

Durham Region, Durham Municipalities and partner organizations are committed to providing each and every resident with safe and enjoyable recreational experiences and believe that each resident has the right to access recreation services. This Charter to Advance Access to Affordable Recreation in Durham Region describes these basic rights and the collective responsibility we share to ensure equitable access for all residents regardless of their status and background.

We believe that every resident in Durham Region should have access to:

Participation: Participate in quality, safe, affordable recreation and culture programs that are in harmony with the diversity of the community.

Equity: Be encouraged to join regardless of one's background and ability to pay.

Active Living: Be physically active through participation in organized and informal sports, recreation and cultural activities.

Access to Nature & the Outdoors: Experience nature and access to open spaces within their communities.

Enriching Experiences: Experience arts, culture, heritage, sports and recreation.

A Welcoming & Inclusive Community: Be included in activities that build strong communities, engaged residents and contribute to healthy family life.

Engagement: Be engaged in the planning of recreation, parks and culture in their communities and participate in volunteer activities.

We will work together with all of our community partners to:

- Understand the barriers to participation in recreation and address them through inclusive policies and programs.
- Educate residents on the importance of participating in recreation and the benefits to the individual, families and communities.
- Provide a balance of fee based and no cost/low cost opportunities that are accessible to all residents.
- Subsidize residents who are in need of assistance to participate in the activities of their choice.
- Measure our success and report to the community and partners.

We commit to working together because the benefits to individual and communities are positive and worth our joint efforts. Research indicates that the provision of parks, recreation and cultural opportunities is an essential service that enhances individuals and the greater community.

Recreation is essential to:

- Personal Health
- Human Development
- Quality of Life
- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviours
- Building Families and Communities
- Investing in Community's Future

The following partners strive to work better together to include all residents facing barriers to participation in recreational pursuits.



