

# DECISION NOTE

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<b>Title:</b>	Recreation Master Plan
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	February 3, 2025
<b>Report To:</b>	Committee of the Whole
<b>Councillor and Role:</b>	Councillor Jill Bruce, Community Services
<b>Ward:</b>	N/A

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## **Decision Required:**

To seek Council's approval for the adoption of the new Recreation Master Plan, which provides a comprehensive framework for managing the current and future provision of recreation facilities, spaces and programs in St. John's.

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

The City of St. John's has developed a new Recreation Master Plan, a comprehensive framework designed to proactively manage the current and future provision of recreation facilities, spaces and programs. The recommendations and direction within the Recreation Master Plan will help prioritize investment in recreation over the next decade.

The plan builds on the previous Recreation Master Plan (2008-2018) and was developed through research and engagement, including resident surveys, community group surveys, community meetings and various engagement activities. It includes ten strategic recommendations supported by 37 tactical actions and three decision-making frameworks to guide implementation which are summarized below:

1. **Inclusive Opportunities for All:** Address barriers to participation for underrepresented groups (youth, seniors, Indigenous, low-income, New Canadians) by developing culturally relevant programs and ensuring spaces respect Indigenous culture.
2. **Support Community-led Programs:** Strengthen partnerships with volunteer-based groups, provide funding and training to enhance community initiatives, and collaborate with local organizations to increase youth sports participation.
3. **Equitable Service Delivery:** Review policies through an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens, and adopt new practices that reflect community needs in facility allocation and service delivery.
4. **Geographic Balance in Services:** Ensure recreation spaces are accessible in all neighborhoods by utilizing frameworks for new facilities, exploring temporary activations, and planning for future community spaces in underserved areas. This includes planning for a new community recreation space in the Ward 5 area.

# ST. JOHN'S

5. **Support Events for Community Benefits:** Foster inclusion and a sense of belonging through community events, celebrate diverse cultures, and develop strategies to attract and leverage regional events.
6. **High-Quality Recreation Spaces:** Design multifunctional, accessible facilities that consider climate resilience and environmental sustainability. Maintain long-term service levels through a robust asset management policy.
7. **Improve Connectivity for Active Transportation:** Prioritize open spaces and recreational connectivity in city developments and enhance access to recreational assets through improved transportation infrastructure.
8. **Integrate New Technologies:** Use data collection to understand program utilization, improve decision-making, and develop more efficient systems for booking and managing recreation services.
9. **Enhance Communication:** Use diverse communication channels to inform the public about recreation opportunities, maintain transparency through feedback loops, and implement effective marketing campaigns.
10. **Build Community Capacity:** Support networking and capacity-building for local organizations for ongoing collaboration and feedback on recreation services.

#### **Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Various community, sport, and recreation groups and organizations as well as members of the general public.
3. Is this a New Plan or Strategy: Yes

If yes, are there recommendations or actions that require progress reporting?  
Staff will review the recommendations from the plan and apply them against current practices in developing strategic short and long term goals for implementation.

4. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Connected City: Develop and deliver programs, services and public spaces that build safe, healthy and vibrant communities.

A Connected City: Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect with each other and the City.

5. Alignment with Adopted Plans: 2008-2018 Recreation Masterplan & Healthy City Strategy

6. Accessibility and Inclusion: The plan provides recommendations to make recreation opportunities more inclusive and accessible to all residents.

4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A

5. Privacy Implications: N/A

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: Recommendations align with enhanced practices for communicating recreation opportunities.

7. Human Resource Implications: N/A

8. Procurement Implications: N/A

9. Information Technology Implications: Recommendations discuss the use of technology to build more efficient systems.

10. Other Implications: N/A

**Recommendation:**

That Council approve the adoption of the new Recreation Master Plan to ensure the continued provision of high-quality recreation services that meet the needs of all residents and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

**Prepared by:**

**Approved by: Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager, Community Services**