

## GOAL 8:

# FOSTER A SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION SPACES

## That Are Safe and Welcoming to All

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*A core value of the Park Board is the desire to create welcoming parks and recreation services for all. That's why we are committed to improving the safety and inclusiveness of our spaces through programming, education, activities, events, and enhanced park design.*

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Vibrant, well-lit green spaces and recreational facilities contribute to our physical and mental health by allowing all members of the community to connect with nature and enjoy the outdoors. Safe, inclusive parks also encourage social connections, helping to alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation and improving our overall resilience.

At the Park Board, we will continue to foster a welcoming environment for all, regardless of income, ability, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ethnicity. Our initiatives include our Leisure Access Program, which makes

recreation more affordable for low-income residents; gender neutral washrooms, upgraded pathways, beach mats and Jericho's new adaptive pier to improve access for persons with disabilities; and swim and fitness programs that offer a safe space for the Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirited communities.

By fostering an environment of inclusiveness, and community connectedness we are ensuring our green spaces and recreational facilities remain safe and welcoming places for everyone.