

Gore Meadows Community Centre & Library

City of Brampton / ZAS Architects + Interiors
10150 The Gore Road, Brampton, Ontario

New Building, Institutional - A.4.3



Located on 143 acres of former farmland, the new Gore Meadows Community Centre & Library is a unique multi-use facility, which will eventually contain over 300,000 sq.ft. of amenities for the residents of a rapidly growing multi-cultural residential district in north-east Brampton. The West Humber River flows through the western portion of the site and a smaller tributary is located at the south east corner.

While modern in appearance, the design of both the site and the building reflect the area's rural heritage by drawing inspiration from the surrounding agricultural and natural landscapes. Reminiscent of the adjacent farm fields, the Community Centre site is an abstract expression of linearly planted bands of selected vegetation, including perennial flower beds framed by grids of bushes and treed orchards. This constructed landscape becomes the foreground for the building's main exterior feature: a multi-directional curved glass "wave" wall designed to recollect the undulations of wind-blown planted harvest fields.

Conceived from inception as a new 'Center of the Community', the Gore Meadows facility combines sport, fitness, recreation, leisure and library services all on one site, and under one roof. The central organizing element of the building is a timber-framed public promenade that stretches along the west facade to link together the community rooms, fitness centre, and public library. The 64,000 sq.ft. Phase 2 addition, currently under construction, will add an aquatics centre and full fitness facility. A future indoor soccer/cricket centre, consisting of an enclosed FIFA regulation soccer pitch, is envisioned as part of the facility master plan.

Exterior public amenities include a lamella-structure covered 3-on-3 ice rink (which doubles in summer as performance or other hard surface space), an innovative water play area, and a quiet, treed plaza adjacent to the existing historical Doherty-Fitzpatrick farmhouse (which was incorporated into the overall site design). These features are framed by an extension of the building's interior spine into the public realm, which intersects with the pedestrian paths weaving through the site, and culminates in a lookout structure which provides scenic views of the naturalized landscaping, Humber tributary, and irrigation & storm water management pond.

The Community Centre and Library also utilizes a variety of innovative sustainable design strategies and systems, and has achieved a LEED Gold certification from the Canadian Green Building Council.