

KEY LIFESTYLE TRENDS

- High levels of physical inactivity and obesity are observed across the country, largely due to a lack of time and participation in sedentary forms of leisure (i.e. watching television, online activities, etc.).
- To facilitate healthy lifestyles, all levels of government are examining ways to increase physical activity and participation levels through the introduction of programs, funding, and other initiatives.

1.6. DECISION MAKING

Difficult decisions need to be made about the types of parks and recreation facilities and programs that will be provided to our residents and visitors. In keeping with the Pathways to Wellbeing: A Framework for Recreation in Canada, we are working to make decisions that are outcomes-focused and data-supported. In making decisions – whether it be the allocation of field time, the hiring of staff, or capital investment in new facilities – it is important that we can differentiate the long list “demands” from actual community “needs.”

As a public recreation and parks provider, we need to ensure resources and capacity are allocated in a manner that attains the greatest public good for residents. The greatest public good is achieved when an investment will provide a direct or indirect benefit to all residents on the Island, regardless of whether they utilize parks and recreation or not.

To help prioritize, and to improve our ability to be outcomes-focused and data-supported, we developed a clear and transparent decision support framework (see fig.4). The framework ensures we comprehensively evaluate each option proposed by the community and staff against transparent and objective criteria. In addition to serving as an evaluation framework, it is also intended to serve as a tool to “trigger” the review and evaluation of a parks and recreation facility, park licensing application or program.

The decision support framework is applied to evaluate the parks and recreation recommendations in this plan and will be used by the PARC and CRD as a guide to evaluate any future facility and programming proposals that may arise outside of the strategies in this plan. The criteria provided here will be integrated into all decision making and application processes and used to help consistently evaluate ideas, applications and proposals.

Starting with staff, new opportunities are assessed against the outcomes. Weighting factors can be applied to each outcome and staff, followed by PARC can complete the assessment. The results from each group can be considered to determine alignment. Collectively, the results will demonstrate a priority for action that can be used for implementation.



figure 4 - decision support framework

The criteria include and are defined as follows:

Outcomes Alignment – The proposed initiative will support the CRD in achieving the outcomes identified in this plan and is part of the core parks and recreation service functions of the CRD as contained within broader strategic planning.

Public Benefit – All Island residents will benefit directly or indirectly by implementing the proposed initiative, regardless of whether they participate directly in the initiative.

Demographic Trends – Population trends and growth areas on the Island support a need for the proposed initiative.

Recreation Behavior Trends – Parks and recreation trends support the proposed initiative.

Community Support – Parks and recreation stakeholders and the community at large identified and supported the proposed initiative during engagements.

Capacity – Analysis of parks and recreation capacity and utilization on the Island supports the proposed initiative.

Conditions & Functionality – Existing facility or facility spaces have less than 25% remaining in their lifecycle (as determined by ongoing lifecycle planning) and investment in the proposed initiative would create, extend or replace the necessary capacity.

Innovation & Risk Management – The proposed initiative demonstrates innovation in some form – design, operations, efficiencies, etc. and the potential risks associated with the initiative are minimal or can be reasonably mitigated.

Environmental Impacts – The environmental impacts of implementing the proposed initiative will be identified and evaluated in relation to the benefit of the proposed initiative.

Financial Viability – The proposed initiative has the ability to generate appropriate cost recovery relative to operating and maintenance expenditures.

