

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

The **Draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan** will guide and manage the development of facilities, programs and services in the Municipality of South Dundas over the next ten years. The Master Plan explores:

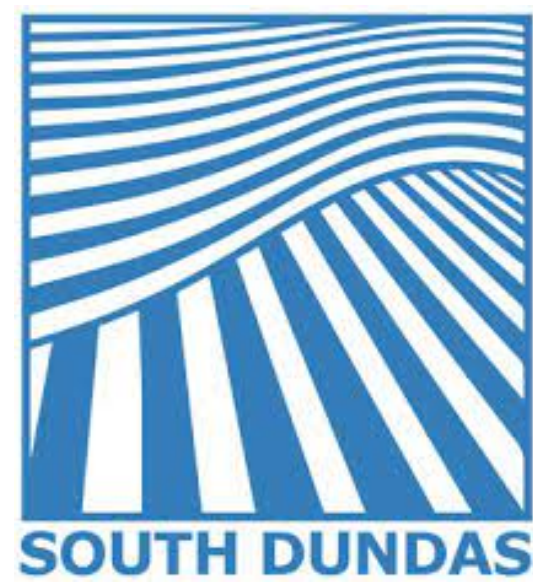
- Indoor recreation facility needs such as community meeting spaces, arenas and gymnasiums.
- Outdoor recreation facility needs such as sports fields, multi-use hard surface courts, playgrounds, and splash pads.
- Parks, open spaces, waterfront and trails.
- Service delivery, policies and programs.

## We want to hear from you!

**Review highlights from the Draft Master Plan and share your thoughts.**

Provide your feedback today or submit them to any Municipality of South Dundas community facility by Wednesday, August 3, 2022. You can also submit your feedback by e-mail ([masterplan@southdundas.com](mailto:masterplan@southdundas.com)).

The full Draft Master Plan can be reviewed on the Municipality's website.

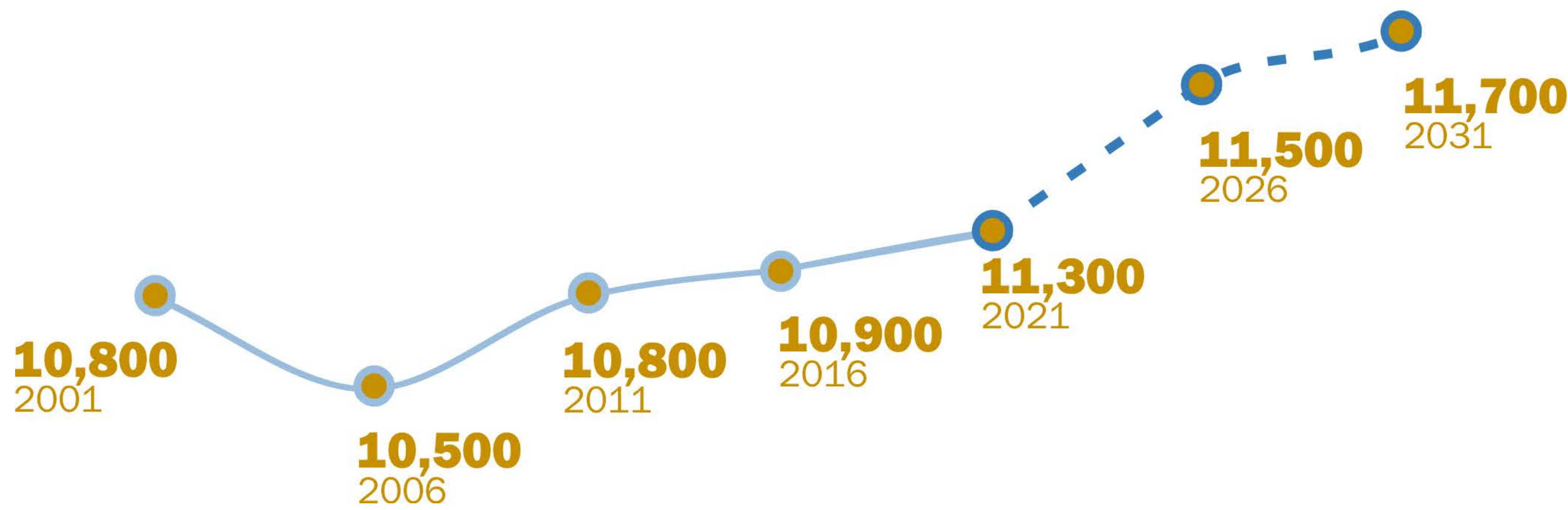


# Parks & Recreation Master Plan South Dundas Profile & Trends



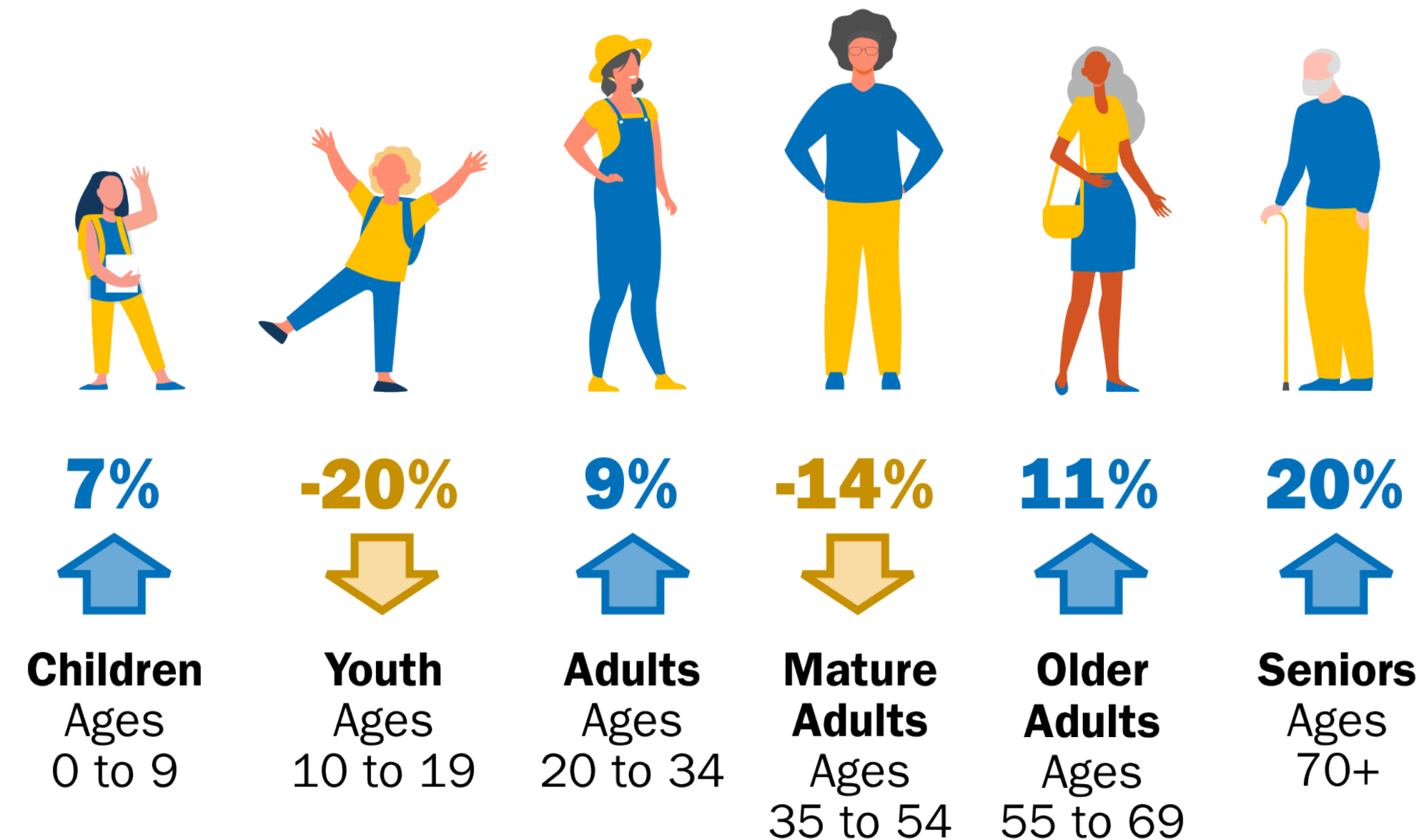
## Population Growth

The population is projected to grow to **11,700 residents** by 2031. Most of the growth is expected to occur in Morrisburg, which currently makes up approximately 22% of the Municipality's total population.



## Age Groups

Between 2011 and 2016, the population of children, adults, older adults and seniors **increased**. The population of youth and mature adults **decreased**.



## Key Trends in Parks & Recreation




- Modern municipal facilities serve as **community hubs** and, where possible, are **multi-use** in design to provide a variety of civic programs and services for all residents.
- Accessibility legislation requires that new / renovated municipal facilities **accommodate persons with disabilities**.
- Physical activity levels have remained low for a number of years due to a **lack of free time** and other related factors.
- There's a demand for **unstructured and self-scheduled** activities.
- There are increasing requests for **emerging activities** such as pickleball and outdoor fitness equipment.
- Parks are being recognized for their **environmental role** in improving air quality, mitigating flooding from extreme weather, and reducing the urban heat island effect.
- A **connected trail system** offers personal health and wellness benefits by promoting outdoor physical activities.
- **Partnerships** between municipalities and community organizations enhance efficiencies.
- **Community development** models support community organizations to deliver programs and services.

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

- Project Promotion and Awareness
- Initial Virtual Public Information Boards
- Community Survey and Questionnaire
- Stakeholder Focus Groups and Survey
- Staff Workshops
- Committee of the Whole Presentation
- Written Input

To date, over **1,600** people of all ages and **27** community organizations have participated and provided input.

### Top Five Most Popular Parks & Recreation Activities in South Dundas

-  **1. Walking or Hiking for Leisure**
-  **2. Enjoying the Waterfront**
-  **3. Enjoying Parks And Open Space**
-  **4. Use the Beach**
-  **5. Dog Walking (on or off-leash)**

### Summary of Key Consultation Themes

The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced how people participate in parks and recreation activities, but residents are adapting and are finding new ways to get active and connect with others.

There is a demand for casual, unstructured activities for residents of all ages.

There is strong community pride in the parks and recreation activities that are available, particularly with respect to the Iroquois and Morrisburg Waterfronts.


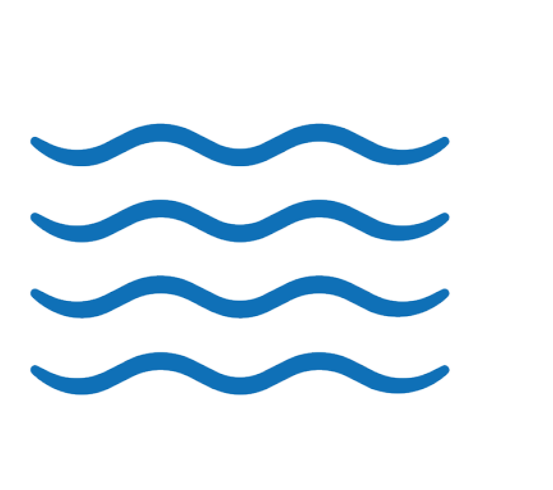



Emphasis should be placed on improving the use of existing facilities; to support this, suggestions were made to modernize spaces (e.g., accessibility, technology, etc.)

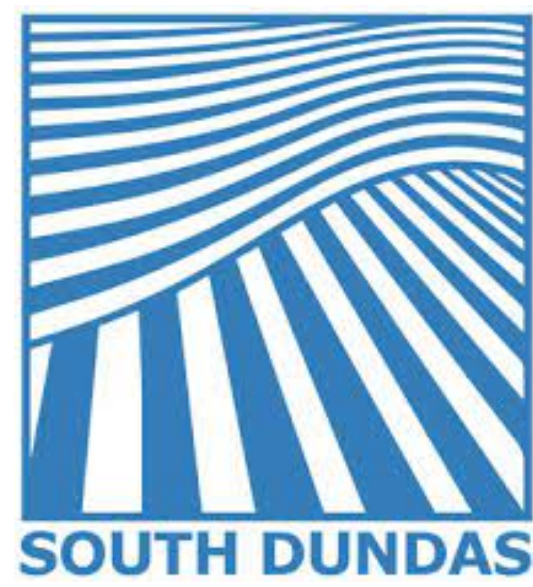
There is a desire for a new multi-use recreation facility to function as a community hub and gathering space with a pool, gymnasium, program space, indoor artificial turf field, and more.

Community groups are a strength in South Dundas but there are concerns about the ability to retain and attract new volunteers, particularly among the younger demographic. Continuing to provide organizations with municipal support was suggested.

Improve awareness and participation through communication and marketing.

### Top Five Facility Priorities for Additional Municipal Spending

-  **1. Nature Trails**
-  **2. South Dundas Waterfront**
-  **3. Beach**
-  **4. Paved Multi-use Trails**
-  **5. Indoor Swimming Pools**



# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

## Select Recommendations



### Parks & Trails

**Update to the Morrisburg Waterfront Plan and Iroquois Commons Waterfront Park Plan to explore new and exciting ideas and strategies to become more multi-use.**

**Develop an Active Transportation Strategy to consider linkages to the waterfront, pathways within parks, trails within new residential areas, ways to encourage trail use, and partnerships with others to connect the rural areas over the long-term.**

**Parks, open spaces, trails and the waterfront should be designed with universal accessibility in mind to minimize physical barriers.**

**Implement strategies to be more resilient to climate change such as pollinator gardens, tree canopy targets, naturalizing and open space. Coyle Drive Park, Glen Stewart Park, McIntosh Park, Steward Drive Park and Meadowbrook Park may be suitable locations.**

**Evaluate parks and trails to incorporate comfort features such as shade, lighting, pathways, and picnic tables.**

**Work with the arts and culture community to identify opportunities to identify locations for public art and heritage features.**

### Indoor Recreation Facilities

**Maximize the use of the Morrisburg Arena such as promoting daytime use and weekends, as well as establishing an online booking portal to book last minute ice rentals.**

**Undertake an architectural study of the Iroquois Civic Centre to include a gymnasium-type space, multi-purpose space, library and fire hall.**

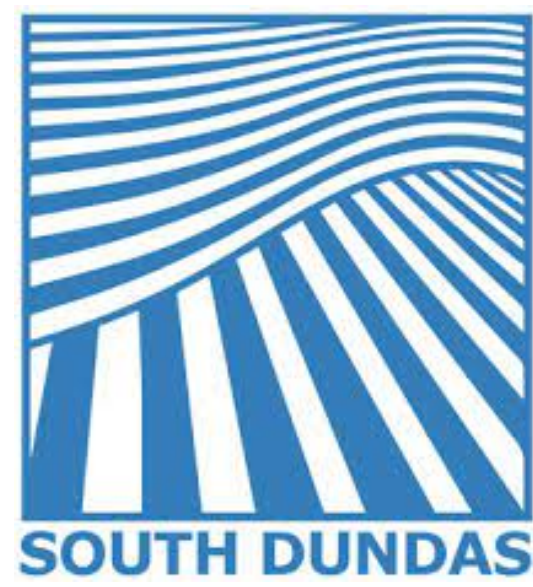
**Evaluate opportunities to provide multi-use community space at a potential facility along the Morrisburg waterfront, which should include storage space for outdoor programs and space for relocating the Lending Library. The existing Lending Library at the arena could be repurposed to multi-use space.**

**Engage third-party space providers to establish or increase public access to non-municipal community spaces.**

**Enhance community halls and multi-purpose spaces to address aging building components including accessibility retrofits and modernize amenities such as offering wireless internet.**

**Establish drop-in times for youth and older adults and seniors in existing public spaces.**

**Create a capital reserve for future indoor multi-use facility projects. Indoor multi-use sports facility needs should be re-evaluated during the next master plan period.**



# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

## Select Recommendations



### Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Collect annual registration and schedules to inform future sports field needs and engage groups to identify and prioritize improvements.

Supported by community fundraising and partnerships, construct a splash pad at Iroquois Beach, a basic spray feature at Matilda Memorial Park, and an off-leash dog park in Iroquois.

Construct a multi-use sports pad at Earl Baker Park for outdoor skating and include two courts for tennis and pickleball and one court for basketball and ball hockey.

Establish multi-use courts for basketball and ball hockey at Haldane Park, Render Park, Orchard Park, Winchester Springs Park and Riverside Heights Park

Construct a community-based skate park at Earl Baker Park and monitor demand for a second location at Haldane Park. Establish small skate zones at Riverside Heights Park and Matilda Memorial Park.

Provide two sand volleyball courts at Iroquois Beach and Morrisburg Beach. Monitor the need for a second court at Matilda Memorial Park.

Target playground replacement after a period of 15 years. New or redeveloped playgrounds should incorporate barrier-free components including ramps, accessible swings, and firm surfaces.

Construct a natural/adventurer playground at Iroquois Beach.

Provide outdoor fitness equipment at Morrisburg and Iroquois Waterfront, Duncan Park, Matilda Memorial Park and other neighbourhood and local level parks.

Continue to work with the Iroquois Lawn Bowling Club to promote the sport and ensure long-term success.

Continue to support the Iroquois Waterfront Committee to study the feasibility for a disc golf course along the waterfront.

### Service Delivery

Strengthen volunteer recruitment through technology, training, and tracking volunteer hours.

Meet with underrepresented segments of the community to identify ways to be more inclusive of all residents.

Develop a Standard Access Policy and promote available funding to minimize financial barriers.

Meet with persons with disabilities to explore ways to include more persons with disabilities in recreation programs.

Ensure that all public spaces and facilities are safe and welcoming for the LGBTQI2S community.