

2019 Integrated Leisure Master Plan Update

**General Committee
October 7, 2019**

About the ILMP

The Integrated Leisure Master Plan (ILMP) guides service delivery and facility development for:

- public libraries
- community centres, pools and arenas
- recreation services
- arts and culture facilities and services
- sports fields, playgrounds, splash pads, courts and more
- parkland and trails



Project Consultants:

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants

Stakeholder Departments:

Recreation Services

Planning & Urban Design (Parks & Open Space Development)

Operations (Parks, Horticulture & Forestry)

Markham Public Library

Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship (Culture)

Updating the ILMP

The following **objectives** guided this Update:

1. Update inventories, demographics, and emerging trends and sports
2. Align to key studies and strategies, e.g., Building Markham's Future Together
3. Seek community input
4. Held focus groups with arena sports, sports fields, and racquet sports users
5. Developed provision strategies
6. Assessed the implications of intensification and growth
7. Developed recommendations – reflect recommended provision strategies and build on 2010 ILMP
8. Generate the 2019 ILMP Update for Council approval

Purpose of the Integrated Leisure Master Plan Update

- To guide the City's provision of parks, recreation, arts & culture and library services, facilities and policies to 2031
- A living document - long range in nature and subject to ongoing review as changes emerge in growth, trends, and user patterns
- Subject to annual budgets including business case evaluations of major expenditure items



Mission

Markham's Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Library services provide inclusive, accessible, safe, enjoyable and sustainable leisure, learning, sport and arts & cultural opportunities essential to vibrant places.



Why Master-Plan?

Master planning leads to **success**

- The Path to Success
 - Close Monitoring of Population Growth
 - Application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution of parks, recreation, arts & culture and library (PRCL) facilities across all areas of the City
 - Annual review of the ILMP by staff and action through business and work planning
 - Important feedback from our residents, stakeholders and Members of Council
- Provides staff with focus and direction
- Supports our efforts in accessing funding from the provincial and federal governments
- Positive results achieved pursuant to the 2010 ILMP have confirmed the value and importance of master planning and keeping the ILMP updated

Highlights & Accomplishments of the 2010 ILMP



Follow-through

77% of the recommended short-term actions have been completed or are in progress



New Facilities

Completion of 3 major community facilities – two Community Centres and Libraries (Cornell and Aaniin) and a regional sports facility (Markham Pan Am Centre), all within six years



New Sports Fields

17 new sport fields of which 4 are artificial turf – and all of them done through partnerships



New Parks

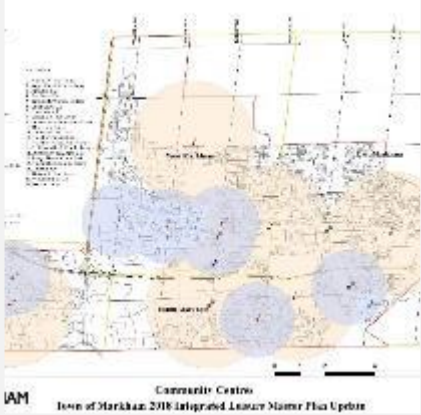
Completion of over 90 new parks with much-needed community amenities



Key Strategies

Older Adult Strategy, Public Art Master Plan (in progress), Parks Renaissance Program, Public Realm Strategy, Corporate Volunteer Program, Sport Development Plan

Review Process: Fact-Based Methodology



Current State

Detailed assessment of the City's existing PRCL facilities

Facility capacity

User patterns



Who? How Many? When?

Socio-demographic factors (current and forecasted)

Timing of anticipated growth & development based on the City's Official Plan



Leisure Trends

Trends local & national

Benchmarking against comparable municipalities;
Assessment and verification of provision targets

Changing Legislation



Community Input

Stakeholder input sessions


Ongoing customer feedback and surveying

Online survey



Internal Consultations

Councillors, Library Board, City officials and staff

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Markham, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, roads, and green spaces. A prominent blue and white building is visible in the lower center. The image is used as a background for the text.

Over the next 12 years
Markham's population
will grow by 119,700
people to 460,200 in
2031

The Planning Context

A Changing Markham

Leisure Trends



Changing Built Form

Demand for Complete Communities by our residents – implications for PRCL service delivery



Higher-Density Neighbourhoods

Increased development of high-density “vertical” neighbourhoods within intensified areas



Changing Legislation

Significant anticipated changes to provincial legislation that affects municipalities



Demographics

Impacts on user needs and expectations, service planning and facility delivery – aging population, dynamic multi-cultural populations



Ongoing Revitalization

Need to adapt and revitalize existing services and facilities to meet evolving user expectations in a timely manner

Leisure Trends (continued)



Informed Residents

Rising expectations for leisure services and facilities



Passive Activities

Growing demand for passive leisure activities



Drop-In Programs

Growing demand for drop-in programs



Dog Parks & Related Facilities

Growing demand for dog parks and related facilities



Walking and Biking

Infrastructure that connects communities

Key Areas of Focus for Markham's 2019 ILMP

- Need to provide services to all residents while demands for services for an **aging population** will continue to grow significantly, creating challenges and opportunities
- **Partnerships and creative approaches** are critical to achieving provision strategies
- **Role of the City** in advancing provision strategies will be to
 - continue to **leverage partners**,
 - rethink delivery options from standalone to **integrated models** with focus on equity, inclusion and community access to leisure amenities.



Key Areas of Focus for Markham's 2019 ILMP (continued)

- **Intensified areas** need a different provision model with a focus on integration within development plans early in the process to capitalize on cost sharing opportunities
- **Shared Uses, Flexible Spaces** among service providers (schools/faith groups/agencies/ private sector)
- **Neighbourhood level** planning and engagement strategies in partnership with community leaders / service providers
- **Equitable distribution** of amenities among communities is critical to building Complete Communities that are accessible for all
- **Challenges of providing parkland** in the future, especially within intensified areas
- Provision of meaningful **volunteer** opportunities



Recommendations Highlights



136 Recommendations

Ranging from adopting industry best practices of little or no cost to major community infrastructure investments



Parks



Recreation



Arts & Culture



Libraries

- Support the **Rouge National Urban Park** initiative, with a particular focus on securing access and promoting its benefits to Markham residents
- Establish a City-wide sustainable standard of provision for **park washrooms**
- Continue to implement the **Parks Renaissance Strategy**
- Develop a **Shade in Parks** Plan
- Construct **3 additional cricket pitches**, with at least 1 lit cricket pitch, by 2031
- Move toward the provision target of one **off-leash dog area** per Ward
- Develop a **five-year rolling parkland plan** that incorporates provision standards in the ILMP for the completion of new parks and keeps pace with growth



Parks

Recommendation Highlights

- Develop a program plan for **intergenerational and under-represented groups** as identified in the Older Adult Plan
- Undertake **neighbourhood-based / place-based planning**
- Develop a plan to support the City's commitment in developing a **Sports Park**
- In West Markham, advance the development of a “**major**” **community centre and library** by approximately 2026
- Provide **gymnasiums** in all new or expanded “major” community centres
- Prepare an **Arena Partnership Strategy**



Recreation

Recommendation Highlights

- Encourage opportunities to **integrate cultural programs, spaces for creative pursuits and activities through shared spaces** within existing and future community recreation facilities, libraries and parks
- Complete and implement the **Public Art Master Plan**
- Conduct a **new theatre feasibility study** to assess growth and determine future needs of the performing arts sector in Markham
- Develop the **Flato Markham Theatre Foundation**



Arts & Culture

Recommendation Highlights

- Implement **Digital Markham Strategy** recommendations regarding the Library's role as "Markham's centre for excellence in digital literacy"
- Prioritize the establishment of a library branch to serve the growing **Markham Centre** community
- Develop one library branch to serve **West** as part of a new major community centre
- Re-evaluate the demand for renewing and expanding the **Milliken Mills library**



Libraries

Recommendation Highlights

- Deliver community service facilities and public open spaces, including PRCL, that support **complete communities** and the health of residents, workers and visitors
- Ensure **timely provision** and initiate assessment, capital planning and design of additional parks, recreation, arts & culture and library facilities as part of the regular review of the ILMP and before exceedance of current and planned facility capacities
- Consider **innovative approaches/tools** to fund and provide community services facilities
- Require the Secondary Plan process in intensification areas to include the completion of a **Community Services, Facilities and Parks Plan** to secure partnership opportunities



Intensified Areas

Recommendation Highlights

Intensified Areas

Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design parks, recreation, arts & culture and library facilities in intensification areas (IAs) as Neighbourhood Centres that are flexible, accessible, multi-use, inclusive and age-friendly spaces that provide active spaces and people places High-density development must provide dog walking and dog washing amenities for their residents
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a new facility provision model (Neighbourhood Centres) that reflects the realities of high-density residential communities Develop a plan to support the City's commitment in developing a Sports Park ...to address field needs for growth centres/intensified areas Provide gymnasiums + multi purpose space in partnership/co-location with schools in IAs
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop alternative library service and funding models for libraries in IAs Consider co-location with a range of community partners
Partnerships & Co-Locations (General)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and promote the shared use of schools (e.g., gymnasiums) and adjacent parks and public open space for active sports fields Collaborate with School Boards Locate partnered/co-located services in partnership with developers within mixed-use spaces Encourage partnerships and co-locations between landowners and public agencies Encourage and promote community services and facilities providers to support the creation of community hubs in IAs

A Roadmap for Decision-Making and Action

- Approval of the 2019 ILMP enables staff to **move forward** with development of implementation plans and to seek out opportunities for shared use, federal grants and partnerships with other providers
- Staff will follow current practice and provide staff reports to Council for decision-making in any recommendations that involve **major business transformations or significant investments for community infrastructure**
- An updated **Integrated Leisure Master Plan with provision targets will help with priority setting** in the move from development charges to Community Benefits Charge



A Roadmap for Decision-Making and Action (continued)

- **Implementation will be dependent on several factors**, including the pace of population growth, funding, land availability and partnerships
- **Proposed timeframes are linked to the population forecasts** approved by the Region of York; should these forecasts change, the Plan should be reviewed and adjustments made
- A detailed-level financial strategy for implementation of the 2019 ILMP Update was **not within the scope** of this project



Bill 108

- Sweeping changes to Ontario's land use planning system further **complicates financial planning** as it relates to the recommendations of the 2019 ILMP
- **Full implications of Bill 108 and Community Benefits Charges** will not be fully understood until regulations are released
- Once regulations regarding Community Benefits Charges have been finalized, Council may need to make some decisions **prioritizing** the recommendations of the 2019 ILMP Update



Financial Costing

- Financial costing of ILMP recommendations to be undertaken through the City's **annual budget process**
- Full implementation of this Plan may require
 - the pursuit of **alternative funding**
 - various **partnerships and cost-sharing** agreements
 - **alternative service delivery models**, particularly in Intensification Areas
- Approval of this Plan **does not bind** the City to implementing every recommendation or providing facilities in the order, amount or timing indicated
- Provides **guidance** on PRCL **priorities for the community**, resource allocation, and **sets a general course** for meeting the needs as they are presently defined
- If growth is slowed or accelerated, **timing of implementation and financial requirements** may be adjusted to reflect
- The City will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources **annually** through the budget process.

Conclusions

- Since 2010, we have successfully expanded the **city-wide network** and reach of our community centres, libraries, parks, and arts and cultural facilities
- Contributed to the creation of a **desirable, livable, and complete Markham** with a strong quality of life, which is key to our economic prosperity
- 2019 ILMP will deepen the connections within our **diverse and ageing community**, strengthen **partnerships**, and lead to new and innovative **social infrastructure** and **service delivery models**



Recommendations

1. That the report entitled “Approval of the 2019 Integrated Leisure Master Plan Update” be received; and
2. That Council approve the 2019 Integrated Leisure Master Plan (ILMP) Update as set out in Attachment 1; and
3. That Council direct the Commissioner of Community and Fire Services to incorporate the ILMP into annual Business Planning, Capital and Operating Budget processes and to report progress annually to Council; and
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Questions?