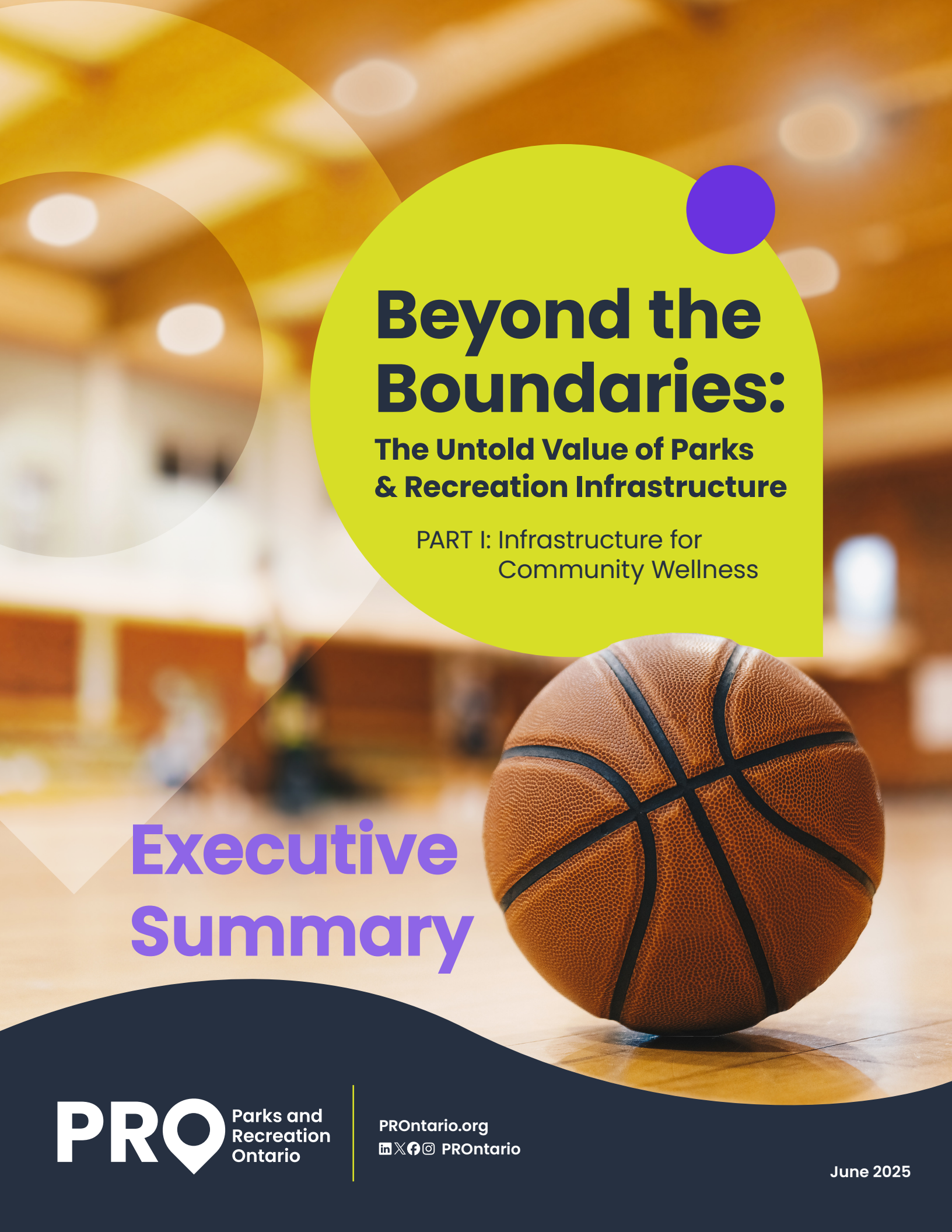




Beyond the Boundaries:

The Untold Value of Parks & Recreation Infrastructure

PART I: Infrastructure for
Community Wellness

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

This report demonstrates why investment in parks and recreation infrastructure is critical to offset public expenditures while simultaneously improving the health and well being of Ontario's communities.



Chapter 1: The Current State of Parks and Recreation Infrastructure

- Ontario's current stock of parks and recreation assets are aging, inaccessible, and do not meet the needs and interests of today's Ontarians.
- At an individual level investment in parks and recreation infrastructure is much less costly than expenditures associated with physical inactivity, loneliness, and crime.



Chapter 2: Direct Economic Benefits of Parks and Recreation

- Ontario's GDP in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector has surpassed pre-pandemic rates by 18%, indicating significant sector growth.
- Increased investment in the sector is needed to meet rising demands, mitigate accelerated decline of physical assets, and prevent unexpected closures.



Chapter 3: Infrastructure of Health

- At an individual level, building parks and recreation facilities is significantly less costly than yearly expenditures of conditions often associated with physical inactivity, such as stroke (\$66K), diabetes (\$2K), and depression (\$8K).
- Access to quality parks and recreation is a critical starting point for fostering healthier communities, especially in underserved areas.



Chapter 4: Infrastructure of Belonging

- At an individual level, building parks and recreation facilities is significantly less costly than expenditures associated with social disconnection, such as loneliness and crime (i.e., theft costs \$2K per incident).
- Quality parks and recreation infrastructure provide needed space for programming that combats negative outcomes associated with social isolation, such as crime and loneliness.



Chapter 5: Parks and recreation is health & social equity

- To unlock the full health and social benefits of parks and recreation, facilities must have significant capacity, be accessible, and cater to the needs and interests of Ontarians today and in the future.

