

Approved in principle by City of Vaughan Council on May 23, 2018.



ACTIVE TOGETHER

MASTER PLAN

2018 Review & Update

MAY 2018



Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgements	iii
Executive Summary	iv
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Purpose of the Active Together Master Plan.....	2
1.2 Plan Drivers.....	2
1.3 Local Context	3
1.4 Planning Process	4
1.5 Methodology.....	5
1.6 ATMP Guiding Principles	6
2. Our Accomplishments	11
2.1 Recent Accomplishments.....	12
2.2 Summary of Recommendations from the 2013 ATMP	15
3. Community Profile & Emerging Trends	16
3.1 Community Profile.....	17
3.2 Emerging Trends & Potential Responses	28
4. Public Engagement	35
4.1 Overview	36
4.2 Intercept Survey (Pop-up Consultations)	37
4.3 Online Survey.....	39
4.4 Stakeholder Workshops	45
4.5 Public Information Sessions.....	47
4.6 Internal Consultation & Engagement.....	49
5. Parkland Assessment	50
5.1 Strategic Considerations	51
5.2 Parkland Policy and Directions.....	54
5.3 Parkland Classification.....	58
5.4 Public Space in Intensification Areas	61
5.5 Parkland Supply.....	63
5.6 Parkland Needs and Opportunities	66
5.7 Parkland Design, Maintenance and Redevelopment	70
6. Outdoor Recreation Facility Assessment	73
6.1 Recreational Trails	74
6.2 Soccer Fields	76

6.3	Ball Diamonds	79
6.4	Multi-use Fields	82
6.5	Cricket Fields	84
6.6	Tennis & Pickleball Courts	85
6.7	Basketball Courts	88
6.8	Skateboard Parks.....	89
6.9	Outdoor Pools	91
6.10	Waterplay Facilities	92
6.11	Playgrounds	94
6.12	Outdoor Fitness.....	96
6.13	Off-Leash Dog Parks.....	97
6.14	Outdoor Ice Rinks	99
6.15	Outdoor Bocce	100
7.	Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment	102
7.1	Community Centres and Community Hubs	103
7.2	Indoor Aquatics	110
7.3	Arenas.....	112
7.4	Gymnasiums	115
7.5	Fitness Centres	117
7.6	Age-specific Activity Space	119
7.7	Indoor Bocce	121
7.8	Other Indoor Recreational Spaces	122
8.	Library Facility Assessment.....	124
8.1	Current Situation	125
8.2	Trends in Library Usage and Design.....	129
8.3	Library Space Needs.....	132
8.4	Recommended Provision Strategy.....	138
9.	Implementation.....	145
9.1	Setting Priorities	146
9.2	Financial Considerations.....	147
9.3	Monitoring and Updating the Active Together Master Plan	150
Appendix A	Facilities Mapping	A-1
Appendix B	Intercept Survey	B-1
Appendix C	Online Survey	C-1
Appendix D	Stakeholder Workshops	D-1
Appendix E	Public Information Sessions	E-1

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of those who contributed their time and effort to the development of this Active Together Master Plan Review & Update.

The plan has been developed with the input of Vaughan's citizens, including organizations that provide valued community programs and services. It is also a product of the vision and dedication of the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries staff and officials.

We trust that the Master Plan will provide the City and its residents with a successful roadmap for meeting future parks, recreation and library needs.

City of Vaughan Council

Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor
Mario Ferri, Deputy Mayor, Local and Regional Councillor
Gino Rosati, Local and Regional Councillor
Sunder Singh, Local and Regional Councillor
Marilyn Iafrate, Ward 1 Councillor
Tony Carella, Ward 2 Councillor
Rosanna DeFrancesca, Ward 3 Councillor
Sandra Yeung Racco, Ward 4 Councillor
Alan Shefman, Ward 5 Councillor

Project Team

Andre Bregolin, Supervisor of Corporate Security, Facilities Maintenance Services
Elaine Chang, Manager, Corporate Asset Management, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management
Brianna Clace, Project Manager, Financial Sustainability, Financial Planning and Development Finance
Aleksandra Dowiat-Vine, Director of Growth and Communications, Vaughan Public Libraries
Michael Habib, Senior Planner, Parks Development
Joerg Hettmann, Manager, Park Services, Transportation Services, Parks & Forestry Operations
Kevin Huang, Senior Planner, Parks Development (ATMP Project Manager)
Varant Khatchadourian, Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis, Financial Planning and Development Finance
Dorothy Kowpak, Project Manager, Active & Sustainable Transportation, Development Engineering
Angela Palermo, Recreation Manager, Community Development and Planning, Recreation Services
Melissa Rossi, Manager, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability
Martin Tavares, Manager, Parks & Open Space Planning, Parks Development
Jay Todd, Manager, Park Operations, Transportation Services, Parks & Forestry Operations
Heidi Wong, Financial Analyst, Financial Sustainability, Financial Planning and Development Finance

Project Sponsors

Sunny Bains, Director, Recreation Services
Jamie Bronsema, Director, Parks Development
Jack Graziosi, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
Dave Merriman, Manager, Facility Maintenance Services
Zoran Postic, Director, Transportation Services, Parks & Forestry Operations
Rita Selvaggi, Interim Director, Financial Planning & Development Finance
Margie Singleton, Chief Executive Officer, Vaughan Public Libraries

Project Consultants

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants
Tucker-Reid & Associates

Executive Summary

A. Purpose & Approach

This 2018 Active Together Master Plan Review and Update (ATMP) is a long-range planning study for parks, recreation and library facilities. The ATMP is undertaken jointly by the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries every five years to support the Development Charges Background Study and ongoing planning efforts, including the City's Official Plan and Service Excellence Strategy Map.

The purpose of the ATMP is to identify current needs and future facility provision strategies, consistent with the City of Vaughan's commitment to providing safe, accessible, and community-responsive parks and facilities that appeal to a wide range of interests and abilities. Given that Vaughan is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada, timely short and long-range planning is critical to ensuring that facility and service provision properly coincides with development. This ATMP Update will guide planning for parks, recreation and library facilities to the year 2031, with a particular focus on the next five years.

The development of this Update followed a process similar to that employed for the 2013 ATMP, including an analysis of past studies and findings, usage data and trends, demographics and forecasts, municipal benchmarking and an extensive public engagement program consisting of:

- public information sessions;
- community survey and intercept (pop-up) survey;
- consultation with user groups, community agencies and stakeholders; and
- engagement with the Library Board, City officials and staff.

Based on a series of guiding principles, a comprehensive needs assessment for parks, recreation and library facilities was prepared, including verification of the provision targets established in the previous ATMP. An implementation strategy was developed to identify timing and other considerations for the sustainable provision of parks and facilities.

B. Our Accomplishments

The City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) have taken significant strides to achieve the goals set out in the 2013 Active Together Master Plan. Over four-fifths (81%) of the short-term actions recommended in the 2013 ATMP have been completed or are in progress.

Some of Vaughan's many recent accomplishments include:

- **Development of new parks and facilities**, such as library development (Civic Centre, Pleasant Ridge, Vellore Village South), Phase 1 development of North Maple Regional Park and more.
- **Upgrades to existing assets**, such as sports fields, tennis courts, barrier-free spaces, libraries and more.
- **Initiation of strategic initiatives**, such as the Vaughan Super Trail, 2018 Parks Redevelopment Strategy, feasibility studies for aging community centres, Recreation Services Plan, Maple Library Special Area Study and more.
- **Ongoing infrastructure planning**, such as community facilities in Blocks 11, 27 and 41, and more.
- **Establishment of community partnerships and funding initiatives**, such as YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project, redevelopment of York Hill District Park and more.
- **Enhancement of organizational and customer service tools**, such as an asset management system, departmental reorganization, policy updates, expanded library hours and more.

C. Key Themes

The 2018 Active Together Master Plan Update contains 103 recommendations intended to guide municipal and community investment in parks, recreation and library facilities. Some of the key themes of the Plan include:

- The City continues to invest in its parks, recreation and library infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population, which is estimated at 324,100, increasing to 424,500 by 2031¹. A mixture of greenfield and vertical growth will create pressures on existing and proposed parks, recreation and library facilities and services, requiring new and innovative levels of service and provision strategies. The recent extension of TTC subway service into Vaughan will help to bolster development in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) and throughout the City's many growth centres and corridors.
- Through the public engagement program, it is evident that residents and organizations are pleased with the recent investments made by the City and Vaughan Public Libraries, but are eager for these improvements to continue. Given the City's Official Plan and policies for growth, there is a particular urgency to define infrastructure requirements in intensification areas to ensure that sufficient land is set aside, funding is allocated and delivery models are confirmed.

¹ Source: City of Vaughan (includes institutional adjustment and undercount; based on 45% scenario prepared by the Region in November 2015, adjusted to remove growth in Vaughan's whitebelt).

- As a maturing city, Vaughan also has a growing responsibility to address aging infrastructure and manage financial and service level implications. These requirements must be balanced against the need to provide additional support to our communities, such as new park and facility development and extended programming for people of all ages.
- Continued growth has also led to changing demographics (ethnicity, socio-economics, aging, pet ownership, etc.). This generates a necessity to frequently review, update and plan for the evolving parks, recreation and library needs of Vaughan's current and future residents.
- The City also continues to work towards a sustainable approach for planning, budgeting and operating of services, which continues to be an ever-present requirement. Providing affordable facilities and services in accessible locations and in a timely manner are keys to achieving service excellence for Vaughan residents.

D. Guiding Principles

The following Guiding Principles are core beliefs and values that frame the ATMP's development and are intended to guide the Plan's implementation. They have been informed by the City's strategic initiatives (e.g., Vaughan Vision 2020, Service Excellence Strategy Map, Vaughan Official Plan, etc.) and community input.

When designing, funding, constructing and operating parks, recreation and library facilities, the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries should ensure – to the greatest degree possible – that recreation and library facilities, parks and trails are:

1. Accessible and inclusive;
2. Integrated and coordinated;
3. Collaborative and innovative;
4. Multi-use and flexible;
5. Animated and optimized;
6. Responsive and progressive;
7. Supported and renewed;
8. Respecting our heritage and diversity;
9. Resilient and environmentally responsible; and
10. Affordable and financially sustainable.

E. ATMP Implementation

The recommendations contained within this ATMP Update are listed in Table 1, with supporting rationale within the body of the report. Preliminary cost estimates have also been included, recognizing that parks, recreation and libraries cannot and should not operate at full cost recovery levels. Successful implementation will be dependent upon variety of factors including (but not limited to) funding, partnerships, land availability and ongoing community engagement. It is expected that the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the budget process.

Each recommendation has been assigned a preferred timeframe for initiation based on an assessment of need. The “timing” of major capital projects is generally synonymous with “priority”, meaning that projects identified in earlier years should generally be higher priorities.

The implementation plan is based on the following timeframes:

- Short-term: 2018-2022
- Medium-term: 2023-2027
- Long-term: 2028+
- Ongoing: 2018+

Implementation will be dependent on several factors, including population growth, funding, land availability and partnerships. In many cases, proposed timeframes are linked to the population forecasts approved by the Region of York; should these forecasts change, the Plan should be reviewed and adjustments made to the implementation strategy.

The City’s resources are finite and, therefore, cannot afford to do everything that the community desires; this is one of the primary reasons for undertaking the Active Together Master Plan in the first place. Although the City may be challenged in providing the appropriate financial resources to meet the provision targets recommended in this Plan, the municipality will make every reasonable effort to implement these strategies through a variety of appropriate and acceptable means. All recommendations are important and, if properly implemented, will benefit parks, recreation and library services within Vaughan.

Note: Recommendations are numbered according to the order in which they are presented in the body of the Active Together Master Plan. They are not listed in priority order.

Table 1: ATMP Update – Implementation Plan

Recommendations	Timing	Page
Parkland (Section 5 of ATMP Update)		
1. Update the City's Parkland Dedication Cash-in-Lieu By-law and related policies to reflect the new maximum rate enacted by Bill 73. Continue to acquire active parkland at the maximum applicable rate as permitted by the Planning Act and the City's implementing documents.	Short-term	58
2. Develop a Parkland Dedication By-law that builds on the existing Cash-in-Lieu By-law and includes direction on use of cash-in-lieu for park improvements, dedication protocols, conveyance requirements, valuation, credits, exemptions, agreements and other matters of interpretation.	Short-term	58
3. Through parkland dedication and other tools, provide an appropriate level of parkland in employment areas to create public spaces that attract and serve businesses and their employees.	Ongoing	58
4. Do not accept undevelopable Open Space lands (e.g., stormwater management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement (i.e., no credit should be applied). Where appropriate, the City may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement. Acquisition of lands within the Greenbelt Plan Area and lands with cultural heritage value may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.	Ongoing	58
5. Utilize the ATMP as a resource when reviewing and updating the Vaughan Official Plan .	Ongoing	58
6. Review the City's cash-in-lieu of parkland fixed unit rate for high density residential development to ensure that it represents a fair and equitable contribution toward meeting the City's parkland provision objectives. Ensure that the rate is reviewed on a regular basis, not exceeding three years.	Short-term	58
7. Explore acquisition and non-acquisition based options if future parkland dedication amounts are not sufficient to maintain the recommended City-wide target. This may include, but not be limited to: options available through current planning policies or the Planning Act, off-site dedication, direct investment, easement agreements, land exchanges, long-term land leases, integration opportunities with TRCA, shared use agreements, land trusts, donations and other protection measures.	Ongoing	58
8. Evaluate surplus school and other high impact acquisition opportunities based on the principles and targets advanced in this ATMP, with a focus on geographic gap areas.	Ongoing	58
9. Revise the parkland classification system to include a wider variety of park types that meet the range of needs within intensification areas, as proposed in the ATMP.	Short-term	61
10. Examine options for establishing a Development Charge service level that reflects the higher standard of design and construction associated with parks in intensification areas.	Short-term	61
11. Develop policies and practices to prioritize on-site parkland dedication and encourage front-end acquisition of parkland in intensification areas.	Short-term	62

Recommendations	Timing	Page
12. Establish standards to direct the provision of non-traditional parks and public open space in areas of intensification , including: development of new parks; enhancing existing parks; and working with the development industry in the provision of alternate park spaces to supplement prescribed parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu (e.g., strata parks, privately-owned publicly-accessible spaces, indoor space in lieu of parkland, off-site dedication, use of cash-in-lieu for park improvements, etc.). This may be partially achieved by site-specific agreements or other implementing mechanisms, such as bonusing as per Section 37 of the Planning Act.	Ongoing	62
13. Continue to enhance the City's parks inventory tools through the documentation of public and private open space properties (e.g., TRCA properties, etc.) and the establishment of a GIS walkability network layer to assess accessibility (e.g., actual walking distance based on sidewalks, trails, etc.).	Short-term	66
14. Ensure that new parks are equitably distributed across the City and conveniently located to meet a range of needs. Local level parks should ideally be located within a five to ten-minute walk of all residential areas (generally within 500-metres of all residents).	Ongoing	70
15. Establish a revised City-wide provision target of 2.0 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents , to be applied to future growth. The City may propose community-specific targets that are representative of local supply and demand factors.	Ongoing	70
16. In designing parks , strive to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness and informal use opportunities for people of all ages; ▪ consider the needs of a diverse and aging population through the provision of washrooms, seating, shade, pathways, picnic areas and pavilions, etc.; ▪ preserve and emphasize cultural and heritage environments, including interpretive content; ▪ follow accessibility legislation and guidelines to accommodate persons with disabilities; ▪ apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles; ▪ promote designs that encourage sustainable maintenance practices; ▪ incorporate native and drought resistant vegetative features that are biologically robust; ▪ utilize materials that are robust, durable and mindful of future maintenance requirements; ▪ seek innovative and engaging initiatives that encourage naturalization and environmental stewardship; ▪ encourage public art; and ▪ encourage active transportation connections and a linked open space system. 	Ongoing	71
17. Establish policies and location criteria for the provision of park and trail lighting (excluding sports fields) and washrooms in District and Regional Parks.	Short-term	72
18. Prepare a Park Construction Standards Manual (including standards for new park classifications) to guide the design of developer-built parks.	Short-term	72

Recommendations	Timing	Page
19. Review existing and future Parks Operations service levels in light of new park classifications and emerging requirements (e.g., invasive species, culturally important species, maintenance of urban parks, etc.). Areas of emphasis should include staff resources and technical expertise, as well as park inspection and maintenance requirements.	Short-term	72
20. Review the Events Strategy with a focus on assessing the hosting capacities of existing sites (municipal parks, TRCA properties, etc.) as well as policies, procedures and organizational support related to outdoor community events. When new parks are designed, they should be assessed for their suitability to accommodate special events and, if suitable, amenities and infrastructure needed to support events should be included.	Medium-term	72
21. Collaborate with school boards to identify opportunities to work together in the maximization of existing sites and planning of future park/school campuses.	Ongoing	72
22. Continue to encourage the development of joint and/or shared use community sites (e.g., hubs), such as schools, community centres, libraries and parks.	Ongoing	72
23. Promote appropriate community and public-private partnerships in the municipal parks system in order to leverage additional resources, expedite development, improve accessibility, and enhance maintenance and programming.	Ongoing	72
24. Encourage the establishment of park foundations, conservancies and other stewardship partnerships that enhance park sustainability.	Ongoing	72
25. Implement the 2018 Parks Redevelopment Strategy , including recommendations to animate parks through programming and events, undertake a park observation project for casual use amenities, repurpose aging and under-utilized facilities, and enhance high priority parks including sites in proximity to intensification areas.	Ongoing	72
Outdoor Recreation (Section 6 of ATMP Update)		
26. Regularly update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and accompanying Implementation Strategy.	Ongoing	76
27. Ensure that implementation of the City's proposed recreational trail network – including the Vaughan Super Trail – is reflected as a high priority through the proper allocation of capital and maintenance funding and resources.	Short- to Medium-term	76
28. Work with the development community, TRCA and other landowners to enhance connectivity of the recreational trail network by linking woodlots, open spaces, parks, schools, civic destinations, transit hubs, and residential and employment areas. The development of a comprehensive map identifying potential synergies may assist in this regard.	Ongoing	76
29. Evaluate trail and pathway requirements through the planning and development process . Encourage the conveyance of corridors of land (over and above parkland dedication, where applicable) using the various tools available to the City.	Ongoing	76

Recommendations	Timing	Page
30. Seek opportunities to establish trail loops for walking and running (as well support amenities such as seating, shade, etc.) within new and redeveloped parks and open spaces.	Ongoing	76
31. Work with the TRCA and other City departments to explore options for addressing trail maintenance (e.g., management agreement) and opportunities for program and facility integration.	Short-term	76
32. Continue efforts to improve the quality and quantity of signage (wayfinding and environmental education), mapping and promotion of recreational trails in Vaughan.	Ongoing	76
33. Develop 12 additional soccer fields by 2031 (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields and every artificial turf field is equal to 2.0 unlit fields). Future field development will require a range of sizes and should be clustered together to form multi-field complexes where possible. In addition to the fields proposed for North Maple Regional Park, three senior lit fields are recommended for District Parks in Blocks 18 and 59 in the short-term and one in Block 41 in the medium-term. Two (2) 9v9 fields are recommended for Neighbourhood Parks (e.g., Blocks 1, 27 and/or 41). At its discretion, the City may choose to provide more fields than are recommended based on geographic distribution and demand for casual use (e.g., mini fields).	Short- to Medium-term	79
34. Develop 14 additional ball diamonds by 2031 (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields), with an emphasis on diamonds for adult play. Two (2) senior lit diamonds are recommended for a future phase of North Maple Regional Park and additional senior lit diamonds should be provided in future District and Regional Parks (Blocks 18, 41, Northwest Vaughan, etc.). Junior and t-ball diamonds may be considered for Neighbourhood Parks or under-utilized sites, as appropriate. Multi-field development is preferred. In order to implement these recommendations, the City should revisit its parks capital program to identify opportunities to reallocate space to ball diamonds.	Short- to Long-term	82
35. Develop two (2) lit multi-use artificial fields by 2031 to accommodate sports such as football, rugby, lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, etc. The fields may also be used for soccer when not required for other sports. Potential locations include Block 59 District Park (2021) and North Maple Regional Park (2026+).	Short- to Medium-term	84
36. Develop one (1) cricket pitch at North Maple Regional Park in the short-term and identify sites for two (2) additional pitches (to be developed prior to 2031).	Short- to Long-term	85
37. Install 20 additional tennis courts by 2031 (equivalent to ten two-court complexes), including approximately twelve (12) lit and eight (8) unlit courts. Lit courts (complexes of two or more) should be developed in Carrville (Block 11/18) and may be considered for District and Regional Parks. Unlit courts (two-court complexes) may be installed in growing greenfield areas (e.g., Blocks 27, 40, 41, 55, etc.).	Short- to Long-term	87
38. Undertake a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of re-purposing existing tennis courts (re-lining) to share use between tennis and pickleball.	Short-term	87

Recommendations	Timing	Page
39. Develop approximately eleven (11) new basketball courts and/or play courts in growing residential communities, guided by a 1-kilometre service radius. Where appropriate, new and redeveloped courts should emphasize multi-use designs capable of supporting a variety of activities.	Short- to Long-term	89
40. Develop one (1) primary skateboard park in North Maple Regional Park.	Medium-term	90
41. Develop a minimum of two (2) additional local skate zones by 2031 in areas that are under-served (e.g., Thornhill, Woodbridge) and/or growing, with consideration being given to equitable distribution.	Short- to Medium-term	90
42. Prepare a Wheeled Action Sport Strategy to establish a broader park typology, accommodation of other wheeled sports and provide direction on future wheeled sport facility development, including location and design criteria. The Strategy should involve direct engagement with youth and wheeled action sport communities.	Short-term	90
43. Continue to maintain the Thornhill Pool as the City's only public outdoor pool.	Ongoing	92
44. Develop approximately fifteen (15) additional waterplay facilities by 2031 , guided by a target of one facility per full residential block. A two-tiered model consisting of primary and local waterplay facilities is recommended. Local waterplay facilities (approximately 9) should be considered for Blocks 1/2 (Thornhill), 11/12/18 (Carrville), 33W/40 (Vellore), 44 (Woodbridge) and 61 (Kleinburg/Nashville). Primary waterplay facilities (approximately 6) should be provided in District and Regional Parks, as well as intensifying communities (e.g., VMC), where appropriate.	Short- to Long-term	93
45. Provide playgrounds within 500-metres of all residences within urban areas, unobstructed by major pedestrian impediments such as highways, major arterial roads, railway corridors, waterways, valleys, etc.	Ongoing	95
46. Review standards for playground design, development and replacement (including surfacing and accessibility) to ensure that funding is aligned with requirements.	Short-term	95
47. Establish four (4) additional outdoor fitness locations by 2031 . Locations (within parks and along trails) in Thornhill, Woodbridge, VMC and Maple should be sought to improve accessibility. Priority should be placed on areas with older age profiles and multi-ethnic compositions.	Short- to Medium-term	97
48. Develop one primary off-leash dog park in the proposed Block 59 District Park in the short-term.	Short-term	99
49. Identify sites for additional primary off-leash dog parks in both the Northwest and Northeast quadrants of the City (one park each).	Medium- to Long-term	99
50. Develop a strategy for the establishment of smaller local dog-friendly spaces to serve areas of intensification and localized gap areas.	Short- to Long-term	99
51. Develop a total of four (4) to five (5) outdoor artificial rinks or skating trails by 2031 to improve access to all communities in Vaughan. Potential locations include Carrville (Block 11 District Park), VMC (Edgeley Pond and Park), Maple (site to be determined), Kleinburg/Nashville (site to be determined) and Vaughan Mills (site to be determined).	Short- to Long-term	100

Recommendations	Timing	Page
52. Monitor use/membership and condition of outdoor bocce courts to determine if any may be declared surplus and/or repurposed to satisfy other recreation needs. No additional courts are recommended at this time.	Ongoing	101
Indoor Recreation (Section 7 of ATMP Update)		
53. Continue with plans to develop a major community centre in Block 11 (Carrville) , with opening targeted for 2023.	Short-term	109
54. Undertake a site selection exercise for the establishment of a minor community centre in Blocks 55/62 (Kleinburg/Nashville) , with a development target of 2024.	Medium-term	109
55. Secure a site for the establishment of a major community centre in Block 41 (Vellore Village North) , with a development target of 2026.	Medium-term	109
56. Develop a community hub in Block 31 (Vaughan Mills Centre) , with a tentative timeframe of 2028 (subject to development activity that meets population thresholds, funding, etc.). Site investigations should begin in the short-term.	Long-term	109
57. Develop a community hub in Block 27 (North Maple) , with a tentative timeframe of 2028 or later (subject to development activity that meets population thresholds, funding, etc.). Site investigations should begin in the short-term.	Long-term	109
58. Continue to invest in the renewal and revitalization of existing community centres to ensure that they can meet the needs of a growing city. Prepare feasibility studies to identify options and priorities, and direct resources.	Ongoing	109
59. Proceed with plans to provide an indoor aquatic facility at the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project .	Short-term	112
60. Develop indoor pools within future major community centre developments, including Block 11 and Block 41 .	Short- to Medium-term	112
61. Consider community-specific needs when planning future indoor aquatic facilities, including the distribution of warm-water and cold-water pools throughout Vaughan.	Ongoing	112
62. Monitor registration and usage levels of existing ice pads over the next five (5) years in order to confirm the need for additional ice pads and the viability of existing arenas.	Short-term	115
63. Evaluate usage and lifecycle of Maple Arena following completion of the Maple Community Centre Feasibility Study.	Short-term	115
64. Develop a twin pad (two ice surfaces) arena, potentially as part of the proposed Block 41 community centre .	Medium-term	115
65. Explore opportunities to offer additional municipal ice rentals through partnerships with private service providers .	Short-term	115
66. Proceed with plans to provide a gymnasium facility at the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project .	Short-term	116
67. Develop gymnasiums within future community centre/hub developments: Block 11; Block 41; Kleinburg/Nashville (Block 55/62); Vaughan Mills (Block 31) .	Short- to Long-term	116

Recommendations	Timing	Page
68. Continue facilitating access to school gymnasiums through joint-use agreements with the local school boards.	Ongoing	116
69. Proceed with plans to provide a fitness centre at the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project .	Short-term	118
70. Provide a fitness centre in the community centre proposed for Block 41 .	Medium-term	118
71. Continue to provide wellness and active programming at all community centre sites, regardless of whether or not they contain fitness centres. Multi-use rooms should be provided and designed with a variety of activities in mind, including group fitness.	Ongoing	118
72. Undertake a Fitness Operational Review to examine current offerings and trends in the industry.	Short-term	118
73. Continue to develop and provide flexible multi-use spaces in community centres and hubs. Dedicated spaces should only be provided where supported by sufficient demand and/or program requirements.	Ongoing	121
74. Continue to implement the City of Vaughan Older Adult Recreation Strategy including recommendations to enhance program offerings/memberships to support the needs of Vaughan's older adult community.	Short- to Medium-term	121
75. Evaluate demand for the inclusion of seniors programming within the minor community centre recommended for Kleinburg/Nashville (Block 55/62).	Short- to Medium-term	121
76. Continue to monitor usage and membership trends at existing indoor bocce facilities. No additional indoor bocce courts are recommended.	Ongoing	122
77. Utilize the existing framework (Procurement Policy) to evaluate unsolicited capital proposals and partnerships for indoor sports facilities, with consideration given to the ten-year capital forecast and the City's capacity to participate in such projects. Direct municipal provision of indoor sports facilities is not recommended at this time.	Ongoing	123
Public Libraries (Section 8 of ATMP Update)		
78. Complete the feasibility study for Maple Library , with a goal of retaining service at this location through a re-imagined and redeveloped space that responds to the needs of local users.	Short-term	143
79. Complete renovations at Bathurst Clark Resource Library in 2018 to improve use of existing space.	Short-term	143
80. Continue with plans to establish a branch library (approximately 9,000 square feet) and storefront library (approximately 400 square feet) in Vaughan Metropolitan Centre in the short-term, with opening targeted for 2019.	Short-term	143
81. Continue with plans to establish a branch library within the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital (approximately 4,000 square feet) in the short-term, with opening targeted for 2020.	Short-term	143
82. Continue with plans to develop a branch library in Block 11 (Carrville, approximately 7,500 to 8,500 square feet) in conjunction with the Carrville Community Centre, with opening targeted for 2023.	Short-term	143

Recommendations	Timing	Page
83. Develop a branch library in Block 55/62 (Kleinburg/Nashville, approximately 7,500 to 8,500 square feet) in the short-term (2024). Securing an appropriate site in collaboration with a municipal community centre should be a high priority.	Medium-term	143
84. Develop a branch library in Block 41 (Vellore Village North, approximately 7,500 to 8,500 square feet) in the short-term (2026). Securing an appropriate site in collaboration with a municipal community centre should be a high priority.	Medium-term	144
85. Pursue the development of a branch library in the community hub proposed for Vaughan Mills Centre . The target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet and timing of 2028 is to be confirmed through future study and will be impacted by development activity and space/funding availability.	Long-term	144
86. Pursue the development of a branch library in the community hub proposed for Block 27 . The target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet and timing of 2028 or later is to be confirmed through future study and will be impacted by development activity and space/funding availability.	Long-term	144
87. An additional 32,142 square feet would be required by 2031 to achieve the 0.61sf/capita target . Using the ATMP principles, facility framework and needs assessment methodology, VPL should reassess the long-term space provision target to inform a library distribution plan that evaluates potential service gaps as identified from time to time (e.g., West Woodbridge, etc.).	Medium-term	144
88. Examine alternative library delivery models (e.g., VMC storefront, Hospital, etc.) as strategies in gap and/or high growth areas to test demand for or supplement permanent facilities.	Ongoing	144
89. Through space optimization and strategic renovations , continue to maintain existing facilities as welcoming destinations and community hubs.	Ongoing	144
90. Evaluate the “ off-site ” tier of VPL’s facility framework to determine the impact of outreach activities and establish future directions for partnership development.	Short-term	144
91. Continue to work collaboratively with City of Vaughan Recreation Services in program and event planning to maximize existing offerings, fill gaps and align promotional efforts.	Ongoing	144
ATMP Implementation (Section 9 of ATMP Update)		
92. Conduct feasibility studies, business plans, site assessments and public engagement prior to developing or expanding major parks, recreation and library facilities to ensure that projects are aligned with community needs, partnership opportunities and financial capacities.	Ongoing	146
93. In conjunction with the Real Estate Office, ensure that land needs identified in the ATMP are represented in the Land Acquisition Strategy , including active and passive parkland (with a focus on under-served areas) and land for recommended community centres and libraries. This Strategy should also analyze opportunities to secure land and fund the development of larger District Parks and Regional Parks (e.g., Northwest Vaughan) that provide a wide array of amenities serving a diverse base of users.	Short-term	146
94. Develop a Recreation Service Plan to strengthen the role of Recreation Services in achieving operational, citizen and staff excellence.	Short-term	146

Recommendations	Timing	Page
95. Review City policies that address community access to parks and facilities (e.g., CSO, facility allocation, user fees, affiliation, older adult, fairs and festivals, etc.) on a regular basis to ensure policies are aligned with community and stakeholder needs. This review should generally take place every five years or as required due to changing community needs.	Ongoing	147
96. As a general principle, encourage partnerships and sponsorships in the provision and delivery of facilities and services.	Ongoing	149
97. Where appropriate and consistent with municipal policies and priorities, consider alternative funding and cost-sharing approaches to achieve capital and operating cost recovery levels, such as (but not limited to) surcharges, fundraising, grants, sponsorships, Section 37 bonusing and various forms of collaboration.	Ongoing	149
98. Review the status of the Active Together Master Plan and priority projects as part of the City's annual budgeting process .	Ongoing	149
99. Review and reassess the capital recommendations of this 2018 ATMP Update if new population forecasts are endorsed by the City within the next two years.	Short-term	149
100. Implement a system for the regular monitoring and reporting of the Active Together Master Plan, including participation rates, customer satisfaction and other performance measures.	Short-term	150
101. Utilize new technologies and business intelligence tools to engage the public, and determine user needs and trends in order to plan for the future through an evidence-based approach.	Short-term	150
102. Undertake a comprehensive five-year review of the 2018 Active Together Master Plan in 2023, in collaboration with the Development Charges Background Study and Growth Management Strategy.	Medium-term	150

1. Introduction



1.1 Purpose of the Active Together Master Plan

Parks, recreation, and library amenities are an essential component of the high quality of life in Vaughan. Proactive planning is required to respond to emerging needs created by changing trends, population growth and evolving urban form. The City of Vaughan is committed to investing in the citizen experience and service delivery – the Active Together Master Plan plays a significant role in supporting these efforts.

This Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) guides the provision of parks and open space, recreation, and library facilities and services to the year 2031, with a particular focus on the next five years. It involves substantial research and public consultation, and is structured to align with the City's Development Charges Background Study Update.

Specifically, the Plan assesses current levels of service and makes recommendations on both policy/service and infrastructure requirements. Several factors form the basis for the analysis, including but not limited to public input, past studies and findings, usage data and trends, demographics and forecasts, and municipal benchmarking.

The ATMP is designed to be a living document and is reviewed every five years. This update builds upon the success of the first ATMP (prepared in 2008) and subsequent update (prepared in 2013), as well as other documents such as the City's Official Plan and Service Excellence Strategy.

1.2 Plan Drivers

Quality municipal facilities are essential to Vaughan's ability to offer effective and efficient services that meet community expectations. Individuals, households and entire communities all benefit greatly from access to quality parks, recreation and library services and facilities. Parks, recreation and libraries are key components of a community's livability, which is defined by several factors that contribute to overall quality of life. These outcomes and benefits have been well documented and include (but are not limited to):

- Physical health and wellness benefits from participation in active endeavours.
- Intellectual benefits from access to information resources and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Social benefits from engagement in meaningful community activities.
- Environmental benefits from the protection of open spaces and the provision of alternative transportation choices.
- Economic benefits from the attraction and retention of residents and businesses, both of which are drawn to Vaughan partly because of its high quality parks, recreation and library services.

There are many specific factors influencing this ATMP Update. Most notable are the City's growth, aging infrastructure, emerging needs and focus on financial sustainability – these are discussed in more detail below.

It is estimated that Vaughan's population will grow to 424,500 by the year 2031², approximately 100,000 persons more than today. Historically, Vaughan's growth has occurred through greenfield development, but as the population increases, so does the City's urban density. Vertical growth will create pressures on existing and proposed parks, recreation and library facilities and services, requiring new and innovative levels of service and provision strategies. The recent extension of TTC subway service into Vaughan will help to bolster development in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) and throughout the City's many growth centres and corridors.

As a maturing city, Vaughan also has a growing responsibility to address aging infrastructure and manage financial and service level implications. These requirements must be balanced against the need to provide additional support to our communities, such as new park and facility development and extended programming for people of all ages.

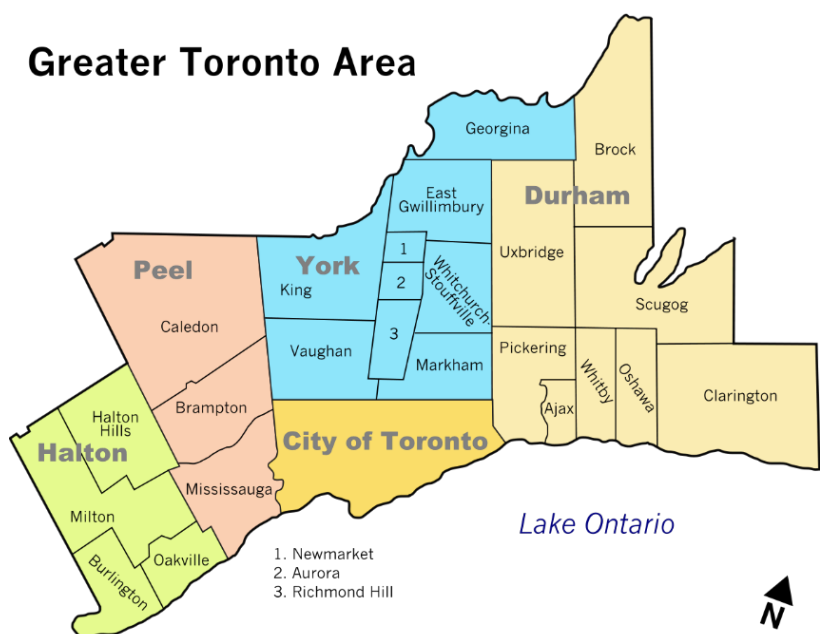
Continued growth has also led to changing demographics (ethnicity, socio-economics, aging, pet ownership, etc.). This generates a necessity to frequently review, update and plan for the evolving parks, recreation and library needs of Vaughan's current and future residents.

The City also continues to work towards a sustainable approach for planning, budgeting and operating of services, which continues to be an ever-present requirement. Providing affordable facilities and services in accessible locations and in a timely manner are keys to achieving service excellence for Vaughan residents.

1.3 Local Context

Located within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Vaughan is one of the fastest growing cities in Ontario and Canada. The city sits in the southwest corner of York Region and is surrounded by other densely-populated municipalities, including Toronto, Brampton, Richmond Hill and Markham.

As part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), Vaughan is a hub of economic activity providing a diverse labour force and an ever-growing economy and population. This, coupled



² Source: City of Vaughan (includes institutional adjustment and undercount; based on 45% scenario prepared by the Region in November 2015, adjusted to remove growth in Vaughan's whitebelt).

with lower taxes and connections via major transportation routes, makes Vaughan an attractive place to live and work.

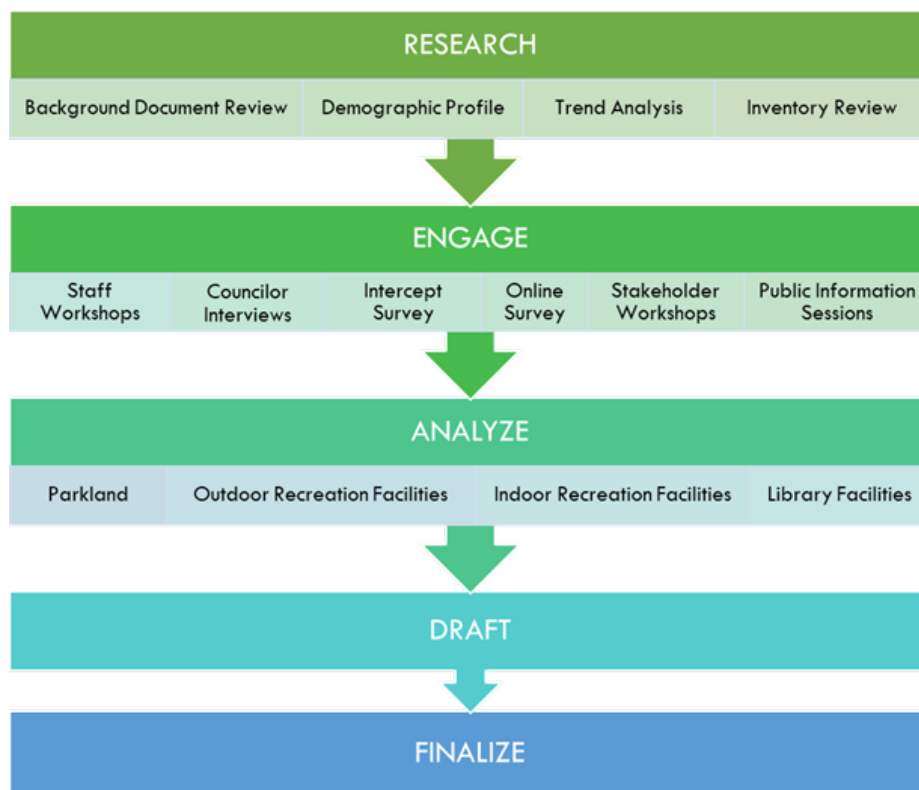
Beginning in the late 1980s, Vaughan experienced extraordinary growth which has continued to present day. An exceptional boom occurred between 2006 and 2011 when the city was the second-fastest growing municipality in Canada. The current population of the City of Vaughan is estimated to be 324,100³.

1.4 Planning Process

The 2018 ATMP revision and update is an evolution and expansion of the work done in the two previous versions. Not only has Vaughan continued to experience population growth and increased densities, the way people engage in activities is changing. As a result of this, the 2018 update focuses on how the City can adapt and prepare for citizen needs now and in the future.

Central to this process has been extensive consultation with Vaughan's stakeholders and residents. A comprehensive engagement strategy examined issues, community needs and future strategies with the general public, user groups, community organizations, municipal officials and City staff.

The work completed during the course of this ATMP Update included the following:



³ Source: City of Vaughan (includes institutional adjustment and undercount; based on 45% scenario prepared by the Region in November 2015, adjusted to remove growth in Vaughan's whitebelt).

The ATMP is supported by the following building blocks:

- background documents (e.g., policy directions, topic-specific studies, etc.);
- demographics (growth, age, income, ethnicity, etc.);
- trends (participation, best practices, etc.);
- inventories (facilities, parks, benchmarking, etc.);
- public and stakeholder engagement (surveys, workshops, information sessions); and
- Council and staff engagement (interviews and workshops).

Sections 1 to 4 of this report (including the Appendix) contain the results of the research and engagement phases, while Sections 5 to 8 contain the analysis and recommendations. Section 9 identifies considerations for the Plan's implementation, along with potential financial impacts.

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants (MBPC) and Tucker-Reid & Associates were retained to prepare the ATMP Update; MBPC was also responsible for the development of the 2008 and 2013 Master Plans.

A Project Team led by the Parks Development Department and co-sponsored by the Recreation Services Department and Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) provided oversight and assistance to the consulting team with assistance from the following departments:

- Corporate Asset Management;
- Development Engineering and Infrastructure Planning;
- Facility Maintenance Services;
- Financial Planning and Development Finance;
- Infrastructure Delivery;
- Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability; and
- Transportation Services, Parks & Forestry Operations.

Together, these departments will be responsible for ongoing implementation of the 2018 ATMP.

1.5 Methodology

The ATMP Update makes use of provision targets that will help Vaughan identify and plan for new parks and facilities. Most targets can be used to assess both the suitability of current rates of provision, as well as future needs on a City-wide or block level. These targets are based upon a combination of market-driven factors (such as demand, trends and demographics, other service providers), public input expressing local desires and expectations, benchmarks seen in other municipalities, and the past and present conditions within Vaughan. They are intended to be applied flexibly and may be modified over time to remain responsive to local needs. Most provision targets are population-based (one facility per “x” residents) and are continually in flux with changes to the population and inventory.

For more localized facilities to which residents expect to be able to walk or bike (e.g., playgrounds, splash pads, etc.), geographic distribution also becomes an important

consideration. Assessing spatial distribution is not an exact science, as each community exhibits direct socio-economic characteristics, built form, traffic patterns and expectations. For example, for years, Vaughan's development has largely been low-density and automobile-dependent. Amenities have been distributed based on this model through the development of larger, community-level facilities. However, residential intensification is beginning to lead to changes in Vaughan's urban form. Many of these areas will be characterized by dense populations, high-rise buildings, mixed land uses, and access to transit and alternative transportation choices. In these areas, the reliance on the public realm to provide respite, accommodate gatherings and protect community identity is heightened. In some cases, existing community infrastructure within these areas will not be sufficient to accommodate new residents. Parks and community facilities are vital to community health and social development, thus appropriate access is a necessity.

It should also be noted that, with this being a City-wide review, further analysis will be required in some cases to more specifically define designs, timing, operating models, locations and costs. The timing and priority of most capital projects proposed in this study are linked to expected participation rates and population forecasts. New information, changing trends, public input, partnership alignment, and the availability of land and funding all have the potential to influence the implementation priorities. Implementation of this report should be monitored regularly and the entire study should be updated every five years.

1.6 ATMP Guiding Principles

Strategic directions are important tools that can assist the City in decision-making and directing municipal investment. Given the time that has passed, as well as the evolving scope of the Master Plan, the ATMP's strategic framework has been revisited.

For example, since the 2013 ATMP was prepared, several key documents have been developed that offer additional direction to the planning, design and provision of parks, recreation and library facilities including corporate strategies (e.g., Vaughan Vision 2020, Service Excellence Strategy Map, Vaughan Official Plan, etc.), department-specific plans and the National Framework for Recreation in Canada⁴. In addition, the input gained through the ATMP's consultation program has highlighted emerging perspectives that should be considered.

The following Guiding Principles are core beliefs and values that frame the ATMP's development and are intended to guide the Plan's implementation. Although found in the introductory section of this ATMP, the following principles are based on the research, input and analysis contained in subsequent sections.

⁴ Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015. www.cpra.ca/about-the-framework

When designing, funding, constructing and operating parks, recreation and library facilities, the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries should ensure – to the greatest degree possible – that recreation and library facilities, parks and trails are:

1. Accessible and inclusive

Parks and recreation spaces support physical activity, facilitate social connections, enhance a sense of belonging, and contribute to improved mental and physical health in many ways. Similarly, public libraries play a multi-dimensional role in supporting social vitality, educational success, cultural development, and employment and economic success.

These places and spaces are integral and visible elements of the public realm and must be truly accessible and inclusive to be effective. Residents increasingly expect universally barrier-free facilities that offer exceptional customer service. Equitable access for all Vaughan residents – regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, orientation, income, etc. – is essential.

The City should continue to meet or exceed barrier-free accessibility requirements, ensure that parks and facilities are conveniently located and can be accessed through alternative transportation, and engage the public when planning and designing facilities and services. Proximity to target markets will continue to be a primary factor in facility provision and efforts will be made to reduce barriers to participation.

2. Integrated and coordinated

Integration and coordination can improve customer convenience, programming outcomes, economies of scale, service performance and operational efficiency. Successful implementation of the ATMP will require a continued emphasis on co-located facilities, shared space arrangements and new service relationships with other City departments and community partners.

Most residents support the co-location of community centres together with other types of spaces and services, such as libraries. Many City departments look to parks, recreation and library facilities as key components in achieving their mandates and internal coordination (e.g., between planning, funding, service and operational functions) must grow as the City strengthens its role in community building and placemaking. Further, the creation of community hubs is a key part of the Ontario Government's current mandate and should be explored moving forward.

3. Collaborative and innovative

The City should collaborate with others in the provision and delivery of parks and facilities, where appropriate and in the public's best interest. Vaughan has a history of partnering with a wide range of internal and external interests in the provision of services and this approach is expected to become more prominent over time. There are many facility and service providers, institutions, funders and others that the City and Library should continue to work with to improve equitable access and to support innovative partnerships and service delivery.

External partnerships – such as those with non-profits, government agencies, school boards and the private sector – can leverage resources, achieve economies of scale, avoid duplication, accelerate innovation and enhance user convenience. Effective arrangements require adequate checks and balances that address public access, capital improvements, communication and oversight, and overall quality of service. Criteria are required to evaluate potential and existing partnerships to ensure that they meet community needs.

Beyond partnerships, there are many new and emerging provision and funding tools that may be considered to assist in providing value to taxpayers. Progressive approaches that respond to changing times, address emerging needs and promote excellence should be explored and encouraged. Innovation means finding better ways of designing, providing and funding spaces, such as optimizing facilities and improving operational efficiency.

4. Multi-use and flexible

Multi-use facilities are generally preferred over stand-alone single-purpose facilities, the development of which is discouraged due to operational inefficiencies and the narrow range of uses that can be accommodated. The inclusion of flexible multi-purpose spaces should be considered in the design of all community centres, public libraries and appropriate civic facilities. Flexible designs will allow facilities to adapt to shifting needs and to be transformed to meet the needs of multiple and larger groups of users over their lifecycles.

A shift away from smaller, single use facilities that are operated under exclusive use arrangements would assist the city in focusing its resources on spaces that promote public access and inclusive programming as well as providing more efficient use of staff and other resources. As much as possible, facilities should be designed to be flexible, multi-functional and multi-seasonal. Requests for dedicated spaces and single-use facilities are less likely to be supported in the future.

5. Animated and optimized

Increasingly, people are placing greater value on social connections and shared experiences. This growing array of interests and activities is leading to strong demand for indoor and outdoor spaces that can be animated through unstructured use, programs and events. By closely monitoring utilization and working with stakeholders, adjustments can be made to optimize access and usage.

The City must continue to adapt its facilities to serve people of all ages and backgrounds (including youth, seniors, families, newcomers, under-served populations, etc.), setting priorities based on demographics, utilization and true needs. Parks and facilities that provide appealing destination spaces, features and amenities and that respond to a broad range of permitted and self-directed activities are a must. Inspiring designs and elements – such as those seen in modern libraries – are instrumental in activating the true potential of community facilities and services.

6. Responsive and progressive

This Active Together Master Plan provides a basis for identifying and prioritizing City-wide and community-specific gaps and needs, and should be referenced as opportunities arise.

To ensure equity with respect to facility and service access, facility provision priorities should be evidence-based – grounded in current data and research and aligned with need and demand. Trends should be monitored, residents should be consulted, and criteria should be developed to address emerging local needs and guide the provision and renewal of parks, facilities and services. The National Framework for Recreation in Canada is one of several watershed documents that provides strong support for thoughtful data collection, analysis and planning.

One notable area of change in Vaughan is residential intensification, which offers many opportunities but also challenges. Vertical residential neighbourhoods, comprised largely of mid to high-rise condominiums, are beginning to appear within major nodes and corridors. How the City directs and respond to this growth will define the quality of life for residents. Intensification and rising land values require different thinking about infrastructure provision, such as maximizing current assets and doing more with less, new forms of development and partnerships. For example, where possible, land for major parks and facilities should be secured early on to take advantage of lower land values and promote integrated planning. The preparation of special studies, targeted research, use of pilot projects, etc. may be required to identify appropriate and progressive responses to these and related challenges.

7. Supported and renewed

In recent years, the City has focused on implementing new and robust asset management practices that have been applied to the extensive inventory of parks, recreation and library facilities. This should continue as, not only are these assets highly valued by residents, but some are beginning to show their age. As maintenance budgets lag, parks and facilities become tired and out-of-date, making it increasingly difficult to offer quality experiences. New strategies and funding approaches are needed to renovate, enhance, replace or repurpose these facilities to meet community needs and achieve maximum impact.

It is also evident that many parks and facilities are used differently today than when they were originally built. Older designs tend to emphasize activity-specific spaces, while modern facilities are designed to respond to the ways in which people interact and how they access services. This translates into a growing focus on unstructured multi-use public spaces. Re-imagining, rejuvenating and reinvesting in parks and facilities is an emerging objective for the City.

8. Respecting our heritage and diversity

Part of Vaughan's identity is that it is a diverse community that celebrates its cultural heritage and preserves its natural heritage network. Support to the cultural heritage sector helps to strengthen the City's quality of place, making Vaughan attractive to newcomers and economic investment. Activities such as community events, heritage

interpretation, programs that enhance community wellbeing, and public art should be encouraged in appropriate parks and facilities.

Preserving and connecting natural heritage features to public amenities are important objectives. We recognize the need to integrate trails, public parks and open spaces into the natural heritage network to create connections, public uses and support passive recreation. When amenity spaces are required, these must be provided in addition to passive recreation areas and buffer zones.

Heritage and diversity also enhances awareness and creates interest in other cultures and activities. Parks, recreation and library facilities and services are excellent vehicles through which to promote these values and educate about Vaughan's rich history and natural heritage network.

9. Resilient and environmentally responsible

Capital projects will increasingly be required to meet modern performance targets in the areas of climate change, environmental sustainability, energy conservation and accessibility. In support of this, one of the priorities of City Council is to continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable city. As such, new and substantially renovated parks, recreation and library facilities should be designed to incorporate environmentally sustainable features, such as promotion of active transportation, tree canopy expansion, water use and treatment, carbon emissions reduction and more (where feasible).

Sustainability refers to the many ways that parks and facilities support the City's goals of maximizing utilization, protecting infrastructure and contributing to the quality of the environment on a long-term basis. Through adaptable and resilient facilities that are socially, environmentally and financially sustainable, we can help to protect the interests of current and future generations.

10. Affordable and financially sustainable

High quality services help to attract economic development and improve the overall quality of life – an investment in parks, recreation and libraries is an investment in community, residents and the public realm. Fiscal responsibility will continue to be a key principle in the provision and management of parks and facilities, balanced with affordable access for Vaughan residents.

The maximization and strategic application of funding tools will assist in providing value to taxpayers. To the greatest degree possible, it is anticipated that growth will pay for growth. However, a variety of approaches will be required for redevelopment and service enhancement projects. With continual pressure to make the best of use of municipal funds, the introduction of new types of facilities that extend beyond the City's traditional services may require further study.

2. Our Accomplishments



The City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries have taken significant strides to achieve the goals set out in the 2013 Active Together Master Plan by implementing recommendations from that plan. This section outlines major initiatives and achievements since the previous plan was prepared, along with a summary of the plan's implementation status.



Mapping of the City's current parks and facility inventory is identified in **Appendix A**.

2.1 Recent Accomplishments

Notable achievements and initiatives undertaken by the City and Library since the previous ATMP that was prepared in 2013 are highlighted below. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Parks & Outdoor Recreation – Recent Accomplishments

- An asset management system has been created, containing updated inventories and condition assessments for a variety of asset types.
- A Parks Redevelopment Strategy identifying criteria and priorities for park renewal was completed in early 2018.
- Ongoing planning of district and neighbourhood parks within secondary plans and block plans (e.g., Blocks 18, 41, 59, etc.).
- Rationalization of park types and designs within urban areas, such as the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.
- Initiated Phase 1 development of North Maple Regional Park, as well as calls for public-private partnerships to advance additional phases of construction.
- Community and public-private partnerships have been pursued to leverage additional resources, expedite development and improve accessibility (e.g., York Hill District Park).
- The Vaughan Super Trail concept was developed, work continues on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Strategy, and discussions regarding trail management and maintenance have been initiated with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
- Upgrades to existing sports fields have been completed and additional opportunities for upgrades continue to be assessed.

- Several new and redeveloped playgrounds have been installed to improve accessibility throughout the City.
- New tennis courts were established in Blocks 49 and 61 and several tennis court complexes have been renewed.
- The inventory of basketball courts has increased, with a growing focus on court designs that can accommodate multi-uses.



- Skate zones were installed in Kleinburg and Sonoma Heights; an additional site in Vellore will be complete in 2018.
- The refurbished Father Ermanno Bulfon outdoor rink was opened in 2017/18.
- Although no new waterplay facilities have been built, several were funded and included in district park designs moving forward (Vellore, Kleinburg, Thornhill Green).
- An Off-leash Dog Park Study was completed in 2016, identifying a potential location for an additional primary off-leash area.
- A Community Garden Policy was endorsed by Council in 2014.
- Initiated strategies for beautification, tree replacement and replanting.

Indoor Recreation – Recent Accomplishments

- Undertook a comprehensive organizational review that resulted in the realignment and transition of 81 staff from Facility Services to Recreation Services for the day-to-day maintenance of community centres.
- Formed a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Toronto for the development and operation of the YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project, with an opening scheduled for late 2019; the centre will include aquatics, fitness, gymnasium and more, adjacent to the recently opened subway station.
- Secured additional community recreation space within the same building as the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA and began an assessment of operational models.
- Initiated a feasibility study for the Carrville Community Centre (Block 11).
- Initiated preliminary planning for community facilities in Blocks 27 and 41.
- Commenced plans to renew and revitalize older community centres (starting with Garnet A. Williams Community Centre).

- Completed accessibility improvements at Vellore Village and Dufferin Clark Community Centres.
- Initiated a framework for enhancements to lobby/public spaces in community centres.
- Upgraded Woodbridge Memorial Pool.
- Added public Wi-Fi at all community centres.
- Established a long-term lease agreement for Uplands Golf & Ski.
- Installed City digital electronic signs at multiple municipal sites throughout Vaughan.
- Updated the Community Service Organizations (CSO), Facility Allocation and User Fee policies.
- Completed an Older Adult Recreation Strategy and initiated a Recreation Services Plan.
- Implemented a Fitness Loyalty Program.
- Completed the MacMillan Farm Study.
- Initiated the Pierre Berton Heritage Centre facility and exhibit project.
- Expanded third-party program partnership agreements.

Vaughan Public Libraries – Recent Accomplishments

- Expanded library hours, programming and outreach throughout the City.
- Developed creation spaces at all three resource libraries and modified staffing model to respond to changing roles.
- VPL Facility Development Plan was developed in 2012.
- The Pleasant Ridge Library opened in December 2014.
- Kleinburg Library was partially renovated in 2015 and an outdoor reading garden was added.
- Ansley Grove, Dufferin Clark and Woodbridge Libraries were renovated, combining service desks and introducing vibrant marketplaces in all locations.
- The award-winning Civic Centre Resource Library opened in September 2016.
- The Vellore Village South Library is expected to open in early 2018.
- Held a ground-breaking ceremony in 2017 to launch the construction of a branch library in Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, as well as a storefront self-service point on the main floor.

- VPL has been involved alongside the City in the design of a future library in Block 11 (Carrville).
- Developed a new Strategic Plan in 2016, conducted an economic impact study in 2013, and initiated a study in 2017/18 to examine usage and future options for Maple Library.



2.2 Summary of Recommendations from the 2013 ATMP

The 2013 Active Together Master Plan contained 91 recommendations identifying project and time-specific actions, as well as continuous best practices that provide overall direction on facility provision and design. The majority of the recommendations have been completed or are in progress; however, some options have changed and new pressures have emerged, resulting in shifts from certain recommendations.

Table 2 indicates that, of the 91 time-based recommendations put forward in the 2013 ATMP, 80% were identified for initiation or implementation between 2013 and 2018, while the balance are longer-term actions. Of the short-term actions, **81% have been completed or are in progress**. 19% have not been acted upon for various reasons, such as lack of funding, delayed growth, other priorities, or a change in direction; most of these will require further review through this update.

Table 2: 2013 ATMP Implementation to Date

Action (to date)	Recommendations	Percent
Completed / In Progress	59	81%
No Action / Further Review Required	14	19%
Subtotal	73	100%
Timeframe Not Yet Reached	18	--
Total	91	--

The status of specific recommendations is discussed further in the facility assessments later in this report.

3. Community Profile & Emerging Trends



This section outlines key demographic characteristics in Vaughan, such as growth and socio-demographic factors, which may impact the demand for parks, recreation, and library facilities and services. Social trends and broader market factors are then examined to develop a more complete picture of service delivery and infrastructure needs.

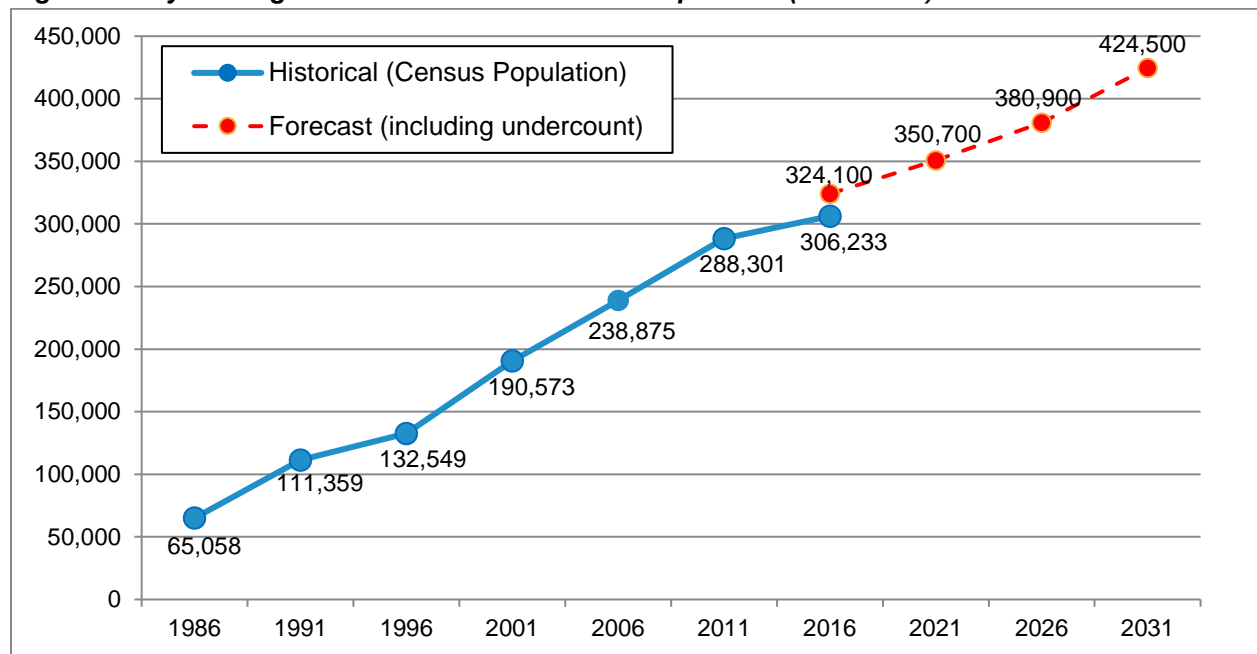
3.1 Community Profile

Historic and Forecasted Population Figures

The 2016 Census records Vaughan’s population at 306,233, however Census data is traditionally undercounted. The Region of York projected for Vaughan a 2016 population figure of **324,100**, which is a more accurate estimate and will be used in this Plan⁵.

The City has seen rapid growth in the last thirty years, growing nearly five-fold since 1986 as illustrated in Figure 1. The most recent approved population projections are those contained in the 2010 Vaughan Official Plan. These projections anticipate that the City’s strong growth rate will continue to 2031, with the City reaching a population of **424,500**. It is noted that the City grew at a slower pace during the last Census period (6% between 2011 and 2016; 17,900 persons) than in the five years prior (21% between 2006 and 2011; 49,400 persons).

Figure 1: City of Vaughan Historical and Forecast Population (1986-2031)⁶



⁵ Sources: Historical – Statistics Canada Census; Forecast – City of Vaughan (includes institutional adjustment and undercount; based on 45% scenario prepared by the Region in November 2015, adjusted to remove growth in Vaughan’s whitebelt).

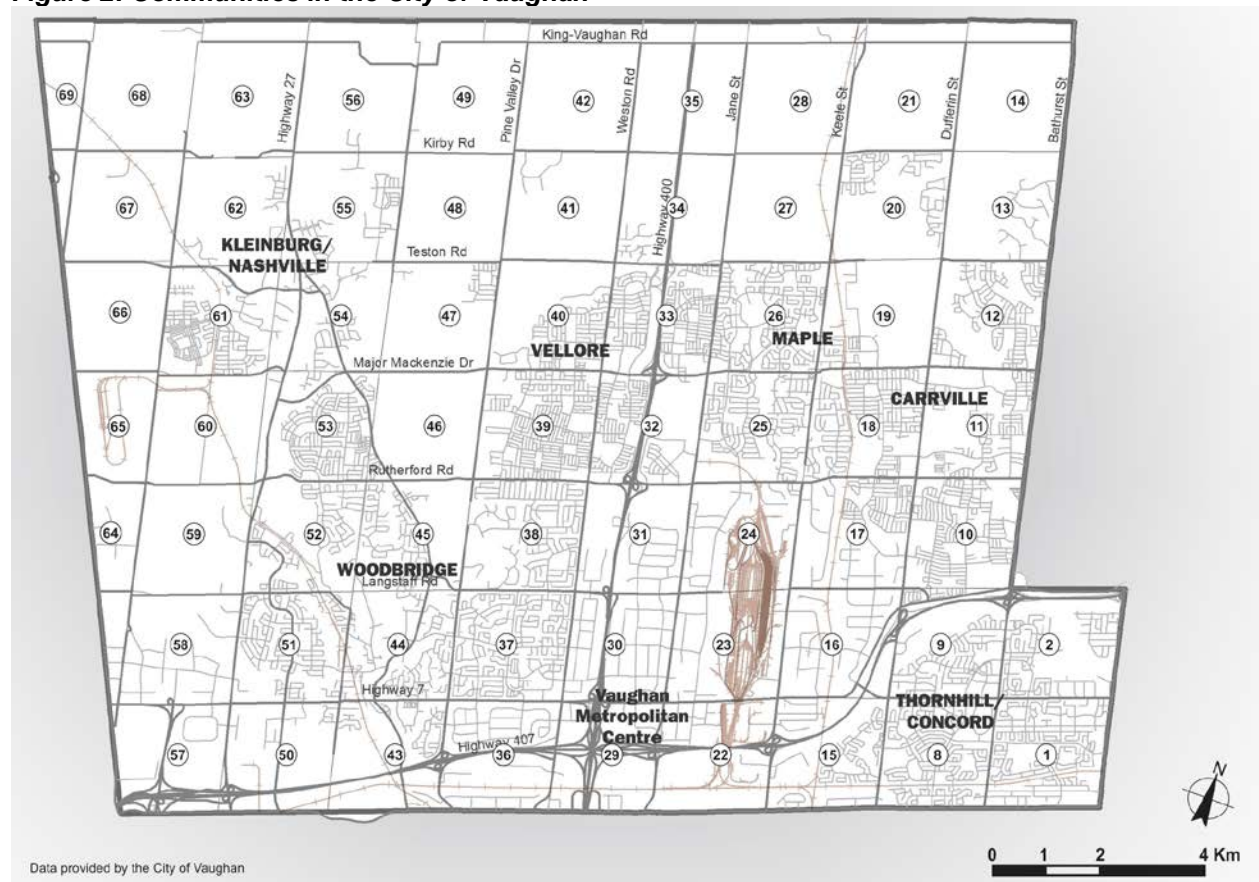
⁶ Ibid.

Note: The City of Vaughan has initiated a Growth Management Strategy Update and Municipal Comprehensive Review, which will lead to an amended Official Plan and infrastructure and services master plans. The Region initiated an Official Plan Review in 2014, which led to the development of a “York Region Preferred Growth Scenario” that updated population forecasts by local municipality to the year 2031 and extended them to 2041 (the draft 2041 projection for Vaughan is 497,000). The preferred growth scenario has yet to be confirmed and is not in effect.

Population Distribution & Growth

Residents of Vaughan commonly identify as being from one of six major communities within the city (see Figure 2): Carrville, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill/Concord, Vellore and Woodbridge. Vaughan Metropolitan Centre – Vaughan’s new downtown – is also beginning to emerge as a mixed-use community.

Figure 2: Communities in the City of Vaughan



Each of these communities is unique in its population density, length of time as an established community and projected growth. The 2013 ATMP noted that all communities in Vaughan are expected to grow by 2031. One of the eight goals of the Vaughan Official Plan is to direct growth to appropriate locations. As noted in Section 1.5 of the Vaughan Official Plan, “*This means a shift in emphasis from the development of new communities in greenfield areas to the promotion of intensification in areas of the City with the infrastructure capacity and existing or planned transit service to accommodate growth.*”

Many of these areas will be characterized by high and mid-rise residential buildings supported by mixed-use centres that promote compact, pedestrian friendly, transit supportive and complete communities.

Figure 3 illustrates 2016 population density within the City of Vaughan, while Figure 4 identifies projected densities in 2031. Areas of highest density currently include:

- Thornhill (Blocks 1, 8, 9);
- Carrville (Block 10);
- Maple (Blocks 26 & 33); and
- Vellore (Block 39).

Note: Where applicable, the local-level analysis within this Active Together Master Plan Review and Update relies on the use of Concession Blocks, of which there are 66 in Vaughan. Blocks have been the preferred unit of analysis in many municipal planning initiatives and enable comparisons due to their similar sizes. 2016 Census data is available at the City-level and sub-geographic units; it is not currently available at the block-level.

Figure 3: 2016 Population Density (persons per hectare), by Census Tract

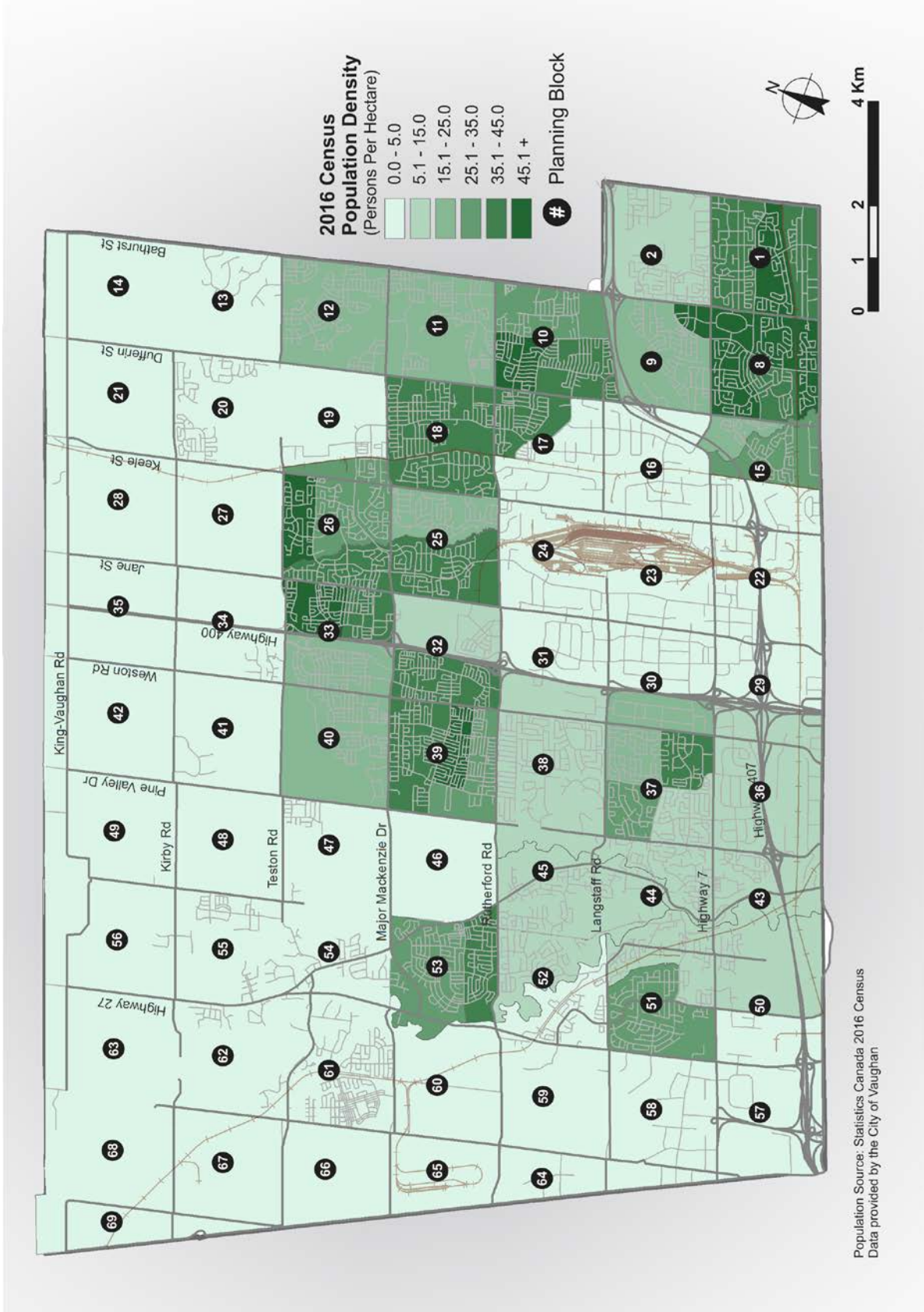


Figure 4: 2031 Projected Population Density (persons per hectare), by Planning Block



Aside from new development areas (such as the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and whitebelt lands, including Blocks 40/47 and 55), growth will happen more incrementally and be distributed amongst key nodes and corridors throughout Vaughan. Figure 5 illustrates anticipated residential growth across Vaughan based on planning applications that are currently in the application “pipeline”. Residential development proposals are being submitted on an ongoing basis, so this map represents “point in time” data that is subject to change. Nevertheless, it provides a reasonable approximation of short- to medium-term growth in the City. Key areas of growth are listed below, each of which have between 2,500 and 4,300 additional residential units within registered, draft approved, or proposed applications:

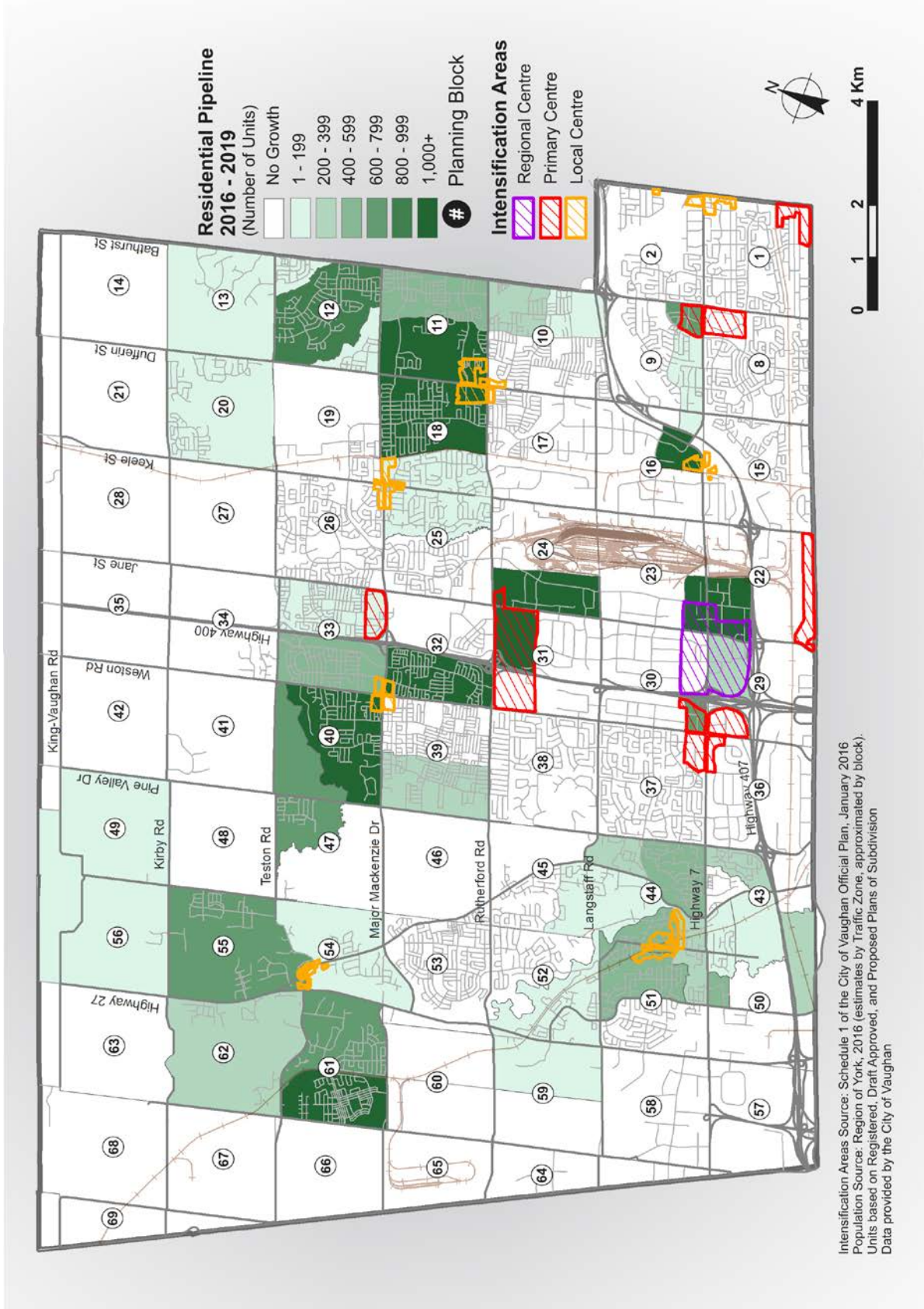
- Vellore (Block 32W and 40);
- Carrville (Blocks 11 and 18);
- Nashville and Kleinburg (Blocks 55 and 61);
- Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (Blocks 22, 23, 29 and 30);
- Vaughan Mills (Block 24 and 31); and
- Concord (Block 16).

In addition to the areas that are currently undergoing residential development, longer-term growth potential exists in the following areas, subject to planning approvals:

- **Blocks 27 and 41** – The Vaughan Official Plan has identified these as new community areas which are anticipated to be significant greenfield growth areas; they will be subject to future secondary planning.
- **Blocks 28, 42 and 66** – An expansion of the urban settlement area boundary to include Block 28 (allocated around 2036) and Blocks 42 and 66 (allocated around 2041) has been proposed; these areas are currently in the whitebelt and additional planning approvals will be required.
- **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre** – The VMC is being designed for 25,000 residents and is envisioned to become Vaughan’s downtown, the highest density node within the City and a focus for civic activities, business, shopping, entertainment and living. The Province has identified the core of the VMC as a provincially designated Urban Growth Centre.
- **Other Secondary Plans** – Other Secondary Plans include, but are not limited to, Steeles West, Woodbridge Centre, Yonge Steeles Corridor, Promenade Mall and more.

Also shown on Figure 5 are Regional, Primary and Local Centres for growth as identified in the City’s Official Plan. These areas can be expected to undergo residential intensification over the next twenty years, guided by the policies of the City and Region’s Official Plans.

Figure 5: Forecasted Residential Growth (number of units)



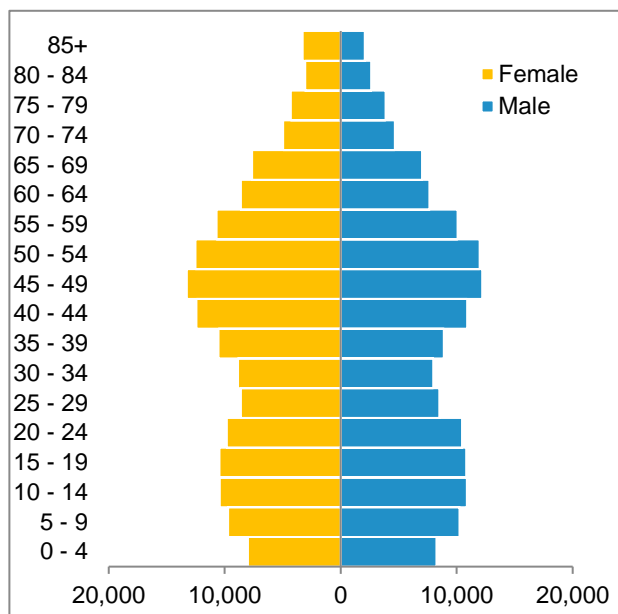
Age Composition

The age composition of a community can be a useful indicator of parks, recreation and library amenity requirements. For example, areas with a higher proportion of children and youth will typically have a higher demand for venues that support active recreation (e.g., playgrounds, splash pads, community centres, swimming pools, arenas, etc.). Areas with a higher proportion of older adults are likely to have greater than average demand for more passive activities and spaces (e.g., adult fitness equipment, tennis or pickleball courts, seating and shade, multi-purpose rooms, library programs and resources, etc.).

According to the 2016 Census, Vaughan’s median age is 40.2 years, which is slightly younger than the Region’s median age of 41.1 years and the Provincial median age of 41.3 years. Despite its younger profile, Vaughan’s population is aging, with the median age increasing by 2.3 years since the 2011 Census (37.9 years).

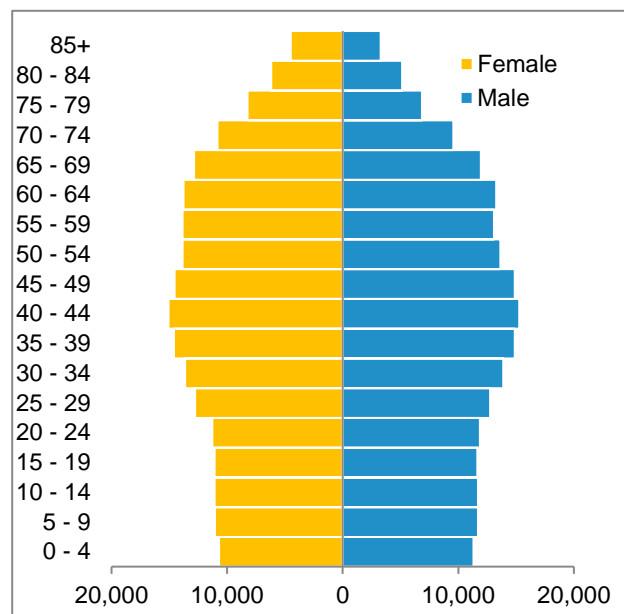
Since 2006, nearly all age groups have increased in Vaughan, except for ages 0 to 4 and 30 to 39. All five-year age cohorts ages 50+ increased by more than 50% over this ten-year timeframe, suggesting rising demand for age-friendly park, recreation, and library features and services. Figures 6 and 7 illustrate the forecasted change to 2031, which illustrates the continued aging of the population, along with material growth in all age cohorts. Slower growth is anticipated in the 5 to 19 age cohort, which is a key user group for active park and recreation components, such as splash pads, sports fields and indoor recreation facilities. This age group also frequents public libraries to study, socialize and use technology (computers, Wi-Fi, etc.). Anecdotal evidence from intensifying areas in the Greater Toronto Area suggest that families will not only seek to live in greenfield subdivisions, but also vertical neighbourhoods due to more affordable housing options.

Figure 6: Vaughan Population Pyramid, 2016 Census



Source: Statistics Canada (2016)

Figure 7: Vaughan Population Pyramid, 2031 Forecast



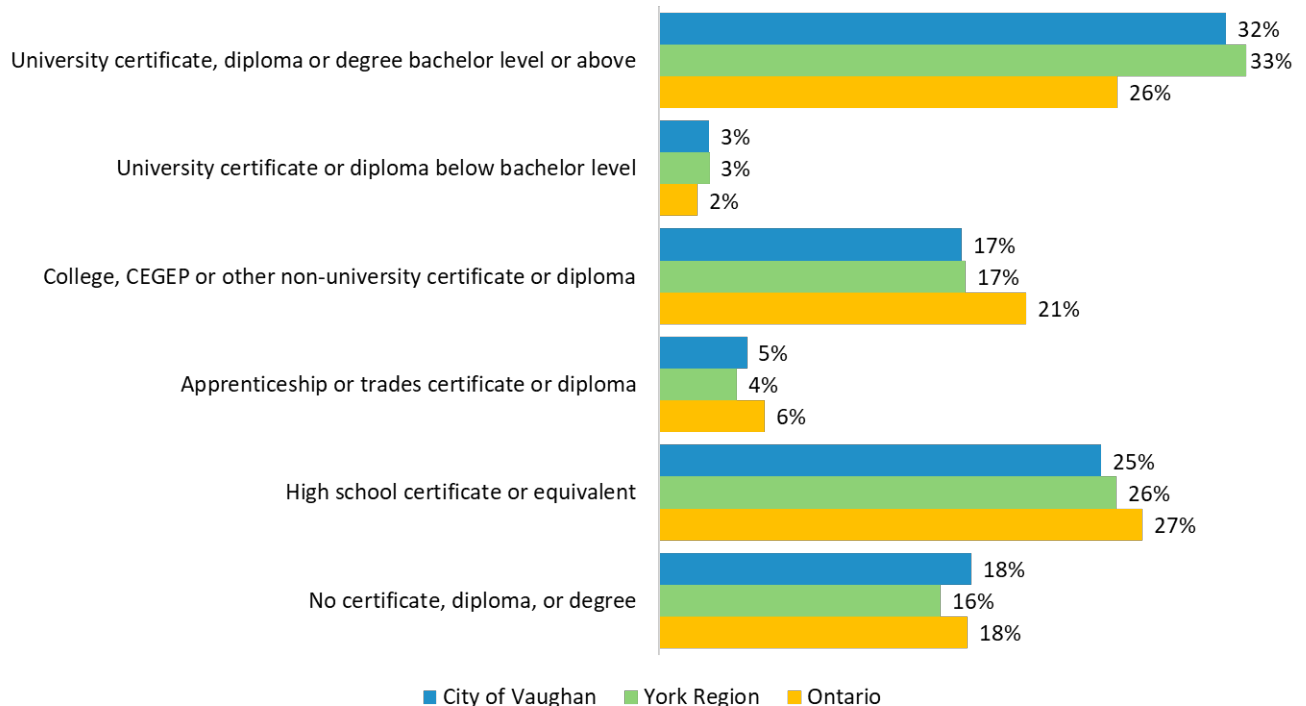
Source: York Region (2012)

Education

Like household and individual income, level of education can also be an indicator of participation rates. The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute has conducted studies that found a positive correlation between higher levels of education increased participation. Therefore, we can infer that households with higher levels of education are more likely to participate in recreation and library activities. Among those age 15 years or older, Vaughan’s residents overall have attained a similar level of education when compared to the Region, but higher than the Province. When considering the highest level of education attained, Vaughan has a higher proportion of residents that hold university degrees (32%) than the Province (26%), but a lower proportion than the Region (33%).

This well-educated client base presents both challenges and opportunities in the provision of parks, recreation and library services. In general terms, households with higher education levels are more likely to use these services than those with lower education and income levels. As shown in Figure 8, Vaughan’s residents fit this description and, therefore, it is expected that a larger portion of the population would be participate in parks, recreation and library activities. There were several suggestions received through the ATMP consultation program for additional education and literacy-based library programs and events.

Figure 8: Educational attainment, City of Vaughan (population 15 years and older)



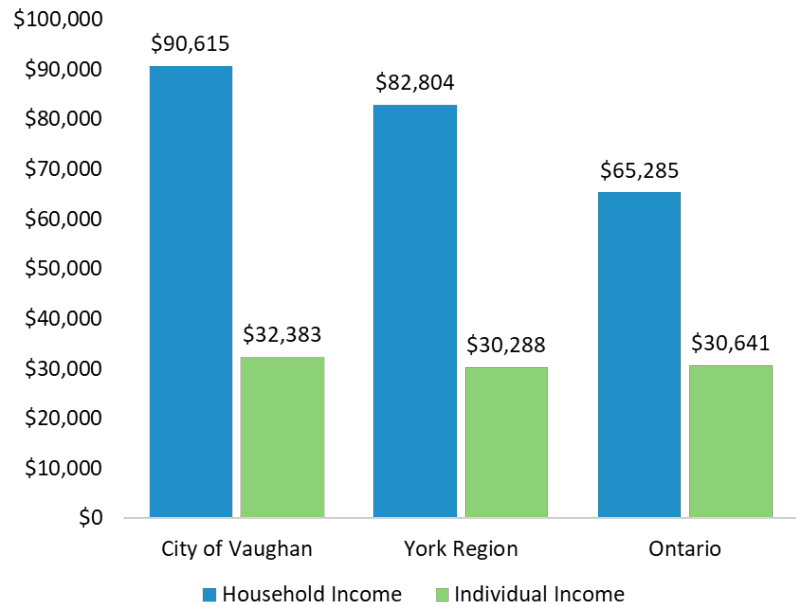
Source: Statistics Canada (2016)

Income

According to the 2016 Census, the median household income for Vaughan was \$90,615, higher than York Region (\$82,804) and considerably higher than the Province (\$65,285). Vaughan's individual after-tax incomes were comparable to both the Region and Province, only about 5% higher.

Despite higher than average household income, it is recognized that there are a variety of income levels represented in the City. Numerous studies have identified many barriers that low-income families face in accessing leisure opportunities including: lack of awareness of programs, parental mistrust, lack of knowledge on the importance of active lifestyles, lack of transportation, unaffordable user fees, stigmatizing subsidy processes, transportation costs, equipment costs, and lack of places for both informal and structured activities. It should be recognized that many lower-income households in Vaughan benefit greatly from affordable and accessible community services.

Figure 9: Median household & individual income in Vaughan



Source: Statistics Canada (2016)

Diversity

The 2016 Census indicates that the City (46%) and Region (47%) have a similar percentage of immigrants and this is considerably more than the Province (29%). Approximately 45% of immigrants arrived before 1991, 24% arrived between 1991 and 2000, and 31% arrived between 2001 and 2016. Vaughan's residents speak over 100 languages; the most prominent mother tongues in 2016 were (in order from most to least) Italian, Russian, Mandarin, Spanish, Persian, Cantonese and Urdu.

Trends suggest that the proportion of immigrants will continue to increase. Depending on the prominent regions of immigration, ethnic diversity can have a strong influence on facility design and activity/program preferences, such as increasing demand for cricket and soccer, cultural events and family gatherings.

Parks, recreation facilities and libraries are safe and affordable spaces for gathering and community building and provide critical spaces that support newcomers and marginalized populations. However, it is noted that many newcomers face additional barriers to participating in recreation activities – past research indicates that 32% of children of immigrants participate in sports, compared with 55% of their Canadian-born

counterparts⁷. Common barriers are high costs, lack of time, difficulty navigating the system and transportation⁸.

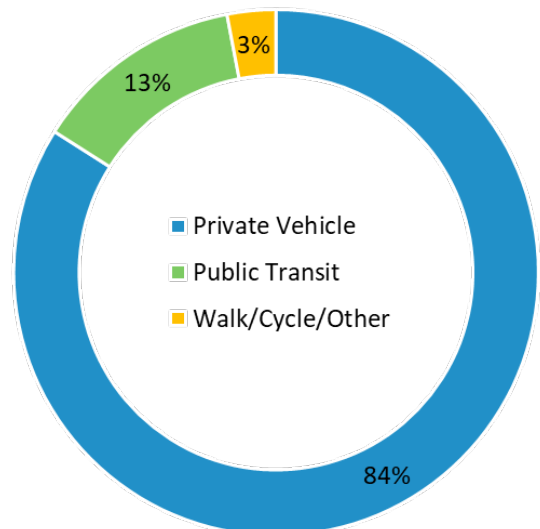
Place of Work & Mode of Transportation

According to the 2016 Census, the City of Vaughan is home to 246,660 residents aged 15 years or older. Of those categorized within the working-age cohort, 159,440 were employed (65% employment rate). This proportion of employed residents is slightly higher than both the Region and Province (62% and 60%, respectively).

As part of the Greater Toronto Area, Vaughan has a large commuter population, with 63% of employed residents with a “usual place of work” commuting outside the city. Given the regional commute to work, it is also important to note that non-residents are employed in Vaughan and should be considered when planning for local parks and facilities, where applicable.

Further to the point that the City of Vaughan is home to a large commuter-population, the majority (84%) of residents travelled to work in a private vehicle, either as the driver or as a passenger (see Figure 10). Of the remaining workforce, 13% used public transit to get to work, while only 3% indicated that they walk, cycle, or use another mode of transportation for their commute. Provision of high quality infrastructure such sidewalks and paved multi-use trails are important features for encouraging active transportation such as walking and cycling. Supporting these forms of travel can reduce traffic congestion and emissions while encouraging active lifestyles.

Figure 10: Mode of transportation to work for Vaughan residents



Source: Statistics Canada (2016)

⁷ Statistics Canada. 2005 General Social Survey. 2005

⁸ Social Planning Toronto. Newcomer Youth Access to Recreation in Toronto. March 2016.

3.2 Emerging Trends & Potential Responses

Effective planning requires an understanding of existing and emerging trends that may affect parks and facility needs. The 2013 Active Together Master Plan contained a comprehensive review of trends and best practices relating to the provision and design of parks, recreation and library facilities, as well as the activity trends that are driving demand. Most of these trends will continue to apply to the City, such as the need to ensure that facilities be as multi-functional and adaptable as possible.

Discussed below are several “mega-trends” that are broad, system-wide directions or movements affecting day-to-day life and spanning various sectors. Many of these have widespread ramifications for the future of parks, recreation and libraries. Some mega-trends, such as urbanization and population aging, are already starting to impact what and how facilities and services are being delivered. Others, such as climate change and physical inactivity, require a longer-term perspective but are no less important.

The discussion in this section is not intended to be exhaustive or to identify specific implications and responses for Vaughan, but rather to look at system-wide trends that may cross several service areas. Specific implications on the City’s parks, recreation and library infrastructure are addressed in subsequent sections of this report.

Urbanization

Centrally located within Canada’s largest economic region, Vaughan is attracting significant growth and investment. With growth comes increased demand for public spaces and greater pressure on existing facilities. Growth also results in land scarcity, which leads to rising land values and higher densities. Intensification is anticipated in several areas of the city, most notably those with access to higher order public transit options. There are also many areas that are maturing, which creates challenges for facility renewal, development and funding.

There are many opportunities and challenges associated with these trends. For example, the premium placed on land makes it more difficult and costly to find room for space-intensive activities such as field sports, and people have less exposure to nature and the respite it provides. As a result, the City is challenged to be more creative with existing spaces, apply higher design standards and seek new ways of doing things. As higher densities can result in a loss of personal space and growing feelings of isolation, responses such as publicly-accessible spaces, community hubs and engaging activities will be critical.

For example, new and robust urban parks (including public squares, strata parks and privately owned public spaces) will be required in areas of intensification. These parks will be more intensely used and should reflect their surrounding area, with a focus on providing a local gathering space for unstructured activities, including informal play and socialization. Urban parks can provide a wealth of outdoor opportunities and variety of uses, and high-quality spaces can stimulate economic development and urban regeneration.

The larger the city the greater the critical mass, which makes unique and low participation level activities more viable. Vaughan's employment sector, multi-cultural appeal and relative affordability mean that the range of interests and activities in the city are broadening, as is the range of stakeholders.

Over time, transportation systems in cities undergoing rapid urbanization are expected to improve and distances will shrink, encouraging movement through a wider variety of means. The re-engineering of the suburbs may also begin to reduce automobile dependency, but this will take time. Locations that are accessible via multiple modes of transportation will remain vital contributors to Vaughan's strong, vibrant communities.

Changing Demographics

As covered earlier in this section, the aging of Canada's population is a well-known trend, driven largely by the baby boom generation that is now 50 to 70 years of age. For the first time, the number of persons aged 65 years and older now exceeds the number of children aged 0 to 14 years. Older adults are a significant and growing part of the population in Vaughan. This is likely to result in greater demands for older adult activities, value-added services and an enhanced focus on the removal of accessibility barriers (not only for seniors, but also for people with different abilities, cultural backgrounds, etc.). Vaughan is continually working to become an age-friendly city and completed an Older Adult Recreation Strategy in 2016. The Strategy sets out 14 actions that aim to improve inclusion, engagement and participation by older adults, as well as improvements to policies and facilities. In 2018, an Older Adult Task Force was appointed to further inform older adult issues in the community, including programming needs.

This is not to say that all age groups are declining in size – as Vaughan grows, so too will most of its age cohorts – but rather that older adults are the fastest growing segment of the population. With the children of baby boomers now being of child-bearing age, modest increases in younger populations can be expected. Nevertheless, the nation's birth rates are generally on the decline and are one of the reasons that many school boards are closing schools (along with changing population distributions and aging infrastructure).

The Toronto Census Metropolitan Area is one of the most multicultural regions in the world with nearly half of its residents born outside Canada. According to the 2016 Census, 46% of Vaughan residents were born outside of Canada. This trend is not unique in Canada where immigration has accounted for most population growth since 1999. In general, diversity has contributed to the broadening of activity interests, including sports (e.g., cricket, etc.), library use (e.g., multilingual collections, large print books, assistive technologies, etc.) and parks (e.g., events and social gatherings, etc.). Diverse populations enrich communities with multiple languages, historical context and new cultural identities. As a result, event space and placemaking are also areas generating greater attention at the municipal level.

Other societal trends will influence the kind of infrastructure needed in the future. The economic disparity between the rich and poor is widening, due in part to polarization in the labour market and the shift away from full-time continuous employment. Individuals and families with lower incomes typically have fewer opportunities for recreation due to

costs involved. These indicators suggest that the need for affordable access to public recreation services has never been greater.

As time passes, other lifestyle changes are likely to emerge because of new technologies, an evolving urban fabric, improved mobility and other factors. An increased focus on flexible indoor and outdoor space and the experiences within them can be anticipated.

Changing Economic & Fiscal Landscape

Investing in parks and facilities is often expensive and most Canadian communities have significant infrastructure deficits. Land values are increasing as are energy and commodity prices, leading to potentially higher capital and operating costs. Providing the right amenities in the right places at the right times is one way that municipalities can help to mitigate these costs and pass this value onto taxpayers.

In many communities, there is an increasing emphasis on revenue generation and cost recovery as means of improving the financial bottom line of various services. Despite this, parks, recreation and libraries are largely considered to be subsidized community services, although the degree varies by municipality and prevailing delivery models. Energy efficiency (e.g., natural or high-efficiency lighting, automated building systems, etc.) and low environmental impacts (e.g., LEED certification, etc.) are common objectives of most building projects and this can be expected to continue. Environmentally sustainable building features result in higher initial capital costs, with longer-term payback through operational savings.

Fiscal policy in most Canadian communities relies heavily on funding from growth (such as Development Charges) and point-in-time inter-governmental transfers (such as grants). For example, many parks and recreation facilities across Ontario were built as Centennial-era projects in the late 1960s or through the lottery-funded grant programs of the 1970s. With many of these facilities approaching (or beyond) the end of their lifecycles, senior government instituted capital programs aimed at facility repair and development in the late 2000s. The programs were welcomed but were insufficient to deal with the mounting capital backlogs, not to mention growing infrastructure needs elsewhere. With the economy now experiencing low interest rates, many communities are looking at different ways of leveraging additional funds to deliver on their infrastructure needs. A continued emphasis on consistent funding levels, partnerships and priority-setting is required.

Sedentary Lifestyles

Physical inactivity is a known risk factor for most chronic diseases and many other health conditions. Rates of chronic disease (e.g., diabetes and heart disease), mental health concerns, obesity, and physical inactivity are at historically high levels in Canada and are taxing the health care system. Just over one-half (51%) of adults and 62% of youth (ages 12 to 17) in York Region achieve the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines. Nearly one in five youth (18%) and one in two adults (54%) are overweight or obese in York Region.

The 2016 ParticipACTION Report Card of Physical Activity for Children and Youth in Canada indicates that active transportation, active play and organized sport all contribute to overall physical activity. While the grades given to overall physical activity and active play were a “D-” and “D+” respectively, a “B” was given to organized sport and physical activity participation and an “A-” to the availability of facilities, programs, parks and playgrounds.

These statistics suggest that there is a long way to go, however several sectors are working together to reverse this trend. The “Healthy Communities” movement (which emphasizes active living and accessible services) and partnerships between parks and recreation and health providers holds promise for the future. Additional suggestions for improving these grades include providing more opportunities for active outdoor play (e.g., natural playgrounds that include elements such as sand, water, wood and living plants), facilitating community use of schools and investing in active transportation (e.g., bicycle paths and lanes).

Lack of time is consistently cited as the number one reason for not participating in leisure activities, ahead of financial or accessibility barriers. The survey completed for this ATMP Update indicated that this trend also applies to Vaughan. As a result, unstructured activities that are easier to fit into busy schedules are becoming more popular, sometimes at the expense of traditional team sports. Walking, group fitness and outdoor play are just some of the self-regulated activities that are on the rise. These activities are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, have positive health benefits, and generally do not require expensive equipment or higher order facilities.

The Ever-changing Face of Sport

The variety of activities and sports available today is much broader than in the past. This has led to many new opportunities, but has also challenged the viability of various facilities. Changing interests are driven not only by trends in leisure and sport, but also by community diversity, evolving lifestyle preferences, land use patterns and new outlooks regarding physical activity.

For example, national registration figures indicate that, where once ice hockey and baseball were dominant, soccer has taken rise since the 1990s. The once popular activities of curling, racquetball, bowling and aerobics – though still popular in some areas – have generally given way to new and emerging activities such as cricket, pickleball, skateboarding, therapeutic recreation and new forms of body weight training. There is also a heightened focus on competitive sport and year-round training for youth athletes, which is leading to a greater focus on high-end training and tournament facilities.

Female participation has grown considerably (though males still participate in sport at much higher levels), as have inclusive options for persons with disabilities. Activities that enable skill development and year-round play are also expanding, consistent with the Canadian Sport for Life and Long-Term Athlete Development models. In addition, immigration is a major influence on the popularity of sport and recreation activities. A recent report suggested that newcomers to Canada tend to be attracted to activities that are classified as “active leisure”, such as walking (72%), swimming (64%), running (58%),

working out at the gym (53%), cycling (50%) and fitness classes (45%). By comparison, new citizens are less likely to play organized sports, the most popular of which are soccer (18%), badminton (12%), tennis (11%), table tennis (9%), basketball (8%) and hockey (4%).

The number and range of new activity options is rapidly growing, offering people more choices and stretching municipal program budgets. Municipalities and their partners are being asked to keep up with these changing demands and expectations, a daunting task given the level of specialization often required in facility design and program development.

Partnerships & Community Hubs

Most municipalities embrace a mixed service delivery system where a variety of providers focus on what they each do best, with the overarching intention of providing access to needed services. This model is strengthened through a heavy reliance on volunteers and non-profit organizations that offer a broad scope of activities including minor sports and special events, often in collaboration with the municipality. There are many recreational facility and service providers in Vaughan, such as non-profits, schools, and private businesses and the list is expanding as the city grows. To maximize investments, municipalities are increasingly partnering with other providers to fund, develop and/or operate recreation facilities. A variety of approaches will continue to be required to maximize access for residents.

One potential approach involves community hubs. As a place, a community hub is a central access point for a range of needed health and social services, along with cultural, recreational and green spaces to nourish community life. A community hub can be a recreation centre, school, early learning centre, library, older adult centre, community health centre, place of worship, or another public space. This concept offers many social benefits, strengthens community cohesion and fosters enhanced quality of life by providing a central location to deliver a range of services in consultation with the residents who will use them. In 2015, the Province of Ontario published “Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan” to assist in the planning and delivery of integrated hub projects and has begun to offer partial funding to a number of initiatives. Community hub projects are beginning to be implemented across the Province.

Customer-driven Models

As noted in the 2015 Framework for Recreation in Canada⁹, recreation has historically been considered a public good focused on outreach to vulnerable people and communities. While this remains a central tenet of the parks and recreation sector, services are increasingly being delivered through an individual-based, facility-focused, user-pay model that gives the user more personal liberty and opportunity to participate in recreational activities. This is consistent with trends suggesting greater interest in self-scheduled activities that require less time commitment, as well as greater degrees of

⁹ A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing. A Joint Initiative of the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, January 2015

individual customization. It is no longer sufficient that a service or program is simply available, it must also be high quality and responsive to user needs. This is leading to greater opportunities for partnered facility provision, such as collaborations among public, not-for-profit and private sector providers.

Many of the private and non-profit providers in the GTA are evolving their delivery models in keeping with these trends. The City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries are gathering more and better data on facility and program users, improving evaluations of the user experience, developing service strategies, and improving online registration and permitting systems.

New Technologies

Technology has had a profound impact on all sectors, enabling communities to do more, and to do it more quickly and efficiently than in the past. Through social media, online platforms, automated processes, digital content, systems monitoring, wireless devices and more, technology helps to connect the city (especially young residents) and provide remarkable immediacy. Many Canadians believe Wi-Fi to be a basic amenity within public facilities and parks, and municipalities are increasingly providing it, particularly through their library systems.

While technology was initially intended to free up people's time, it has instead occupied it. As a result, attention spans are shorter, though people are generally more willing to try new things – these characteristics transfer to parks, recreation and library experiences.

Technology is also fast changing and unpredictable, promotes sedentary and solitary digital pursuits, and can compound feelings of isolation for many people. It will continue to enable and drive decisions related to facility and service delivery, providing an increasing capacity to match customer desires to provision models.

Diversity in Park Usage and Design

The movement toward “complete communities” suggests that people are spending more time in their local areas, which is increasing the importance of equitable access to quality parks and facilities. Public use of parkland is not only increasing along with the City's population, but is also diversifying. Furthermore, with intensification and infill driving a large part of the City's future growth, the ability to apply traditional forms of neighbourhood and community parks will be limited. The result is a greater need for a wider range of public spaces that fulfill the many roles of parks.

In built-up areas, there will be a transition away from traditional, sport-oriented parks toward the establishment of more creative, multi-functional urban parks that serve a range of ages and interests. In the new urban form, parks and public spaces will be key elements in ‘placemaking’ for their contributions to community greening, aesthetically pleasing spaces, enlivened streets and healthy, social communities. Even small parks can make a big difference.

Focus on Design and Function

In this era of user convenience and cost recovery, there is a growing expectation that facilities contain something for everybody, rather than being designed solely for singular uses. Thus, parks, recreation and library facilities must be multi-functional and adaptable to changing needs. Users expect open, accessible, architecturally interesting buildings that incorporate placemaking principles and good landscape design. Connections to the public realm are no longer discretionary, but rather requirements for successful public facilities and spaces. High quality facility design should emphasize (at a minimum) barrier-free access and linkages, sociability, comfort and activities.¹⁰ New facility design should also respond to the growing demands of users to provide superior and inclusive experiences, including causal and flexible spaces for people to gather and socialize.

How major facilities “fit” into communities is of increasing interest, as is their walkability and proximity to public transit given an enhanced focus on accessibility. With urban intensification, there is a need to be resourceful and innovative with how we design and share public space, including the stewardship of existing infrastructure. In more progressive communities such as Vaughan, this may manifest itself through continued advancements in the provision and design of energy-efficient facilities, resilient and environmental sustainable park spaces, and the creation of digital hubs and flexible library spaces.

As evidenced by buildings such as the Civic Centre Resource Library, the design of public facilities in Vaughan is evolving and there is a growing focus on integration among service providers and within the public realm. Co-location of complementary facility components often creates convenient, centralized activity centres and generates operating efficiencies. For the City, this trend supports adaptable facilities, integration with complementary providers and enhanced facility linkages within and between communities.

Technical building standards relating to the accessibility of indoor recreation facilities are largely governed by the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The accessibility legislation and guidelines have been modified or expanded since the 2013 ATMP was completed and should be considered moving forward.

¹⁰ Project for Public Spaces. 2014. What is placemaking? Retrieved from:www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/

4. Public Engagement



This section provides a summary of each of the primary engagement tools employed throughout the 2018 ATMP consultation process.

4.1 Overview

A broad scope of community engagement is key to successful planning. This 2018 ATMP Review and Update has undertaken a variety of internal and external consultation initiatives to ensure members of the public, municipal employees and officials, and stakeholder groups are given multiple opportunities to provide input as the plan develops. A campaign – including an e-blast, online narrative on the Vaughan webpage, posters displayed in public buildings, roadside signs, feedback forms, etc. – was developed to engage citizens in the planning process.

Key initiatives included:

- a) **Intercept Survey (Pop-up Consultations):** A brief survey was administered by City of Vaughan staff members throughout summer 2017 at various summer concerts, movie nights and during the Canada 150 celebrations. This survey targeted park users while they were actively engaged in special events.
- b) **Online Survey:** A longer and more detailed survey was available online from June – September 2017. The results of this survey are not statistically significant due to the self-selected nature of participation, but it does provide a representation of resident's opinions of parks, recreation and libraries in the city.
- c) **Stakeholder Workshops:** Workshops were hosted at Vaughan City Hall in September 2017 and were open to anyone representing organizations, clubs, or agencies associated with parks, recreation, or libraries. These sessions provided key user groups an opportunity to share their experiences, voice their concerns and engage in discussion with like-minded organizations.
- d) **Public Information Sessions:** Five (5) open house sessions were held in October 2017, one in each municipal ward. The sessions providing residents with an opportunity to learn about the project and engage in plan development.
- e) **Internal Consultation & Engagement:** A variety of interviews, workshops and meetings were undertaken with the Mayor, Councillors, Senior Management, front line employees and the Vaughan Public Library Board to better understand how the ATMP functions in their everyday, hear their concerns and discuss local issues and garner their advice for best practices moving forward.

Each opportunity for input brings a unique perspective to the plan. The analysis in subsequent sections compares this feedback with other factors such as demographics, trends and participation levels to arrive at recommendations. The results included herein represent the thoughts and opinions of those who were consulted and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Consultants and/or the City of Vaughan.

4.2 Intercept Survey (Pop-up Consultations)

About the survey

A short intercept survey was completed at various municipal events throughout the City in summer 2017. City staff carried tablets and conducted surveys at various events including the Concerts in the Park series. The input gathered from these targeted events collected a final sample of 210 respondents, 91% of whom live in Vaughan. There was a good distribution of representation from the various communities within the City (Figure 11). Of those who completed the survey, they identified their home postal code as seen in here.

Figure 11: Distribution of survey responses by postal code

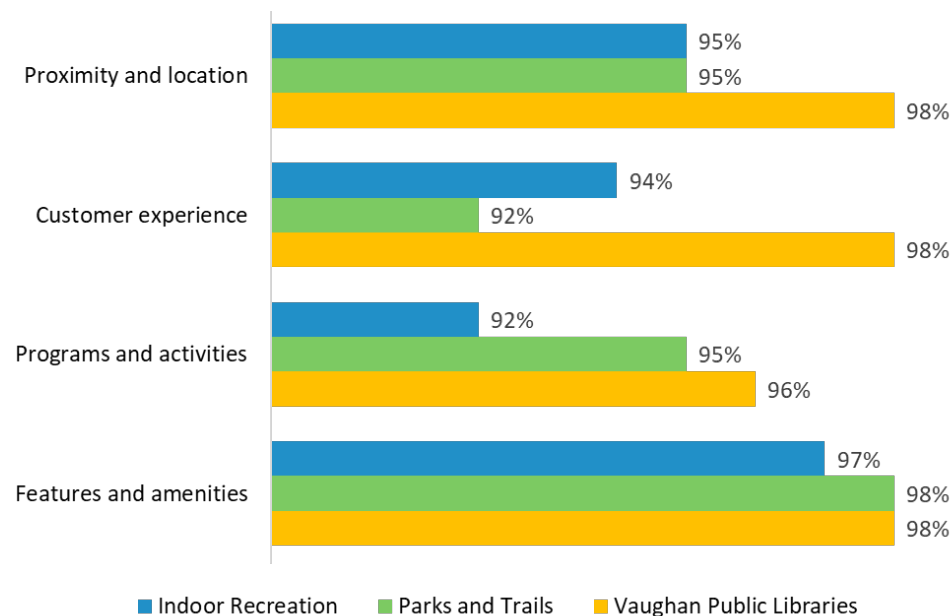
Area	Vaughan Community	Online Survey	Canada Post
L6A	Maple	29%	25%
L4H	Vellore/Kleinburg	29%	21%
L4J	Thornhill	18%	27%
L4L	Woodbridge	18%	20%
L4K	Concord	5%	6%
L0J	Rural	2%	1%

Given that the survey was only available to those who attended the various summer events, this sample is not random and cannot be considered statistically significant.

Satisfaction

We asked how satisfied respondents were with various aspects of the City's indoor recreation, parks and trails, and library facilities. In general, satisfaction levels were very high across all aspects and facility types, especially for public libraries (Figure 12).

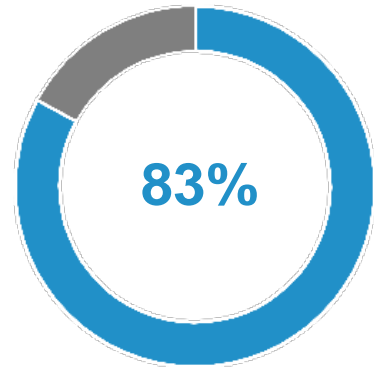
Figure 12: Satisfaction with Vaughan's parks, recreation and library amenities (n=196)



Indoor Recreation

Over four-fifths (83%), of respondents had visited City of Vaughan recreation facilities, such as community centres, pools or arenas in the past 12 months (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Vaughan residents who participated in recreation in the last 12 months



The indoor recreation facility visited by most respondents was Vellore Village Community Centre (20%), followed closely by Maple Community Centre (18%), Al Palladini Community Centre (18%) and North Thornhill Community Centre (15%). The most common responses for improving the City’s indoor recreation facilities were: more recreation activities such as public swimming, children’s programs and drop-in programs (22 mentions); improved maintenance (14 mentions); and more affordable activities (14 mentions).

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Of those who completed the intercept survey, 87% indicated that they had visited Vaughan’s parks or open spaces within the last 12 months. The most common parks and trails amenities that were used included playgrounds (26%), splash pads (22%) and soccer fields (17%). When asked how the City could improve parks and trails, the most commonly listed improvements were: improved maintenance such as cleanliness and repairs (15 mentions); more park amenities such as shade, seating and skating rinks (14 mentions); and more washroom facilities (6 mentions).

Vaughan Public Libraries

When asked about Vaughan Public Libraries, 82% of intercept survey respondents had visited at least one branch within the last 12 months. Of those who visited libraries, Pierre Berton Resource Library was most frequently identified (25%), followed by Maple Library (18%) and Civic Centre Resource Library (15%). When asked for suggestions on how to improve Vaughan Public Libraries, the most commonly identified responses were: increased selection of books and movies (13 mentions); more activities for various age groups and interests (9 mentions); and longer operating hours (4 mentions).

Figure 14: Summary table of suggested improvements for all facility types

	Indoor Recreation	Parks and Trails	Vaughan Public Libraries
Suggested Improvements	More recreation activities: open swims, kids programs, drop-ins (22)	Improved maintenance: cleanliness, repairs (15)	Increase selection: books, movies (13)
	Improved maintenance (14)	More amenities: shade, seating, skating rink (14)	More activities: children, seniors, education (9)
	More affordable activities (14)	Washrooms (6)	Longer hours (4)

Detailed responses can be found in [Appendix B](#).

4.3 Online Survey

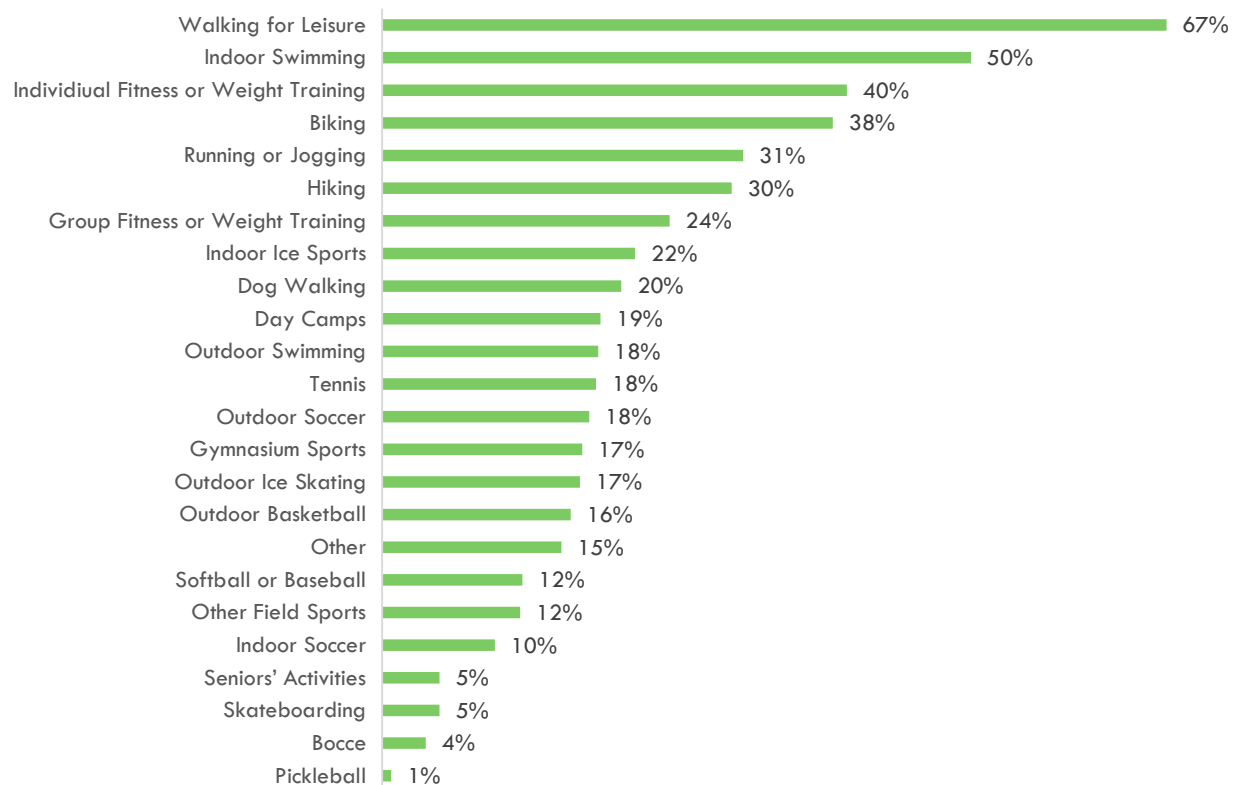
About the survey

A key part of the public consultation component of the 2018 Active Together Master Plan Update was the community online survey. The survey was hosted on the City of Vaughan website during summer 2017 (June 21 – September 1) and gathered 511 responses. The purpose of the survey was to engage Vaughan’s community members in the planning process and to better understand various expectations related to parks, recreation and libraries. Given that this was a self-administered online survey, the sample of the City’s population is not random and therefore cannot be considered statistically significant.

Household participation in recreation activities

Respondents were asked what activities they, or any member of their household, had participated in over the past 12 months (Figure 15). “Active travel” pursuits, such as walking (67%), biking (38%), running or jogging (31%), hiking (30%) and dog walking (20%) were among the top responses. Other activities with similarly high levels of participation within the past 12 months were indoor swimming (50%), individual fitness or weight training (40%), group fitness or weight training (24%), and indoor ice sports such as hockey or figure skating (22%). A current trend in recreation and leisure is the desire to participate in drop-in or unstructured activities; it is interesting to note that the same is true of the most commonly reported activities in Vaughan.

Figure 15: Household Participation in Recreation, past 12 months (n=511)



Participation

We also asked if Vaughan’s residents are able to participate in recreation activities as often as they would like and 58% believe that they are. Of the 36% whose recreation levels were not as high as they would like (Figure 16), their primary reasons for not participating (Figure 17) were that they are too busy/lack personal time (47%), programs are not offered at a convenient time (25%), lack of desired facilities (22%), and lack of money or too expensive (17%). As was noted in the first question, current trends indicate a shift towards drop-in or unstructured recreation activities so that they can more easily be slotted into a busy schedule. It is also encouraging that needs for additional facilities and programs were not the primary barrier, suggesting that the City is meeting the majority of needs.

Figure 16: Vaughan residents who are not able to participate in recreation as often as they would like (n=511)

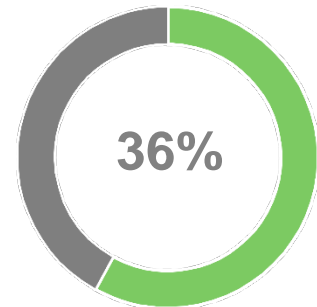
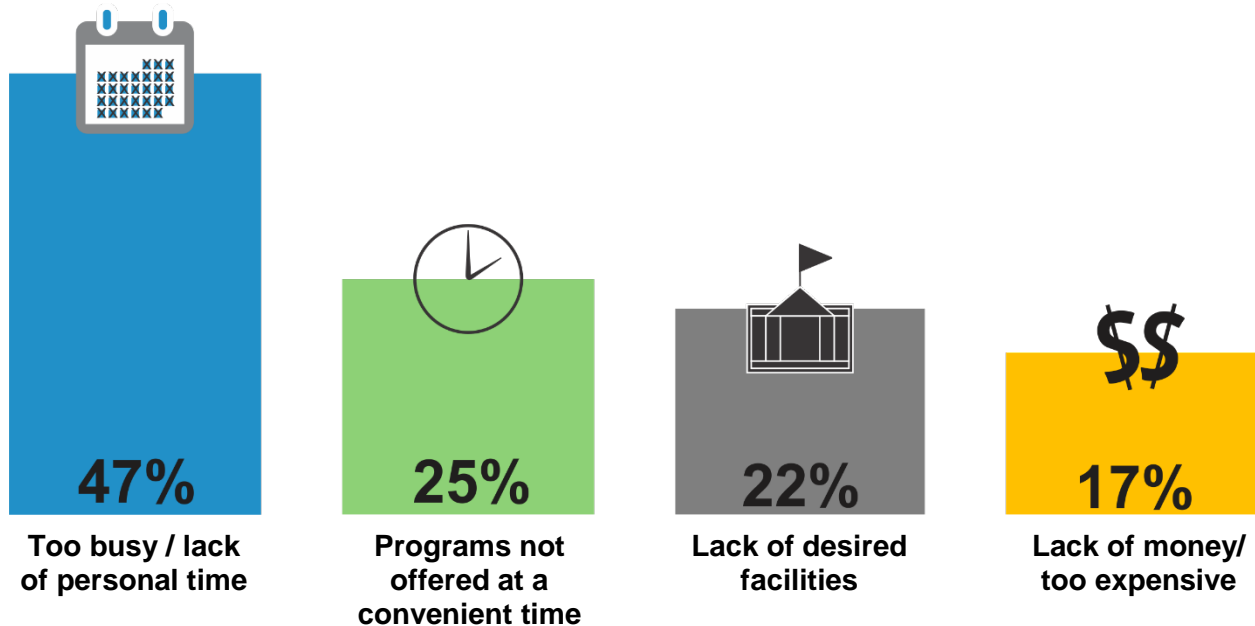


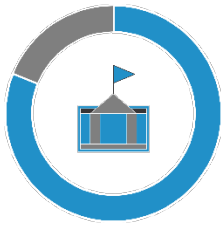
Figure 17: Barriers to participation (n=176)



Regarding recreation opportunities in Vaughan for various age-groups, the highest level of satisfaction was with children’s programming and services (85%). The majority of residents were also generally satisfied with recreation opportunities for teens (74%), older adults/seniors (72%) and adults (71%).

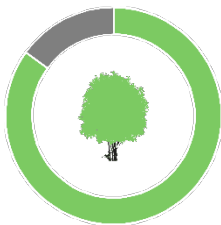
The survey also asked residents if there are any recreation programs not currently offered in Vaughan that they would like to have made available. Many respondents believe that recreation programming could be expanded (49%), while others were unsure (31%) or felt that the current programming is adequate (19%). The most commonly suggested additions or improvements were: seniors’ programs (44 mentions), cricket (31 mentions), cultural activities (22 mentions), baseball (13 mentions), yoga (12 mentions) and dance classes (11 mentions).

Indoor Recreation



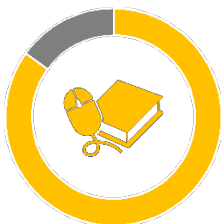
Four-fifths (81%) of those surveyed had used one of Vaughan's community centres within the past 12 months. The most highly visited centres were: Maple Community Centre (23%), North Thornhill Community Centre (22%), Vellore Village Community Centre (14%) and Al Palladini Community Centre (12%). We were also curious to find out what features, programs, or amenities might encourage Vaughan's residents to visit community centres more often. The most commonly identified improvements were greater variety of programs or special events (34%), more affordable fees/prices (33%) and more community centres close to home (23%).

Parks and Outdoor Recreation



Parks and open spaces had been visited by 85% of survey respondents within the past 12 months. Respondents most frequently visited active parks with playgrounds, sports fields, or courts (37%), passive parks with open space and trails (24%) and some used both equally (34%). Suggestions for features that would encourage Vaughan residents to use parks and open space more included: more trails close to home (29%), more parks close to home (29%), updated parks (24%), and more amenities for both active and passive use (23% each).

Vaughan Public Libraries



Vaughan Public Libraries were heavily used within the past 12 months with 85% of respondents having visited. Resource libraries were most commonly visited: Civic Centre Resource Library (23%), Pierre Berton Resource Library (15%) and Bathurst Clark Library (14%). Of the branch libraries, the most commonly visited were: Pleasant Ridge (17%) and Maple (13%).

Vaughan Public Libraries has taken great strides in recent years to evolve with changing needs and expanding their collections, uses and program offerings. Nevertheless, borrowing from library collections (books, DVDs, Blu-Rays, CDs) remains the primary reason for visiting (73%). Other commonly mentioned reasons for using Vaughan Public Libraries were reading and relaxation (31%), programs or events (28%), and to study or do work (27%).

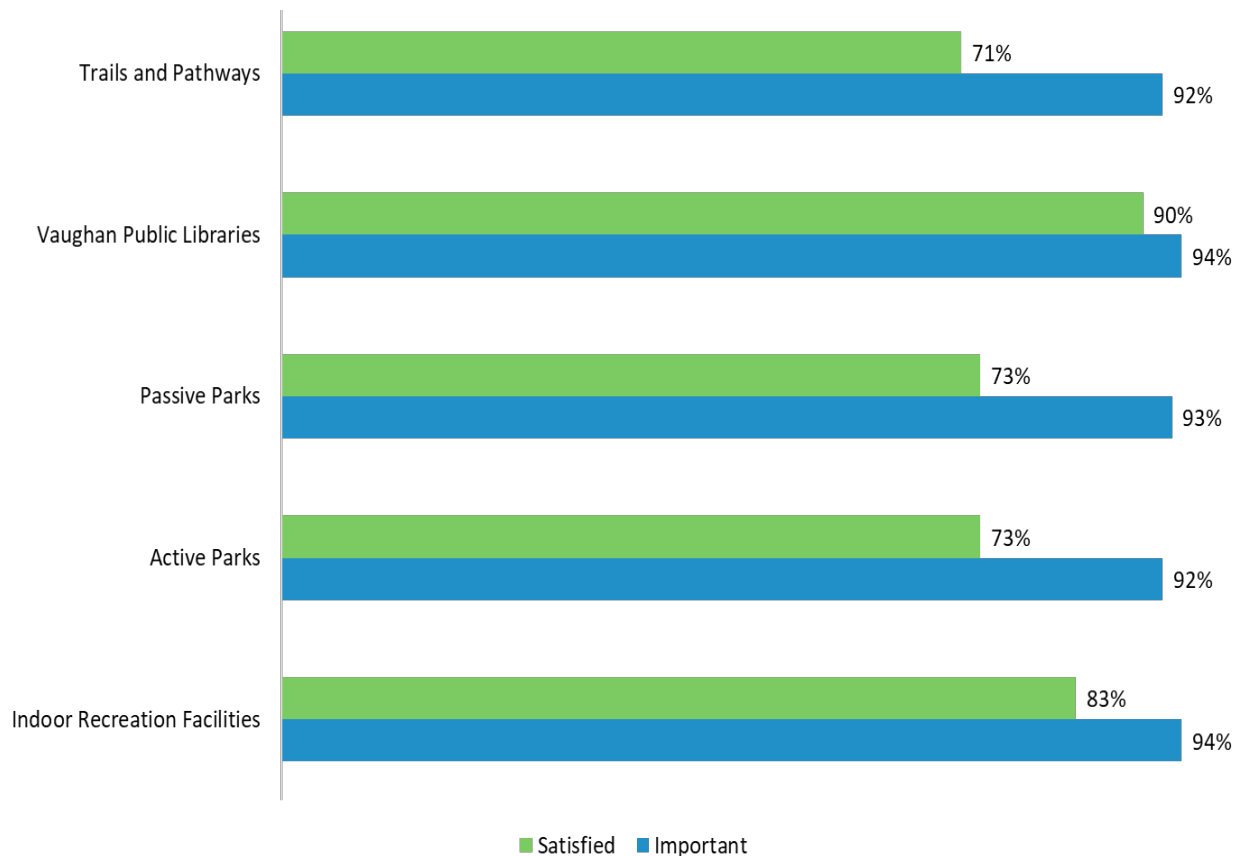
When asked what would encourage greater use of Vaughan Public Libraries, the top responses were longer hours of operation (19%), convenient locations/libraries co-located with community centres (18%) and more libraries (17%).

The types of materials that Vaughan residents would like to see more of at the libraries are best sellers or popular titles (38%), foreign language materials (25%), and magazines or newspapers (24%).

Importance and Satisfaction

To gauge public interest in parks, recreation and libraries and to evaluate their level of satisfaction, places and spaces were grouped into five major categories (Figure 18): indoor recreation facilities, such as arenas, pools, gyms and fitness centres; parks with athletic fields and playgrounds; parks and open spaces that conserve natural areas and protect wildlife habitat; Vaughan Public Libraries; and trails and pathways. Overall, respondents indicated higher levels of importance than satisfaction for each of the five categories. Despite the generally positive response, gaps in expectations remain, particularly for active parks, passive parks and trails.

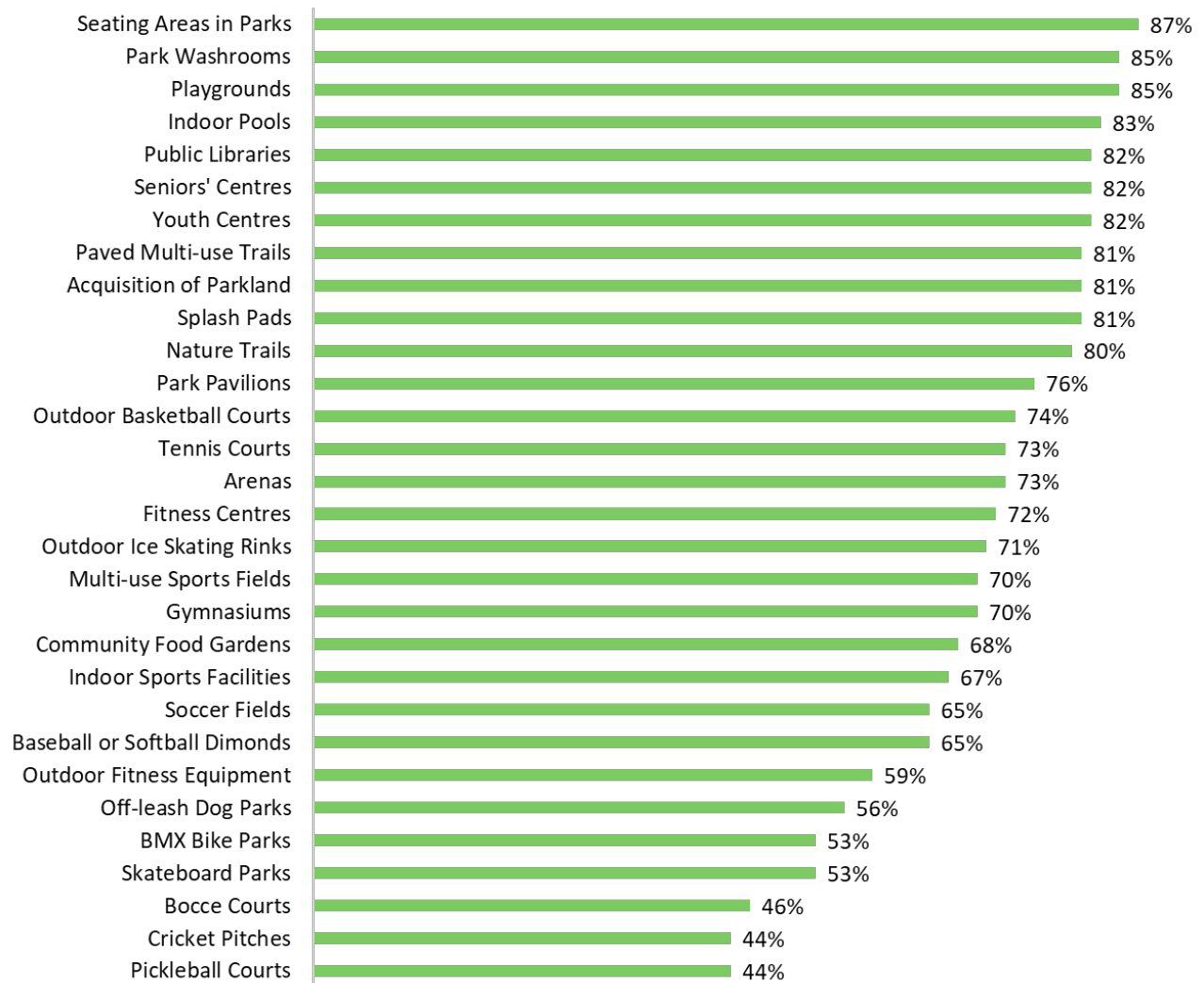
Figure 18: Levels of importance and satisfaction for various parks, recreation and library facilities (n=436)



Investment

To assess the willingness of Vaughan's residents to invest in parks, recreation and library amenities, we asked how strongly they support additional spending to improve the number and quality of existing facilities (Figure 19). Spaces that can be used by people of all ages and abilities garnered the most support (i.e., seating, washrooms, playgrounds, etc.), while individual activities and specialized facilities ranked the lowest (i.e., bocce, cricket, pickleball).

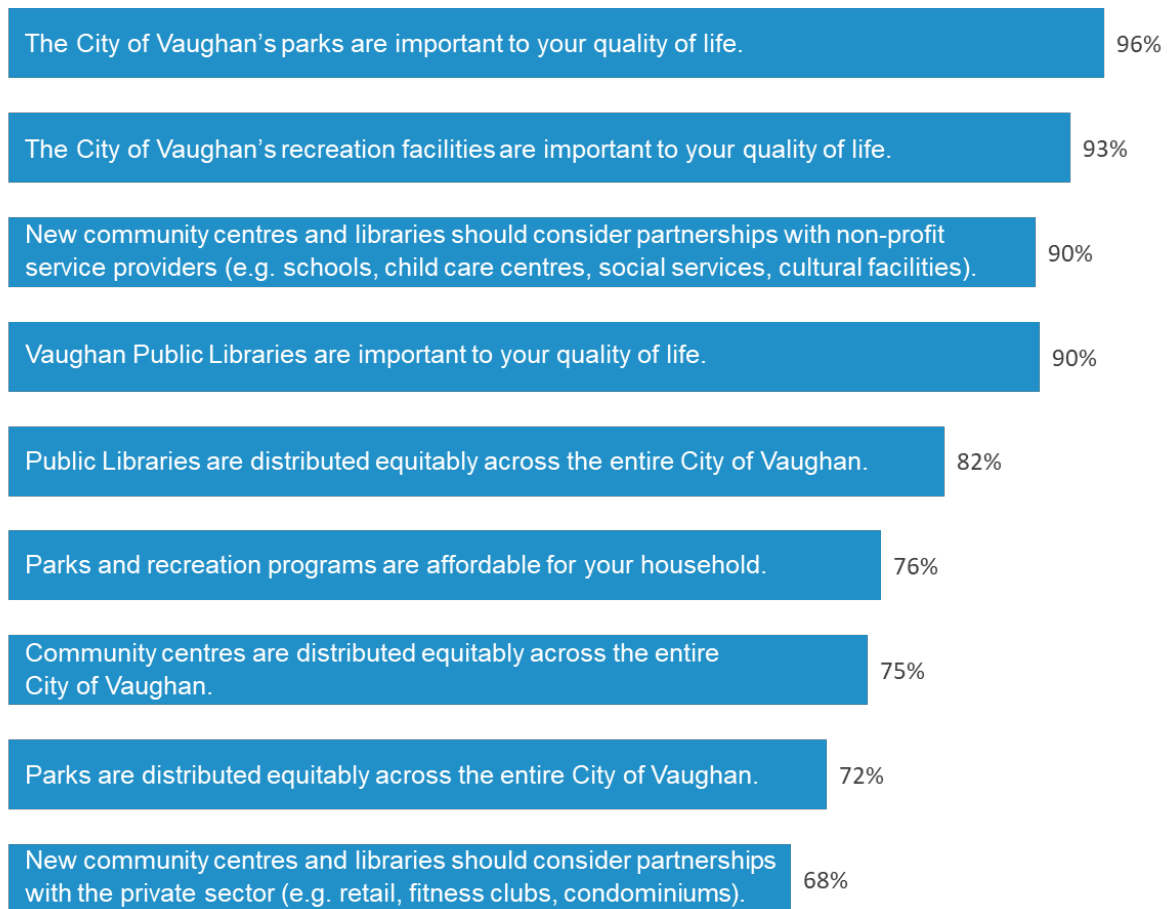
Figure 19: Facilities for which Vaughan residents strongly support additional spending (n=429)



Agreement

Respondents were asked about their level of agreement with a variety of specific statements regarding parks, recreation and libraries (Figure 20). The results are displayed below, highlighting the level of agreement with the statements.

Figure 20: Level of agreement with the following statements (n=427)



Sample Profile

The majority of those who completed the survey were long-time residents of the City with 58% having lived in Vaughan for 11 years or more and 24% having lived in Vaughan for 5 to 10 years; the remaining respondents have lived in the City for less than 5 years (17%).

All of Vaughan's communities were reflected in the geographic distribution of responses (Figure 21). Respondent location was determined by identification of the first three characters of their home postal code (the forward sortation area) and is comparable to Canada Post's distribution. The highest response rate was from residents of the Maple community (29%), followed by Thornhill (25%), Vellore/Kleinburg (19%), Woodbridge (15%), Concord (5%) and those living in rural areas (4%).

Figure 21: Distribution of survey responses by postal code

Area	Vaughan Community	Online Survey	Canada Post
L6A	Maple	29%	25%
L4H	Vellore/Kleinburg	19%	21%
L4J	Thornhill	25%	27%
L4L	Woodbridge	15%	20%
L4K	Concord	5%	6%
L0J	Rural	4%	1%

The median age of the survey respondents was 44 years old, which is comparable to the median age of Vaughan's residents in the 2016 Census (40.2 years). The average household size of survey respondents was 4.1 persons, higher than the 2016 Census average household size in Vaughan of 3.2 persons. This is not surprising given that the survey was self-selected and people who live in households with larger families are more likely to use recreation, parks and libraries. The age of members living in respondents' households is shown in Figure 22.

Figure 22: Distribution of survey responses age of household members

Age of HH Members	Online Survey	2016 Census
0-9 years	20%	12%
10-19 years	15%	14%
20-34 years	14%	18%
35-54 years	32%	25%
55+ years	18%	26%

Detailed responses can be found in [Appendix C](#).

4.4 Stakeholder Workshops

Workshops were used to engage key stakeholders and create awareness of the ATMP. Stakeholders were made aware of the sessions via an email invitation from the ATMP project manager and details on the vaughan.ca/activetogether webpage. A total of four (4) workshop sessions were hosted at Vaughan City Hall in September 2017, with a total of 34 organizations attending the following sessions:

- School Boards & Agencies (September 19, 2017);
- Sports Groups #1 (September 19, 2017) and #2 (September 26, 2017); and
- Community Interest Groups (September 28, 2017)

The purpose of the sessions was to provide a forum for stakeholders to voice their needs and concerns, share experiences with like-minded individuals, and discuss priorities and opportunities to be considered within the ATMP. Each session was targeted to a particular audience based on service/organizational offerings and interests. The discussions were facilitated by the consulting team and City staff were on site to provide clarification or offer insight into specific issues.

Each session opened with group introductions and a brief presentation to explain the ATMP process and structure of the session. This was followed by open discussion among attendees based on a series of pre-determined questions. Questions varied slightly for each session, depending on the target audience and their particular needs and interests.

- 1 What are the **strengths** of Vaughan's parks, recreation and library systems?
- 2 What **trends** are impacting your organization?
- 3 What **challenges** are affecting [parks and outdoor recreation/indoor recreation/Vaughan Public Library] facilities and services in Vaughan?
- 4 How can parks, recreation and libraries be more **inclusive** of all residents, regardless of age, ability, income, or ethnic background?
- 5 How can your organization and the City/Library **work together** to provide added value in the delivery of parks, recreation and library facilities and services?
- 6 Do you have any **final thoughts**? What is your **best advice** for us as we update the ATMP?

The following is a summary of the input provided at these sessions.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Stakeholders in Vaughan believe that this ATMP update provides a good opportunity to improve upon the things that the City is already doing well. Existing facilities and programs are successful and as a result there is a greater demand for more parks and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

A sizable portion of stakeholder discussion focused on trends in outdoor recreation and how participation in sports fluctuates and creates challenges for organizers. There were multiple requests to add more sports fields (particularly ball diamonds, cricket pitches, and multi-use fields) or upgrade existing sites such as tennis courts surfacing and ball diamonds (surfacing, lights). Attendees also requested that municipal staff review existing policies as they relate to permitting and registration for organized sport in Vaughan, this was of interest to the baseball and softball organizations, as well as hockey clubs.

Representatives from community-based organizations requested expanded provision and permitting of spaces to host community events. Some examples of which include festivals, movie nights and concerts in the parks.

Indoor Recreation

Community centres, swimming pools and arenas were also discussed with stakeholders to gauge the needs of the indoor recreation community. Like outdoor recreation, many

organizations are having difficulty meeting demand during prime-time hours (e.g. some hockey groups) and are seeking new ways to provide for their participants (e.g. 50m pool).

Workshop attendees were satisfied with new facilities and appreciated the work being done to renovate/repair existing structures. There were a few requests for additional programs most of which focused on opportunities for seniors to be active in the community (e.g., pickleball, cultural outings, workshops, social gatherings) and indoor activities for youth.

Additional indoor recreation amenities and facilities that were discussed included an indoor sports dome (field turf or tennis), additional ice surfaces with expanded public skating hours and continued investment in rehabilitation of existing structures.

Vaughan Public Libraries

Attendance at the ATMP stakeholder workshops was heavily representative of sports groups and community organizations and as a result, did not garner a great deal of discussion around Vaughan Public Libraries. However, a few of the attendees were happy to share their personal experiences and were overall very satisfied with the library facilities and services available in Vaughan.

Some notable feedback about the libraries was that they are great public spaces that allow individuals and families to socialize and learn. A few attendees noted that they were particularly impressed with the resource libraries and had found that people were visiting these locations for longer time periods. Some suggested that VPL to partner with other agencies and schools to expand programming options, such as older adults and teens working together to share knowledge and skills.

Detailed responses can be found in [Appendix D](#).

4.5 Public Information Sessions

Five (5) open house style public information sessions were held in October 2017 to provide Vaughan residents with an opportunity to engage in development of the ATMP. The sessions were advertised on Vaughan's website, in municipal buildings and on social media sites.

Date	Location	Ward	Estimated Attendance
October 4, 2017	Vellore Village Community Centre	Ward 3	15
October 5, 2017	Vaughan City Hall	Ward 1	2
October 12, 2017	Woodbridge Pool & Memorial Arena	Ward 2	12
October 17, 2017	Garnet A. Williams Community Centre	Ward 5	10
October 18, 2017	North Thornhill Community Centre	Ward 4	28

*all sessions were held between 6:30 – 8:30pm.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Public comments about Vaughan's parks and outdoor recreation were very supportive of existing amenities such as sports fields, trails and playgrounds. Some opportunities for improvement were identified through specific requests for facility repairs or upgrades (i.e., field lighting, updated playground equipment). Other suggestions included more programming and activities held in parks, especially during summer months, including community events.

Figure 23: Display boards and sticky notes with comments about parks, recreation and libraries.



Indoor Recreation

The majority of public comments were about program offerings and use of space. There were multiple requests for additional programming with particular interest in school-age activities and older adult programming. Current recreation trends indicate a desire to participate in drop-in or unstructured activities. Respondents indicated that they would like to be able to use the gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms during non-programmed times for drop-in sports (i.e., soccer, basketball, volleyball) or open gym for multi-generational free play.

Some comments referred to specific renovations or repairs to existing facilities, while others were general recommendations for improved facility design in the future. For example, it was suggested that change rooms in community centres (especially those with indoor swimming pools) have more individual change stalls. Requests were also submitted for additional security features, such as bicycle parking and improved locker storage for personal belongings.

Vaughan Public Libraries

Attendees were generally very satisfied with Vaughan Public Libraries and were impressed with the current provision of modern technologies and collections. It was suggested that the libraries continue to grow and evolve with demand for increased access to technology and equipment, but also recognize that demand for traditional collections of books and videos remains high.

There were many suggestions for additional programming, including those focused on continuing education/self-taught techniques and exploration, as well as expanded programming and resources for all ages, interests and abilities.

Detailed responses can be found in [Appendix E](#).

4.6 Internal Consultation & Engagement

Throughout summer and fall 2017, a series of internal consultation sessions were facilitated either in person or over the phone. Vaughan's Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Regional and Ward Councillors were engaged in discussions about the ATMP and the current status of Vaughan's parks, recreation and libraries. Interviews were held with representative directors/CEO for all municipal departments responsible for implementing the ATMP (Recreation Services, Parks Development, Transportation Services, Parks & Forestry Operations, Policy Planning & Environmental Sustainability, and Vaughan Public Libraries). Workshops were also facilitated with front line staff involved with libraries, parks and recreation to learn about the daily operations and functions of each department from those who engage directly with the users. Finally, a planning forum hosted with the Vaughan Public Library Board also sought information about how to best plan for Vaughan's current and future libraries and ensure member needs are being met throughout the municipality. Feedback from these consultations has been considered within this document and is identified throughout when describing community needs, facility provision and opportunities for improvement.

Key highlights from discussions with Council, staff and Library Board members included a focus on:

- programming and revitalizing parks for people of all ages;
- increasing the supply of sports fields, open spaces, trails, community centres and libraries; and
- investing in the equitable distribution of facilities and programs that support the well-being of Vaughan's residents now and in the future.

5. Parkland Assessment



Parks contribute to individual and community wellbeing and are vital components of Vaughan's public realm. This section contains an assessment of active parkland policies and needs extending to 2031.

For the purposes of this plan:

“Active parkland” refers to all lands owned, leased and/or managed by the City and classified as Regional Parks, District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Urban Parks and Public Squares. Active parkland typically consists of tableland suitable for the development or installation of built recreational amenities (such as sports fields, playgrounds, courts, etc.) that may be used for both organized and unorganized activities, although these parks may also incorporate natural features.

“Open space lands” refers to sites with no to low development potential and are primarily designated for purposes such as environmental protection/conservation, stormwater management, buffers, etc. Open space lands are not a direct focus of this plan. While the City may choose to assume open space lands, they should not generally be accepted as part of the parkland dedication requirements.

5.1 Strategic Considerations

Parks are critical elements that define Vaughan's quality of life and contribute to the physical and social wellbeing of its residents. They are gathering places that help to strengthen neighbourhoods and create healthy and complete communities. They are used and loved by young and old, valued by residents from all walks of life, and relied upon to provide an increasingly wide range of structured and unstructured leisure and sport activities.

The parks system is more than just individual greenspaces. It is a system comprised of essential space for social interaction, transportation, education and recreation. The optimal provision strategy is one where parks are embedded in residential areas and mixed-use developments and integrated with various public spaces across the City. Rising land costs and improved distribution of major facilities underscores the need to work closer with other providers, such as schools and the private sector.

It is a goal of the City and this ATMP to ensure that Vaughan residents have equitable access to parks and facilities. The distribution of growth across Vaughan – a city with a rapidly diversifying urban structure – will require variety in planning approaches, park designs and funding mechanisms. Traditional parkland development will still be required in new community areas to the north, while more urban park forms will be provided to serve areas of intensification.

Listed below are several challenges facing Vaughan's parks system, as identified in the 2013 ATMP – all of these remain relevant today. In response, the City has made many changes to its parks policies and planning practices, but more work remains as Vaughan grows and evolves.

- a) Several activity trends, many of which are discussed throughout this plan, are driving the continued demand for **accessible, multi-functional and high-quality**

parks. The City is receiving requests for additional and enhanced outdoor casual use amenities (such as tennis courts, basketball courts, outdoor fitness, benches, shade, picnic areas, event spaces, etc.). Demand is also growing for many organized activities, such as baseball and cricket. Park usage on weekends continues to rise, driven partly by increasing diversity and interest in community events. These factors impact not only infrastructure demands, but also park management approaches.

- b) Vaughan's **diversity** places pressure on its park system, including greater demand for pursuits that various ethnic groups enjoy in their home country. Parks are also excellent venues for ethnic and religious groups to gather, relax and celebrate in an informal atmosphere¹¹. Equitable access to parks and open space areas – made possible by “complete communities” – supports participation and interaction.
- c) Although children are the primary user of parks, outdoor amenities and opportunities for **adults and seniors** are growing in importance, with physical accessibility and support amenities being key considerations. Modifications to make parks more physically accessible to persons with disabilities will also place increased pressure on existing budgets.
- d) The emerging focus on **residential intensification** poses the greatest challenge to the City. Parks in these areas are expected to be more intensely used and reflect their surrounding urban area, with a focus on providing a local gathering space for a variety of structured and unstructured activities. Further, these areas tend to attract a broader and larger group of users, including local residents, residents from across the City, office workers, tourists and mobility hub users.
- e) The **parkland dedication tools** available under the Planning Act have recently been adjusted and remain insufficient to meet the totality of Vaughan's active parkland needs. Without thoughtful municipal intervention, per capita active parkland supplies will continue to decline.
- f) Current **funding sources** are not keeping pace with increasing land values and park development costs, which can create delays in the timely provision of parks. This will place pressure on existing parks, which will be asked to do more over time.
- g) There is a growing **deficiency of parkland** in the City's newest communities, as well as residential intensification areas. Opportunities to acquire land in these areas are infrequent and costly, and there is no dedicated municipal reserve fund for parkland acquisition beyond cash-in-lieu. While the ATMP is helpful in identifying system-wide issues, Vaughan lacks a comprehensive strategy to identify parkland acquisition priorities.

¹¹ Grant E. Moore. Welcoming immigration in a changing urban environment. Canadian Institute of Planners. Plan Canada. Vol. 57 No. 1. Spring 2017.

- h) The opportunities to assemble and acquire **District and Regional Parks** – the larger parks that contain lit sports fields, waterplay facilities, skateboard parks, picnic areas, etc. – are dwindling as developable land becomes scarcer.
- i) With higher density residential development comes **smaller urban parks**. These parks will be intensively used and require a much higher standard of design and construction, making them costlier. A different funding model is required to address the development and maintenance of these parks, as well as the renewal of older parks within neighbourhoods undergoing intensification.

Addressing these challenges requires creative approaches such as doing more with less, utilizing previously unused spaces and lands, sharing lands with other users and uses, negotiating with developers to contribute public park spaces and street-level recreation amenities, and leveraging new funding mechanisms.

The principles of equity and accessibility are particularly important in guiding the development of the ATMP. Based on our knowledge of the Vaughan parks system and best practices employed in other communities, we believe that the City of Vaughan should strive to provide and maintain parks that:

- a) are visible and accessible by residents (including neighbourhood parks that encourage users to walk or cycle to them) regardless of a person’s age, physical ability or financial resources;
- b) are integrated with the open space and trails systems and that strengthen connections between parks, trails, neighbourhoods and natural areas;
- c) meet the general interests and needs of a diverse population;
- d) are part of a system that addresses both City-wide and local needs;
- e) present residents with choice, and contribute to the creation of a more vibrant and interesting community through park planning and design;
- f) are located adjacent to compatible uses (such as schools) and serve as focal points and destinations within the community;
- g) are maintained in a safe and reasonable condition; and
- h) are developed and maintained in a fiscally responsible manner.

5.2 Parkland Policy and Directions

As it grows, the City will acquire new parkland in accordance with the parkland dedication policies of the Official Plan, which is enacted under the Planning Act. This ATMP identifies policy considerations for the Official Plan Review and guidance for the evaluation of parkland needs and implementation strategies.

Planning Act & Official Plan

The Ontario Planning Act provides the legislative authority for parkland to be conveyed to municipalities through the development process. Experience has shown that the amounts prescribed by the Act are generally not sufficient to meet the full range of active parkland needs. As such, parkland dedication must be maximized and supplemented through acquisition or other arrangements.

Through the Planning Act and the Vaughan Official Plan, the City currently requires parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu as a condition of development or redevelopment. Parkland is conveyed at a rate of 2% for industrial or commercial and 5% for residential of the land proposed to be developed or redeveloped. Parkland may otherwise be required at a rate of up to 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units proposed (or cash-in-lieu at a rate of 1 hectare per 500 units, as amended by Bill 73). This alternative rate generates more parkland at densities greater than 15 units per hectare.

The rates at which some municipalities require parkland dedication have recently been challenged by the development community, including in Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill. The case in Richmond Hill was resolved on January 29, 2018 when the Ontario Court of Appeal unanimously upheld a Divisional Court decision confirming the rights of municipalities to determine how much parkland they require from developers as a condition of development approval under the Planning Act.

Currently, the parkland dedication policies of Vaughan's 2010 Official Plan (Section 7.3.3) are under appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and had been on hold until the Richmond Hill case was resolved. Now that the ruling has been issued, it is expected that these matters will soon be addressed in the favour of the City as the courts confirmed that the OMB has no authority to limit the rates at which municipalities can require developers to convey land for parks or other public recreational purposes.¹²

To provide greater certainty, transparency and consistency to the parkland dedication process, the City should develop a Parkland Dedication By-law. Presently, the City has a Parkland Dedication Cash-in-Lieu By-Law that address certain aspects of the process (including conveyance requirements and valuation). A more comprehensive By-law may include additional detail on dedication protocols, credits, exemptions, agreements and other matters of interpretation. This should be a priority within the next two years.

¹² Richmond Hill (Town) v. Elginbay Corporation, 2018 ONCA 72. Retrieved from: www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2018/2018ONCA0072.htm

Bill 73

In 2015, the Planning Act and Development Charges Act were amended through the passage of Bill 73 (The Smart Growth of Our Communities Act). This Bill requires municipalities to have a “**parks plan**” in place in order to support the use of the alternative requirement for cash-in-lieu (CIL) of parkland. The requirement to undertake a parks plan only applies to those municipalities wishing to apply the alternative rate through an Official Plan adopted in 2016 or beyond. The alternative rate option has long been established in the Vaughan Official Plan, thus this regulation does not currently apply. However, to inform the City’s Official Plan Review, additional research and guidance related to parks policies and needs are contained in this ATMP Update.

In this regard, every **school board** in Vaughan (York Region District School Board – YRDSB, York Catholic District School Board – YCDSB, Conseil Scolaire Viamonde and Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir) was consulted to better understand what land opportunities may exist for parkland acquisition. The following is a summary of their comments:

- All Boards are supportive of working with the City to find ways to meet their shared objectives. They indicated that the existing relationships are positive and that continued collaboration, including communication regarding potential opportunities, will provide the best value for tax dollars.
- The Boards have policies addressing facility partnerships and those that encourage co-build opportunities. They are continually involved in community planning and accommodation reviews to address capacity concerns.
- The planning and development of shared-use sites is challenging, but is pursued wherever possible. Partnerships require ongoing effort and resources.
- Schoolyards are shrinking (urban school model) and schools are placing more emphasis on shared-use sites, although this leads to parks that are more intensely used.
- The YCDSB has a small number of surplus properties that have been circulated. None of these properties are in areas of the City that are considered deficient in parkland as per the ATMP, although some may be co-located with City of Vaughan parks.

Bill 73 also prescribed changes to the CIL rate for parkland conveyance via the alternative requirement, from 1 hectare per 300 units to 1 hectare per 500 units (if taking land, the requirement of 1 hectare per 300 units remains unchanged). This effectively places a higher value on the taking of land for parks instead of cash, which is not always practical in areas of dense, vertical development.

The City of Vaughan is in the process of preparing updated policies to address Bill 73 within the Official Plan. Further study is needed to investigate the opportunities and constraints of imposing the maximum allowable cash-in-lieu provision of 1ha/500 units, its potential impact on development or impacts on the amount and quality of parks in growth areas. Many other GTA municipalities are currently considering their options for calculating and applying parkland requirements, which include (but are not limited to) capped land values, flat per unit fees, graduated scales based on site area or floor space

index, etc. The City may wish to consider these and other options at the time of updating its Parkland Dedication Cash-in-Lieu By-Law and related policies.

Cash-in-Lieu (CIL) of Parkland

Given the challenges associated with land assembly, it is likely that the City will elect to take CIL more frequently than land in areas of high density development. Further, the modified development targets identified in the 2017 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (which have been increased to state that a minimum of 50% to 60% of residential development must occur within the delineated built-up area) suggest that a larger portion of parkland needs will be derived from infill and intensification, meaning that the alternative rate will be applied more frequently.

However, the City of Vaughan currently collects cash-in-lieu in high density areas based on a fixed rate per unit that is lower than market value (\$8,500 per unit, which was based on an average of medium density values in 2012). This rate limits the City's ability to act competitively to acquire land. As this fee is both fixed and dated (six years old), growth is paying for a diminishing share of the costs associated with parkland needs in intensification areas. Given that this value is below the new maximum rate of 1ha/500 units, the impact of the Bill 73 policy change is expected to be minimal at this point in time. It may, however, affect medium-density developments, which are valued based on 1ha/300 units.

With the passing of Bill 73, it is recommended that the City revise its Cash-in-Lieu By-law and related policies to reflect the new maximum rate. Further, due to market inflation and the revised policy structure, the City should review its fixed unit rate for high density residential development to ensure that it represents a fair and equitable contribution toward meeting the City's parkland provision objectives. While a fixed rate is more straightforward and transparent than an appraisal process (which is an approach taken by some municipalities), it does not align well with a per capita approach to planning – unit densities (e.g., persons per unit) should be considered in this review.

Some municipalities use cash-in-lieu to assist in capital improvements required to accommodate intensification. Section 42(15) of the Planning Act states that, in addition to the acquisition of parkland, cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication can be used for “the erection, improvement or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or other public recreational purposes.” However, the City of Vaughan estimates that anticipated CIL funding will be insufficient to meet land acquisition targets, making it unlikely that funding will be available in the immediate future to support the revitalization of parks. The potential to use cash-in-lieu for park improvements and/or renewal in Vaughan's intensification areas may be reconsidered in the future.

Parks in Employment Areas

The City now requires the conveyance of land (or cash-in-lieu) for park purposes in commercial and industrial areas, as per the provisions of the Planning Act (these Official Plan policies are currently under appeal). The provision of public parkland amenities to serve the City's employment lands is essential. These lands provide employees with places to meet, socialize, recreate and exercise. Employment areas also represent one of the last opportunities the City may have to develop larger District Parks, as is proposed in Blocks 35 and 59. In these instances, District Parks may not be co-located with community centres, but may contain lit sports fields and other uses that may otherwise have impacts on adjacent residential areas.

Parkland Acquisition Strategies

The development of a Parkland Acquisition Strategy was recommended in the 2013 ATMP to identify and prioritize parkland (active) and open space (passive) acquisition options across the City. In addition to identifying priorities for acquisition in under-served communities (e.g., Carrville, Vellore, intensification areas, etc.), this process would consider alternative methods of acquisition including land banking (particularly for a Regional Park – possibly in Northwest Vaughan – and District Parks) and securement of surplus properties to take advantage of lower land values and plan for the future. As noted in Section 9 of this ATMP, the City's Real Estate Office will be initiating a Land Acquisition Strategy in 2018 in collaboration with Parks Development, and Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability Departments, and in consultation with external stakeholders such as the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

All opportunities to expand and strengthen Vaughan's park system should be explored and maximized. In addition to legislated dedication, the following parkland acquisition tools are supported by the Vaughan Official Plan (Section 7.3.3.10), which is currently under appeal:

- a) land purchases;
- b) the provisions of Section 37 of the *Planning Act* as set out in Section 10.1.2.9;
- c) land exchanges or swaps, especially where it may prevent private development on or adjacent to an open space that provides significant environmental benefits or is highly valued by the community;
- d) partnerships and/or joint provision of land; and,
- e) establishment of a non-profit Parks Foundation to promote parkland donation and conservation easements.

In addition, as the City grows north it will begin to move closer to the Greenbelt, a permanently protected area of land governed by the Provincial Greenbelt Plan (2017). In Vaughan, the area identified for protection comprises much of the City's rural area, as well as portions of the natural heritage network. The Greenbelt Plan encourages "the development of a system of publicly accessible parkland, open space and trails...". Among other uses, lands may be used for active parks so long as major facilities avoid sensitive features. This presents opportunities for the City over the long-term; however, more study will be required as to the acceptability of these lands for park purposes.

Parkland Policy and Directions – Recommendations

1. Update the City's **Parkland Dedication Cash-in-Lieu By-law** and related policies to reflect the new maximum rate enacted by Bill 73. Continue to acquire active parkland at the maximum applicable rate as permitted by the Planning Act and the City's implementing documents.
2. Develop a **Parkland Dedication By-law** that builds on the existing Cash-in-Lieu By-law and includes direction on use of cash-in-lieu for park improvements, dedication protocols, conveyance requirements, valuation, credits, exemptions, agreements and other matters of interpretation.
3. Through parkland dedication and other tools, provide an appropriate level of **parkland in employment areas** to create public spaces that attract and serve businesses and their employees.
4. Do not accept **undevelopable Open Space lands** (e.g., stormwater management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement (i.e., no credit should be applied). Where appropriate, the City may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement. Acquisition of lands within the Greenbelt Plan Area and lands with cultural heritage value may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
5. Utilize the ATMP as a resource when reviewing and updating the **Vaughan Official Plan**.
6. Review the City's cash-in-lieu of parkland **fixed unit rate** for high density residential development to ensure that it represents a fair and equitable contribution toward meeting the City's parkland provision objectives. Ensure that the rate is reviewed on a regular basis, not exceeding three years.
7. Explore **acquisition and non-acquisition based options** if future parkland dedication amounts are not sufficient to maintain the recommended City-wide target. This may include, but not be limited to: options available through current planning policies or the Planning Act, off-site dedication, direct investment, easement agreements, land exchanges, long-term land leases, integration opportunities with TRCA, shared use agreements, land trusts, donations and other protection measures.
8. Evaluate surplus school and other high impact **acquisition opportunities** based on the principles and targets advanced in this ATMP, with a focus on geographic gap areas.

5.3 Parkland Classification

The Vaughan Official Plan identifies the parkland classifications documented in Table 3, including the newly introduced "Urban Park". Amenities, functions and usage levels vary from park to park depending on their specific characteristics and how public access is managed. The parkland classification system focuses on active parkland, as does the

ATMP. Excluded from the table are “Open Space types”, including greenways, nature reserves, woodlots, stormwater management facilities and cemeteries.

Table 3: City of Vaughan Parkland Classification System

Parkland Type	Size (hectares)	Uses and Amenities	Target Market
Regional Park	15 or more	Supports larger cultural, recreational and entertainment events, such as festivals and tournaments, as well as uses listed for District Parks.	Specialized events and amenities attract users from across the City
District Park	5 or more	Supports a variety of recreational and athletic interests with amenities, such as sports fields and courts, large skateboard parks, outdoor skating facilities, field houses, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas and water play facilities. Co-located with Community Centres, where possible.	Specialized events and amenities attract users from across the City
Neighbourhood Park	0.75 to 5	Supports a balance of active and passive uses, such as playgrounds, skate zones, play courts, unlit sports fields and social gathering spaces. Coordinated with school sites, where possible.	Serves community located within a 10-minute walk of the park
Urban Park	1 or more	Supports the social and cultural fabric of intensification areas through the provision of highly programmed outdoor spaces. May include program and event space, recreation such as playgrounds and outdoor skating and small-scale park-supporting uses.	Serves areas of intensification
Public Square	0.2 to 1	Supports neighbourhood-oriented social opportunities, as well as city-wide entertainment and cultural events depending on their size and location. May include public art, small outdoor game areas, seating areas and places to eat, as well as street-related activities such as vendor and exhibit space.	Serves areas of intensification

Source: Adapted from the City of Vaughan Official Plan

Vaughan’s parks classification has evolved over time and must continue to be adapted to the City’s progressive urban structure. With the City experiencing a greater variety of residential densities and built forms, additional classifications (or sub-categories) are required to establish park sizes and functions that are appropriate for every context. One size does not fit all.

There are lessons to be learned from the early stages of residential intensification in the City, most notably the need for a greater variety of park types in areas of high density. New models are also being explored in greenfield areas as the City endeavours to create complete communities. If well designed and located, smaller and more urban parks can be valuable additions to the system.

With input from Vaughan’s Parks Development Department, it is recommended that the City consider establishing sub-types for Neighbourhood Parks and Public Squares, defined as follows:

Neighbourhood Park – Type 1 (NEW): A new subcategory that would be provided in medium to high density areas. These parks differ from Urban Parks in that they serve more of a Neighbourhood Park function (i.e., support a balance of active uses such as playgrounds, skate zones, play courts, etc.) and also include a provision for open space. These parks are smaller and more compact than traditional Neighbourhood Parks (Type 2) and would be designed to a higher standard to support more intensified use, thus they would be more expensive to construct.

Neighbourhood Park – Type 2 (EXISTING): Typically provided in greenfield areas (low density), consistent with current levels of service. These parks support a balance of active and passive uses, such as playgrounds, skate zones, play courts, unlit sports fields and social gathering spaces.

Public Square – Type 1 (EXISTING): Typically provided in areas of intensification (high density) and consistent with the typology identified in the Vaughan Official Plan. These parks support the social and cultural fabric of intensification areas through the provision of highly programmed outdoor spaces. Based on land area, these will typically be the most expensive parks to construct within the parks system.

Public Square – Type 2 (NEW): A new subcategory that would be provided in low to medium density areas. These parks are smaller and more compact than traditional Neighbourhood Parks (Type 2); i.e., less than 0.75 hectares. They are recommended for instances where a Neighbourhood Park is not necessary, but local-level facilities (e.g., playground, waterplay, seating, etc.) are required to serve a nearby development. These sites are not suitable for large features such as sports fields.

Based on the foregoing, Table 4 aligns the existing and proposed parkland classification system with the City's urban structure, ranging from greenfield areas to primary centres.

Table 4: Proposed Park Typology by Urban Structure

Urban Structure	Greenfield Areas	Local Centres and Intensification Corridors	Primary Centres
Density Targets	Low Density (60 to 90 ppu)	Medium Density (90 to 120 ppu)	High Density (120 ppu or greater)
Location Examples	New Community Areas	Carrville District, Kipling Avenue, Keele and Steeles	VMC, Vaughan Mills, Yonge/Steeles
Park Types	District Park Regional Park Neighbourhood Park Type 2 Public Square Type 2 --	-- -- Neighbourhood Park Type 1 Public Square Type 2 --	-- -- Neighbourhood Park Type 1 Public Square Type 1 Urban Park
Park Development Philosophy	Generally consistent with current level of service, with the addition of smaller Public Squares (Type 2).	Parks developed to a higher standard, but aligned more with a transitional park design and program	Parks developed to the highest standard to allow for more intensive use based on increased usage

Bold Italics = New Park Type

ppu = persons per unit

Parkland Classification – Recommendations

9. Revise the **parkland classification system** to include a wider variety of park types that meet the range of needs within intensification areas, as proposed in the ATMP.
10. Examine options for establishing a **Development Charge service level** that reflects the higher standard of design and construction associated with parks in intensification areas.

5.4 Public Space in Intensification Areas

Increased demands for the use of parks combined with diminishing park sizes will necessitate new forms of urban parks, renewal and intensifying of existing parks, and enlisting the development industry to provide alternate types of public spaces. It is anticipated that for most infill development scenarios, the available parkland dedications will not equate to the land areas that have been achieved in greenfield areas. In these cases, other types of public open space and public realm improvements – over and above conventional City parks – may help to bridge the gap.

Potential strategies for enhancing park and public space opportunities in areas of intensification are listed below, the impact and effectiveness of which should be measured by the City over time:

- **Redevelopment of existing parks** – This has been a key focus of the City’s Parks Redevelopment Strategy (2018), which prioritizes the re-imagination of park sites to address intensified use, including multi-functional spaces for social and non-programmed activities. Opportunities to work with other landholders (such as the TRCA) to maximize existing open space properties may also be available.
- **Section 37 agreements** – The City’s Official Plan includes height and density bonusing policies, which will be a tool used more frequently as the City intensifies. These community benefits (such as park improvements, community facility enhancements, etc.) must be over and above what can be otherwise secured through the Planning Act and Development Charges. The City developed Section 37 Implementation Guidelines as City Corporate Policy in 2015 and has recently applied Section 37 funds to improvements at Thornhill Green Park and Benjamin Vaughan District Park. The ATMP is one source that the City may use to determine benefits.
- **Privately-Owned Publicly-Accessible Spaces** – While not a substitute for active parkland, privately-owned publicly-accessible spaces (POPS) can serve to supplement limited parkland in dense urban areas if designed to be publicly accessible. Trees, gardens, fountains, seating areas, public art, and outdoor seating or dining areas are all potential amenities that can animate an urban area and accommodate passive, drop-in use. The approvals process should include clear developer agreements to direct design, long term public use and maintenance.

- **Strata Parks** – Strata ownership refers to multi-layered ownership on a specific parcel of land, typically associated with high-rise condominiums. In the context of parks and recreation, it refers to public spaces or facilities that are developed on parking garages, stormwater infrastructure, or other roof slab construction. While strata parks are a potential solution for the delivery of new parkland in intensifying areas with land constraints, they present unique challenges associated with maintenance (e.g., waterproofing) and infrastructure replacement. The City of Vaughan has established principles for Strata Park Arrangements in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Secondary Plan and recommends partial parkland credit.
- **Indoor Space** – Another option to consider in high growth areas is the provision of amenities that are traditionally outdoor features (such as soccer fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, etc.) inside buildings as part of mixed-use developments. These spaces should be publicly accessible through direct City ownership or lease (condominium agreement, public-private partnership, etc.). Where land is too scarce, this concept helps to offset parkland deficiencies by providing comparable amenities within a multi-level development (not unlike strata parks). For this model to be successful, a strong legal agreement is required (addressing ownership, maintenance, etc.) and the space must be fully accessible.
- **Complete Streets / Shared Streets** – The recent "complete streets" movement in urban design recognizes the value that sidewalks, street trees, street furniture and outdoor commercial spaces have as public spaces, particularly in dense neighbourhoods. The European model of a "shared street," is one where pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles share space without defined boundaries and is generally free of all traffic lights, stop signs, curbs and line painting. Emerging North American models (including "flex streets") tend toward the use of landscaping, paving design and bollards to discretely delineate where pedestrian areas end and vehicle traffic begins, and offer flexibility to redefine zones, as needed, to support events and activities. They are most successful in downtown business districts where there is considerable foot traffic and a desire for traffic calming.
- **Consideration of Non-traditional Park Spaces:** Other opportunities to secure parkland might include looking at non-traditional lands that could be used for parks and open space activities, such as greenways, shared facilities (e.g., co-located fields with school boards), Hydro lands and reclaimed brownfields.

Public Space in Intensification Areas – Recommendations

11. Develop policies and practices to **prioritize on-site parkland dedication and encourage front-end acquisition** of parkland in intensification areas.
12. Establish standards to direct the provision of **non-traditional parks and public open space in areas of intensification**, including: development of new parks; enhancing existing parks; and working with the development industry in the provision of alternate park spaces to supplement prescribed parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu (e.g., strata parks, privately-owned publicly-accessible spaces, indoor space in lieu of parkland, off-site dedication, use of cash-in-lieu for

park improvements, etc.). This may be partially achieved by site-specific agreements or other implementing mechanisms, such as bonusing as per Section 37 of the Planning Act.

5.5 Parkland Supply

Vaughan's parks contain a wide array of features and amenities, including outdoor sport fields, tennis courts, skate parks, playgrounds, splash pads, pathways and more. Year after year, in response to growing demand, the City extends its active parkland inventory. The City has added several neighbourhood and urban parks to their inventory since the 2013 ATMP update; however, no additional lands for District or Regional parks have been secured. Capital funding has been identified in the long-term financial plan for the development of several district parks (including those in Blocks 11, 18 and 40), while the first phase of construction at North Maple Regional Park was initiated in 2017.

The following subsections document the City's existing and proposed parkland inventory, which is further analyzed later in this section.

Current Inventory – By Type

In 2016, a park and open space facility inventory (including geo-coded park perimeters) and condition audit was completed by the Infrastructure Planning & Corporate Asset Management Department. As a result, the park inventory from the 2013 ATMP has been updated and individual park sizes have been adjusted. These tools are instrumental to providing reliable data and insight to support planning initiatives such as the ATMP.

The inventory indicates that the City is responsible for the management of over 603.6 hectares of active parkland across 201 publicly accessible parks properties throughout the City, ranging from small Public Squares to large Regional Parks (see Table 5). This includes lands that have been developed by the City, as well as those that are planned for development in 2017 (undeveloped parks are excluded and will be applied against future projections). These are supplemented by "open space" lands such as green space, woodlots, conservation lands and other lands outside of municipal control (e.g., schools, TRCA properties, private lands, etc.); open space lands are not typically acquired by way of legislated parkland conveyance and are excluded from the ATMP analysis.

Table 5: Current Municipal Park Inventory, by Type

Park Type	Area (ha)	Number of Parks	Estimated Parkland per 1000 Persons*
Regional Park	133.0	4	0.41
District Park	106.4	14	0.33
Neighbourhood Park	363.9	181	1.12
Public Square / Urban Park	0.3	2	0.00
Total	603.6	201	1.86

* Based on a population estimate of 324,100 (Source: Region of York, November 2015)
Source: City of Vaughan, 2017

Presently, Neighbourhood Parks comprise 60% of the inventory (1.12ha/1000), while District and Regional Parks together represent 40% (0.74ha/1000). Being a new park type, there are very few Public Squares or Urban Parks; however, the number of these sites is anticipated to increase in the future.

Current Inventory – By Community

Parkland per capita is a useful tool in monitoring how the City is achieving the active parkland goals in comparison to both historical measurements, as well as future projections. Maintaining or increasing the active parkland rate of provision will require a continued commitment toward parkland acquisition and creative partnerships with the development sector and other stakeholders.

Vaughan's city-wide level of parkland provision is 1.86 hectares per 1,000 residents (based on a 2016 population of 324,100), however there are varying levels of provision across the City. This ratio has declined slightly from 1.87 hectares per 1,000 residents in 2013.

The highest per capita active parkland supplies are currently seen in Woodbridge and Thornhill/Concord (2.65ha/1000 and 2.47ha/1000, respectively) – the City's oldest communities – although ratios differ from block to block. Conversely, Vaughan's newer communities (Vellore and Carrville) have lower rates of active parkland provision (0.82ha/1000 and 0.92ha/1000, respectively). Although future district park development in Vellore and Carrville will assist in boosting supplies in these areas, these longstanding deficiencies are a function of the limits applied under the Planning Act and are likely to persist. The existing supply of active parks is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Current Municipal Park Inventory, by Type

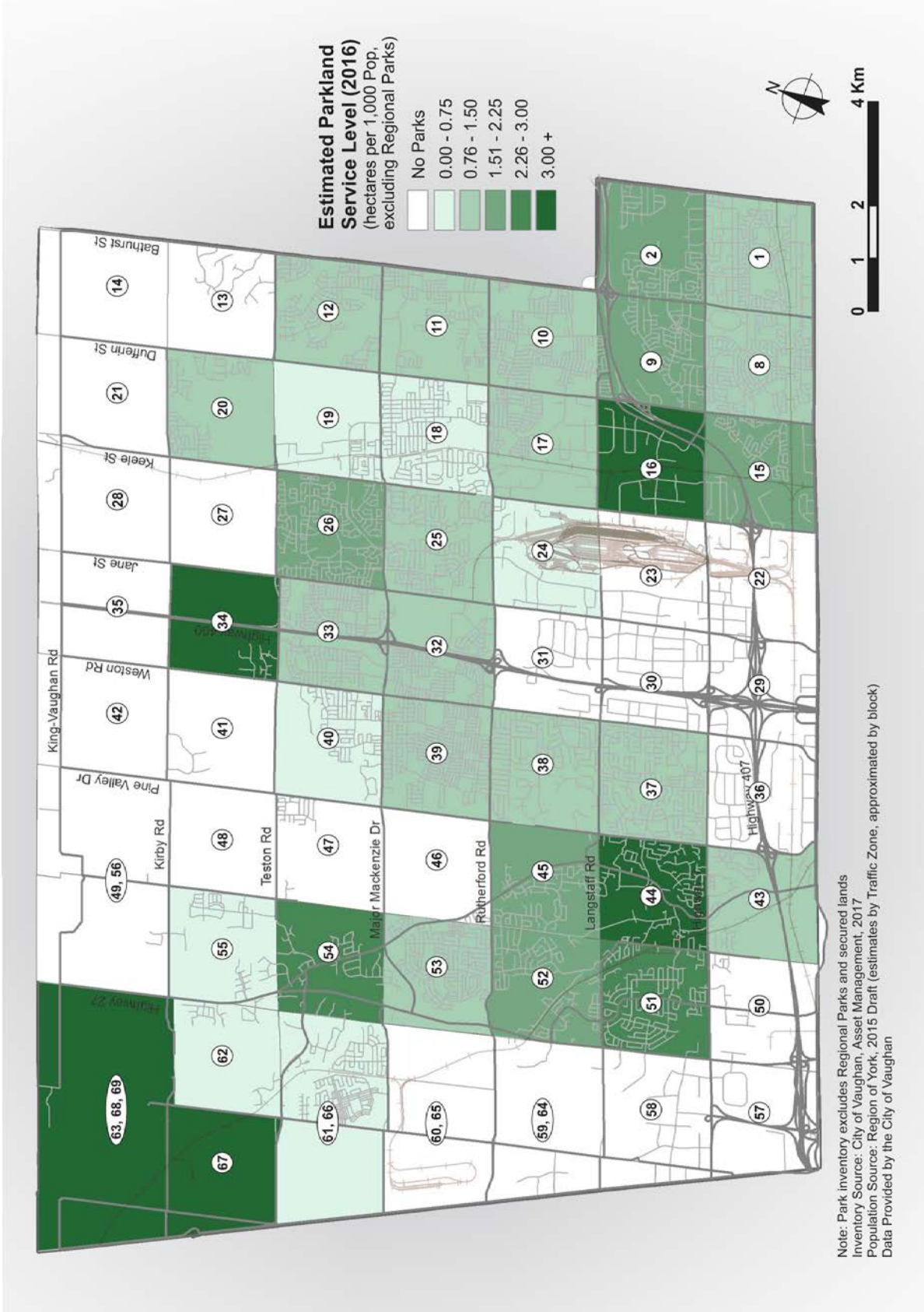
Community	Area (ha)	Number of Parks	Estimated Parkland per 1000 Persons*
Carrville	56.0	26	0.92
Kleinburg/Nashville	15.7	9	1.65
Maple	94.6	41	2.30
Thornhill/Concord	181.1	53	2.47
Vellore	42.0	18	0.82
Woodbridge	214.2	54	2.65
Total	603.6	201	1.86

* Based on 45% scenario prepared by the Region in November 2015, adjusted to remove growth in Vaughan's whitebelt

Source: City of Vaughan, 2017

Figure 24 illustrates per capita park provision ratios by block. Blocks 18, 33, 39, 1 and 10 are amongst the city's most populated areas, but have the lowest per capita provision levels. It should be noted that, while some areas may appear to have very high levels of parkland provision (such as Blocks 16, 34 and 63/68/69), this is due to a very small population base combined with the existence of one or more parks. It is also acknowledged that residents frequently travel outside of their residential block to access parks in other areas, particularly District and Regional Parks.

Figure 24: Estimated Parkland per 1,000 Residents, by Block (2016)



Proposed Parks

While the existing inventory includes parks that are fully or partially developed, the City also owns a number of sites that will be developed as parks to serve future populations. Most of these have been dedicated to the City as a condition of development, although some have been secured through other means (e.g., NMRP).

The City's current listing of proposed parks includes approximately 92 hectares across more than twenty sites, including the following:

- North Maple Regional Park (Block 20, 65.8ha) – this excludes 15ha that is currently under development;
- District Parks (Block 11, 18 and 40); and
- Several smaller park sites (Neighbourhood, Linear, Public Square, etc.).

The timing of park development depends on a number of factors, including funding availability. Not all of these aforementioned parks may be fully developed within the timeframe of this ATMP Update (by 2031).

Parkland Supply – Recommendations

13. Continue to enhance the City's **parks inventory tools** through the documentation of public and private open space properties (e.g., TRCA properties, etc.) and the establishment of a GIS walkability network layer to assess accessibility (e.g., actual walking distance based on sidewalks, trails, etc.).

5.6 Parkland Needs and Opportunities

Parkland Needs Assessment

Although the Planning Act and the Vaughan Official Plan relate parkland requirements to dwelling unit rates and land allocations, parkland needs are best determined on a per capita basis. Per capita standards are useful as guidelines, but should not be considered definitive requirements. They provide a framework for planning and optimizing resources, though their implementation should be flexible enough to capitalize on opportunities and maximize investment.

In addition, standards enable municipalities to measure their supply over time and to compare themselves with other communities. Benchmarking within the GTA comparator group indicates that the average supply of active parkland is approximately 2.1 ha/1000, about 12% higher than Vaughan's rate of 1.86 ha/1000.

The 2013 ATMP recommended that Vaughan strive to maintain a City-wide supply of 2.2 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents. Like many communities, Vaughan is challenged with attaining their parkland provision goals due to the complexity and cost of parkland acquisition and management, as well as competing funding priorities. The issue is compounded by the parkland dedication requirements of the Planning Act, which – on their own – do not provide sufficient land to accommodate the desired sports fields and other recreational activities residents have come to expect.

An analysis of the outdoor facility needs recommended in this 2018 ATMP Update suggests that approximately 180 hectares of new parkland will be needed by 2031 to accommodate the required facilities. This assessment was based on the application of facility dimensions and grossing factors to account for playout spaces, support amenities (e.g., parking, etc.), setbacks and buffers, and unallocated open space. However, this calculation includes only those facilities recommended in the ATMP and provides little leeway for the introduction of additional amenities, particularly land-intensive sports fields.

To account for parks that are likely to contain unprogrammed space (e.g., urban parks), and to install some degree of flexibility in future parkland supplies, the calculated requirements have been increased by 10% (nearly 20 hectares). As a result, it is recommended that the City target the acquisition and development of **198 additional hectares of active parkland by 2031, translating into a target of 2.0ha/1000 persons** (based on anticipated growth of 100,400). This equates to a supply of approximately 802 hectares by 2031 (see Table 7), which represents a blended rate (existing and proposed) of 1.9ha/1000 persons. Some of the required parkland has already been secured by the City (though is undeveloped; e.g., NMRP), while additional land will be required to satisfy needs beyond 2031.

Table 7: Forecast of City-wide Active Parkland Needs to 2031

Parkland Supplies and Needs	Parkland (ha)	Population (estimated)	Parkland Provision (ha/1000 persons)
Current Supply – 2016	603.6	324,100	1.86
Demand to 2031 (based on facility needs, plus 10%)	198.0	100,400	2.0
Future Supply – 2031	801.6	424,500	1.9

Note: Does not include open space lands such as woodlots, stormwater ponds, etc.

It bears noting that there are a number of factors at play in the reduction of parkland needs from past ATMP assessments. Most notable is the reduced demand for sports fields, which are responsible for approximately half of the spaces (including buffers and associated amenities) within the existing parks system. While participation in team sports is still expected to grow into the future, it is projected to increase at a slower rate than the City's population.

Moving forward, it is recommended that the City apply a **provision target of 2.0 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 population applied to future growth**. If this level of provision is achieved by 2031, the City's rate will increase slightly to 1.9ha/1000 persons. It is not practical or possible to achieve the recommended provision target within each community. The City may consider applying a unique parkland provision target for intensification areas to reflect the challenges of land assembly and economic realities of development, while still maintaining the overall City-building and public realm objectives.

The City's long-term capital plan identifies anticipated park properties to be conveyed and/or developed in the next ten years, subject to development applications and funding availability. This presently includes the following (note: not all properties are currently owned by the City; timing and location are subject to change):

- Regional Parks: North Maple Regional Park and consideration of a fourth Regional Park in the Northwest (to be explored further through the recommended Parkland Acquisition Strategy);
- District Parks: Blocks 11, 18, 27, 40S, 41, 59, 34/35; and
- Neighbourhood Parks / Urban Parks / Public Squares: as necessary to serve localized development and intensification areas.

In order to achieve this City-wide target, the City must continue its approach of maximizing parkland dedication amounts. However, it is unlikely that parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu alone will address the full magnitude of needs – alternate acquisition tools will be required. If the recommended target still cannot be adequately achieved, the City may need to seek non-traditional ways of supporting residents' leisure and recreation needs, as outlined earlier in this section.

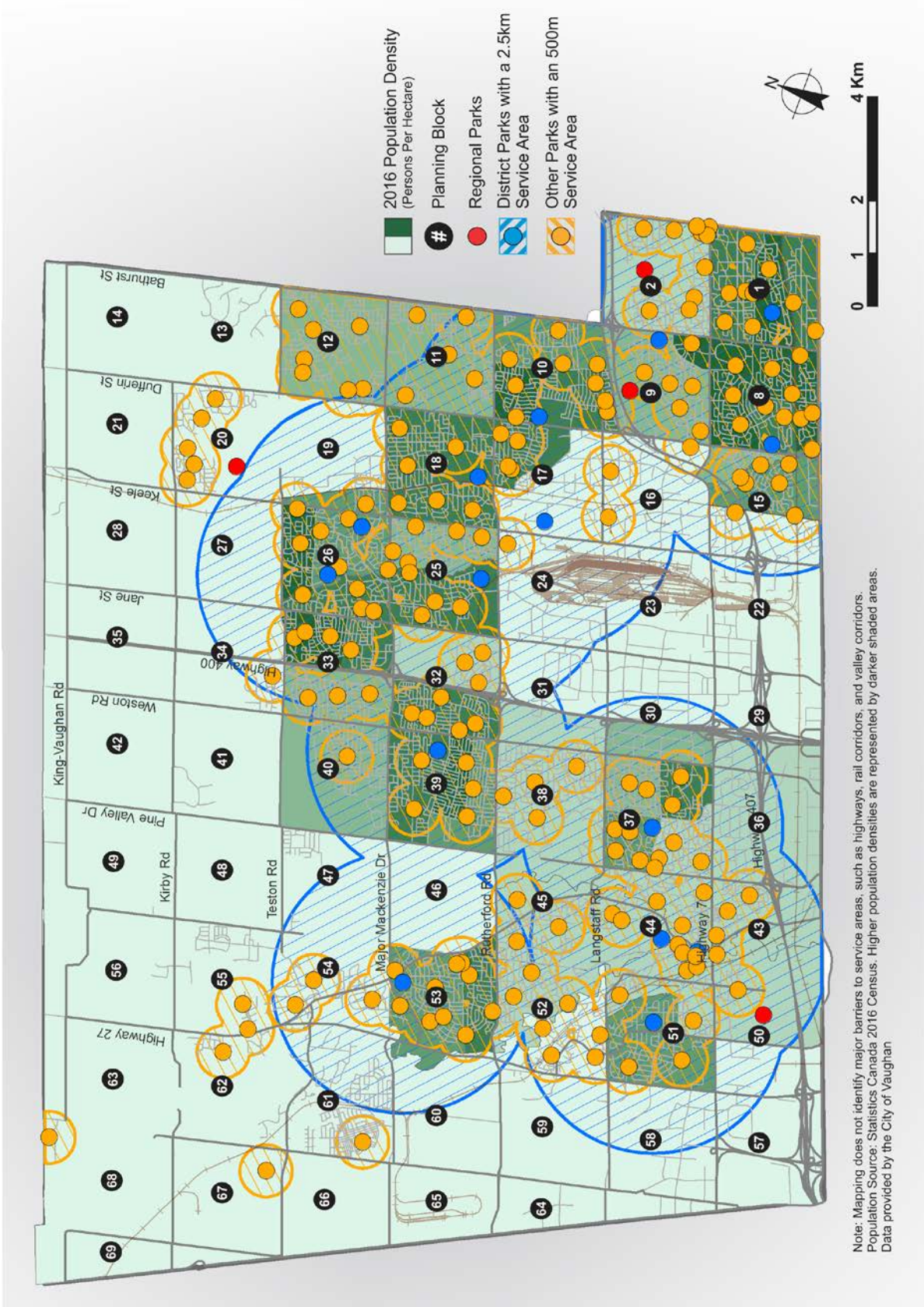
Parkland Gaps

Parkland needs should continue to be assessed on an area-specific basis to ensure that there are local parks within a reasonable walking distance of residential areas. Figure 25 illustrates the distribution of all 201 City park properties through the application of service radii (2.5-kilometres for District Parks and 500-metres for all other parks; due to their unique attributes, Regional Parks are excluded). The 500-metre radius aligns with the provision target for playgrounds (as well as Vaughan Official Plan policy 9.2.2.14.xiv) and represents a five to ten-minute walk. As noted earlier, the use of "walkability" mapping should be explored in future analysis.

The map shows excellent coverage to residential areas for all park types, with the only notable gap being in the Nashville area (Block 61). It is anticipated that parks will be provided in association with future development areas (e.g., VMC, Block 41, etc.) in order to address gaps in these areas as they build-out.

Although the per capita target is not intended to be strictly applied to each community, it does provide a useful measure of need. As noted earlier, Carrville and Vellore – largely greenfield areas – are well below the City-wide parkland provision rate. Section 7.3.3.1 of the Vaughan Official Plan (under appeal) states that "communities that fall short of the active and passive parkland targets are considered priorities for additional parkland resources." These areas should be a focus of analysis in the City's Parkland Acquisition Strategy.

Figure 25: Parkland Distribution (2016)



Parkland Needs and Opportunities – Recommendations

14. Ensure that new parks are **equitably distributed** across the City and conveniently located to meet a range of needs. Local level parks should ideally be located within a five to ten-minute walk of all residential areas (generally within 500-metres of all residents).
15. Establish a revised City-wide provision target of **2.0 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents**, to be applied to future growth. The City may propose community-specific targets that are representative of local supply and demand factors.

5.7 Parkland Design, Maintenance and Redevelopment

Past ATMPs have outlined several park design objectives and principles that remain relevant but will take on more prominence as the City grows and new parks are created. Examples include responding to an aging and diversifying population through amenities such as washrooms (particularly in District and Regional Parks), benches, shade, picnic areas, open space for pick-up sports and informal use, outdoor fitness equipment, space for community events, community gardens, hard surface pathways, signage, etc. Clustering of sports fields should also be encouraged. The City should look to formalize these and other standards through the development of a Park Construction Standards Manual to guide the design of developer-built parks.

New and redeveloped infrastructure should continue to be designed and constructed on the basis of a “low maintenance” philosophy and approach. Components such as light fixtures, site furnishings and signage should consider durability and replacement part availability. A greater variety of park designs and amenities is also increasing the complexity of maintenance requirements, equipment and procedures; the City should review its Parks Operations service levels (staffing, expertise, inspection, maintenance, etc.) to ensure that they are responsive to current and future needs.

In 2018, the City completed a Parks Redevelopment Strategy (PRS), which was a recommendation of the 2013 ATMP. The PRS will assist the City in managing the renewal and redevelopment of municipal parks and open space facilities over a ten-year period. The PRS responds to the City’s changing demographics and intensifying urban structure by identifying park redevelopment considerations at a neighbourhood and community level. Specific sites have been identified for enhancement, along with an opportunity audit to evaluate future improvements. The PRS identifies several recommendations with relevance to the ATMP Update, including (but not limited to):

- the animation of parks through programming and events;
- a park observation project to assist in prioritizing opportunities for unscheduled and casual use park amenities;
- repurposing aging and under-utilized facilities that are no longer needed;
- enhancing park sites within or adjacent to intensification areas; and
- a capital funding strategy for park redevelopment projects.

These and other park initiatives may be accomplished in partnership with other sectors, including the development industry, government sector (e.g., TRCA) and private sector. Sponsorships, donations, park foundations and conservancies, long-term management agreements, Section 37 funding, etc. are just some new business approaches that will be required to leverage new funding streams to enhance and activate parks.

Direction on sustainable park planning and design is provided in the Vaughan Official Plan; Section 7.3.2.4.f. states:

“incorporate best practice principles of sustainable design, including natural heritage enhancement, naturalized stormwater management features, use of native plant species, incorporation of environmental education features and use of low maintenance and energy efficient facilities and landscapes.”

Lastly, Section 7.2.1.4 of the Vaughan Official Plan encourages the development of joint and/or shared use community facilities, such as schools shared with public parks. This is the City’s current approach to park and facility planning and can be seen in many recent developments, including Vellore Village Community Centre (which is co-located with a school, library and park), as well as several future District Park sites. Although this model potentially puts additional pressure on park assets (e.g., playgrounds, sport fields, etc.), it has proven to be responsive to community needs. Shared parking also helps to reduce the amount of hard surface. The City of Vaughan has been actively working with school boards to address concerns and facilitate access to facilities and parks, an approach that should continue.

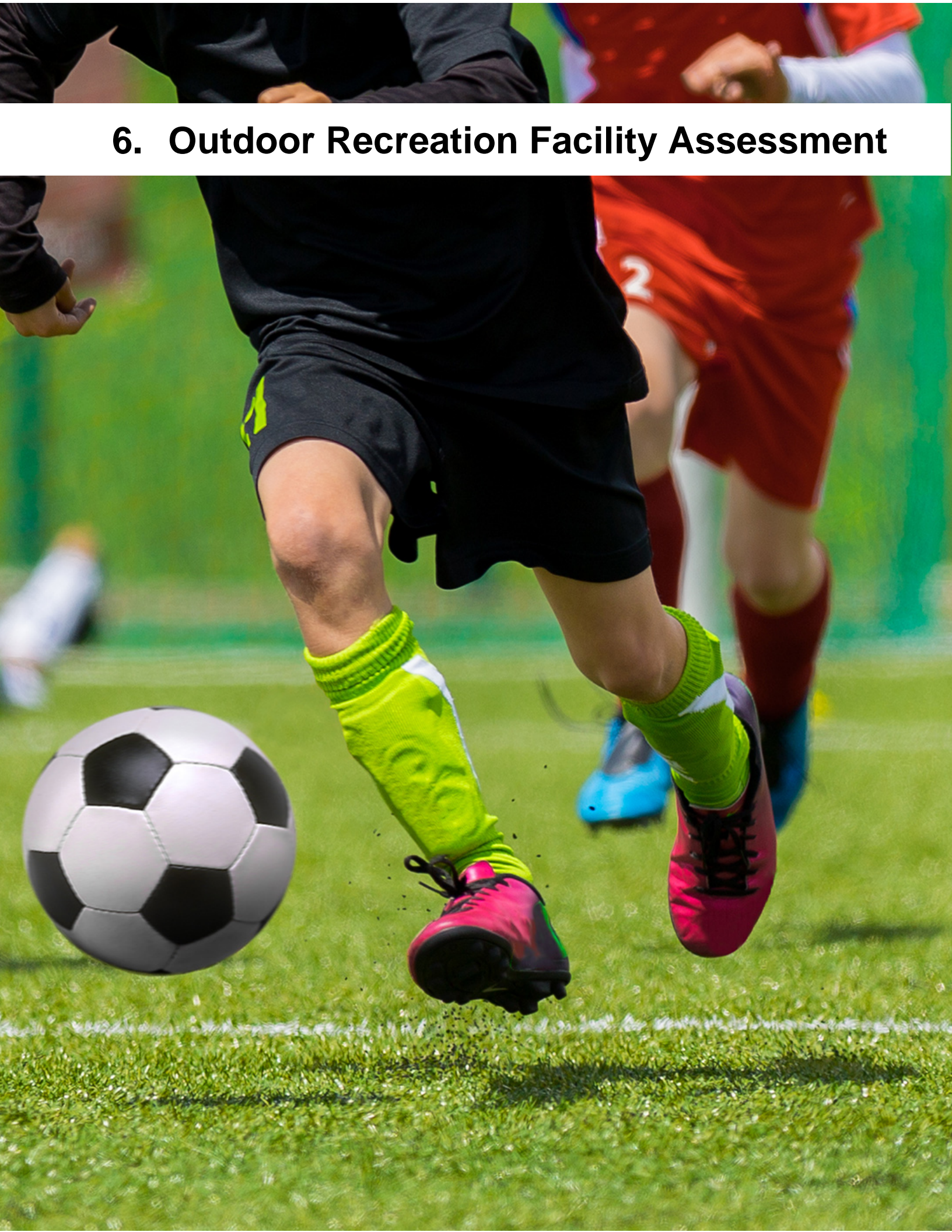
Parkland Design, Maintenance and Redevelopment – Recommendations

16. In **designing parks**, strive to:

- incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness and informal use opportunities for people of all ages;
- consider the needs of a diverse and aging population through the provision of washrooms, seating, shade, pathways, picnic areas and pavilions, etc.;
- preserve and emphasize cultural and heritage environments, including interpretive content;
- follow accessibility legislation and guidelines to accommodate persons with disabilities;
- apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles;
- promote designs that encourage sustainable maintenance practices;
- incorporate native and drought resistant vegetative features that are biologically robust;
- utilize materials that are robust, durable and mindful of future maintenance requirements;
- seek innovative and engaging initiatives that encourage naturalization and environmental stewardship;
- encourage public art; and
- encourage active transportation connections and a linked open space system.

17. Establish policies and location criteria for the provision of **park and trail lighting** (excluding sports fields) and **washrooms** in District and Regional Parks.
18. Prepare a **Park Construction Standards Manual** (including standards for new park classifications) to guide the design of developer-built parks.
19. Review existing and future **Parks Operations service levels** in light of new park classifications and emerging requirements (e.g., invasive species, culturally important species, maintenance of urban parks, etc.). Areas of emphasis should include staff resources and technical expertise, as well as park inspection and maintenance requirements.
20. Review the **Events Strategy** with a focus on assessing the hosting capacities of existing sites (municipal parks, TRCA properties, etc.) as well as policies, procedures and organizational support related to outdoor community events. When new parks are designed, they should be assessed for their suitability to accommodate special events and, if suitable, amenities and infrastructure needed to support events should be included.
21. Collaborate with **school boards** to identify opportunities to work together in the maximization of existing sites and planning of future park/school campuses.
22. Continue to encourage the development of **joint and/or shared use community sites** (e.g., hubs), such as schools, community centres, libraries and parks.
23. Promote appropriate **community and public-private partnerships** in the municipal parks system in order to leverage additional resources, expedite development, improve accessibility, and enhance maintenance and programming.
24. Encourage the establishment of park foundations, conservancies and other **stewardship partnerships** that enhance park sustainability.
25. Implement the **2018 Parks Redevelopment Strategy**, including recommendations to animate parks through programming and events, undertake a park observation project for casual use amenities, repurpose aging and under-utilized facilities, and enhance high priority parks including sites in proximity to intensification areas.

6. Outdoor Recreation Facility Assessment



This section contains an assessment of outdoor recreation facility needs extending to 2031, when the City's population is forecasted to reach 424,500 residents. The analysis generally adheres to the methodology established in the 2013 ATMP update and has been influenced by public input, City initiatives, emerging trends and new demographic data.

6.1 Recreational Trails

Current State

Vaughan's recreation trails system consists of two core municipal off-road trails (William Granger Greenway and Bartley Smith Greenway, which total nearly 21-kilometres and generally follow north-south river valleys) and several multi-use pathways in parks and open spaces (e.g., Maple Nature Reserve, Sugarbush Heritage Park, Rainbow Creek Park, etc.). Additional trails are provided and managed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and storm management ponds and cemeteries may also provide similar opportunities. Beyond multi-use pathways, cycling is facilitated by a variety of route types, such as on-road bike lanes, in-boulevard lanes, paved shoulders and shared routes.

Key Considerations

Trails are a valued part of Vaughan's open space system and the establishment of a sustainable active transportation network (including recreational trails) is a key principle of the Vaughan Official Plan, which refers to the use of "Greenways" as a part of the proposed green infrastructure – Policy 7.3.1.3.a. states:

"greenways, which are typically a minimum of 25 metres in width, provide important linkages for pedestrians and cyclists, can improve connections between significant destinations such as other parks and open spaces and community facilities, and provide opportunities for small-scale recreational activities within the greenway corridor."

Market and trend research consistently indicate that interest and participation in unstructured, self-scheduled activities is rising and that, as a result, trails are in high demand and should be a top priority. Trails provide opportunities for physical activity, stress reduction, social interaction and environmental sustainability and are critical infrastructure for improving public health.

In Vaughan, trail planning is directed by the Transportation Master Plan (2012) and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP, 2007), which is currently being updated. The 2018 PBMP will build on past studies by outlining a strategic plan to "grow" walking, rolling and biking in Vaughan through the development of a brand, supportive municipal processes, policies and programs as well as a plan for the implementation of more comfortable infrastructure and connected network.

Walking, hiking and cycling opportunities appeal to a wide range of ages and abilities – 67% of community survey respondents have at least one member that participated in

walking for leisure in the past twelve months, while 38% have participated in cycling/biking. Fourth-fifths of community survey respondents support additional public spending on paved multi-use pathways (81%) and nature trails (80%) in Vaughan. Suggestions were also received for improved signage (both wayfinding and environmental educational), mapping and promotion of recreational trails.

The City is striving to create a continuous and connected network of pedestrian and cycling routes that can be accessed by residents and visitors of all ages, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. The Vaughan Super Trail initiative was approved in principle by City Council in 2016 with a vision of “creating a world class desirable, identifiable, memorable signature trail linking communities to each other and with cultural, natural heritage, public spaces and destinations accessible to residents and visitors”. The proposed Vaughan Super Trail concept is an extended looped trail route with smaller internal loops and connections to adjacent municipalities. It is expected to be phased in over a period of years.

Analysis & Recommendations

Vaughan’s residents are seeking improvements to the network of trails and pathways – 92% of survey respondents feel that trails and pathways are important, but only 71% are satisfied with current opportunities, indicating a gap in expectations.

Trails provide good value for tax dollars and are used by people of all ages. A recent study found that when walking loops are present in parks, twice as many seniors are active¹³. The City has installed walking paths in many of its parks and this should continue to be a priority, as should the development of new recreational trails and connections. Facilitating the provision of trails and pedestrian options within the City assists in the overall development of a sustainable and environmentally responsible municipality. The proposed Vaughan Super Trail is an exciting project that will be well received by residents and visitors alike.

Several of Vaughan’s trail networks are contained within lands owned and/or operated by the TRCA. However, the TRCA is not funded for the provision of trail facilities or the added costs for their maintenance. The City and TRCA have been working to develop an agreement, the completion of which should be a high priority as these trails are highly valued by residents and are an important asset in achieving a connected network.

Through the engagement process, the TRCA confirmed its interest in working with the City to achieve shared goals of connecting trails, ensuring maintenance and providing a positive experience for residents. The City is actively working with the TRCA on several fronts and this should continue, including engagement in strategic and master planning efforts. There is also great potential to work together to meet broader outdoor recreation needs as TRCA is a major land owner in Vaughan.

¹³ City Parks Alliance. The National Study of Neighbourhood Parks. 2016.

Recommendations

Recreational Trails – Recommendations

26. Regularly update the **Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan** and accompanying Implementation Strategy.
27. Ensure that implementation of the City's **proposed recreational trail network** – including the Vaughan Super Trail – is reflected as a **high priority** through the proper allocation of capital and maintenance funding and resources.
28. Work with the development community, TRCA and other landowners to enhance **connectivity of the recreational trail network** by linking woodlots, open spaces, parks, schools, civic destinations, transit hubs, and residential and employment areas. The development of a comprehensive map identifying potential synergies may assist in this regard.
29. Evaluate trail and pathway requirements through the **planning and development process**. Encourage the conveyance of corridors of land (over and above parkland dedication, where applicable) using the various tools available to the City.
30. Seek opportunities to establish **trail loops for walking and running** (as well support amenities such as seating, shade, etc.) within new and redeveloped parks and open spaces.
31. Work with the TRCA and other City departments to explore options for addressing **trail maintenance** (e.g., management agreement) and opportunities for program and facility integration.
32. Continue efforts to improve the quality and quantity of **signage (wayfinding and environmental education), mapping and promotion** of recreational trails in Vaughan.

6.2 Soccer Fields

Municipal Supply*			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Senior Artificial	4 (8 ULE)	4 (8 ULE)	1:64 registered youth players	1:80 registered youth players
Senior (lit)	13 (19.5 ULE)	18 (27 ULE)		
Senior (unlit)	16	25		
9v9 (unlit)	5	9		
Mini	55	77		
Totals	144	146		

Notes: *Supply includes permitted school fields (36.5 ULE) and excludes “mini mini” fields (16). Fields are shown in “unlit equivalent units”, where 1 lit field equals 1.5 unlit fields and one artificial turf fields equals 2.0 unlit fields*

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies 146 soccer fields (unlit equivalents – ULE), 36.5 of which are owned by school boards but permitted by the City. Since the 2013 ATMP the City has added one senior unlit field (+1 ULE) and added lighting at two existing fields (+1 ULE). In addition to these completed projects; two artificial lit fields are under construction at NMRP (+4 ULE), lighting will be added to two (2) fields in 2018 (+1 ULE) and two (2) additional 9v9 fields will be available for play in 2018 (+2 ULE).

The City's provision of soccer fields is higher than most. The GTA comparator group average for provision of soccer fields is 1:3,400 residents, compared to 1:2,219 residents in the City of Vaughan.

Key Considerations

Youth soccer groups are the primary users of soccer fields in Vaughan, although use by adult leagues is growing. Minor soccer registration has increased by 5% over the last four seasons and adult play has been building in popularity in recent years. Soccer fields are also occasionally used by football and rugby clubs in the city – these user groups are addressed in additional detail in the multi-use fields section.

Both child and youth age cohorts are projected to grow at a slower pace over the next ten years, but substantial growth in the young adult age category should be noted for its influence on adult play.

Vaughan's soccer fields are primarily used by five (5) leagues with a combined registration base of just under 10,000 players for the 2016 season (see Table 8). Registration data for adult users is not collected by the City and therefore has not been included in this analysis.

Table 8: Youth Soccer Registration, City of Vaughan (2013-2016)

Field Users	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change
	Registered Youth Participants				
Glen Shields Futbol Club	849	776	937	806	-5%
Kleinburg Nobleton Soccer Club	1,266	1,146	1,285	1,226	-3%
Vaughan Soccer Club	3,098	2,970	2,959	3,337	8%
Woodbridge Soccer Club	3,406	3,467	3,448	3,747	10%
Schwartz-Reisman JCC Sports	732	555	715	713	-3%
Totals	9,351	8,914	9,344	9,829	5%

Source: City of Vaughan, 2017 (includes residents and non-residents)

Outdoor soccer remains three times more popular than its indoor counterpart, but overall popularity of the sport has stabilized. In Vaughan and across Ontario, adult competitive and recreational soccer has been growing in popularity and is expected to continue on this trajectory as adults strive to stay active as they age.

Soccer fields were ranked 22nd of 30 facility types by survey respondents, with 65% reporting support for additional spending on these facilities. Just-below one-fifth (18%) of survey respondents indicated that they or someone in their household had actively participated in outdoor soccer in the last 12 months.

While there was little discussion relating to soccer fields during stakeholder consultation and public information sessions, some residents have submitted requests to staff for additional senior lit fields and suggested repairs to existing fields.

Analysis & Recommendations

The recommended provision rate for soccer fields is 1:80 registered players, which represents a reduction from the target of 1:60 recommended in the 2013 ATMP. This participant-based target has been adjusted to reflect slower growth in registration and capacity within the current inventory of fields. The new provision target brings Vaughan more in line with other communities and also considers the shift towards adult play.

The recommended target suggests a need for 12 additional fields (ULE) by 2031. Although there is currently a sufficient number of fields in the City, anticipated population growth (particularly children and youth), equitable distribution, and a need to offer lit fields and fields of different sizes (e.g., 9v9) means that additional fields will be required. Table 9 illustrates these needs over time; implementation has been phased to reflect realities of capital funding and land availability.

Table 9: Forecasted Demand for Outdoor Soccer Fields, 2016 - 2031

Soccer Field Demand	2016	2021	2026	2031
Estimated Youth Participants*	10,165	11,044	11,882	12,609
<i>Soccer Field Provision Target</i>	<i>1 per 80 registered youth participants</i>			
Required Soccer Fields (unlit equivalents)	127	138	149	158
Existing Soccer Fields (unlit equivalents)	146			
Surplus (Deficit)	19		(3)	(12)
Recommended Implementation	--	8.5	3.5	0

**This participant number includes football and rugby clubs as they will require use of soccer fields until such time as sufficient multi-use fields are provided.*

Additional capacity can be developed through addition of lights, conversion/installation of artificial turf and new field development. Several of these facilities are likely to be accommodated in North Maple Regional Park (over multiple phases), the most recent site designs for which include a senior artificial turf stadium, senior artificial lit fields and senior unlit fields.

The twelve (12) additional fields should be geographically distributed throughout the city and developed in a range of sizes. Short-term demand should be supplied by two (2) senior artificial turf fields (North Maple Regional Park, currently under construction) and three (3) senior lit natural fields (Blocks 18 and 59). Mid-term demand should be met by another senior lit field (Block 41) and an additional two (2) 9v9 fields in Neighbourhood

Parks (e.g., Blocks 1, 27 and/or 41). Additional mini fields may be provided in response to demonstrated need (e.g., geographic equity) as most users can be accommodated within the existing inventory. The City may choose to provide more fields than are recommended based on geographic distribution and demand for casual use.

As required, City staff should monitor demand and use of existing facilities to identify opportunities to adjust the dimensions and support amenities of existing and proposed fields to meet current and emerging requirements.

Soccer Fields – Recommendations

33. Develop **12 additional soccer fields by 2031** (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields and every artificial turf field is equal to 2.0 unlit fields). Future field development will require a range of sizes and should be clustered together to form multi-field complexes where possible. In addition to the fields proposed for North Maple Regional Park, three senior lit fields are recommended for District Parks in Blocks 18 and 59 in the short-term and one in Block 41 in the medium-term. Two (2) 9v9 fields are recommended for Neighbourhood Parks (e.g., Blocks 1, 27 and/or 41). At its discretion, the City may choose to provide more fields than are recommended based on geographic distribution and demand for casual use (e.g., mini fields).

6.3 Ball Diamonds

Municipal Supply*			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Senior (lit)	23 (34.5 ULE)	25 (37.5 ULE)	1:37 registered youth	1:40 registered youth
Senior (unlit)	4	3		
Junior (unlit)	21	26		
T-Ball	6	7		
Batting Cage	3	3		
Totals	59 (71 ULE)	64 (76.5 ULE)		

Notes: Supply includes permitted school fields (6.5 ULE)
Fields are shown in “unlit equivalent units”, where 1 lit field equals 1.5 unlit fields

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies and permits 76.5 (unlit equivalents) ball diamonds, an increase of 5.5 unlit equivalent units since the 2013 ATMP. The GTA comparator group average for provision of ball diamonds is 1:5,000 residents, slightly lower than the City of Vaughan’s provision of 1:4,409 residents.

Key Considerations

Minor/youth ball league registration has increased by 28% over the last four seasons among the four largest associations in the city, which had a combined youth player base just below 3,000 players in the 2016 season (see Table 10). In addition, municipal permitting records indicate that ball diamond rentals have increased by 16% over the past three years. Although waitlist numbers were not provided for this analysis, many stakeholders stated that during the 2017 season they turned players away because they had met capacity within their programming.

Table 10: Youth Baseball & Softball Registration, City of Vaughan (2013-2016)

Diamond Users	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change
	Registered Youth Participants				
City of Vaughan Baseball & Softball Association	1,176	1,208	1,149	1,741	48%
Schwartz-Reisman JCC Sports	99	92	145	159	61%
Thornhill Baseball Association	774	752	598	785	1%
Woodbridge Minor Softball	168	162	192	148	-12%
Totals	2,217	2,214	2,084	2,833	28%

Source: City of Vaughan, 2017 (includes residents and non-residents)

Note: The City does not collect registration data for adult clubs, so those registration numbers have not been included in this analysis.

In 2017, several youth and adult ball leagues were unable to accommodate all interested residents in their programs due to a lack of diamond availability. Growing demand has led to requests for new leagues (e.g., youth hardball). As a result, regular review of the Community Service Organization (CSO) Policy, Facility Allocation Policy and other policies is recommended. Based on demonstrated demand, there is a need for the City and all groups to work together to optimize existing programs and schedules, and develop strategies to create additional capacity in the short-term.

Stakeholder input supports recent trends that indicate an increased interest in adult ball, particularly with co-ed leagues on weekend evenings. If adult participation grows at the same pace as the young adult population, the demand for full-size lit diamonds will continue to increase. This emphasizes the need for appropriately-sized and outfitted diamonds for adults (primarily slo-pitch, but also hardball).

These are unexpected shifts from the participation trends at the time of the 2013 ATMP, which were indicating a decline in youth softball and baseball. The sport is currently seeing a surge in interest, partially due to success of the Toronto Blue Jays in recent seasons and partially due to demographic changes. It is expected that current growth in the sport will continue in the short-term and then stabilize.

The current inventory in Vaughan includes very few multi-diamond sites, which impedes the ability for clubs to host tournaments. Attendees at stakeholder consultation sessions identified concerns over size and dimensions of existing diamonds (especially in

neighbourhood parks), stating that many diamonds were not appropriate for adult play because home runs and foul balls posed a safety risk to neighbours. Public consultation also identified demand for additional support facilities at ball diamonds such as permanent washrooms, fencing and storage structures.

Baseball and/or softball were played by 12% of survey respondents and 65% reported support for additional spending on diamonds, ranking 23rd out of 30 facility types.

Analysis & Recommendations

The 2013 ATMP applied a provision target of one ball diamond (unlit equivalent) for every 50 youth players. It is now recommended that this target be adjusted to 1:40 registered youth players a result of increased demand/registration and the resurgence of interest in the sport at both adult and youth levels.

Table 11 applies this target and illustrates diamond needs over time; implementation has been phased to reflect realities of capital funding and land availability.

Table 11: Forecasted Demand for Ball Diamonds, 2016 - 2031

Ball Diamond Demand	2016	2021	2026	2031
Estimated Youth Participants	2,833	3,204	3,395	3,625
<i>Ball Diamond Provision Target</i>	<i>1 per 40 registered youth participants</i>			
Required Ball Diamonds (unlit equivalents)	71	80	85	90.5
Existing Ball Diamonds (unlit equivalents)	76.5			
Surplus (Deficit)	5.5	(3.5)	(8.5)	(14)
Recommended Implementation	--	4.0	8.0	2.5

Current projections suggest that registration in ball will continue to grow in the short-term and then stabilize. Based on these registration estimates, demand for 14 additional diamonds (unlit equivalents) by 2031 is projected. It should be a priority to expand the adult diamond inventory to provide fields of appropriate quality and dimensions for organized use. To meet adult slo-pitch requirements in the short-term, the City should assess existing fields to determine the feasibility of expanding up to four (4) diamonds. To leverage efficiencies, some under-used sites could be converted to t-ball, while new development should focus on senior fields.

Multi-field (clover-leaf) development is preferred and all new diamonds (aside from T-ball) should be suitable for adult play, with lights provided in District and Regional Parks. This will improve distribution of facilities, league play and tournament potential.

Two (2) senior lit diamonds are recommended for a future phase of North Maple Regional Park. Additional senior lit diamonds should be provided in future District and Regional Parks (Blocks 18, 41, Northwest Vaughan, etc.). Junior unlit diamonds can be accommodated in Neighbourhood Park development, as appropriate.

Many of the City's ball diamonds are older, with few having been developed in recent years due to waning demand. However, as interest in the sport is now once again on the rise, the City is unable to respond quickly to this trend. In order to implement these recommendations, the City should revisit its parks capital program to identify opportunities to reallocate space planned for soccer fields.

Ball Diamonds – Recommendations

34. Develop **14 additional ball diamonds by 2031** (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields), with an emphasis on diamonds for adult play. Two (2) senior lit diamonds are recommended for a future phase of North Maple Regional Park and additional senior lit diamonds should be provided in future District and Regional Parks (Blocks 18, 41, Northwest Vaughan, etc.). Junior and t-ball diamonds may be considered for Neighbourhood Parks or under-utilized sites, as appropriate. Multi-field development is preferred. In order to implement these recommendations, the City should revisit its parks capital program to identify opportunities to reallocate space to ball diamonds.

6.4 Multi-use Fields

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
0	0	0	1:200,000 residents

Current State

The City of Vaughan does not currently supply any designated multi-use fields. These fields require a slightly larger footprint (70m by 140m) than senior soccer fields but are able to accommodate play by multiple user groups such as football, rugby, lacrosse, field hockey, etc. The GTA comparator average for provision of multi-use fields is 1:116,300 residents.

Key Considerations

Some team sports (such as football) are experiencing increased popularity and growth in Ontario communities, as has also been the case in Vaughan. The younger adult age cohort is expected to experience moderate growth in the next ten years in Vaughan, suggesting that demand will build accordingly. If provided, multi-use fields would be primarily used by youth and young adult sport leagues. Availability of multi-use fields also helps support athlete development in other growing sports such as lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, and rugby at youth and adult levels.

Currently, these clubs rely largely on secondary school fields for training and games. Some organizations have booked premier fields outside the municipality (i.e., York University Stadium) due to a lack of local availability. User groups reported significant

limitations when booking fields through school boards or private facilities including lack of parking, concerns with field maintenance/safety, lack of equipment storage, limited access to change rooms, etc.

Competitive field sports are becoming all-season training activities, meaning that greater demands are being placed on facilities for extended training spaces. Artificial turf is the preferred surfacing for a multi-use field as it is less susceptible to wear patterns and can be used further into shoulder seasons with minimal damage. Lighting is also preferred for multi-use sport fields as this extends playing times, particularly when developed in non-residential areas with minimal disruption to neighbours.

Respondents to the online survey indicated that 12% of households had someone who participated in “other field sports” within the last 12 months. Multi-use sports fields ranked 18th out of 30 facility types, with 70% of survey respondents indicating support for additional spending on these facilities.

Vaughan Football Club doubled registration numbers from 2013 to 2016, increasing from 151 to 310 players. The Vaughan Yeoman Rugby Club is still in early years of development within the Ontario Rugby Union and has seen registration numbers fluctuate between 26 and 88 members.

Stakeholder consultation found that demand for these facilities is growing and that multiple clubs in Vaughan are seeking a “home” field to practice and host their games. Attendees were amenable to shared facilities and believe that, when shared collectively, there is sufficient demand to justify development of one or more multi-use fields.

Lastly, sport scheduling is a factor when considering provision of multi-use fields, but it is believed that the majority of user groups in Vaughan do not have directly overlapping seasons, which should assist with field allocation.

Analysis & Recommendations

The provision of municipal multi-use sports fields in Vaughan is supported by demonstrated demand, trends and benchmarking. The recommended provision target for these facilities is 1:200,000 residents, suggesting a need for one field at present and another between 2026 and 2031, once field use has been established. This new provision target was created to address growing demand.

Multi-use fields may be located in District and Regional Parks as they will have lights and artificial turf, and ancillary amenities such as bleachers and support buildings. Potential locations include Block 59 District Park (2021) and North Maple Regional Park (2026+).

Football and rugby should be directed to multi-use fields that accommodate their particular sports (e.g., uprights, lines, surfacing, bleachers, fieldhouses, etc.). If the City chooses to develop multi-use fields with natural grass, it should also be noted that the risk of field damage from these high-impact sports makes them less compatible for shared-use with other activities. Once installed, fields may be used by soccer but with an allocation policy in place to ensure priority access is given to other sports communities.

Multi-use Fields – Recommendations

35. Develop **two (2) lit multi-use artificial fields by 2031** to accommodate sports such as football, rugby, lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, etc. The fields may also be used for soccer when not required for other sports. Potential locations include Block 59 District Park (2021) and North Maple Regional Park (2026+).

6.5 Cricket Fields

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
0	0	0	1:150,000 residents

Current State

The City of Vaughan does not currently offer a regulation-size cricket field. Vaughan organizations have been able to practice on a field located in Concord Community Park for the last few years, but this site has been deemed inadequate for play or practice by local players.

The GTA comparator average provision of cricket fields is 1:92,100 residents.

Key Considerations

If installed, a cricket facility would be primarily used by youth and young adult sport leagues with some use from older adults who grew up in communities where cricket was popular. Vaughan is becoming more ethnically diverse, indicating that demand for the sport will likely continue to grow.

Cricket is similar to other field sports in terms of the time of day that it is played (primetime field use, practice/training on weeknights and games on weekends, etc.). The sport is played with two teams of 11 players per side and games generally occur over a 4 to 6-hour period of time, although modified versions of the game are being introduced. The field surface requires a large amount of space on a natural grass oval with a diameter between 90m – 150m. Cricket requires a space that is comparable to two (2) full-size soccer field and is challenging to establish within a mature park system due to its substantial land base.

There was strong public support for development of a full-size cricket field in Vaughan. Representatives from multiple cricket organizations and local residents attended stakeholder and public information sessions to voice their concerns that players were travelling to neighbouring municipalities (Markham, Mississauga and beyond) to participate in the sport. Representatives believe that cricket would increase inclusiveness by providing an opportunity for children, adults and families from various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds to learn about and participate in a popular world-wide sport.

Through the online community survey, 12% of respondents stated that they, or someone in their household had participated in “other field sports” (i.e. cricket, football, rugby, etc.) in the past 12 months. When asked about investing additional funds to support development of a cricket field in Vaughan, 44% of survey respondents supported the investment.

Analysis & Recommendations

It is recommended that the City of Vaughan make the provision of a cricket facility a high priority. This recommendation is driven by multiple requests from the community and continuing demographic changes in the city, as well as documented local demand and a lack of alternate providers.

The provision target is set at 1:150,000 residents for the short term, suggesting a current demand for two fields. The City should reconsider this target during next ATMP update, once pitches have been installed and usage profiles established. This provision target requires installation of 3 new fields by 2031. One is proposed for North Maple Regional Park (Phase 2), while locations for the other two have not been determined, but should be considered with future District or Regional Parks or within an employment area. For any proposed location, a design that spans two soccer fields could be considered if a suitable site for purpose-built cricket is not available. In the longer-term, the City may consider the provision of cricket batting cages to support demand for facilities.

Cricket Fields – Recommendations

36. Develop **one (1) cricket pitch at North Maple Regional Park** in the short-term and identify sites for **two (2) additional pitches** (to be developed prior to 2031).

6.6 Tennis & Pickleball Courts

Municipal Supply			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Tennis (lit)	69	69	1:2,493 residents	1:5,000 (new residential areas)
Tennis (unlit)	57	61		
Tennis - Total	126	130		
Pickleball	0	0	0	Case-by-case

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies 130 tennis courts, an increase of four (4) since the 2013 ATMP. The four new courts were installed in Kleinburg (lit double-court) and Civic Centre (unlit double-court). In addition to the existing inventory, Block 40 will have a four-court facility complete in 2018.

Vaughan is currently providing tennis courts at more than double the rate of GTA comparators. The GTA average for provision of tennis courts is 1:5,200 residents, compared to 1:2,493 in the City of Vaughan.

The City of Vaughan does not currently supply any dedicated pickleball courts.

Key Considerations

Tennis

Use of tennis courts is dominated by adults and seniors with some use by young families and children. Interest in tennis on the rise across the GTA, particularly amongst youth and partially driven by growing ethnic diversity. The recent success of professional tennis players (many of whom are from the GTA) on the international competitive circuit has also bolstered participation in the sport.

Nevertheless, the sport has not regained the levels of popularity that it enjoyed in the 1970s. In response, most communities have gradually reduced their rate of tennis court development and have adopted new models of design that allow for greater flexibility in use (e.g., pickleball, ball hockey, basketball, futsal, etc.).

Just below one-fifth (18%) of survey respondents indicated that someone in their household had participated in tennis in the last 12 months. There was strong public support for additional spending on tennis facilities, as it ranked 14th of 30 facility types (73% support).

Attendees at public information sessions and stakeholder workshops identified a need for more and improved tennis facilities in Vaughan (including Thornhill) and also urged use of acrylic surfacing on courts whenever possible/feasible. It was noted that multi-court (organizations preferred groupings of three or more) facilities are preferred over single court designs to increase efficiencies and maximize multi-player play.

Pickleball

The newly emerging sport of pickleball was not discussed in the 2013 ATMP, but is now experiencing a popularity boom in Canada, particularly among older adults and seniors. Pickleball is a racquet sport similar to tennis, but requires a court with slightly different dimensions and equipment, and can be played indoors or outdoors.

The fact that players are largely seniors and retired persons (many are part of the more active baby boomer generation) has helped to support the proliferation of clubs across Canada. Most players are recreational, although there is a growing number of competitive members registered with Pickleball Canada. It is possible that the demographic may skew younger as the sport receives additional exposure.

Only 1% of survey respondents reported participation in pickleball within the last 12 months. As a niche sport, pickleball ranked last on the list of facilities with only 44% of survey respondents indicating support for additional spending on courts.

With the number of older adults expected to increase at a faster rate than the overall population, growing interest in pickleball can be anticipated. Due to the smaller size of the courts, it is possible to fit two to three pickleball courts within the same footprint of one tennis court, thus making it easier to accommodate the sport within existing park sites. Like tennis, multi-court complexes are recommended.

Analysis & Recommendations

The 2013 ATMP recommended a provision target of one tennis court per 5,000 persons in new residential areas (not to be applied retroactively to the city-wide population). This remains an appropriate target as it promotes the continued provision of facilities in growing areas to maintain an adequate distribution, while acknowledging that courts will be provided at a reduced rate compared to the city-wide average. New courts should be developed in groups of two (2) or more and may consider co-location with other sport court uses.

This target equates to installation of an additional 20 courts by 2031. To support future demand for these sports, distribution of these facilities should be twelve (12) lit and eight (8) unlit courts, similar to current ratios.

Based on a 2-kilometre service area for existing facilities, there are no significant geographic gaps in distribution, although it is noted that there is a lack of lit courts in the Carrville area (Blocks 11 and 18). New unlit courts should be installed within growing greenfield areas (e.g., Block 27, 40, 41, 55, etc.) and be designed as double-court complexes. Lit courts (complexes of two or more) may be provided at District and Regional Parks. Courts may also be considered for intensification areas, but should not take priority over amenities that allow unstructured use by a wider market.

Focus should also be placed on design and utility of courts. Many of Vaughan's existing tennis courts are nearing the end of their lifecycles and are in need of repair/replacement. Better utilization of the existing inventory would be possible if more courts were upgraded. This has been a key objective for the City in recent years and should continue. To support this, the City should also develop and implement design guidelines to maximize use of tennis courts and pickleball facilities.

Potential demand for pickleball in Vaughan is relatively untested; however, the growing legitimacy of the sport – combined with several local requests – supports additional investment. A pilot project is recommended at one of the existing sites to evaluate feasibility of re-purposing existing courts (re-lining) to share use between tennis and pickleball. If successful, and significant demand for pickleball is found, this may warrant consideration of new purpose-built facilities. Otherwise, provision of pickleball facilities may be addressed through refurbishment and lining projects on existing courts.

Tennis & Pickleball Courts – Recommendations

37. Install **20 additional tennis courts by 2031** (equivalent to ten two-court complexes), including approximately twelve (12) lit and eight (8) unlit courts. Lit courts (complexes of two or more) should be developed in Carrville (Block 11/18) and may be considered for District and Regional Parks. Unlit courts (two-court complexes) may be installed in growing greenfield areas (e.g., Blocks 27, 40, 41, 55, etc.).
38. Undertake a **pilot project** to evaluate the feasibility of re-purposing existing tennis courts (re-lining) to share use between tennis and pickleball.

6.7 Basketball Courts

Municipal Supply			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Basketball	71	71	1:483	1:500
Play	13*	4	Youth (10-19)	Youth (10-19)

*Inventory declined from 2013 as a result of inventory reconciliation (double-counting error)

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies 71 basketball courts and 4 play courts. In addition, a basketball court is being installed and set to open at Block 40 Chatfield District Park in 2018. Many school yards also provide access to basketball hoops.

In this analysis, a full basketball court is considered to include two hoops as well as appropriate lining for the sport. Comparatively, play courts are multi-use facilities with different lines and apparatuses for sports like futsal.

Vaughan currently supplies basketball courts at a rate of 1:483 youth (ages 10-19) or 1:4,321 residents. The GTA comparator average provision rate is 1:9,600 residents.

Key Considerations

Basketball courts are most popular among youth as they provide unstructured, unscheduled outdoor recreation that is free of charge. The youth age group is expected to see moderate growth over the next 10 years, suggesting that demand should grow accordingly. Three-quarters of survey respondents (74%) support additional public spending on basketball courts, ranking 13th out of 30 facility types; and 16% stated that someone in their household had played outdoor basketball in the past year.

The City has indicated that community requests for outdoor basketball and play courts have recently increased, including for provision of junior-height nets. Public feedback suggests that full courts are preferred for pick-up games, but half courts are more functional for casual play. Comments from ATMP public information sessions included requests for improved surfacing and repairs at existing facilities, including the addition of simple hoops and backboards for recreational play.

These courts help to supply children and youth in Vaughan with versatile facilities available for multiple uses, with a focus on basketball. They are easily incorporated into District and some Neighbourhood Parks, making them accessible to residents via active transportation (i.e., walking/cycling).

Analysis & Recommendations

The basketball court provision rate recommended in the 2013 ATMP was 1:500 youth (ages 10-19) and this target remains relevant. Application of this target would require installation of an additional 11 courts by 2031. Where appropriate, new and redeveloped

courts should emphasize multi-use designs capable of supporting a variety of activities (i.e., different lines, goals, surfacing, etc.).

New installations should be located in growing residential communities and targeted toward filling existing service gaps. Based on a 1-kilometre service radius, the City has excellent coverage as the only gaps are in Blocks 40 and 61, which will be addressed through future park development. Additional courts should be installed in Neighbourhood or Urban Parks in conjunction with residential development. Basketball courts should be considered for within future District or Regional Parks.

Basketball Courts – Recommendations

39. Develop approximately **eleven (11) new basketball courts and/or play courts** in growing residential communities, guided by a 1-kilometre service radius. Where appropriate, new and redeveloped courts should emphasize multi-use designs capable of supporting a variety of activities.

6.8 Skateboard Parks

Municipal Supply			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Primary Skate Parks	1	1	1:4,731	1:3,500
Local Skate Zones	6	8	Youth (10-19)	Youth (10-19)

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently provides one (1) skateboard park and eight (8) skate zones within its parks. Two of these zones have been added to the municipal supply since the 2013 ATMP; one in Kleinburg at Secord Park and one in Woodbridge at Sonoma Heights District Park. Another skate zone will be installed in the Block 40 Chatfield District Park in 2018.

Skate parks and zones (combined) are currently supplied at a rate of 1:4,731 youth residents (ages 10-19) or 1:36,011 residents. The GTA comparator average provision rate for skateboard parks is 1:100,400 residents.

The City currently provides skateboard facilities through a two-tier hierarchy of parks and zones. Skateboard parks are larger-scale (10,000-20,000 square feet) and service a city-wide population. Parks offer more components providing opportunities for experienced participants as well as beginners. Skate zones have a much smaller footprint (up to 3,000 square feet) and are intended as walk-to facilities focusing on introductory skills for beginners and younger children.

Key Considerations

Skate parks are primarily used by children and youth, both categories expected to see low to moderate growth in the next ten years. Young adults who grew up with

skateboarding are also becoming frequent users. Facilities are predominantly used for skateboarding, but also accommodate other wheeled sports (e.g., BMX, scooters, rollerblades, etc.). These facilities are heavily used in the evenings (after school hours) and on weekends. The sport is increasing in popularity and many participants are seeking safe spaces to work on skills and development.

Just over half (53%) of survey respondents supported additional investment in skateboard parks, ranking 27 of 30 facilities and 5% indicated that they or someone in their household had participated in the past year. Despite low levels of community support, these facilities are a valuable asset for the City as they provide low-cost, unstructured recreation opportunities.

Analysis & Recommendations

The 2013 ATMP applied a skateboard park provision target of 1:3,000 youth (ages 10 to 19). This target has been adjusted slightly to 1:3,500 (parks and zones combined) to reflect stabilization in demand for facilities. Application of this new target identifies a need for three (3) more sites by 2031.

Primary skate parks are suitable for District and Regional Parks and one is planned for North Maple Regional Park. Based on the current classification system, a minimum of two skate zones will be required to meet growth demands; these may be located in Neighbourhood Parks, subject to community consultation. Sites may also be considered south of Rutherford Road as there are no parks in Woodbridge or Thornhill.

To assist with implementation of future facilities and accommodate of other wheeled sports (e.g., bmx, scooters, etc.), it is recommended that the City of Vaughan develop a Wheeled Action Sport Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to establish a broader park typology (consisting of additional sizes and features) and provide direction on wheeled sport facility development, including location and design criteria. The Strategy should involve direct engagement with the wheeled action sport communities.

Skateboard Parks – Recommendations

40. Develop **one (1) primary skateboard park** in North Maple Regional Park.
41. Develop a **minimum of two (2) additional local skate zones by 2031** in areas that are under-served (e.g., Thornhill, Woodbridge) and/or growing, with consideration being given to equitable distribution.
42. Prepare a **Wheeled Action Sport Strategy** to establish a broader park typology, accommodation of other wheeled sports and provide direction on future wheeled sport facility development, including location and design criteria. The Strategy should involve direct engagement with youth and wheeled action sport communities.

6.9 Outdoor Pools

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
1 Lap Pool 1 Wading Pool	1 Lap Pool 1 Wading Pool	1:324,100 residents	No Additional

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies one (1) outdoor swimming pool and one (1) outdoor wading pool. These facilities are supplemented by several outdoor waterplay facilities, as well as indoor pools that are open year-round.

The current GTA comparator average for outdoor swimming pools is 1:130,000 residents and for wading pools is 1:736,800 residents.

Key Considerations

Municipal outdoor pools are commonly used by all demographics, especially families with young children, day camps and adults interested in lane swimming. Some municipalities offer swimming lesson programs and camp swims at outdoor pools during July and August. Aquatic fitness is popular with older adults and seniors as it provides a good cardiovascular workout with minimal impact. Similarly, the aging Baby Boomers are likely to generate increased demand for low-impact aquatic fitness programming such as lane swimming and aquafit. It should be noted that capacity exists in Vaughan's indoor pools to meet needs for the programs described above.

Outdoor deep-water aquatic facilities are an affordable and accessible way for residents to cool off and stay active during hot summer months. Demand for municipal outdoor pools has generally decreased in the last decade as more waterplay facilities are installed and private backyard pools options have become more affordable. However, it is important to consider that higher development densities will result in smaller residential backyards and this may impact demand for outdoor pools as destination recreation spaces.

In many cases, municipalities are opting to replace aging outdoor swimming and wading pools with splash features. There are many reasons to support this shift, some of which include increased affordability of private/backyard swimming pools and access to municipal waterplay facilities. Increasing operational and capital costs associated with deep-water facilities also need to be considered. Outdoor swimming pools require significant staffing, maintenance and repairs while only hosting programs over a two-month operating season. These facilities are less common in new communities as the provision of outdoor aquatic facilities has largely been replaced by lower cost waterplay features.

Just below one-fifth (18%) of survey respondents identified that they, or someone in their household, had participated in outdoor swimming in the past 12 months.

Analysis & Recommendations

It is recommended that the City of Vaughan continue to operating the two existing outdoor pool tanks and not make any changes to the current supply. Recent renovations to the Thornhill outdoor pool will help extend the lifecycle of this facility for the foreseeable future. Additionally, municipal staff should continue to monitor repair and upgrade costs associated with these facilities and re-evaluate feasibility further into facility lifecycles. Continued efforts should be made to find viable options for maintaining the Thornhill Pool as the City's only public outdoor pool. Additional outdoor pools are not recommended.

Outdoor Pools – Recommendations

43. Continue to maintain the **Thornhill Pool** as the City's only public outdoor pool.

6.10 Waterplay Facilities

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
17 sites (primary and local)	17 sites (primary and local)	1:2,131 Children (0-9)	One per Residential Block

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently provides 17 waterplay sites, which equates to a provision rate of 1:2,131 children (ages 0-9 years) or 1:19,065 residents. This is similar to the GTA comparator group average of 1:26,000 residents.

The supply in Vaughan has not changed since the 2013 ATMP, although a waterplay facility is being installed at Block 40 Chatfield District Park in 2018 for 2019 usage. Waterplay facilities will also be included in the designs for future District Parks in Blocks 11, 18 and 59.

Provision of waterplay facilities is not based on a two-tier hierarchy of primary and local facilities. "Primary" waterplay sites are larger-scale, city-wide facilities with multiple spray features (dump buckets, water cannons, misting stations, etc.) and should be located in District and Regional Parks (or Neighbourhood Parks in intensification areas) when possible. "Local" waterplay sites are smaller-scale and offer aquatic interaction with a few spray features within walking distance of nearby communities; these sites should be located in Neighbourhood Parks when required to fill gaps and support local demand (e.g., Secord Park).

Key Considerations

Also referred to as splash pads, waterplay facilities are very popular with young families as they provide a free way to interact with water and cool off in summer months. Moderate growth is expected in the child population of Vaughan over the next 10 years, indicating that demand for these facilities will remain fairly stable.

Waterplay facilities ranked 10th of 30 listed recreation facilities, with 81% of survey respondents indicating strong support for additional public spending. Many attendees at public information sessions also supported future development of outdoor aquatic facilities.

Outdoor water features are becoming increasingly popular in Canadian municipalities. A variety of factors support provision of waterplay facilities when compared to traditional outdoor swimming and wading pools, such as decreased operational (staffing) and capital (replacement/repair) costs, and longer operating season (can be used in shoulder months; opening in June and closing in September). Larger, more interactive splash and spray pads are becoming a “destination” recreation option, particularly when paired with playgrounds or other multi-use sites.

Analysis & Recommendations

It is recommended that future provision of waterplay facilities be based on primary (city-wide) and local (within residential neighbourhoods) demand. The recommendation for provision of waterplay facilities is based on distribution and is a target of one site per full residential block. This distribution-based target recognizes that waterplay facilities (especially local-level) are intended to be neighbourhood-based facilities.

To meet current demand and respond to future growth, the City should install approximately 9 additional local sites and 6 additional primary sites by 2031. As part of waterplay provision, the City should also explore opportunities for waterplay sites in areas of higher density developments (i.e., VMC).

Based on current distribution, several gaps have been identified. To improve access, the City should consider local waterplay facilities (approximately 9) in Thornhill (2), Carrville (3), Vellore (2), Woodbridge (1) and Kleinburg/Nashville (1). As funding and opportunities allow, waterplay facilities may also be considered for mature, but intensifying communities. Primary waterplay facilities (approximately 6) should be provided in District and Regional Parks, where appropriate.

Waterplay Facilities – Recommendations

44. Develop approximately **fifteen (15) additional waterplay facilities by 2031**, guided by a target of one facility per full residential block. A two-tiered model consisting of primary and local waterplay facilities is recommended. Local waterplay facilities (approximately 9) should be considered for Blocks 1/2 (Thornhill), 11/12/18 (Carrville), 33W/40 (Vellore), 44 (Woodbridge) and 61 (Kleinburg/Nashville). Primary waterplay facilities (approximately 6) should be provided in District and Regional Parks, as well as intensifying communities (e.g., VMC), where appropriate.

6.11 Playgrounds

Municipal Supply*		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
159 sites	164 sites (265 components)	1:221 Children (0-9)	Within 500-metres of urban residential areas, unobstructed

*Playground counting and inventory methods have changed since 2013

Current State

Playground equipment is currently offered at 164 sites within the City of Vaughan. Some of those sites offer multiple components so the total number of components is significantly higher at 265. Playgrounds are considered local-level facilities and are distributed throughout the municipality based on demographic and growth considerations.

The current provision rate for playgrounds in the City of Vaughan is 1:1,976 residents (or 1:221 children age 9 and under), while the GTA comparator group average is 1:900 residents.

Since the 2013 ATMP, the City of Vaughan has updated the playground inventory and used GIS-based analysis to evaluate playground gaps. For example, funding has been approved and a playground will be added at Chateau Ridge Park as per the 500-metre buffer recommendation that was tested using GIS analysis.

Key Considerations

Traditionally, children, youth and young families are the primary users of playground facilities. Playgrounds are popular park features in Vaughan, with 85% of survey respondents indicating that they support investing additional public funds in these facilities. In recent years there has been growing demand for multi-generational elements in neighbourhood playgrounds as baby boomers retire and are now bringing their grandchildren to playgrounds and are seeking activities and features for themselves – outdoor fitness stations are examined in the next section.

Playground design is generally representative of recommendations for child activity. Children's health advocates and professionals are currently encouraging "risky play" and exposure to nature as benefits to healthy child development. Risky play is a method for children and youth to explore their abilities and develop balance and strength using playground equipment. Another trend is design of playgrounds and equipment around a theme (e.g., the new playground at York Hill District Park has a nature theme).

There have been many public requests for rubber surfacing at playgrounds, which is costly and not necessary for lower-use sites. This design feature is offered at some recently developed and redeveloped playgrounds in Vaughan and should be a standard for District Parks and Neighbourhood Parks in areas of intensification.

As with all new development, accessibility is a key component of functionality and design, and playgrounds are no exception. Many of the new playgrounds installed in Vaughan feature accessible equipment and surfacing to ensure everyone has an opportunity to play. The City employs a minimum standard of 50% accessible features through consideration of surfacing, ramps, transfer platforms and other components. This is a best practice consistent with *AODA Design of Public Spaces Standards* legislation and should be continued.

Analysis & Recommendations

Playgrounds are neighbourhood-level facilities and are best provisioned based on walking distance from resident homes rather than a per capita rate. A walking distance of 500-metres is recommended as this generally represents a five to ten-minute walk time. The service radius should be unobstructed by major barriers such as waterways/ravines, railway lines, highways, etc. It is recommended that future playground installation and revitalization be based on demand and demographics/growth.

Playgrounds require significant repair and maintenance which generates growing capital needs for replacement. The City has a program currently in place, but additional resources will be needed over time. Additionally, design of new playgrounds should ensure that accessibility requirements are met in both junior and senior play areas. Resourcing and funding for these projects should be explored through Section 37 funds, grants (when available) and exploration of partnership opportunities.

Based on analysis of a 500-metre service radius within residential neighbourhoods, a gap has been identified in Nashville (Block 61), which will be rectified by Neighbourhood Park development in the short-term. Future playground installation should be focused on greenfield growth and intensification areas as basic elements of neighbourhood-level parks and in support of destination parks.

Playgrounds – Recommendations

45. Provide **playgrounds within 500-metres** of all residences within urban areas, unobstructed by major pedestrian impediments such as highways, major arterial roads, railway corridors, waterways, valleys, etc.
46. **Review standards for playground design, development and replacement** (including surfacing and accessibility) to ensure that funding is aligned with requirements.

6.12 Outdoor Fitness

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
2	4	1:81,025	Distribution (2-kilometre radius)

Current State

Outdoor fitness equipment is currently supplied at four (4) locations throughout the City, with multiple components at each site. In addition, the City has provisionally installed equipment in the Block 40 District Park, to be available for use in 2018.

Key Considerations

Outdoor fitness stations and exercise zones facilitate unstructured physical fitness activities for adults and older adults. Often referred to as “outdoor gyms” or “adult playgrounds”, equipment-based stations feature low-impact, joint-friendly equipment that use resistance created by a person’s own body weight. Research has found that playgrounds for adults can provide several benefits, from improved balance, speed, and coordination to reduced isolation and associated mood issues like depression. Coordination of offerings and installation in conjunction with a playground or along multi-use trails encourages greater use.

Vaughan has a similar age distribution to the rest of Ontario and Canada and is expected to see significant growth in the older adult and seniors age categories in the next ten years. Older adults are seeking opportunities to get outside, socialize and stay active as they age. Outdoor fitness equipment is quickly becoming a staple feature in communities with older age profiles and multi-ethnic compositions. Maintaining activity throughout life is important for seniors as it helps to limit social isolation, improve cardiovascular health, and decreases risk of illness and disease. Outdoor fitness equipment enables users to focus on mobility, flexibility and strength training while also reaping the mental-health benefits of time spent outdoors.

Moderate support (56%) for public spending on outdoor fitness equipment was identified in the online survey. However, public engagement sessions and consultation with seniors’ groups identified a growing demand for these facilities, especially as the baby boomer generation ages and the older adult/senior population is expected to grow.

Analysis & Recommendations

Outdoor fitness stations are considered local-level facilities, thus their distribution is important. Vaughan currently provides outdoor fitness facilities at four sites: Carrville (2); Vellore (1); and Woodbridge (1). It is recommended that the City target long-term equitable distribution of these facilities using a 2-kilometre service radius, with a priority placed on communities with the largest older adult populations.

To assist the City in moving toward this goal, an additional four (4) outdoor fitness locations are recommended to be developed by 2031. Site selection should be based on demand and demographics (older age profiles and multi-ethnic compositions), residential growth (intensification areas) and suitability of the site. Locations along trails may also be considered, where appropriate.

Outdoor Fitness – Recommendations

47. Establish **four (4) additional outdoor fitness locations by 2031**. Locations (within parks and along trails) in Thornhill, Woodbridge, VMC and Maple should be sought to improve accessibility. Priority should be placed on areas with older age profiles and multi-ethnic compositions.

6.13 Off-Leash Dog Parks

Municipal Supply			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Primary	1	1	1:324,100	One in each quadrant of the City
Local	0	0		

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently provides one off-leash dog park (at Concord Thornhill Regional Park) and has plans to establish at least one more in the short-term. The 2013 ATMP recommended that Vaughan continue to expand the provision of off-leash dog parks to include one in each of the four quadrants of the City by 2031.

Key Considerations

Primary users of dog parks are young adults (typically without children) and older adults/seniors who live in high density areas and lack access to backyards, green space or trails in their neighbourhood. Off-leash dog parks experience peak usage in late afternoons/evenings and on weekends. Most adult populations are expected to increase in size dramatically in the next ten years indicating that demand for dog parks will increase as population (and dog ownership) increases.

One-fifth of survey respondents indicated that they or someone in their household had participated in dog walking in the last 12 months. Just over half (56%) of survey respondents indicated that they somewhat support or strongly support additional municipal investment in off-leash dog parks, ranking 25th out of 30 facility types.

Intensification is a focus of growth in the City of Vaughan and with this comes new considerations for how parkland is distributed and what uses will be required by citizens. Vaughan is experiencing considerable growth in high-density development and this requires the municipality to evaluate opportunities for outdoor recreation to those residents. Off-leash dog parks are becoming increasingly popular in large urban centres due to their ability to offer outdoor fitness and socialization to both dogs and their owners.

The City undertook a site selection analysis and public consultation sessions in the Fall of 2016 regarding future development of primary off-leash dog parks¹⁴. The process identified seven (7) potential locations based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Proximity to areas where children play;
- Proximity to environmentally sensitive areas;
- Proximity to residential areas;
- Proximity to major intersections and streets;
- Availability and ownership of properties;
- Size & accessibility by car and pedestrians;
- Safety, security and traffic considerations;
- Site characteristics (drainage, vegetation);
- Cost (purchase, construction, maintenance);
- Opportunities for innovation; and
- Results of community input.

The final phase of site selection evaluation was a two-step process consisting of mandatory and preferred criteria. A site located near Rutherford Road and Highway 27 (future Block 59 District Park) scored the highest and was recommended for development. A feasibility study is currently underway to confirm site suitability.

Analysis & Recommendations

Future development of off-leash dog parks in Vaughan should follow a two-tier hierarchy, similar to the provision of skateboard and waterplay facilities. “Primary” dog parks would service a city-wide population and encompass a larger footprint (>1ha), ideally within District or Regional Parks. These facilities should offer multiple components such as agility courses, obstacles, enclosed spaces (for small vs. large pets), furniture, shade, etc. Smaller, “local” dog parks (or “dog-friendly” spaces) would be walk-to facilities located within Neighbourhood Parks and intensification areas.

As recommended in the 2013 ATMP, the City of Vaughan should provide primary off-leash dog parks in all four quadrants of the city, which equates to a need for three (3) additional sites by 2031. One location has been proposed (Block 59 District Park) for a primary off-leash facility in the short-term, but locations are required for the other sites (Northeast and Northwest). The City should use the criteria established in its previous site selection exercise to evaluate future locations. The City should develop a strategy to guide the creation of smaller local dog-friendly spaces to serve areas of intensification.

Sponsorship from an affiliated community organization is recommended to assist with off-leash park management and supervision as successful facilities require significant attention and maintenance.

¹⁴ For further details see Off-Leash Study Vaughan 2016. Retrieved from: www.vaughan.ca/projects/community/off_leash_park/Pages/default.aspx

Off-Leash Dog Parks – Recommendations

48. Develop **one primary off-leash dog park in the proposed Block 59 District Park** in the short-term.
49. Identify sites for **additional primary off-leash dog parks in both the Northwest and Northeast quadrants** of the City (one park each).
50. Develop a strategy for the establishment of **smaller local dog-friendly spaces** to serve areas of intensification and localized gap areas.

6.14 Outdoor Ice Rinks

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
5	5	1:64,820	Distribution

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies five (5) artificial/refrigerated outdoor ice rinks, a number that has not changed since prior to the 2013 ATMP. Each of the rinks are supported by neighbouring community centres, which allows for shared amenities such as washrooms, change rooms and parking. The five locations are distributed between Thornhill (2), Woodbridge (2) and Vellore (1).

The average provision ratio for outdoor artificial ice in the GTA comparator group is 1:368,400, much lower than the City's provision of 1:64,820.

This supply excludes natural rinks which may be established on outdoor courts, weather permitting. In support of this, the City has a neighbourhood rink program which enables residents to flood selected courts to create a natural ice skating surface. Participation in this program varies annually, dependant on interest and seasonal weather. Changes to climate and volatile weather patterns need to be considered as they make natural rinks less reliable. Many communities are moving toward artificial rinks as a result.

Key Considerations

Hockey and ice skating are sports traditionally enjoyed by Canadians during winter months. Due to historic popularity, it is expected that demand for outdoor ice will remain stable as the facilities support leisure skating, pick-up hockey (shinny) and learn-to-skate for people of all ages, including newcomers. The development of skating trails and loops is also a popular trend in many communities. This is also supported by trends that show increased demand for casual, unstructured activities for people of all ages.

According to surveys, resident participation in outdoor ice skating has decreased since the 2013 ATMP with only 17% of households having participated in the last 12 months, compared to 30% five years ago. Nevertheless, residents strongly support municipal

investment in outdoor rinks, with 71% of survey respondents willing to invest in these facilities. Public consultation also supported the addition of more rinks.

Analysis & Recommendations

Recommendations for Vaughan's outdoor artificial ice rinks remain unchanged from the 2013 ATMP. Where appropriate sites exist, the City should develop four (4) to five (5) additional rinks/trails to improve access to residents in Carrville, VMC, Maple, Kleinburg/Nashville and Vaughan Mills. The goal is to provide at least one rink or trail per community within Vaughan.

Outdoor Ice Rinks – Recommendations

51. Develop a total of **four (4) to five (5) outdoor artificial rinks or skating trails by 2031** to improve access to all communities in Vaughan. Potential locations include Carrville (Block 11 District Park), VMC (Edgeley Pond and Park), Maple (site to be determined), Kleinburg/Nashville (site to be determined) and Vaughan Mills (site to be determined). Play courts may be considered where there is community support for maintenance of the winter natural rink and there is a need for outdoor basketball opportunities.

6.15 Outdoor Bocce

Municipal Supply			Provision Levels	
Type	2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
Lit Courts	50	46	1:5,493	No Additional
Unlit Courts	14	13		

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies 59 outdoor bocce courts. Many of these courts are under-utilized and some are being used for alternative passive recreation such as dog runs. The City's current provision rate is 1:5,493 residents.

It is important to recognize that – as per recommendations in the 2013 ATMP – outdoor courts at Father Ermanno Bulfon were declared surplus and subsequently removed to accommodate expansion of other facilities. Similarly, the City has indicated that several bocce courts (e.g., Rose Mandarino and Robert Watson Parks) are in in poor condition and may be candidates for removal.

Key Considerations

Bocce is a sport that has traditionally been played by older Italian men, but is currently seeing a small surge in interest among youth and young adults in Vaughan. The game has potential to regain limited popularity as the baby boomer generation ages. However, there is more than sufficient capacity within the current inventory of courts to accommodate foreseeable participation gains.

A very small percentage (4%) of survey respondents stated that they, or someone in their household had participated in bocce (no distinction between indoor or outdoor) in the last 12 months. Bocce was similarly ranked among the bottom three facility types when survey respondents were asked their willingness to invest additional funds in facilities (46% support).

Analysis & Recommendations

No additional courts are recommended at this time. It is recommended that the City monitor use and membership rates at the existing sites to determine if any can be declared surplus and/or repurposed for other recreational uses.

Outdoor Bocce – Recommendations

52. **Monitor use/membership and condition of outdoor bocce courts** to determine if any may be declared surplus and/or repurposed to satisfy other recreation needs. No additional courts are recommended at this time.

7. Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment



This section contains an assessment of indoor recreation facility needs extending to 2031, when the City's population is forecasted to reach 424,500 people. The analysis adheres to the methodology established in the 2013 ATMP and has been influenced by public input, City initiatives, emerging trends and new demographic data.

7.1 Community Centres and Community Hubs

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
10	10	1:32,100 residents	1:30,000 residents

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies ten (10) municipal community centres. The City has a relatively equitable distribution of community centres, with one in each of Vaughan's communities, except for the smallest settlement in Kleinburg/Nashville.

The GTA average for provision of community centres is 1:39,500 residents, compared to 1:32,100 in Vaughan. It can be difficult to compare one community centre to another or benchmark against comparator municipalities due to the variety of component parts and sizes associated with each facility. Community centres containing arenas or indoor swimming pools tend to have significantly larger footprints than those with multi-purpose and general programming spaces.

Key Considerations

Note: The demand for community centres is largely driven by the need for major components, such as libraries, pools, arenas, gymnasiums, fitness centres, etc. An appreciation of these needs (discussed in the following subsections) is required to fully understand community centre requirements.

The City of Vaughan is a leader in the co-location design trend, opting to integrate major component parts (e.g., ice pads, swimming pools, libraries, gymnasiums, etc.) within community centres. By consolidating into a single multi-use venue, the City is able to streamline services, benefit from economies of scale and offer convenience to residents. These major community centre developments function as a "one-stop-shop", especially for families wishing to participate in multiple activities in one visit. Some of the community centres in Vaughan are co-located with libraries and schools, while others accommodate auxiliary services, such as child care and office space for community organizations.

Multi-purpose spaces in community centres and hubs (such as meeting areas, activity rooms, and age-specific program areas) provide an opportunity to accommodate the needs of various user groups and organizations in Vaughan. These spaces are adaptable and can suit the needs of a variety of groups such as cultural groups, youth, older adults and event hosts. Demand for multi-purpose room rentals is on the rise and community-based facilities can provide the necessary space. Each new or expanded indoor recreation and library facility should include accommodations for multi-use space.

Most community centres and hubs are multi-purpose facilities that serve a variety of ages and promote active living for residents. They can serve a wide variety of populations for a multitude of uses and are essential to community recreation services. Just over four-fifths (81%) of online survey respondents had visited Vaughan community centres in the last twelve months and 94% indicated that indoor recreation facilities are important to them.

The ATMP engagement process yielded a wide-variety of comments and suggestions from residents. Families in particular are very interested in opportunities for unstructured, drop-in play that accommodates multi-generational use of facilities. Public feedback also focused on renovations to aging infrastructure (e.g., Garnet A. Williams and Chancellor Community Centres), improved/more functional change room layouts, and improved signage both inside and outside community centres. From a programming perspective, suggestions were received for more adult fitness/dance classes, expanded program offerings for older school-age children (grades 4-8), and more free play/drop-in times in multi-purpose rooms and gymnasiums.

Past ATMPs have established two-tier hierarchy for community centres in Vaughan, consisting of: (1) community centres; and (2) community hubs.

Community Centres

Community centres are facilities that combine a variety of significant components under one roof. **“Major” community centres** are typically anchored by ice pads and/or an indoor aquatic complex and supported by other spaces and services such as libraries, gymnasiums, fitness centres, multi-purpose rooms, community kitchens, etc. As a result, they will generally be 50,000 to 100,000 square feet or more. The City currently provides ten (10) such facilities in a range of sizes and component combinations throughout Vaughan.

“Minor” community centres are mid-sized facilities (generally smaller than major centres, but larger than community hubs) operated by Recreation Services; they would not have arenas or pools, thus would be in the 20,000 to 40,000 square foot range. The City does not currently have any facilities of this type.

Some key accomplishments in the provision of community centres since the 2013 ATMP include:

- Ground-breaking for the YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project in June 2017, a new community centre to serve the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre;
- Planning for major community centres in Block 11 (Carrville) and Block 41 (Vellore Village North);
- Community Centre renewal and expansion through accessibility improvements at Vellore Village and Dufferin Clark, and a new pool lining at Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena; and
- Installation of free public Wi-Fi and digital electronic ground signs at various municipal facilities.

Community Hubs

Community (or neighbourhood) hubs are smaller-scale facilities that provide access to a variety of services, including but not limited to recreation. These facilities will generally be located in intensification areas or smaller gap areas and will promote complete communities by offering access to services “close to home”. Traffic is a concern for many residents, so it is important to provide walkable facilities that fill distribution gaps and improve accessibility for those in under-served or high-density areas.

As established in the 2013 ATMP, community hubs require a minimum population threshold of 8,000 people and should focus on multi-use activity spaces, such as gymnasiums and meeting rooms (generally provided at a rate of 1.5 square feet per capita; e.g., a 12,000 square foot facility for 8,000 people).

Hubs may take on a variety of urban forms such as strata ownership (rental on a floor of a multi-storey mixed-use building), attached to a school, or co-located with another civic facility or park. They may also be made available through partnership with social service providers, non-profit or private sectors, condominium-based recreation areas, etc. Space may be constructed by the City or by developers, potentially in lieu of part of the required parkland conveyance or through Section 37 of the Planning Act.

With alternate providers being a distinct possibility in high density communities (e.g., private fitness clubs, condominium-based recreation areas, etc.), municipal provision should focus more on rentable and flexible programming space (e.g., gymnasiums, multi-use rooms, fitness studios, etc.) that can fill activity gaps. Office space for complementary local organizations may also be considered, as may branch libraries. Larger components such as arenas, indoor pools, and full fitness centres are not suitable for hubs.

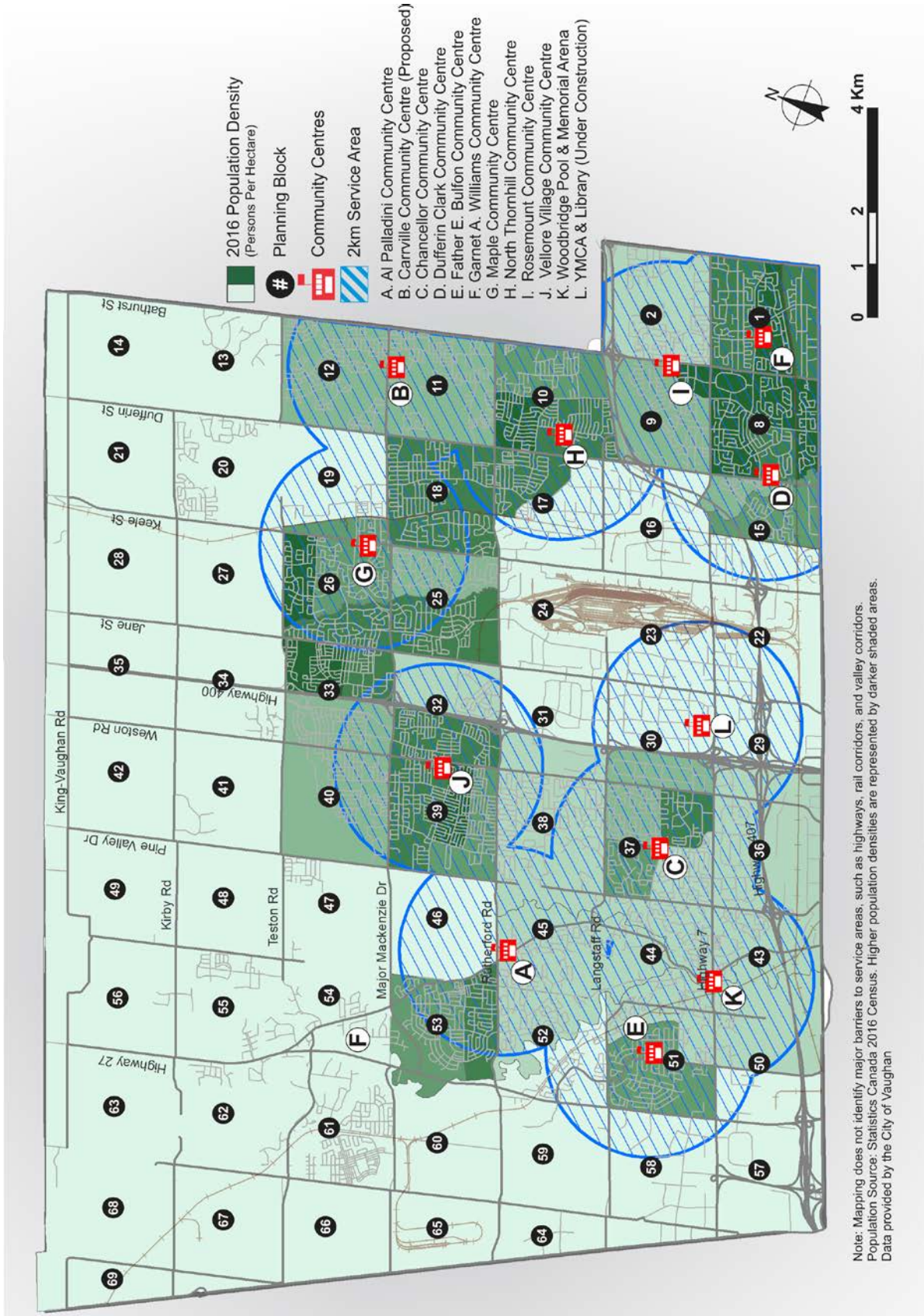
Hubs should be in accessible and prominent locations that reinforce their “public” image. They should have frontage on a street and have transit access. Hubs are not private amenity space just for one development – the key is to create an identifiable public place where interaction, involvement and sense of community can evolve.

Analysis & Recommendations

The 2013 ATMP recommended community centres based on demand for component parts and distribution in relation to current and future populations. Through this Update, a recommended provision target has been created for community centres at a rate of 1:30,000 residents. While the 2013 factors were considered in this analysis, the application of a population-based provision target is useful for long-term planning.

Figure 26 on the following page illustrates the location of existing and planned community centres libraries along with a service radius of 2-kilometres to illustrate their distribution in relation to the current population.

Figure 26: Distribution of Existing and Planned Community Centres



Given the current provision rate and projected population growth, this target equates to demand for four additional community centres by 2031. To meet this demand, it is recommended that the City continue to pursue community centre development in the following locations:

- 1) **YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project, Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (Block 30)** – As noted earlier, this is a unique partnered project being undertaken between the City of Vaughan, Vaughan Public Libraries and YMCA of Greater Toronto. The project will serve as an activity hub for the surrounding residential and employment areas, and will be accessible by the nearby TTC subway station. In addition to the YMCA and Library, the City has secured 22,000 square feet for a community recreation space (a study will soon be completed focusing on the feasibility of cultural activities and spaces such as a performance theatre, exhibition space, classrooms/studios/rehearsal spaces and more). Construction of the project is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed by late 2019.
- 2) **Carrville (Block 11)** – Land has been secured and a Functional Programming and Feasibility Planning Study is currently underway to finetune the concept for this facility, as well as the associated Neighbourhood Branch Library and District Park. The 2013 ATMP recommended a twin pad arena, gymnasium, branch library and multi-use space. However, the analysis in this 2018 ATMP (based on local surveys, facility usage levels, trends, etc.) supports the development of an indoor aquatic centre. Current funding is limited and may not provide for both a twin pad arena and an indoor aquatics centre.
- 3) **Kleinburg/Nashville (Block 55/62)** – With additional growth anticipated for the Kleinburg and Nashville area, a need for community recreation space is forecasted. The facility may include amenities such as gymnasium, branch library and multi-purpose activity rooms. Neither indoor aquatics nor arenas are recommended for this location, which will allow the centre to be classified as a minor community centre, likely at the lower end of the range (e.g., 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of recreation space). Site selection and land acquisition are high priorities in the short-term.
- 4) **Vellore Village North (Block 41)** – A secondary planning process is currently underway for this area and land has not yet been confirmed or secured for the proposed community centre and associated park. Possible components include a twin pad arena, indoor aquatic centre, fitness centre, gymnasium, multi-use space and a branch library. If the City is unable to secure sufficient land to accommodate the recommended facilities, alternatives for facility provision in the vicinity should be examined further.

A provision target has not been established for community hubs as these projects will be more localized and opportunity-based, although the 2013 ATMP identified a preliminary planning target of 1.5 square feet per capita based on the target population. With that being said, growth forecasts suggest that the following areas will be potential candidates for community hub development, as supported by the 2013 ATMP. For both projects, Site investigations should begin in the short-term.

- 1) **Vaughan Mills (Block 31)** – This is a longer-term project intended to serve a future intensification area. Potential facility and service delivery models would need to be examined at the appropriate time. Major facilities such as arenas and indoor pools are not contemplated, rather multi-use space and partnered provision (e.g., Vaughan Public Libraries, etc.) will be encouraged.
- 2) **North Maple (Block 27)** – This is a longer-term project intended to serve a future new community area. Potential facility and service delivery models would need to be examined at the appropriate time.

The recommended community centre/hub capital program is summarized in Table 12. Timing and location may be influenced by population growth, funding and/or timing of joint municipal building projects.

Table 12: Recommended Community Centre Development Program (listed in expected order of implementation)

Capital Project	Anticipated Components*	Recommended Timing**
1. YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project (VMC, Block 30) <i>currently under construction</i>	<u>Community Centre (Major)</u> indoor aquatic centre fitness centre gymnasium multi-use space branch library community space	2019
2. Carrville Community Centre (Block 11) <i>currently in feasibility/ programming design phase</i>	<u>Community Centre (Major)</u> indoor therapeutic/lane pool indoor walking track gymnasium multi-use space branch library	2023
3. Kleinburg / Nashville (Block 55/62)	<u>Community Centre (Minor)</u> gymnasium multi-use space branch library	2024
4. Vellore Village North (Block 41)	<u>Community Centre (Major)</u> indoor aquatic centre twin pad arena fitness centre gymnasium multi-use space branch library	2026
5. Vaughan Mills Centre (Block 31)	<u>Community Hub</u> multi-use space (details to be determined) branch library	2028

Capital Project	Anticipated Components*	Recommended Timing**
6. North Maple (Block 27)	Community Hub multi-use space (details to be determined) branch library	2028+

* components to be confirmed through needs assessment

** timing and location may be influenced by population growth, funding and/or timing of joint municipal building projects

The 2013 ATMP identified a need to revitalize existing community centres. The City has begun to address this through enhancements at facilities such as Woodbridge Pool & Memorial Arena. Revitalization studies for some of Vaughan’s older facilities are underway and the City proposing to undertake improvements to Garnet A. Williams Community Centre and other facilities in the short-term.

Projects that extend the lifespan of facilities, improve accessibility and enhance responsiveness to community needs must continue to be advanced using a variety of financial means. One example of how community centre design is changing is the creation of larger lobbies and social gathering spaces that can accommodate unstructured activities. A focus should be placed on those facilities that receive the highest use, have functional inadequacies, require lifecycle maintenance and are in proximity to growth centres.

Community Centres and Multi-use Space – Recommendations

- 53. Continue with plans to develop a major community centre in **Block 11 (Carrville)**, with opening targeted for 2023.
- 54. Undertake a site selection exercise for the establishment of a minor community centre in **Blocks 55/62 (Kleinburg/Nashville)**, with a development target of 2024.
- 55. Secure a site for the establishment of a major community centre in **Block 41 (Vellore Village North)**, with a development target of 2026.
- 56. Develop a community hub in **Block 31 (Vaughan Mills Centre)**, with a tentative timeframe of 2028 (subject to development activity that meets population thresholds, funding, etc.). Site investigations should begin in the short-term.
- 57. Develop a community hub in **Block 27 (North Maple)**, with a tentative timeframe of 2028 or later (subject to development activity that meets population thresholds, funding, etc.). Site investigations should begin in the short-term.
- 58. Continue to invest in the **renewal and revitalization of existing community centres** to ensure that they can meet the needs of a growing city. Prepare feasibility studies to identify options and priorities, and direct resources.

7.2 Indoor Aquatics

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels (per tank)	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
12 Tanks 9 Locations	12 Tanks 9 Locations	1:27,008 residents	1:35,000 residents

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies twelve (12) indoor swimming pool tanks at nine (9) facilities. No new swimming tanks have been added since the 2013 ATMP, but renovations were recently completed at Woodbridge Memorial Pool (and Arena).

The GTA comparator for provision of indoor swimming tanks is 1:36,800 residents, compared to 1:27,008 residents in Vaughan.

Key Considerations

Indoor swimming pools are used by residents of all ages and abilities and are a high-demand facility in the City of Vaughan. A current trend is growing popularity of swimming programs because of public recognition of swimming as a valuable life skill and low costs associated with participation. This trend has been steady in Vaughan with consistent annual growth in both aquatics memberships and registrations over the last four years.

These facilities are primarily used by children and families (open swim and registered lessons), and seniors (lane swimming and aquafit) with some additional youth and adult use by specialized groups (e.g., swim clubs, synchronized swimming, diving, etc.). Low-impact aquatic fitness activities (e.g., leisure swimming, water walking/jogging, aquafit, etc.) are growing in popularity as the population ages. This is building demand for warm-water (therapy) pools.

Participation and registration in indoor aquatics has been fairly stable over the last few years with high fill levels for programming (approximately 83%). Overall registration levels have declined slightly since 2012, with 3% fewer in 2016. However, overall aquatic membership sales are up 30% from 2012 to 2016. Point of sale, or “drop-in” revenue has decreased by 14% in the last four years, but this may be partially explained by the significant increase in membership sales.

Considering the significant increase expected in the older adult population and consistent growth in other age cohorts, demand for indoor swimming facilities is anticipated to remain high.

According to the ATMP survey, indoor swimming was the second most popular activity with half of households participating in the last 12 months. Vaughan residents were highly supportive (83%) of investing additional public funds in indoor swimming pools ranking these facilities 4th out of 30 facility types (highest of the indoor facilities).

There was also strong public support for aquatic facilities at stakeholder workshops and public information sessions. Multiple residents indicated a desire for more warm-water

pools, while representatives from local swim clubs requested a 50-metre facility capable of hosting long-course swim meets.

Some additional public feedback indicated a lack of available pool space for recreational and lane swimming. Swimming participants cited multiple occasions where overlapping programming caused congestion among lane swimmers and lesson registrants would like to see more options for group classes.

Analysis & Recommendations

The recommended provision target for indoor aquatic facilities has been adjusted to 1:35,000 (locations, not tanks) from 1:30,000 (tanks) in the 2013 ATMP. This new provision target is a reflection of stabilization in usage of these facilities in recent years and recognition that most new aquatic facilities will be multi-tank complexes.

The provision target equates to demand for three (3) additional pool facilities by 2031. An indoor aquatic facility will be provided at Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project through a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Toronto.

A second indoor aquatic facility is recommended for the planned community centre in Carrville (Block 11). This is a revised direction from the 2013 ATMP, which focused on an indoor ice facility to anchor the Carrville community centre development. This area of Vaughan is home to a significant proportion of young people seeking instructional swimming lessons and an aquatic facility located within a major community centre provides a substantial convenience factor for residents. This finding was supported by the survey conducted for the Block 11 Functional Programming and Feasibility Planning Study, which found that 64% of respondents would like to see a swimming pool (23% support a therapy pool), while 47% would prefer an arena.

An indoor swimming facility in Block 11 will also help the City provide an age-friendly facility that will serve all age groups and abilities. This location should include a warm-water therapeutic pool to provide additional programming options and meet community demand for this type of facility. Despite close proximity to an existing indoor aquatic complex at the privately-owned Schwartz-Reisman Community Centre, its market is much broader than just Carrville, indicating that it does not serve the recreation needs of the immediate community.

The City should consider the proposed community centre development in Vellore Village (Block 41) as a future site for indoor aquatics to fill long-term facility demand. Much of the residential growth in Vaughan is projected to occur in the north (north of Teston Road) and this location would serve the incoming population. This recommendation has been carried-over from the 2013 ATMP and remains applicable as the timeline has not yet been reached.

A 50-metre aquatic facility is not recommended for Vaughan as these pools have much higher operating costs and are not ideal venues for instructional lessons, aquafit and recreational swims. Further, three long-course natatoriums were recently built in the GTA (two in Toronto and one in Markham) with funding made possible through the 2015 Pan Am Games. In addition, the 50-metre pool at Toronto's Etobicoke Olympium was recently

renovated and updated. These other pools have capacity to host regional, provincial and national swim meets and, consequently, the balance of the pools throughout the province will likely be vying for lower tier competitions such as club meets, school events, etc.

Indoor Aquatics – Recommendations

59. Proceed with plans to provide an indoor aquatic facility at the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project**.
60. Develop indoor pools within future major community centre developments, including **Block 11** and **Block 41**.
61. Consider community-specific needs when planning future indoor aquatic facilities, including the distribution of **warm-water and cold-water pools** throughout Vaughan.

7.3 Arenas

Municipal Supply*		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
8 Pads 6 Locations	8 Pads 6 Locations	1:546 registered youth participants	1:500 registered youth participants

Note: Includes the equivalent of two (2) ice pads covered by the City's agreement with Sports Village

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently provides public access to eight (8) indoor ice pads at six (6) locations: All Palladini (2 pads); Garnet A. Williams (1 pad); Maple (1 pad); Rosemount (1 pad); Woodbridge (1 pad); and the equivalent of two pads (140 hours of ice per week) at Sports Village, which is a private-sector four-pad facility through which the City provides public access. The arena supply has not changed since the 2013 ATMP.

The GTA average provision of municipal ice pads is 1:28,000 residents, compared to 1:40,513 residents in Vaughan. In many communities, municipal arenas are supplemented by private sector rinks. There are eight (8) private sector rinks in Vaughan: two additional ice pads at Sports Village; two pads at Everest Ice (Thornhill); and four pads at Vaughan IcePlex (Thornhill). A six-pad facility (Canlan Ice Sports – North York) is also located just south of Vaughan. If these rinks were factored in, Vaughan's level of provision would be 1:20,256.

Key Considerations

Hockey and ice skating are very popular traditional winter sports in Canada. Participation in ice hockey seems to have stabilized in Canada due to the aging demographic, newcomer populations and high costs associated with participation. In recent years there has been a growing interest in female participation and ice allocation, but that too is beginning to level off.

The regional aspect of ice hockey play (especially with representative teams) needs to be considered in Vaughan. Municipal borders are irrelevant for many organizations and it is relatively easy to travel to a neighbouring community for ice time and competition. Vaughan's municipal ice pad provision ratio is low when compared to other municipalities in the GTA, although registration and ice-pad usage data indicate that the current supply (including many private providers) is able to meet demand.

Indoor ice pads in Vaughan are primarily used by youth rentals and for recreational skating with some adult usage outside of prime hours. Prime hours are dominated by high-level "elite" training teams and programs for minor and junior divisions while older adult recreational leagues fill shoulder hours. Despite the anticipated growth in the child and youth age cohorts over the next ten years, recent registration trends indicate that participation in indoor ice sports has stabilized and will continue to experience growth at a rate less than population growth.

Youth registration data for arenas operated by the City of Vaughan (Table 13) shows that participation in ice sports is currently experiencing a moderate decline (5% over the last four seasons) with 4,365 youth hockey players registered in the 2016-17 season. A review of ice schedules for the 2016-17 season finds that 90% of prime-time ice amongst the six (6) City-operated rinks is currently booked during peak season, compared to 93% during the 2011-12 season. Usage of hours adjacent to prime time (i.e., shoulder hours) declined dramatically from 65% in 2011-12 to 36% during the 2016-17 season.

Table 13: Youth Hockey and Figure Skating Registration, City of Vaughan (2013/14-2016/17)

Arena Users (youth)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% Change
	Registered Youth Participants				
City of Vaughan Hockey Association (including Schwartz-Reisman JCC)	3,010	2,945	3,159	2,796	-7%
Vaughan Panthers Association	292	289	267	288	-1%
Vaughan Girls Hockey Association	193	288	234	200	4%
Woodbridge Figure Skating Club	521	339	495	510	-2%
Thornhill Figure Skating Club	565	582	592	571	1%
Totals	4,581	4,443	4,747	4,365	-5%

Source: City of Vaughan, 2017 (includes residents and non-residents)

According to the ATMP online survey, 22% of Vaughan residents had participated in hockey, figure skating, or other indoor ice sports in the last 12 months. Among a list of 30 facility types, arenas ranked 15th in support (73%) for additional spending of public funds.

Participants at public information sessions desired more public access to free/open skating (prime hours not rented to user groups). Youth hockey groups advocated for access to ice time for their organizations, although some do not meet the residency requirements of the City of Vaughan's CSO policy. Regular review of City policies (e.g.,

CSO and Facility Allocation) is recommended to ensure that they are responsive to resident and stakeholder needs.

Analysis & Recommendations

The recommended provision target for municipal ice pads is 1:500 registered youth participants. Given that the City has access to reliable youth registration data (but not for adult leagues), a youth-based provision target is employed (see Table 14). Due to the growing population, this ratio equates to demand for two (2) additional ice surfaces by 2031. Multi-pad designs are preferred.

Table 14: Forecasted Demand for Ice Pads, 2016 - 2031

Arena Demand	2016	2021	2026	2031
Estimated Youth Participants	4,365	4,636	4,871	5,044
<i>Ice Pad Provision Target</i>	<i>1 per 500 registered youth participants</i>			
Required Ice Pads	8.7	9.2	9.7	10.0
Existing Ice Pads	8			
Surplus (Deficit)	(0.7)	(1.2)	(1.7)	(2.0)
Recommended Implementation	--	0	2	0

There has been no change in the recommendation for a twin-pad facility in Block 41 since the 2013 ATMP. A twin pad in Block 41 would be well-suited to serve the projected population growth that is expected in the northern end of the city. The future community centre in Carrville (Block 11) was also considered as a potential site, but due to limited land availability and close proximity to existing pads at Sports Village, an arena is no longer the preferred anchor amenity at that site. This finding will be verified through the functional design program in 2018.

The City of Vaughan will be conducting a feasibility analysis of the Maple Community Centre (including Maple Arena) in 2018/19; the results of that analysis should be used to provide further direction on the utility and lifecycle of that facility. If it is determined that Maple Arena should come off-line, it is recommended that the City consider repurposing the old rink to a new use such as indoor tennis, artificial turf, or gymnasium sports.

Should there be additional demonstrated demand, the City may also choose to explore opportunities to expand the existing partnership agreement with Sports Village or other viable partners to provide additional subsidized operating hours. A topic-specific study may be required to more closely examine short- and long-term arena needs.

Ice Pads – Recommendations

62. **Monitor usage and registration levels** of existing ice pads over the next five (5) years in order to confirm the need for additional ice pads and the viability of existing arenas.
63. Evaluate usage and lifecycle of **Maple Arena** following completion of the Maple Community Centre Feasibility Study.
64. Develop a **twin pad** (two ice surfaces) arena, potentially as part of the proposed **Block 41 community centre**.
65. Explore opportunities to offer additional municipal ice rentals through partnerships with **private service providers**.

7.4 Gymnasiums

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
9 (plus schools)	9 (plus schools)	1:36,011 residents	1:30,000 residents

Notes: *Supply does not include permitted school gymnasiums, but these sites are available and used for recreational programming by the City*

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently provides nine (9) municipally owned and operated gymnasiums. In addition to these sites, many municipal programs are offered at local schools through joint-use agreements. The City should continue to facilitate reliable access to school gymnasiums through these agreements.

The GTA average for provision of gymnasiums is 1:40,900 residents, compared to 1:36,011 residents in the City of Vaughan.

Key Considerations

Gymnasiums are primarily used for organized sport leagues and registered fitness classes, but demand is shifting to drop-in or pick-up sports. Residents of all ages are seeking opportunities for unstructured, drop-in recreation and municipal gymnasiums provide an ideal setting for such activities. This allows for multi-generational play, enabling families to participate together and have flexibility in scheduling. This demand was reflected in statements from residents who attended public information sessions, who requested “open-gym” times for drop-in sports and activities.

Just over two-thirds (70%) of survey respondents indicated support for additional spending on gymnasiums, ranking 18th out of 30 facility types. In the last twelve (12)

months, 17% of households had at least one member who participated in gymnasiums sports.

Analysis & Recommendations

The recommended provision target for gymnasiums in the City of Vaughan remains at 1:30,000 residents. Based on this provision target, the City will require an additional five (5) gymnasiums by 2031.

One significant accomplishment from the 2013 ATMP is the planned provision of a gymnasium in the VMC. The City of Vaughan is working in coordination with the YMCA to provide a gymnasium (and other amenities) within the VMC. This facility will accommodate short-term demand and help fill an existing geographic gap in provision.

As gymnasiums are commonly located within community centres, it is recommended that most of the remaining demand be filled within proposed major developments. One gymnasium should be located within the proposed Carrville Community Centre (Block 11) where a facility fit exercise is already underway. Gymnasiums should be included in development plans for community centres/hubs in Vellore Village (Block 41); Kleinburg/Nashville (Block 55/62); and Vaughan Mills (Block 31).

All new gymnasiums should be located within other recreational facilities so as to emphasize convenience and the benefits associated with multi-use facilities. Furthermore, divisible gymnasiums (double or triple) allow a greater range of uses and increase opportunities for community access and programming.

Gymnasiums – Recommendations

66. Proceed with plans to provide a gymnasium facility at the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project**.
67. Develop gymnasiums within future community centre/hub developments: **Block 11; Block 41; Kleinburg/Nashville** (Block 55/62); **Vaughan Mills** (Block 31).
68. Continue facilitating **access to school gymnasiums** through joint-use agreements with the local school boards.

7.5 Fitness Centres

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
6	6	1:54,016 residents	1:55,000 residents

Note: Six (6) squash courts and one (1) racquetball court are offered between three (3) facilities.

Current State

The City of Vaughan currently supplies fitness centres at six (6) municipal community centres; no new centres have been added since the 2013 ATMP. These fitness centres include amenities such as treadmills, free-weights and other exercise machines, as well as multi-use studios.

The GTA average for provision of fitness centres is 1:65,000 residents, compared to 1:54,016 in Vaughan.

Key Considerations

Fitness centres are primarily used by older youth, adults and seniors, with the bulk of activity occurring in the early morning and evening (before and after work/school hours). Usage statistics in Vaughan are showing a slight decline over the last few years. It is possible that this membership decrease is a result of pricing models used by the City that encourage high cost recovery rates, resulting in membership prices that occasionally exceed privately operated competitors.

Two-fifths (40%) of survey respondents indicated that they, or someone in their household, had participated in individual fitness or weight training activities while just below one-quarter (24%) said the same for group activities. Fitness centres ranked 16th of 30 listed facility types, with 72% of survey respondents indicating support for additional spending on municipal fitness centres.

Residents also provided some feedback on fitness centres during ATMP public information sessions; they would like to see updated fitness equipment, expanded program/class times and a mirrored fitness studio (instead of using gymnasiums). Several suggestions were received for more affordable membership pricing.

A number of trends are significantly impacting the way that fitness centres are designed and programmed. Similar to other recreational fitness activities, demand is shifting toward more flexible participation options with diversity in programming and equipment. People want to try something new and integrate variety into their basic weight lifting and cardio-based fitness regimen. Trends suggest an increase in group exercise, endurance activities and high-intensity interval training. An emphasis on holistic wellness and active living needs to be reflected in planning and service program delivery.

Sedentary lifestyles have generated an increasingly obese population, so providing opportunities for fitness at public facilities is increasingly important. These public facilities should focus on functional fitness for all ages. Parents want to be healthy role models for

their children, while adults and seniors have developed a renewed focus on active aging and health.

As a result of these trends, specific focus for facility design and provision should be on accommodating needs of adults and seniors, particularly due to the significant growth expected for the baby boomer generation over the next ten years. The City of Vaughan Older Adult Recreation Strategy (2016) provides guidance on fitness and active living programming; future plans for development of municipal fitness centres should align with the recommendations included in that document.

Analysis & Recommendations

The recommended target provision rate for municipal fitness centres is 1:55,000 residents. This has been adjusted from the 2013 recommendation of 1:50,000 residents to reflect stabilization in usage and slowly declining membership rates. This new provision ratio equates to a need for two (2) additional fitness centres by 2031.

One key accomplishment from the 2013 ATMP is the planned provision of a fitness facility in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre through a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Toronto. This facility will fill short-term demand for a municipal fitness centre and address a geographic provision gap in the area.

The second additional fitness centre should be developed as part of the future major community centre in Vellore Village (Block 41). Similar to other facility recommendations, this location will provide amenities for the expected incoming population in the northern part of the city.

As a carry-over from 2013 ATMP recommendations, the City should ensure that all community centres have sufficient studio/multi-use activity rooms to accommodate growing demand for health and wellness programs. Vaughan fitness centres should also continue to develop innovative and engaging fitness and active living programming that responds to the needs of the increasingly diverse and health-minded population.

Appropriate pricing and differentiation in offerings is needed to avoid undue competition with other providers. A review of fitness operations should be undertaken to evaluate the City's existing service delivery model and trends in the industry.

Fitness Centres – Recommendations

69. Proceed with plans to provide a fitness centre at the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA Centre of Community Mixed-Use Project**.
70. Provide a fitness centre in the community centre proposed for **Block 41**.
71. Continue to provide **wellness and active programming** at all community centre sites, regardless of whether or not they contain fitness centres. **Multi-use rooms** should be provided and designed with a variety of activities in mind, including group fitness.
72. Undertake a **Fitness Operational Review** to evaluate the service delivery model and trends in the industry.

7.6 Age-specific Activity Space

Current State

The City currently provides age-specific activity spaces at several community centres for pre-school and senior-age activities as well as some storefront/dedicated facilities owned by the City that are used by affiliated older adult clubs. Activities for children, youth and adults are largely accommodated through shared spaces within community centres, such as multi-use rooms, fitness centres, gymnasiums, pools, etc.

The number and size of older adult facilities in other municipalities varies widely, although very few communities are building new stand-alone facilities, instead preferring to integrate age-specific space within multi-use centres. There is also no reliable benchmark for youth centres as municipal provision varies considerably across the region.

Key Considerations

Activity rooms in community centres are increasingly being used as multi-generational spaces for free play rather than by specific age groups. Different age groups often require facility access at different times, so a shared model can be effective in some instances. For example, youth spaces may be used during after-school hours as areas for peer socialization, group study or games (e.g., table tennis), while seniors' spaces would be primarily used during the day for socialization, card play, and cultural or educational opportunities/events. As a result, the City is converting youth rooms to more general games rooms or multi-purpose spaces so they are more widely available and appealing for intergenerational use throughout the entire day.

Although only 5% of survey respondents indicated participation in seniors' activities in the last twelve months, services for older adults and seniors remains a high priority for the City. Space for youth and seniors received strong public support for additional spending through the online survey (82% for both) ranking them 6th and 7th out of 30 facility types.

The ATMP public engagement program elicited feedback from multiple older adult residents and seniors' groups. They would like to see continued provision of seniors' spaces in community centres and request additional programming and events/outings within the community. Stakeholders indicated that Vaughan's older adult population is active and thriving; however, many are seeking intergenerational facilities with a focus on accessibility as their mobility has decreased with increased age.

Public information session attendees (both parents and youth) suggested dedicated youth spaces for socialization/study within community centres, particularly for use by older children while siblings attend other programs.

Analysis & Recommendations

Where possible, the City should continue to offer age-specific activities through multi-use rooms, gymnasiums and other shared spaces in community centres. As these spaces are increasingly being used for a variety of purposes, it is important that the City employ equitable allocation practices to maximize community access.

Youth

Youth are traditionally a very challenging market for municipal recreation departments to serve due to their range of needs, competing interests and lack of transportation options. Fortunately, Vaughan has been very successful in engaging and empowering the youth community, with recognition by the Play Works Partnership Youth Friendly Communities Program.

Trends suggest that the number of youth engaged in unstructured, drop-in activities are increasing, while the percentage of youth participating in organized sports is generally declining. Activities that are spontaneous social, and/or encourage personal expression are very popular among teens, including music, arts, basketball, fitness, special events, etc.

The number of youth and teens will continue grow along with the City's population, particularly in family-oriented greenfield growth areas (e.g., Vellore, Carrville and the periphery of Maple), all of which are proposed locations for new community centres or hubs.

Older Adults

Older adult program registrations are on the rise in Vaughan while memberships in clubs has stabilized. According to the City of Vaughan Older Adult Recreation Strategy, there are approximately 5,400 members within 20 affiliated older adult clubs in Vaughan¹⁵; this figure has been relatively stable since the last ATMP and represents 7% of the Vaughan's older adult population (2016 Census). According to municipal data on older adult use of recreation facilities, memberships, registrations and point of sale drop-ins have all increased over the last few years. Aquatics programming had the highest level of participation, followed by fitness centres, and some minor participation in games and recreational sports.

The City also offers a wide range of fitness, aquatic, general interest and cultural programs through its community centres that are geared to the general population, yet increasingly attract older adults (who pay a reduced fee). "Young seniors" are seeking locations to interact with one another and build upon knowledge and skills, often during non-prime hours in community centres. The growing older adult and senior age cohort is also more health-minded and focused on active-aging than their predecessors. This is a key consideration in provision of age-friendly spaces as they should be co-located with other amenities commonly used by older adults (e.g., aquatics, fitness, library, etc.).

Between 2006 and 2016, all five-year age cohorts ages 50+ increased by more than 50% and older adults (ages 55 and over) represent approximately 26% of Vaughan's population. As the baby boomer generation is expected to see continued growth, demand for these spaces and programs will increase accordingly, particularly in the Woodbridge and Thornhill areas, which contain much of the City's older populations and are experiencing growth in condominiums.

¹⁵ City of Vaughan Older Adult Recreation Strategy (2016).

The City should also ensure that the growing older adult and seniors populations are well served and provided adequate space for recreation pursuits. It is preferred that older adult spaces be integrated into community centres and hubs to maximize efficiencies. For example, a minor community centre is proposed for Kleinburg/Nashville and the area’s demographics suggest that seniors’ services should be emphasized at this location.

The City of Vaughan Older Adult Recreation Strategy and York Region’s Seniors Strategy should be used as a guide and consulted along with the ATMP for any future community centre or hub development.

Age-specific Activity Space – Recommendations	
73.	Continue to develop and provide flexible multi-use spaces in community centres and hubs. Dedicated spaces should only be provided where supported by sufficient demand and/or program requirements.
74.	Continue to implement the City of Vaughan Older Adult Recreation Strategy including recommendations to enhance program offerings/memberships to support the needs of Vaughan’s older adult community.
75.	Evaluate demand for the inclusion of seniors programming within the minor community centre recommended for Kleinburg/Nashville (Block 55/62).

7.7 Indoor Bocce

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
17	17	1:19,065	No Additional

Current State

The City of Vaughan continues to maintain seventeen (17) indoor bocce courts at four (4) community centres. There has been no change in the municipal supply since the 2008 ATMP, when it was determined that current supply was able to support demand.

Key Considerations

Bocce is known for its popularity among the Italian community, particularly adult males. As the baby boomer generation ages, there may be some growth in the sport beyond current membership rates.

Only 4% of survey respondents had participated in bocce (indoor and/or outdoor) within the last 12 months. Similarly, when asked to describe willingness to invest in facilities, bocce ranked among the bottom three (46% support for investment).

It was noted during stakeholder consultation that the sport may be becoming more popular with youth and young adults, which has generated a slightly higher demand for available facilities. It was also noted that indoor bocce is growing in popularity with special

needs groups due to accessibility. That being said, it is still believed that the current supply of bocce courts is able to support demand for structured play for the foreseeable future.

Analysis & Recommendations

Given the limited market for bocce and questionable long-term viability, a provision target is not recommended. The City is encouraged to continue monitoring usage and membership trends at existing facilities. No additional indoor bocce courts are recommended at this time.

Indoor Bocce – Recommendations

76. Continue to **monitor usage and membership trends** at existing indoor bocce facilities. No additional indoor bocce courts are recommended.

7.8 Other Indoor Recreational Spaces

Current State

The City of Vaughan does not currently provide any municipally owned or operated indoor recreational spaces (e.g., artificial field turf, tennis dome, etc.).

Key Considerations

Indoor recreation facilities are capable of accommodating a wide variety of leisure pursuits (e.g., indoor training for field sports, indoor tennis, adult recreational sport leagues, etc.). While these activities are worthwhile and beneficial, they are typically established through private organizations or community-led partnerships, (with or without municipal participation). Their focus has not traditionally aligned with municipal mandates that focus on introductory and affordable opportunities for all ages, with an emphasis on youth.

The ATMP's engagement program has yielded a number of requests from local organizations for recreation facilities that would represent a new level of provision for the City, including indoor soccer and tennis (turf and bubble). Feedback from municipal staff also reflected this, indicating that there have been public requests for indoor tennis, artificial turf and more indoor basketball sites.

Indoor sports facilities received moderate support (67%) for additional spending from survey respondents, ranking 21st out of 30 options. Stakeholders discussed the growing demand for indoor training facilities for elite-level athletes because sport-specific training has become a year-round activity for many.

The City of Vaughan is limited in the ability and/or responsibility to supply these facilities as they are costly to establish and fall outside of the current facility provision model. While it is possible that the participants in these specialized recreation activities may have unmet facility requirements, this demand is often representative of a relatively small group of residents and/or is a product that is typically delivered by other sectors.

Should the City choose to establish a level of service for new forms of indoor facilities, a number of factors should be considered including the public benefit, capital and operational costs, risks and alignment with municipal mandate.

Analysis & Recommendations

Requests for municipal participation in capital projects not identified in this plan can be expected. In the interest of providing facilities and recreation options that support healthy, active lifestyles for residents, the City of Vaughan should be open to exploring and discussing opportunities for new and emerging activities.

When evaluating partnerships and unsolicited proposals, the City should employ a formal framework, with consideration to the City's capacity to participate in such projects. The evaluation of potential capital partnerships should require the proponent to provide information to the satisfaction of the City, such as (but not limited to):

- a comprehensive needs analysis;
- a comprehensive business plan, including operating and capital costs;
- the organization's financial capacity;
- a demonstration of the sustainability of the project;
- detailed evidence of community benefits; and
- full risk analysis.

Low risk participation in projects that address unmet demands, make use of underutilized resources, promote healthy living/physical activity, encourage public access and support other municipal objectives will generally rank ahead of more risky proposals.

Other Indoor Recreation – Recommendations

77. Utilize the **existing framework (Procurement Policy)** to evaluate unsolicited capital proposals and partnerships for indoor sports facilities, with consideration given to the ten-year capital forecast and the City's capacity to participate in such projects. Direct municipal provision of indoor sports facilities is not recommended at this time.

8. Library Facility Assessment



Library systems are the cornerstones of strong communities and surveys indicate that public libraries are critically important to Vaughan residents. As Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) continues to evolve into a large urban library system, forward-thinking facility planning is required.

This section contains an analysis of public library space needs, as well as a facility provision strategy for VPL to the year 2031. This strategy is guided by several factors, including population growth and trends, public and staff input, geographic distribution and space standards. Efforts have been made to ensure that plans are appropriate and strategic in nature, representing facility provision that is responsive to the needs of existing and new residents.

8.1 Current Situation

Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2013	2018	2018	Recommended Target
120,603sf (7 locations)	173,403sf (10 locations)	0.54 sf per capita	0.61 sf per capita

Library Usage and Impact

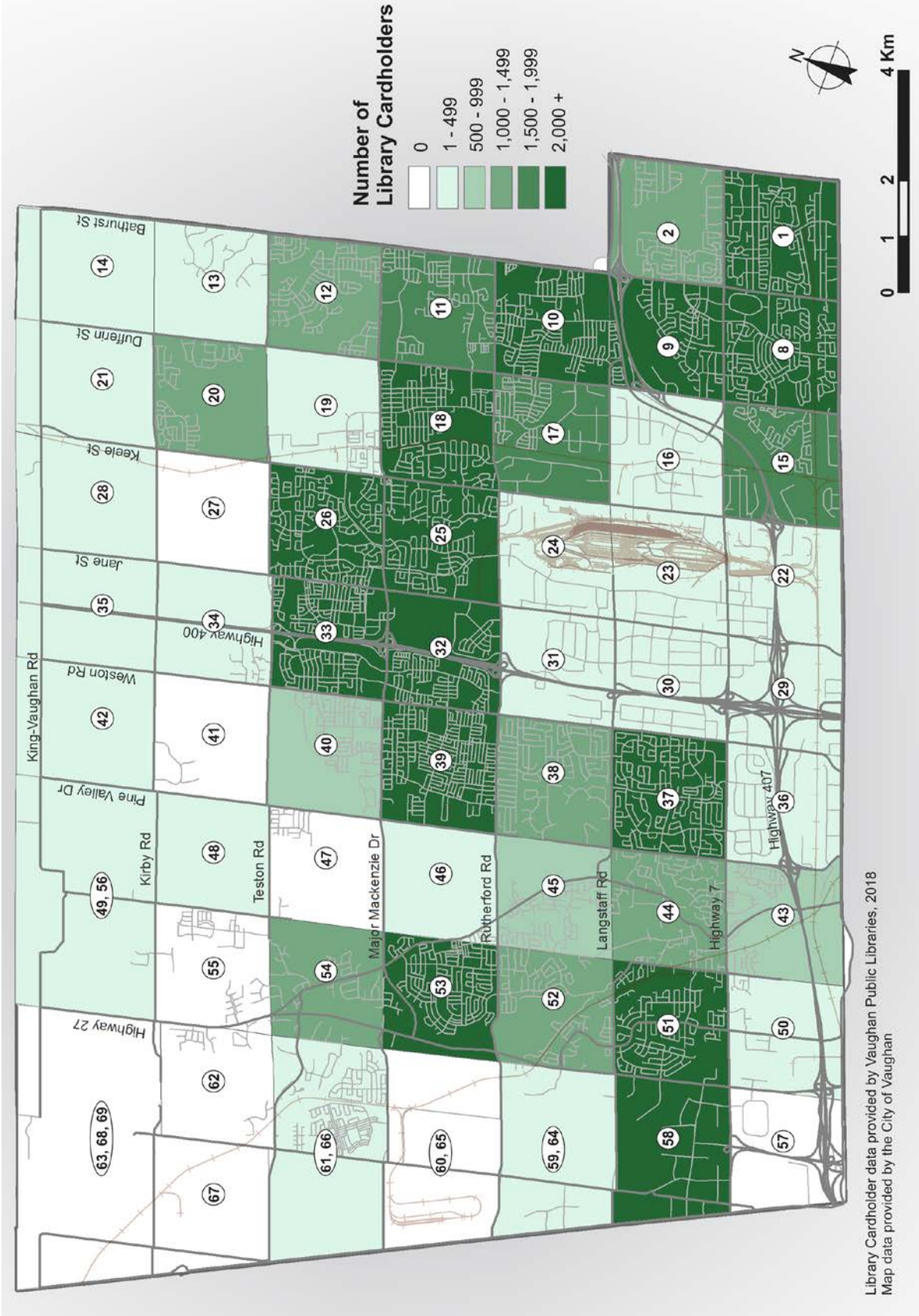
Vaughan Public Libraries is one of the busiest and innovative library systems in Canada. The Library is frequently commended for its programs, services, collections, facilities and staff, all of which have garnered high ratings from residents. VPL is a valued service provider (94% of online survey respondents indicated that Vaughan Public Libraries are important to their household) and continues to be a leader in meeting community needs.

The VPL system accommodated more than 2.6 million visits in 2016 (a 17% increase since 2013, despite population growth of 4%), which demonstrates continuing growth in demand. VPL's circulation rates have been steadily increasing (with digital materials seeing the greatest gains), while program offerings are also on the rise). 85% of online survey respondents reported visiting VPL within the past 12 months. The ATMP online survey found that the most common reasons for using VPL are:

- borrow materials (73%);
- read or relax (31%);
- participate in programs or events (28%); and
- study or do work (27%).

The Library is particularly well used by families with young children, students, older adults and seniors, and newcomers (Figure 27 shows the area of residence of all cardholders) and is recognized for its excellent programs, services, and ability to serve as a “third place” for those needing respite from home and school/work pressures. VPL welcomes more than 15,000 new cardholders every year. The Library is continually hearing from patrons a desire for extended hours, particularly for resource libraries and branches that are co-located with community centres.

Figure 27: Distribution of VPL Cardholders, Vaughan residents



Since the 2013 ATMP was developed, three new library locations have been established: Pleasant Ridge Library (2014), Civic Centre Resource Library (2016) and Vellore Village South Library (2018). Together, these three facilities added nearly 53,000 square feet of space to the system – an increase of 44%. This period of rapid expansion has allowed VPL to come closer to achieving the space provision target established in the 2013 ATMP.

Library Locations

At present, VPL has ten library service locations with a combined floor space of 173,403 square feet (see Table 15). Three of its facilities are resource libraries (with an average size of 35,200 square feet and are intended to serve the entire City), while the average size of the seven branch libraries is approximately 9,700 square feet. Five of the branches are attached to Vaughan community centres. A virtual library system is also available and is well used by cardholders.

Table 15: Inventory of Vaughan Public Libraries, 2018

Library Facility	Community	Location/ Association	Classification	Year Built	Facility Size (sf)
Ansley Grove	Woodbridge	Chancellor CC	Branch	1990	10,487
Bathurst Clark	Thornhill	Stand-alone building	Resource Library	1994	36,500
Civic Centre	Maple	Stand-alone building	Resource Library	2016	36,000
Dufferin Clark	Concord	Dufferin Clark CC	Branch	1988	12,516
Kleinburg	Kleinburg	Stand-alone building	Branch	1966/75	5,500
Maple	Maple	Maple CC	Branch	1991	13,000
Pierre Berton	Woodbridge	Stand-alone building	Resource Library	2004	33,000
Pleasant Ridge	Carrville	North Thornhill CC	Branch	2014	8,500
Vellore Village South	Vellore	Vellore Village CC	Branch	2018	8,300
Woodbridge	Woodbridge	Stand-alone building	Branch	1981	9,600
TOTAL					173,403

Source: Vaughan Public Libraries, 2017

Facility Model

To guide future provision, it is helpful to examine the current library facility model. A facility model defines the sizes, roles, relationships and key service characteristics of the different buildings in the overall library system. It can also be used to determine how the total required space would best be distributed among future locations.

VPL uses a multi-tiered, decentralized facility framework consisting of:

- resource libraries;
- branch libraries (neighbourhood and community);
- off-site services (outreach); and
- virtual services.

In simple terms, “resource libraries” are flagship facilities that serve as destinations for residents across a large area due to their wide range of services; they tend to be 30,000 to 40,000sf with a large catchment area. “Branch libraries” are smaller facilities that are often co-located with community centres, serving specific neighbourhoods; they tend to be 6,000 to 15,000sf with a localized catchment area. Off-site and virtual services do not require dedicated space and are not examined in depth within this assessment. It is anticipated that the design of Vaughan’s libraries will continue to evolve in line with trends and best practices.

Although VPL has not formally modified its facility model in several years, they are embracing new and innovative ways to deliver services. This includes reinforcing libraries as destinations and community hubs, centrally located to the population to be served. This can be seen in the 400 square foot storefront self-service option (card-activated, 24-hour access) that will accompany the second floor VMC Library when it opens in 2019.

In addition, opportunities to establish a partnership for a branch library within the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital are also being explored, including a 4,000 square foot library prominently located in the new hospital facility. A service point at this location offers an opportunity to serve not only those that live nearby, but also those working or volunteering in the hospital, hospital patients, patient families and visitors. A unique service model designed specifically for this partnership is required. It is contemplated that the space would offer most amenities that are typical of a branch library, but that an emphasis would be placed on health literacy and personal care through collections and services.

Table 16 illustrates the size and location characteristics of VPL’s dedicated service points. Although resource libraries are the most visited locations in the City overall, usage at most branch libraries rival or surpass them in terms of visits per square foot, especially branches co-located with community centres.

Table 16: Visits/sf by Branch Library, 2008 and 2016

Location	Square Feet (2016)	Visits per SF (2008)	Visits per SF (2016)
Resource Libraries			
Bathurst Clark	36,500	9.9	9.2
Civic Centre*	36,000	n/a	12.1
Pierre Berton	33,000	8.8	7.1
Branch Libraries (within Community Centres)			
Ansley Grove	10,487	7.3	9.2
Dufferin Clark	12,516	15.0	7.9
Maple	13,000	14.5	12.4
Pleasant Ridge	8,500	n/a	22.2
Branch Libraries (stand-alone)			
Kleinburg	5,500	2.5	3.3
Woodbridge	9,600	6.2	6.1
Total Visits per SF		9.8	9.9
Visits per capita		4.4	5.0

* Civic Centre Resource Library opened in September 2016; visits have been extrapolated to a full year

Table 16 also shows how visitation has changed over time (between 2008 and 2016) and between library locations. With the introduction of new libraries, visitation has increased system-wide and has helped to alleviate pressure on existing branches (e.g., some users of Maple Library migrated to Civic Centre Resource Library). The newest libraries are also some of the busiest, whereas visits to older and smaller libraries – most notably Kleinburg and Woodbridge – are at the lower end of the range.

It continues to be the Library's objective to provide an equitable distribution of facilities, conveniently located to mature and growing communities. A library development strategy that is aligned with the City's growth will help to maximize available funding. Nevertheless, the library facility model should continue to be implemented with flexibility, depending on community-specific needs and options that maximize funding and partnership opportunities. Although smaller libraries may be a better fit with the desire to create more walkable communities, larger libraries can provide more amenities and specialized services – balance is required.

8.2 Trends in Library Usage and Design

In addition to ongoing growth and changing demographics, there are significant external influences acting on Vaughan Public Libraries. This section identifies several of the latest trends, best practices and thinking in the public library sector to broaden the understanding of the many changes that are impacting library facility provision.

Evolving Service Delivery

Branch libraries and physical resources, online collections and services, and outreach services are all critical elements in Vaughan Public Libraries' service delivery model. Each of these facets has been impacted by different forces in recent years, resulting in shifting trends and usage patterns. These trends have allowed the VPL to review its collection to free up additional space for growing services and interests, such as collaborative community spaces for work, leisure, content generation and digital initiatives.

Physical and Digital Resources

Use and access to libraries is changing. The act of borrowing printed books is still by far the most popular activity at libraries, however, the desire for variety and different library formats has increased considerably in recent years. Traditional print and non-print formats (CDs, DVDs, Blu-rays, etc.) continue to dominate the library's circulation figures and this illustrates the necessity of maintaining a diverse collection to meet the needs of the entire community. The May 2015 Market Probe Survey commissioned by the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries revealed the following: 66% of library cardholders mostly read in hard copy; 17% mostly read in electronic format; and, 18% read both. Although there may be a growing tendency away from physical collections and toward digital access, broad trends indicate that many people, including children and youth, still prefer books and other physical items. As a result, physical collections will continue to coexist with emerging digital formats for the foreseeable future.

Emerging Technologies

This is a period of rapid technology innovation, especially for wireless devices, making Wi-Fi and independent work/study stations vital. Digital literacy is also quickly expanding and many public libraries play a key role in the education process. Modern technologies are leading to the emergence of new public experiences and tools (e.g., recording studios, maker spaces, media stations, discovery zones, etc.), allowing libraries to reinforce their value to their community, including younger generations. Responding to this trend, VPL has recently developed creation spaces at its resource libraries.

The impact of technology on libraries has not significantly lessened the demand for traditional materials, but has led to greater space needs – particularly for study/learning spaces and creative spaces. Conversely, the use of library-provided computers has been declining over the past few years, reflecting the trend to work on one's own laptop or other mobile devices while in the library. Self-serve technologies are now ubiquitous and have allowed library staff to be deployed wherever within the branch or community. With this has come a diversification in staff qualifications and enhanced training requirements.

Further, the City of Vaughan has recently established a Digital Strategy with the goal of “making Vaughan better for people in our digital age” and VPL has an important role to play in the Strategy's implementation.

Expanded Programming

Vaughan Public Libraries remains committed to quality programming and events that support lifelong learning for people of all ages. In recent years, the library has increased its programs to respond to local needs, such as digital literacy, technology training and workplace-readiness while continuing provision of early literacy programming to children. The library also offers many programs and services to newcomers to help them integrate successfully into the community. Programs are essential to libraries – they animate library resources and introduce people to all that the library has to offer.

Facility Provision

Public demand for convenient and locally accessible facilities remains. Integrating branch libraries into neighbourhood destinations, such as community centres, has proven very successful in Vaughan. Branch libraries co-located with other civic facilities are vibrant customer-centric models that allow for space sharing, cross-programming, and economies of scale and should continue to be encouraged. Successful partnerships help to share risks and benefits, allowing the library to achieve strategic priorities in a more effective or efficient manner. Other models may include self-serve options such as kiosks and book vending machines that allow libraries to more thoroughly embed themselves in their communities, often at non-traditional sites (e.g., transit hubs, retail centres, etc.). In this vein, Vaughan Public Libraries will soon be piloting a self-service component within its new library in VMC.

Library Design

As evidenced by the recent trend of library redevelopment across North America, the design of library spaces is changing to better meet evolving functions (such as libraries serving as civic anchors and cultural integrators). Today's libraries must have quality space and good technology, along with both noisy and quiet spaces and clear sightlines to enable proper service orientation. Quality spaces are those that are flexible, spacious, accessible and welcoming. Some examples that are being incorporated into new or redeveloped libraries include merchandizing and portable shelving (stacks on wheels), outdoor spaces and gardens (connecting to greenspace and thinking “beyond the walls”), large lobbies where people can gather and interact, late-night access for students during exam times, ample natural light and a wider variety of comfortable seating. Visibility is a must and having workspaces near windows shows that the library is well used. Vaughan Public Libraries is recognized as a leader in library circles with the award winning Civic Centre Resource Library being identified by Chatelaine Magazine as “one of Canada’s coolest libraries”.¹⁶

Seating and study space are always in high demand, as are extended hours to meet the needs of a variety of lifestyles, including during student exam periods. Recent research¹⁷ in the United States indicates that 57% of Americans support libraries offering more

¹⁶ Retrieved from: www.chatelaine.com/living/coolest-libraries-in-canada/image/5/. Accessed January 2018

¹⁷ Horrigan, John B. “Libraries 2016” Pew Research Center, September 2016. Retrieved from: www.pewinternet.org/2016/09/09/2016/Libraries-2016. Accessed October 2017.

comfortable places for reading, working and relaxing. Americans are, however, divided on a fundamental question about how books should be treated at libraries: 24% support the idea of moving books and stacks to make way for more community- and tech-oriented spaces, while 31% say libraries should not move the books to create such spaces.

Summary

In short, facility design and development must respond to 21st century literacies and rising expectations in a rapidly digital world. This may include (but may not be limited to):

- plans for branch renewal to create greater internal flexibility or digital connectivity or collaboration;
- the creation of both quiet spaces (for individual and small group study) and noisy spaces (for gathering and collaboration), including expanded spaces for seating, study and programming; and
- additional space to accommodate barrier-free access, universal washrooms, shorter stacks, wider aisles, merchandizing, gathering and collaboration, etc.

On the whole, Vaughan Public Libraries are well positioned to meet changing demands and new service locations will be designed to respond to emerging best practices.

8.3 Library Space Needs

Influencing Factors

Public library systems are the cornerstones of vibrant communities. VPL is regarded as a welcoming place and a critical source for information and support for newcomers and long-time residents alike. With an increasing emphasis on popular materials, electronic resources, collaborative technologies, new and interactive programs, and opportunities for studying and gathering, there is staunch support for continued investment in Vaughan Public Libraries.

Expanding uses, combined with the evolving role of public libraries as community hubs and gathering spaces, are creating a need for more space, not less. The demand for individual and group study areas, comfortable seating options, places to connect personal devices to WiFi, flexible activity space and barrier-free spaces (including wider aisles, shorter book stacks and accessible washrooms) are other reasons why demand for library space is increasing. Library space provision targets must take this evolution into account.

Similarly, demographic characteristics and population forecasts are a significant influence on the usage of (and requirements for) library space and services. The library is a space for everyone – public input and VPL’s user data suggests that:

- young families are seeking active/learning space, early literacy materials and programs;
- teenagers and young adults are seeking quiet study space and technology resources;

- older adults and seniors are seeking popular materials, continuing education and events; and
- newcomers are seeking resources for multicultural learning and social gathering.

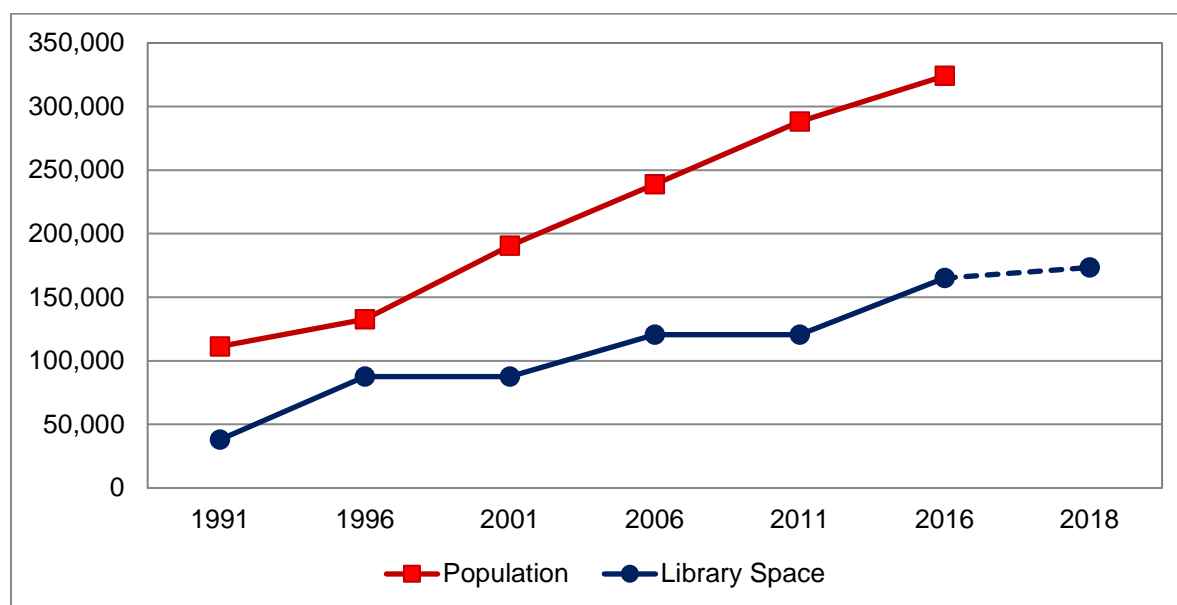
The City is still very much in the growth stage and will continue to expand at a rapid pace for many years to come. As such, Vaughan Public Libraries will require a building programme involving the creation of new library buildings – as well as the expansion of services and more efficient use of space within existing but intensifying communities – that will be spread over the next twenty years and possibly beyond.

Per Capita Standards

Library facility needs are best assessed through a combination of space requirements and geographic distribution, with consideration being given to potential joint use locations with other civic facilities. The approach of using per capita standards continues to be a reasonable methodology for projecting needs at the "master planning level". Despite the recent evolution of library holdings and roles (such as an increasing emphasis on technology and the library as a community gathering place), library usage levels have remained strong and the use of a standards-based approach endures.

The amount of space required by a public library depends on the unique needs of the individual community. The assessment of local needs may be assisted by documents such as the Ontario Public Library Guidelines (Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, 7th edition 2017) and Guidelines for Rural/Urban Public Library Systems (Administrators of Rural and Urban Public Libraries of Ontario – ARUPLO, 3rd edition 2017), which provide several measures to assist libraries in future planning in areas such as staffing, space, collection size, collection use and hours. Although a metric of 0.61 square feet per capita has traditionally been used for system-wide library space assessments, a higher measure has been promoted within the sector. Unfortunately, these traditional benchmarks do not convey quality, convenience, or user satisfaction. Regular public engagement is vital to identifying local measures of success.

It also bears noting that per capita library space provision is a snapshot in time. The City is growing on a daily basis; however, library building projects occur once every few years. Figure 28 illustrates how Vaughan's population has changed since 1991, along with changes in the supply of library space. During this period, the per capita supply of library space has fluctuated between 0.34 in 1991 and 0.66 in 1996. The current gap between population and library space is projected to widen in the future unless accompanied by an appropriate library development strategy.

Figure 28: Vaughan Population Growth and Library Space, 1991-2018

Comparisons to Other Systems

A benchmarking exercise (Table 17) was undertaken to provide a simple comparison of Vaughan Public Libraries with select library systems in the Greater Toronto Area.

Table 17: Library Space (SF) per Capita

Municipality	Population (2016)	Library Space (sf)	Space per Capita (2018)
Mississauga	756,590	347,252	0.46
Brampton	614,304	207,039	0.34
Markham	301,709	165,041	0.55
Oakville	193,832	95,935	0.49
Richmond Hill	185,545	112,300	0.61
Oshawa	158,341	94,000	0.59
Average	368,415	170,261	0.51
Vaughan*	324,100	173,403*	0.54

*includes Vellore Village South Library

Sources: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants (2018), Statistics Canada (2016 Census)

Note: This information represents a snapshot in time, thus it may not accurately reflect the space standards employed by the library systems for planning new buildings/expansions.

The average per capita library space provision for the benchmarked communities is 0.51 square feet, although it is 0.56 square feet for the four smaller communities. Following several building projects, Vaughan is currently providing 0.54 square feet of library space per capita, slightly higher than the average of the listed library systems. It is notable that 82% of Vaughan households support additional public spending on public libraries, ranking very high on the ATMP survey.

Space Projection

Given the importance that Vaughan residents place on library services, it is imperative that public library space keep pace with population growth. Furthermore, as library needs are very closely linked with growth forecasts and associated Development Charges funding, it would be to the Library's advantage to attempt to maintain a reasonable level of provision into the future to maximize its financial resources and, in turn, its service to the community. Space expansion in concert with population growth should continue to be a priority.

The 2008 and 2013 ATMPs supported a provision target of 0.61 sf/capita for library space, which has guided VPL's growth for some time. Although the City is currently below this threshold, **0.61 sf/capita** remains a relevant target to work towards as it represents a measure of an effective and responsive library system in Ontario. This target is to be used as a guideline for City-wide provision and growing communities; it may not reflect the unique attributes of all existing communities.

Population growth will continue to place increasing demands on library services and space requirements. Table 18 provides the space requirements for library provision based on the population projections and the library's 0.61 square foot per capita target. Application of this target suggests that there is currently a shortfall of 24,298 square feet of library space, growing to **85,542 square feet by 2031** to meet the needs of 424,500 residents. This need will be experienced incrementally over time as new residents move to Vaughan, as will corresponding demand for additional library collections (digital and print). Future space provision strategies are examined in the next section of this report, with a focus on the next five to ten years.

Table 18: Projection of Library Space Needs based on Recommended Provision Target, 2018-2031

Year	Forecasted Population	Library Space Needs (sf) (based on 0.61sf/capita)	Deviation from Current Supply (173,403sf*)
2018	324,100	197,701	24,298
2021	350,700	213,927	22,824
2026	380,900	232,349	58,946
2031	424,500	258,945	85,542

* includes Vellore Village South Library, but excludes VMC Library and Carrville Library
Population Source: Region of York, 45% scenario, November 2015 (draft)

For many years, libraries have relied upon traditional output measures (e.g., circulation, visits, programs, etc.) to quantify service levels and plan for the future. For example, on average, more than ten (10) print and digital items per resident were circulated in 2016 and the number of visits to VPL are rising. While these metrics still have a place, there is a growing need for libraries to demonstrate their value and find new ways to measure how they are being used. Vaughan Public Libraries is one of several systems that are currently in the process of developing new measures that strive to better communicate their impact on users and value within the community. For example, in 2015, VPL

published a study that found an economic impact of \$5.95 for every \$1 spent by the Library. New measures such as this may be in place to inform future ATMP cycles.

Library Distribution

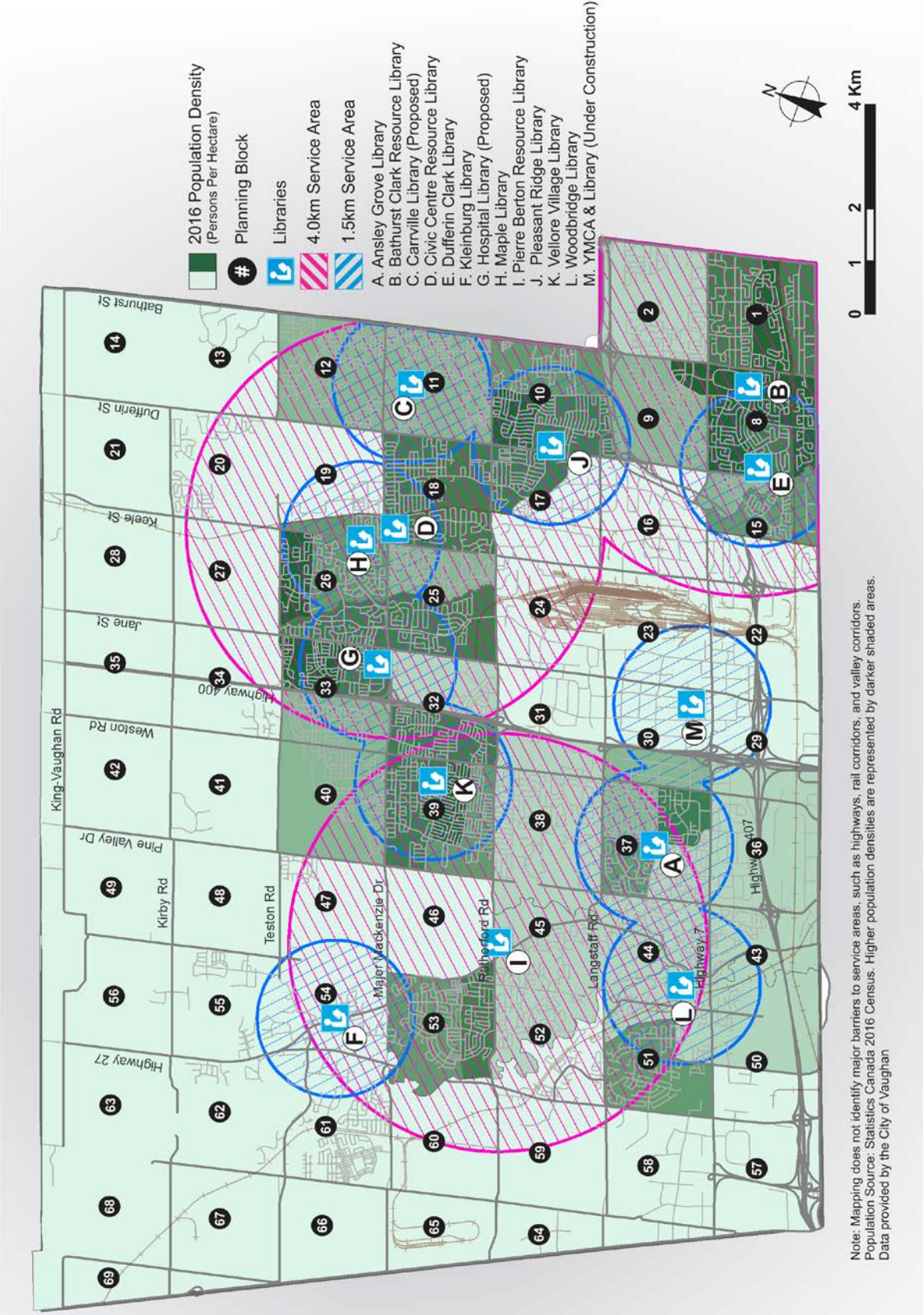
In addition to the overall space allocation, geographic distribution is a fundamental consideration in the establishment of a library provision strategy as there is an expectation that libraries will be accessible to all Vaughan residents, to the greatest degree possible. For planning purposes, VPL utilizes a service radius of 1.6 to 4.0-kilometres for resource libraries and up to 1.5-kilometres for branch libraries. Figure 29 on the following page illustrates the location of branch libraries and their conceptual service radii. Existing library locations (as well as the proposed VMC Library, Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital, and Carrville Library) have been mapped to show their current distribution.

The distribution analysis illustrates that Vaughan Public Libraries have excellent geographic coverage. Over four-fifths (82%) of online survey respondents agree that libraries in Vaughan are equitably distributed. The most significant gaps in library distribution (within existing or future residential areas) include:

- Nashville (part of Block 61);
- Vaughan Mills (Block 31, part of Block 24);
- Vellore Village North (part of Block 40, Block 41); and
- North Maple (Block 27)

These gaps are examined in more detail in the next section.

Figure 29: Distribution of Existing and Planned Libraries, VPL



Note: Mapping does not identify major barriers to service areas, such as highways, rail corridors, and valley corridors.
 Population Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census. Higher population densities are represented by darker shaded areas.
 Data provided by the City of Vaughan

8.4 Recommended Provision Strategy

Basis for the Strategy

A focus identified in VPL's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is to “create convenient and accessible destinations and online communities that meet people where they are”. This requires a focus on responsive facilities, partnerships and accessibility. Equitable facility distribution is required to meet the diverse range of community needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The present distribution of libraries is very good, but new facilities will be required to serve growing areas.

As VPL has done in the past, it is strongly recommended that library development be coordinated with community centres and civic facilities to offer convenience to patrons and economies of scale in construction and operation. These co-located libraries are activity hubs that tend to generate the most visitors per square foot. This direction is supported by Section 7.2.4.4 of the City's Official Plan, which states that it is the policy of Council: “To encourage and support the development of joint or co-located library facilities such as community centres, schools, or other appropriate facilities.”

Status of 2013 Recommendations

The 2013 ATMP recommended a series of building projects to meet needs. Many of these projects have been (or are in the process of being) implemented, such as the VMC Library. The timing of some projects has shifted to accommodate the redistribution of funding required to align with other library projects. It is important to note that, for any major building project, more detailed studies are required to define locations and confirm design, sizing and financial implications. Thus, it is vital that needs be identified well in advance of construction.

Outstanding recommendations from the 2013 ATMP are listed below with their original recommended timing, as well as a status update:

- 1) 2017/18: A branch library in **Block 11** (approximately 7,500 to 8,500sf).
Status: This library – to be co-located with the Carrville Community Centre – is currently the subject of a feasibility study; a 2022/23 opening is targeted.
- 2) 2017/18: A branch library in **Block 41** (approximately 7,500 to 8,500sf).
Status: A site has yet to be secured, but preliminary planning for this library – to be co-located with a community centre – has been initiated as part of a secondary plan for the area.
- 3) 2021+: Explore opportunities to relocate the **Kleinburg Library** to create a larger branch library (approximately 12,000sf, an increase of 6,500sf).
Status: This recommendation has been revised to include a new library facility approximately 7,500 to 8,500sf to be co-located with the new community centre facility. The existing Kleinburg Library will be retained.

- 4) 2026+: Explore opportunities to develop a branch library in the **Vaughan Mills** area as part of a community hub (approximately 7,500 to 8,500sf).

Status: There has been no activity on this or the proposed community facility for this area.

- 5) Longer-term: Address future service gaps with the development of **two (2) to three (3) branch libraries** (e.g. Block 27, etc.) (totaling approximately 17,500sf).

Status: VPL is exploring a potential partnership with the new Hospital (4,000sf); there has been no activity on other long-term building projects.

Recent and Proposed Capital Projects

After an extended period (between 2004 and 2014) with no new library development, the Library has been successful in providing new service locations in growing areas (Pleasant Ridge Library) and in meeting growing demand for larger and multi-functional resource libraries (Civic Centre Resource Library). These projects have not only helped to boost the Library's space provision ratio (from 0.39sf/capita in 2013 to 0.54sf/capita in 2018), but also Development Charges funding, which will help the City to maintain service levels moving forward.

Vaughan Public Libraries are currently involved in the planning or development of four new service locations:

- 1) a branch library located in the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre**, co-located with the YMCA and City of Vaughan (estimated at 9,000 square feet);
- 2) a self-service storefront location at the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre**, co-located with the YMCA and City of Vaughan (estimated at 400 square feet);
- 3) a branch library located at the **Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital** (estimated at 4,000 square feet); and
- 4) a branch library at the proposed **Carrville Community Centre** (estimated at 7,500 to 8,500sf) – a site has been secured and a feasibility study is currently underway.

New Opportunities

As noted earlier, there is a current shortfall of 24,298 square feet of library space, growing to 85,542 square feet by 2031. Should the VMC branch and storefront libraries, Hospital and Block 11 branch libraries be built as contemplated (totaling approximately 21,400 square feet), this will address shorter-term needs, but leave a balance of over 64,100 square feet to be delivered through other building projects by 2031 in order to meet the provision target.

Growth, funding and project alignment are three factors that will dictate how and when new building projects are initiated. Although the Library has established 0.61 square feet per capita as a planning target, this is a guideline and long-term ambition. First and foremost, building projects should be driven by the goal of providing accessible and convenient locations that serve the needs of residents. Given VPL's past and current

levels of provision, it is anticipated that the Library will continue to work towards the planning target over the course of time.

There are many opportunities that VPL may pursue in order to address this longer-term need – some conventional and some more innovative. The sizing of proposed libraries is based largely on the current facility model, with consideration of population to be served. Moving forward, the Library should adapt to reflect a facility model that leverages new technologies and respond to changing lifestyles.

Key Growth Areas and Gaps:

As noted previously, Vaughan is growing in a number of different areas and investment will be required to deliver library services in many of these areas. Key growth areas and gaps include:

1. Kleinburg and Nashville:

At 5,550sf, the Kleinburg Library is the smallest of the VPL branch libraries and was established decades ago to serve this small settlement area. While the library has been expanded and renovated in the past, the facility is not positioned to respond to growth that is taking place in the Nashville area, as well as longer-term growth in the vicinity. The existing library cannot be expanded further to address these needs, but should be retained to meet the needs in Kleinburg. A community centre has been recommended to serve the growth in this area and a branch library (7,500 to 8,500sf) should be included with this facility.

Securing an appropriate site in collaboration with the City should be a high priority in the short-term. Timing of development will depend on site availability and funding, but should generally be the next building project to follow the Carrville Library.

2. Vellore Village North:

The Vaughan Official Plan has identified Block 41 as a new community area, one of the City's few remaining greenfield development locations. A secondary plan is currently being developed for the area. A population of nearly 11,800 is currently projected for the block. Immediately to the south is Block 40, which is currently under construction and has a similar population target. The nearest library to these communities is Vellore Village South (opening in 2018), which has a service radius that captures the southern half of Block 40.

To address growth and geographic equity, a new branch library is recommended for Vellore Village North. Under consideration for Block 41 is a community hub, including the co-location of a community centre, library and two elementary schools adjacent to a District Park. A target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet has been established for the branch library.

3. Vaughan Mills Centre:

Vaughan Mills Centre encompasses the majority of Block 31 and part of Block 24 to the west. A Secondary Plan was prepared for this area in 2014 and identified a

population target of 8,800 persons. It is designated a Primary Centre under the City's Official Plan and development interest in this area is high, particularly for high-rise residential.

The establishment of a community hub for this area was first identified in the 2013 ATMP and continues to be pursued as a longer-term option, possibly as space with a condominium podium. Development activity in this area should be monitored to evaluate the impact on library service requirements over time, as well as opportunities for space provision. If developed, the library's size should reflect the surrounding population and nature of this intensification area. Although a target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet (and timing around 2028) may be used for preliminary planning purposes, this should be reassessed once the facility model has been established.

4. **Block 27:**

The Vaughan Official Plan has also identified Block 27 as a new community (greenfield) area. A secondary plan is currently being developed for the area. A GO Transit hub is proposed for the area, which will incorporate a combination of low-rise to mid-rise mixed-use buildings within the vicinity.

A population of approximately 19,150 to 26,700 is projected for the block. The southern half of Block 27 is within the service radius of the Maple Library and Civic Centre Resource Library. While these libraries may be positioned to meet part of the needs generated by the Block 27 area, the northern half contains the proposed GO Station and is an area where population densities are likely to be greater.

There continues to be support to consider the development of a branch library to address the growth-related needs of Block 27, particularly if combined with the proposed community hub (e.g., recreation, social services, etc.). The proximity to libraries to the south suggests that this location may be smaller than a traditional branch library and that the service delivery model may be unique. A target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet may be used for preliminary planning purposes; however, this should be reassessed once parameters have been established for the facility model and potential partnership. The timing of overall block development will dictate the timing of this project, which is tentatively identified as 2028 or later.

Other Opportunities:

Due to their proximity, the 2013 ATMP recommended that **Maple Library** be reassessed after the Civic Centre Resource Library was open for one year. A Special Area Study was initiated in 2017 to identify options for re-imagining Maple Library and its services to best meet the needs of area residents. Despite two libraries being located close together, Maple Library remains one of the busiest branch libraries in the system. Its high use can be attributed to its connection to the busy Maple Community Centre and its role as a community hub. Although VPL is proud of the success of its resource libraries, it is clear that many users prefer the atmosphere and convenience of its branch libraries.

It is recommended that VPL complete the Special Area Study for Maple Library and participate in the Maple Community Centre Feasibility Study to be undertaken in 2018.

Both studies should explore opportunities to retain and re-envision the Maple Library through a redeveloped and streamlined space that responds to the needs of local users.

Due to growth and evolving community needs, additional opportunities for library space provision may present themselves over time. The ATMP principles, facility framework and needs assessment methodology should be used to evaluate opportunities as identified from time to time (e.g., West Woodbridge, etc.).

Library Facility Provision Strategy

The library facility provision strategy is summarized in Table 19. Changes to the City's population forecasts or the VPL's facility model may require this strategy to be updated. The proposed timing and sizing of projects over the next ten years is consistent with the City's 2018 Development Charges Study.

Table 19: Recommended Library Development Program (listed in expected order of implementation)

Recommendations	Approximate Square Footage	Recommended Timing*
1. Retain and re-envision Maple Library	n/a	2018+
2. Open Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Library (branch)	9,000sf	2019
3. Open Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Library (storefront)	400sf	2019
4. Establish a branch library within the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital	4,000sf	2020
5. Develop a branch library in the community centre proposed for Block 11 (Carrville)	7,500 to 8,500sf	2023
6. Develop a branch library to serve the Kleinburg/ Nashville area (Block 55/62), co-located with the proposed community centre	7,500 to 8,500sf	2024
7. Develop a branch library in the community centre proposed for Block 41 (Vellore Village North)	7,500 to 8,500sf	2026
8. Pursue the development of a branch library in the community hub proposed for Vaughan Mills Centre	7,500 to 8,500sf (to be confirmed)	2028
9. Pursue the development of a branch library in the community hub proposed for Block 27	7,500 to 8,500sf (to be confirmed)	2028+
10. Address future service gaps through the development of additional service points	32,142sf (in total)	To be determined
Total Net Increase	85,542 sf	

* timing and location may be influenced by population growth, funding and/or timing of joint municipal building projects
 Note: The recommended provision strategy does not account for the expansion or closure of any existing libraries; should either of these options be contemplated, this analysis should be revisited.

Re-imagining Existing Facilities

In addition to new facilities, existing locations must also continue to evolve. Similar to community centres, there is a need to ensure that existing facilities offer a comparable level of service to newer ones. As a result, existing libraries may need to be retrofitted or renewed, particularly those that are in highest use, those requiring lifecycle maintenance and those that are in proximity to areas of residential intensification.

For example, there is an ongoing need to optimize spaces and enhance interior design to increase functionality and flexibility. Additional renovations are anticipated at other locations, including Ansley Grove, Dufferin Clark, Woodbridge and Kleinburg Libraries. All four libraries have undergone renovations since 2014 with a focus on combining service desks and introducing vibrant marketplaces to improve customer service and use of space.

There continues to be an ongoing need to optimize spaces and enhance interior design to increase functionality and flexibility. A significant renovation of the Bathurst Clark Resource Library is planned for 2018, which will create a children's library and a Learn It! lab, and increase the number of study spaces, leading to a more efficient use of existing space. Additional renovations are anticipated at other locations (including Maple Library, as noted earlier) to improve access to materials and overall customer service.

Public Libraries – Recommendations

78. Complete the feasibility study for **Maple Library**, with a goal of retaining service at this location through a re-imagined and redeveloped space that responds to the needs of local users.
79. Complete renovations at **Bathurst Clark Resource Library** in 2018 to improve use of existing space.
80. Continue with plans to establish a branch library (approximately 9,000 square feet) and storefront library (approximately 400 square feet) in **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre** in the short-term, with opening targeted for 2019.
81. Continue with plans to establish a branch library within the **Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital** (approximately 4,000 square feet) in the short-term, with opening targeted for 2020.
82. Continue with plans to develop a branch library in **Block 11** (Carrville, approximately 7,500 to 8,500 square feet) in conjunction with the Carrville Community Centre, with opening targeted for 2023.
83. Develop a branch library in **Block 55/62** (Kleinburg/Nashville, approximately 7,500 to 8,500 square feet) in the short-term (2024). Securing an appropriate site in collaboration with a municipal community centre should be a high priority

84. Develop a branch library in **Block 41** (Vellore Village North, approximately 7,500 to 8,500 square feet) in the short-term (2026). Securing an appropriate site in collaboration with a municipal community centre should be a high priority.
85. Pursue the development of a branch library in the community hub proposed for **Vaughan Mills Centre**. The target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet and timing of 2028 is to be confirmed through future study and will be impacted by development activity and space/funding availability.
86. Pursue the development of a branch library in the community hub proposed for **Block 27**. The target of 7,500 to 8,500 square feet and timing of 2028 or later is to be confirmed through future study and will be impacted by development activity and space/funding availability.
87. An additional 32,142 square feet would be required by 2031 to achieve the **0.61sf/capita target**. Using the ATMP principles, facility framework and needs assessment methodology, VPL should **reassess the long-term space provision target** to inform a library distribution plan that evaluates potential service gaps as identified from time to time (e.g., West Woodbridge, etc.).
88. Examine **alternative library delivery models** (e.g., VMC storefront, Hospital, etc.) as strategies in gap and/or high growth areas to test demand for or supplement permanent facilities.
89. Through **space optimization and strategic renovations**, continue to maintain existing facilities as welcoming destinations and community hubs.
90. Evaluate the “**off-site**” **tier of VPL’s facility framework** to determine the impact of outreach activities and establish future directions for partnership development.
91. Continue to **work collaboratively with City of Vaughan Recreation Services** in program and event planning to maximize existing offerings, fill gaps and align promotional efforts.

9. Implementation



This section identifies the high-level cost estimates associated with the 2018 Active Together Master Plan Update, as well as recommendations for implementing the Plan.

9.1 Setting Priorities

The recommendations in this Plan are based on what is needed, regardless of what is financially achievable at the present time. As a result, sustained efforts should be made to implement these strategies through a variety of appropriate and acceptable means. The full implementation of this Plan may require the pursuit of alternative funding and the establishment of various partnerships and collaboration with community organizers, schools, agencies, developers, and other partners. First and foremost, the purpose of this Plan is to identify current and future needs. In this way, it serves as a common voice and catalyst for future investment and collaboration amongst various stakeholders.

By approving this Plan, the City is not bound to implementing every recommendation or providing facilities in the order, amount, or timing indicated; rather, this Plan provides guidance on community priorities, and sets a general course for meeting the needs as they are presently defined. It is expected that the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the capital budget process.

The timing of the capital projects proposed in this ATMP Update recognizes the need for phased implementation, including land acquisition. In some cases, the proposed timing may not align with the City's funding capacities on a year-to-year basis. As part of the annual budget process, this report should be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of facility development. Project efficiencies, innovations, partnerships and alternative service delivery may be considered as part of project implementation.

Setting Priorities – Recommendations

92. Conduct **feasibility studies, business plans, site assessments and public engagement** prior to developing or expanding major parks, recreation and library facilities to ensure that projects are aligned with community needs, partnership opportunities and financial capacities.
93. In conjunction with the Real Estate Office, ensure that land needs identified in the ATMP are represented in the **Land Acquisition Strategy**, including active and passive parkland (with a focus on under-served areas) and land for recommended community centres and libraries. This Strategy should also analyze opportunities to secure land and fund the development of larger District Parks and Regional Parks (e.g., Northwest Vaughan) that provide a wide array of amenities serving a diverse base of users.
94. Develop a **Recreation Service Plan** to strengthen the role of Recreation Services in achieving operational, citizen and staff excellence.

95. Review **City policies** that address community access to parks and facilities (e.g., CSO, facility allocation, user fees, affiliation, older adult, fairs and festivals, etc.) on a regular basis to ensure policies are aligned with community and stakeholder needs. This review should generally take place every five years or as required due to changing community needs.

9.2 Financial Considerations

A financial analysis was prepared to identify the operating and capital costs in the short, medium and long-term and are outlined in the tables below.

Table 20 contains identifies the capital costs associated with the ATMP's implementation over the long-term. These costs are anticipated to be funded from a number of sources including Development Charges and property taxation.

Table 20: Capital Cost Summary (\$ millions)

Capital Cost Summary	Short-Term (2018-2022) (\$M)	Medium-Term (2023-2027) (\$M)	Long-Term (2028-2031) (\$M)	Total (\$M)
Outdoor Recreation & Park Facilities	\$ 88.5	\$ 32.8	\$ 43.8	\$ 165.2
Developing Parkland	\$ 55.7	\$ 22.8	\$ 29.4	\$ 107.8
Recreational Trails	\$ 1.7	\$ 1.7	\$ 1.2	\$ 4.6
Park Facilities	\$ 31.1	\$ 8.4	\$ 13.2	\$ 52.7
Indoor Recreation & Facilities	\$ 164.0	\$ 153.9	\$ 36.7	\$ 354.6
YMCA	\$ 34.6	\$ 26.9	\$ 4.8	\$ 66.4
Carville CC	\$ 66.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66.0
Kleinburg / Nashville CC	\$ 19.2	\$ 12.7	\$ -	\$ 31.9
Vellore Village North CC	\$ 44.1	\$ 63.7	\$ -	\$ 107.8
Vaughan Mills Centre Hub	\$ -	\$ 32.8	\$ 1.8	\$ 34.6
North Maple Hub	\$ -	\$ 17.8	\$ 30.1	\$ 47.9
Library Facilities	\$ 19.9	\$ 19.9	\$ 6.2	\$ 46.0
VMC Library	\$ 6.2	\$ 3.7	\$ 0.7	\$ 10.6
Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital Library	\$ 0.9	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.9
Carville Library	\$ 6.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.0
Kleinburg Library	\$ 4.6	\$ 6.1	\$ -	\$ 10.7
Vellore Village North Library	\$ 2.0	\$ 5.6	\$ -	\$ 7.6
North Maple Hub	\$ -	\$ 1.5	\$ 5.2	\$ 6.7
Vaughan Mills Centre Library	\$ -	\$ 3.1	\$ 0.3	\$ 3.4
Total Capital Cost	\$ 272.4	\$ 206.6	\$ 86.8	\$ 565.8
Average per Year	\$ 54.5	\$ 41.3	\$ 21.7	

The majority of the capital costs are growth-related and therefore will be funded from Development Charges (DCs). The proposed timing of the projects will generate increased pressures on the DC reserve balances as time goes on. It bears noting that delays in building new infrastructure can reduce DCs in future years, which may cause the City to delay future projects. To optimize DC revenues, it would be to the City's advantage to maintain service levels (or increase them, where warranted) by providing new assets when they are needed.

The figures do not include the cost of land acquisition. Land required for the purposes of parks will either be received gratuitously from the development industry, where possible,

or through the use of Cash-in-lieu (CIL) reserves. Land availability is a challenge and full implementation of the plan may require other forms of acquisition and funding. The proposed Land Acquisition Strategy will assist in this regard.

In addition to the capital costs outlined in the table above, the Development Charges Act requires that 10% of the overall capital cost for general services be reduced by 10%. In other words, only 90% of the capital cost of growth-related infrastructure may be funded from DCs, and the remaining balance (the co-payment amount) must be funded from a non-DC source such as property taxation. Table 21 outlines the co-payment amounts as well as any other costs that are not deemed DC eligible, such as funding for Public Art.

Table 21: Capital Cost Property Tax Impact (Co-Payment) (\$ millions)

Capital Cost Property Tax Impact	Short-Term (2018-2022) (\$M)	Medium-Term (2023-2027) (\$M)	Long-Term (2028-2031) (\$M)	Total (\$M)
Outdoor Recreation & Park Facilities	\$ 9.6	\$ 3.5	\$ 4.7	\$ 17.8
Indoor Recreation & Facilities	\$ 16.4	\$ 15.4	\$ 3.7	\$ 35.5
Library Facilities	\$ 3.9	\$ 4.5	\$ 0.6	\$ 9.0
Total Tax Funded Co-Payment	\$ 29.9	\$ 23.4	\$ 9.0	\$ 62.3
Average per Year	\$ 6.0	\$ 4.7	\$ 2.3	

The co-payment is not treated as a tax rate increase, as annual spending related to city-wide infrastructure is already available through capital from taxation in the budget. There may be pressures on the timing of the recommendations in the Plan in order to balance projects year to year. For example, other City-wide infrastructure projects may compete for the same funds.

Table 22: Operating Cost Summary (\$ millions)

Operating Cost Summary	Short-Term (2018-2022)	Medium-Term (2023-2027)	Long-Term (2028-2031)	Total
Outdoor Recreation & Park Facilities	7.2	9.1	11.2	27.5
Park Facilities	7.2	9.1	11.2	27.5
Indoor Recreation & Facilities	3.8	5.5	1.1	10.4
YMCA	0.4	-	-	0.4
Carrville CC	3.4	-	-	3.4
Kleinburg / Nashville CC	-	1.1	-	1.1
Vellore Village North CC	-	4.4	-	4.4
Vaughan Mills Centre Hub	-	-	-	-
North Maple Hub	-	-	1.1	1.1
Library Facilities	2.6	2.7	1.2	6.4
VMC Library	1.1	-	-	1.1
Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital Library	0.5	-	-	0.5
Carrville Library	1.0	-	-	1.0
Kleinburg Library	-	1.5	-	1.5
Vellore Village North Library	-	1.2	-	1.2
North Maple Hub	-	-	1.2	1.2
Vaughan Mills Centre Library	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Cost	13.6	17.3	13.5	44.3
Average per Year	\$ 2.7	\$ 3.5	\$ 3.4	

Services identified in the Active Together Master Plan primarily support new growth and should therefore be funded to the fullest extent possible through new property tax assessment and growth-related revenues. The operating costs identified in Table 22 will be funded through a variety of revenue sources. User fees will be used, where appropriate, to fund services where there is a clearly identifiable user group. For services where user fees may not be appropriate, the operating costs will be funded from new assessment growth.

A growing challenge for the City is the cost associated with the repair, renewal and replacement of aging infrastructure. Additional investment is needed to keep Vaughan's infrastructure operational and to enhance the City's quality of life and economic health. The expenses identified above include an assumption for infrastructure reserve contributions that will grow to approximately \$6.7 million annually by 2031.

In order to ease impacts to the existing property tax base, strategic partnerships with community and private interests will have to be explored to ensure the successful implementation of the Active Together Master Plan. The nature of these partnerships will vary widely, depending on the type of facility/program, local context, and defined roles and responsibilities of those involved. These partnerships have the potential to reduce the direct costs involved in the ATMP's implementation, though these matters would require further examination over time.

Financial Considerations – Recommendations

96. As a general principle, encourage **partnerships and sponsorships** in the provision and delivery of facilities and services.
97. Where appropriate and consistent with municipal policies and priorities, consider **alternative funding and cost-sharing approaches** to achieve capital and operating cost recovery levels, such as (but not limited to) surcharges, fundraising, grants, sponsorships, Section 37 bonusing and various forms of collaboration.
98. Review the status of the Active Together Master Plan and priority projects as part of the City's **annual budgeting process**.
99. Review and reassess the capital recommendations of this 2018 ATMP Update if new **population forecasts** are endorsed by the City within the next two years.

9.3 Monitoring and Updating the Active Together Master Plan

Trends change and often unforeseen factors emerge which create unanticipated increases or decreases in participation and which, in turn, may impact demand. Continued monitoring of the participation levels (as well as overall population figures) in local parks, recreation and library activities is necessary to identify changes and to assess the impact on the provision targets and capital recommendations. As a result, the direction of the Master Plan may need refocusing from time to time.

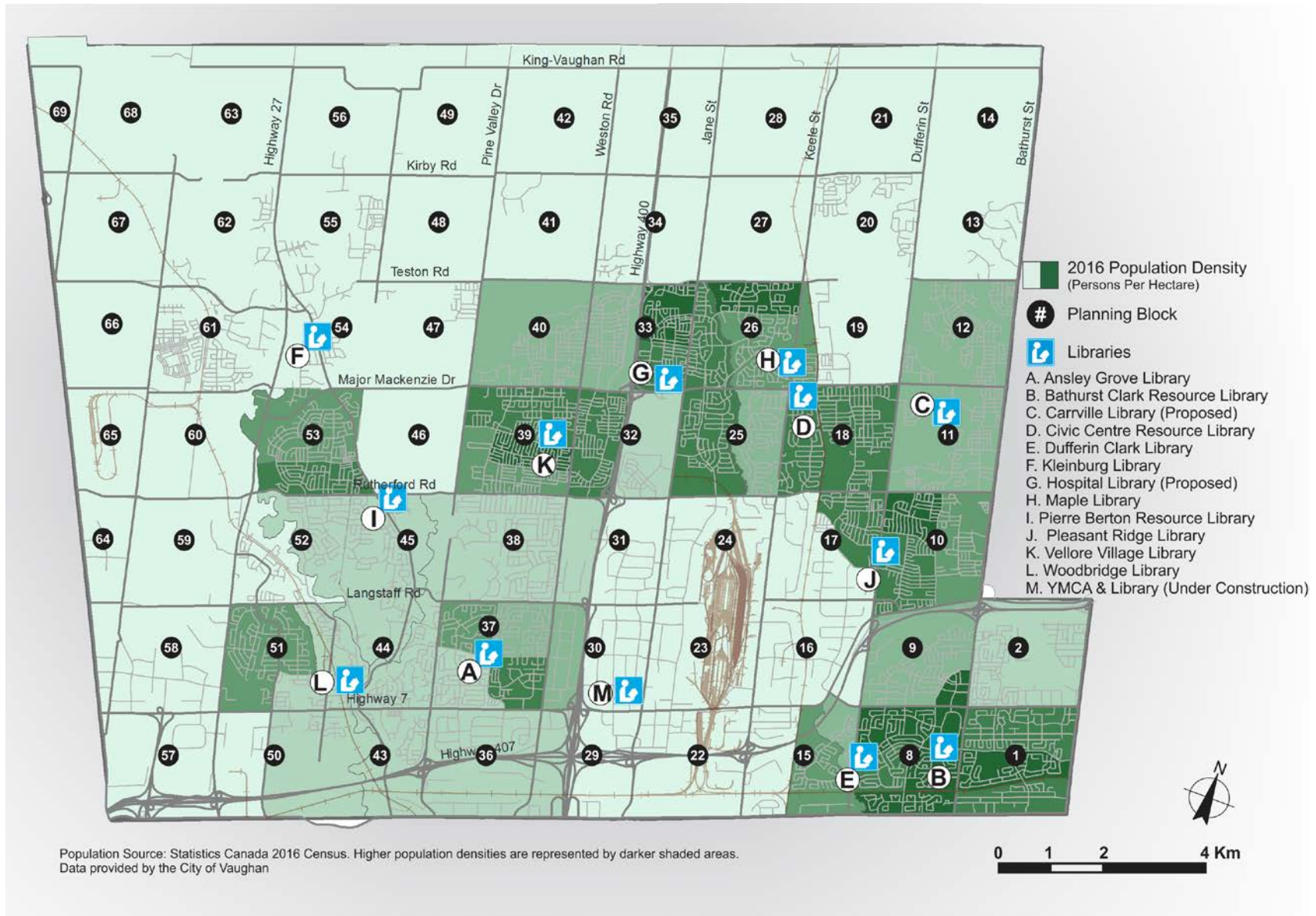
The ATMP's recommendations should be reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain reflective of municipal priorities and responsive to community needs. It is also anticipated that the ATMP will be updated in another five years' time. This is supported by Section 7.1.1 of the City's Official Plan, which states that it is the policy of Council to: "update the Active Together Master Plan every five years, coinciding with the review of this Plan, including adjustments to facility needs and targets based on updated long-term population targets and growth patterns."

Monitoring and Updating the ATMP – Recommendations

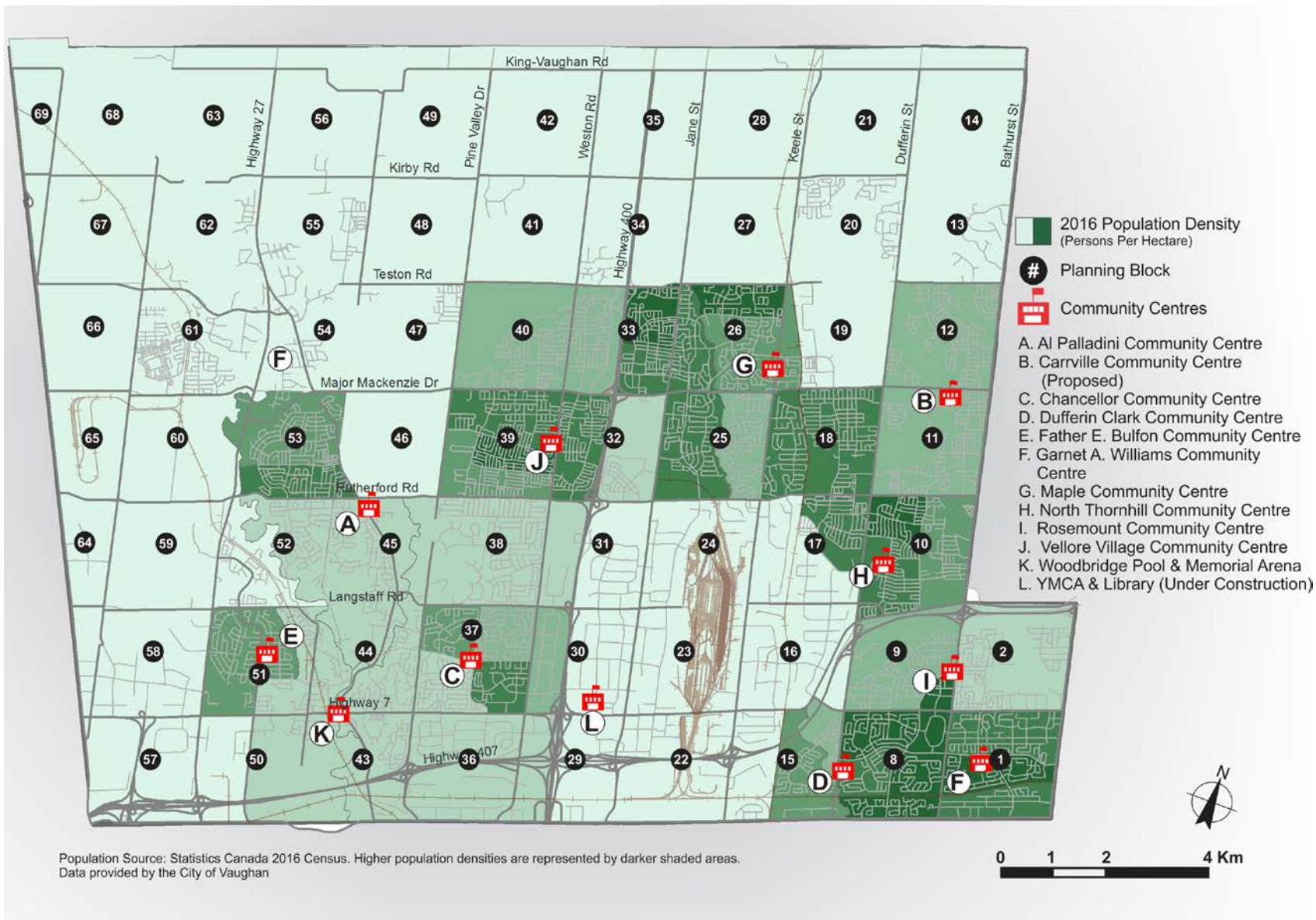
100. Implement a system for the **regular monitoring and reporting** of the Active Together Master Plan, including participation rates, customer satisfaction and other performance measures.
101. Utilize new **technologies and business intelligence tools** to engage the public, and determine user needs and trends in order to plan for the future through an evidence-based approach.
102. Undertake a **comprehensive five-year review** of the 2018 Active Together Master Plan in 2023, in collaboration with the Development Charges Background Study and Growth Management Strategy.

Appendix A Facilities Mapping

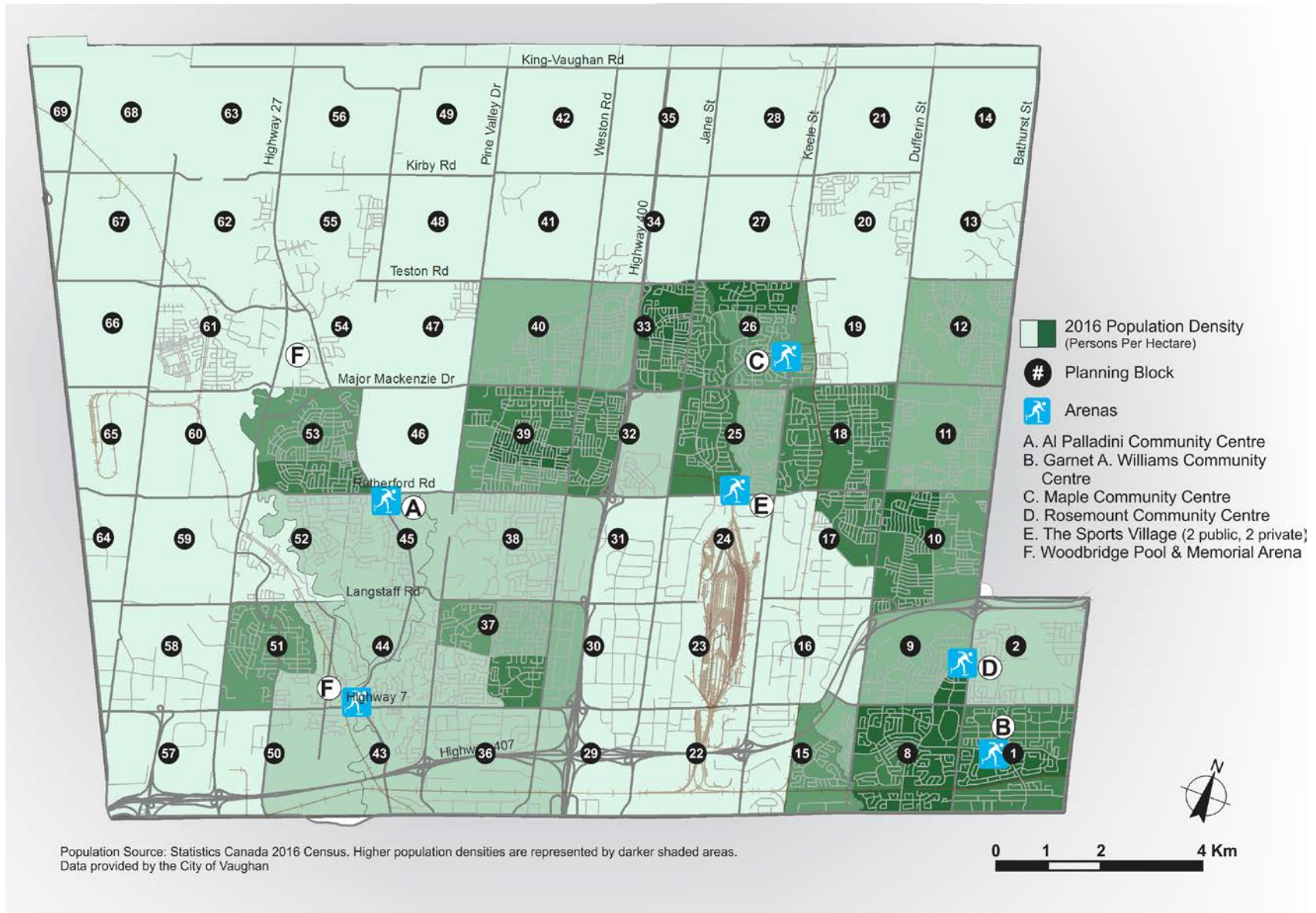
Vaughan Public Libraries



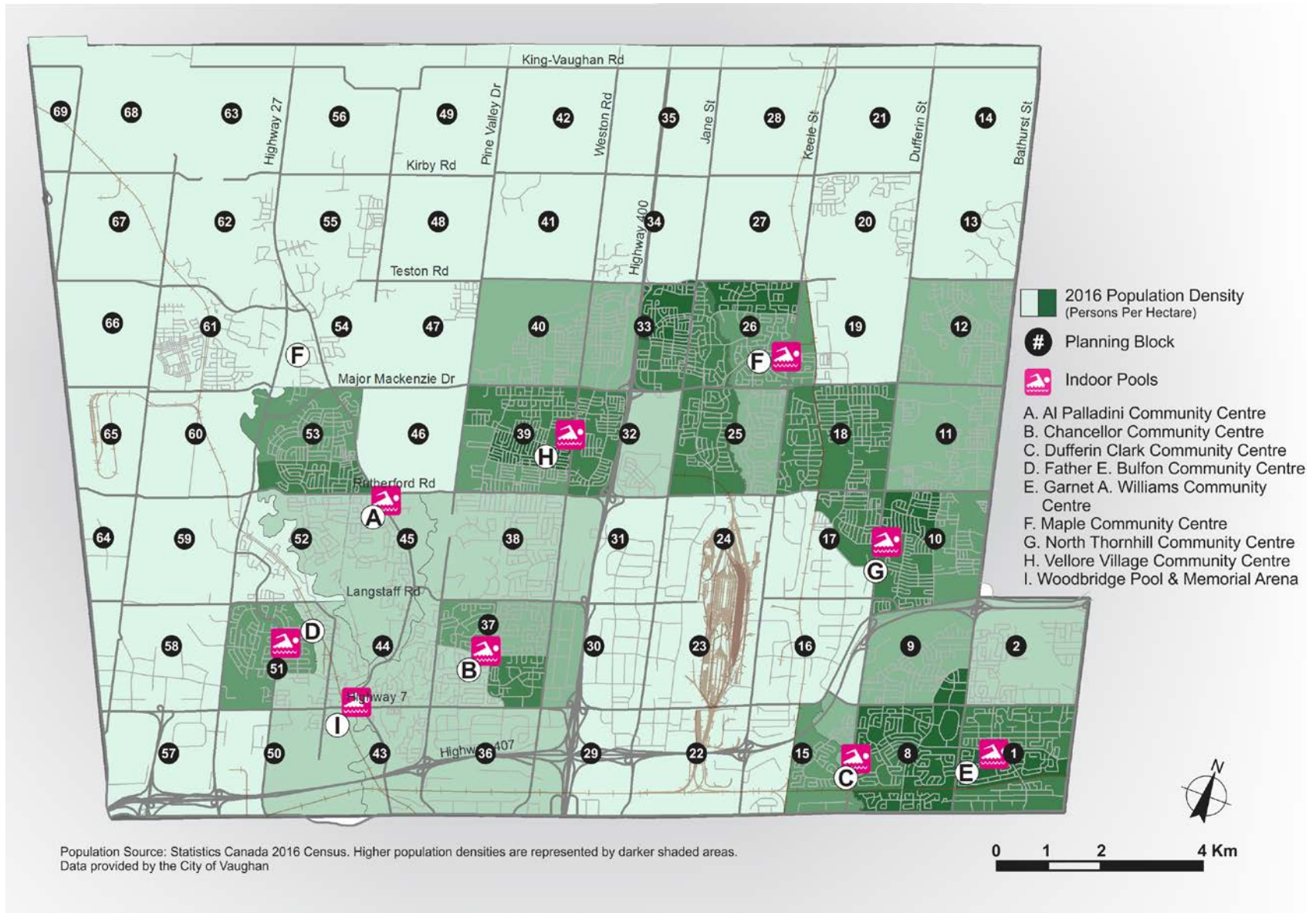
Municipal Community Centres



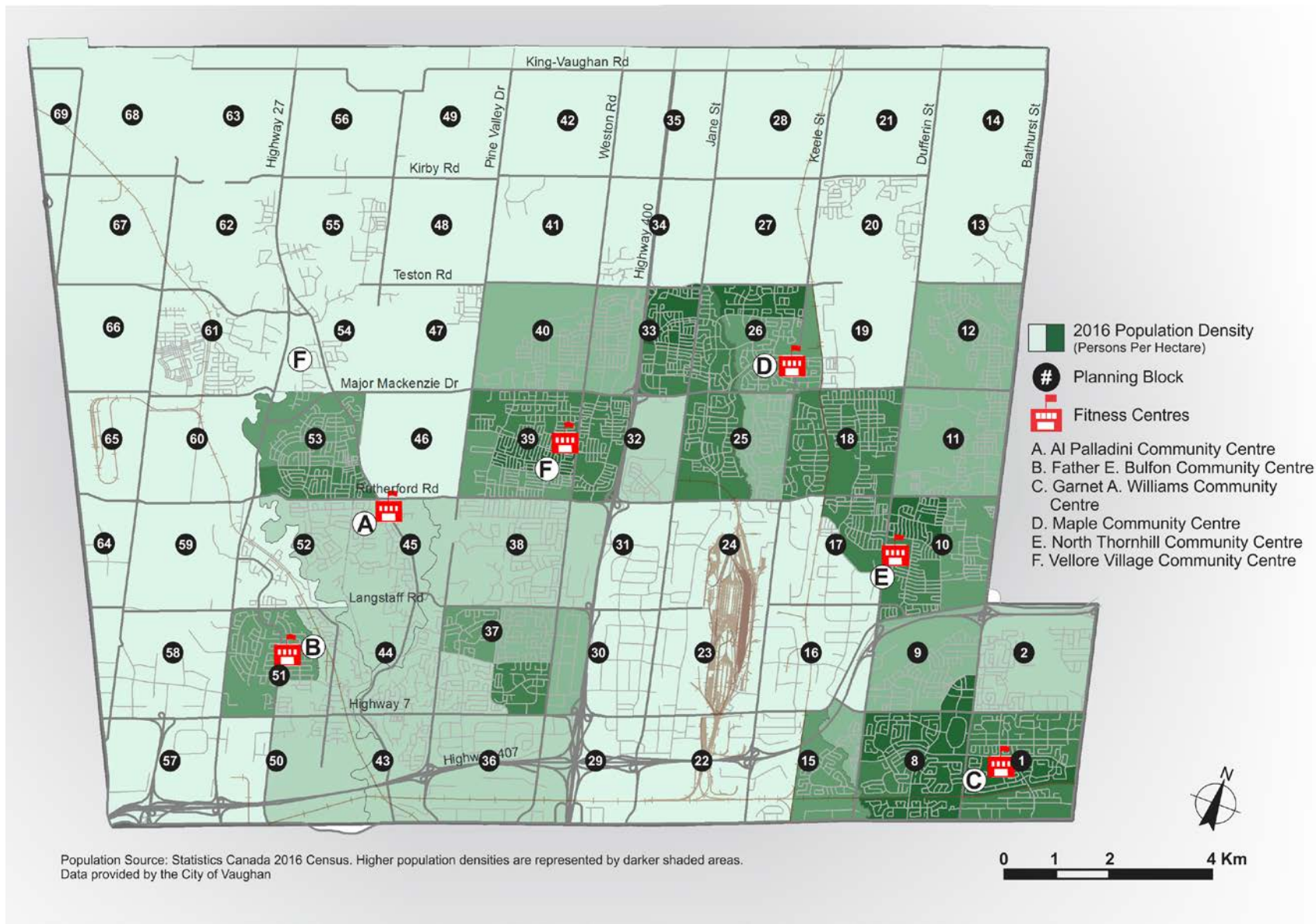
Municipal Arenas



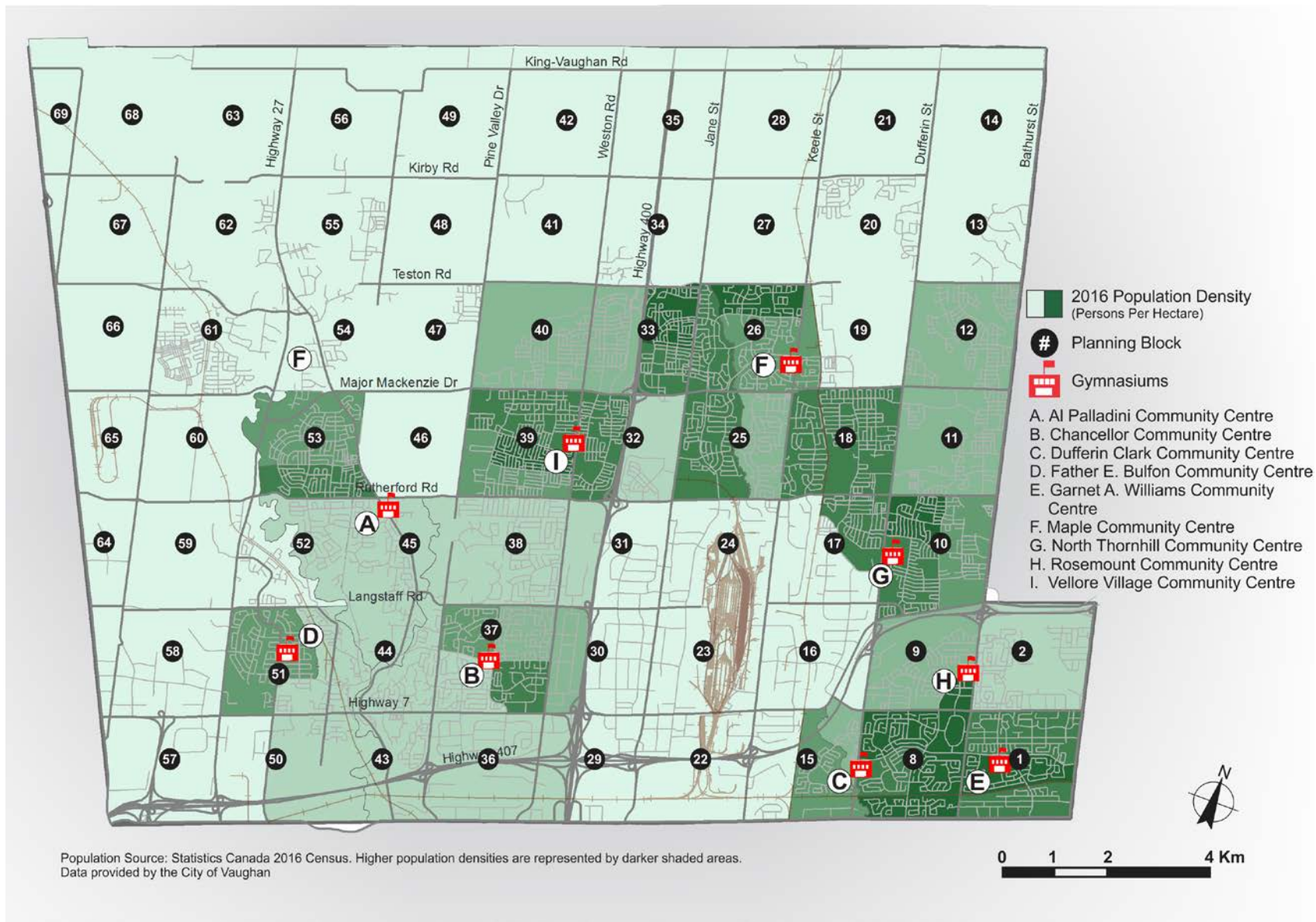
Municipal Indoor Pools



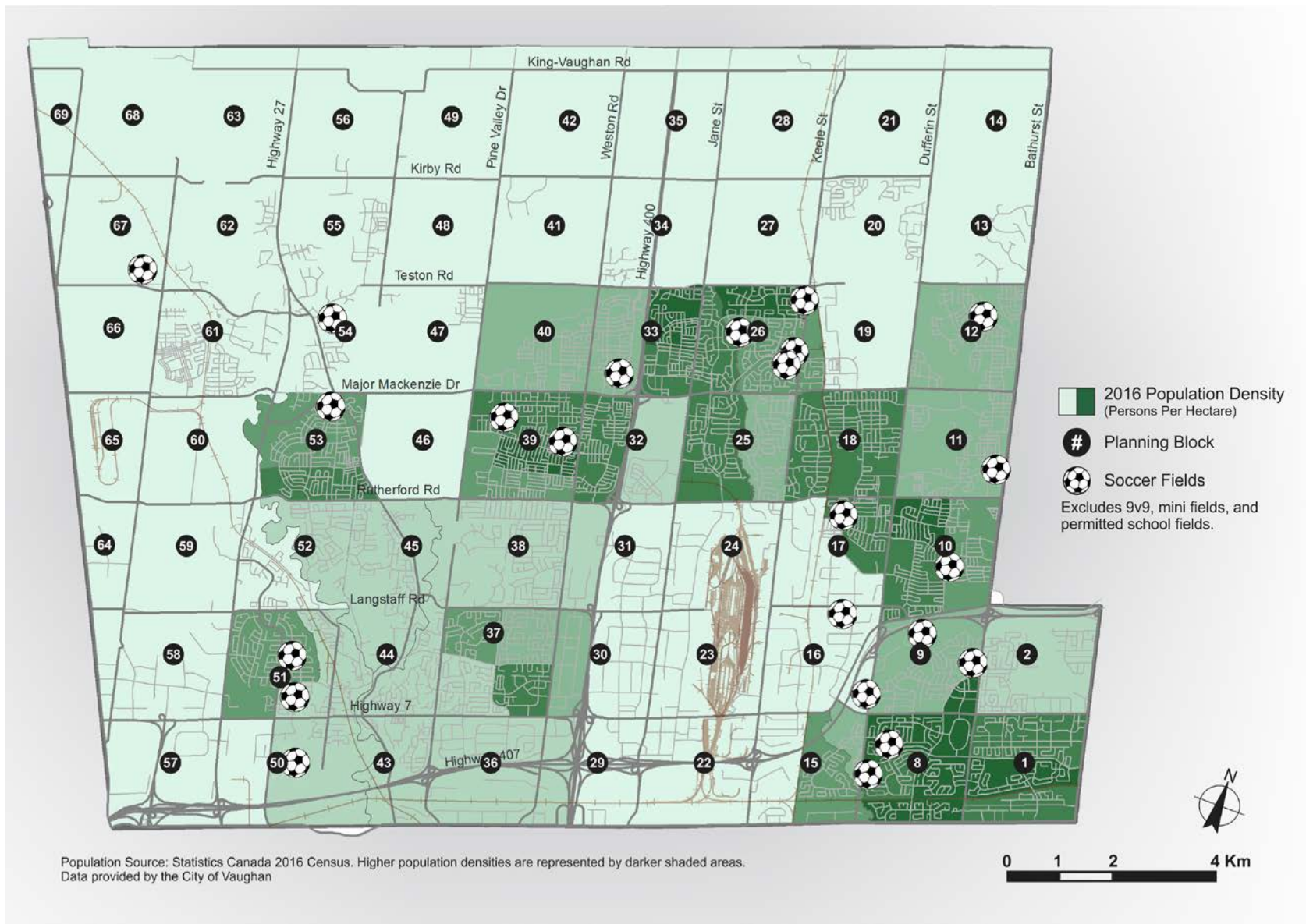
Municipal Fitness Centres



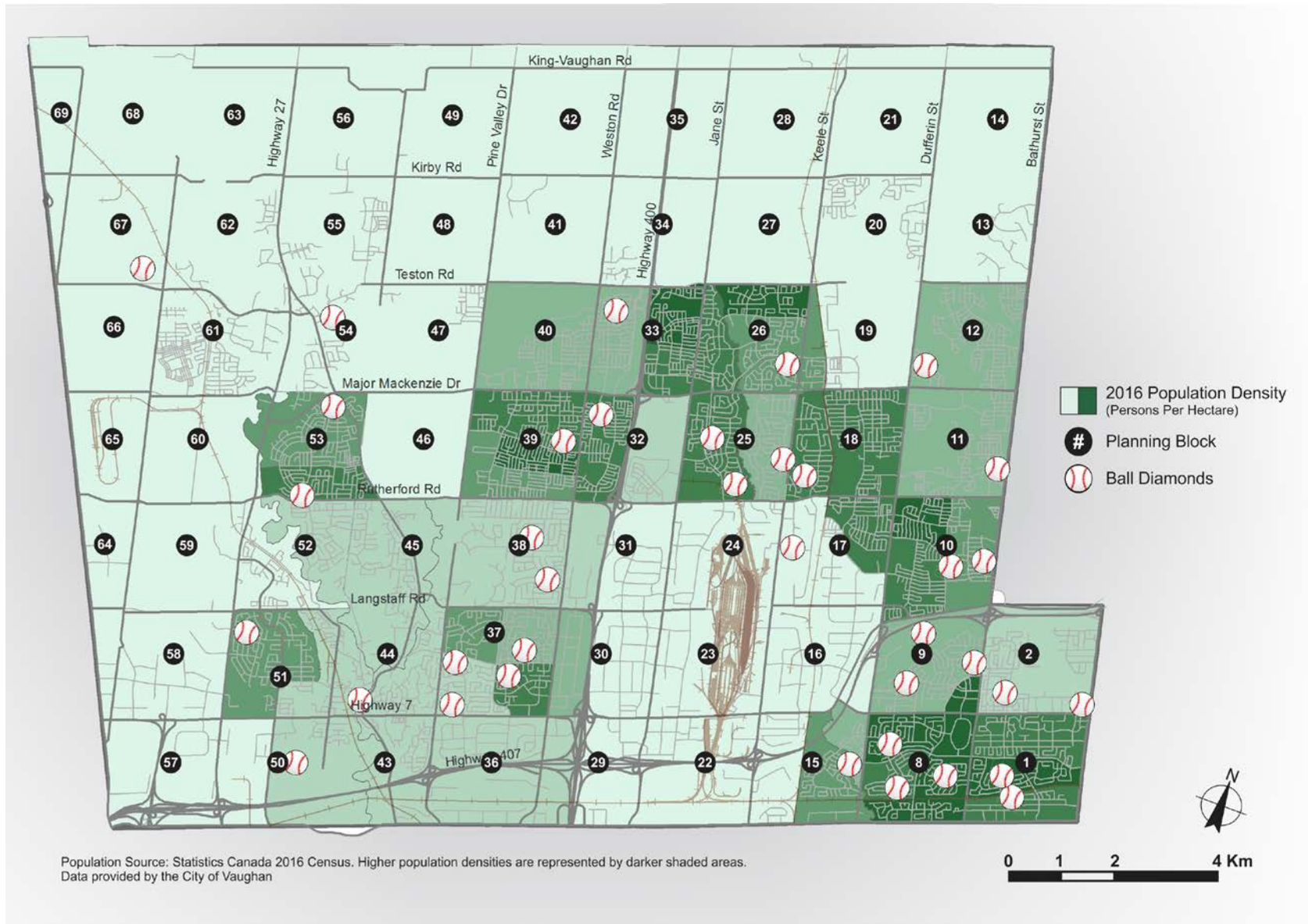
Municipal Gymnasiums



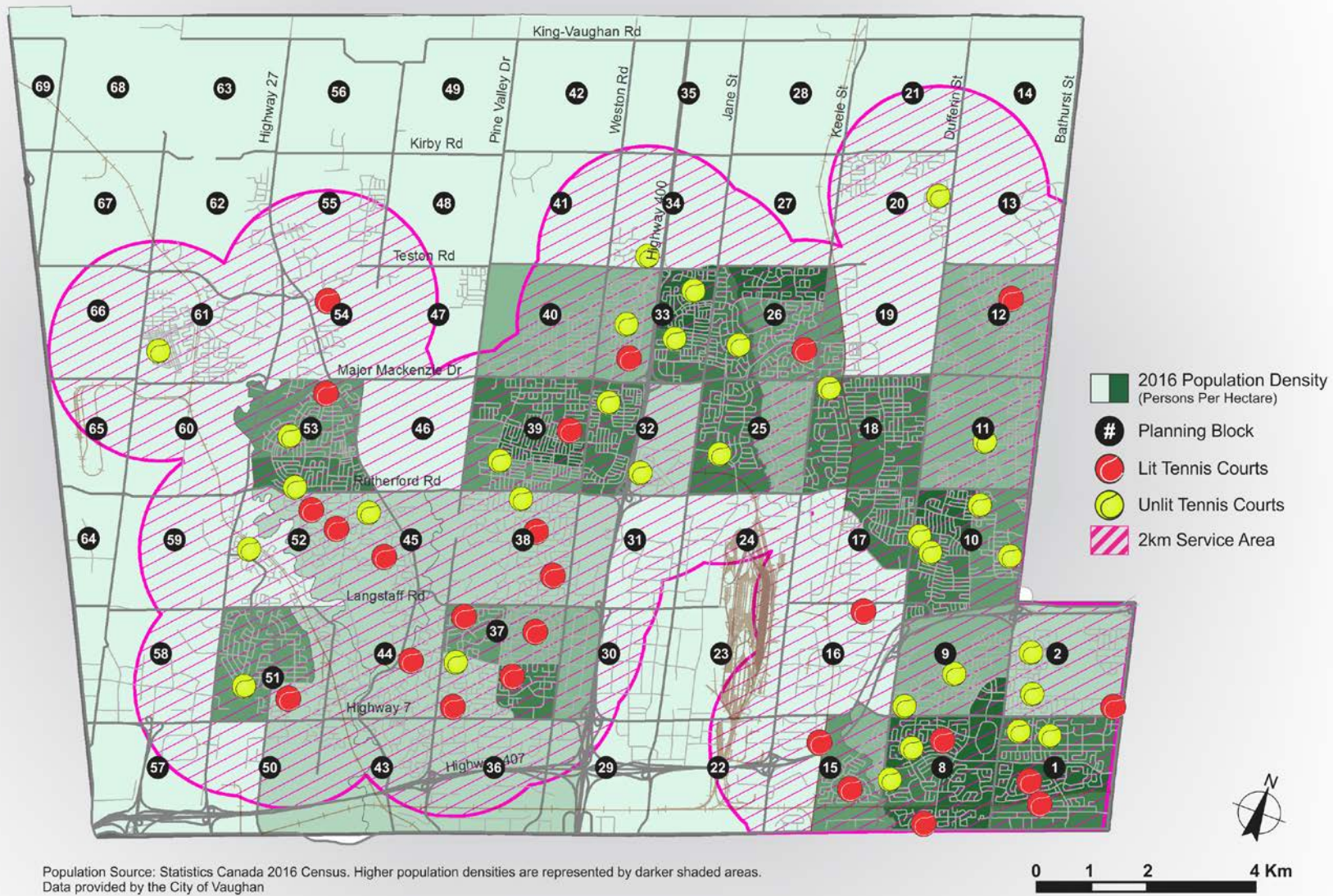
Municipal Outdoor Soccer Fields



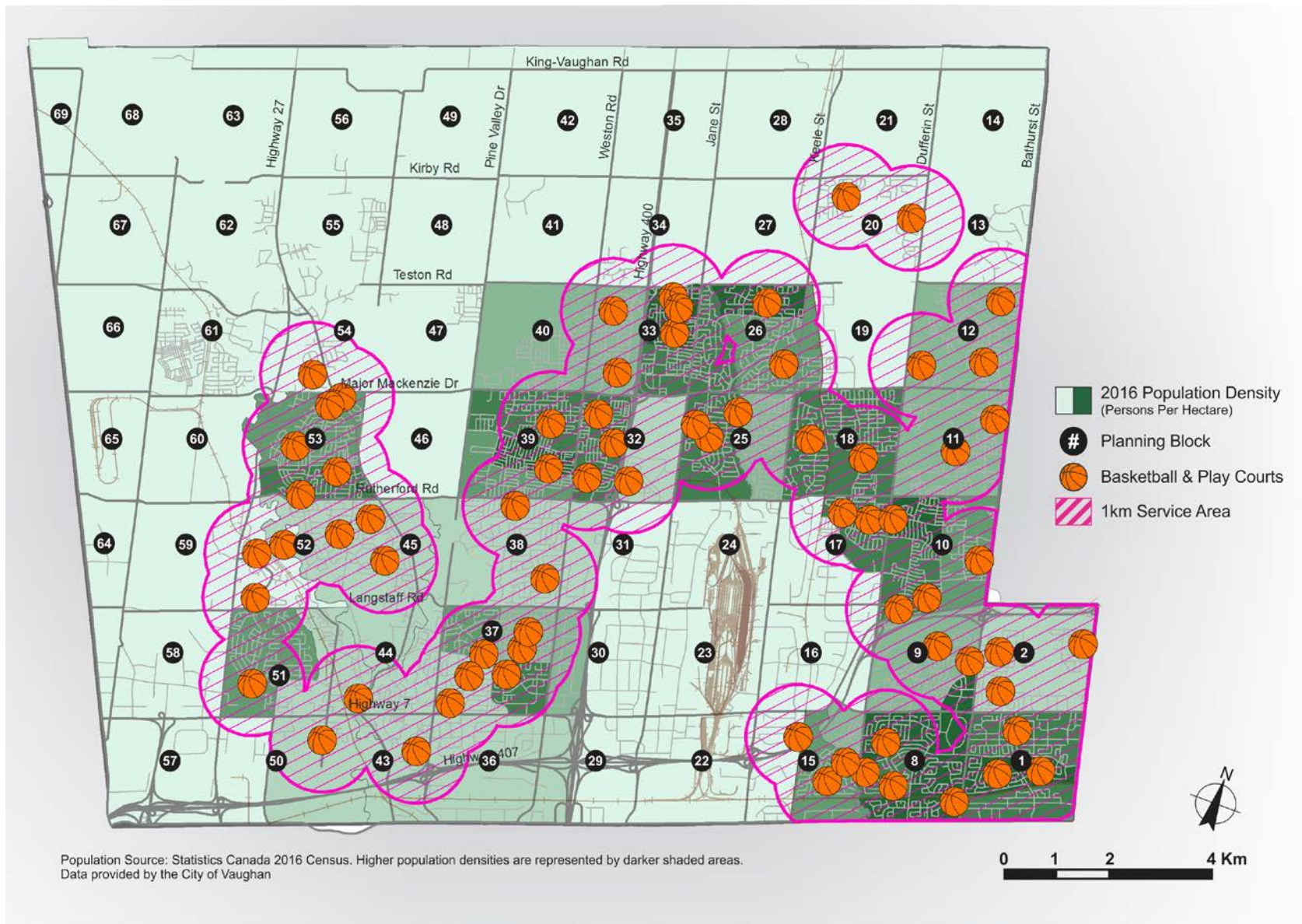
Municipal Ball Diamonds



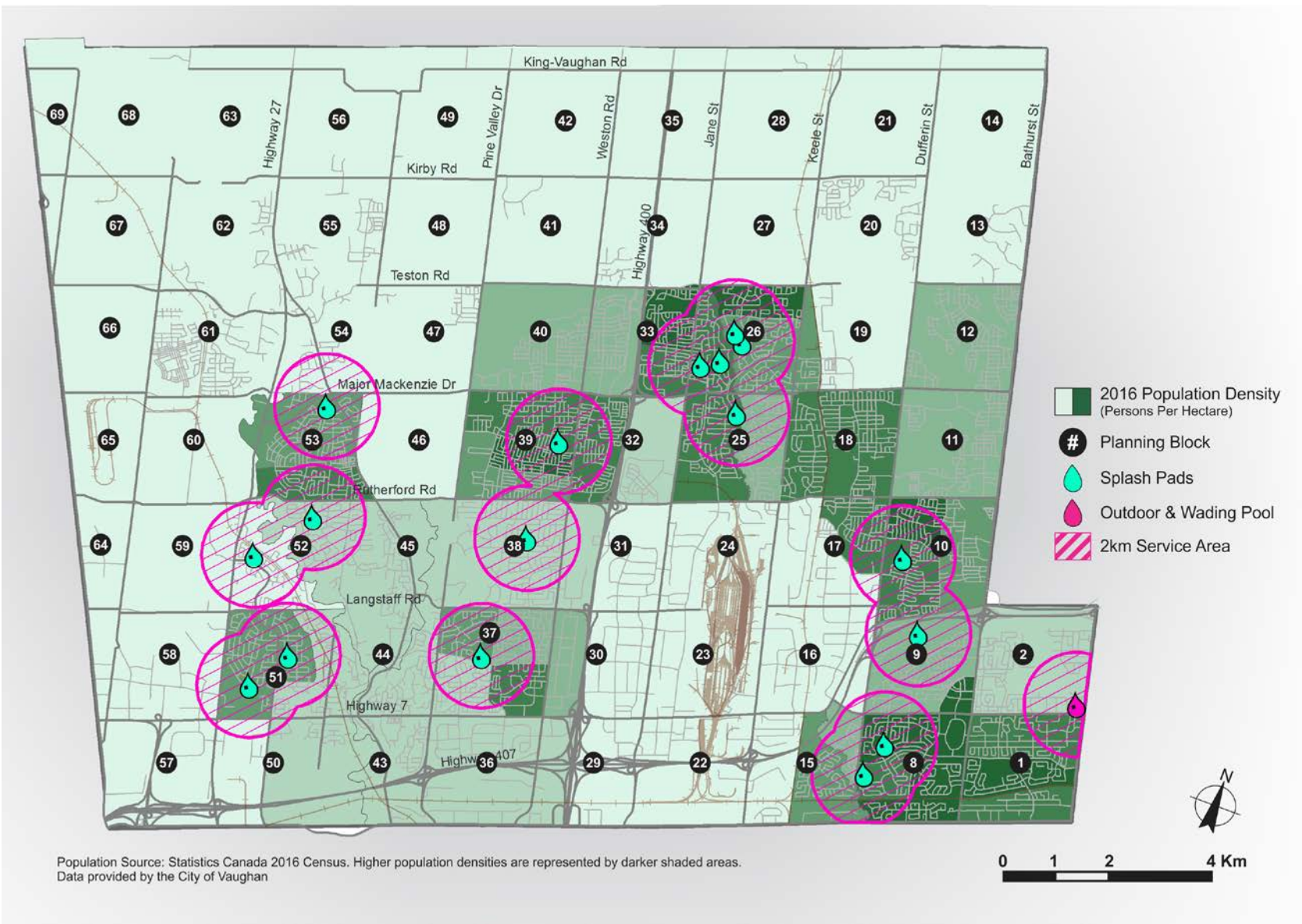
Municipal Outdoor Tennis Courts



Municipal Outdoor Basketball & Play Courts

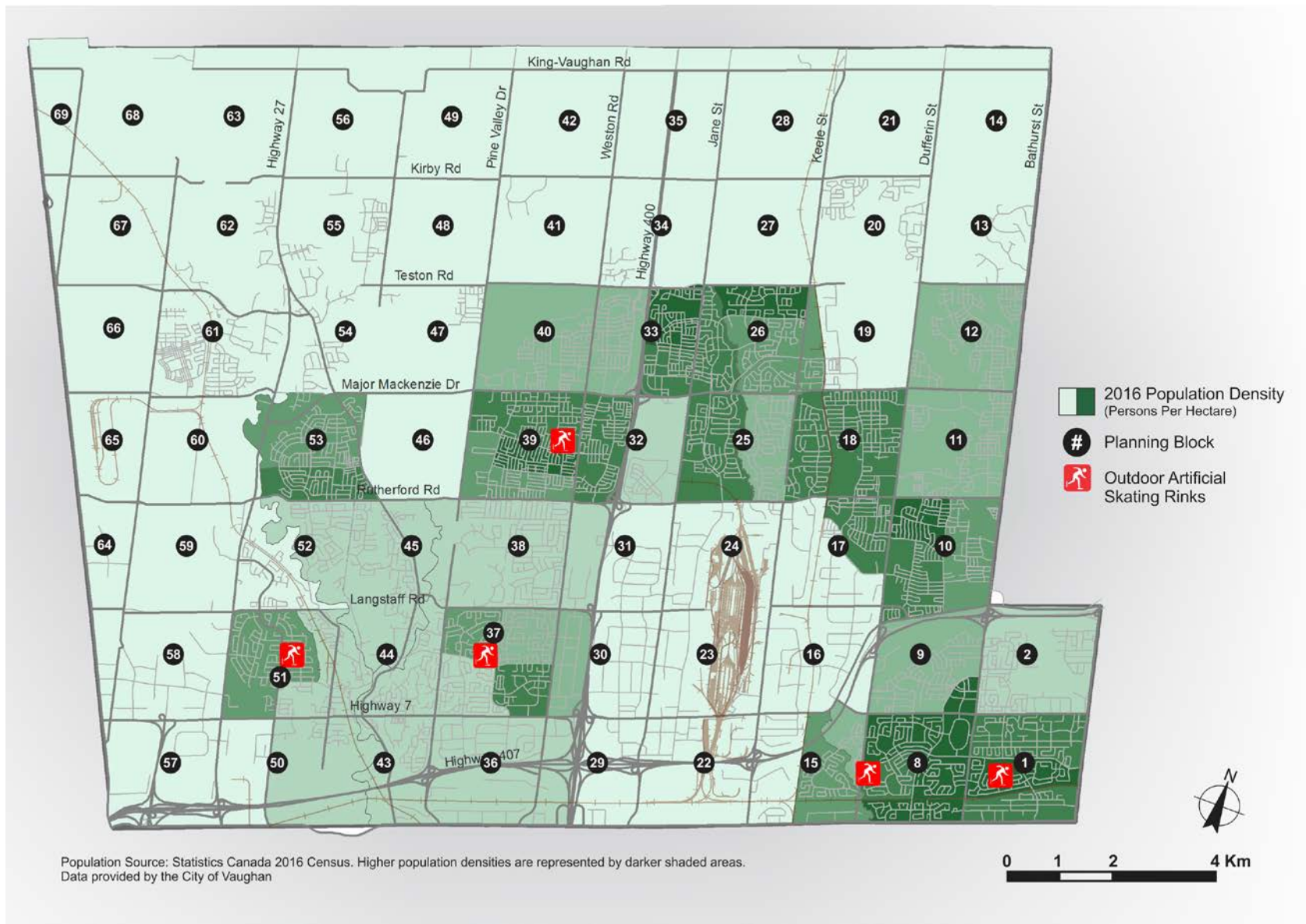


Municipal Outdoor Pools & Waterplay Facilities



Population Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census. Higher population densities are represented by darker shaded areas. Data provided by the City of Vaughan

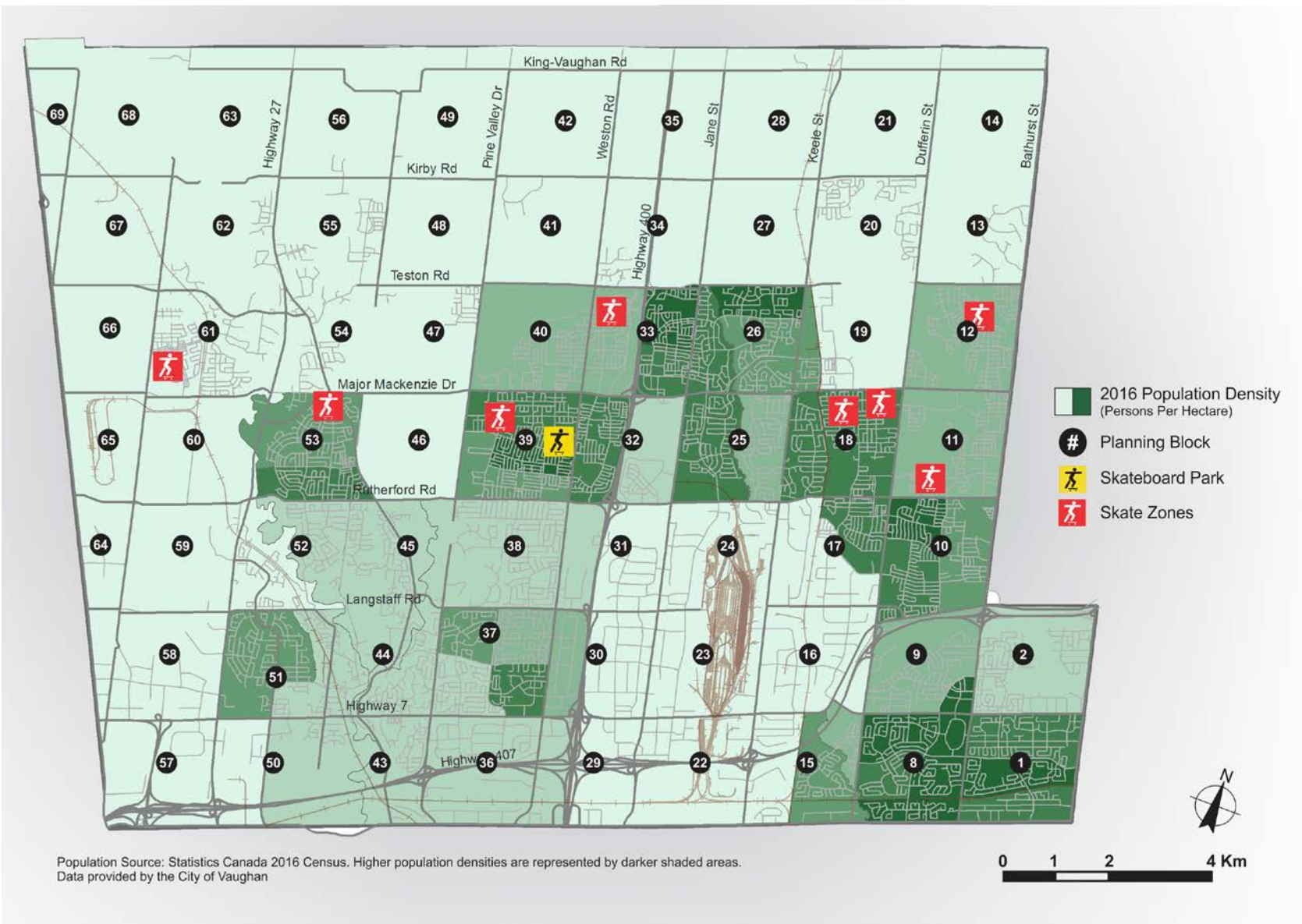
Municipal Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks



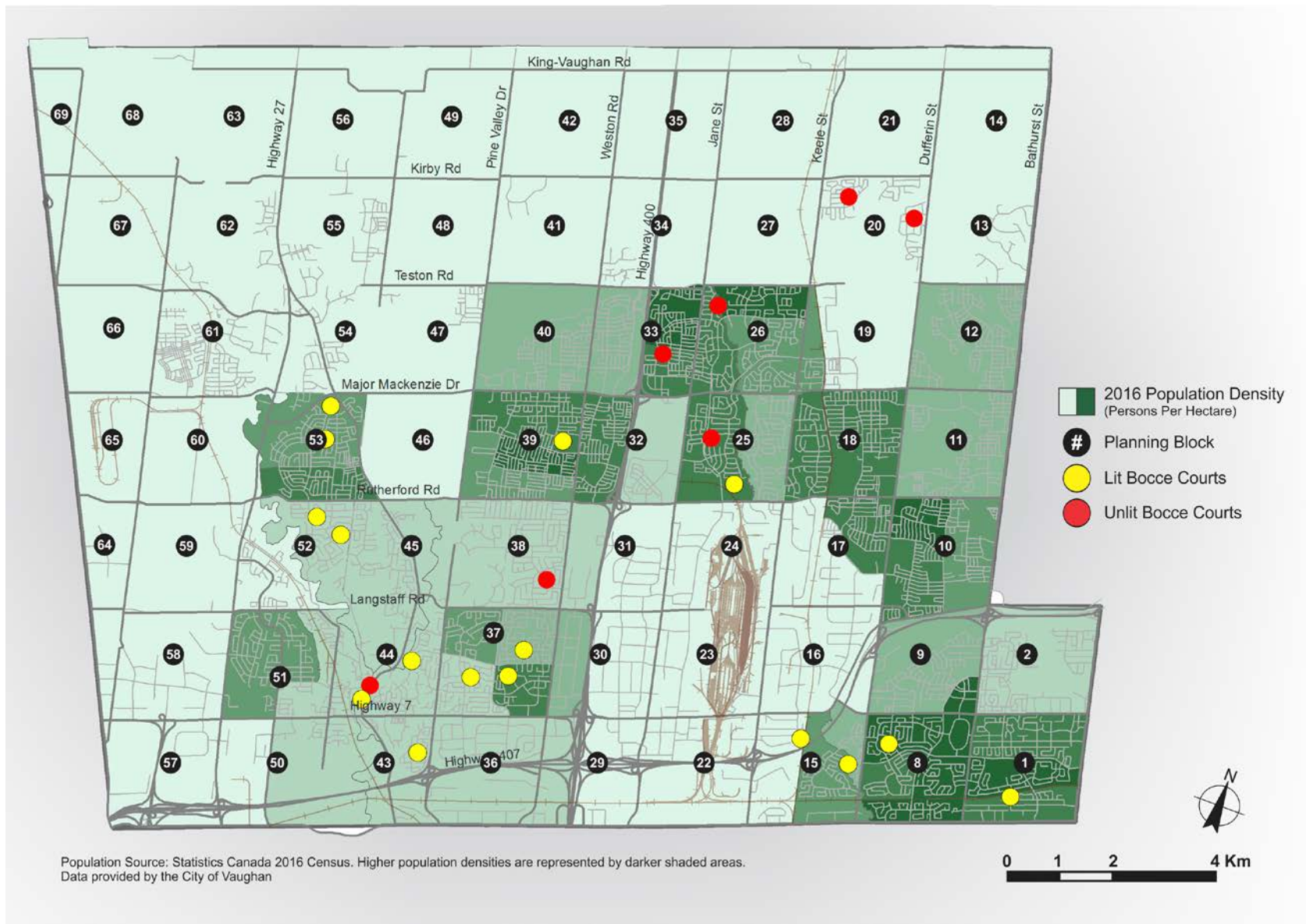
Municipal Playgrounds



Municipal Skateboard Parks & Zones



Municipal Outdoor Bocce Courts



Appendix B Intercept Survey

The intercept (pop-up) survey was administered by City staff at the following events:

- Concert in the Park (Wednesday, June 14, 2017)
- Movie Night – Ward 3 (Friday, June 16, 2017)
- Canada Day (Saturday, July 1, 2017)
- Concert in the Park – Ward 4 (Wednesday, June 21, 2017)
- Concert in the Park – Ward 2 (Wednesday, July 5, 2017)
- Concert in the Park – Ward 3 (Wednesday, July 12, 2017)
- Movie Night – Ward 4 (Thursday, July 13, 2017)
- Concert in the Park – Ward 1 (Wednesday, July 19, 2017)
- Concert in the Park – Ward 5 (Wednesday, August 2, 2017)

Detailed results are shown below.

Q01a Do you live in Vaughan?

	#	%
Yes	189	91%
No	18	9%
TOTAL	207	100%
No Response	3	

Q01b If yes, what are the first three digits of your postal code?

FSA	Community	#	Survey %	Canada Post %
L6A	Maple	54	29%	25%
L4J	Thornhill	33	18%	21%
L4H	Vellore/Kleinburg	55	29%	27%
L4L	Woodbridge	33	18%	20%
L4K	Concord	9	5%	6%
L0J	Rural	4	2%	1%
TOTAL		188	100%	100%
No Response		1		

Q02a In the past 12 months, have you visited any City of Vaughan indoor recreation facilities, such as community centres, pools or arenas?

	#	%
Yes	169	84%
No	32	16%
TOTAL	201	100%
No Response	9	

Q02b If yes, what indoor recreation facility did you visit the most?

	#	%
Al Palladini Community Centre	30	18%
Chancellor Community Centre	5	3%
Dufferin Clark Community Centre	17	10%
Father E. Bulfon Community Centre	9	5%
Garnet A. Williams Community Centre	8	5%
Maple Community Centre	30	18%
North Thornhill Community Centre	26	16%
Vellore Village Community Centre	34	20%
Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena	7	4%
TOTAL	166	100%
No Response/Don't Know	3	

Q02c Please tell us how satisfied you are with the following aspects of the City's indoor recreation facilities. For each item, please indicate if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied. If you don't know or cannot provide a rating, please say so.

	Not at all satisfied		Not very satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Very satisfied		Total		Don't know		No Response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Features and amenities	1	1%	5	3%	70	38%	107	58%	183	100%	12	7%	15
Programs and activities	3	2%	11	6%	66	37%	99	55%	179	100%	14	8%	17
Customer experience	5	3%	6	3%	77	43%	93	51%	181	100%	11	6%	18
Proximity and location	6	3%	3	2%	41	23%	131	72%	181	100%	10	6%	19

Q02d How can we improve the City's indoor recreation facilities?

(listed by number of mentions)	#
Improved maintenance	14
More affordable	14
More recreation activities	13
Longer Hours	8
More recreational swimming	7
More Facilities	7
More Children Spaces	6
Communication/Feedback	5
Accessibility	4
More Outdoor Space	3
More recreational swimming	2
Customer Support	1
More activities for teens	1
More events	1
Viewing Areas	1
Longer Hours	1

Q03a In the past 12 months, have you visited any City of Vaughan parks and open space, other than today?

	#	%
Yes	165	87%
No	24	13%
TOTAL	189	100%
No Response	21	

Q03b If yes, what park amenity did you use the most?

	#	%
Baseball or softball diamonds	3	2%
BMX bike parks	1	1%
Bocce courts	1	1%
Children's splash pads	36	22%
Community food gardens	1	1%
Cricket pitches	3	2%
Multi-use fields	2	1%
Nature trails	13	8%
Off-leash dog parks	1	1%
Outdoor basketball courts	4	2%
Outdoor fitness equipment	2	1%
Outdoor ice skating rinks	9	6%
Park pavilions	7	4%
Park washrooms	1	1%
Playgrounds	43	26%
Seating areas in parks	2	1%
Skateboard parks	1	1%
Soccer fields	27	17%
Tennis courts	6	4%
TOTAL	163	100%
No Response/ Don't Know	2	

Q03c Please tell us how satisfied you are with the following aspects of the City's parks and open space such as sports fields, splash pads, courts, and general park space. For each item, please indicate if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied. If you don't know or cannot provide a rating, please say so.

	Not at all satisfied		Not very satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Very satisfied		TOTAL		Don't know		No Response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Features and amenities	0	0%	3	2%	66	38%	103	60%	172	100%	13	8%	25
Programs and activities	1	1%	7	4%	68	43%	84	53%	160	100%	21	13%	29
Customer experience	0	0%	12	8%	67	42%	80	50%	159	100%	19	12%	32
Proximity and location	3	2%	5	3%	53	33%	101	62%	162	100%	13	8%	35

Q03d How can we improve the City's parks and outdoor facilities?

(listed by number of mentions)	#
improved maintenance	15
More amenities	14
Washrooms	6
Longer hours	4
More shade	4
Communication/awareness	2
Seating	2
Bike paths	1
By-law enforcement	1
Events	1
Garbage bins	1
Inclusivity	1
More employment	1
More for children	1
More parkland	1
More pet spaces	1
User friendly	1

Q04a In the past 12 months, have you visited the Vaughan Public Libraries, either in-person or online?

	#	%
Yes	157	82%
No	35	18%
TOTAL	192	100%
No Response	18	

Q04b If yes, which library did you visit the most?

	#	%
Ansley Grove Library (Chancellor)	6	4%
Bathurst Clark Resource Library	22	14%
Civic Centre Resource Library	24	16%
Dufferin Clark Library	14	9%
Kleinburg Library	2	1%
Maple Library	28	18%
Pierre Berton Resource Library	39	25%
Pleasant Ridge Library	10	6%
Woodbridge Library	9	6%
TOTAL	154	100%
No Response/ Don't Know	3	

Q04c Please tell us how satisfied you are with the following aspects of Vaughan Public Libraries. For each item, please indicate if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied. If you don't know or cannot provide a rating, please say so.

	Not at all satisfied		Not very satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Very satisfied		Total		Don't know		No Response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Features and amenities	1	1%	3	2%	36	22%	121	75%	161	100%	20	12%	29
Programs and activities	0	0%	6	4%	38	24%	112	72%	156	100%	22	14%	32
Customer experience	1	1%	2	1%	30	19%	125	79%	158	100%	20	13%	32
Proximity and location	1	1%	3	2%	31	19%	126	78%	161	100%	18	11%	31

Q04d How can we improve Vaughan Public Libraries?

(listed by number of mentions)	#
Increase selection	13
More activities	6
Longer hours	4
Accessibility	2
Improved maintenance	2
Larger facility	2
More activities for children	2
Better customer service	1
More affordable	1
Prevent closure	1
User friendly	1
More activities for seniors	1

Appendix C Online Survey

Detailed results are shown below.

Q01 In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your household participated in any of the following activities? (select all that apply)

	#	%
Walking for Leisure	341	67%
Indoor Swimming	256	50%
Individual Fitness or Weight Training	202	40%
Biking	196	38%
Running or Jogging	157	31%
Hiking	152	30%
Group Fitness or Weight Training	125	24%
Indoor Ice Sports	110	22%
Dog Walking	104	20%
Day Camps	95	19%
Outdoor Swimming	94	18%
Tennis	93	18%
Outdoor Soccer	90	18%
Gymnasium Sports	87	17%
Outdoor Ice Skating	86	17%
Outdoor Basketball	82	16%
Other	78	15%
Softball or Baseball	61	12%
Other Field Sports	60	12%
Indoor Soccer	49	10%
Skateboarding	25	5%
Seniors' Activities	25	5%
Bocce	19	4%
Pickleball	4	1%

Q02 Are you or members of your household able to participate in recreation activities as often as you would like?

	#	%
Yes	294	58%
No	183	36%
Don't know	34	7%
TOTAL	511	100%

Q03 If no, why not? (select up to two)

	#	%
Lack of personal time/too busy	86	47%
Program not offered at convenient time	45	25%
Lack of facilities	41	22%
Lack of money/too expensive	31	17%
Lack of programs	26	14%
Lack of motivation	17	9%
Lack of information/unaware of opportunities	17	9%
Other (please specify)	11	6%
Lack of transportation/facility too far away	6	3%
Health problems/disability/age	6	3%
Don't know	4	2%

Q04 How satisfied are you with the recreation opportunities in Vaughan for each of the following age groups?

	Very satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Not very satisfied		Not at all satisfied		TOTAL		Don't know		No Response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Children (0-12 years old)	121	39%	144	46%	34	11%	11	4%	310	100%	104	34%	97
Teens (13-18 years old)	56	30%	81	44%	32	17%	17	9%	186	100%	200	108%	125
Adults (19-54 years old)	65	19%	179	52%	73	21%	29	8%	346	100%	79	23%	86
Older Adults (55+ years old)	75	33%	89	39%	46	20%	19	8%	229	100%	162	71%	120

Q05 Are there any parks or recreation PROGRAMS that you or members of your household would like to see offered in Vaughan that are NOT currently available?

	#	%
Yes	238	49%
No	93	19%
Don't know	150	31%
TOTAL	481	100%
No Response	30	

**Q06 Top 5 responses for:
If yes, what PROGRAMS would you like to see offered?**

	#
Seniors programs	44
Cricket	31
Cultural activities	22
Baseball	13
Yoga	12
Dance classes	11

Q07 Have you or members of your household used community centres operated by the City of Vaughan within the past 12 months?

	#	%
Yes	383	81%
No	78	17%
Don't know	9	2%
TOTAL	470	100%
No Response	41	

Q08 If yes, which City of Vaughan community centre does your household use most often?

	#	%
Maple Community Centre	87	23%
North Thornhill Community Centre	84	22%
Vellore Village Community Centre	53	14%
Al Palladini Community Centre	45	12%
Garnet A. Williams Community Centre	25	7%
Dufferin Clark Community Centre	22	6%
Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena	21	6%
Father E. Bulfon Community Centre	17	4%
Chancellor Community Centre	13	3%
Don't know	11	3%
TOTAL	378	100%
No Response	5	

Q09 What would encourage you or members of your household to use Vaughan community centres more? (select up to three)

	#	%
Greater variety of programs or special events	158	34%
More affordable fees/prices	151	33%
More community centres closer to your home	105	23%
Programs at better times	95	21%
Updated community centres	91	20%
Extended hours of operation	78	17%
More drop-in/unscheduled opportunities	76	16%
More information on what is available	64	14%
Other (please specify)	64	14%
More indoor activity spaces (e.g. pools, fitness centres, gymnasiums, rooms, arenas)	52	11%
Improved cleanliness	48	10%
Less crowded	33	7%
Improved accessibility from public transit, walking or biking	30	6%
Improved customer service	29	6%
More support spaces (e.g. washrooms, change rooms, seating areas)	21	5%
More car parking	15	3%
Nothing/not interested in using community centres	15	3%
TOTAL	1125	
No Response	48	

Q10 Have you or members of your household used Vaughan parks and open space within the past 12 months?

	#	%
Yes	395	85%
No	55	12%
Don't know	12	3%
TOTAL	462	100%
No Response	49	

Q11 If yes, what type of park or open space did you use most?

	#	%
An active park with sports fields, playgrounds or courts	145	37%
Both equally	133	34%
A passive park with open space and trails	94	24%
Other (please specify)	13	3%
Unsure	9	2%
TOTAL	394	100%

Q12 What would encourage you or members of your household to use Vaughan parks and open space more? (select up to three)

	#	%
More trails closer to your home	131	29%
More parks closer to your home	129	28%
Updated parks	111	24%
More passive amenities (e.g. pathways, seating, shade, open space)	105	23%
More active amenities (e.g. sports fields, playgrounds, courts)	104	23%
Updated trails (e.g. improved surfaces and wayfinding/signage)	84	18%
Greater variety of programs or special events	64	14%
More information on what is available	61	13%
Improved cleanliness	46	10%
More affordable fees/prices	42	9%
More car parking	37	8%
Improved accessibility from public transit, walking or biking	27	6%
Programs at better times	25	5%
More drop-in/unscheduled opportunities	24	5%
Nothing/not interested in using parks	23	5%
Less crowded	16	3%
Improved customer service	8	2%
TOTAL	1037	
No Response	53	

Q13 Have you or members of your household used Vaughan Public Libraries within the past 12 months?

	#	%
Yes	390	85%
No	61	13%
Don't know	7	2%
TOTAL	458	100%
No Response	53	

Q14 If yes, which public library does your household use most often? (select one only)

	#	%
Civic Centre Resource Library	90	23%
Pleasant Ridge Library	67	17%
Pierre Berton Resource Library	59	15%
Bathurst Clark Resource Library	54	14%
Maple Library	49	13%
Woodbridge Library	33	8%
Ansley Grove Library (Chancellor)	16	4%
Kleinburg Library	8	2%
Dufferin Clark Library	7	2%
Don't know	6	2%
TOTAL	389	100%

Q15 If yes, what does your household use the public library for?
(select up to three)

	#	%
Borrow books, CDs, Blu-Rays or DVDs	283	73%
Read or relax	122	31%
Participate in Library programs or events	110	28%
Study or do work	104	27%
Download eBooks, music or movies	52	13%
Meet people or socialize	47	12%
Get help from Library staff	40	10%
Use WiFi	39	10%
Use Library computers or notebooks	36	9%
Use new technologies available in libraries	27	7%
Use the Library's website	19	5%
Use online databases	16	4%
Other (please specify)	14	4%
Rent meeting or boardrooms	8	2%
Don't know	3	1%
TOTAL	920	
No Response	122	

Q16 What would encourage you or members of your household to use Vaughan Public Libraries more? (select up to three)

	#	%
Other (please specify)	89	20%
Longer hours of operation	85	19%
Convenient locations/libraries collocated with community centres	80	18%
More libraries	79	17%
Food and beverage services	71	16%
Separate areas for children and teens	65	14%
More quiet space to study and work	59	13%
Programs at better times	58	13%
More comfortable seating for reading	57	13%
Faster Wi-Fi	46	10%
Outdoor reading garden	44	10%
Improved or renovated facilities	43	9%
More information on what is available	40	9%
Improved exterior signage	39	9%
Nothing/not interested in using the library	33	7%
More group and meeting rooms	31	7%
More parking	29	6%
Improved website	15	3%
Improved customer service	14	3%
Improved cleanliness	11	2%
Improved lighting	9	2%
TOTAL	997	
No Response	58	

Q17 What type of library materials would you or members of your household like to see more of at Vaughan Public Libraries? (select up to three)

	#	%
Bestsellers or popular titles	171	38%
Foreign language materials	112	25%
Magazines or newspapers	110	24%
Blu-rays or DVDs	99	22%
Fiction books	96	21%
eBooks	93	21%
Non-fiction books	76	17%
Digital content (e.g., online databases)	73	16%
Other (please specify)	50	11%
CDs or talking books	45	10%
Large print books	36	8%
Nothing / not interested in using the library	35	8%
TOTAL	996	
No Response	58	

Q18 How important are each of the following items?

	Very important		Somewhat important		Not very important		Not at all important		TOTAL		Don't know		No response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Indoor recreation facilities	304	71%	101	24%	17	4%	7	2%	429	100%	3	1%	79
Parks with athletic fields and playgrounds	289	68%	104	25%	22	5%	8	2%	423	100%	4	1%	84
Parks and open spaces	301	71%	94	22%	22	5%	6	1%	423	100%	3	1%	85
Vaughan Public Libraries	310	72%	97	23%	17	4%	7	2%	431	100%	1	0%	79
Trails and pathways	256	61%	135	32%	23	5%	6	1%	420	100%	4	1%	87

Q19 What is your level of satisfaction with the following items in Vaughan?

	Very satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Not very satisfied		Not at all satisfied		TOTAL		Don't know		No response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Indoor recreation facilities	90	22%	268	65%	47	11%	7	2%	412	100%	20	5%	79
Parks with athletic fields and playgrounds	83	21%	231	58%	55	14%	26	7%	395	100%	35	9%	81
Parks and open spaces	91	23%	219	56%	71	18%	11	3%	392	100%	35	9%	84
Vaughan Public Libraries	226	54%	161	39%	24	6%	5	1%	416	100%	15	4%	80
Trails and pathways	79	20%	221	57%	70	18%	16	4%	386	100%	35	9%	90

Q20 Property taxes in the City of Vaughan in part allow the City to spend money to renew parks and facilities. In the future, the City may need additional funds to maintain these assets. How strongly would you support or oppose spending ADDITIONAL public funds to improve the number and quality of the following facility types?

	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		TOTAL		Don't know		No response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Seating areas in parks	170	48%	137	39%	27	8%	19	5%	353	100%	49	14%	158
Park washrooms	205	57%	101	28%	28	8%	26	7%	360	100%	46	13%	151
Playgrounds	214	55%	113	29%	32	8%	27	7%	386	100%	22	6%	125
Indoor pools	161	42%	157	41%	36	9%	29	8%	383	100%	28	7%	128
Public libraries	213	52%	123	30%	38	9%	35	9%	409	100%	12	3%	102
Youth centres	133	39%	146	43%	37	11%	25	7%	341	100%	62	18%	170
Seniors' centres	161	44%	139	38%	41	11%	27	7%	368	100%	43	12%	143
Paved multi-use trails	149	44%	128	38%	36	11%	28	8%	341	100%	53	16%	170
Acquisition of parkland	152	41%	145	39%	39	11%	32	9%	368	100%	32	9%	143
Children's splash pads	151	40%	150	40%	42	11%	30	8%	373	100%	30	8%	138
Nature trails	180	48%	117	31%	50	13%	26	7%	373	100%	24	6%	138
Park pavilions	135	39%	128	37%	54	16%	31	9%	348	100%	45	13%	163
Outdoor basketball courts	93	28%	152	46%	47	14%	38	12%	330	100%	65	20%	181
Arenas	78	21%	191	52%	57	15%	42	11%	368	100%	32	9%	143
Tennis courts	106	32%	133	41%	56	17%	33	10%	328	100%	69	21%	183
Fitness centres	118	31%	158	41%	72	19%	33	9%	381	100%	31	8%	130
Outdoor ice skating rinks	119	33%	141	39%	46	13%	59	16%	365	100%	33	9%	146
Gymnasiums	88	24%	169	46%	77	21%	33	9%	367	100%	40	11%	144
Multi-use fields	89	27%	142	43%	60	18%	39	12%	330	100%	69	21%	181
Community food gardens	99	32%	113	36%	49	16%	51	16%	312	100%	83	27%	199
Indoor facilities	126	35%	119	33%	60	17%	58	16%	363	100%	39	11%	148
Soccer fields	77	24%	135	42%	67	21%	46	14%	325	100%	75	23%	186
Baseball or softball diamonds	73	23%	136	42%	68	21%	46	14%	323	100%	77	24%	188
Outdoor fitness equipment	85	26%	105	32%	73	23%	61	19%	324	100%	72	22%	187
Off-leash dog parks	83	26%	98	30%	62	19%	79	25%	322	100%	75	23%	189
Skateboard parks	49	15%	119	37%	79	25%	72	23%	319	100%	70	22%	192
BMX bike parks	50	16%	119	37%	78	24%	74	23%	321	100%	77	24%	190
Bocce courts	38	13%	97	33%	92	31%	67	23%	294	100%	100	34%	217
Pickleball courts	36	14%	76	30%	75	29%	68	27%	255	100%	136	53%	256
Cricket pitches	58	18%	76	24%	89	28%	94	30%	317	100%	90	28%	204

Q21 Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Totals		Don't know		No response
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
The City of Vaughan's parks are important to your quality of life.	273	65%	128	31%	15	4%	3	1%	419	100%	5	1%	87
The City of Vaughan's recreation facilities are important to your quality of life.	250	60%	138	33%	27	6%	2	0%	417	100%	8	2%	86
Vaughan Public Libraries are important to your quality of life.	258	63%	114	28%	29	7%	11	3%	412	100%	11	3%	88
Parks are distributed equitably across the entire city of Vaughan.	89	26%	154	45%	71	21%	25	7%	339	100%	82	24%	90
Community centres are distributed equitably across the entire city of Vaughan.	117	32%	160	43%	67	18%	24	7%	368	100%	56	15%	87
Public libraries are distributed equitably across the entire city of Vaughan.	147	40%	156	42%	49	13%	16	4%	368	100%	55	15%	88
Parks and recreation programs are affordable for your household.	125	31%	179	45%	67	17%	27	7%	398	100%	24	6%	89
New community centres and libraries should consider partnerships with non-profit service providers	185	48%	166	43%	24	6%	13	3%	388	100%	36	9%	87
New community centres and libraries should consider partnerships with the private sector	101	29%	136	39%	62	18%	47	14%	346	100%	76	22%	89

Q22 What year were you born?

	Response	2017 Age
Mean	1968	49
Median	1973	44

Q23 What is the total number of persons within your household that fall into the following age categories?

	#	Survey	Census
		%	%
Under 10 years old	339	20%	12%
10-19 years old	251	15%	14%
20-34 years old	244	14%	18%
35-54 years old	547	32%	30%
55 years old and over	304	18%	26%
TOTAL	1685	100%	100%

Q24 What are the first three digits of your postal code?

FSA	Community	#	Survey %	Canada Post %
L6A	Maple	125	29%	25%
L4J	Thornhill	106	25%	27%
L4H	Vellore/Kleinburg	83	19%	21%
L4L	Woodbridge	65	15%	20%
L4K	Concord	21	5%	6%
L0J	Rural	16	4%	1%
	Other	9	2%	
	Don't know	7	2%	
TOTAL		432	100%	100%
No Response		79		

Q25 How long have you lived in Vaughan?

	#	%
Less than 5 years	72	17%
5 to 10 years	100	23%
11 years or more	249	58%
Don't know	6	1%
TOTAL	427	100%
No Response	84	

Appendix D Stakeholder Workshops

Focus Group #1

September 19, 2017 School Boards & Agencies

Attendance: Conseil Scolaire Catholique Mon Avenir, Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, York Region (Active Transportation), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Strengths

- Noted the importance of trails and connectivity
- This plan provides a good opportunity to make good things better - with growth and intensified development
- There are complementary uses between parks and schools; this provides opportunities to work together and identify needs in the community

Trends

- Steady growth in French and French-Catholic student populations
- Schools are being used as de-facto park sites more often with high-density development, but school lot sizes are not getting any larger and need to also house parking, portables, the school itself, etc.
- Increasing sedentary lifestyles, people are spending more time in front of screens, not being active, all of this negatively impacts on public health
- Intensifying through urban growth centres (VMC)
- There is a need for a more balanced transportation system, this encourages use of the transportation master plan as well as the pedestrian and bike master plan
- Huge demand for use of TRCA facilities and the events that are run out of them (Maple Syrup Festival was very popular)
- Demand for trails is building for formal parking spaces as users are starting to park on side-streets to access them
- Opportunities to integrate programming and partner with the City
- Trying to grow programming but limited by funds and facility availability

Challenges & Needs

Parks & Outdoor Recreation

- Look outside conventional green spaces (Toronto parks master plan as an example)
- Cemeteries being used as trails and running routes - a new approach to green spaces. Look at every opportunity to build on green/active/recreational space. Ensure parks and recreation spaces are connected through trails and signage. Use a unified city-wide approach to provision and maximize use of space.
- Single-use, low density residential - no places to walk to. We need more integrated, complete communities. If we get the planning right it will solve itself.

- The school boards are interested in continuing partnership projects with the City for use of secondary school sports fields.
- Increased demand for use of passive lands. Activities like zip-lining, obstacle courses, cycling and running events.
- Would like to see a skating trail, public art, trail signage, wayfinding promotion.
- TRCA has an app that people can link to through QR codes and provides wayfinding

Indoor Recreation

- Schools rent/permit spaces on evenings and weekends. Most in the GTA are fully booked evenings and weekends; this might present an opportunity for a reciprocal agreement. Some boards may have empty classrooms and see if there's any programming that can be done to maximize use of schools that sit largely vacant during the day.
- There are challenges with commitment and uptake from the public and agencies. Difficult to coordinate projects, but if planned properly can be very successful.

Libraries

- VPL has a mandate to reach out to schools and find ways to coordinate programming and resources with local school boards (example at PBRL)

Access & Inclusivity

- Think about year-round activities. Consider more natural play spaces and play areas. Doesn't have to be a typical playground structure. "risky play is here to stay".
- Regardless of age, people tend to stick within these communities. How can the parks and play spaces grow and stand the test of time as the community growth and ages with it?
- Seating has been second thought in the past but seating, shade, washrooms are priorities now. Would love to see a picnic table in every park. Always think about parks as green fields, open spaces – but now more urban parks and how do those spaces connect and all fit in together.
- Age will change, but the people will not. Timeless elements, flexible elements. Planning from an age-friendly basis.

Working Together & Adding Value

- All comes down to integrating, finding compatible uses and sharing resources.

Final Thoughts & Advice

- Focus on a couple of "gold" actions rather than trying to do it all to accomplish more
- Listen to all partners - everyone has their own perspective. Vested interest to promote organizations that try to create a better community.
- Requirements for accessible trails are not necessarily compatible for maintaining and providing natural trails. Hoping to integrate other people's goals.

Focus Group #2

September 19, 2017 Sports Groups #1

Attendance: Kleinburg Tennis Club, Vaughan Soccer Club, Woodbridge Little League, Vaughan Slo-Pitch, City of Vaughan Baseball & Softball Association, Glen Shields Football Club, Little League Canada, Ahmadiya Youth Association, Woodbridge Strikers Soccer Club, Gen X Sports Leagues

Strengths

- Softball
 - Rec & Roll is a great communication tool. It is the standard when it comes to programs. Lets users know about facilities available and alternative programs
- Soccer
 - City is very approachable, always willing to work with organizations, lots of accolades for soccer and sport amenities
- Tennis
 - Recreation complexes are quite well placed throughout the community
 - Every community has green space. Parkettes in all new development. Good response to growth

Trends

- Softball
 - Has become popular again. Complete reverse since last ATMP. Heavy interest in sport growth and kids wanting to play ball because they see the Blue Jays.
 - Age 4 to pre-teen. Want to start at grass-roots level.
 - Had to control volume so not over-subscribing
 - Registration was approximately 220 and turned about 300 kids away.
 - As a result, kids are moving to different sports or playing elsewhere
 - 18/19-year-olds want to continue playing
 - Biggest growth from 23/24-35 lots of young adults are settling down having kids and want to get back in the diamond.
 - Seeing growth in co-ed and families wanting to play together.
 - Tough to balance with allocation, had to refuse 12 teams of players for Friday night leagues.
 - ~950 players registered in slo-pitch; approximately 85% are Vaughan residents.
- Soccer
 - Demographic growth generates different types of sports and activities drawing interest.
 - Sometimes costs are an issue.
 - Traffic related to growth creates issues with parking, travel times, etc.
 - Growth at ages 4-6. Participation age ranges from 4-65.
 - High performance teams with 4-5 practices and one game because of Ontario Soccer, 5700 (second largest club in York region) indoor uses soccer centre and Sportsplex, Downsview, etc., they go wherever the demand exists for it.

- Baseball
 - Echoing what the growth of the game has been. ~2000 kids, 66% growth in the last 2 years.
 - Growth has been at young ages as well as the 13-16 age group.
 - Tryouts and travel teams have grown, house league is 98-99% Vaughan kids
- Bocce
 - Recreational co-ed adult bocce registration has increased; started with 90% male and are now about 50:50
 - Average age is between 30-35 consisting of husbands/wives, friends, families
 - Trying to get younger players playing.
 - Now moving from indoor-outdoor combo.
- Tennis
 - Outdoor clubs west of Keele represented. 3 court complexes are preferred and the demand is in Woodbridge, Maple, Kleinburg and Concord.
 - Not much available in affordable range.
 - Programs have increased 4-5x over in the last few years from internal promotion. Programs such as junior teams have quadrupled, some are highly competitive, no longer have enough court space.
 - Professional drive from local tennis stars and low participation cost.
 - Registration includes children to older adults (70 years old).
 - Total registration is about 140. Could grow membership but had to try not to so much because of ability to meet demand
- Cricket
 - No cricket pitches in the City
 - Participant ages range from 11-40, majority between 20-30.
 - Want to play on a proper outdoor cricket facility
 - Spending a lot of money to rent fields outside Vaughan.
 - No facility for the youth to go and play a game they love. Nothing concrete has moved forward despite multiple site plan submissions.
 - Have rented an indoor facility in Toronto.
 - Mississauga, Brampton, Toronto cricket clubs have been travel destinations.

Challenges & Needs

Parks & Outdoor Recreation

- Softball
 - Biggest challenge is to grow the sport and keep children playing.
 - Policy restriction limits to only softball rather than hardball. Some issues with the philosophies of various programs, right now policy states that if you want to play hardball you need to register specifically with that league. Players are forced to play in multiple leagues or find another league.
 - Older kids want to switch to hardball but are not able to because of City policy.
 - Permitting is restricted to softball only – inconsistent with other jurisdictions
 - Facilities were adequate at one point, but not up to par anymore.
 - Garbage and port-a-potties are not available at all diamonds.

- Little niches within the sport itself that have different needs when it comes to facilities.
- Leagues want accessibility to be a priority.
- Players and families are willing to volunteer their time to be part of the program.
- The older areas of Vaughan have the biggest challenges.
- Adult Baseball
 - There are issues with existing facilities: Thornhill has a lot of older diamonds, French school in Kleinburg with a soccer field in the middle of the outfield
 - Should look at the inventory and put some money back into those diamonds.
 - Minor capital improvements to focus on redevelopment and use.
 - Suggest putting in backstops so that t-ball can be played in smaller parks and alleviate pressures on child leagues.
 - Game times are currently from 7-9 and 9-11. Could start at 6:00 and create a third slot to increase options for the city to permit out and also generate revenue.
 - Be smarter as a group and share practice times. Maximize the number of players per hour and per slot.
 - Suggest focus on age-appropriate diamond development.
- Soccer
 - Would like more amenities that surround fields: Bathrooms, accessible features
 - Heightened security and try to find a way to minimize vandalism.
 - Huge volumes of kids using the fields on “rest days” where the grass doesn’t actually recover, so the City might be better off permitting those days.
 - Could run on a hockey model and have 40-50 kids per slot and divide fields into stations with multiple teams. That’s how they [hockey] have been able to sustain growth with the existing number of facilities.
- Bocce
 - Existing older users have eventually warmed up to the younger users.
 - Only issue is availability.
 - Would like to have a designated day for their group to grow vs. 7 days a week for one particular group.
- Tennis
 - Club is at one location with 3 courts.
 - 3 courts together are usually ideal, preferably with acrylic surfacing. More appropriate than asphalt.
 - Facilities and washrooms are important.
 - Issues with baseballs coming over the fence at their current location (Boyd Park) because it is a high-level ball league
 - Demand may increase as City grows.
- Cricket
 - If a cricket field is approved by higher authority, the visibility and cash generation out of that field by hosting different Toronto and Ontario games will be huge.
 - Youth will be able to learn and be involved in the game.
 - There is a desire is for international cricket and it is believed that a regulation pitch would draw more use.
 - Local interest in a grass-roots program
 - Affordability and creating interest are still challenges

Indoor Recreation

- Softball
 - Reference to Time magazine “youth sports have gone pro”. Encouraging kids to play 24/7/365
 - Pitching tunnels, batting cages, etc. all private offerings.
 - Set up in industrial centres or parks so that residences are not affected.
 - Softball has run programs in off-season and interest is there, but needs are high.
- Tennis
 - Never been any viable indoor tennis options. Cities elsewhere are leading partnerships to provide indoor facilities for play year-round.
- Soccer
 - City is growing too fast to satisfy everyone’s needs. This is about priorities.

Libraries

- Family comes to CCRL and spend 4 hours and people want to stay there for a long time. Summer program was good.

Access & Inclusivity

- Inclusive would be adding cricket. Lots of kids and community uses who want to play but there is nowhere for them to go.
- Softball (Little League): having fields in a condition that satisfies accessibility, inventory of fields allows to take on higher registration numbers and keep costs down because of economies of scale.

Working Together & Adding Value

- Added value of increased investment
- Adult ball: Tudor Park – Vaughan Baseball, between both clubs 5/7 nights the park is being used. If all three clubs worked together they could add some value, like covered dug-outs
- Short term, change in policy (softball/baseball), long-term ability for program to grow.

Final Thoughts & Advice

- Tennis
 - It has been incredible having all the different groups come together and generate awareness on what the needs are and what else is available in the community. We are members of the community that care about it from a recreation standpoint and have kids that are interested and will help sports to grow. Would like to have more coordinated planning efforts to build awareness. This exercise provides perspective that there are other needs and nice to hear that there are other groups looking to challenge and embrace that and get more if they can.

Focus Group #3

September 26, 2017 Sports Groups #2

Attendance: City of Vaughan Baseball & Softball, Thornhill Park Tennis Club, Vaughan Football Association, Vaughan Yeoman Rugby Football Club, Vaughan Panthers Hockey, Ball Hockey League, Vaughan Kings Hockey Club, Father Bressani Catholic High School, St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School, Vaughan Cricket Club, Vaughan Aquatic Club, Thornhill Slo-Pitch, Vaughan World Series Slo-Pitch League, Maple Seniors

Strengths

- Baseball & Softball
 - field maintenance is getting better
 - taking extra effort to maintain facilities because of risk of injury
 - Vaughan is the largest host of tournaments in Ontario for youth baseball
 - Believe the relationship that the user groups have with the City is very important
 - Collaboration and partnership that exists at staff and administrative level as well as supervisor and staff level at facilities
 - Always trying to improve what we have a make it better
- Minor Hockey
 - Facilities are newer and more modern than comparable locations
 - Hockey facilities are in good condition and well-maintained
- Seniors
 - Seniors in Vaughan are lucky to have these facilities, they're very active and busy
 - Attending computer classes, dancing, going to bingo
 - Better than sitting at home doing nothing all day and night
 - A lot of credit to the City for giving the space to run these programs
- Schools
 - Happy to be joint with Vellore Village Community Centre
 - Happy to have a pool that gym classes can access and run basketball and soccer tournaments that are easy to get permits for
- Swimming
 - Very happy with facilities that are used
 - Beautiful renovations to Woodbridge pool
 - Using four other facilities that were state-of-the-art 15 and 10 years ago; but now there's a little worry moving forward comparative to Markham and Toronto
 - From a pure competitive swimming standpoint would like to keep up with other municipalities and offer a 50m pool
 - Markham has 1000 people swimming every weekend in their 50m facility – revenue generation from that use would be unbelievable

Trends

- Hockey
 - Believe that if we don't provide the services for the kids to play locally.
 - Often compared to Mississauga, which has 5 or 6 double rink organizations. Their own A hockey organizations, AA (5) and Vaughan only has 2
 - Right now, feeling pressure on facilities. Vaughan has 3 teams that have to double up on home games because of availability
 - Maxed out on the number of teams and players they can take. Kids who still want to play will travel to play rep hockey. We don't offer the opportunity for the kids to stay here if they want to. There is a supply and demand issue.
 - For every team you need 2.5-3 hours of ice time on a weekly basis. 18 teams equates to 55-60 hours a week
 - Representative has been involved with the league since 1995. Started with four teams then grew to eight and twelve, etc.
 - City of Vaughan has more pressures with rep and house league.
 - If talking about demographics and growth and 100,000 people moving into the city, we are going to need more facilities.
 - Hockey is one of the only winter sports available in the city. As the city grows more, the kids need something to do in the winter time
 - Increased cost to play hockey. Going to Toronto to find ice and the cost is double what is in Vaughan, but players are seeking ice time wherever they can find it
 - The teams are very good and they want to play here, but ice is not available
- Baseball
 - Trend is slowing with soccer and increasing with baseball.
 - All baseball (men's, kids) are at a hold because there are waiting lists.
 - Richmond Hill leagues are filling up because people can't register here. Players and leagues are constrained by access.
 - Growth is happening in every age group. There's a hold in all divisions because of availabilities.
 - Need full adult size diamonds. Vaughan Grove (industrial area) are ideal for size and lighting.
 - Started at 12 teams and now at 46. Leagues have been able to increase the amount of games played with the same time slots. Grown 66% in recent years.
 - Talk with organizations that as soon as diamonds are gained they're completely booked instantaneously. For example, Sonoma Heights went online last year and was instantly filled.
 - Active Together Master Plan – people are staying active longer.
 - Parents with older kids and empty-nesters are available in the evenings. Now 55+ is common. Not necessarily seeing growth but people are playing longer.
 - Kids are aging out and playing in men's divisions or switching to softball.
 - Starting to see that echo and want to make sure field time can accommodate.
 - Blue Jays success has had an impact at all ages and a growing community with more young families moving in.
 - In some places, going to triple slots instead of previously just double slots.
 - Believes that the lights could stay on much longer and play games that go into the night when it doesn't impact residential areas.

Challenges & Needs

Parks & Outdoor Recreation

- Tennis
 - Use four courts at the club and rents two other locations in Vaughan
 - Tennis is definitely growing and is in need of more space. Demand is very high
 - Two other sites in North Thornhill: started with 10 registered and now 50-60 kids per week in camps
 - October – April use a bubble, then open courts in spring and summer seasons
 - Demand is for all age groups from young children through to seniors
 - Seeking a new facility because outgrowing the current location with no room for expansion at current site
 - 4 courts would be a minimum preferred size, ideally up to 5 or 6
 - Young immigrant families show interest in playing the sport; they need the facilities
 - Heard discussion about a potential for 8 courts at North Maple Regional Park
- Football
 - Biggest and only issue is that they don't have a football field/stadium
 - Only currently able to use one field and must practice on soccer fields and for games must pay to rent the stadium and it is expensive
 - Used the York University stadium but there were issues with parking
 - Sonoma Heights turf field is in use so would like to request more multi-use fields
 - The setup at Sonoma Heights works well; the key is that they need fields with uprights, lines and the appropriate lights
 - Football runs year-round with 6 teams and age groups about 150-300 players
- Rugby
 - Concerns are very similar to football
 - Multi-use fields are used sometimes but with allocation it can be difficult to book
 - Looking to grow, but on a smaller scale
 - Looking for somewhere to call home; currently operating out of a school field for the past few years but not ideal
 - Have expressed concerns about field condition at their current site - exposed sprinkler head and pot holes as well as a concrete pad in the end zone for hooking soccer nets; but this is dangerous for football and rugby coming into contact with the ground in that area
 - Football and rugby are willing to share a field, rugby would prefer a grass surface, both would ideally like a changeroom
 - Both football and rugby are relatively new clubs (within the last 6-7 years)
- Cricket
 - Promised a facility again and again, but have seen nothing
 - The current pitch is not stable so they're forced to go to Markham or Mississauga
 - No issuing playing on soccer fields, but need shorter grass for cricket
 - Dimension of current site is good but the surface is inadequate
 - If they want to do batting practice they need to go to another ground

- High School
 - Multi-use field is always being used by the school, the general population, etc. would love to see improvements to the field
 - Joint venture with community centres to provide a turf field seems to make sense
 - Already have had two injuries and school only just started two weeks ago
 - Any field that isn't fenced-off gets a lot of unauthorized use
 - There are plans to take the field off-line to repair but haven't seen any change
- Baseball
 - Keep having these meetings talking about adding facilities, but little has been done to increase the number of facilities

Indoor Recreation

- Seniors
 - seniors moving into condos instead of moving in with their children. After being stuck inside all day they want to get out.
 - Would like to see renovations to Maple Community Centre. Need more space because we could use the space. Exercise, computer, bingo, bocce, bowling, all areas are full. Maple is out of space now.

Libraries

- Maple to CCRL is 500m away, would like to understand the logic

Access & Inclusivity

- Aquatics
 - A huge number of hours where people can do lane swimming. All ages, all ethnic groups, male, female, everyone is coming. Needs are very well met
 - Aquafitness, lessons, etc. personally feels that everybody's needs are being met

Working Together & Adding Value

- Hockey
 - should really start private-public partnerships. In other communities the city has land and has an RFP for the facility. Partnership in the running of the building (rent, admin, etc.). Sports Village has been a good model and it works.
 - The city hourly rate applies to partnership facilities (i.e. not more expensive to partner with private facilities)

Focus Group #4

September 28, 2017 Community Interest Groups

Attendance: Vaughan Pizzafest, Maple Lions Club, Vaughan Bicycle User Group, The Peer Project (Youth Assisting Youth), Avalanche Minor Sports Hockey Club, unaffiliated residents

Strengths

- Good selection of DVDs at library, parks are well lit (Maple)
- Grass is cut in a timely basis, parks are clean, plenty of them not far from homes, playgrounds for kids are nice, some have more apparatus than others (Thornhill)
- Thornhill Woods – near Highway 7 east and west bike lanes on Bathurst, gives cyclists some confidence. Bus lanes are a plus because Vaughan wants to be inclusive and provide for all
- Maple: significant improvements in what might be Trans-Canada trail (east side of Keele) Rutherford to Highway 7. In their neighbourhood parks and libraries are good
- Maple CC: children's programs (reading) are very well done, occasionally get to the movies on Saturdays for children and adults (wish the screen was bigger). Book club has had interesting books visits from authors.
- Staff are the greatest strength. Strong, creative, flexible, not afraid of bringing new ideas and trying different things. Libraries are amazing. Partnerships with online libraries, Hoopla, etc. Selection of books is good. So many ideas and really tried to reach out to the people. Everybody has something to learn from the library system. Need to integrate what they're doing elsewhere.

Trends

- 38 years ago, there was no pressure on the facilities and the opportunities to play ball and visit libraries (when the population was 40,000). Population is now over 300,000 people and the City is struggling to keep up with demand for facilities
- The trend is for people to have to look elsewhere. Very lucky in general, but the city needs to keep up with population growth.
- Vaughan unique because south-east or east City of Vaughan residents (those who live in Concord/Thornhill) are closer to recreation services in other communities.
- Children not able to be part of Vaughan hockey because they're Thornhill-Markham. Thornhill Hockey Club only gets ice on the Markham side.
- Accessibility is getting worse because as population increases they have to drive further to play house league hockey. One of the wealthiest communities in the GTA but funds being wasted driving around.
- Distribution of ice could be based on registration vs. residency or allocation.
- Aging population is a trend and new subdivisions bring a good count of young people. More seniors than there used to be.
- Library bridge clubs help keep seniors mentally active and are locally accessible.
- Focus on experience at facilities and how they're animated through service.

Challenges & Needs

Parks & Outdoor Recreation

- For hosting large-scale events (21,000 people), vendors are looking for a big square (e.g., Mississauga celebration square), seeking a large space that is high quality.
- Everything in Vaughan needs to be rented at an astronomical rate, need to jump through hoops to permit use.
- Challenging to find a proper space for festivals.
- Venue would ideally provide: electrical accessibility, staging, a nice landscaped area to have a celebration. Seeking a big plot of land in a high-density neighbourhood.
- Woodbridge Fairgrounds have been used the past two years.
- Need to be conscious of the sound in residential neighbourhoods (11:00pm curfew).
- Need to connect with transit with cycling infrastructure and connect to parks. If they were to join all the little pieces, transit and cycling could get people around.
- Cyclist point of view – parks and trails are great but no way-finding. Don't know where anything is. So those "you are here" kind of maps in the trails would be amazing. Don't know how to decide where to locate/place them. Would really be helpful to have signage.
- Multi-use paths: there are lots of them for people, pedestrians, cyclists and dogs. Traffic mingles and there are accidents. Need to think about how to manage multi-use paths.
- Horticulture point of view: would love to see spaces with trees that are labeled, rose garden that could be adopted by horticultural society, could adopt some green space, historical houses in parks. Support beautification and education
- Would love to have some municipal outdoor rinks for hockey
- The only real stakeholder is the resident. At the end of the day, the resident funds the stakeholders.

Indoor Recreation

- Recommend connecting with youth in the City to find out what they're doing for leisure and provide safe spaces for them to be active and socialize.
- Really missing facilities that are large indoor spaces. Thinking about Newmarket and Markham that can be closed and heated and utilized for large-scale indoor events. Fairs, trade shows, arts and culture events. Using parks in the summer is always a risk with inclement weather. There's no fall back due to weather.
- No (performing arts) theatre in Vaughan. Looking to have a stage with seating.
- City of Vaughan has the biggest growth in hockey. Forcing members and families to play outside of Vaughan.
- Understanding is that GTHL formed a contract with the City of Vaughan that doesn't allow anyone else to run a rep program in the City of Vaughan. Haven't allowed anyone else to come in at the house league level.
- Can't go skating casually anymore because there's hockey booked all the time. Would like to see a greater allocation of open ice time for public skating.

Libraries

- Library system is absolutely a delight.

Access & Inclusivity

- Former child care worker and see people sitting in retirement homes that aren't interacting with children. Would love to see the elderly reading to children and children can learn to respect the elderly and elderly can be mentally stimulated.
- Kids have access to computers and books at libraries (great accessibility)
- Allocate more money to the libraries so they aren't restricted by waiting for paperback when the library can't afford hardcover.
- More people that have moved into Maple in the past 5 years grew up with cricket. Cricket would make the parks feel more inclusive by bringing a different group in.
- Cross-generational. Places to sit, play games, chess or checkers built into the tabletop. Something like that could make parks more a place where you can just be. Somewhere to sit outside instead of strip malls and indoor malls.
- Look at what the libraries have been doing and apply their recipe to the rest of recreation. They try a multitude of things. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't.
- Need to find a way to take care of both minority sports and also hockey and ball. Tai-chi, yoga, dance, pickleball – try different things.
- Vaughan one of the first to have a youth council but has not had one since 2008. Thinks it would be inclusive to let youth steer the development.

Working Together & Adding Value

- Vaughan Bicycle group would like to have more city support. Lots of red tape around trying to get more cycling infrastructure.
- Multi-purpose room are often vacant and it would greatly help the groups out if they were made available at a lower cost.
- Hockey organization has 70% Vaughan residents and City should work with them to get the CSO discount.

Final Thoughts & Advice

- Build on what we've got and make better use of the facilities we have.
- Restart youth committee and get some input from them

Appendix E Public Information Sessions

The City of Vaughan, Vaughan Public Libraries and Monteith Brown Planning Consultants facilitated five public information sessions in October 2017. The sessions were geographically distributed throughout Vaughan so that each of the five electoral wards were represented and given opportunity to participate.

Public Information Session #1: October 4 – Vellore Village Community Centre

Public Information Session #2: October 5 – Vaughan City Hall

Public Information Session #3: October 12 – Woodbridge Pool & Memorial Arena

Public Information Session #4: October 17 – Garnet A. Williams Community Centre

Public Information Session #5: October 18 – North Thornhill Community Centre

These were open house style sessions where city and library staff and consultants were available to answer questions and receive recommendations and feedback in response to information on display boards. The display boards were used to: illustrate the purpose and scope of the Active Together Master Plan; share preliminary findings from the intercept and online surveys; acknowledge ongoing projects and recent accomplishments; and ask targeted questions about the various components of the plan. The three primary pillars of the ATMP (parks and outdoor recreation, indoor recreation and libraries) each had a display board for dedicated feedback. Each board asked three questions to engage the public and elicit suggestions for how to improve these facilities in the future.

Questions focused on three key improvement areas:

- i. What would you like to do [in these facilities] that you cannot do now?
- ii. How can we improve existing facilities?
- iii. What new amenities are required and where?

Attendees were encouraged to use sticky notes to provide their comments, suggestions and feedback for all aspects of the plan. After collecting and reviewing all submitted comments from each of the five public information sessions, we were left with 222 unique comments about parks, recreation and libraries in the City of Vaughan. Duplicate responses and comments were summarized and comments that were not within the scope of the master plan were excluded.

Comment summaries for all five public information sessions have been provided below. They have been divided into three sections with detailed responses explained throughout.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Multi-generational and multi-use spaces continue to be a dominant trend in parks and outdoor recreation. Residents who participated in our public information sessions commented on the increased need for variety in equipment and opportunities. Many of the suggestions focused on increasing amenities that support use by all ages, abilities and interests. Specific comments regarding additions and improvements to Vaughan's parks and outdoor recreation facilities have been summarized and captured below.

Figure 30 Suggestions for added park and outdoor recreation improvements and amenities

Improvements	Amenities
Fix basketball courts at G.A.W. & York Hill	Large lit fields (soccer, baseball, multi-use)
Improved park basketball courts	Outdoor ice skating
Fix/add soccer nets in Thornhill Woods	More outdoor aquatics (splash pads, swimming pools)
Remove sandbox at North Thornhill	Park spaces to host large outdoor picnics
Secure Bicycle parking at facilities	More bobblers (play equipment)
Convert Lakehurst Park to sand or soft ground base	Outdoor stages (like York Hill Park)
Improved maintenance at Bathurst outdoor rink	Add an outdoor running/walking track
More open space and parkland dedication for new builds	Cricket grounds and classes
More tennis in North Thornhill	Outdoor ping pong tables
Water fountain upgrades at San Marco	Go kart racing track
	Putting green

Continuing with the theme of multi-generational outdoor opportunities, many attendees discussed Vaughan's trails system. While extensive trails planning is addressed through the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, it is important to consider these spaces within the scope of the ATMP to ensure an integrated approach to planning. Overall, residents desire an extended trail network that provides increased connectivity to local destinations, transit hubs, and other trails and road networks. To achieve this cohesion of trail systems, additional signage was recommended to improve wayfinding throughout. These additional signs could also provide environmental education, particularly through conservation areas and open space. Some of the comments provided at the public information sessions focused on events, programs, and activities that could occur in parks and at outdoor recreation venues. A full list of the suggestions is provided below.

Figure 31 Suggestions for parks and outdoor recreation programs & events

Program & Event Suggestions		
Winter activities (bonfires, sledding)	Community clean-up (litter program)	Ropes/outdoor adventure course
Summer concerts/movies in parks	Environmental protection club/class	Archery programs

Indoor Recreation

The overall response suggested that indoor recreation facilities in the City of Vaughan are very popular and well-used. Many of the comments were supportive of multi-use and multi-generational facilities that support programs and activities for all ages and abilities. Additional suggestions focused on increased program offerings/variety and more opportunities to

participate in drop-in or unstructured activities when facilities are otherwise not in use. Consultation also included very creative suggestions from some of Vaughan's youngest residents which included requests for simulator rides, magic classes and bowling alleys.

Specific feedback on indoor recreation facilities, such as which spaces should be renovated and suggestions for amenities to be added, have been listed in the above table.

We heard significant demand for a wider breadth and depth of recreation programming, meaning there should be additional program times and a greater variety of options. The specific suggestions that were provided through the open house sessions are listed in Figure 33. This figure also includes suggestions for one-time or unstructured events and drop-in opportunities in Vaughan's community centres and indoor recreation facilities.

Figure 32 Specific feedback on improvements to existing facilities and suggestions for added indoor recreation amenities

Improvements	Amenities
Improved changeroom layouts & lockers (small enclosed spaces to change)	Mirrored fitness studio (instead of using gymnasiums)
Updated fitness equipment	Indoor tennis facility
Dedicated seniors spaces	Seniors Centre
Secure bicycle parking at facilities	Arenas (with public skate times)
Arcade games in youth spaces	Water slides at indoor pools
Warmer water (pools & splash pads)	Indoor pool (50m)
Renovate Garnet A. Williams CC	Indoor soccer (turf) facility
Renovate Chancellor CC	Rock climbing wall & obstacle course
Improved signage (outside & inside)	Study spaces (while sibling in program)

Figure 33 Suggestions for additional registered programs, drop-in activities and events

Registered Programs (more variety & volume)		Events & Drop-in
Zumba, yoga, tai-chi, meditation, Bollyfit	Indoor tennis lessons	Ping pong & badminton
Affordable fitness memberships	Additional swimming lessons	Recreational and lane swimming
More evening adult fitness classes	Food prep/culinary classes	Basketball/Volleyball (youth & adult)
More children's programs on Sundays	Parent & Tot classes (yoga, fitness, play)	Cultural education & events
Special needs programs (1:1 support)	PA day camp & activities for older kids	Social activities/outings for seniors
First aid classes for 10-16 year-olds (pre-leadership courses)	Non-sports day camps (especially March Break & PA Days)	Unstructured play time in gymnasiums (open gym/free play)
Free fitness memberships for teens	Extended day camp hours	Public skating at arenas
Adult recreational leagues	Before & after school care	Movie nights at CCs
Adult & seniors dance classes	Music, drama, arts, language programs	Theatre group/performances

Vaughan Public Libraries

Overall, citizens are highly satisfied with the facilities and level of service provided by Vaughan Public Libraries. Much of the conversation about libraries focused on how Vaughan's libraries are constantly exploring new options, seeking advice from the public, and offering a wide variety of programming and materials.

Figure 34 Public Information Session recommendation for additional collections or facility amenities at Vaughan Public Libraries

Collections	Amenities
Bestsellers	Technology: computers, printers, tablets
Audiobooks	Study rooms/gathering spaces
Films (+International)	Tech charging stations
E-readers/digital book downloads	Public spaces: seating, snack bar, wi-fi
Educational games for children	Secure bicycle parking at facilities

Attendees at these information sessions provided some specific suggestions regarding things that they would like to have added to existing collections, as well as facility amenities.

It also became clear that Vaughan's residents love using the libraries and are seeking new opportunities to engage with the space. Multiple attendees were supportive of increased program offerings, especially with a focus on early literacy and older adult education. A detailed list of programs that were specifically identified during the open house sessions has been provided below.

Figure 35 Suggestions for additional programs and events at Vaughan Public Libraries.

Program & Event Suggestions	Target Age Group
Self-learning/educational programs: finance, public speaking, languages	Teen/Adult/Seniors
Early Years at Libraries	Parent & Tot
Social events for seniors	Seniors
Coding/technology classes	All ages (child+)
Author visits	All ages
Online education courses (especially languages)	Adults & Seniors
Study/homework help programs	Children & Youth
PA Day Activities	School-age
Book Club	All ages & interests