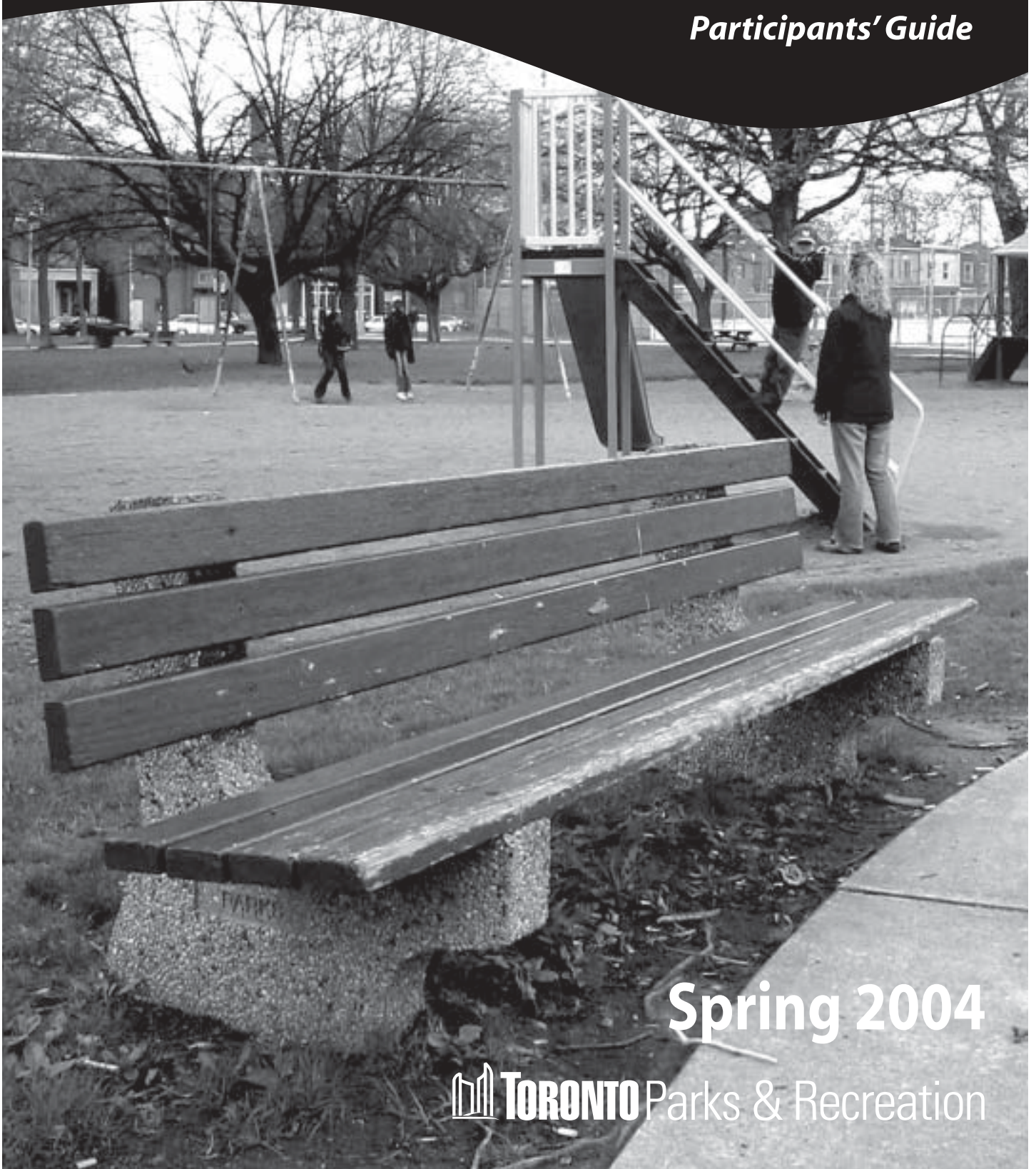


# ReActivate TO!

*Parks & Recreation Review  
Participants' Guide*



**Spring 2004**

 **TORONTO** Parks & Recreation

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A large print version of this guide will be available upon request at the public consultation sessions.

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*Cover photo by Troy Ford, Toronto Parks & Recreation.*

# A Message From Mayor Miller



Toronto Parks & Recreation provides a wide range of high quality programs and services for people of all ages and abilities. From your neighbourhood park and ball diamond to the Toronto Islands and the waterfront, Parks & Recreation is one of the things that makes our city a great place in which to live, work and play.

During our Listening to Toronto meetings at the beginning of this year, you told me what you thought about our city. We talked about community safety, we talked about making Toronto a clean and beautiful city, and we talked about creating more opportunities for people to get involved in their communities.

We all want Toronto to be the best it can be – for all our residents – and that’s why I’m asking for your help today.

Parks & Recreation is taking a hard look at their services and programs. We want to make sure that we’re meeting the needs of our communities – both now and in the future. We’ll be talking with you and your neighbours, with community and sports organizations, and with City staff to find out what Toronto needs and wants for a healthy, active future.

Take a moment and think about your local park, your children’s swimming or skating lessons, our trees and gardens, and our community centres that offer programs for everyone from pre-schoolers to seniors.

Think about what you and your family and friends need to lead a healthy, active life and how Toronto Parks & Recreation can help you reach that goal.

Then tell us what you think.

Attend a consultation session, complete a survey, or send an e-mail or a letter to the Acting General Manager of Parks & Recreation, or talk with your Councillor. You’ll find details about how to get involved at the end of this booklet or by going to [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks).

It’s our city – it’s our future – and it’s time to talk.

Mayor David Miller

May 2004

# Your Ideas Are Important

Parks & Recreation needs your help in order to provide the residents of Toronto with the services they want and need, both now, and in the future. We need to know if we're providing the right services and delivering these services in a manner that reflects the community's expectations within the financial limits set by Council.

This spring, we'll be holding staff and public forums, conducting surveys and talking to lots of people to find out what's important to them – and to you. We'll then take what we've heard from you and the community and report to Council through the Economic Development and Parks Committee in early July.

The report will indicate to Council the key findings of the consultations as they relate to Parks & Recreation's Strategic Plan, service priorities/service levels, and organizational design principles. Reports and other information about *ReActivate TO! Parks & Recreation Review* are available at [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks).

We are hoping to ReActivate TO!

- ✓ ReActivate our parks!
- ✓ ReActivate our facilities and meeting places!
- ✓ ReActivate our programs!
- ✓ ReActivate you!

All advice is welcome. We look forward to your comments on how to make Toronto Parks & Recreation services better for everyone.



Joe Halstead  
Commissioner,  
Economic Development, Culture & Tourism



Brenda Librecz  
Acting General Manager,  
Parks & Recreation

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**During the Service Review Consultation Sessions, you will have the opportunity to discuss the following questions:**

1. What are your expectations of Parks & Recreation? (Think about recreation programs, staff, facilities, parks and green space, urban forestry, customer service, costs and other things that matter to you.)
2. What should be done to improve Parks & Recreation programs and services?
3. Given the financial pressures and the need to serve the diverse communities in Toronto, what are the programs and services Parks & Recreation should focus on? (Rank in order of priority.)
4. What other advice do you have for City Council regarding Parks & Recreation?

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*Parks & Recreation Review  
Participants' Guide*

I. YOUR IDEAS  
ARE IMPORTANT

# // Challenges Facing Toronto Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation operates within an annual budget that is approved by City Council. The following chart outlines challenges that impact on Parks & Recreation's ability to meet public expectations.

SOCIAL		ENVIRONMENTAL		FINANCIAL	
Challenge	Impact	Challenge	Impact	Challenge	Impact
<b>Growing population diversity</b> results in competing needs for limited resources, parks and facilities.	Unable to increase programs in response to the population growth. Also creates conflicts among groups competing for community centre space, sports fields, etc.	<b>Litter in parks</b> Increased litter and no corresponding increase in resources to clean. 40% of litter in parks is household waste.	Takes staff away from their parks maintenance role and impacts directly on image and condition of our parks since there is no increase in staffing to clean the parks.	<b>Limited financial resources and rising service costs</b> due to inflation, rising wages and utility costs. The municipality only has the property tax or user fees to cover increasing costs let alone increases in services.	Limits the ability to address challenges directly. Funding each year does not cover annual pressures of maintaining existing services. Little room to increase resources to respond to population growth, high-need areas or changing demographic needs.
<b>Change in demographics</b> increase in senior population and changing cultural diversity.	Increased need for seniors' and community specific programming.	<b>Waste diversion</b> City's strategy calls for significant reduction in amount of waste going to landfill sites.	Significant amount of waste generated in facilities and parks. Need to introduce recycling into our facilities and parks and to educate the public on keeping our parks clean.	<b>Demand for new facilities and programs</b> to address needs of underserved communities and diverse populations.	Must divert funding from one area to another, potentially impacting stable areas that could jeopardize the work being done. Unmet demand and public expectations continue.
<b>Child poverty</b> 30% of Toronto children live in poverty. Higher poverty neighbourhoods have increased from 66 in 1991 to 120 in 2001.	User fees create barrier to full participation in programs. Promotion and funding of subsidy programs. Community partnership expansion.	<b>Pesticide-free by-law</b> Natural alternatives mean increased turf management, increased costs to fertilize, aerate seed, increase soil, etc. Sports fields and parks have been pesticide-free for a number of years. Public is not happy with the way they look.	Increased funding required to provide alternatives to pesticides.	<b>Aging facilities and parks</b> 90% of facilities and parks amenities are more than 20 years old. 50% are over 40 years old and require renovations and repairs.	Only most critical repairs are done in order of priority. Increasing public expectation for facility upgrades and changes to facilities, such as adding a pool.
<b>Physical inactivity/obesity</b> Increased physical inactivity among both children and adults – leading to obesity and other health problems.	Need to increase programs to get children away from the TV and computer. Need to market and increase awareness of the problem and promote our services as solution.	<b>Competing uses for trails and parks</b> results in safety issues for walkers, runners, bikers, etc. Dogs off-leash in parks cause issues for sports users.	Requires trail and park design, maintenance, signage and public education strategy.	<b>Differences in service levels and facilities</b> Current service delivery model is based on former municipal service delivery practices and products.	Service expectations need to be addressed and prioritized. Input from public indicates inconsistent service levels across the city.
<b>Youth engagement</b> Increased demand to provide positive choices for youth across the city and within areas of need.	Requires consideration of need for youth outreach programs to develop leadership skills, jobs and more civic engagement opportunities. Strong emphasis on community partnerships.	<b>Asian Longhorned Beetle</b> An alien pest that can destroy significant portions of urban forest.	Requires infestation monitoring and collaboration with all government levels on containment strategies. Impact on the clothing required for staff who maintain parks and ravines.	<b>Lack of affordable community use of schools</b> Funding formula has introduced increased fees for use of school space. This has impacted Parks & Recreation directly limiting our ability to expand programs and to respond to after-school programming.	City currently pays \$10 million annually to use school space and pools to run programs. Money could be better spent on programming and other services.
		<b>West Nile Virus (WNV)</b> A disease spread through mosquitoes that breed in watercourses and standing water.	Requires watercourse monitoring for presence of larvae to implement measures to prevent possible spread of WNV. Impact on clothing required by staff who maintain parks and ravines.		

## TORONTO PARKS & RECREATION II. CHALLENGES FACING

# /// A Vision For Toronto

In its 2002 Strategic Plan, City Council identified the following vision for our city:

- Toronto is a caring and friendly city.
- Toronto is a clean, green and sustainable city.
- Toronto is a dynamic city.
- Toronto invests in quality of life.

## **Parks & Recreation's Proposed Vision and Mission**

### ***Vision***

Toronto will be known as the “City within a Park” – a rich fabric of parks, trees, ravines and open spaces that connect our communities and neighbourhoods and link them to a vibrant lakefront. All Torontonians will enjoy healthy lifestyles, have a deep sense of community and take pride in their liveable city, thanks in large part to the programs, services and facilities provided by Parks & Recreation with the community's support.

### ***Mission***

The mission of Toronto Parks & Recreation is to ensure that a wide range of leisure and recreational opportunities are available, accessible and welcoming to Toronto's diverse communities. The Division does this by providing high-quality recreational programs that meet community needs; by caring for the City's recreation facilities and parks so that they are clean, safe and beautiful; and by helping sustain a healthy urban forest.

### ***Economic Development, Culture & Tourism***

Parks & Recreation is one of six divisions within the Economic Development, Culture & Tourism Department. The work of Parks & Recreation is supported by and undertaken with the other divisions.

The Administration & Support Services Division supports Parks & Recreation and other EDCT divisions by providing Customer Service, Information Technology (IT), Finance, Promotion & Communications, and Staff Support services. Customer Service, for example manages the program registration process and call centre for Parks & Recreation. Promotion & Communications includes the production of the twice-yearly Toronto FUN Guide to Parks & Recreation programs, the coordination of special events and projects such as park and facility openings and Trees Across Toronto, a tree planting program in support of the Tree Advocacy Program, in addition to a wide variety of other communications services to Parks & Recreation.

Parks & Recreation maintains the parks and gardens where you'll find public art that is managed by the Culture Division, and Policy & Development Division works hand-in-hand with Parks & Recreation to plan and develop recreation facilities and parks. Parks & Recreation, Policy & Development and Culture (with support from Administration & Support Services) are all partners in the development of Phase I of Harbourfront Parks and Open Spaces.

Parks & Recreation is organized by geography using a district model. There are four service districts – North, South, East and West – and one Central Services unit. Parks & Recreation has 1,556 full-time staff positions and 2,037 part-time and seasonal full-time equivalents, which represent a staff complement of 10,000 individuals.

# **IV** Parks & Recreation's Strategic Plan – "The Three Foundations"

Parks & Recreation will be recommending to Council that the three foundations of the Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan should be:

- 1. Environmental Stewardship**
- 2. Lifelong Active Living**
- 3. Child and Youth Development**

Last year's stakeholder consultation process resulted in the creation of the three foundations of the Strategic Plan. There was broad and strong consensus that these three areas should form the basis for priority-setting and be a focus for Parks & Recreation services in Toronto.

## **1. Environmental Stewardship – Green and Clean Parks, Smart Buildings and a Great Urban Forest**

Parks & Recreation plays a major role in promoting a clean, sustainable city through its responsibility for parks, open spaces and natural areas. With more than 1,470 parks that cover 7,365 hectares of green space, Toronto is, literally, a "green" city. Ninety kilometres (and growing!) of hiking and biking trails through ravines, parks and along the waterfront are planned and maintained by Parks staff. Park conservatories and greenhouses provide plants for City buildings and public gardens, and are also a resource for you to gain ideas and inspiration for your own garden.

Urban Forestry Services is responsible for maintaining the health of Toronto's green canopy of three million City-owned trees. Urban Forestry's certified arborists and experienced tree pruning staff care for the urban forest, while other Forestry staff respond to your questions about trees, take requests for pruning or inspection, issue service orders and enter information to keep the computer inventory of trees up-to-date.

Together with the community – and nature – Parks & Recreation works to preserve Toronto's green legacy for future generations to enjoy.

## **2. Lifelong Active Living – Let's Get Physically and Mentally Active!**

Parks & Recreation provides a wide range of high quality recreation and sports programs for people of all ages and abilities to encourage a high level of participation and serve the needs of Toronto's diverse communities.

Toronto's community centres are the heartbeat of your neighbourhood. Whether you're joining a fitness class, splashing with the kids during a family swim, or enjoying a quiet stroll through a city park, Toronto Parks & Recreation makes it possible for you to do good things for your health and well-being -- whatever your age.

### **3. Child and Youth Development—Positive Choices and Rewarding Experiences have a Lifelong Impact**

Remember how good you felt the first time you scored a goal? And when your team came through to win the soccer game because you all worked together? Or remember when you brought home your first ceramic creation? Remember how important it was when you were a youth, that you had a recreation leader you could talk to, when talking to your parents wasn't quite the right thing to do?

Physical activity and nurturing creativity are important to good health and social well being. Whether it's families playing together, organized sports or games in a park, children and youth need to be active and be able to express themselves through creative and artistic activities.

When children and youth participate in any of Toronto Parks & Recreation's thousands of programs, they're learning much more than the rules of the game – they're learning important life skills and developing a positive attitude – keys to future success.

Parks & Recreation is committed to supporting the development of happy, healthy children and youth. From wide open green spaces, playgrounds and water play areas to organized sports, pre-school and after school programs and camps for all ages, abilities and interests, to leadership development, recreation employment preparation and other programs specific to the needs of today's youth, Parks & Recreation makes Toronto a great place to grow up. We are also one of the largest youth employers in the City with 10,000 part-time employment opportunities per year.

ReActivate TO!



Parks & Recreation is a key contributor to the quality of life in Toronto's neighbourhoods and communities.

IV. PARKS & RECREATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN - "THE THREE FOUNDATIONS"

Strategic Plan Foundations		Sample Measures and Targets		
		Measure	Current Status	2010 Target
Environmental Stewardship	Parks & Recreation makes Toronto a green, clean, safe and beautiful city	% user population very satisfied with park visits	45% very satisfied	60%
		# hectares of parkland per 10,000 residents	29.7 ha per 10,000 residents	30 ha per 10,000 residents
		% users very satisfied with facility quality	38% (community centres)	55% (community centres)
		# street trees per kilometre of road	80 trees/km road	120 trees/km road
		tree maintenance service response time in months	service response for tree maintenance varies from 3-18 months City-wide	service response under 6 months and within a 10% 'timeframe variance' City-wide
Lifelong Active Living	Parks & Recreation advances physical activity and social interaction through high-quality programs for residents of all ages	% City's total population in registered programs (individual participants)	6.4%	8%
		% City's seniors population in registered programs (individual participants)	2.3%	10%
Child and Youth Development	Parks & Recreation helps all children make positive, healthy choices during their leisure time	% of City's children in registered programs (individual participants)	28%	35%
		% City's youth population in registered programs (individual participants)	4.0%	15%
	Parks & Recreation gives youth positive options for building life skills and being involved in their city	# leadership opportunities provided	2,223 registrations per year	2,600 registrations per year
		# of part-time job opportunities	10,000 per year	maintain or increase slightly

# Toronto

Parks & Recreation



# ReActivate TO!

## *Parks & Recreation Review Participants' Guide*



*Original illustrations by Troy Ford, Toronto Parks & Recreation.*

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*Parks & Recreation Review  
Participants' Guide*

## V An Overview of Parks & Recreation Services and Programs (all figures are 2003 annual)

Environmental Stewardship	Lifelong Active Living	Child and Youth Development
<p>Parks Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,470 named parks</li> <li>• 7,365 hectares of parkland</li> <li>• 340,000 users daily</li> <li>• 19% residents use parks 5 days/week</li> <li>• grounds &amp; buildings inspections and maintenance, e.g. washrooms, field houses</li> <li>• equipment inspection and maintenance, e.g. tennis courts, wading pools, benches, fountains, playgrounds, picnic tables, park signs, gazebos, patios, roads &amp; paths</li> <li>• snow removal</li> <li>• 51 outdoor artificial ice surfaces maintained</li> <li>• Toronto Islands and Beaches maintenance</li> </ul> <p>Forestry Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tree canopy covers 18% of City</li> <li>• 500,000 street trees</li> <li>• 2.5 million trees in ravines, parks, forests</li> <li>• 7,500 street trees planted</li> <li>• 30,000 trees planted through Tree Advocacy Program</li> <li>• 50,000 trees pruned</li> <li>• 30,000 waterings</li> <li>• tree preservation through by-law enforcement</li> <li>• forest health care &amp; ravine management</li> <li>• educational materials</li> </ul> <p>Leisure, Sports &amp; Play Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 140 community centres maintained</li> <li>• 839 sports fields, e.g. ball diamonds, soccer fields, cricket pitches</li> <li>• 756 tennis sites</li> <li>• 833 playgrounds</li> </ul> <p>Gardens, Greenhouses &amp; Conservatories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 greenhouses</li> <li>• 1.2 million plants for parks, boulevards, facilities</li> <li>• displays, educational programs</li> <li>• community and allotment gardens maintenance</li> </ul>	<p>Fitness &amp; Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35,600 registrants</li> <li>• 3,200 fitness classes</li> <li>• fitness support &amp; instruction</li> <li>• health clubs, passports and memberships</li> </ul> <p>Seniors' Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18,472 registrants</li> <li>• 1,135 older-adult programs</li> <li>• drop-in convenience</li> </ul> <p>Golf Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 full-service courses</li> <li>• accessible, urban</li> <li>• 193,328 rounds</li> <li>• instruction &amp; clinics</li> <li>• pro shops</li> <li>• advance tee times</li> <li>• equipment rental</li> </ul> <p>Marine Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 ferry boats to Toronto Island Park and Island residents</li> <li>• 1.2 million passengers</li> <li>• provincially mandated service</li> </ul> <p>Special Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,000 events</li> <li>• delivery through corporate and private partners</li> <li>• event development assistance to community</li> </ul> <p>Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.2 million in recreation grants awarded to 151 community organizations</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The programs and services outlined in this chart are not exclusive to the foundation under which they are listed. Most can be attributed to two or three categories.</p>	<p>Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75,000 campers</li> <li>• 240 programs</li> <li>• March Break</li> <li>• summer</li> <li>• sports, arts</li> <li>• environment</li> <li>• leadership skills</li> </ul> <p>Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52,300 participants</li> <li>• 3,350 programs</li> <li>• 4 stadiums</li> <li>• 1 track &amp; field centre</li> </ul> <p>Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31,000 participants</li> <li>• 70% child and youth registrants</li> <li>• visual and performing arts, e.g. drawing, painting, dance</li> </ul> <p>Aquatics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 129,300 registrants</li> <li>• 132 indoor &amp; outdoor pools</li> <li>• 29,100 courses</li> <li>• learn-to-swim</li> <li>• leisure swim</li> <li>• specialized courses, e.g. synchro, diving, competitive</li> </ul> <p>Skating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21,000 registrants</li> <li>• 60 ice surfaces</li> <li>• learn-to-skate</li> <li>• leisure skate</li> </ul> <p>Skiing &amp; Snowboarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 ski &amp; snowboard centres</li> <li>• instruction</li> <li>• leisure skiing &amp; snowboarding</li> </ul> <p>General Interest &amp; Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drop-in / social</li> <li>• after-school/homework</li> </ul> <p>Youth Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thousands of youth get their first job with Parks &amp; Recreation, as one of 10,000 part-time employment opportunities</li> </ul>

# VI Parks & Recreation – Serving You

Parks & Recreation services are delivered to Toronto residents in many different ways. There is a strong network of service providers and community/sport organizations that provide a wide selection of services for all preferences and interests, as well as services and programs provided directly by the City.

Our workforce includes gardeners, general labourers, arbourists, scientists, foresters, recreationists, accountants, tree climbers, marine captains, refrigeration technicians, plumbers, electricians, athletes, community builders and more.

The City directly provides the service through:

- Registered Programs – camps, swimming and skating lessons (to name a few)
- Drop-in Experiences – open-skate, open-swim, drop-in programs
- “At Your Leisure” Opportunities – a walk in the park on your own time and at your own pace
- Customer Response – response to your calls for assistance such as tree inspection or trimming of boulevard trees.

## **Our Partners – We provide the fields and community centres, they provide the programs**

### • **Community and Sport Organizations**

More than 3,000 volunteer community and sport organizations throughout Toronto deliver a tremendous number of recreation and sport opportunities. Sport and community organizations are, in turn, supported by more than 200,000 volunteers. The groups typically permit Parks & Recreation facilities, parks and sport fields in order to offer their programs and sports to the community. Each year, more than 2.5 million people participate in community and sport opportunities provided by these organizations.

### • **Volunteering**

While community and sport organizations rightfully boast over 200,000 volunteers, this number includes other volunteer opportunities for corporations and residents to assist in the delivery of Parks & Recreation services. Environmentalists assist each year in reforestation efforts, naturalization activities, adopting gardens, organizing community special events, assisting with youth activities and beautification efforts. It almost goes without saying that the City of Toronto could never offer the number and range of opportunities that it does if it were not for the generosity of its volunteers.

### • **Partnerships**

The Association of Community Centres and Arena Boards of Management operate City-owned community centres and arenas through agreements with the City. The City provides funding in either operating and/or capital dollars to assist the boards. As well, the City provides an annual grant program to assist volunteer groups to offer recreation, sport, and park activities.

## Service Snapshots

### Parks & Forestry

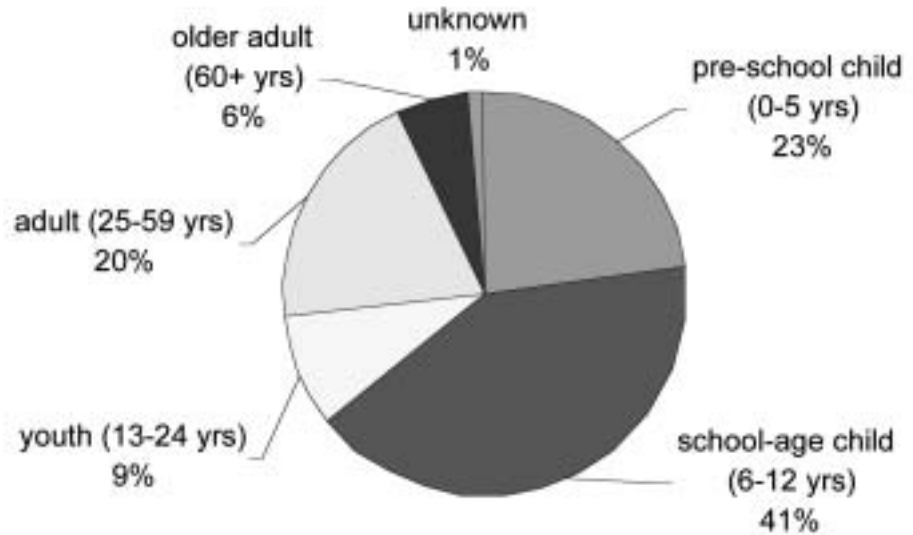
# of Hectares Maintained	7,365
# of Named Parks	1,470
# of Street Trees Planted	7,500
# of Calls for Forestry Service	91,037
# of Floral Beds	1,130

### Recreation

Total Registrations	458,356
# of Unique Registered Users	158,566
# of Programs Offered	53,022
Drop-In Program Attendance (Public Swim, public skate, drop-in Youth, Drop-in Senior etc.)	3,322,773

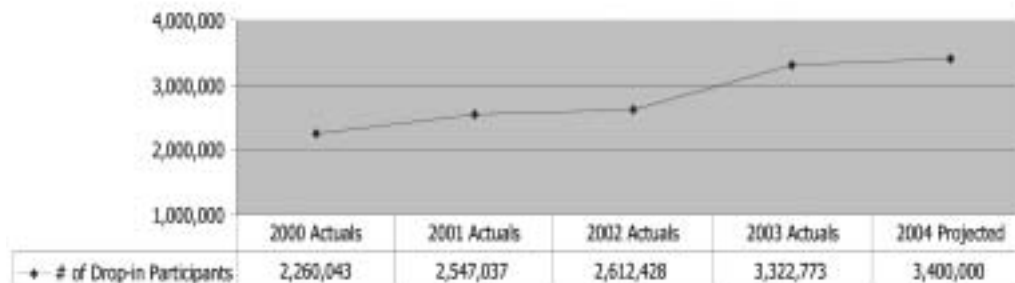
Source: City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation

### Registered Program Participants by Age (158,566 unique clients in 2003)



Source: City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation

# of Drop-in Participants

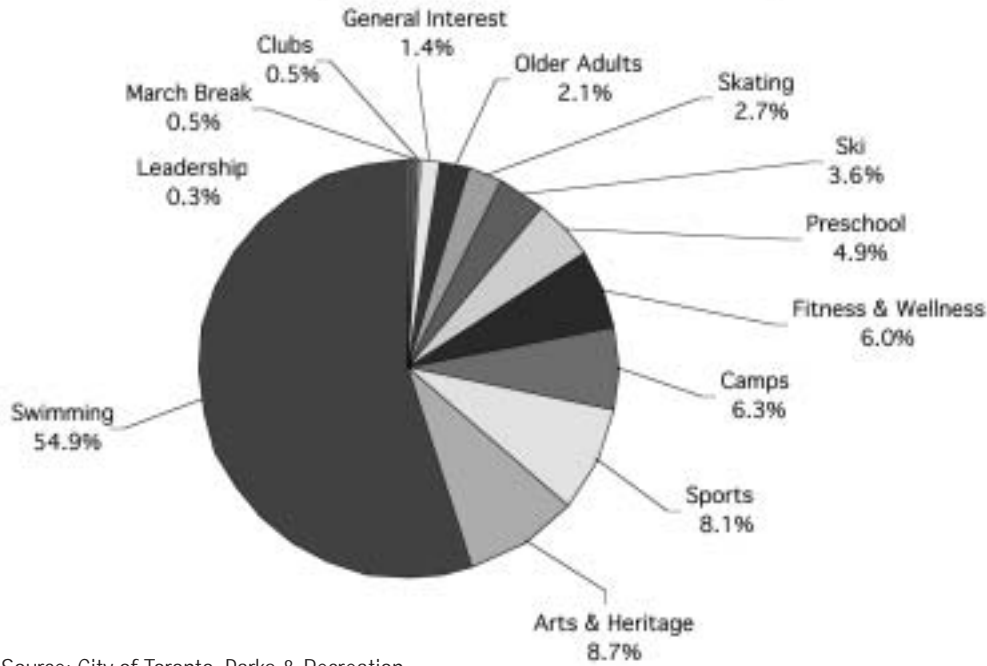


Source: City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation

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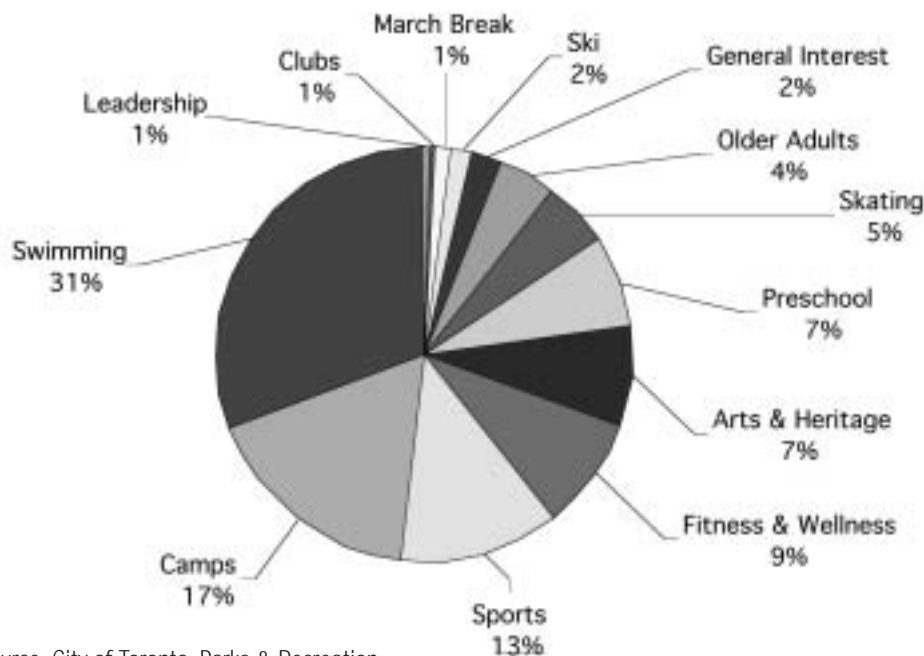
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## Recreation Courses by Program Category (53,022 courses in 2003)



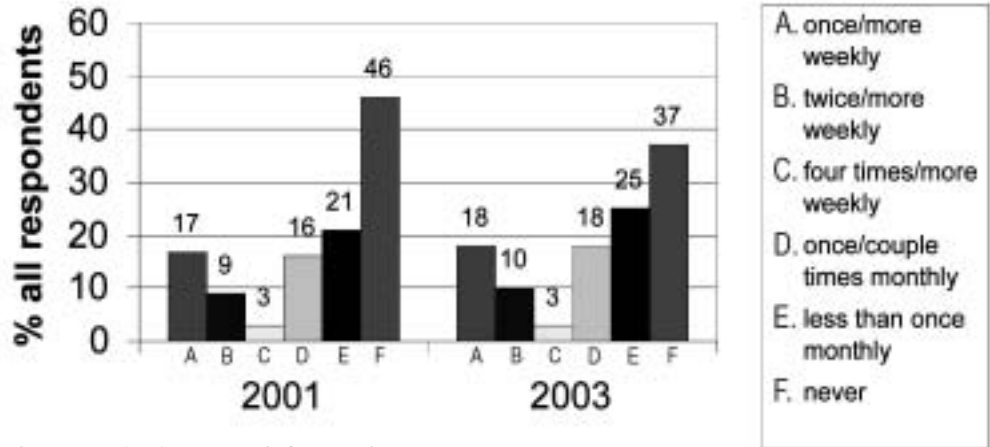
Source: City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation

## Recreation Registration by Program Category (2003)



Source: City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation

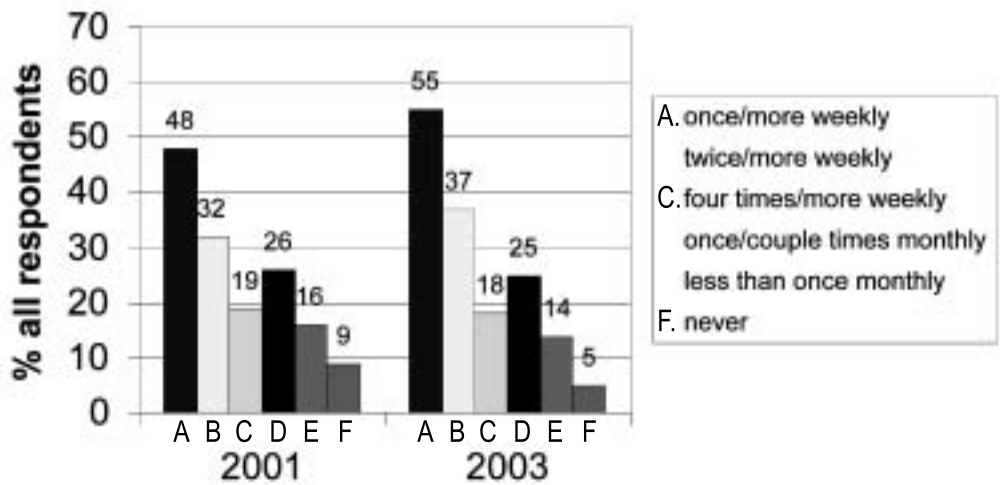
### Community Centre Visits Over Past Year (2001 and 2003)



Source: Environics Research Group Ltd.

**Our community centres are being used more.**

### Park Visits Over Past Year (2001 and 2003)



Source: Environics Research Group Ltd.

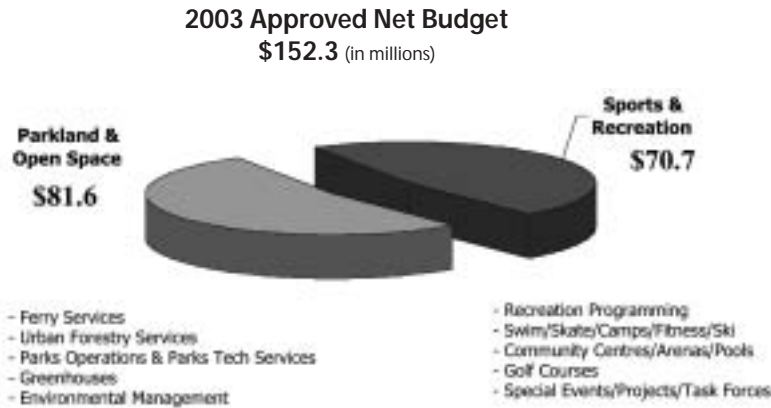
**People are visiting our parks more too!**

ReActivate TO!



# VII Operating Budget For Parks & Recreation

The cost to provide the services on page 10 is outlined below. Parks & Recreation maintains and operates sports facilities, parks, and community centres. We maintain infrastructures and offer programs and services.



## 2003 Parks & Recreation Division Approved Budget

Gross Expenditures	\$222.1
Revenue	\$ 69.8
Net Budget	\$152.3

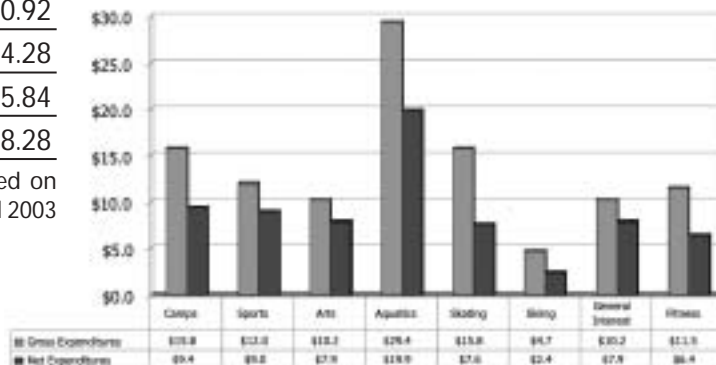


## 2003 Parks & Recreation Division Net Cost Per Capita

Parks & Recreation	\$60.92
Parks Maintenance	\$24.28
Forestry	\$5.84
Sports & Recreation	\$28.28

Notes: Calculations are based on 2001 Census Population and 2003 Approved Budget figures.

## 2003 Approved Budget Sports & Recreation (in millions)



# VIII How You Can Get Involved

Communication and public participation are critical to the successful delivery of Parks & Recreation services.

You can participate in the Parks & Recreation review process and share your thoughts about future services, in one or more of the following ways:

## 1. Complete a Survey

Complete a survey either on-line or on paper. You can obtain a copy on-line at [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks) or pick one up at your local community centre.

## 2. Attend a Consultation Session

Public consultation sessions will take place in May and June. Please attend a session and share your opinions. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Location	District
Tuesday, May 25	7-9:30 pm	Humberwood Community Centre 850 Humberwood Blvd, 416-394-5700	West
Wednesday, May 26	7-9:30 pm	Cedarbrook Community Centre 91 Eastpark Blvd, 416-396-4028	East
Thursday, May 27	7-9:30 pm	Main Square Community Centre 245 Main St, 416-392-1070	South
Saturday, May 29	9:30 am- 12 noon	Northwood Community Centre 15 Clubhouse Court, 416-395-7876	North
Monday, May 31	7-9:30 pm	Etobicoke Olympium 590 Rathburn Rd, 416-394-8111	West
Tuesday, June 1	7-9:30 pm	Burrows Hall Community Centre 1081 Progress Ave, 416-396-4670	East
Wednesday, June 2	7-9:30 pm	Oriole Community Centre 2975 Don Mills Rd, West, 416-395-7855	North
Thursday, June 3	7-9:30 pm	Wallace Emerson Community Centre 1260 Dufferin St, 416-392-0039	South

## Help Us With Our Ongoing Delivery of Services!

Parks & Recreation relies on partners and volunteers to assist in the delivery of programs and services. There are many ways that may interest you in terms of becoming involved. Consider the following opportunities and contact us if you have any questions or are interested. We welcome your participation.

### 1. Use Our Services – Let Us Know What You Think

Join a program, come leisure swimming or skating, take a walk on our trails, walk, bike, rollerblade on our pathways, have a family picnic or just smell the flowers. There are hundreds of things to do! Have fun on us and let us know what you think. E-mail us at [reactivateto@toronto.ca](mailto:reactivateto@toronto.ca).

### 2. Join an Advisory Council

Parks & Recreation has over 70 Advisory Councils. Advisory Council members bring expertise and advice about programs and special events that will serve the local community. Members help to make programs more meaningful and appropriate to local needs. Contact your local community centre to find out more.

### 3. Become a Volunteer

Parks & Recreation has formed partnerships with many sport, recreation and environmental groups to provide many services. If you would like to become a volunteer with Parks & Recreation or a partner organization, contact Access Toronto for more information at **416-338-0338**.

### 4. Plant a Tree

Each year many corporations and community groups assist in naturalizing areas of Toronto. They plant and reintroduce many native plant species into the city's landscape. If you want to participate in volunteer planting events, call **416-392-LEAF (5323)**.

### 5. Make a Donation

The Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation is made up of a group of volunteers who raise funds in order to plant more trees throughout Toronto. The Foundation also hosts tree planting events through the Tree Advocacy planting program and the Trees Across Toronto Program. Many volunteer groups have received grants from the Foundation so that they can deliver environmental and beautification programs. If you would like to donate or get involved with the Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation, please call **416-392-1885**.

### 6. Write to the General Manager of Parks & Recreation

The General Manager of Parks & Recreation receives many emails and letters from city residents each year offering input about various programs and services. Your suggestions are welcome. Send your letter via e-mail to:

General Manager, Parks & Recreation Toronto City Hall, 8th Floor East Tower,  
100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2 • Via e-mail: [parks@toronto.ca](mailto:parks@toronto.ca)

## IX Next Steps

The Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism will bring a report back to the Economic Development and Parks Committee on July 5, 2004. The report will indicate to Council the key findings of the consultations on the strategic plan, service priorities, service levels, organizational design principles and key recommendations for a go forward plan.

**Thank you again for your participation in helping to ReActivate TO!**

# ReActivate Yourself with Toronto Parks & Recreation!

Named parks: 1,470

Hectares of green space: 7,365

Greenhouses: 8

City-operated golf courses: 5

Sports fields: 839

Tennis sites: 856

Playgrounds: 833

Ice surfaces: 50

Ski hills: 2

Community centres: 140

Ferry boats: 5

Fitness classes: 3,200

Swimming pools: 132

Camp programs: 240

Trees in ravines, parks and forests: 2.5 million

Street trees: 500,000

Swimming courses: 29,100

Special events: 3,000

Volunteers: 200,000

**Opportunities for you to get involved: Endless**

**Excuses: 0**

Wherever you go, there we are.



ReActivate TO!

Parks & Recreation Review  
Participants' Guide

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[www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks)