



Oakville  
Public  
Library

# Parks, Recreation and Library Master Plan

Oakville Public Library Board – May 9, 2024



**Monteith♦Brown**  
planning consultants

# Agenda

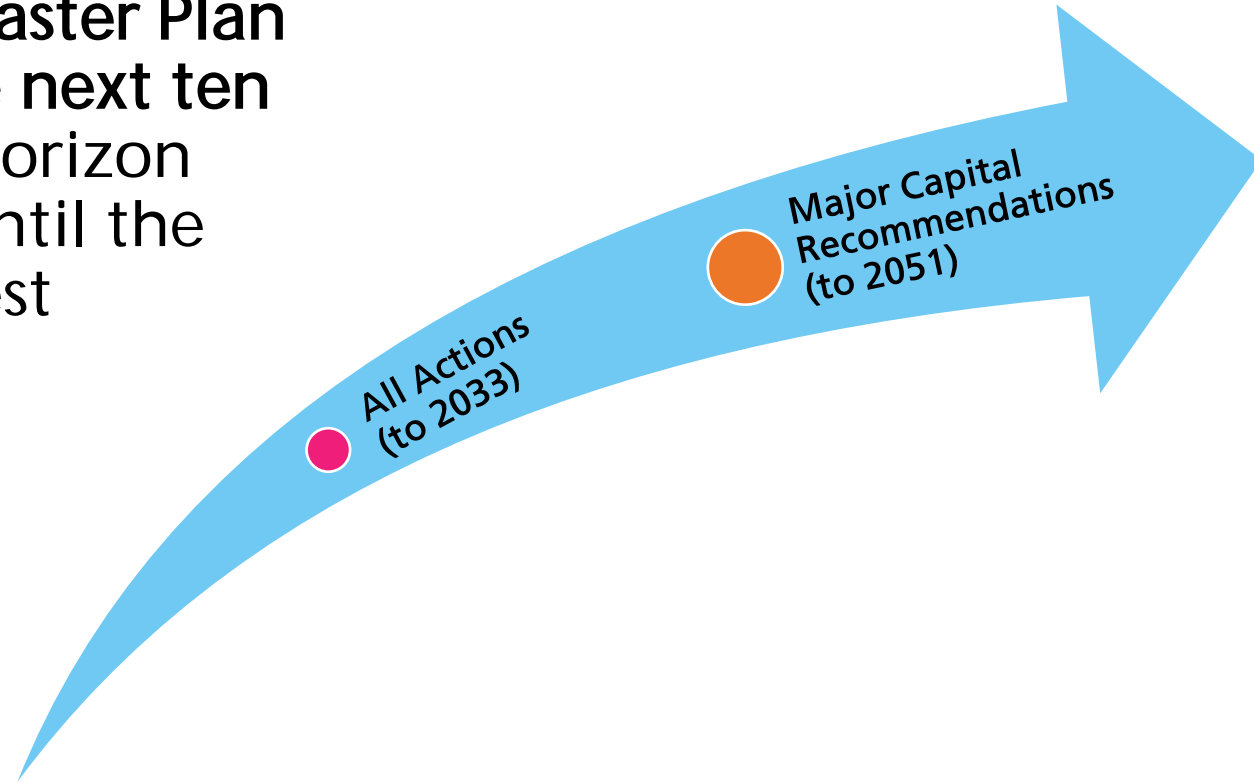
1. Project Overview
2. Public Engagement
3. Needs Assessment Approach
4. Strategic Framework
5. Objectives
6. Key Themes and Selected Actions
7. Next Steps



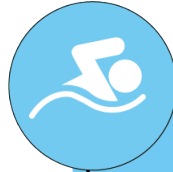
# About the Plan

The **Parks, Recreation and Library Master Plan** strategically guides the town for the **next ten years (2024-2033)**, with a planning horizon that considers major capital needs until the year **2051** in alignment with the latest provincial growth policies.

The master plan was last updated in 2017. A new strategy is necessary to guide our future investment in new and existing facilities and services.



# Project Scope



## **Recreation Facilities and related services**

Community centres, pools, arenas, seniors' spaces, programming, and more.



## **Public Libraries and related services**

Library branches, alternative spaces, collections, and more.



## **Park Facilities and Parkland**

Sports fields, sport courts, splash pads, community gardens, parkland, and more.

# Parks, Recreation, and Libraries are Fundamental Services

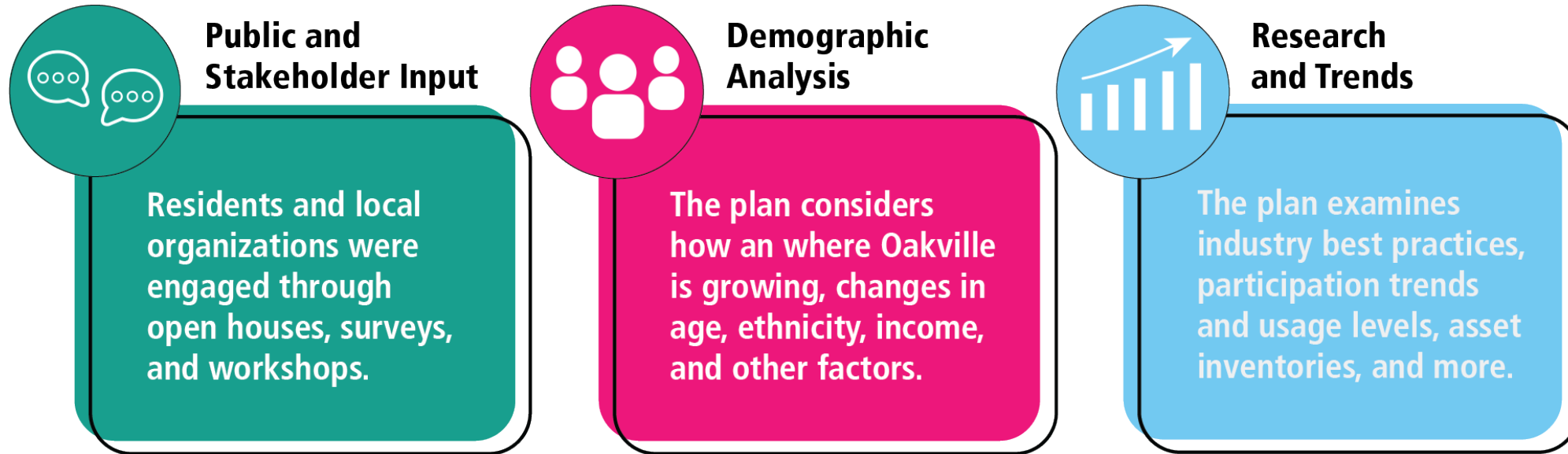
They:

- contribute to Oakville's vibrancy and livability – surveys regularly identify them as defining aspects of the town's high quality of life
- provide critical supports to maintain personal health by addressing inactivity levels, social isolation, stress and anxiety, and drowning and fall prevention
- foster lifelong learning, creative expression, and community development and pride
- support connections with nature and physical literacy
- contribute toward urban improvement, positive social outcomes, and employment and volunteering
- enable people to reach their full potential across all ages and life stages

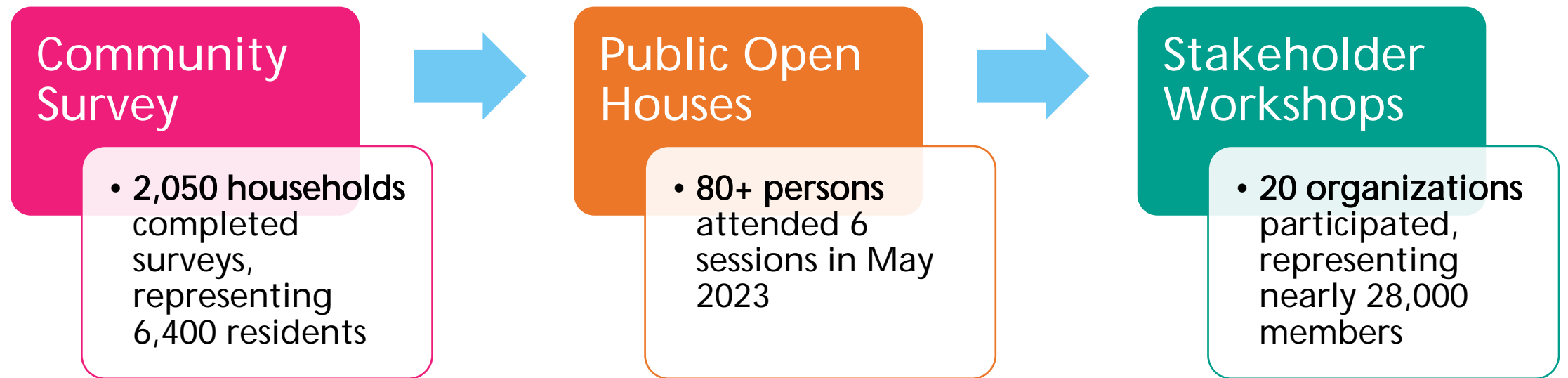


# Building Blocks

The plan is a comprehensive, evidence-based exercise grounded in the following:



# Public Engagement

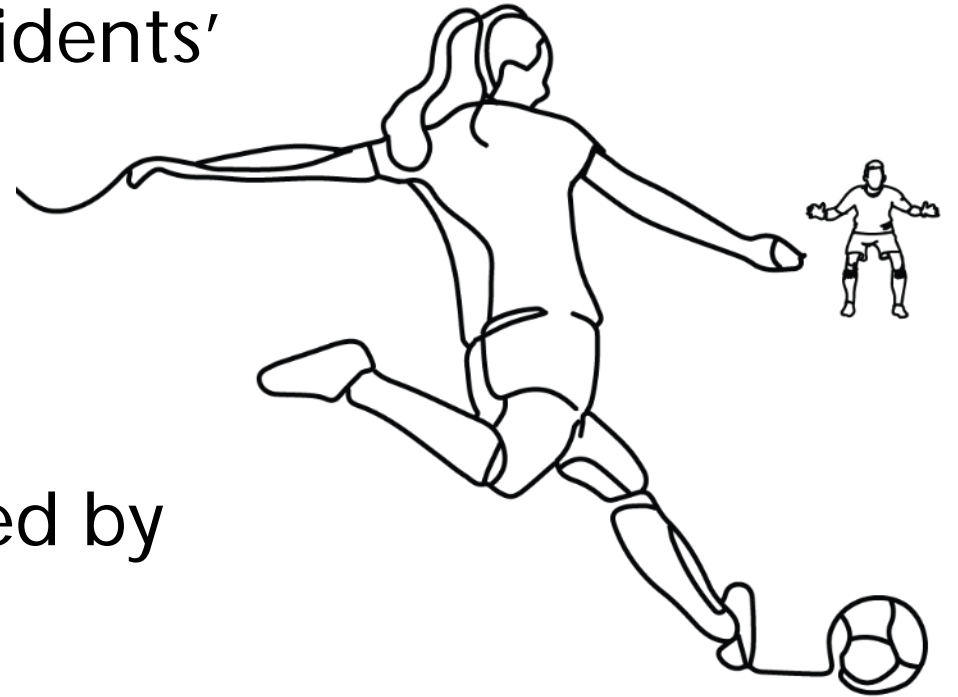


Plus, the plan leveraged public input from the Council Strategic Plan (2023), Citizen Survey (2022), and Oakville Public Library Survey (2021).

# What we have Heard

## (Parks, Recreation and Libraries)

1. Parks, recreation, and libraries are viewed as **essential services** to residents' physical and mental wellbeing
2. Oakville is an **active community**
3. **Satisfaction** with existing parks, facilities, and services is strong
4. **Passive park spaces** are appreciated by residents of all ages and abilities
5. **Outdoor recreation demands** are growing





# What we have Heard

## (Parks, Recreation and Libraries)

6. Residents value opportunities for **casual play and self-scheduled activities**
7. Oakville residents **support investment** in spaces and amenities that can be used by children, youth, and people of all ages
8. Residents are seeking greater **access to programs**
9. People still love books, but **library use** is changing



# What we have Heard

## (Parks, Recreation and Libraries)

10. As we emerge from the **COVID-19 pandemic**, some challenges remain
11. The future of Oakville's **older arenas and public libraries** requires special attention
12. A framework is needed to address **special requests**
13. **Partnerships and collaborations** will be important to moving forward

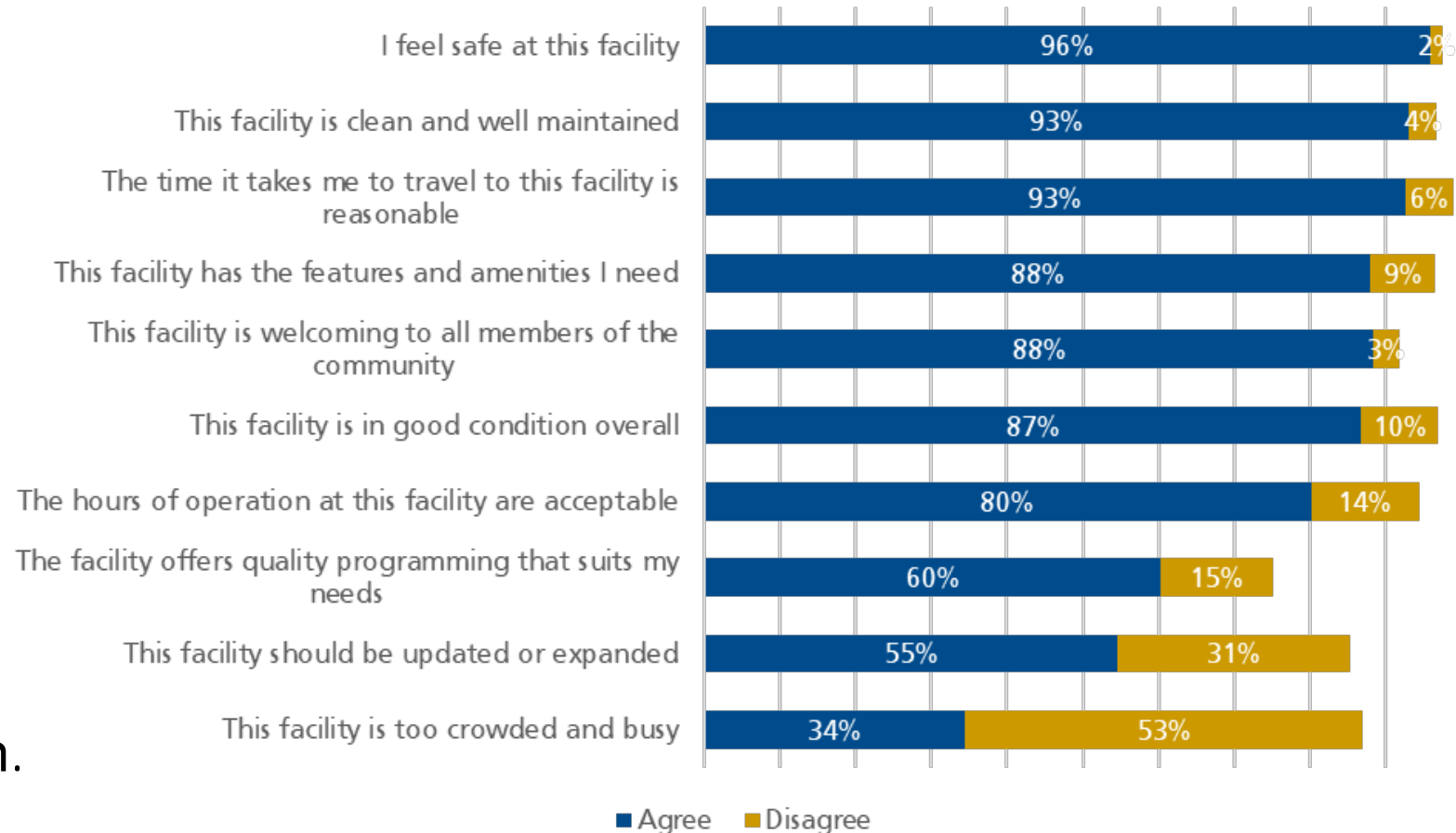


# Community Survey – Libraries

OPL's largest facilities are also their most well used, especially those co-located with community centres.

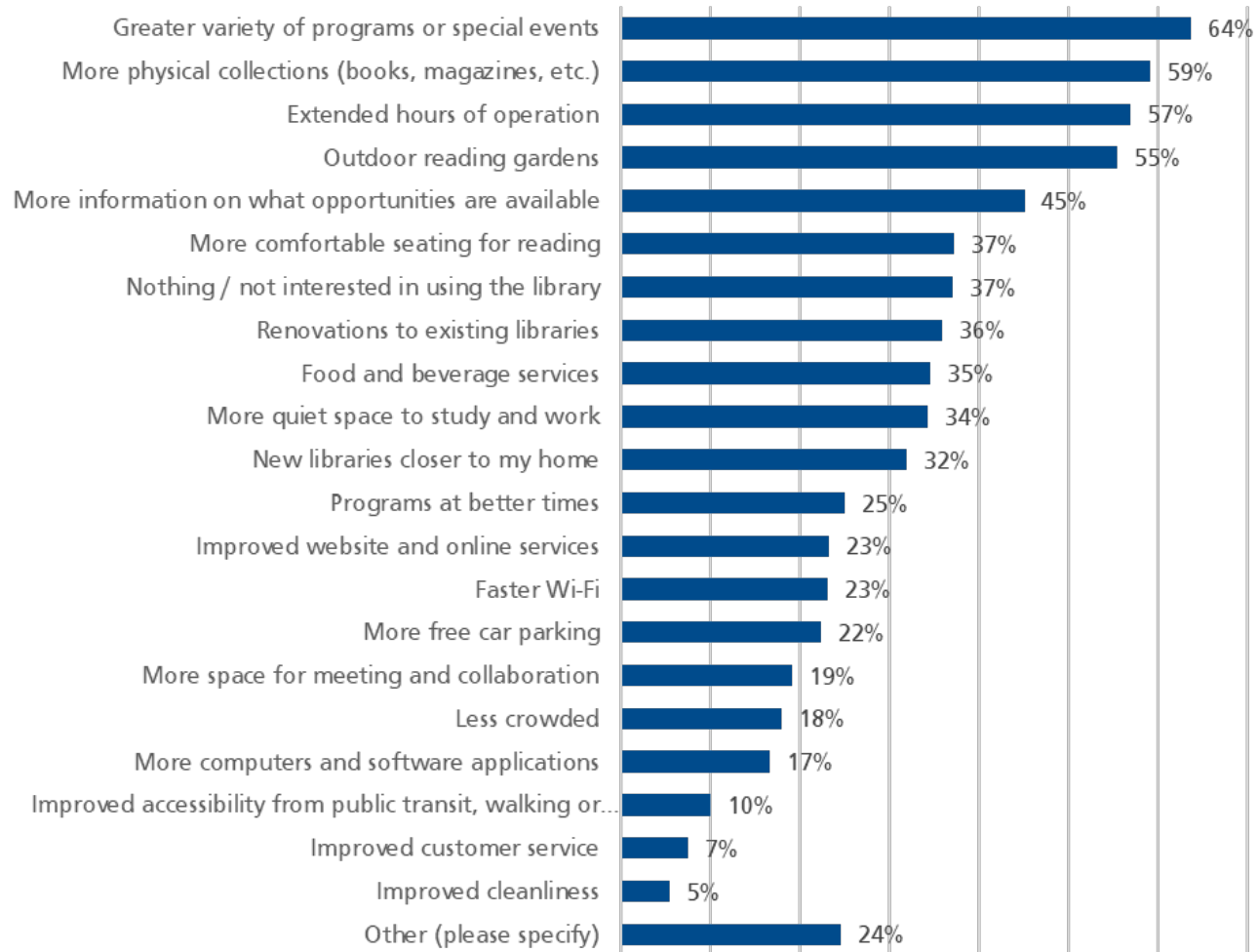
All facilities received very high ratings for safety, maintenance, and location/convenience.

Residents were more likely to indicate that older, stand-alone branches require updating/expansion.



# Community Survey – Libraries

More programming, larger collections, extended hours, and reading gardens were the most common suggestions for public libraries.



# Our Approach to Assessing Needs

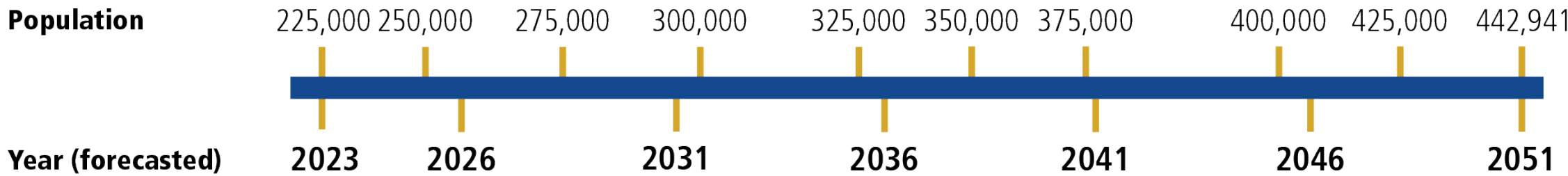
- The plan identifies capital needs using the creation of “**provision targets**” expressed through growth, equity (gaps), and participation metrics
- Creation of these targets considers public input, trends, geographic accessibility, industry best practices, Council policy, and more – they are meant to be flexibly applied
- Financial sustainability, co-locations and partnerships, and land availability are also key considerations throughout



# Timing & Priority

## Growth-related Actions

For **growth-related capital items**, the plan identifies facility needs through the application of provision targets and gap analyses. A general population threshold is identified for all growth-related actions, which serves as a trigger for development (subject to funding and readiness).



# Timing & Priority

## Non-Growth-related Actions

**Non-growth-related actions** (capital or operational) are supported by consideration of the stated objectives, facility condition/functionality, and alignment with community needs.

Projects are assigned a priority level and timeline for implementation:

### Timing

- Short-term: 2024 to 2033 (10-yr forecast)
- Medium-term: 2034 to 2041
- Longer-term: 2042 to 2051
- Ongoing (best practice): 2024 and onward

### Priority

- High Priority
- Medium Priority
- Lower Priority



# Our Approach to Addressing Needs

The plan applies the following **decision-making framework** when evaluating options for meeting emerging needs:

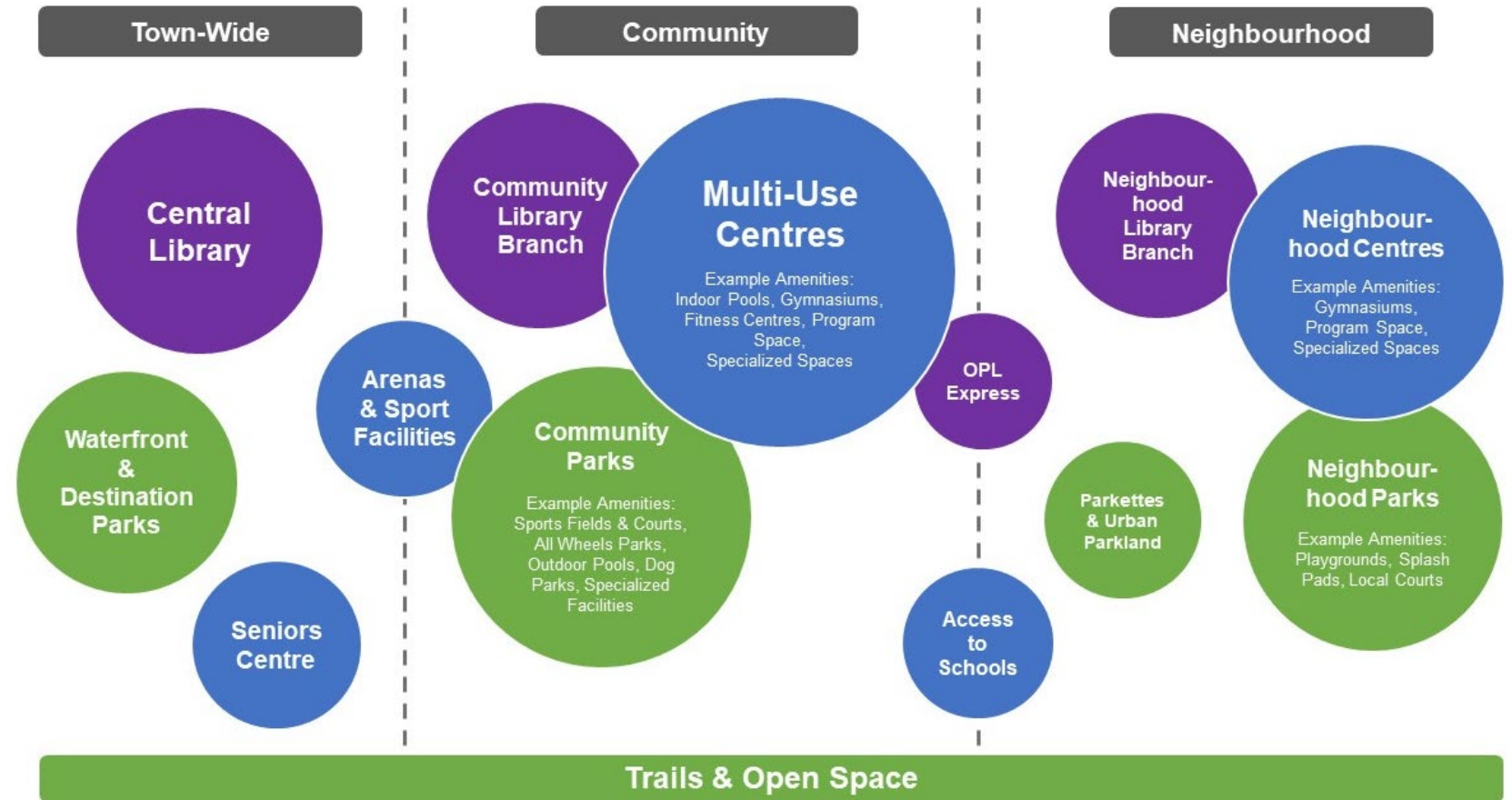
1. First, evaluate ability to meet needs through **programming or optimization initiatives**
2. Then, consider **partnerships** with other providers to leverage outside resources
3. Then, consider the potential to **expand an existing asset** to enhance capacity
4. Finally, if none of the above options are suitable, examine the viability of **new facility construction** to address demonstrated needs





# “Campus of Facilities” Model

Facilities can serve different needs and functions based on their scale and design and are tailored to specific markets ranging from neighbourhood-level to town-wide and sometimes beyond.



# Oakville's Population is Changing

Oakville is:

- **Growing**  
Many areas of the town are growing, but 59% of future growth will be in North Oakville
- **Aging**  
Older adults remain the fastest growing age group, but Oakville is still an attractive destination for families
- **Diversifying**  
Two out of five Oakville residents are immigrants; 27% of immigrants to Canada in 2022 were from India

Figure 20: Historical and Forecasted Population, Town of Oakville (1991 to 2051)

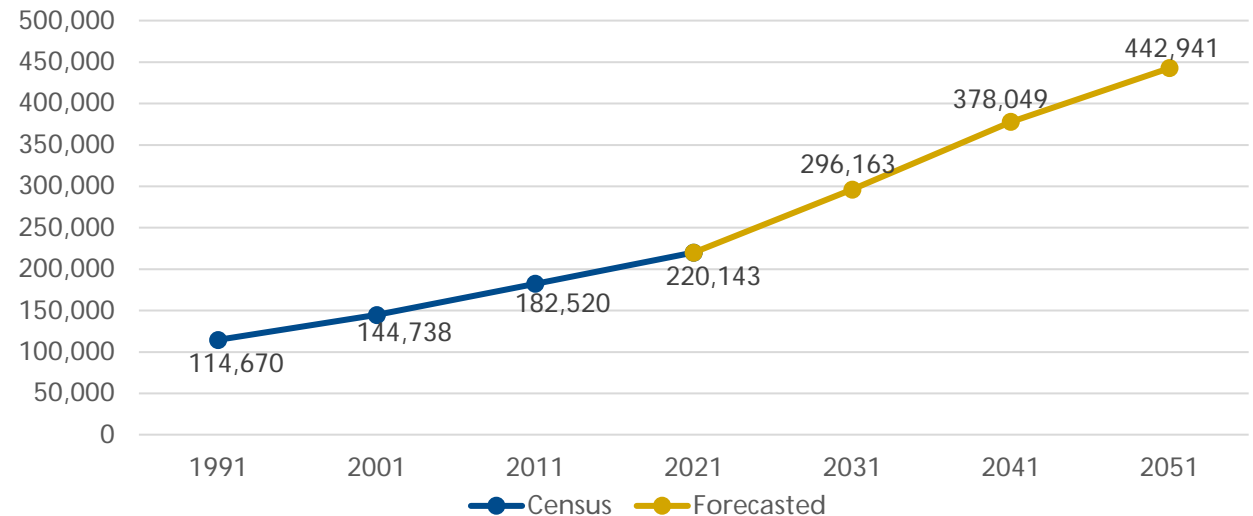
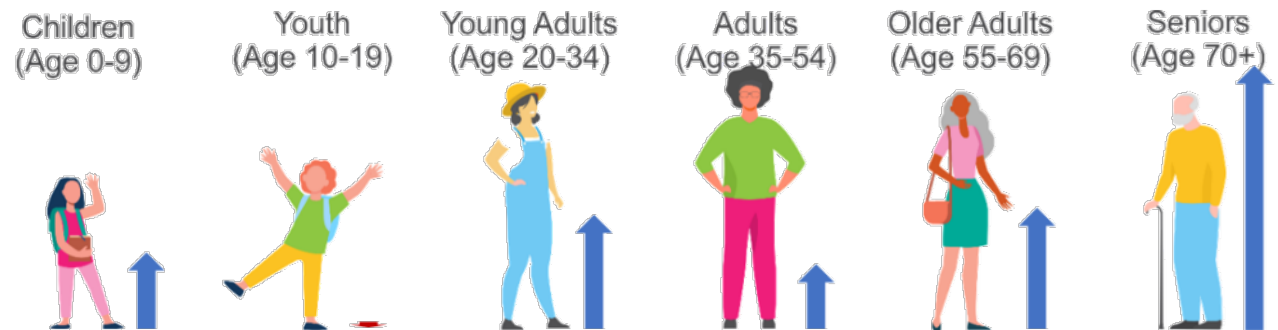


Figure 13: Population Change by Age Group, 2022 to 2032, Town of Oakville

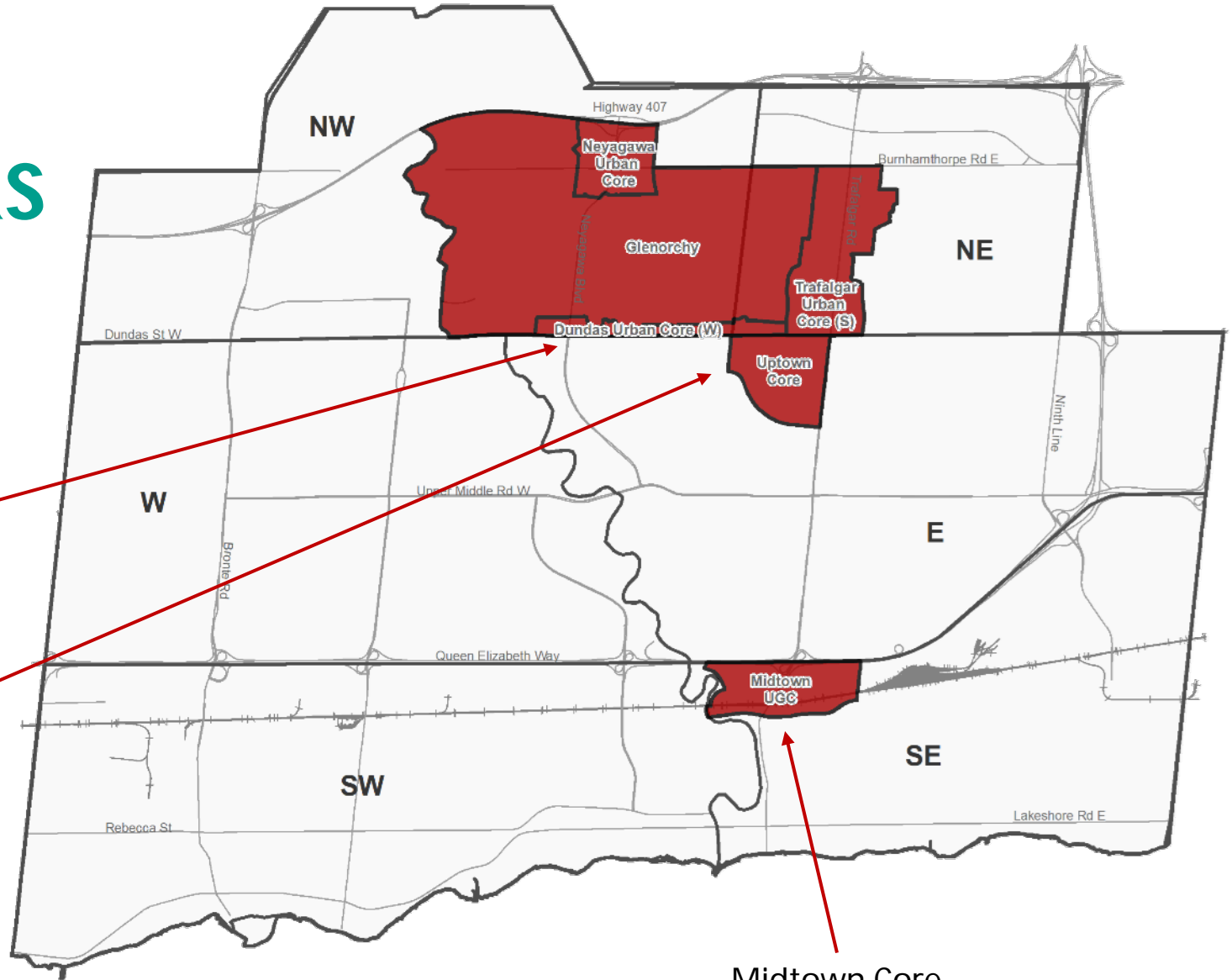


Source: Environics Analytics (2023)

# High Growth Areas (2021-51)

Glenorchy / Neyagawa /  
Dundas Urban Core W  
**38,637**

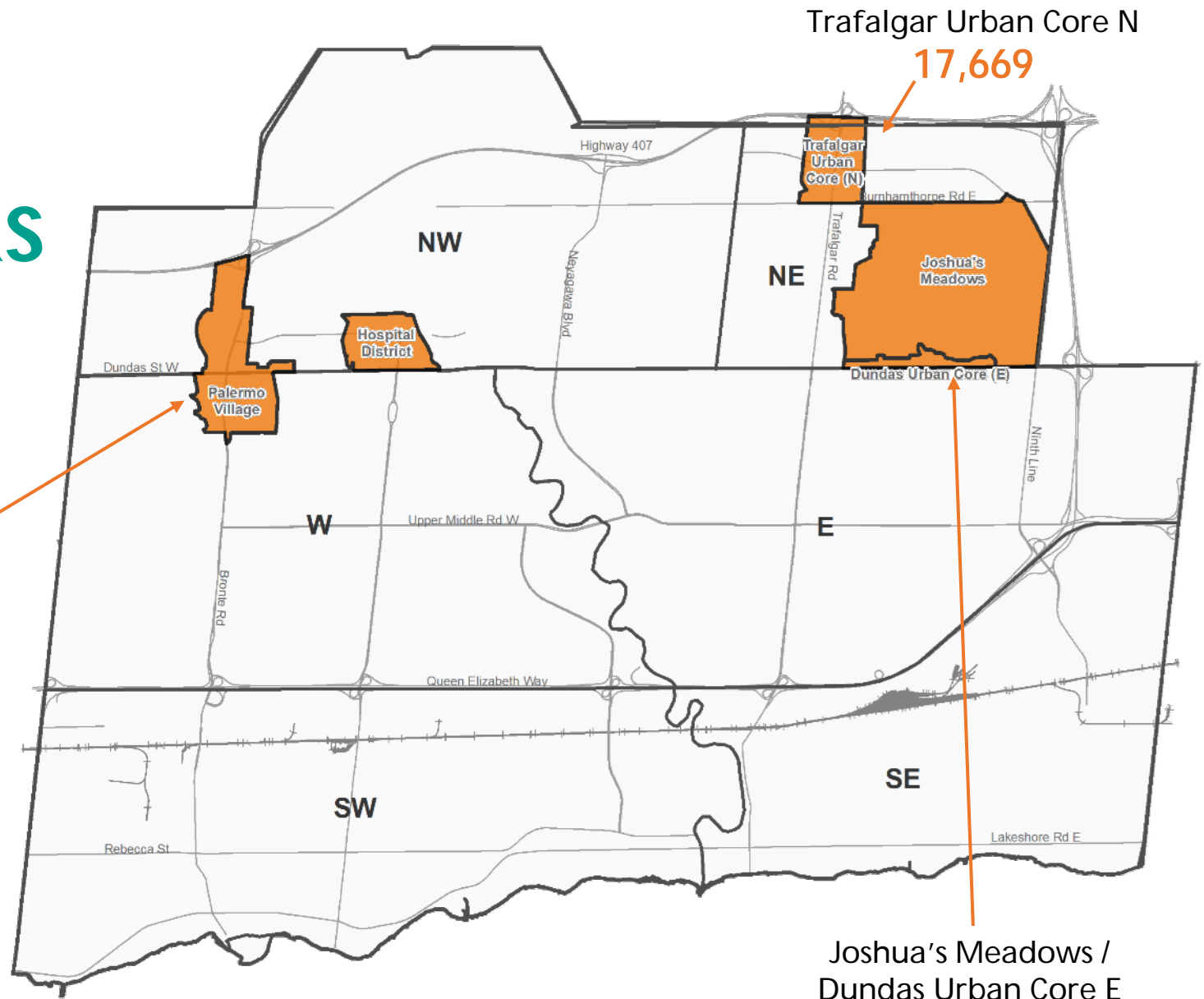
Trafalgar Urban Core S  
/ Uptown Core  
**49,284**



Midtown Core  
**31,829**

# Medium Growth Areas (2021-51)

Palermo Village /  
Hospital District  
**19,011**

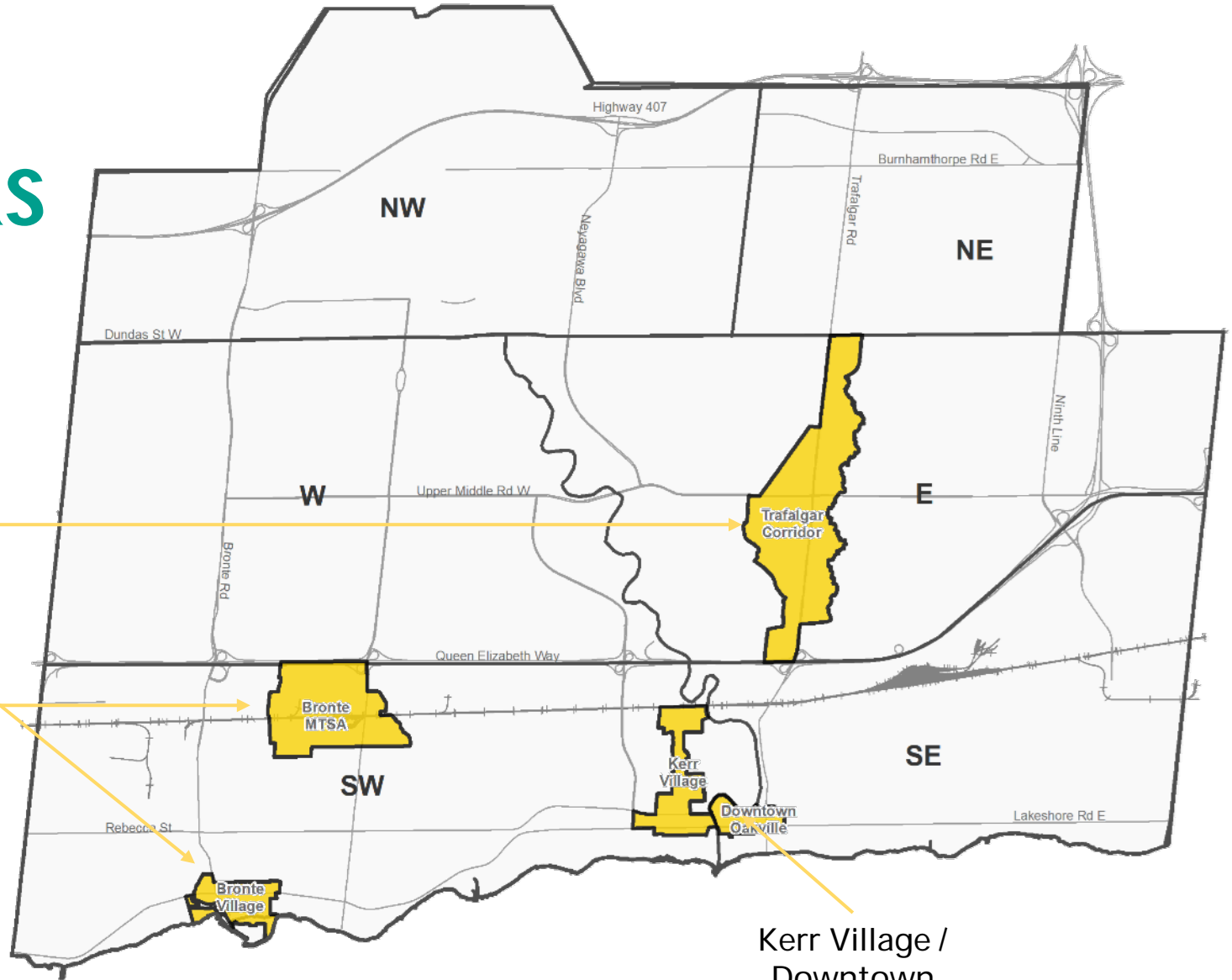


# Lower Growth Areas (2021-51)

Trafalgar Corridor  
8,856

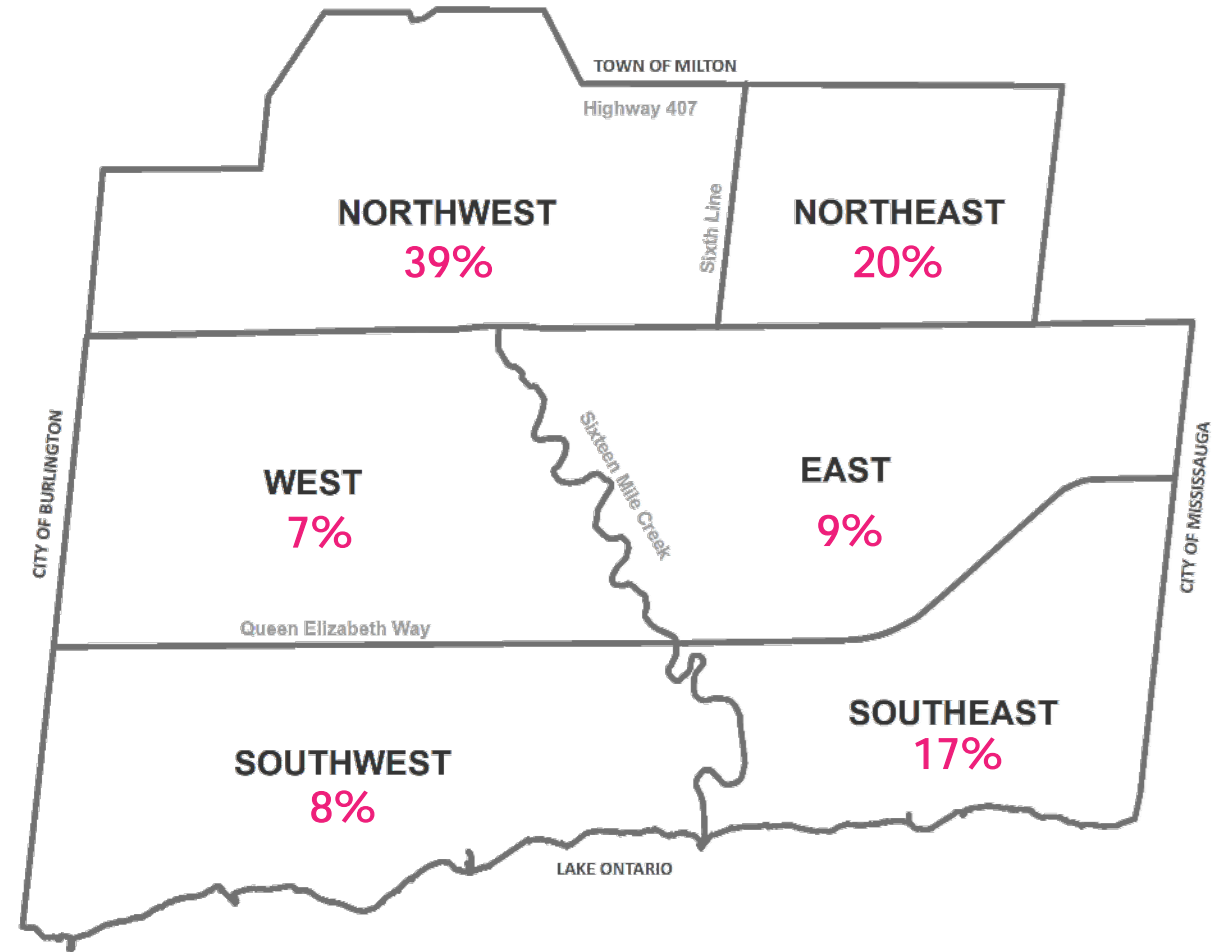
Bronte Village /  
Bronte GO  
7,444

Kerr Village /  
Downtown  
8,126



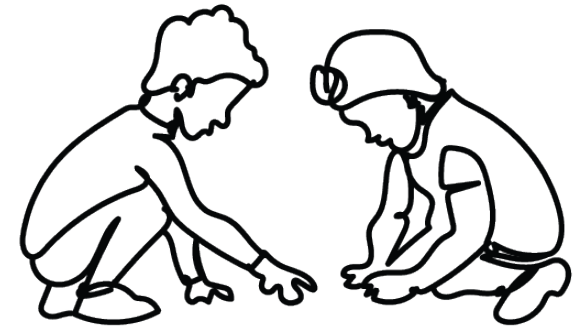
# Population by Plan Area

Plan Area	Growth (2021-51)	Town-wide Totals
Northeast	86,612	39%
Northwest	44,941	20%
East	20,546	9%
West	15,025	7%
Southeast	38,230	17%
Southwest	17,244	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,798</b>	<b>100%</b>

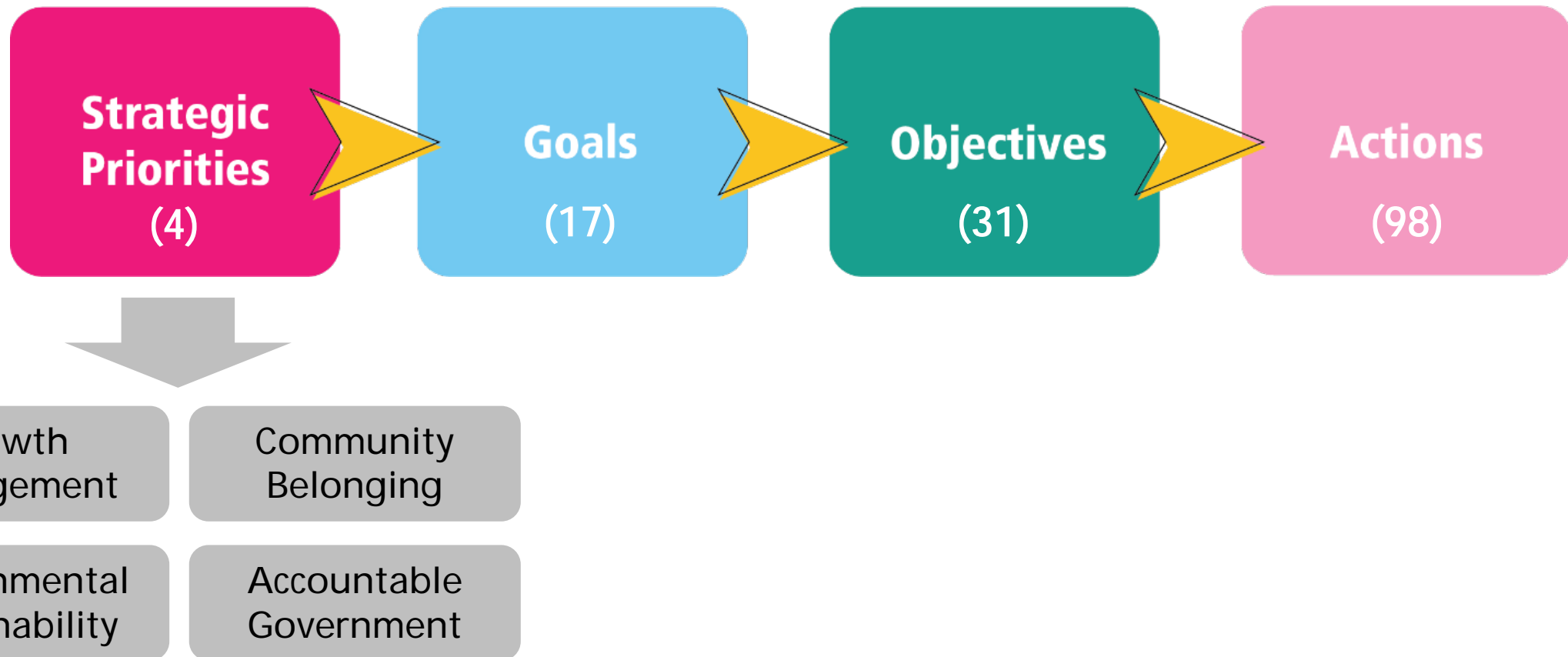


# Key Themes within the Plan

1. Preparing for Growth and Securing our Future
2. Supporting Equity, Wellbeing, and Emerging Needs
3. Optimizing our Assets and Providing Spaces to Thrive
4. Fostering Belonging, Accessibility, and Inclusion for All
5. Enhancing Outdoor Opportunities and Connectivity
6. Reducing our Environmental Impact
7. Leveraging Progressive Tools and Technologies
8. Working with Others and Building in Flexibility



# Master Plan Strategic Framework





# Libraries – Objectives

- A. Embrace Evolving Roles
- B. Enhance and Revitalize Existing Branches
- C. Provide New Branches in Strategic Locations
- D. Evaluate Alternative Service Models
- E. Maintain High Quality Services
- F. Consider Extended Hours
- G. Support for At-Risk Populations
- H. Partner with the Town



# Library and Community Facilities

## Selected Actions (2024-2051)

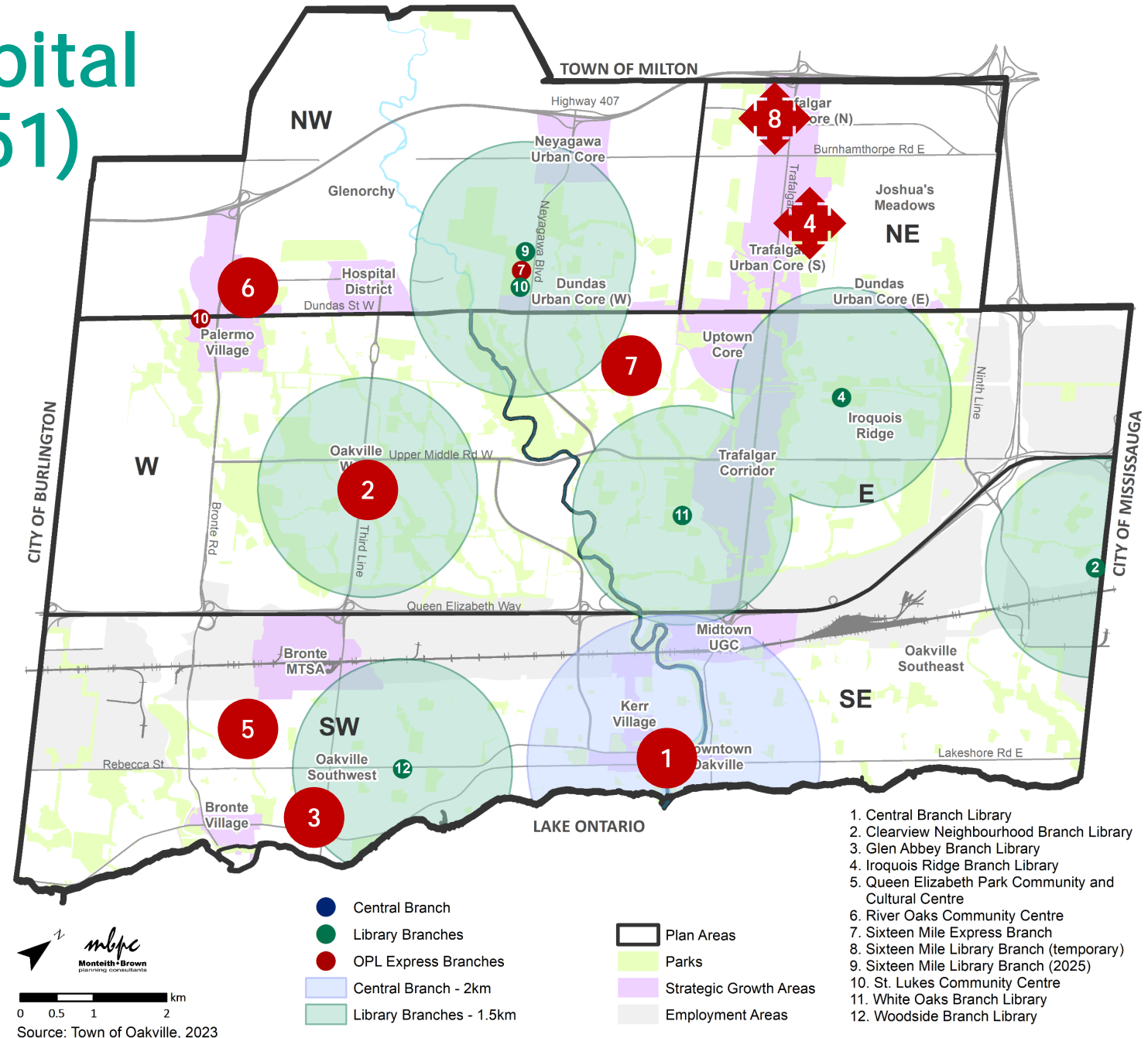
- **Glen Abbey CC:** expand and revitalize – replace pool; new change rooms and sauna; enlarge gymnasium; add 2 squash courts (begin planning in 2027)
- **Sir John Colborne Recreation Centre:** expand and renovate (275,000 pop. target)
- **Trafalgar Urban Core South:** new library (275,000 pop. target) and multi-use CC with 6-10 lane 25m indoor pool, gymnasium, fitness centre, auditorium (375,000 pop. target)
- **QEPCCC:** new library branch (300,000 pop. target)
- **Palermo:** new library (tech-focused) and neighbourhood CC with gymnasium, meeting and activity rooms (325,000 pop. target)
- **River Oaks CC:** expand and revitalize – gymnasium expansion; new fitness centre and studio spaces; removal of squash/racquetball courts; add library branch (2034-2041)
- **Trafalgar Urban Core North:** new library and neighbourhood CC with gymnasium, meeting and activity rooms (425,000 pop. target)

# Recommended Capital Program (2024-2051)

Presented in order of implementation

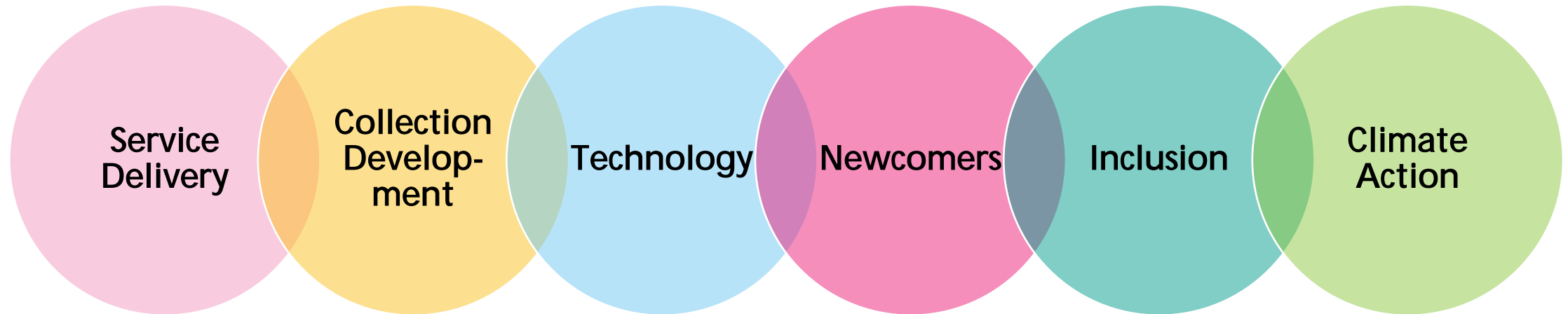
1. Replace Central Library Branch
2. Begin planning to expand and revitalize GACC (seek to expand library through future phase)
3. Expand Sir John Colborne Recreation Centre for Seniors
4. \*New multi-use centre in Trafalgar Urban Core South (library phase 1, CC phase 2)
5. Examine potential to establish library branch at QEPCCC
6. New neighbourhood CC & library in Palermo
7. Expand and revitalize ROCC and add library
8. \*New neighbourhood CC & library in Trafalgar Urban Core North

\* site/land required



# Library Services

Beyond space/facilities, the plan includes recommended actions and questions for further consideration around the following:





# Library Service Delivery

## Selected Actions (2024-2033)

- Continue to expand **library outreach and alternative delivery models** (e.g., express libraries, etc.) to emerging communities and gap areas
- Plan for a **flexible, unstructured footprint** in new and renewed libraries to respond with agility to emerging and future service needs
- Develop a **future operating hours plan** to align with defined service levels
- Implement more **place-based programming** to augment the existing slate of programs both in person and online





# Library Service Delivery

## Selected Actions (2024-2033)

- Establish service levels for **new technologies** to help bridge the digital divide.
- Complete an **expanded technology strategy** to foster experimentation and innovation at new and renovated library locations
- Enhance **multilingual collections**, newcomer resources online, computer training, and ESL programming
- Continue to conduct **diversity audits** to build more diverse collections





# Library Service Delivery

## Selected Actions (2024-2033)

- Expand programming, collections, and partnerships to extend the library's reach and enhance its role in leading **climate action initiatives**
- Create a greater presence within **OPL's website** to promote climate change issues, events, and resources to increase community engagement
- Explore the feasibility of **expanded reciprocal borrowing** and resource sharing arrangements
- Explore the feasibility of embedding additional **social services** within libraries in partnership with community organizations





# Implementation

## Selected Actions (2024-2033)

- Consider **alternative funding and cost-sharing approaches** to achieve capital and operating cost recovery targets
- Ensure that **planning for major capital projects** includes community engagement, feasibility studies, and partnership options
- Develop an **annual update** (report card) to the community on the progress of the master plan
- **Update the plan** in five to ten-years





# Next Steps

1. Workshop with Council – May 13
2. Seek public input on draft plan (online survey)
3. Finalize report and present to Council (September)



# Wrap-up

Thank you for your input!  
Any questions?



