

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Status Update # 6 – December 2, 2016



The following is an overview of events and tasks associated with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your information. Questions or comments can be directed to the Project Team at PRMP@brampton.ca

Since the last update (August 2016) the consultant team has drafted a paper outlining preliminary Master Plan recommendations. These recommendations have been incorporated into a further 'Discussion Paper' – The '**Phase 3 Facilities and Program Development Discussion Paper**'. The completion of this paper will help facilitate the next phase of the project – the '**Financial Review and Analysis Paper**' (target of February). With the completion of that paper, the consultant and the Project Team will move forward on the preparation of the **Final Master Plan document** (target of April). See details below.

- **SUBMISSION OF PHASE 3– 'FACILITIES AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN' DISCUSSION PAPER –**

The draft document was submitted by the consultant in August 2016 for staff's review. The document is extensive (~200 pages) and covers all facets of parks and recreation infrastructure analysis and program recommendations. The recommendations are rooted in data captured in the first 2 phases of the project.

Staff has spent the last three months undertaking a detailed analysis of the Paper, including the provision of supplementary data where required, to refine the Paper. The consultant is currently revising the Paper, for submission to staff in early December. Once ratified by staff, the Paper will be posted on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan portal page, found [here](#).

- **COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING –** On September 26th, 2016, staff and the consultant team hosted a workshop with Council and the Executive Leadership Team to review the project, the findings to date and discuss preliminary directions/recommendations. The consultant delivered a [presentation to Council](#). The meeting fostered open discussion of some of the preliminary recommendations. Notes were taken (see Appendix) and the Project Team is using the feedback Council provided, to refine the Phase 3 paper, and the final Master Plan document.
- **CITIZEN PANEL MEETING –** On October 4th 2016, Brampton hosted a 3rd Citizen Panel meeting. The material presented was comparable to that delivered to Council at the workshop. The Panel members engaged in a facilitated discussion guided by the consultant. The minutes from this meeting have also been posted on the portal page [here](#) and the project team is using the feedback the Citizen Panel provided, to refine the Phase 3 paper.

UPCOMING WORK/EVENTS

- Initiation of 'Phase 4 – Financial Analysis' Paper – New Year
- Scheduling of Follow Up Stakeholders' Workshop – New Year

PORTAL PAGE - The dedicated portal page has been updated and reflects the latest details on the project. Please find link [here](#).

Appendix: Notes and Observations from Council Workshop- September 26th, 2016

*Any questions or comments regarding the above or the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be directed to
John Spencer, Manager, Parks and Facility Planning who is serving in the capacity as
Project Lead for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan*



Brampton Council Workshop

September 26, 2016

City Hall, West Tower

2:00pm to 4:30pm

Comments, Observations, Responses and Actions

The following are notes made from the workshop held with Council. Monteith Brown (the project consultant) presented a series of slides highlighting the work undertaken to date on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and some of the preliminary recommendations. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview and assess Council's comfort with the project's direction.

1. Types of Facilities (Big vs Small):

- With respect to Slide 13 **Councillor Moore** regarding 'big vs small' parks and facilities - can we identify from the community on line survey results where the percentages came from geographically? In speaking to constituents, some Councillors heard that newer areas were desiring smaller but more parks and facilities.
- **Councillor Moore** wondered about the location of respondents and noted that in Ward 5, there are no indoor recreational facility elements?
- **Councillor Gibson** wondered if postal codes were specific enough to distinguish where people live.
- **Councillor Sprovieri** remarked of the appeal for big, multi-faceted centres, the availability of pre-school programs, etc. The Councillor hears that younger adults – mothers and families in particular – are very happy with facilities such as the Chinguacousy Wellness Centre and the Gore Meadows Community Centre due to their multi-faceted nature and multiple program opportunities, all at one location. He wondered if the age of respondents had a bearing on their preferences. The Councillor would be interested to see the age group of people preferring the smaller neighbourhood facilities and parks – he suspects it would be the older generation

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that several major facilities are in the vicinity of Ward 5 and that the RPA boundaries reflect broader geographies and attempt to be more homogenous in terms of park supply and facility provision (i.e. not ward – specific)*

- *Consultant noted that based on survey data analysis, respondents in newer areas were more likely to request larger parks and facilities whereas respondents in central, established areas were more likely to request smaller facilities and parks. This could be a result of people preferring what they are used to, but also noting that survey results at this small geographic subset cannot be constituted as statistically representative*
- *Consultant noted that site observations suggested – at the time of visits – that the small neighbourhood facilities seemed to be attracting older age groups*

2. Consultation/Survey:

- **Councillor Palleschi** enquired whether telephone calls were made for the public survey.

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that phone calls were made only to stakeholder groups to complete their survey and ensure they were aware of the Stakeholder Workshops*

3. Influence of Other Municipalities Facilities on Recommendations:

- **Councillor Palleschi** wondered if the project team took into account neighbouring cities' facilities in arriving at recommendations. ; wondered about potential for joint ventures between cities?; wonders if there is an opportunity to tie in with the Town of Caledon to partner on facility or service provision given the Town is presently preparing its Facility Needs Assessment Study? ; It may make sense to explore a joint venture opportunity to facility development.

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that this wouldn't typically be done for community-oriented facilities but when city-wide or unique facilities are contemplated, this should form part of a business case.*
- *Caledon and Brampton residents do use each other's facilities and services. For example, a number of Brampton residents use the Mayfield Recreation Complex but that is expected to dramatically change once the Gore Meadows aquatics centre opens. Caledon's future sites in Mayfield West could present an opportunity for Brampton but they are somewhat limited in size which in turn will affect how large they can be and thus may not be suitably sized to accommodate residents from both municipalities.*
- *Nevertheless, partnership opportunities are something routinely considered in decision-making*

4. Accessibility:

- **Councillor Fortini** raised the point that the Master Plan will need to consider accessibility for persons with disabilities. Hearing that people have challenges getting from parking lots to facilities themselves.

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant highlighted that Master Plan recognizes accessibility and inclusivity as core principles; not only is it important to design spaces where people can participate, the spaces around them must be accessible so that persons with disabilities can actually get to the space where they participate*

5. Connecting Facilities with Active Transportation:

- **Councillor Bowman** noted we must make it clear that connectivity to parks and facilities through the city's trail and AT network continues to be made a priority

Response from Project Team:

- *Staff and consultant noted City is preparing an Active Transportation MP in 2017 which should address linkages and improve on connectivity*

6. Influence of Demography on Recommendations:

- **Councillor Dhillon** noted that even though immigration may seem to suggest lack of demand for hockey and ball, South Asians seem to be picking up ice hockey and wondering why no rink was provided at Gore Meadows.
- City of Toronto is always looking at Brampton, specifically for basketball, to try and attract our elite athletes into their city. Toronto has a basketball strategy in place, Brampton should do something similar so that we can compete for and retain a local pool of talent.
- In response to lack of free time barrier, there is an opportunity for overnight programs which can be attractive for youth and youth-at-risk.
- *Response from Project Team:*
 - *Consultant noted that decision-making should continue to be predicated on demand for facilities – primary factor is surplus capacity (e.g. in ice) followed by spatial inequalities*
 - *Statements around building on our strengths (e.g. basketball) are valid, yet investment in City-wide/Regional complexes like 'Hoop Dome', Basketball Canada (or the like) warrant partnerships and would need to be explored more fully; the capacity of the City to pursue such ventures would need to be evaluated against the financial projections of all contemplated park and recreational infrastructure provision*

7. What Businesses Should We Be In?

- **Councillor Whillans** noted he sees lots of membership at private sector fitness chains and providers which begs the question as to whether the City of Brampton should even be in the fitness business and compete with businesses such as Goodlife (and others) who seem to be serving the market well

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that this is something many municipalities struggle with; Brampton's traditional service delivery model has been different (more customer-service based) and often combined with facilities that private fitness clubs don't have (e.g. pools and arenas); volatility of the private sector fitness market seems to have disappeared for now.*

8. "Chasing" Trends:

- **Councillor Gibson** noted Councillors all have 'our wish lists' and want to be a centre of excellence, but we must also be cautious because it is very difficult for a single municipality to be a centre of excellence on its own.

- History tells us that trends dictate wants, and wants led to many municipalities building facilities that eventually were not needed after their participation rates/demand peaked. Hockey and baseball are great example of the past demands that were no longer sustained – in the past, the City could not provide enough facilities.
- Moving forward, the City needs to build flexible, convertible facilities that are better able to be adapted to future trends and participation preferences.
- The City does not seem to think enough about the smaller, lower profile sports and activities that many people participate in, but instead focuses too much attention on the major sports like hockey.

9. Park Facility Recommendations:

- **Councillors Moore (and Miles)** questioned whether 30 new tennis court are truly required based upon their observations that a number of courts being underutilized and the removal of certain courts in the past? They would like more justification regarding this.
- **Councillor Moore** also questioned the need for basketball courts, particularly because 1) neighbours really dislike them due to noise; 2) they can become a magnet for security and safety issues; and 3) some courts have been removed largely due to the aforementioned points. Future courts really need to consider factors such as location and design within the park.
- **Councillor Moore** views splash pads as being inter-neighbourhood opportunities – rather than being provided at a City-wide scale – so that these facilities can be walkable, even if it is a longer walk.
- **Councillor Moore** assumes that the parkland target refers to tableland parkland. The Councillor has heard that when environmental and valley lands are included in the equation, Brampton has more parkland per capita than many other communities. These passive parklands are also not always programmed so perhaps there is an opportunity for the City to use such lands to facilitate more trails and cycling opportunities to better make use of these areas for recreation.
- **Moore** notes that joint planning with schools has been going on for years, largely because under the Education Act, schools are obligated to have a certain amount of open space. The schools will thus buy the smallest pieces of land they can and proceed to locate these beside City-owned parks in order for the boards to meet their legislated space target.

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that the Councillor(s) remarks will be considered as we move forward in drafting of final recommendations.*

10. Competition with Other Cities – Elite Talent:

- **Councillor Bowman** noted Brampton has always been scouted by Toronto and other municipalities for talent, dating back decades so this is not a new phenomenon. The question moving forward is what sort of facilities does Brampton have that are prepared for sports tourism where we can host national and international tournaments?

Response from Project Team:

- *City has facilities such as PowerAde Centre and Terry Fox Stadium that are oriented to high calibre sport and have sport tourism applications; that development of new facilities should take into consideration 'hosting' capacity and incorporate design adjustments, where appropriate.*

11. Park Design, Desired Infrastructure:

- **Councillor Sprovieri** highlighted what he saw as the ideal Neighbourhood Park - has to be large enough (around 2 acres) with basketball pad, well placed in the right location, shade structure in every park, walking trail, and a sports field.
- **Councillor Sprovieri** offered that from a City-wide perspective, the Brampton Soccer Centre has been a success and one field is already converted for basketball every summer, which means this entire facility has the potential to host a tournament if need be.
- **Councillor Sprovieri** noted that Gore Meadows Community Centre originally had plans to incorporate a full size indoor soccer field and the Councillor still feels this is the way to go in order to accommodate demands for soccer, cricket, etc.
- **Councillor Sprovieri** suggested that the City also needs to proceed with a cricket field in Gore Meadows;
- **Councillor Sprovieri** suggested that if the City were faced with a need for a new arena, there is site potential in Area 47 where a 50 acre park could be utilized if needed.

Response from Project Team:

- *Several issues were raised by the Councillor on park design and infrastructure; notable is the desire for another indoor fieldhouse at Gore Meadows, additional elements at that site, and the potential for an arena in SPA 47 (in the future).*

12. Influence of Other Facilities on Infrastructure Recommendations:

- **Mayor Jeffrey** stated that she is pleased with the fact that the City recognizes that it cannot provide everything to everybody. We need balance when delivering services and have the ability to respond to cycles and trends.
- **Mayor Jeffrey** asked if the Master Plan process has involved a jurisdictional scan of other municipalities? The City of Brampton should be a leader in the field of parks and recreation and leverage best practices found in other communities.
- **Mayor Jeffrey** questions the value of providing additional artificial turf given how much a turf field costs to maintain. However, she indicates a need to know more about how turf works its benefits versus costs, and using such information to decide if/how the City moves forward with additional artificial turf fields.
- **Mayor Jeffrey** noted that the Master Plan recommendations would benefit from knowing the inventory of privately-owned facilities and neighbouring municipalities that contribute to fulfilling the public's needs.
- **Mayor Jeffrey** has heard from people wanting a more modern booking system to help achieve operational capacity and make it easy for people to book range of facilities.
- **Mayor Jeffrey** feels it would be beneficial to reach out to schools and representatives of the Healthy Communities Initiative as part of the Master Plan's stakeholder discussions.

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that the Mayor's remarks will be considered as we move forward in drafting of final recommendations.*

13. Pursuit of "Excellence"/Elite Facilities:

- **Councillor Medeiros** has heard frustration from the Sports Alliance about high performance sports athletes having to travel to other municipalities to access high calibre facilities and services.
- **Councillor Medeiros** noted the challenge for Brampton will be defining the City's role in investing in the grassroots, community-level recreational activities versus high performance sports centred on producing high calibre athletes.

14. Diabetes/ Healthy Communities:

- **CAO Schlange** would like to see information in the presentation about the prevalence of diabetes in Brampton and what the plan can do to respond to that?

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted we are cognisant of this epidemic based on information received through consultations and recommendations will reflect effort to improve on coordination with partners in addressing this issue.*

15. Artificial Turf:

- **Councillor Palleschi** enquired whether the Master Plan has received input from teams at Cassie Campbell Community Centre about artificial turf. The Councillor has heard that the field is very heavily used and the field users are begging for another field. Ideally, a new field for field hockey would be constructed near Cassie Campbell Community Centre so that the City can be positioned to attract national and international events.

Response from Project Team:

- *No additional artificial turf pitch is being contemplated at Cassie and the existing pitch is highly specialized. Staff notes that the field is being programmed for activities and at a frequency that was not envisaged and is as a result, deteriorating.*

16. "Thinking Big":

- **Councillor Dhillon** remarked that he would love to see Brampton 'think big' when it comes to creating innovating multi-use facilities building on an example such as the Richmond Sports Oval in British Columbia and the Downsview Hoop Dome in Toronto. Such facilities can also be economic generators for the lands around them in terms of restaurants, commercial areas, etc. He hears a lot that the City is satisfactory but believes Brampton needs to think bigger.
- **Councillor Dhillon** thinks that Brampton's basketball courts are underutilized, but also echoes safety concerns noted by Councillor Moore. Furthermore, the design for many courts is subpar especially where there are curbs located behind the nets and those should be fixed up.
- Building on the Mayor's comment, wonders what other cities have been looked at and what can Brampton learn from them?

17. Golf:

- **Councillor Medeiros** wonders if/how golf courses can be leveraged to better meet parks and recreational needs. For example, there may be opportunities to obtain new golf courses to supplement parkland acreages, conversion of existing golf courses to meet needs in areas of intensification, etc. He wondered about the ability to potentially convert Peel Village to bolster park supply?

18. General Feedback:

- **Councillor Miles** thinks the consultations yielded good news and opportunities for the City, including the fact that people seem to be saying that they are looking for outdoor leisure which is much more affordable for the City to provide compared to indoor facilities.
- **Councillor Miles** is concerned that the Master Plan has not benefitted a great deal from having the voice of youth, particularly those youth that are not affiliated in a structured opportunity. Loves the idea of the big building that is multi-use since that could be attractive to youth interested in spontaneous recreation.
- **Councillor Miles** referenced the need to tie into community hub model currently being advanced by the Province of Ontario.
- **Councillor Whillans** would like to concentrate efforts on getting more people involved in parks and recreational activities. Make sure the Healthy Communities Initiative is reflected in the Plans' recommendations.
- **Councillor Sprovieri** reinforced that the Brampton Soccer Centre basketball program has been successful.
- **Councillor Fortini** stated that indoor bocce represents another facility development opportunity.
- **Councillor Bowman** states that certain people looking for horseshoe pits, something that could be part of a future multi-use facility.
- **Councillor In** would like to see an opportunity to integrate 'senior playgrounds' and outdoor fitness/exercise equipment into more parks.

Response from Project Team:

- *Consultant noted that the Steering Cttee will be consulted with to arrive at location specific recommendations.*