

Proposed Goals and Directions for Parks and Recreation

Proposed Goal	Means a study	Means more training	Means more advertising	Might mean something specific	What does this mean?
Child and Youth Development					
1. Encourage more physical activity among Toronto's children and youth.				a) Incorporate physical activity into camp and after school programs on a daily basis	b) Create places where children and youth feel comfortable c) Offer more opportunities to develop basic physical movements d) Offer more opportunities to develop sport skills e) Ensure that appropriate facilities are available to support physical movement
2. Expand recreational services for children and youth living in poverty	d) Target high-needs communities when setting geographic priorities for program and service development e) Develop standards for the provision of no-charge programs		a) Promote and enhance subsidy programs for needy children and youth	c) Reduce barriers to participation by addressing support needs, including transportation, food, childcare, and program supplies and equipment	b) Match the number of subsidy spaces in any given program to the percentage of children and youth living in poverty in the local community
3. Promote and provide equitable access to parks, facilities, programs and services for Toronto's diverse, differently abled, and special needs children and youth	a) Ensure that programs reflect local demographic profiles	d) Expand staff's awareness and understanding of special needs participants			b) Ensure that program participants reflect the diversity of the local community c) Strive to make all parks and recreation facilities barrier free e) Increase the ability of staff to integrate special needs children and youth in recreation programs
4. Involve Youth in program and facility development [each of these implies such programs already exist – where are they?]				a) Increase the number of recreation centers offering programs developed for youth by youth [what are the programs like this that already exist?] e) Increase the number of youth who help plan and govern our facilities	b) Increase the number of youth leadership development programs c) Increase the amount of space within indoor and outdoor facilities dedicated to youth d) Use or develop facilities where youth feel safe and comfortable
5. Offer a larger number and a greater variety of programs that address play, creative expression and skill development					a) Ensure that the program mix in every recreation center includes opportunities for children and youth b) Ensure that every program mix includes play, creative expression and skill development components c) Increase the proportion of resources directed to children and youth d) Build on partnerships with other service providers in the City Government

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6. Create community capacity by working with community organizations to deliver adequate and equitable recreation programs for children and youth	a) Maintain or build partnerships with agencies and school boards that serve children and youth	d) Provide staff with skills in community development and outreach			<p>b) Support community agencies through the provision of appropriate resources</p> <p>c) Increase the number of joint funding proposals</p>
Lifelong Health and Wellness					
1. Provide a range of quality recreational opportunities to allow Torontonians to lead rich, well-rounded, and active lives	b) Clarify Toronto Parks and Recreation's multiple roles as a direct provider of service (through programs), and as a funder and facility manager (through the provision of recreation grants and permitted space)			d) Move beyond indoor facilities to increase the range and number of recreational opportunities in parks and natural areas	<p>a) Offer diverse leisure opportunities to stimulate and appeal to a variety of participants</p> <p>b) Ensure that high-quality recreation programming takes place in City facilities regardless of the service provider</p>
2. Ensure that programs and services reflect community needs	<p>a) Understand Parks and Recreation's clients better, and respond better to their varying needs and desires</p> <p>b) Develop community profiles and undertake community needs assessments</p>				<p>c) Involve the community in service planning and service delivery</p> <p>d) Work with other City departments to ensure community improvement plans address parks and recreation issues</p>
3. Promote and provide equitable access to programs and services by Toronto's diverse populations, including those who are differently abled or have special needs					<p>a) Ensure that all Toronto residents have access to basic services, especially instruction in fundamental skills</p> <p>b) Develop a system of fee support that is based on socio-economic need</p>
4. Increase the emphasis on physical activity in Parks and Recreation programs and services			a) Challenge the prevalence of inactivity and obesity in Torontonians through the promotion of all types of physical activity		<p>b) Incorporate an active component in all recreation programs</p> <p>c) Help maintain continuous enjoyment of activity throughout the life cycle, from pre-schoolers to seniors</p>
5. Work with partners to achieve lifelong health and wellness for all residents of Toronto	<p>a) Define how Toronto Parks and Recreation fits into the broader service delivery system for leisure and recreation services in Toronto</p> <p>b) Provide linkages to the larger sport system in Toronto for those who want to pursue a higher level of sport development</p>		c) Promote the benefits of parks, natural areas and recreation generally		b) Support complementary leisure services provided by other City departments

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Environmental Stewardship					
1. Ensure that sufficient parks and recreation facilities exist to serve Toronto residents and maintain the city's livability and ecological integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Understand current and future demands and needs b) Define provision levels and requirements 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Maintain and extend the life and usefulness of existing facilities f) Value the preservation and maintenance of existing parkland and natural areas as much as new acquisitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Ensure that adequate tools are available for land acquisition and capital development d) Design flexibility into facilities to accommodate changing needs over the long term g) Work with other service providers to share resources, including space for recreational programming
2. Manage parks, facilities and equipment in ways that use fewer resources and minimize negative impact on the environment	a) Define environmental standards for Parks and Recreation and ensure that all staff have the resources to achieve them			d) Protect cultural heritage landscapes and archeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Improve the resource management capacity of the Parks and Recreation Division c) Enhance Parks and Recreation's commitment to integrated plant health care
3. Ensure an adequate growing environment exists to support a healthy urban forest in Toronto, and expand the city's forest canopy cover			c) Promote the urban forest as a shared responsibility affecting trees in parks, along streets, and on private property, and involving many public agencies and landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect and provide soil, space, permeable landscape and water for trees b) Value tree protection and tree maintenance as much as tree planting 	
4. Act as key steward of Toronto's natural heritage system					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect, restore, and enhance Toronto's natural areas and biodiversity through a mix of programs, operating practices, and regulatory approaches b) Develop parks, trails and facilities in ways that minimize negative impact on natural features and functions, and promote awareness of the value of natural heritage c) Ensure that recreational activities on parkland are compatible with natural heritage objectives
5. Develop community awareness of conservation and ecological values			a) Provide more environmental education opportunities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Incorporate an environmental component into recreation programs especially for children and youth c) Use stewardship as a way of bringing people together and creating community
6. Demonstrate leadership while working in partnership with others in environmental stewardship	c) Define how the work of Parks and Recreation relates to other environmental initiatives in the City and the Greater Toronto Bioregion		a) Promote parks and natural areas as a shared responsibility, and develop community partnerships to achieve environmental goals		b) Strengthen working arrangements with other City departments, public agencies and non-governmental organizations

