

# Parks & Recreation Strategy



*A supporting document to  
Caledon's Strategic Plan:  
Priority of Community  
Livability and Vitality*



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## **Caledon Land Acknowledgment**

Indigenous Peoples have unique and enduring relationships with the land.

Indigenous Peoples have lived on and cared for this land throughout the ages. We acknowledge this and we recognize the significance of the land on which we gather and call home.

We acknowledge the traditional Territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Peoples, and the Anishnabek of the Williams Treaties.

This land is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

We honour and respect Indigenous heritage and the long-lasting history of the land and strive to protect the land, water, plants and animals that have inhabited this land for the generations yet to come.

Alternate formats available upon request





# Parks and Recreation Strategy

## Vision:

Caledon offers the best of rural and urban life for everyone.

## Mission:

Enhance community livability and vitality, and support individual well-being through diverse, accessible, and inclusive parks, recreation and culture services that meet a high standard of service excellence and reflect Caledon's growing community.

## Guiding Principles:

1. Foster active living through physical recreation, and physical literacy.
2. Strengthen our community through culture, arts, events and celebration of our heritage.
3. Increase inclusion and access to recreation and culture for populations that face constraints to participation.
4. Help residents and visitors connect to nature through our parks, trails, and recreation.
5. Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation and help to build strong, caring communities.
6. Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of Caledon's recreation and culture offerings, facilities, and public spaces.
7. Develop opportunities that synergize with local businesses, community sport and recreation providers.

# Recreation Service Delivery

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Continue Building Collaborative Approach to Service Delivery

1. Continue to pursue feasible opportunities to collaborate with various other public, not-for-profit, and commercial providers in service delivery through appropriate agreements.
2. Encourage private and public partnership agreements that clearly outline opportunities for joint development, operations and/or use through the Partnership Policy.
3. Negotiate a renewed licensing agreement with the Town's tennis clubs to address public access to club courts, financial and administrative support to the clubs, and expanded service opportunities.
4. Monitor and evaluate no-cost access to facilities for informal resident use to determine success and agreement requirements.
5. Begin discussions with both school boards about a more coordinated planning process that focuses on more integrated outcomes, and the potential to establish reciprocal use agreements.
6. Consider the need for agreements to include requirements on inclusive services.





# Recreation Service Delivery

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Align Service Delivery Support Mechanisms

1. Review the Town's Community Investment Programs (grants), including recommendations and amendments to align the program with corporate Plans, Strategies, and Frameworks.
2. Review and update policies that govern facility allocation, recreation program partnerships, and in-kind support for community organizations.
3. Introduce policies to guide special event planning and delivery, community use of public spaces (parking lots, urban squares, right of way).
4. Undertake a facilitated process with community-based volunteer groups to identify and incorporate strengthened volunteer support in Town policy.
5. Adopt a service pricing framework and policy that allocates services to the categories of subsidized, full cost recovery or cost recovery+ based on type of program, service, and/or facilities delivered.
6. Develop an affordable access program to address equity shifts emerging from the pricing framework policy.
7. Maximize opportunities for residents to self-serve through the Town's recreation administration software or platform.
8. Expand and enhance the services and transactions that can be delivered in-person at community centre service desks.
9. Undertake a review of governing bylaws, permits, policies and processes to ensure they support the goals and outcomes of this Strategy.
10. Expand the department's marketing, promotion and communication efforts for all Recreation and Culture initiatives.
11. Develop and implement a social media strategy specific to promotion of Recreation and Culture initiatives (including indirectly delivered initiatives supported financially or in-kind through Town supports such as grants, affiliation or partnership).



# Recreation Service Delivery

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Formalize Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Planning Process

1. Using existing recreation management software, develop an enhanced database to apply in a formal recreation facilities and programs/services planning process.
2. Develop recurring program to gather feedback on participant and customer experiences in Town programs.
3. Within the overall planning process, develop an evaluation method that is specific to programs
4. Take the lead in developing and implementing regularly occurring planning sessions with all key non-municipal providers in Caledon.
5. Continue to integrate new and improved services that reflect inclusion objectives in planning, delivery and evaluation functions.

### Develop Staff Capacity to Implement Strategy

1. Undertake a review of the Recreation and Culture division's structure to better align department with the 10 year growth and work plan outlined in this Strategy (with specific focus on supporting marketing and sponsorship, recreation management software)
2. Develop and expand succession planning, staff retention, and staff training strategies.
3. Expand targeted lifeguard/instructor recruitment efforts beyond students, to include retirees, stay-at-home parents, and newcomers.
4. Prepare a plan to ensure that evening and weekend hours in all community facilities are appropriately supported and supervised.



# Programs and Services



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Provide Programs and Activities for Every Life Stage

1. Expand existing adult programming, including registered and drop-in options, and piloting new morning and midday times to assess uptake.
2. Continue to provide current levels of programming directed to preschool, children, youth, seniors, and family all-ages monitoring changes in demand.
3. Continue offering aquafit activities and expand where possible.
4. Introduce additional workshops and programs (directly or in partnership with local service providers) including:
  - arts (painting, photography, etc.), cooking and canning,
  - technology (coding, application development)
  - life skills (tax clinics, sewing, repairs, etc.)
5. Partner with social service groups to integrate new programs, services and workshops into community centres to the benefit of residents (mental health programs, food security distribution supports, donations, clinics, consultations, drop-ins, etc.)
6. Explore and offer new aquatic, and ice activities.
7. Strategically locate priority pre-registered programs (such as Camp activities) within community school spaces in high demand times to maximize use of Town recreation centres.
8. Assess demand, interest and need for Town-organized sport leagues.
9. Continue offering a range of introductory sport lessons (such as skating) at various times/locations, for all ages, and expand classes where appropriate.
10. Introduce additional introductory sport lessons aligned to Active Start and FUNdamental stages of the Sport for Life model. Introduce sports that specifically can serve as feeder programs to prepare residents to enroll in community sport organizations in Caledon.



# Programs and Services



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Inclusive Recreation Services

1. In consultation with the community, expand general interest and fitness programming to include a broader range of ethno-cultural and culturally-sensitive programs.
2. Consult with the community when designing new/redeveloping facilities in order to ensure facilities are designed with diversity, equity and inclusion in mind.
3. Conduct a review of departmental policies and procedures to ensure they are equitable and inclusive.
4. Explore opportunities to increase access to transportation.
5. Explore additional supports and increased program offerings for individuals over the age of 21.
6. Develop the Inclusive Recreation Framework as a tool to help structure, organize, and approach Inclusive Recreation services in Caledon.



# Events and Culture



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Provide Events to Bring the Community Together

1. Continue with the Caledon Events Advisory Team (CEAT), and include external event partners in the team as needed, and look for opportunities to align processes.
2. Develop framework for events to guide the Town's direct vs. collaborative delivery of community-wide events, and support to providers of locally-oriented and visitor-attractive events.
3. Continue to support community organizations and volunteer groups to organize cultural and local events in Caledon.
4. Improve the cultural inclusivity of Town-wide events by introducing a wider range of activities, music genres, foods, etc.
5. Seek partnership opportunities with external event organizers to support downtown activations, enhance community participation, and increase out-of-town visits.
6. Expand the Town's official event roster to include celebrations beyond Anglo-Canadian events. Actively involve cultural groups in the planning and execution of these events. Ensures equitable distribution across various hamlets and settlement areas. Regularly assess and adjust based on community feedback and needs.
7. Organize and promote cultural food festivals that highlight diversity through cuisine. Collaborate with local vendors and communities to showcase a broad range of culinary traditions.

# Events and Culture



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Support community culture and neighbourhood development through the arts

1. Review and enhance the Neighbourhood Ice Rink program.
2. Develop a Neighbourhood Engagement program (including in-kind financial assistance) to support relationship building in Caledon's neighbourhoods.
3. Introduce an arts and culture programming strategy to leverage film, music, theatre and the arts. Include a plan for activation of public spaces using the arts.
4. Maintain and expand the Movies in the Park and Music in the Park programs to provide no-cost opportunities for residents.
5. Develop Town-organized vendor pop-ups for Humber River Centre in Downtown Bolton with a focus on local makers, local producers, and local businesses.
6. Develop pop-up food and beverage-focused events for the Humber River Centre to promote and showcase locally crafted products
7. Develop a series of music, art and film based programs for the Humber River Centre.
8. Establish a series of Town-wide indoor culturally relevant programs and activities (such as art exhibits, musicians, and other activations) during the winter months. These programs should cater to various age groups and reflect the diversity of interests within the community.
9. Establish a Public Art program and policy for the procurement, management and maintenance of a Town-owned collection of art. Include public art and placemaking opportunities in the design of parks and facilities.
10. Plan, promote, and execute Culture Days in Caledon with a focus on engaging diverse cultural groups, and Caledon's arts community. Encourage participation and collaboration to showcase the rich cultural tapestry of the community.



# Indoor Facilities



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Anticipate Community Complex Facility Needs

#### Indoor Ice Pads

- For planning purposes, use a population-based supply ratio of 1:19,145 for indoor ice pads to be confirmed by ongoing monitoring and evaluation of facility use.
- Explore opportunities to provide twin pad arenas, wherever possible, to realize programming and operational efficiencies.
- Monitor and evaluate use on all ice pads on an ongoing basis to confirm the need for additional facilities to the end of the Strategy's term.
- Once an additional pad can be constructed and co-located a facility assessment should be conducted to determine the cost-benefit of repurposing Lloyd Wilson for non-ice uses.
- Consider developing a twin pad facility in Bolton as part of a proposed BARC, if confirmed by need and the feasibility of relocating the ABCC pad to this complex.

#### Indoor Pools

- For planning purposes, continue using a population-based supply ratio of 1:25,000 for indoor pools, to be confirmed by ongoing monitoring and evaluation of facility use.
- Explore opportunities to provide an 25m, 8-lane pool for community and competitive use with an additional teaching pool co-located.
- Monitor and evaluate use of all aquatic facilities on an ongoing basis to confirm the need for additional facilities to the end of the Strategy's term.

#### Indoor Tracks

- Include an indoor track as part of the future MW2.
- Design a new track for both running and walking.

# Indoor Facilities



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Anticipate Community Complex Facility Needs

#### Gymnasiums

- Include a full-size gymnasium as part of the future MW2.
- Confirm provision of a fourth gym as part of a future BARC at the time of development planning.

#### Fitness Centres

- Fitness centres should continue to be co-located in community complexes in more densely populated areas of Caledon.
- Provide a full-service fitness centre at the future MW2.
- Confirm the need to co-locate a full-service fitness centre when planning a possible future BARC.
- Do not provide additional small format fitness centres.

#### General Program/Activity Space

- Future community facility renovations or new builds should continue designing multi-purpose spaces to accommodate a range of recreation programming, partnerships, and community hub initiatives.
- Conduct a full-year audit of all spaces and their uses, to provide indicators of the best facility-program matches and instances in which existing uses are not optimizing facility use.



# Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Parks

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Optimize Existing Parks and Facilities to Meet Requirements

#### Town-wide Park Standards and Improvements

- Develop a Park Retrofit Program that comprehensively plans for updates to existing parks' accessibility, design, and function.
- Continue to ensure that all playgrounds are maintained to CSA standards and within the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.
- Conduct an accessibility audit to determine the current degree of accessibility within each park playground and update the Town website and parks inventory accordingly.
- Consult with the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) to prioritize existing parks and play spaces for accessibility upgrades.
- Provide shelter (in the form of structures and tree planting), seating (preferably picnic tables), and lighting at all parks that is adequate for the amount, season, and type of use.
- Develop and implement a Parks naturalization program to promote pollinator habitat and grow the Town's tree canopy
- Improve signage at parks, recreation facilities, and along roadways and major pedestrian routes to include details on accessibility information, naturalization standards (including a warning for ticks), etc.
- Integrate recommended facility retrofits from the Service Level Provisions Study for Unorganized Facilities.
- Update Town landscape guidelines and standards to include some of the "cues to care" landscapes in new park development and redevelopment of existing parks.
- Develop a Park Engagement Strategy that investigates opportunities for local environmental organizations/groups, artists, and other interested partners to discuss opportunities for involvement in park activation, design/features (e.g., shelter, seating, signage), etc.
- Install washroom facilities (buildings or portable toilets) and a drinking water source in high-traffic District and Community parks.

# Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Parks

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Optimize Existing Parks and Facilities to Meet Requirements

#### Major Event Spaces

- Maintain existing pavilions and event spaces on Town property, and add supportive event amenities (e.g., power/water source/washrooms) where possible.
- A future Parkland Acquisition Strategy to consider major event space suitability when acquiring large land parcels for District Parks.

### Anticipate Future Outdoor Facility Requirements to Accommodate Organized Use

#### Baseball and Softball diamonds

- Prepare a Softball Diamond Redevelopment Plan that includes a facility audit of softball diamonds to determine required improvements to achieve a better balance between supply and demand over the long term.
- Continue to promote the Challenger softball diamond in Bolton Camp for accessible, adapted programs and events.

#### Outdoor Natural Turf Fields

1. Monitor and track actual use of sports fields to confirm demand for additional field requirements to 2034 based on current supply and use, additional field capacity to be provided at Johnston Sports Park in relation to the number and size of fields envisioned for this location.
2. Consult with all potential users of multi- purpose fields (i.e. cricket, football, rugby) to identify the range of sports to be accommodated in design and construction of new facilities that could be incorporated in developing JSP.
3. Designate the sports field at Palgrave Park as the home of the Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Football Club and assign it use priority.



# Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Parks

## Anticipate Future Outdoor Facility Requirements to Accommodate Organized Use

### Artificial Turf Fields: Outdoor and Indoor

- Monitor ongoing community use of the Humberview and Mayfield fields to determine the need for either a replacement premier lit outdoor and/ or a permanent indoor artificial field, based on unmet demand and the lifecycle of the school facilities.

### Cricket Pitches

- Develop a minimum of one cricket field (community size) in or near the Southfields community by 2034.
- If a cricket pitch is developed by the PDSB at Mayfield Secondary School, explore partnership opportunities to access the field for community use outside academic hours.
- If demand emerges for a cricket pitch to serve the community full-time, seek partnerships for its development and, ideally, a location in or near the Southfields community.
- If space is not available in Southfields, consult with users to consider alternative locations as close to Southfields as possible including redeveloping a sufficiently sized park with a ball diamond that is no longer required.

### Tennis and Pickleball Courts: Club and Public

- Prepare a detailed Court Provision Strategy to direct the future delivery of club and public tennis and pickleball courts
- Consider adding pickleball lines on existing public courts that are due for resurfacing in the short term to improve the Town's pickleball service level.

### Facilities to Accommodate Sport Tourism Markets

- Sport tourism facility provision should be viewed as an economic development initiative and determined based on:
  - a detailed market study that demonstrates current and future demand for specific facilities to host activity beyond the community level.
  - priority being assigned to tournament/competition hosting over community use.
  - a business plan that demonstrates capital and operating financial feasibility.

# Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Parks

## Anticipate Future Parks and Facilities Requirements for Unorganized Use

### Park Classification and Park Types

- Adopt the amended park classification system found on Table DA6-13 Park Hierarchy 2023 Amendment and use the system to classify all existing and proposed parks within the parks inventory spreadsheet.
- Develop a Service Level Plan for Unorganized Outdoor Recreation Facilities in existing parks to determine geographic service gaps including playgrounds, splash pads, multi-use courts, skateparks and BMX pump tracks, outdoor fitness stations, skating loops, picnic areas, leash-free zones, and community gardens.

### Playgrounds

- Adopt a provision level range of 1:1300 to 1:1900 for playgrounds. Inform provision of new playgrounds using this range as well as in consideration of neighbourhood density, and distance to existing playgrounds including elementary school playgrounds.
- Identify and integrate playground updates within the recommended Park Retrofit Program.

### Splash Pads

- Update design standards for splash pads to reflect best practices.
- Adopt a provision level range of 1:14000 to 1:19000 for splash pads. Prioritize the provision of splash pads in areas where the catchment area served has a population of 10,000 or greater.
- Identify and integrate splash pad updates within the recommended Park Retrofit Program.
- Reopen splash pads during heat wave events occurring before May 19 and after September 24 to serve as cooling stations during the off-season.



# Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Parks

## Anticipate Future Parks and Facilities Requirements for Unorganized Use

### Multi-sport Courts

- Adopt a provision level range of 1:5000 to 1:10,000 for multi-use sports courts.
- Identify and integrate multi-use court retrofit within the recommended Park Retrofit Program.

### Skateparks and BMX Pump Tracks

- Adopt a provision level range of 1:30,000 to 1:40,000 for skateparks/BMX tracks. Inform site selection for new skateparks by trial testing demand with pop-up skateparks in suitable locations.
- Identify and integrate skateparks/BMX tracks updates within the recommended Park Retrofit Program.

### Leash-free Zones and Community Gardens

- Conduct a Dog Park study to determine the population and distribution of dog owners in Caledon and their preferred methods of exercising and socializing their dogs.
- Develop a leash-free zone policy.
- Develop a community garden policy and application process.
- Put a call out to resident groups and other local organizations for applications for community gardens.
- Identify and integrate Dog Park upgrades within the recommended Park Retrofit Program.

### Public Squares/Gathering Places

- Establish/designate one unique public square/parkette/gathering space in each community in Caledon.

### Outdoor Skating

- Continue working with local volunteers to provide community outdoor rinks.
- Explore the feasibility of locating community outdoor rinks through partnerships in Belfountain and Terra Cotta.

# Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Parks



## Sites for Special Consideration

### Bolton Camp Lands

- Partner with the TRCA to develop the Bolton Camp lands to support passive use and nature-based, arts, culture, wellness, and general interest programming.

### Quarries

- Undertake a study to determine the viability of municipally-managed swimming quarries based on similar precedents.
- Consult with conservation authorities and quarry owners/operators to determine policy changes required to facilitate rehabilitation of quarry sites for recreational uses.

### Sandstone Park Parcel

- Do not lease the Sandstone Park Land or undertake any arrangement that would enlist the Town as responsible for operation or maintenance of the site.





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**[HaveYourSayCaledon.ca/Parks-Recreation-Strategy](https://www.havesaysaycaledon.ca/Parks-Recreation-Strategy)**

