active forms of parkland, classified under the Official Plan Parks Hierarchy as shown in Table 4, amounting to roughly:

- 152 hectares in City Parks;
- 174 hectares in Community Parks; and
- 191 hectares in Neighbourhood Parks.

Table 4: Active Park Supply and Service Levels by Official Plan Hierarchy

Park Classification	RPA A	RPA B	RPA C	RPA D	RPA E	RPA F	RPA G	RPA H	RPA I	Total (City-Wide)	Ha per 1,000 pop. (City-Wide)
City Park	28.73	0	9.18	15.8	4.38	2.24	47.71	43.99	0	152.03	0.2
Community Park	6.47	11.15	26.43	49.44	13.27	28.99	27.87	10.10	0.12	173.84	0.3
Neighbourhood Park	6.82	25.15	32.63	31.39	9.99	28.68	29.44	17.10	9.67	190.87	0.3
<b>Total (RPA)</b>	<b>42.02</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>68.24</b>	<b>96.63</b>	<b>27.64</b>	<b>59.91</b>	<b>105.02</b>	<b>71.19</b>	<b>9.79</b>	<b>516.74</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Ha per 1,000 pop. (RPA)</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	

Notes: Includes 66.46 hectares of future parkland across 3 future Community Parks (35.06ha) and 72 future Neighbourhood Parks (31.4ha). Excludes stormwater management ponds, lands associated with Operations and Administration facilities, and lands owned and maintained by local Conservation Authorities.

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

The parkland and open space supply significantly increases to over 1,400 hectares after including Environmental Parks, Conservation Authority lands, and leased recreation facility lands. There are over 680 hectares attributable to future and proposed acquisitions of these passive parks and open spaces.

### **Natural Heritage System & Open Spaces**

Brampton's natural heritage system (NHS) is made up of natural heritage features and areas, linked by corridors that maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems. Certain linkages are also evolving to incorporate 'soft' urban uses such as parks, open spaces, utility corridors, parkway belt, etc. Section 4.6.6 of the City's Official Plan identifies the following features and areas that make up Brampton's natural heritage system:

- Valleylands and Watercourse Corridors
- Woodlands
- Wetlands (Provincially Significant and Other Wetlands)
- Environmentally Sensitive/Significant Areas
- Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Greenbelt Plan Natural System

In addition, there are a number of open spaces that may not fall under the formal definition of the NHS system but may support and enhance the function of the City's NHS by serving as a buffer to urban uses or providing linkages between natural features. The following is a summary of natural heritage lands as categorized internally by the City of Brampton:

- Environmental Parks – over 1,130 hectares across 460 properties categorized as woodlots, valleys, channels, open space, links, wetlands and vistas (note that over 600 hectares of these are identified as future or proposed supply).
- Conservation Authority-Owned Lands – 366 hectares plus another 42 hectares that are maintained on their behalf by the City of Brampton.

The City delivers some environmental and outdoor-focused programming to children including geocaching, organized hikes, and the 'snowshoe games' in order to promote the benefits of outdoor play and allow children to experience natural settings.

## 4.2 Indoor Recreation

### a) Indoor Aquatics

There are 12 indoor aquatic centres integrated within City of Brampton community centres (with another one scheduled to open in 2017). Half of the City's indoor aquatics centres (six in total) have been in service for more than 35 years, four pools are between 20 and 35 years old, while two pools were built within the last 20 years.

RPA	Aquatic Centre	Year in Service	Number of Pool Tanks	Other Features
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre	2008 (8 years)	2 + waterslide landing	Family change room, lap pool, spray features, viewing area, wheelchair accessible, six 25-metre lanes, maximum depth: 9.2 feet
C	Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre	1988 (28 years)	1 + hot tub	Sauna, viewing area, hot tub
	Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre	1980 (36 years)	1 + hot tub	Sauna, viewing area, wheelchair accessible, hot tub, backyard slide, maximum depth: 6 feet
D	Chinguacousy Wellness Centre	1998 (18 years)	2	Family change room, viewing area, wheelchair accessible 25-metre leisure pool, therapy pool
	Gore Meadows Community Centre & Library	2017 (anticipated)	2 under construction	Upon completion of construction will include a lap pool with eight 25-metre lanes, one leisure pool (5,600 ft <sup>2</sup> ) with special features (slide, steps), changing areas, storage, party room, guard office, etc.
F	Century Gardens Recreation Centre	1978 (38 years)	1	Family change room, slide, spray features, steam room, viewing area, wheelchair accessible, maximum depth: 5.5 feet
	Chris Gibson Recreation Centre	1985 (31 years)	1 + hot tub	Sauna, hot tub, maximum depth: 4.5 feet
G	Balmoral Recreation Centre	1964 (52 years)	1 + hot tub	Diving Board, lap pool, sauna, viewing area, hot tub, 25-metre lane pool, maximum depth: 12 feet
	Earnscliffe Recreation Centre	1971 (45 years)	1	Family change room, sauna, viewing area, wheelchair accessible, rope, backyard slide, maximum depth: 10 feet
	Ellen Mitchell Recreation Centre	1985 (31 years)	1 + hot tub	Sauna, viewing area, wheelchair accessible, hot tub, backyard slide, maximum depth: 6 feet
	Howden Recreation Centre	1974 (42 years)	1 + hot tub	Sauna, tot pool, maximum depth: 6 feet Note: aquatics facility is out of service at present time
H	Kiwanis Youth Centre for Sports Excellence	1971 (45 years)	1	Information Not Available
	South Fletcher's Sportsplex	1996 (20 years)	1 + hot tub	Family change room, leisure pool, lane pool, sauna, slide, viewing area, wheelchair accessible, hot tub, maximum depth: 6.5 feet

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

The City delivers a broad range of registered and drop-in programming through its indoor aquatics system. Examples of programming include:

- Learn to Swim (including private, semi-private and family lessons) such as Little Splash and Splash level lessons;
- Aquatic Leadership courses certified through the Lifesaving Society;
- Aquatic Fitness such as AquaFit, Aqua Zumba, etc.;
- Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation programs;
- Sports such as underwater hockey; and
- Drop-in Swims such as recreational swims, Parent and Tot swims, lane swims, and female-only swims.

## b) Arenas

The City of Brampton owns and operates 11 arenas that collectively provide 20 ice pads, consisting of:

- Six single-pad arenas;
- Three twin-pad arenas; and
- Two quad-pad arenas including the PowerAde Centre (which is operated by a private operator until the year 2034 under the terms of the current agreement, after which the facility will be turned back to the City).

Approximately two-thirds of the arena supply (seven arenas in total) has been in service for more than 25 years, two arenas are between 10 and 20 years old, while Cassie Campbell arena is the only arena built within the last ten years.

RPA	Arena	Year in Service	Number of Ice Pads	Size of Ice Pads	Other Features
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre	2008 (8 years)	2	192' x 82' (all ice rinks)	11 dressing rooms, seating for 315 and 485
C	Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre	1988 (28 years)	1	180' x 80'	5 dressing rooms, seating for 100
F	Century Gardens Recreation Centre	1973, 2008 expansion/renewal (43 years, 8 years since renewal)	2	200' x 85'	12 dressing rooms, seating for 320 and 350
	Chris Gibson Recreation Centre	1985 (31 years)	1	179' x 79'	4 dressing rooms, no fixed seating. Bleacher seating for approximately 200 people.
	Memorial Arena	1949 (67 years)	1	177' x 77'	6 dressing rooms, first aid room, cafeteria

RPA	Arena	Year in Service	Number of Ice Pads	Size of Ice Pads	Other Features
G	Earnscliffe Recreation Centre	1971, 2007 expansion/renewal (45 years, 9 years since renewal)	2	Rink 1: 179' x 79' Rink 2: 200' x 85'	11 dressing rooms, Rink 1 seating for 125, Rink 2 seating for 325.
	Greenbriar Recreation Centre	1974 (42 years)	1	180' x 80'	5 dressing rooms, limited spectator viewing
	James F. McCurry Victoria Park Arena	1967 (49 years)	1	190' x 85'	6 dressing rooms, snack bar, first aid room, ticket booth, limited spectator viewing (currently unavailable due to fire)
	Terry Miller Recreation Centre	1979 (37 years)	1	184' x 79'	7 dressing rooms, first aid room, seating for approximately 300.
H	PowerAde Centre*	1998 (18 years)	4	200' x 85' (all ice rinks)	5,000 seats (spectator rink only)
	South Fletcher's Sportsplex	1996 (20 years)	4	180' x 80' (all ice rinks)	19 dressing rooms, rink 1 (100 seating capacity), rink 4 (125 seating capacity).
<b>Total</b>			<b>20</b>		

\* Owned by the City but operated by a third party management firm at present time

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

The local arenas are primarily used by organized arena user groups that deliver their own leagues and related programs, and are available for pick-up rentals. The City of Brampton delivers its own skating programs consisting of drop-in activities (public skating and shinny) as well as registered instructional programs (i.e. learn-to-skate and powerskating) with private lessons also available.

### c) Curling Facilities

The City owns and operates two curling facilities, each with six curling sheets, consisting of the Brampton Curling Club (adjacent to Memorial Arena) and the Chinguacousy Curling Club (at Chinguacousy Park). Both curling facilities have been in service for over 40 years.

RPA	Curling Facility	Year in Service	Number of Sheets	Other Features
F	Brampton Curling Club	1955 (61 years)	6	Three lounges, warming kitchen and servery
G	Chinguacousy Curling Club	1973 (43 years)	6	Lounge and bar
<b>Total</b>			<b>12</b>	

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Through its curling facilities, the City organizes and administers select curling programs such as non-competitive co-ed leagues and curling instruction for children, teens and adults. The Brampton Curling Club and Chinguacousy Curling Club also make use of these facilities by offering competitive and social leagues (women's, men's and co-ed) for children to adult age groups and organize bonspiels.

**d) Indoor Turf Centres**

The City owns and operates the Brampton Soccer Centre that contains four indoor fields housed as part of a broader multi-use community centre.

RPA	Facility	Year in Service	Number of Fields	Field Size	Other Features
C	Brampton Soccer Centre	2007 (9 years)	4	191' x 82'	20 change rooms + 8 referee rooms, spectator seating between 363 and 367 per field Note: Field 'D' is used for gymnasium activities between May and September

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

The City delivers instructional soccer programming (i.e. Skills and Drills) at the Brampton Soccer Centre as well as within gymnasiums at a number of other community centres. The Brampton Soccer Centre is also used by local sports field associations that organize their own leagues and related programs, and is available for pick-up rentals.

**e) Gymnasiums**

Six of the City's community centres contain gymnasiums plus another at the Flower City Seniors Centre, with varying size and configurations between each. Two gymnasiums are housed in facilities constructed within the last ten years while the other four gymnasiums are located in buildings that have been in service for over 20 years. In addition, the City has use of gyms located in the schools that are attached to Century Gardens, Jim Archdekin, Ken Giles and Terry Miller community centres through Joint Use Agreements with the Peel District School Board (PDSB).

RPA	Gymnasium	City or School	Year in Service	Number of Gyms	Gym Type	Floor Area	Features
A	Huttonville Community Centre (2322 Embleton Rd.)	City	1974 (42 years)	2	1 Single + 1 Small gym	5,282 ft <sup>2</sup> (89' x 58.5') 2,355 ft <sup>2</sup> (54' x 37')	Change rooms, kitchen, stage JUA with school board
	Mount Pleasant Village School (100 Commuter Dr.)	PDSB	2011 (5 years)	1	Small gym	3,927 ft <sup>2</sup> (51' x 77')	Divisible into two smaller courts. JUA with school board - only available evenings and weekends during the school year.
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre (1050 Sandalwood Parkway W.)	City	2008 (8 years)	1	Double gym	7,190 ft <sup>2</sup>	Wood floor. Soccer nets available, ball hockey permitted. Score clock available.
C	Brampton Soccer Centre (1495 Sandalwood Parkway E.)	City	2007 (9 years)	1*	Double Gym (but three single undersized courts)	20,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Floor is a Sport Court - not a true gym space but programmed for gym activities between May and September
	Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre / Heart Lake Secondary School (296 Conestoga Dr.)	PDSB	1988 (28 years)	2	1 Single + 1 Double gym	3,600 ft <sup>2</sup> & 7,200 ft <sup>2</sup>	Servery, storage (3), change rooms (shared with pool), wood floor, score clock available in the double gym. No bleachers. No floor hockey. Volleyball, Badminton, Basketball. JUA with school board - only available evenings and weekends during the school year.
D	Gore Meadows Community Centre & Library (10150 The Gore Rd.)	City	2013 (3 years)	1	Single gym	6,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (100' x 60')	Sprung hardwood floor, bleachers (145 seats), change rooms, 12.4 metre roof, scoreboards, AV capability
F	Century Gardens / Gordon Graydon Sr. Public School (170 Rutherford Rd. N.)	PDSB	1973 (43 years)	1	Double gym	4,200 ft <sup>2</sup>	Tile floor. Gym has stage. Ball hockey permitted with plastic sticks. Access to Gym through Rink #1. Gym has Stage. 1 full sized BB court. Posts provided, not nets. JUA with school board - only available evenings and weekends during the school year only for children (no adult programs)

RPA	Gymnasium	City or School	Year in Service	Number of Gyms	Gym Type	Floor Area	Features
G	Terry Miller Recreation Centre / Judith Nyman Secondary School (1305 Williams Pkwy.)	PDSB	1979 (37 years)	1	Double	7,300 ft <sup>2</sup> (92' x 61')	Wood floor. Only posts are provided for volleyball, no ball hockey or soccer permitted. JUA with school board - only available evenings and weekends during the school year.
H	Flower City Seniors Centre (8870 McLaughlin Rd.)	City	2010 (6 years)	1	Single gym	6,789 ft <sup>2</sup>	Servery
	Ken Giles Gymnastics Centre / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School (364 Bartley Bull Parkway.)	PDSB	Not Available	1	Not Available	Not Available	JUA with school board - only available evenings and weekends during the school year.
	McMurchy (247 McMurchy Ave. S.)	City	1971	1	Double	4,236 ft <sup>2</sup>	Wood Floor. Only posts provided for badminton and volleyball, no ball hockey permitted, soccer nets available, change rooms have showers and lockers.
	South Fletcher's Sportsplex (500 Ray Lawson Blvd.)	City	1996 (20 years)	2	1 Single	4,320 ft <sup>2</sup> (95' x 40')	Vinyl floor, connected to MPR. Could also be considered an Auditorium.
<b>Total</b>				<b>15</b>			

\* Reflects one of the dry floor pads that is used for gymnasium activities between May and September when artificial turf is removed for the season.

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Municipal gymnasiums host numerous programs throughout the year ranging from sports (e.g. badminton, basketball, indoor soccer, floor hockey, and volleyball), active living and floor-based fitness, dance and general interest. Gymnasiums are also made available for drop-in activities and sports.

### f) Fitness Facilities

The City maintains a broad fitness portfolio, employed through the traditional fitness centre model with cardiovascular and weight-training equipment, and integrated group fitness/aerobics studios (programs only – no weights) within multi-use community centres. Fitness centres and group fitness studios are complemented by other amenities such as indoor walking tracks and squash/racquetball courts at selected locations.

The City offers personal training services and a broad range of group fitness programming. Examples of drop-in fitness classes include boot camp, Zumba, yoga/tai chi, circuit training, combat and step classes (among others), many of which are also available as registered programs. Other registered programs include Pilates, spin classes, chair exercise (largely oriented to seniors and persons with disabilities), self-defence, learn to run, Osteoid, Nordic walking, introduction to weight-training, etc. some of which are also run outdoors.

RPA	Fitness Facility	Year in Service	Type of Space	Floor Area*	Features
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre	2008 (8 years)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	18,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Cardio equipment, machine and free-weight equipment, indoor running/walking track, fitness change rooms, hot tub and sauna
C	Brampton Soccer Centre	2007	Dance Studio	725 ft <sup>2</sup>	Information Not Available
	Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre	1980 (36 years)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	3,300 ft <sup>2</sup>	Cardio equipment, machine and free-weight equipment
D	Chinguacousy Wellness Centre	1998 (18 years)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	12,400 ft <sup>2</sup>	Cardio equipment, machine and free-weight equipment, indoor running/walking track, fitness change rooms, hot tub and sauna
	Gore Meadows Community Centre & Library	2017 (anticipated)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	6,000 ft <sup>2</sup> fieldhouse + 1,140 ft <sup>2</sup> studio	Upon completion of construction will include cardio equipment, machine equipment, change rooms, 247 foot walking / running track
F	Century Gardens Recreation Centre	1973 (43 years)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	3,100 ft <sup>2</sup>	Cardio equipment, machine and free-weight equipment, fitzone
G	Earnscliffe Recreation Centre	1971 (45 years)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	3,300 ft <sup>2</sup>	Cardio equipment, machine and free-weight equipment
H	South Fletcher's Sportsplex	1996 (20 years)	Fitness Centre + Aerobics Studio	5,700 ft <sup>2</sup>	Cardio equipment, machine and free-weight equipment

\*Figure is rounded and generally reflects size of the fitness centre and applicable components attributable to the fitness equipment and programs

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Four racquetball and nine squash courts are provided at five municipally-operated facilities. The City does not offer any related programming but makes courts available on an annual membership basis as well as through drop-in opportunities.

RPA	Indoor Racquet Court	Type	Number of Courts
C	Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre	Squash	3
	Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre	Squash	2
F	Chris Gibson Recreation Centre	Racquetball	2
G	Ellen Mitchell Recreation Centre	Racquetball	2
	Terry Miller Recreation Centre	Squash and Racquetball	4*

\* All currently used for squash but were originally constructed as 2 squash and 2 racquetball courts  
 Source: City of Brampton, 2016

### g) Seniors Centres

The City operates two seniors-dedicated facilities: the Flower City Seniors Centre and the Knightsbridge Community & Senior Citizens' Centre. These two facilities deliver programs in arts and crafts, cards, dance, drama, and music, education and culture, fitness and health, sports and games, special events and more. In addition to these two dedicated facilities, the City's community centres offer many programs specific to older adults and seniors from dancing classes to fitness programs and more.

RPA	Seniors' Centre	Year in Service	Gross Floor Area	Features
G	Knightsbridge Seniors' Centre	1979 (37 years)	6,567 ft <sup>2</sup>	Crafts room, auditorium, library, billiards room, multipurpose, snack bar.
H	Flower City Seniors Centre	2006, 2010 gym expansion (10 years)	26,163 ft <sup>2</sup>	Multi-purpose room (2), billiards room, dance room, dance, auditorium, salon, crafts room, wood shop, gym, cafeteria (2), kitchen, bar server, coat closet, first aid room.

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Of note for future consideration in the PRMP's Phase 3 assessments, a review of minutes from the Public Services Committee Meeting on June 24, 2015 states:

"That the YMCA of Greater Toronto be advised that the City will consider the Torbram-Sandalwood site as a potential location in the study on the creation of a new seniors centre in Brampton's east end; and, That staff continue dialogue with the YMCA of Greater Toronto on potential opportunities for partnerships and additional YMCA facilities in Brampton; and that all discussions with the YMCA and other potential partnerships be within the context of the greater objectives that may be identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan exercise currently underway."

## h) Multi-Purpose Program Rooms

Community centres in the City of Brampton collectively contain 61 multi-purpose rooms of varying sizes and capacities. These rooms host numerous programs across age groups. Programs range for visual arts, drama and singing, music, photography, and pottery, to day camps, to general interest programs such as cooking and languages. The table below includes multi-purpose rooms, as well as auditoriums which can host different events and programs.

Additionally, youth lounges or youth rooms provided at a number of community centres are largely multi-programmable spaces providing space for drop-in youth programs at specific times. It is understood that these are not dedicated youth rooms but are also available for other program opportunities for all age groups (though program priority in these spaces is assigned to youth). Youth-specific programming is largely delivered out of the following lounges as well as other multi-purpose rooms and gymnasiums located in other community centres.

RPA	Facility	Number of Programmable or Rentable Rooms	Type of Room	Capacity (Persons)
A	Mount Pleasant	2	Paul Hunt Room A & B (rooms can be combined)	Room A = 30 people Room B = 40 people
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre	4	3 MPR 1 Preschool (MPR 1 & 2 can be combined)	MPR 1 & 2 - 50 each MPR 3 – 50 Preschool 2 – 40
C	Brampton Soccer Centre	7	2 Community Rooms (MPR's) 1 Youth Room 3 Board Rooms 1 Dance Studio	Community & Youth Rooms – 25 2 Board Rooms -12 1 Board Room – 6 Dance Studio has programming only right now
	Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre	1	Auditorium	180
	Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre	5	Room 1 Room 2/3 Hall A Youth Room Auditorium	Information Not Available
	Snelgrove Community Centre	1	1 Auditorium Lions Club room (used exclusively by Lions Club)	AUD -180 Lions - 60
D	Chinguacousy Wellness Centre	3	3 MPR (rooms can be combined)	30 each
	Gore Meadows Community Centre	5	3 MPR 2 Kitchens	MPR 1 & 3 – 40 to 50 MPR 2 - 160 200

RPA	Facility	Number of Programmable or Rentable Rooms	Type of Room	Capacity (Persons)	
F	Central Public School	6	1 MPR 4 studios/meeting rooms 1 Auditorium	MPR – 65 Studios/Seniors/Meeting rooms - 40 Auditorium - 75	
	Century Gardens Recreation Centre	3	Room 1 (Auditorium) Rooms 2 & 3 (MPR)	Room 1 – 425 Room 2 – 120 Room 3 - 70	
	Chris Gibson Recreation Centre	4	Auditorium MPR Craft Room Youth Rooms	AUD -175 MPR - 80 Craft and Youth – 40 each	
G	Balmoral Recreation Centre	2	MPR	25 each	
	Chinguacousy Park Ski Chalet	3	3 MPR	2 MPR - 75 each 1 MPR - 35	
	Earnscliffe Recreation Centre	2	MPR	35 each	
	Greenbriar Recreation Centre	4	1 MPR 1 community room 1 studio 1 lounge	MPR – 120 Community - 50 Studio – 30 Lounge - 30	
	Professor's Lake Recreation Centre	2	1 Auditorium 1 MPR (rooms can be combined)	AUD – 80 (102 w/out dance floor) MPR – 50 people	
	Terry Miller Recreation Centre	2	1 Auditorium 1 MPR	AUD – 130 people MPR – 60 people	
	Victoria Park (James F McCurray Arena)	currently unavailable due to fire			
	Howden Recreation Centre	5	3 Preschool rooms, 1 meeting room, 1 fitness studio	Preschool rooms – 30 Meeting room – 30 Fitness studio - 25	
H	Peel Village	1	Club house	50	
	South Fletcher's Sportsplex	4	1 Gym-a-torium (combination gym & youth room) 1 Auditorium 1 Youth room 1 Craft room	GYM - 220 AUD - 150 Youth - 70 Craft - 50	
I	Ebenezer Community Hall	1	MPR	50	

Note: 'MPR' refers to Multi-Purpose Room

## 4.3 Outdoor Recreation

### a) Rectangular Fields

The City of Brampton outdoor sports field inventory includes 129 natural grass rectangular fields as follows:

- 35 major rectangular fields, consisting of 3 stadiums, 5 lit and 28 unlit fields;
- 29 minor unlit rectangular fields;
- 65 mini unlit rectangular fields;

RPA	Park	Major Lit Fields	Major Unlit Fields	Minor Unlit Fields	Mini Fields
<b>A</b>	Creditview Sandalwood	2	2	4	8
<b>B</b>	Ching Sandalwood (Cassie Campbell)	--	2	--	
	Homestead Park	--		--	4 Tots
<b>C</b>	Batsman Park	--	--	4	
	Blue Oak Park	--	1	--	
	Dixie/Sandalwood	--	4	--	
	Loafer's Lake Park	--	1	1	--
	Morris Kerbel Park	1	--	--	--
	Richvale Park	--	2	--	--
	Sandalwood Park	--	--	1	--
<b>D</b>	Carabram Park	--	--		4 Tots
	Torbram Sandalwood Park	--	--	3	
	Gore Meadows		1		
<b>F</b>	Armbro Park	--	--	--	1
	Ashurst Park	--	--	--	2
	Central Public	--	--	--	4 Tots
	Century Gardens Park & David Morrison Stadium	1	--	--	2
	Chris Gibson Park	1	1	--	2
	Fred Kee Park	--	--	--	4 Tots
	Fred Kline Park	--	--	1	--
	Kingswood Park	--	--	1	--
	Major Oaks Park	--	1		--
	Mosswood Park	--	--	1	--
	Seaborn Park	--	--	--	2
	Valleybrook Park	--	--	1	--
	Valleydown Park	--	--	1	--
Weybridge Park	--	--	--	2	
<b>G</b>	Avondale Stadium (Victoria Park)	1	--	--	
	Balmoral Park	--	--	1	
	Bramalea Ltd. Community Park	--	2	--	--
	Dearborne Park	--	--	--	6 Tots
	Dixie HWY 407 Park	--	7	--	6

RPA	Park	Major Lit Fields	Major Unlit Fields	Minor Unlit Fields	Mini Fields
	Earncliffe Park	--	--		3
	Greenbriar Park South	--			5 Tots
	Hilldale Park North	--	--	1	
	Jefferson Park	--	--	2	--
	Lafrance Park	--	--	1	--
	Leander Park	--	1		--
	Northampton Park	--	2	--	--
	Norton Place	1	--	--	--
	Victoria Park (Stadium)	1	--	1	--
H	Centennial Park	--	--	2	
	Flower City Community Campus	--	1	2	4 & 4 Tot
	Meadowlands Park	--	--	--	2
	Sheridan Woodlands	--	--	1	
	South Fletcher's	--	--		--
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>65</b>

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Of consideration during the PRMP's Phase 3 needs assessments is the opportunity for 2 lit regulation soccer fields and 1 dedicated premium quality cricket pitch at the future McCandless Park identified through the Credit Valley Secondary Plan (situated at the southeast corner of Mississauga Road and Bovaird Drive West, on a site to be shared with a public secondary school). Concepts have been prepared and also contemplate hard surface court, water feature and play equipment. Also of interest for the Phase 3 assessments is the City's Summer 2015 Sports Field Surveillance program. The observational research project found that the fields are largely being underutilized. From random visits to the permitted fields it appears as though either the groups are taking more time than they actually require or that facilities are just being underutilized in general, which confirms what was previously found through the Summer 2014 Surveillance Program. The 2016 Surveillance Program is looking further into this issue.<sup>63</sup>

In addition to the rectangular field inventory, the City also provides:

- 5 multi-use artificial turf fields (excluding indoor turf fields);
- 1 water-based artificial turf field hockey field;
- 2 rugby fields;
- 2 football fields;
- 1 kabaddi field; and
- 2 lacrosse fields and 1 outdoor lacrosse box.

RPA	Park	Artificial Turf Fields	Rugby Fields	Football Fields	Lacrosse Fields & Box
A	Creditview Sandalwood Park	2	--	2	2
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre	1 (field hockey)	--	--	--
	Teramoto Park (David Suzuki Secondary School)	1 (soccer/football/lacrosse/rugby)*	--	--	--
G	Terry Fox Stadium (Chinguacousy Park)	1	--	--	--
H	Brampton Sports Park	--	2	--	--
	Flower City Community Campus	--	--	--	1 (box)
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

\* operated under a Joint Use Agreement with the school board

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Of note, the artificial turf fields at Creditview Sandalwood Park and Terry Fox Stadium are FIFA Quality Concept for Football – 1 Star standard, while the Stadium field is also a CFL regulation field (also marked for soccer). The field hockey field at Cassie Campbell is a water-based FIH regulation turf field.

## b) Ball Diamonds

The City of Brampton sports field inventory includes 84 ball diamonds as follows:

- 55 major ball diamonds, consisting of 6 lit hardball diamonds, 29 lit and 20 unlit diamonds; and
- 29 minor unlit ball diamonds.

RPA	Park	Lit Hardball Diamonds	Major Lit Diamonds	Major Unlit Diamonds	Minor Unlit Diamonds
B	Beatty -Fleming Park	--	--	--	1
	Castlehill Park	--	--	--	1
	Major William Sharpe Park	--	--	1	--
	Teramoto Park	2	--	--	--
C	Blue Oak Park	--	1	--	--
	Conservation Drive Park	--	--	2	--
	Moorehead Park	--	1	1	--
	Loafer's Lake Park	--	--	--	1
	Notre Dame Park	--	--	--	1
	Richvale Park & Keith Dunn	--	--	2	2
	Donnelly East Park	--	--	--	1
	Morris Kerbel Park	1	1	--	--
	Sandalwood Park	--	--	--	1

RPA	Park	Lit Hardball Diamonds	Major Lit Diamonds	Major Unlit Diamonds	Minor Unlit Diamonds
D	Carabram Park	--	1	--	--
	Sesquicentennial Park	--	7	1	--
F	Allan Kerbell Park	--	--	--	1
	Ashurst Park	--	--	--	1
	Central Public	--	--	--	2
	Burton Park	--	--	--	2
	Century Gardens Park	--	--	1	--
	Chris Gibson	1	2	--	1
	Duggan Park	--	2	1	--
	Dave Dash & Fairgrounds Park	1	2	--	--
	Fred Kee Park	--	--	--	1
	Fred Kline Park	--	--	4	--
	Gatesgill	--	--	--	1
	Kingswood Park	--	--	--	1
	Madoc Drive Park	--	--	1	--
G	Bramalea Ltd Community Park	--	2	--	--
	Earncliffe Park	--	1	1	2
	Greenbriar Park S.	--	--	1	--
	Jefferson Park	--	--	--	2
	Knightsbridge Park	--	--	--	1
	Nasmith Park	--	--	1	--
H	Bach Park	--	--	--	1
	Brampton Sports Park	--	5	--	--
	Cherrytree Park	--	--	--	1
	County Court Park	--	--	2	1
	Drinkwater Community Park	--	2	--	--
	Fallen Oak Park	--	--	1	--
	Fletcher's Green Community Park (South Fletcher's)	--	2	--	--
	Flower City Community Campus	1	--	--	--
	Havelock Park	--	--	--	1
	Hickory Wood Park	--	--	--	1
Meadowlands Park	--	--	--	1	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>

Notes: the City has slated the major lit diamond at Rosalea Park for conversion in 2017 and is thus excluded.

The Brampton Sports Park diamonds are managed by a third party operator on behalf of the City.

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

### c) School Fields & Diamonds

The City of Brampton outdoor sports field and diamond inventory also includes fields and diamonds located on school board property. As of 2016, the City of Brampton permits 58 fields (15 senior and 43 minor) and 22 diamonds from The Peel District School Board (PDSB) and 7 fields and 4 diamonds from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB). This increases the inventory of fields and diamonds that the City is able to permit to sporting groups.

As per the terms and conditions, the City of Brampton gets the PDSB fields and diamonds at the start of the regular season (first Monday in May) and able to be used until the end of September, depending on the needs of the groups. The City of Brampton has access to a handful of DPCDSB sites between May 9 and August 31 only on specific days. The board issues permits for use based on certain parameters and these permits, in turn, must be provided to all groups that the City rents these facilities to.

### d) Cricket Pitches

The City of Brampton outdoor sports field inventory includes 18 cricket pitches (including three pitches at the Brampton Sports Park that are managed by a third party). In addition, a new premium cricket pitch is included in the design for McCandless Park.

RPA	Park	Number of Pitches	Dedicated (D) or Overlay (O)	Full-sized or Undersized
A	Creditview/Sandalwood	2	Overlay	1 full, 1 under
B	Ching Sandalwood (Cassie Campbell)	1	Overlay	Full
	Teramoto Park	1	Dedicated	Full
C	Batsman Park	2	Overlay	Full
	Camden Park	1	Dedicated	Full
	Dixie/Sandalwood	2	Overlay	Full
D	Torbram/Sandalwood	1	Overlay	Full
G	Dixie/407	2	Overlay	Full
	Earncliffe	2	Overlay	2 under
H	Brampton Sports Park*	3	Not Available	Not Available
	Flower City Community Campus	1	Dedicated	under
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>		

\* managed by a third party operator on behalf of the City

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

### e) Outdoor Track and Field Facilities

Terry Fox Stadium is the City's premier track and field venue containing an 8 lane, 400 metre track that, along with throwing and jumping amenities, meet IAAF certification standards. The City also facilitates access to another outdoor track at Teramoto Park through a joint use agreement with the adjacent David Suzuki Secondary School, and there are additional tracks of varying quality located at a number of other school board properties.

Name of Track	City or JUA	Length of Track	Number of lanes	Other features	Track Surface
Terry Fox Stadium (Chinguacousy Park)	City	400 metres	8	2 long jump, 1 double ended pole vault, steeplechase, javelin, high jump, hammer/discus, shot put Class 2 IAAF field	Rubberized
Teramoto Park (David Suzuki Secondary School)	JUA	400 metres	8	1 long jump (outside of stadium)	Rubberized
Castlebrooke Secondary School	PDSB	400 metres	8	Long jump	Asphalt / rubber mix
Harold Brathwaite Secondary School	PDSB	400 metres	8	Long jump	Asphalt / rubber mix

Notes: 'JUA' refers to a Joint Use Agreement while 'PDSB' refers to Peel District School Board. For each track, 4 laps equal 1 mile in distance

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

### f) Tennis Courts

Throughout the City of Brampton there are 28 lit tennis courts and 17 unlit tennis courts across 19 parks. The City also operates an air-supported indoor tennis facility (bubble) at Chinguacousy Park containing 6 courts.

RPA	Park	Outdoor Lit Tennis Courts	Outdoor Unlit Tennis Courts	Indoor Tennis Courts
B	Cassie Campbell	4	--	--
	Northwood Park	--	2	--
C	Ken Park	--	2	--
	Morris Kerbel District Park	4	--	--
	Richvale	2	--	--
	Sandalwood Park	2	--	--
	White Spruce Park	2	--	--
F	Allen Kerbel Park	--	2	--
	English St.	--	2	--
	Valleybrook	2	--	--

RPA	Park	Outdoor Lit Tennis Courts	Outdoor Unlit Tennis Courts	Indoor Tennis Courts
G	Chinguacousy Park	2	--	6
	Clark Park	--	2	--
	Earnscliffe Park	3	--	--
	Knightsbridge Park	--	2	--
H	Centennial Park	--	3	--
	County Court Park	2	--	--
	Drinkwater Community Park	3	--	--
	Steady Park	2	--	--
	Peel Village Park	--	2	--
<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

The City delivers a broad range of instructional tennis programming through the Chinguacousy Park tennis bubble, starting for children ages 6 and older as well as for teens and adults at various levels of mastery. Many of these programs are carried into the spring and summer sessions where they transition outdoors to Cassie Campbell Community Centre and Earnscliffe Recreation Centre.

### g) Multi-Use Sport Courts

The City provides 24 multi-use sport courts across 23 park locations. The majority of these courts support basketball although other activities such as ball hockey can be played on them. Although the City does not directly program these multi-use courts, basketball programs are offered within a number of municipal gymnasiums.

RPA	Park	Number of Courts
B	Blue Lake Parkette	1
	Ching Sandalwood	1
	Fiddlers Parkette	1
	McMicking Park	1
	Teramoto Park	1
C	Burnt Elm Park	1
	Dixie Sandalwood Park	2
	Morris Kerbel Park	1
	Todd Edward Baylis Park	1
	Van Scott Parkette	1
	Wiggins Park	1
D	Fairlawn Park	1
	Gore Meadows East	2
	Treeline Park	1

RPA	Park	Number of Courts
F	Allan Kerbel Park	1
G	Dearbourne Park	1
	Earnscliffe Park	1
	Howden Park	1
H	Flower City Community Campus	1
	Peelton Park	1
	Timberlane Park	1
I	Minaker Park	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

## h) Skateboard Parks

The City has six skateboard parks. The size, surface material and skateboarding elements differ across each skatepark which in turn also dictates the types of other board and bike sports (e.g. BMX bikes, scooters, inline skating, etc.) that take place within them.

RPA	Park	Features
B	Worthington Park	Information Not Available
	Cassie Campbell	Asphalt/concrete, skate bench, flat grind rail, skate bench, skate tables, straight jump ramp, mini half pip combo, quarter pipe, bank-to-bank, round grind rail.
C	Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre (Morris Kerbel Park)	Asphalt/concrete, wall ride, plaza, grind box, quarter pipe, spine & box jump, hip, skate bench. Note: a request for capital funding to replace is being submitted.
D	Gore Meadows Community Park - East	Information Not Available
F	Fairgrounds Park	Asphalt/concrete, 4 quarter pipes plus a 45 degree quarter pipe to quarter pipe and a 90 degree quarter pipe to bank hip, along with a quarter pipe/bank and a concrete quarter pipe, 2 spines, grind rail, grind box, skate bench, 3-way pyramid with grind ledge, box jump, a kinked grind rail and more.
G	Chinguacousy Skate Park	Information Not Available
H	South Fletchers Sportsplex	Wood quarter pipe (x2), wood fly box, wood spine. <i>Note: Staff recommendation is that this be removed as it has low visitation numbers and needs replacing</i>

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

## i) Outdoor Aquatics

The City's lone outdoor pool is located at Eldorado Park that typically opens at the end of June for drop-in swimming (no registered programs) and runs until the beginning of September. Smaller wading pools are also provided at Balmoral Park and Gage Park.

RPA	Park	Year in Service	Pool Type	Features
E	Eldorado Outdoor Pool	1970s	Rectangular	Maximum depth of 5.5 feet, 200 person capacity, wheelchair accessible
F	Gage Park Wading Pool	Not Available	Wading	Information Not Available
G	Balmoral Wading Pool	65' x 25' x 2'	Wading	Accessible, no water features, unheated. Dump & fill only. Operational approximately July 4th to Sept 2nd (when school is out for the summer)

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

Outdoor swimming is also available at Professor's Lake Recreation Centre which includes a 65 acre spring-fed lake which includes a beach and swimming area. In addition to swimming, kayak, paddleboat, paddleboard and canoe rentals are

available at Professor's Lake. In addition to its outdoor pools and swimming opportunities, the City of Brampton has eight spray pads with differing designs and waterplay features.

RPA	Park	Size	Features
B	Cassie Campbell Community Centre	5,500 sq. ft.	Bucket dump, spray bar, several ground mounted spray features and wall spray features
	Teramoto Park	Not Available	Information Not Available
C	Batsman Park	5,060 ft <sup>2</sup>	Tree umbrella, tree tips, tadpoles, geyser med& low height, cat tail group, caterpillar and frog spit
	Brampton Soccer Center	7500 ft <sup>2</sup>	Flower-themed, 9 feature interactive play area with vertical and horizontal spray features, dumping bucket on a rubberized surface
D	Gore Meadows Community Centre	No Info	Spray Pad
F	Century Gardens Recreation Centre	4,780 ft <sup>2</sup>	Fountain of Youth Bubbler, Dragonfly Sprayer, Froggy fan spray, Cat Tail Misters, Arching Water Tunnel
	Chris Gibson Recreation Centre	13 900 ft <sup>2</sup> (includes entire fenced area)	Jony Quest Ray Gun, Flashship I tail curtain, Flashship I nose laser, Solar Flares north, south and equator, Earth Post, Moon, Milky Way south, middle and north, Space Invader (phaser dome), Space Invader (take off misters), Ground Jets, and 2 Activators called Venus and Mars
G	Chinguacousy Park	13,200 ft <sup>2</sup>	Fully interactive experience featuring water spray elements from all directions (including pipe spill, water cannons, flower fans, mushrooms, burbler stream, whirling canopy, cannon fans, solid streams, water wall, volcano, umbrella, rain curtain, fan sprays, fire nozzles) on a rubberized surface.
H	Peel Village Park	No Info	No Information

Source: City of Brampton, 2016

### j) Playgrounds

The City of Brampton has 294 playgrounds consisting of:

- 10 junior playgrounds;
- 27 senior playgrounds;
- 209 combined junior/senior playgrounds
- 43 barrier-free playgrounds, and
- 5 unclassified playgrounds.

### k) Shade Structures

A total of 132 shade structures can be found in parks throughout Brampton ranging from small, medium, and large structures to trellises and band shells. In 2015 the City responded to the increasing demand for more of these types of structures and developed a set of guidelines to govern their placement in new and existing parks. Additional shade shelters are currently identified for future development in 17 parks.

## I) Specialty Facilities

The City has a number of specialty facilities within its borders including 13 intermediate and one professional beach volleyball courts located at Chinguacousy Park. All of the volleyball courts have drainage and 10 of the courts have Hutcheson "V" sand.

### Ski and Ice Specialty Facilities

Location	Facilities	Features
Mount Chinguacousy at Chinguacousy Park	Ski/Snowboard & Tube Hill	Lessons, clinics rentals and tuning pro shop, Tubing Party rentals
Chinguacousy Park	Skating Trail	Canal shaped skating trail, will be a canal in the summer months with shallow water, winter seating and warming areas along the trail, under construction
Gage Park	Outdoor Skating Trail	Fire pit, skate and helmet rentals, food trailer
Mount Pleasant	Outdoor Skating Rink	benches but no change rooms, no skate rentals
Gore Meadows	Outdoor Ice facility	size is 8,611 ft <sup>2</sup> , will have recreational skating area with warming area

### Other Specialty Facilities

Location	Type of Facility	Features
Chinguacousy Park	Beach Volleyball Courts	13 intermediate courts 1 professional court Drainage 10 courts of Hutcheson "V" sand
Century Gardens Recreation Centre	Lawn Bowling Facility	*Not currently permitted
Flower City Community Campus	Flower City Lawn Bowling Facility	6,500 square foot lawn bowling clubhouse with 2 large meeting rooms, change rooms, large cedar viewing deck with pergola, outdoor 8 rink artificial turf bowling green with gardens
Gore Bocce Club	Bocce Facility	3 indoor bocce courts, cement composite flooring, players benches, washrooms, air conditioned, small prep kitchen, very small sitting area. Facility is 4,504 square feet, opened in 1992
Ken Giles Gymnastic Centre	Gymnastic Centre	2 change rooms and 2 washrooms (both located within the school)
Peel Village Golf Course	Golf Course	67 acres, nine hole course in a natural wildlife sanctuary Offers golf clinics and lessons, league play, drop-in rounds, rentals, licensed lounge



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## Section 5: Next Steps

It bears reiterating that this **Phase 1 Discussion Paper** identifies the current state of parks, recreation and sport facilities and programs in Brampton; it does not contain any analysis or recommendations, which will be the focus of future phases. This Phase 1 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 2 and 3. The **Phase 2 Discussion Paper** will describe the initial consultation activities used for the PRMP and summarize key themes and findings from community, staff and key opinion leader input. Key aspects of the internal and external engagement program include:

- Citizen Panel Meeting (held March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016)
- PRMP Official Launch Event (held April 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Council and Senior Management Interviews (held throughout April and May)
- Public Meeting (held May 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- City Staff Roundtables (held May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Stakeholder Workshops (held May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>)
- On-Line Survey (on-going until May 31<sup>st</sup>)
- User Group Survey (on-going until May 31<sup>st</sup>)

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.

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