

City of  
**Vaughan**

*The City Above Toronto*

**VP** Vaughan  
Public Libraries



## **Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries Master Plan**

November 28, 2008

*Active*  
**TOGETHER**

**MASTERPLAN**

Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries

*mbpc*

**Monteith + Brown**  
planning consultants

In  
Association  
With

**Tucker-Reid  
Associates**

**JF** The JF Group

**Libraries  
In  
Transition**



*Active*  
**TOGETHER**  
**MASTERPLAN**  
Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries

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**“ACTIVE TOGETHER” MASTER PLAN FOR  
PARKS, RECREATION, CULTURE AND LIBRARIES**

**November 28, 2008**



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with

**Tucker-Reid  
& Associates**



**Libraries  
In  
Transition**



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November 28, 2008

To City of Vaughan Council, staff, and community residents:

We would like to thank the project Steering Committee, staff, the residents of Vaughan and Council for their help in creating this Master Plan. Their input has resulted in a document that is a thorough and accurate reflection of the community's vision for parks, recreation, culture and library facilities and services.

Vaughan should be extremely proud of the exceptional standards the City has set over the years, most notably in providing both the right quantity and superior quality of recreational facilities, parkland, and library facilities. The City has one of the best service provision ratios in the Greater Toronto Area for many parks and recreation amenities, all of which have and continue to contribute to the City's high quality of life.

When residents and local stakeholders were asked what they like the best about Vaughan and what the City does well, time after time they mentioned pools, arenas, community centres, playgrounds, open space supplies, and well maintained gardens, parks, and playing fields. Positive reviews were also received for several programs and events, such as concerts, educational computer sessions, preschool programs, WinterLights, the Santa Claus parade, and summer camps. In our experience, we can certainly state that your citizens have a right to be pleased!

Moving forward, the challenge will be to continue the good work undertaken by the City and its community partners. This will be achieved primarily by maintaining and enhancing existing facilities and services for new residents – many of which are arriving on a daily basis – as well as offering new opportunities for all residents to engage in physical activity. "Active Together" is more than just the title of this Plan...it's a slogan that embodies the City's and community's commitment to being the best it can be.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist the City in developing the Active Together Master Plan and Physical Activity Strategy. On behalf of the entire Consulting Team, we truly wish you the best as the City moves forward with the Plan's implementation.

Yours truly,

**Monteith Brown Planning Consultants**

  
Jean Monteith, B.E.S., M.C.I.P., R.P.P.  
Principal Planner

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY &amp; IMPLEMENTATION PLAN .....</b>	<b>pg-1</b>
<b>SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 PURPOSE.....	1
1.2 CONTEXT .....	2
1.3 PLANNING PROCESS .....	3
1.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION.....	4
<b>SECTION 2: BACKGROUND REVIEW .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 OVERVIEW.....	5
2.2 CITY OF VAUGHAN PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (1991) .....	5
2.3 CITY OF VAUGHAN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 600 (2000) .....	6
2.4 OTHER DOCUMENTS REVIEWED .....	7
<b>SECTION 3: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 OVERVIEW.....	8
3.2 HISTORIC AND FORECASTED POPULATION FIGURES .....	8
3.3 AGE COMPOSITION.....	16
3.4 PROJECTED HOUSING UNIT GROWTH .....	18
3.5 HOUSEHOLD INCOME & EDUCATION .....	20
3.6 COMMUNITY DIVERSITY .....	21
<b>SECTION 4: PUBLIC CONSULTATION .....</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1 OVERVIEW.....	23
4.2 COUNCIL INTERVIEWS.....	24
4.3 SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING .....	26
4.4 STAFF WORKSHOPS.....	26
4.5 ARTS/CULTURE/HERITAGE WORKSHOP.....	29
4.6 COMMUNITY INPUT WORKSHOPS .....	30
4.7 CONSULTATION WITH THE LIBRARY BOARD AND STAFF .....	31
4.8 SENIORS ASSOCIATION OF VAUGHAN INITIATIVE (S.A.V.I.) WORKSHOP .....	34
4.9 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY.....	35
4.10 USER GROUP SURVEYS.....	49
4.11 PUBLIC MEETING.....	51
<b>SECTION 5: TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION AND PROVISION.....</b>	<b>52</b>
5.1 OVERVIEW.....	52
5.2 ACTIVITY LEVELS AND PREFERENCES.....	52
5.3 LIBRARY SERVICE PROVISION.....	59
5.4 FACILITY AND PARKS PROVISION .....	64
5.5 SERVICE DELIVERY AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES .....	67



<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>SECTION 6: PARKLAND ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>71</b>
6.1 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION .....	71
6.2 PARKLAND SUPPLY.....	73
6.3 PARKLAND NEEDS .....	74
6.4 PARKLAND ACQUISITION .....	79
6.5 PARK RENEWAL AND REDEVELOPMENT.....	84
6.6 PARKLAND DESIGN & AMENITIES.....	86
<b>SECTION 7: INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>89</b>
7.1 METHODOLOGY FOR INDOOR & OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....	89
7.2 INDOOR RECREATION & CULTURE FACILITY SUPPLY .....	89
7.3 MULTI-USE COMMUNITY CENTRES .....	92
7.4 ICE PADS .....	104
7.5 INDOOR AQUATICS .....	110
7.6 MULTI-PURPOSE PROGRAM SPACES .....	114
7.7 OLDER ADULT & SENIOR'S SPACE .....	115
7.8 YOUTH SPACES .....	118
7.9 FITNESS TRAINING CLUBS / ACTIVE LIVING PROGRAMMING.....	122
7.10 GYMNASIUMS.....	125
7.11 INDOOR TURF .....	127
<b>SECTION 8: OUTDOOR FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>129</b>
8.1 OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY SUPPLY .....	129
8.2 TRAILS.....	131
8.3 SOCCER AND OTHER SPORTS FIELDS .....	133
8.4 BALL DIAMONDS .....	138
8.5 MULTI-USE COURTS (BASKETBALL, TENNIS, ETC.) .....	142
8.6 OUTDOOR BOCCE .....	145
8.7 SKATEBOARD / BIKE PARKS .....	146
8.8 OUTDOOR AQUATICS .....	148
8.9 PLAYGROUNDS.....	151
8.10 OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS .....	154
8.11 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS.....	155
<b>SECTION 9: ARTS, CULTURE &amp; HERITAGE ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>157</b>
9.1 OVERVIEW.....	157
9.2 ARTS & CULTURE POLICIES .....	157
9.3 MULTI-PURPOSE ARTS & CULTURAL SPACE .....	159
9.4 HERITAGE BUILDINGS .....	162

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>SECTION 10: LIBRARY FACILITIES ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>163</b>
10.1 OVERVIEW.....	163
10.2 CURRENT SITUATION .....	163
10.3 LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS.....	165
10.4 SPACE STANDARDS.....	166
10.5 PROJECTED LIBRARY SPACE NEEDS .....	168
10.6 SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL.....	168
10.7 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LIBRARIES .....	169
10.8 RECOMMENDED LIBRARY SPACE PROVISION STRATEGY .....	172
<b>SECTION 11: MONITORING &amp; UPDATING THE PLAN .....</b>	<b>175</b>
11.1 CONSULTATION ON SITE SPECIFIC PROJECTS .....	175
11.2 CONSULTATION WITH MINORITY POPULATIONS .....	176
11.3 A PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK .....	179
11.4 STEPS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MASTER PLAN .....	181
<b>APPENDIX A: Financial Impact Forecast Assumptions (Operating)</b>	
<b>APPENDIX B: Per Capita Provision Ratios for Recreation Facilities (based on current supplies)</b>	
<b>APPENDIX C: City of Vaughan, “Active Together” Physical Activity Strategy</b>	
<b>MAP 1</b> Community Planning Areas.....	12
<b>MAP 2</b> Population Density 2006.....	13
<b>MAP 3</b> Population Density 2021.....	14
<b>MAP 4</b> Population Density 2031.....	15
<b>MAP 5</b> Community Centre Distribution (Existing) .....	93
<b>MAP 6</b> Arena Distribution (Existing).....	105
<b>MAP 7</b> Indoor Pool Distribution (Existing).....	111
<b>MAP 8</b> Current Playground Service Gaps (2008) .....	152
<b>MAP 9</b> Library Distribution (Existing).....	170

### **A NOTE REGARDING POPULATION FORECASTS**

The current population data and future forecasts established for each community studied in this Plan (e.g., Woodbridge, Kleinburg, etc. – see Section 3) generally align with traffic zones established by the Region of York. This data is not intended to define the limit of growth, but rather is used solely for the purposes of this Master Plan in the analysis of park and facility distribution. These forecasts are the most current approved data available at this time from the Region. Planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast.

The Region is currently undertaking a Growth Management Strategy and the City has initiated an Official Plan review; the outcome of these studies may result in different assumptions related to the rate and location of future population growth. As a result, it is expected that new population forecasts will be approved in the coming years. Once updated forecasts are approved for use, the growth-related directions contained within the Active Together Master Plan be revised utilizing the provision standards contained within the Plan.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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### Executive Summary – Master Plan

Parks, recreation, culture, and libraries are at the very core of those elements that define the City's quality of life. The City invests in these areas because of the many social, physical, cultural, and economic benefits derived from participation and to assist in building healthy communities. Some potential benefits include:

- promoting active living and the healthy physical, social, and educational development of all ages;
- creating social integration opportunities for people of all ages, including new Canadians, at-risk populations, persons with disabilities, families, and neighbourhoods;
- enhancing awareness and appreciation of the environment;
- encouraging lifelong learning and information sharing;
- contributing to economic development; etc.

In the last few years the City has made extensive improvements to its recreational and library infrastructure, including the development of the Vellore Village Community Centre, Pierre Berton Resource Library, and Vaughan Grove Sports Park, to name a few. Planning is also underway for several new parks, a community centre in Carrville, and the Civic Centre library. The City has seen participation in its recreational programs and services climb to over 140,000 a year, while more than 80,000 participate in library programs – and these numbers are growing every year!



In keeping with the City of Vaughan's commitment to providing accessible parks, facilities, programs and activities that appeal to a wide range of interests and abilities, a long-range planning study has been initiated in order to identify current needs and future strategies.

As directed by Vaughan Vision 2020 (the City's Strategic Plan), the Community Services Commission and the Vaughan Public Libraries began preparations for the development of a Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries Master Plan in 2006. This study is also referred to as the "Active Together" Master Plan due to its goal of enhancing opportunities for physical activity across the community. The Master Plan will form an integral background component to the City's new Official Plan and related initiatives.

### What is the “Active Together” Master Plan?

The “Active Together” Master Plan is an integrated long-term strategy that guides planning for parks, recreation, culture and library facilities and services until the City’s ultimate build-out. The Plan seeks to understand the considerable changes that have taken place in Vaughan in past years and proactively respond to the anticipated future needs of both established and new growth areas.

To achieve this, a firm understanding of public opinion, participation trends, demographic forecasts, and profiles of existing parks and facilities is required. This was facilitated through extensive research and a series of consultative events that engaged a wide variety of groups and individuals. Specifically, the public participation program consisted of:

- Random sample household survey (telephone)
- User group survey
- Workshops with community representatives, agencies, and stakeholders
- Ongoing consultation with the Library Board, City officials, and staff
- Public meetings to present the draft Master Plan

Public input yielded generally high satisfaction levels, which is understandable considering the excellent overall number and quality of parks and facilities provided in Vaughan.

Consistency with Vaughan Vision 2020, the City’s corporate strategic plan was also paramount. In this regard, it is important to remember the City’s overall Vision:

*“A city of choice that promotes diversity, innovation and opportunity for all citizens, fostering a vibrant community life that is inclusive, progressive, environmentally responsible and sustainable”*

*Executive Summary & Implementation Plan*

**City of Vaughan: Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries  
November 2008**



A comprehensive needs assessment consisting of qualitative and quantitative analyses was then prepared, including the creation of measurable provision standards that are unique to Vaughan. The last phase of the project involves the development of an achievable implementation strategy that establishes priorities, timing, and financial implications for the future provision of parks and facilities.

The “Active Together” Master Plan provides a clearly articulated and responsible strategy for addressing the needs of current and future residents.

A Physical Activity Strategy has also been prepared concurrently with the Master Plan, the purpose of which is to foster higher levels of physical activity by Vaughan residents through various actions that seek to remove barriers to participation.

## Issues Addressed

The “Active Together” Master Plan establishes recommended action plans that identify current and future needs and steps to be taken to achieve them. Some of the key direction areas of the Plan include:

- establishing a preferred strategy for the provision and distribution of library facilities, in concert with future community centre development wherever possible;
  - determining the major components, timing, and general locations for multi-use community centre facilities (subject to further detailed studies);
  - quantifying outdoor facility needs (e.g., soccer fields, ball diamonds, skateboard parks, off-leash areas, playgrounds, etc.) and giving consideration to areas of geographic under-supply;
  - identifying gaps in parkland provision and options addressing future parkland needs;
  - ensuring that appropriately located sites are secured for required future parks and facilities;
  - recognizing the impact that a growing – but aging and increasingly diverse – population will have on facility and park usage and design requirements;
  - suggesting opportunities to improve existing facilities, in keeping with evolving community needs;
  - noting policy considerations aimed at enhancing the acquisition, development, and delivery of parks, recreation, culture and library services;
  - identifying the financial implications of implementing the Master Plan’s capital-related action plans;
- supporting the strategic initiatives put forward by Vaughan Vision 2020, such as:
    - establishing a multi-service centre for residents in our community centres;
    - strategy to increase support for and promotion of the arts and culture in the community;
    - strategy for utilization of City owned historical houses by the community; and
    - opportunities for integrating library operations with the City.
  - supporting Vaughan Public Libraries’ strategic direction (as defined by *Today For Tomorrow, Strategic Plan 2008-2011*) to develop library service locations in tandem with rapid community growth and migration.



Compared to many other communities across the province, the City has set high standards for the provision of amenities (such as open space, parkland, community centres, arenas, and playing fields) and has largely been successful in attaining these targets. The general newness of Vaughan’s leisure infrastructure has also allowed the City to focus on new development to serve emerging needs and growing communities.



Due to the City's rapid population growth, deficiencies are only now starting to be seen in some areas, including (but not necessarily limited to) library space, senior soccer fields, and skateboard parks. Maintaining appropriate standards for park and facility provision in growing neighbourhoods will be a key goal of the City over the coming years.

Furthermore, as time goes on, there will also be a need to upgrade and/or replace many existing parks and structures. There also continues to be a requirement to work in partnership with volunteers, community organizations, and private business in meeting many local leisure needs.



## Implementation Plan – Master Plan

The Implementation Strategy identifies the facilities and land needs to the City of Vaughan based on the action plans of the Active Together Master Plan. Preliminary cost estimates for capital projects have also been estimated.

The Master Plan's action plans are built upon several inputs: past service levels already established by the City; usage by residents; anticipated growth in development; changing recreational, cultural and library demands; and public and City feedback.

The City of Vaughan has set reasonable service levels for most park/facility types, although in some cases – most notably libraries – these levels have not been maintained. In an effort to promote financial sustainability, the Master Plan recommends that infrastructure be provided at a rate that is generally consistent with existing service levels. As a result, it is believed that the Plan is a responsible one. Given the Master Plan's affirmation of most existing service levels, existing funding mechanisms should be adequate to allow the City to provide the necessary parks and recreation infrastructure to build-out (2031).

In implementing the recommendations, it is also expected that Council will consider approaches that are financially sustainable, such as partnering with Vaughan Public Libraries, building multi-pad arenas rather than single pads, looking for sponsors, etc. At present, parks and facility capital projects are funded through development charges, municipal taxes, and grants. Most active parkland is provided through parkland dedication under the *Planning Act*. These implementation tools will continue to be utilized and will be supplemented by other approaches, where possible (e.g., establishing trails –

pedestrian transportation corridors – through development applications rather than parkland dedication).

Also part of the implementation strategy is a need to monitor the action plans by assessing participation rates and capacities at existing parks and facilities. Monitoring of usage and capacity issues should be an annual activity, while the overall Master Plan should be updated every five years.

Implementation of Action Plans

The following Implementation Plan is comprised of all action plans (recommendations) contained within the Active Together Master Plan, along with associated timing, priority, and key considerations where applicable.

Action Plans have been divided into separate tables for parks, indoor recreation, outdoor recreation, arts/culture/heritage, libraries, and monitoring/updating. This allows for action plans to be prioritized within each table, but not between as this would not be appropriate due to their inherent differences.



*Executive Summary & Implementation Plan*

Action Plans have been separated further into two categories: (a) those with specific outcomes or one-time events; and (b) those that offer ongoing guidance.

*a) Action Plans with Specific Outcomes or One-Time Events*

Timing has been assigned for all action plans that have specific outcomes and/or timeframes. Those action plans that have been assigned a timeframe have also been ranked according to priority. The short and medium-term timeframes (2009-2012 and 2013-2017) are consistent with those being utilized in the City’s 2008 Development Charges Study.

The priority rankings are largely based on the degree of need, as identified throughout the Master Plan process (including public consultation, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of parks, facilities, programs, etc.). Prioritization is suggested as a way of ensuring that the most critical success factors are dealt with in a timely fashion.

In most cases, action plans to be implemented in the short-term are given a higher priority than those to be undertaken in the medium or long-term; however, this is not always the case as the value of each action plan has been assessed independently (with consideration to the necessary sequencing of other actions, where appropriate).

Despite the timing and priority ranking system, all action plans are important and, if properly implemented, would benefit parks, recreation, culture and library provision within Vaughan.

It should be noted that the priorities and timing indicated for the action plans are based upon ideal circumstances. Budget pressures, changes in participation rates or demographics, availability of volunteer resources, and other factors may impact upon the implementation of the proposed action plans.



On an annual basis, the City should reconcile the action plans with its fiscal capacity and focus on the highest priority items. In the event that an action plan is not implemented within the proposed timeframe, it may become a higher priority and hence be upgraded to a shorter time frame. For this reason and others, it is important that the City regularly monitor and update the Master Plan and its action plans.



*b) Action Plans Offering Ongoing Guidance*

Specific timeframes have not been included for action plans that offer ongoing guidance to the City (e.g., principles of provision or design, programming or service delivery goals, etc.). These action plans have not been placed in priority order (they are shown in alphabetical order, according to subject area), as all are important and worthwhile in their pursuit.

**Parkland Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
1	Parkland Needs	The City's Official Plan policies should reference the objective of achieving a supply of 2.5 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents (as part of the overall target of 4.0ha/1000 for parks and open space).	X			Official Plan review is underway (2008-09)
2	Parkland Supply	Policies in the City's Official Plan regarding parkland objectives and the classification of parkland should be reviewed to incorporate reference to the desired standard of 4.0 hectares of active and passive parks and open space for every 1000 residents. This objective should be utilized when assessing development applications and evaluating natural lands for public dedication or acquisition.	X			Official Plan review is underway (2008-09)
3	Parkland Acquisition	The City should ensure the acquisition of an adequate land base for the outdoor recreation facilities proposed in this Master Plan, particularly those requiring large land bases (such as soccer fields) and those required to serve new residential communities (before appropriate land becomes unavailable).	X	X		
4	Parkland Acquisition	The City should give strong consideration to requiring full parkland conveyance (or acceptance of cash-in-lieu) within industrial and commercial developments in order to create public spaces that attract and serve businesses and their employees.	X			Official Plan review is underway (2008-09)
5	Parkland Classification	The City should, as part of its Official Plan review process, have regard to the findings of this Master Plan as they relate to the parkland classification system and determine if revisions should be made to the policies and park typology currently articulated through OPA 600.	X			Official Plan review is underway (2008-09)
6a	Park Renewal & Redevelopment	The City should undertake a study to better understand the changes and costs required for renewing and redeveloping its older park sites in an effort to ensure they remain responsive to changing community needs and that they embody modern park design principles.	X			see also action plan priorities #6b, 6c, 6d
6b	Park Renewal & Redevelopment	The City should increase funding to a capital conservation budget for the purpose of renewing and redeveloping existing parkland to better meet the needs of the existing and changing neighbourhoods.	X			see also action plan priority #6a
6c	Park Renewal & Redevelopment	The City should develop a list of priority park renewal projects having regard to the Master Plan needs assessments as well as the need to revitalize tired park areas.	X			see also action plan priority #6a

**Parkland Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events (continued)**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
6d	Park Renewal & Redevelopment	The City should determine which of the existing parks are best suited to meet needs identified in the Master Plan (e.g., better linkage/trails, skateboarding, soccer, off-leash dog areas, cultural opportunities, etc.) and combine the growth-related development improvements with overall park renewal projects.	X			see also action plan priority #6a
7	Parkland Design & Amenities	The City should develop guidelines for site features (e.g., light fixtures, site furnishings, signage, etc.) according to park type to achieve a consistent image and level of service across the parks system. Consideration should be given to durability and ease of maintenance and repair.	X			



**Parkland Action Plans - Ongoing Guidance**

Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Key Considerations
Parkland Acquisition	The City should consider trails as an essential pedestrian corridor in the same manner as roadways and sidewalks.	
Parkland Acquisition	Developers may be required to provide recreational amenities and opportunities in areas of intensification, in addition to parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu.	
Parkland Acquisition	Within higher density development areas, the City must ensure that parkland dedication results in park areas that can accommodate recreational activities, recognizing that cash-in-lieu of parkland may be applied to achieve this objective.	
Parkland Acquisition	The City should continue to ensure that new parks anticipated through subdivision applications are constructed in newly developed residential areas within three years of residential construction being initiated (based on the date that the subdivision agreement is registered). Procedures should be put into place for deadline extensions (e.g., if there is a downturn in the market) and for early ownership transfer to the City as a result of non-compliance (at which point the City could seek to complete the park using the developer's deposit).	
Parkland Acquisition	Where shortfalls may occur in parkland acquisition through the development process, the City should employ a range of alternative parkland acquisition mechanisms to obtain the necessary amount of parkland.	
Parkland Design & Amenities	Provisions to incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness, and informal use opportunities – in an effort to encourage use and improve activity levels – should be paramount considerations in the design of parks.	See also Physical Activity Strategy
Parkland Design & Amenities	To ensure that safety concerns do not become a barrier to park usage, the City should continue to incorporate CPTED principles in park design.	
Parkland Design & Amenities	The City should continue to design parks that incorporate natural, indigenous vegetation features in order to foster an appreciation for such areas and maintain crucial ecological functions.	
Parkland Design & Amenities	In partnership with local conservation authorities and other experts in environmental management, the City should continue to develop innovative and engaging initiatives that encourage environmental stewardship and the role of individuals in maintaining and enhancing ecological systems.	
Parkland Design & Amenities	The City should ensure that adequate and consistent signage and/or appealing entrance features exist at all municipal parks, trailheads (with appropriate routing information). These amenities should be restored or replaced when they deteriorate.	
Parkland Design & Amenities	Public washroom facilities (through a combination of permanent and portable facilities) should continue to be provided at heavily utilized parks and key trailheads along the greenway systems.	
Parkland Needs	Using environmental assessments/studies as guides, valley lands, woodlots, areas of natural and scientific interest, and linear linkages should continue to be preserved as public open space (i.e., passive parkland), but will not necessarily be accepted as the required parkland dedication under the meaning of the <i>Planning Act</i> .	Potential implications for Woodlot Acquisition Program
Parkland Needs	Using the Master Plan as a guide, the City should obtain sites that are suitable for active recreational pursuits in keeping with the recommended provision standards of 2.5 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents (excluding linear parks).	
Park Renewal & Redevelopment	The City should look to partnerships with the community or public memorial contributions to assist in offsetting parkland beautification costs. For example, community organizations could be approached to participate in adopt-a-park or park beautification projects.	
Park Renewal & Redevelopment	To better reflect changes in Vaughan's population, the City should incorporate amenities that increase the usability of parks for: (a) older residents; (b) residents of different ethnic backgrounds; and (c) residents that prefer additional pedestrian and bicycle-oriented options.	
Parkland Supply	Every effort should be made to maintain a healthy ratio of active and passive parkland to the population served.	

*Executive Summary & Implementation Plan*



### Indoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
1	Multi-use Community Centres - Land Acquisition	The City should acquire an adequate land base for each of the four proposed multi-purpose community centres (Block 11, Block 40/41/42, the Vaughan Corporate Centre, and the Long Term Residential Growth Area), as well as the required library facilities (which should be designed in coordination with community centres, wherever possible).	X	X		
2a	Multi-use Community Centres	Based upon facility need assessments conducted as part of the Master Plan, the City should construct four additional multi-use community centres, not including the planned Block 10 facility. Community centres are required in both Carrville (Block 11) and the northern portion of the Vellore Village (Block 40/41/42) by 2012, both of which will also serve a portion of the future Long Term Residential Growth Area. A third community centre should be built around 2021 to serve the Vaughan Corporate Centre and surrounding areas, while the fourth centre is recommended in the Long Term Residential Growth Area (with a preference to the western portion of the area) by 2031 as it reaches build out.	X	X	X	
2b	Indoor Aquatics	The provision of two new indoor pool tanks is required to meet long-term needs; at least one tank should be a leisure design with some capacity for lane swimming. In addition to reconfirming the feasibility of developing these facilities in the future, the type and size of the tanks should be determined prior to their construction in line with future demand and design trends. A preferred location for one or both pool tanks is at the recommended multi-use community centre in the Long Term Residential Growth Area.		X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction; see also action plan priority #9
2c	Gymnasiums	A total of two new municipal gymnasiums will be required to serve long-term needs and should be considered at two of the proposed multi-use community centre facilities.	X	X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction
2d	Multi-use Program Spaces	The inclusion of flexible multi-purpose spaces should be considered in the design of all appropriate community-oriented facilities, including the proposed community centres. These spaces should be designed to accommodate a variety of opportunities and activities, to the greatest extent possible.	X	X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction/ redevelopment
2e	Child & Youth Space	Dedicated youth space for structured and unstructured recreation and leisure activities should be included at all new multi-use community centres. These spaces should be designed in consultation with local youth (e.g., Vaughan Youth Cabinet). Stand-alone youth centres are not recommended.	X	X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction

## Indoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events (continued)

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
2f	Older Adult & Senior's Space	The inclusion of flexible spaces oriented to older adult programming should be considered in the design of all four new multi-use community centres. No additional stand-alone seniors' facilities are recommended.	X	X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction
2g	Ice Pads	A twin pad should be developed at the proposed community centre in Carrville (block 11). Once this facility is operational, the ice surface at the Maple Community Centre should be closed, with consideration given to redeveloping the space for community centre activities. Additional study and ice time commitments from user groups is required to determine the timing of the twin pad arena (i.e., should it be developed at the same time as the community centre or as a subsequent second phase).	X			see also action plan priority #'s 10 & 11
2h	Ice Pads	A twin pad arena should be built west of Highway 400 between 2021 and 2031 at either the multi-use community centre proposed for the Long Term Residential Growth Area or the Vellore Village area (Block 40/41/42).			X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction; see also action plan priority #'s 10 & 11
2i	Pre-school/ Children's Space	The City should continue to include drop-in preschool and early childhood development programming space in the design of future multi-use community centres.	X	X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction
2j	Fitness Training Clubs	At a minimum, the City should provide equipment-less fitness "studios" at all new community centres, with a focus on active living programming and encouraging holistic health opportunities. The provision of full service fitness facilities (with exercise equipment) should be determined by a business planning process that includes a market demand assessment.	X	X	X	dependent upon timing of community centre construction
3	Multi-use Community Centres	The City of Vaughan should consider providing select municipal services and appropriate private services at local community centres to reduce transportation barriers for citizens, including seniors. Potential services could include, but are not limited to: postal services; health and wellness clinics and practitioners; municipal application forms and licensing; and property tax and municipal bill payment. A feasibility study – guided by a multi-departmental working committee – should be undertaken to investigate in greater depth the costs, benefits, challenges, and opportunities of moving towards a multi-service centre concept in the future.	X			
4	Access Cards	The City should undertake further investigation into implementing an "ability-to-pay" model for recreation user fees (for all age groups, including seniors) and the development of a "smart card" application tool that improves access to available subsidies.	X			

**Indoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events (continued)**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
5	Older Adult & Senior's Programming	Over time, the City should increase its delivery of recreational, educational, and cultural programming that targets the interests of both older adults (baby boomers) and seniors. New programming should be offered at select municipal facilities – not only in the daytime, but also in the evenings – where local demand warrants.	X	X	X	see also the Physical Activity Strategy
6	Youth Space Dialogue	The City should develop a set of consultative tools to keep apprised of youth demands and opinions pertaining to the municipality's new and existing facilities and services.	X			
7a	Existing Multi-use Community Centres	Existing community centres should be renovated and or retrofitted as necessary to keep pace with the quality associated with newer community centres.		X	X	
7b	Older Adult & Senior's Space	Existing and new community centres should be renovated or designed to be "seniors friendly" in order serve this rapidly growing demographic (the 55+ age group currently represents 20% of the City's population, but will grow to 31% by 2031).		X	X	
8	Indoor Aquatics	The City should establish a strategy to address requests for new and non-traditional types of aquatic programming, in order to respond to evolving community demographics.		X		
9	Older Adult & Senior's Programming	The City should coordinate with the Central Local Health Integrated Network on partnership opportunities for older adult and senior programming.		X	X	see also the Physical Activity Strategy
10	Multi-use Community Centres	Should the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena be removed from service due to intensification and/or financial sustainability concerns, timing of the Vaughan Corporate Community Centre may need to be advanced, while ensuring that it contains a pool (as a replacement), seniors' room, teen room, a gymnasium, and fitness facilities. The Memorial Arena ice surface should also be replaced through the twinning of another ice pad.	X	X	X	
11	Ice Pads	Should a decision be made to remove the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena from service due to redevelopment proposals, a twin pad in the Woodbridge/Woodbridge East area should be constructed as a replacement and also to serve future population growth in the Vaughan Corporate Centre area. Timing is dependent upon whether or not the existing arena facility is removed.	X	X	X	

### Indoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Ongoing Guidance

Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Key Considerations
Fitness Training Clubs	The City should continue to develop innovative and engaging fitness programming that responds to the needs of the growing and evolving population.	see also the Physical Activity Strategy
Gymnasiums	Continued access to school board gymnasiums (through agreements negotiated by the City) is required in order to reconcile community-level distribution criteria, as well as to alleviate pressure on the municipal supply.	
Indoor Aquatics	Any new indoor aquatic facility should be "senior friendly", including high levels of accessibility, accommodations for lap swimming and aquafit, warmer water (including consideration for a therapeutic pool tank), and appropriate support space (e.g., change rooms).	
Indoor Turf	Prior to investment in any municipal indoor turf facilities, the City will be required to undertake a feasibility study and business planning exercise to ensure that investment is justified in the context of a tolerable level of risk and the ability/desire to compete with a strong base of existing local service providers.	
Multi-use Community Centres	New community recreation facilities should be designed to incorporate "green" technologies to a level supported by LEED or equivalent standards, thereby reinforcing the City's role as a leader in environmental efficiency and stewardship.	
Multi-use Community Centres	New community centres should, at a minimum, be located in highly accessible locations and on transit routes, have high visual identification, and be designed in consultation with community representatives to ensure that spaces are responsive to their users.	
Multi-use Community Centres	The City should continue to ensure that standards established in the <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act</i> are met at all community centres.	
Multi-use Community Centres	The City should ensure that adequate and consistent signage and/or appealing entrance features exist at all municipal recreation and cultural facilities. These amenities should be restored or replaced when they deteriorate.	
Youth Space	The City should ensure that appropriate municipal staff are regularly trained to be "youth-friendly" and responsive to youth needs in order to facilitate a welcoming atmosphere at civic facilities.	



**Outdoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
1	Trails	Proceed with the implementation of key off-road pathways as articulated in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study as a high priority project.	X	X	X	
2	Soccer and Other Field Sports	Steadily increase the number of soccer fields – with an emphasis on “senior field” development – from 143 to 193 by 2031 (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields and every outdoor artificial turf field is equal to 2 unlit fields). To the greatest extent possible, new fields should be clustered together to form multi-field complexes, either at existing parks or at future park locations.	X	X	X	
3	Skateboard / Bike Parks	The City seek creative funding opportunities in expanding its supply of skateboard park facilities from 1 at present to 5 or more by build-out, with a focus on developing most new facilities within the next five to ten years. Existing demand justifies the provision of skate parks in Thornhill, Maple, Woodbridge, Woodbridge East, and Carrville, while the Long Term Residential Growth Area would be a good candidate for a future skate park.	X	X	X	This is a high priority given the low current supply and significant youth population.
4a	Ball Diamonds	Based on current participation rates, the City should maintain a minimum of 51 ball diamonds (of an appropriate quality and design for organized use) in order to meet local needs at present, growing to a total of 67 diamonds by 2031.	X	X	X	
4b	Ball Diamonds	The City should identify and implement opportunities to improve the quality of select ball diamonds and removal of other diamonds (where demand or lack of demand warrants) in an effort to ensure that the existing supply continues to satisfy local needs.	X	X	X	
4c	Ball Diamonds	Several diamonds within established areas of the City are surplus to community needs. The City, in cooperation with local organizations, should consider converting/repurposing underutilized or low quality ball diamonds to other uses (e.g., skateboard parks, soccer fields, passive space, dog parks etc.), especially when undertaking park renewal projects and/or when searching for land to accommodate other needed facilities in the communities of Woodbridge, Maple and Thornhill.	X	X	X	
5	Outdoor Aquatics	Continue to provide one waterplay facility for each full residential block (in District level parks). Approximately 12 new waterplay facilities will be required by build-out. The anticipated provision strategy involves providing additional facilities in Vellore Village (2), Carrville (2), Thornhill (1), Kleinburg (1), Vaughan Corporate Centre (1), and the Long Term Residential Growth Area (5 or more); however, the location of these facilities should be reconfirmed prior to construction.	X	X	X	

**Outdoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events (continued)**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
6	Basketball Courts	Utilizing a target of 1 court for every 500 youth ages 10 to 19, the City should develop basketball courts within the new developing portions of the City, including Thornhill (up to 2 courts), Long Term Residential Growth Area (up to 18 courts), as well as a up to 8 courts in the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles (Jane to Keele) area.	X	X	X	
7	Off-Leash Dog Parks	The City should develop at least one new off-leash dog park as a pilot project to gauge the demand for the facility and the capacity of the community to support it through assistance with certain operational aspects. Additional off-leash areas should be pursued if the pilot project is deemed successful.	X			
8	Outdoor Skating Rinks	To enhance the City's existing supply and distribution of artificial outdoor ice rinks, the City should develop one additional artificial ice surface in Woodbridge and eventually in the Long-Term Residential Growth Area and Vaughan Corporate Centre. The establishment of natural ice rinks could be explored as opportunities arise, but is not recommended as a long-term solution for meeting community needs.	X	X	X	Locating rinks at Community Centre sites is preferred
9	Outdoor Skating Rinks	The outdoor ice rink at Glen Shields Activity Centre should be removed and replaced with a skate park and/or basketball court.	X			
10	Tennis Courts	As needs arise, the City may consider evaluating the supply of tennis courts in Woodbridge East, Kleinburg, and Thornhill and converting a small number of underutilized courts to basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, or skateboard parks (where justified).	X	X	X	
11	Skateboard / Bike Parks	The introduction of smaller-scale skate zones into neighbourhood-level parks is encouraged to facilitate the causal use of the park by those who are seeking basic skateboarding elements.	X	X	X	Skate zones are considered "play apparatuses" for youth.
12	Soccer and Other Field Sports	The City should provide one new sports field that gives priority scheduling to non-soccer users. At a minimum, this field should have appropriate irrigation, drainage and lighting systems.	X			
13	Off-Leash Dog Parks	Advance planning should be undertaken for the development of up to 5 additional off-leash dog parks.	X	X		Give consideration to converting underutilized facilities such as certain ball diamonds.
14	Outdoor Aquatics	No additional wading pools or outdoor swimming pools should be constructed. The existing pools in Thornhill should be phased out when they become economically unfeasible to operate or maintain and be replaced with waterplay facilities or removed altogether. Major facility renewal should only be considered if supplemented by significant community-based funding as this is no longer a required service level.	X	X	X	

**Outdoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events (continued)**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
15	Ball Diamonds	The City should monitor the participation levels of ball players to determine the number and timing of any new ball field development within the Long Term Residential Growth Area communities. Planned development of ball diamonds in Carrville and Vellore Village should be sufficient to meet future needs in these areas.	X	X	X	
16	Tennis Courts	New tennis court development should be limited to new neighbourhoods. Using a recommended target of 1 court per 5,000 residents in new areas, new court development can be justified the Long Term Residential Growth Area (up to 15 courts) and the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles (Jane to Keele) area.	X	X	X	

**Outdoor Recreation Facility Action Plans - Ongoing Guidance**

Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Key Considerations
Outdoor Aquatics	The scale and location of waterplay features should reflect the population levels and age characteristics of each area. A two-tiered hierarchy of minor and major waterplay facilities should be established to guide the design process.	
Outdoor Bocce Courts	Given current usage profiles, no additional outdoor bocce courts should be developed. Demand in growing communities should be monitored over time to determine future provision strategies.	
Outdoor Bocce Courts	Usage of existing outdoor courts should be tracked to determine if any can be declared surplus and re-purposed as higher-need recreational facilities.	
Playgrounds	The City should continue to provide a playground within 500-metres of all residences within urbanized neighbourhoods, unobstructed by major pedestrian impediments such as highways, major arterial roads, railway corridors, waterways, valleys, etc. This goal applies to existing and future residential areas.	Play appartuses should be provided for all ages and include skateboard facilities.
Playgrounds	The City should take appropriate steps to address gaps in playground provision within existing residential neighbourhoods.	
Playgrounds	The City should continue to consider the needs of persons with disabilities when developing and replacing playground equipment.	
Skateboard / Bike Parks	Local youth and skateboarding/biking representatives should be consulted in the design of any new skateboard/bike parks developed by the City.	
Soccer and Other Field Sports	In developing new fields, preference should be given to designing most fields as senior fields that can be used for older youth and adult play, as well as by younger children through the division of the field into mini pitches.	
Soccer and Other Field Sports	Due to land shortages, more fields should be artificial turf. Artificial turf provides extended seasonal play, requires less maintenance and field rest, generates increased revenues, and provides a consistent, durable and flexible playing surface that can be used for a variety of sports.	
Trails	As part of subdivision agreements required under Section 51(25)(d) of the Planning Act, trails/liner corridors should be required as an essential service in the transportation linkage system and should not be part of parkland dedication obtained under Section 44 of the Act.	
Trails	The City should continue to seek and capitalize on opportunities to create a linked open space system through the integration of woodlots, open spaces, and parks into an overall network of trails through partnerships, tax incentives, and the mandatory service level requirement.	

*Active*  
**TOGETHER**

*Executive Summary & Implementation Plan*

**City of Vaughan: Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries  
November 2008**

**MASTERPLAN**

Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries

### Arts, Culture & Heritage Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
1	Arts & Culture Policies	As identified in <i>Vaughan Vision 2020</i> , the City should develop an Arts and Cultural Strategy to increase support for and promotion of the arts and culture in the community.	X			
2	Arts & Culture Policies	Through its Official Plan review, the City should look for ways to strengthen its land use and development policies and guidelines as they relate to arts, culture and heritage, including considerations such as public art requirements.	X			Official Plan review is underway (2008-09)
3	Heritage Buildings	As identified in <i>Vaughan Vision 2020</i> , the City should complete a strategy for utilization of City-owned historical houses by the community.	X			
4	Multi-Purpose Arts & Cultural Space	Ensure that all new community centres and renovations to existing community centres have sufficient space for arts programming. Consideration should be given to accommodating local introductory-level arts and cultural needs through these spaces and flexible design for a range of programming (e.g. dance, music, painting, pottery, etc.).	X	X	X	
5	Multi-Purpose Arts & Cultural Space	The City should encourage the display of local arts and cultural exhibitions in indoor public spaces, including all existing and future community centres and libraries. The City should also review the potential for public gallery space in the new Civic Centre.	X	X	X	
6	Multi-Purpose Arts & Cultural Space	Ensure that the new Civic Centre or one of the new community centres has sufficient outdoor space to be a true City-wide gathering location for major cultural and civic events.	X	X	X	

### Arts, Culture & Heritage Action Plans - Ongoing Guidance

Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Key Considerations
Multi-Purpose Arts & Cultural Space	Continue to work with the arts and cultural community to optimize the utilization of existing meeting/gathering spaces for their potential to accommodate the needs of these groups.	
Multi-Purpose Arts & Cultural Space	Encourage arts-based components through outdoor facility design to allow casual and programmable opportunities at civic spaces and public parks.	
Multi-Purpose Arts & Cultural Space	The City should continue to encourage the development of Vaughan Corporate Centre as a hub for creative and cultural activities.	
Heritage Buildings	Opportunities to link heritage buildings to the City's trail system should be supported in order to improve access to and awareness of these sites.	

**Library Facility Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
1	Library Facilities	An aggressive library building programme will be required in order to keep pace with population growth and resident expectations. At present, service gaps exist in Maple, Carrville, and Vellore Village; library service to the Long-term Residential Growth Area and Vaughan Corporate Centre and/or Steeles (Jane to Keele) will also be required in the future. Vaughan Public Libraries should seek to implement a long-term facility provision strategy using the strategies proposed in this Plan as a point of departure.	X	X	X	Land acquisition will be necessary for most (if not all) future facilities.
2	Library Facilities	Vaughan Public Libraries should work towards updating its service delivery model to better reflect current realities and future service approaches.	X			

**Library Facility Action Plans - Ongoing Guidance**

Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Key Considerations
Library Facilities	A target of 0.61 square feet per capita of library space is recommended for Vaughan Public Libraries.	
Library Facilities	Every effort should be made to coordinate future planning of libraries and civic facilities.	

**Plan Implementation, Monitoring & Updating Action Plans - Specific Outcomes/One-time Events**

Priority	Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Timing			Key Considerations
			2008-2012	2013-2017	2018+	
1	Master Plan Monitoring & Updating	The City's current parks and community facility inventory tools (i.e., "Breakthru") should be integrated into a GIS-based system in order to improve research, future planning, asset management, and marketing efforts.	X			
2	Master Plan Monitoring & Updating	The Active Together Master Plan should be reviewed annually as part of the City's business planning/budgeting process and be fully updated in 2018. Significant changes in the community or other major planning initiatives may necessitate an update prior to this time (i.e., as early as 2013). In preparation for the Master Plan review, special focus group sessions with ethnic groups and leaders may assist in better understanding leisure interests and cultural preferences.	X	X		

**Plan Implementation, Monitoring & Updating Action Plans - Ongoing Guidance**

Subject Area	Action Plan / Recommendation	Key Considerations
Partnerships	The Department should proactively seek out partners to alleviate the capital and operating burden that may be realized through the facility developments and program enhancements recommended through the Master Plan.	
Partnerships	Future partnership opportunities should consider the decision-making protocols outlined in the City's existing partnership policies and this Master Plan; further all future service agreements should be aligned with the priorities outlined in the Active Together Master Plan.	
Master Plan Monitoring & Updating	Prior to the development or expansion of major parks, recreation, culture, and library facilities, the City should conduct appropriate feasibility studies, site selections and business plans to verify that recommended facility components are justified given future community demographics and market demand at that time.	
Master Plan Monitoring & Updating	The Recreation & Culture Department should continue to collect annual registration data from local sports organizations in order to benchmark participation levels over time and apply market-specific provision targets articulated throughout this Master Plan.	this is a key requirement for monitoring demand and identifying the appropriate timing of facility development (e.g., ice pads, soccer fields, ball diamonds, cricket pitches, etc.)
Master Plan Monitoring & Updating	The City should utilize targets in conjunction with other important factors, including trends, spatial and usage data, degree of "pent-up" demand, and population growth in respective age groups to make informed decisions pertaining to facility-based demand and before finalizing capital investment.	

## Summary of Capital Requirements

The targets and timing of facility and park acquisition and/or development, as identified in the Master Plan, have been summarized in the table on the following two pages. Proposed timing is based on ideal circumstances (considering projected population targets) and is subject to change based on preferred implementation strategies. In creating the schedule of capital projects (see the next section), the timing of facility provision has been adjusted slightly to better align with funding and other development synergies.

### SUMMARY OF CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS: Parkland and Facility Targets based on Recommended Provision Standards

	Current Supply	Recommended Provision Standard	Current Shortfall	Total Recommended Supply (2031)	Notes
<b>Active Parkland (ha)</b>	740 ha	2.5ha/ 1000 pop.	0	1,082 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- areas of greatest need include: the Long Term Residential Area, Carrville, Vellore Village, Vaughan Corporate Centre, Thornhill, Steeles (Jane to Keele), and Kleinburg</li> <li>- acquisition of active parkland is contingent upon conveyance from development and/or alternate methods</li> <li>- parkland will still be acquired to serve new development areas between 2008-2011</li> </ul>
<b>Passive Parkland (ha)</b>	349 ha	1.34ha/ 1000 pop.	0	580 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- acquisition of passive parkland is opportunity-based and will not be accepted as the required parkland conveyance</li> </ul>
<b>Community Centres</b>	10	n/a (dependent upon component needs and distribution)	0	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- see requirements for ice pads, indoor pools, and gymnasiums for more information regarding community centre components; space for youth, seniors, arts/culture, fitness/active living, indoor walking, and other activities should also be considered</li> </ul>
<b>Arenas (Ice Pads)</b>	8	1:500 registered youth participants	0	10-12 (to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- timing of future provision is dependent upon community centre development and future of Memorial Arena</li> <li>- current supply includes municipal rinks and two ice pads covered by the Sports Village partnership agreement</li> <li>- needs could be affected by changes to private arena supply</li> </ul>
<b>Indoor Pool Tanks</b>	10	1:30,000	0	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- timing of future provision is dependent upon community centre development</li> </ul>
<b>Gymnasiums</b>	9	1:35,000	0	11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- timing of future provision is dependent upon community centre development and future of Woodbridge Pool</li> <li>- three gyms at Vellore Village C.C. which are permitted by through School Board are not included in the supply</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Soccer / Sports Fields</b>	143	1:56 registered youth participants	3	193	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- one new field should give priority to non-soccer users</li> <li>- one cricket field is planned and demand should be monitored to determine future need</li> <li>- fields are shown in "unlit equivalent units", where one lit field equals 1.5 unlit fields and one artificial turf field equals 2.0 unlit fields</li> <li>- supply includes permitted school fields, but excludes "mini mini" fields</li> </ul>

**SUMMARY OF CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS: Parkland and Facility Targets based on Recommended Provision Standards**

	Current Supply	Recommended Provision Standard	Current Shortfall	Total Recommended Supply (2031)	Notes
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	85	1:50 registered youth participants	0	67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a reduction in the overall supply of diamonds is recommended, while recognizing that upgrades may be required to others</li> <li>- there will continue to be a need to develop diamonds in new communities (but at a reduced level of provision)</li> <li>- diamonds are shown in "unlit equivalent units", where one lit diamond is equal to 1.5 unlit diamonds</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	124	1:5,000 in new areas	0	up to 151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- established areas of the City have an adequate supply (or oversupply) of tennis courts</li> <li>- new courts are only recommended in new development areas</li> </ul>
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	83	1:500 youth (aged 10-19) in new areas	0	up to 127	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- established areas of the City generally have an adequate supply of basketball courts</li> <li>- new courts are recommended in new development areas</li> </ul>
<b>Skateboard Parks</b>	1	1:7,500 youth (aged 10-19)	4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- smaller-scale skate zones should also be integrated into neighbourhood-level parks</li> </ul>
<b>Waterplay Facilities</b>	18	1 per residential block	0	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to be provided based on growth patterns</li> <li>- although a provision standard of 1 per 2,000 children (ages 0-9) is useful, but does not account for geographic distribution</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	147 parks	within 500-metres of urban residential areas, unobstructed		tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to be provided based on growth patterns</li> <li>- the City should also work to address service gaps within established areas</li> </ul>
<b>Off-leash Areas</b>	0	n/a	1	tbd – see notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pending the result of a pilot project, up to additional 5 off-leash areas should be planned (total of 6)</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Skating Rinks</b>	11	n/a	-1 (Glen Shields)	13	
<b>Library Facilities (sf)</b>	120,603sf at 7 locations	0.61 square feet per capita	37,606sf	264,159sf (minimum of 13-14 total locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability of funding and land, along with synergies associated with other civic building projects could affect timing of library construction</li> </ul>

Notes: Facilities not included in the above table include: dedicated youth space, dedicated seniors space, multi-use and meeting rooms, fitness/active living studios, indoor walking tracks, indoor soccer/sports centres, arts and cultural facilities (e.g., arts centre, museums, theatres, galleries), heritage buildings, trails, bocce courts – all of which should be provided on an as-needed basis, subject to further analysis and consistent with the directions outlined in this Master Plan and other supporting documents.



## Capital Cost Estimates

The costs for the Active Together Master Plan's capital recommendations are shown on the following pages.

All capital cost estimates are shown in current year dollars (2008) and are generally reflective of the current capital/construction environment. **Capital facility costs are consistent with values contained in the City of Vaughan Development Charges Background Study (prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd., August 2008), as are land costs (estimated at \$1.65 million per hectare).**

The estimates include costs associated with construction, contingencies, design fees, common spaces, furnishings and equipment, and site development, all of which are highly variable at this early point in the planning process. The City should account for inflation and other cost factors in its annual and long-term budgeting. The cost estimates noted in this section are felt to be reasonable guidelines for long-term budget planning and should be updated through a more detailed examination at the appropriate time.

Many of the facilities recommended in this Master Plan are eligible to receive partial funding through the City's Development Charges By-law, which covers 90% of growth-related capital based on historic service levels. The remaining 10% is typically financed by the municipality through a combination of reserve funds, tax dollars, or other arrangements. A portion of the recommended new facility development is non-growth related; Development Charges would not apply to these circumstances.

The City has limited resources and cannot afford to do everything that the community desires; this is one of the primary reasons for undertaking a Master Plan in the first place. Although the City may be challenged in providing the appropriate financial resources to meet the service standards recommended in this Plan, the City has an obligation to make every reasonable effort to implement these strategies through a variety of appropriate and acceptable means.

Note: As of September 2008, development industry representatives have appealed the methodology used to calculate Development Charges. If this appeal is successful, the Master Plan's implementation strategy will need to be revisited. A change to the DC methodology could reduce funding by nearly \$32 million between 2008-2017.



### Capital Cost Estimates – Outdoor Recreation & Park Facilities

<b>Outdoor Recreation &amp; Park Facilities</b>		<b>Short-Term (2009-2012)</b>	<b>Medium-Term (2013-2017)</b>	<b>Long-Term (2018-2031)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Soccer: Lit Artificial Turf</b>	New Supply	1	2	1	4
	@ \$1,300,000 ea.	\$1,300,000	\$2,600,000	\$1,300,000	\$5,200,000
<b>Soccer: Premium Lit</b>	New Supply	2	1	1	4
	@ \$375,360 ea.	\$750,720	\$375,360	\$375,360	\$1,501,440
<b>Soccer: Senior Lit</b>	New Supply	3	4	5	12
	@ \$315,360 ea.	\$946,080	\$1,261,440	\$1,576,800	\$3,784,320
<b>Soccer: Senior Unlit</b>	New Supply	0	0	2	2
	@ \$238,360 ea.	\$0	\$0	\$476,720	\$476,720
<b>Soccer: Mini</b>	New Supply	5	5	6	16
	@ \$2,640 ea.	\$13,200	\$13,200	\$15,840	\$42,240
<b>Ball: Senior Lit</b>	New Supply	5	4	0	9
	@ \$258,370 ea.	\$1,291,850	\$1,033,480	\$0	\$2,325,330
<b>Ball: Senior Unlit</b>	New Supply	0	2	0	2
	@ \$127,800 ea.	\$0	\$255,600	\$0	\$255,600
<b>Ball: Junior Unlit</b>	New Supply	0	1	0	1
	@ \$98,800 ea.	\$0	\$98,800	\$0	\$98,800
<b>Ball: T-ball</b>	New Supply	1	0	0	1
	@ \$5,390 ea.	\$5,390	\$0	\$0	\$5,390
<b>Cricket Pitches</b>	New Supply	0	1	0	1
	@ \$10,835 ea.	\$0	\$10,835	\$0	\$10,835
<b>Tennis Courts: Lit</b>	New Supply	4	4	10	18
	@ \$51,725 ea.	\$206,900	\$206,900	\$517,250	\$931,050
<b>Tennis Courts: Unlit</b>	New Supply	2	3	4	9
	@ \$28,725 ea.	\$57,450	\$86,175	\$114,900	\$258,525
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	New Supply	6	8	19	33
	@ \$30,000 ea.	\$180,000	\$240,000	\$570,000	\$990,000
<b>Play Courts</b>	New Supply	3	2	6	11
	@ \$27,710 ea.	\$81,510	\$54,340	\$163,020	\$298,870

continued...

**Capital Cost Estimates – Outdoor Recreation & Park Facilities (continued...)**

<b>Outdoor Recreation &amp; Park Facilities</b>		<b>Short-Term (2009-2012)</b>	<b>Medium-Term (2013-2017)</b>	<b>Long-Term (2018-2031)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Playgrounds: Senior</b>	New Supply	27	15	52	<b>94</b>
	@ \$107,000 ea.	\$2,889,000	\$1,605,000	\$5,564,000	<b>\$10,058,000</b>
<b>Playgrounds: Junior</b>	New Supply	23	10	42	<b>75</b>
	@ \$87,000 ea.	\$2,001,000	\$870,000	\$3,654,000	<b>\$6,525,000</b>
<b>Bocce Courts (outdoor) - Lit</b>	New Supply	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	@ \$85,000 ea.	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Bocce Courts (outdoor) - Unlit</b>	New Supply	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	@ \$60,000 ea.	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Splash Pads</b>	New Supply	3	5	4	<b>12</b>
	@ \$242,850 ea.	\$728,550	\$1,241,250	\$971,400	<b>\$2,914,200</b>
<b>Skateboard Parks</b>	New Supply	1	4	0	<b>5</b>
	@ \$650,000 ea.	\$650,000	\$2,600,000	\$0	<b>\$3,250,000</b>
<b>Small-scale Skate Zones / Apparatuses</b>	New Supply	2	2	4	<b>8</b>
	@ \$50,000 ea.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Outdoor Ice Rinks</b>	New Supply	1	0	2	<b>3</b>
	@ \$810,800 ea.	\$810,800	\$0	\$1,621,600	<b>\$2,432,400</b>
<b>Off-leash Parks / Areas</b>	New Supply	1	2	3	<b>6</b>
	@ \$80,000 ea.	\$80,000	\$160,000	\$240,000	<b>\$480,000</b>
<b>Land Development Base Costs (excl. above-noted items)</b>	New Supply*	approx. 150 ha	approx. 50 ha	approx. 150 ha	<b>approx. 350 ha</b>
	@ \$253,000/ha. to \$312,000/ha	\$32,055,926	\$16,505,765	\$40,148,287	<b>\$88,709,978</b>
<b>Off-road Trail &amp; Pathways System</b>	New Supply	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
	@ \$300,000 / yr.	\$1,200,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,200,000	<b>\$6,900,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$45,348,376</b>	<b>\$30,791,145</b>	<b>\$61,709,177</b>	<b>\$137,848,698</b>

**Notes:** Estimates for all capital items included in this Plan are consistent with the approach used in the City's 2008 Development Charges Background Study. The total cost to build an Outdoor Recreation & Park Facility is calculated by combining the facility cost (e.g.: Soccer: Premium Lit, Playgrounds: Senior, etc.) to the land development base costs (i.e.: topsoil stripping, rough grading, sodding, electrical service, water service, drainage, etc.) for that specific facility. For example, the total estimated cost to construct a standard Soccer: Premium Lit field would be \$375,360 in facility costs plus approximately \$257,000 in land development base costs for an estimated total of \$632,360. The land development base costs are reflected in aggregate form under the "Land Development Base Costs" category above.

\* based on a combination of currently planned projects and provision targets; values subject to change

## Capital Cost Estimates – Indoor Recreation & Culture Facilities

<b>Indoor Recreation &amp; Culture Facilities</b>	<b>Short-Term (2009-2012)</b>	<b>Medium-Term (2013-2017)</b>	<b>Long-Term (2018-2031)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Community Centre: Block 11</b>	acquire land (7ha), study	construction	--	--
	\$11,600,000	\$36,166,000	\$0	\$47,766,000
<b>Community Centre: Block 40/41/42</b>	--	acquire land (7ha), study, construction	--	--
	\$0	\$47,766,000	\$0	\$47,766,000
<b>Community Centre: Vaughan Corporate Centre</b>	--	acquire land (7ha*)	study, construction	--
	\$0	\$11,550,000	\$26,154,782	\$37,704,782
<b>Community Centre: Long-Term Residential Growth Area</b>	--	--	acquire land (9ha), study, construction	--
	\$0	\$0	\$42,092,428	\$42,092,428
<b>Additional Program Space (Growth- related)</b>	expand 2 centres	expand 3 centres	expand 1 centre	--
	\$8,530,000	\$7,030,000	\$2,500,000	\$18,060,000
<b>Re-purpose Existing Community Centre Components to Match with Changing Trends &amp; Needs</b>	--	renovate 3 centres	renovate 2 centres	--
	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$25,000,000
<b>New Twin Pad Arena to Replace Memorial Arena**</b>	--	--	acquire land (2ha), construction	--
	\$0	\$0	\$18,300,000	\$18,300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,130,000</b>	<b>\$ 117,512,001</b>	<b>\$ 99,047,264</b>	<b>\$ 236,689,264</b>

\* The Vaughan Corporate Centre community centre is listed as requiring 7 hectares of land; however, due to the intensity of development in this area, the building form may be more compact (e.g., multiple stories, underground parking, etc.) or be an integral component of another development partnership – this means that less land may be required, although it is recognized that land may be more expensive in this location.

\*\* One-half of this project (i.e., one ice pad) may not be eligible for funding through Development Charges.

Notes: All capital and land costs are consistent with the City's Development Charges Study and based on a price of \$1.65 million per hectare (\$667,755/acre). All costs include land acquisition (where applicable), studies, design, site development, construction, fees and expenses, furniture and equipment (2008\$). Because the components of each proposed community centre are not yet fully determined, the estimated costs are highly variable. The actual costs of the capital projects will be confirmed once more detailed studies are undertaken. Costs exclude library components, where applicable.

### Capital Cost Estimates – Library Facilities

<b>Library Facilities</b>	<b>Short-Term (2009-2012)</b>	<b>Medium-Term (2013-2017)</b>	<b>Long-Term (2018-2031)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Maple / Civic Centre Resource Library</b> (36,000sf)	acquire land (1.5ha), study, construction	--	--	--
	\$15,225,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,225,000
<b>Carrville Branch Library</b> (15,000sf)	acquire land (0.45ha), study	construction	--	--
	\$792,500	\$5,262,500	\$0	\$6,055,000
<b>Vellore Village Branch Library</b> (15,000sf)	--	acquire land (0.45ha), study, construction	--	--
	\$0	\$6,055,000	\$0	\$6,055,000
<b>Long-Term Residential Growth Area Branch Library</b> (15,000sf)	--	--	acquire land (0.45ha), study, construction	--
	\$0	\$0	\$6,055,000	\$6,055,000
<b>Vaughan Corporate Centre Resource Library</b> (36,000sf)	--	acquire land (1ha)	study, construction	--
	\$0	\$1,650,000	\$12,750,000	\$14,400,000
<b>Long-Term Residential Growth Area Branch Library</b> (26,000sf)	--	--	acquire land (0.8ha), study, construction	--
	\$0	\$0	\$10,528,333	\$10,528,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,017,500</b>	<b>\$ 12,967,500</b>	<b>\$ 29,333,333</b>	<b>\$ 58,318,333</b>

Notes: All capital and land costs are consistent with the City's Development Charges Study and based on a price of \$1.65 million per hectare (\$667,755/acre). All costs include land acquisition (where applicable), studies, design, site development, construction, fees and expenses, furniture and equipment (2008\$). Because the components of each proposed library are not yet fully determined, the estimated costs are highly variable. The actual costs of the capital projects will be confirmed once more detailed studies are undertaken. Costs exclude library collections, materials, and computer equipment.

**NOTE:** Cost estimates associated with each of the following four proposed community centre / library facilities are also contained in the preceding tables. These estimates should not be counted twice when totalling between tables.

**Proposed Community Centre - Block 11**

Potential Facility Components	Cost per SF	Component Size (SF)	Total Cost	Timing
<b>Community Centre</b>				
Land Acquisition (7ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 11,550,000	2012
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2011
Multi-use, Senior, Youth, and Arts program space	\$272	25,000	\$ 36,166,000	2012-14
Fitness / Active Living program space		20,000		
Office, Storage, Miscellaneous space		18,000		
Twin pad Arena		60,000		
Gymnasia		10,000		
<b>Branch Library</b>				
Land Acquisition (0.45ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 742,000	2012
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2011
Branch Library	\$354	15,000	\$ 5,262,500	2012-14
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>148,000</b>	<b>\$ 53,818,500</b>	--

**Proposed Community Centre - Block 40/41/42**

Potential Facility Components	Cost per SF	Component Size (SF)	Total Cost	Timing
<b>Community Centre</b>				
Land Acquisition (7ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 11,550,000	2014
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2013
Multi-use, Senior, Youth, and Arts program space	\$272	25,000	\$ 36,166,000	2013-15
Fitness / Active Living program space		20,000		
Office, Storage, Miscellaneous space		18,000		
Twin pad Arena		60,000		
Gymnasia		10,000		
<b>Branch Library</b>				
Land Acquisition (0.45ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 742,000	2014
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2013
Branch Library	\$354	15,000	\$ 5,262,500	2013-15
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>148,000</b>	<b>\$ 53,818,500</b>	--

**Proposed Community Centre – Vaughan Corporate Centre**

Potential Facility Components	Cost per SF	Component Size (SF)	Total Cost	Timing
<b>Community Centre</b>				
Land Acquisition (7ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 11,550,000	2017
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2019
Indoor Pool	\$272	25,000	\$ 26,104,782	2020-22
Multi-use, Senior, Youth, and Arts program space		25,000		
Fitness / Active Living program space		20,000		
Office, Storage, Miscellaneous space		16,000		
Gymnasia		10,000		
<b>Resource Library</b>				
Land Acquisition (1ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 1,165,000	2017
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2019
Resource Library	\$354	36,000	\$ 12,700,000	2020-22
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>132,000</b>	<b>\$ 51,619,782</b>	--

**Proposed Community Centre – Long-Term Residential Growth Area**

Potential Facility Components	Cost per SF	Component Size (SF)	Total Cost	Timing
<b>Community Centre</b>				
Land Acquisition (9ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 14,850,000	2022
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2027
Indoor Pool	\$272	25,000	\$ 27,192,482	2029-31
Multi-use, Senior, Youth, and Arts program space		25,000		
Fitness / Active Living program space		20,000		
Office, Storage, Miscellaneous space		20,000		
Gymnasia		10,000		
Twin pad Arena (tbd)	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd
<b>Branch Library (size &amp; timing tbd)</b>				
Land Acquisition (0.8ha)	n/a	n/a	\$ 1,320,000	2022
Feasibility Study	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000	2027
Branch Library	\$354	26,000	\$ 9,158,333	2029-31
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>126,000</b>	<b>\$ 52,620,815</b>	--

Notes regarding proposed Community Centre / Library projects on previous page:

- A twin pad arena is recommended in either the Block 40/41/42 community centre (as a second construction phase) or in the Long Term Residential Growth Area community centre; further study is required to determine the preferred location. Future arenas should consider the inclusion of indoor walking tracks. Estimated size is based on a community rink with limited spectator seating.
- Two of the proposed community centres should contain a full gymnasium (to be determined through facility-specific studies).
- Equipment-less fitness “studios” are recommended at all new community centres; business plans are required to assess market demand and feasibility for equipment-based fitness facilities.
- Should the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena be redeveloped for non-recreational land uses, timing of the Vaughan Corporate Community Centre may need to be advanced.

**Capital Cost Estimates – All Recommended Parks, Recreation, Culture and Library Capital Projects**

<b>All Capital Projects</b>	<b>Short-Term (2009-2012)</b>	<b>Medium-Term (2013-2017)</b>	<b>Long-Term (2018-2031)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Outdoor Recreation &amp; Parks Facilities</b>	\$ 45,348,376	\$ 30,791,145	\$ 61,709,177	\$ 137,848,698
<b>Indoor Recreation &amp; Culture Facilities</b>	\$ 20,130,000	\$ 117,512,001	\$ 99,047,264	\$ 236,689,264
<b>Library Facilities</b>	\$ 16,017,500	\$ 12,967,500	\$ 29,333,333	\$ 58,318,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 81,495,876</b>	<b>\$ 161,270,646</b>	<b>\$ 190,089,774</b>	<b>\$ 432,856,296</b>
<b>Average per Year</b>	\$ 20,373,969	\$ 32,254,129	\$ 13,577,841	\$ 18,819,839



## Operating Cost Estimates

For the purpose of illustrating the operating impacts associated with the capital-related action plans within the Active Together Master Plan, a simple forecast is provided based on available information. It is worth stating the forecast does not represent a proposed budget, but rather a projection of estimated direct departmental net impacts and is intended to generate awareness and stimulate meaningful discussion.

The forecast is based on estimated direct net operating costs, based on current and historical trends provided by departments, applied to the infrastructure timing determined in the Active Together Master Plan, and adjusted for construction timing requirements. A schedule of assumptions is provided in Appendix A. For simplicity, forecasted figures are based on 2008 dollars and exclude assessment growth. It is assumed that inflation and assessment growth will be partially offsetting; therefore, their inclusion would not likely alter the trends illustrated.

It is also important to note that net future operating impacts associated with the Block 10 (North Thornhill) Community Centre – which are approximately \$1.3 million scheduled for 2010 – are not included in the forecasted figures as this facility was approved by Council prior to the development of the Master Plan and associated recommendations. Nevertheless, the impact of the Block 10 Community Centre should be considered during discussions.

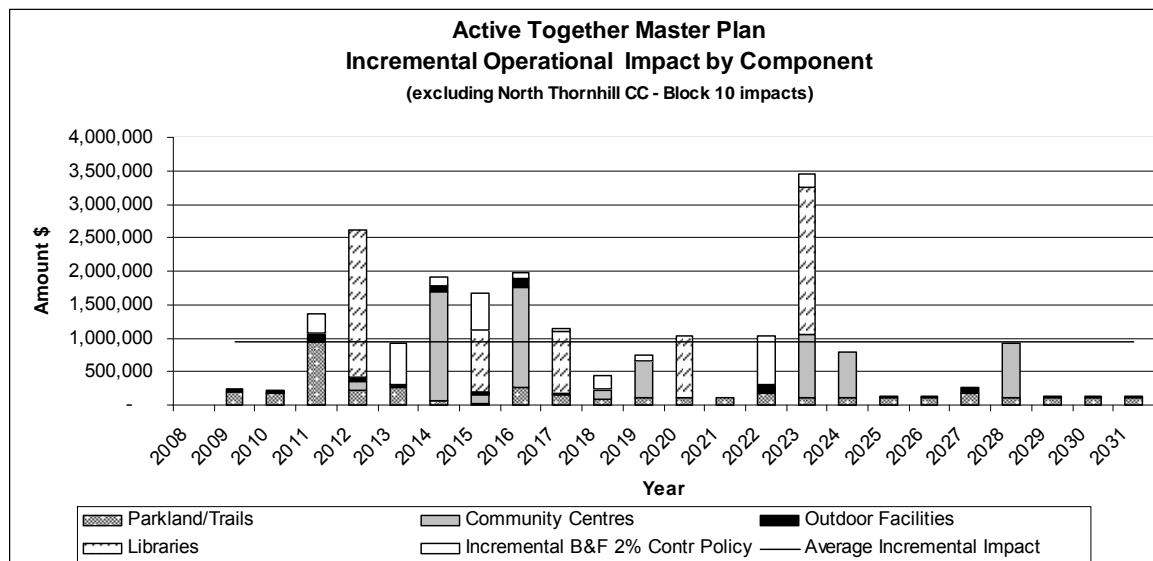
Over the period ending in 2031, the cumulative direct operating impacts associated with the Active Together Master Plan recommended infrastructure is just over \$300 million. Incremental impacts average \$1 million per year and can range between \$200,000 and \$3.4 million per year, depending on the type and timing of infrastructure. In 2008, a 1% tax rate increase equated to approximately \$1.1 million; therefore, the average tax rate impact associated with new parks, recreation, culture and library infrastructure would be approximately a 1% increase per year, fluctuating between 0.1% and 3.0%.

By far, the largest operational impacts are associated with the addition of indoor facilities, specifically community centre and library facilities. These facilities are restricted in their ability to generate revenue and recover full costs; requiring taxation-based funding to support operations in the neighbourhood of \$1 to \$2.2 million per unit annually, depending on the size and type of facility. In addition to the above, there is a requirement as per policy to contribute 2% of a new facility value to reserves annually. These contributions are intended to fund future building renewal costs and have an incremental operating funding impact of approximately \$3.7 million, which generates \$49 million over the period ending in 2031. In total, indoor facilities represent approximately 75% of the cumulative total operating impacts associated with this Master Plan.

Parks and outdoor facilities, although numerous, require significantly less funding than indoor facilities. The cumulative net operating impact over the Master Plan timeframe is \$72 million, representing approximately 25% of the cumulative total. Incremental annual impacts average \$110,000 per year and can range between \$65,000 and \$1.1 million per year, depending on the type and timing of infrastructure.



The graph at right illustrates the total net operational incremental impacts of the various components of the Active Together Master Plan.



Infrastructure Renewal Funding & Relationship to Service Levels

The condition and state of municipal infrastructure is an important factor in assessing a community’s overall quality of life and economic health. There is a natural symbiotic relationship between the sustainability of existing infrastructure and provision of existing service levels. Any imbalance will impact on the City’s economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

The City has developed a Long-Range Financial Planning (LRFP) model that forecasts infrastructure repair and replacement requirements for Vaughan’s municipal infrastructure, including parks, recreation, culture and library facilities. A significant portion of the City’s infrastructure is aging and approaching the end of its useful life and Vaughan is entering an era where there will be increased pressure for capital renewal.

Given the importance of these assets to the community, it is prudent to understand the challenges associated with aging infrastructure and set in place a plan for keeping facilities in an acceptable state of repair.

In a February 2008 Council report, the Finance Department estimated the infrastructure funding gap over the next 20 years to be \$394 million and growing. The portion related to Recreation, Culture, Parks, and Library services is approximately 30%. Costs and funding sources associated with renewal of existing infrastructure are expected to be addressed through ongoing and future initiatives being pursued by the City and, therefore, have not been included in this Master Plan.

## Executive Summary – Physical Activity Strategy

*Note: The full Physical Activity plan can be found in Appendix C of the Active Together Master Plan report.*

### Overview

The City of Vaughan has identified the need to develop a Physical Activity Strategy for those who live and work within the City boundary. The need for the strategy has arisen out of the alarming rates of inactivity and obesity in Canada and the City would like to take a pro-active approach in ensuring that:

- there is awareness of the inactivity issue within the community;
- the infrastructure of programs can meet the potential for increased use;
- there are opportunities for joint communication and joint strategies developed with all community partners;
- appropriate strategies are developed to deal with various ages and segments within the community;
- intervention strategies are developed to prompt and encourage people to increase their level of fitness;
- community input is gathered to test as to whether the strategies for the community are appropriate and deemed as workable for the community;
- a prioritized plan allows for the implementation of the plan over time; and
- a measurement tool is utilized to determine if intervention strategies are effective over time.

The City of Vaughan is renowned for providing a wide range of opportunities and facilities to enhance the quality of life in the community. The City is taking a proactive approach to develop strategies in response to the alarming rates of physical inactivity and obesity within Vaughan. The Physical Activity Strategy captures what exists and what can be done to increase the duration and intensity of active lifestyles of the residents and employees within the City boundaries.



### About Physical Activity and Obesity

Physical inactivity is the single most important factor contributing to ill health and preventable chronic disease. Research shows that physical activity and sport participation play a key role in improving physical and mental health, preventing disease, disability and premature death.

Nearly 46% of the population over 12 years in the York and Simcoe Health Regions self report being physically inactive. Furthermore, 45% of the population in York Region over 18 years is considered overweight to obese. The data also reported that obesity rates in children across Canada almost tripled between 1978 (3%) and 2004 (8%). The rise in obesity rates in Canada is attributed to the fact that, as a society, we are increasing our calorie intake while at the same time burning less energy in physical activity. Community designs, the convenience of the automobile, longer commutes, sedentary lifestyles and the amount of time spent in front of televisions, computers and game consoles have also decreased activity levels over time. The resultant health issues are evident by increased rates of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer.

### Vision & Goals – Physical Activity Strategy

#### Vision

Residents and employees have increased their level, duration and intensity of physical activity, have reduced their screen time and are rejuvenated as a result of the “Active Together” strategy.

#### Goal Statement One

Vaughan residents will have increased their physical activity levels by 10% by the year 2020.

#### Goal Statement Two

Vaughan residents will have reduced their “screen time” by 10% by the year 2020.





## Implementation Plan – Physical Activity Strategy

The implementation of the “Active Together” Strategy must take a planned and coordinated approach.

The development of a community coordinating committee will be crucial. Getting like minded community partners together to confirm a terms of reference, launch the strategy and make the “Active Together” initiative known to the community will be important outcomes in the first year.

The plan recommends actions in the first two years that will be of additional cost (marketing, logo development, signage, community committee support etc), but the leadership to coordinate the plan can for the most part be absorbed into the existing municipal staff time. It is suggested that \$40,000 per year for the duration of the term of the strategy be budgeted to

cover the cost to market and promote the strategy and develop new programs and initiatives. For years two and beyond, staff can apply for funding through the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Trillium Foundation and other funders and can leverage resources through the municipal contribution and through community partnerships.

The City is the “key facilitator” of the Physical Activity plan. Staff would identify what needs to be done and would either assume implementation responsibilities or share the responsibility for activities with other organizations involved in the plan's execution. Many community partners in parks and recreation, health and education are properly positioned to provide a substantial contribution to improvements in physical activity levels. Community partners must recognize that their mandates involve education plus the provision of information and supportive tools, infrastructure, programs and social environments, to encourage and motivate residents to become more active. Until the community partners are engaged in working as a collective, the City should work toward finalizing an annual work plan that is attainable and most importantly in the first two years brand and promote what is already being done to support increasing physical activity.

While the development of the Physical Activity Strategy is a key initiative in addressing health issues caused by inactivity, poor nutrition and unhealthy weights, the City's long-term commitment to implementing the strategic actions of the plan will be imperative to successes in advancing the health status of people that work, live, and play in Vaughan.

The implementation of the Strategy is guided by a series of Objectives and Initiatives – with timing associated with each – as outlined in the following tables.



**Objective One: Plan Identity and Recognition**

To create an identity and launch for the “Active Together” plan that will draw attention to the physical activity issue and prompt residents to respond to the call to action.

<b>Initiatives – Objective One</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
Confirm Strategy Name and develop visual look and logo	√				
Confirm a Community Champion (e.g., Mayor) and outline respective responsibilities	√				
Identify community leaders and role models and engage them in the content and delivery of the strategy		√			
Develop a one page overview and Power Point presentation on the issue of inactivity, what Vaughan is doing presently and what Vaughan plans to do in the future	√				
Train staff, community leaders, and partners and make presentations to all active and interested partners, community groups and agencies		√			
Launch a portal on the Vaughan website that hosts the plan, additional information, personal activity audit tools, pedometer challenge log, community partnerships and successes		√			
Plan a launch that “packs a punch”, alerts residents and businesses to the issue and informs them what they have to do to respond	√				
Confirm key messages, communications vehicles and any promotional materials (postcards, pedometers, posters, etc.)	√				
Ensure that the logo and marketing materials (e.g., pedometers) are widely distributed and visible (possibly through the Library system).		√			
Implement communications and social marketing strategy	√	√	√	√	√

### Objective Two: Strengthening Community Partnerships

To develop and strengthen community partnerships with organizations who can play their part increasing the level, intensity and duration of physical activities in Vaughan.

Initiatives – Objective Two	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Complete a list of public and private partners that will serve to increase physical activity	√				
Develop an “Active Together Charter” that speaks to the vision for Vaughan, the importance of physical activity, and the role of the stakeholders and partners signed by all partners at a launch event	√				
Develop Terms of Reference for a Coalition of Community Partners for “Active Together”	√				
Recruit, select and orient the coalition members and clarify roles and responsibilities	√				
Host a one day symposium to launch the plan with all community stakeholders so that each can gain some ownership, “play their part” and begin to submit baseline data		√			
Develop a list of potential sponsors and develop a sponsorship package for various components of the “Active Together” strategy			√	√	
Strengthen the relationships with the Boards of Education to ensure that access to school facilities and playing fields is maximized		√	√	√	√
Confirm - in concert with community partners - second and third year plan targets, deliverables and resources required		√	√		
List all community partners in the Recreation Guide and on the website as well as their contribution to increasing physical activity in Vaughan		√	√	√	√
Host an annual session that highlights new approaches, partnership arrangements, successes and results				√	√
Develop an awards and recognition program that rewards community and stakeholder efforts and individual successes				√	√



**Partnership Framework – Physical Activity Strategy**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Suggested Contributions</b>
Vaughan Recreation and Culture Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Venue and coordination of meetings</li> <li>○ Committee terms of reference</li> <li>○ Delivery of programs and initiatives</li> <li>○ Data collection, performance measures</li> <li>○ Use of the Recreation Guide to promote active living partners</li> <li>○ Preparation of the annual report</li> </ul>
Region of York Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promotion and education</li> <li>○ Assist at special events and other venues</li> <li>○ Communications, use of the website</li> <li>○ Cross promotion of programs and initiatives</li> </ul>
Vaughan Public Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Resource collections</li> <li>○ Displays</li> <li>○ Pedometer tool kit</li> </ul>
Vaughan Communications and Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communications and marketing plan</li> <li>○ Slogan and visual identity</li> <li>○ Media relations</li> </ul>
Boards of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information dissemination</li> <li>○ Supportive programs in schools</li> </ul>
Heart and Stroke Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cross promotion</li> <li>○ Use of websites</li> </ul>
Community Sports Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engage in ensuring sport participants are leading active lifestyles</li> </ul>
Representatives of Various Age Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reflect age group needs as the “Active Together” strategy is implemented</li> </ul>
Cultural Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reflect the needs of various cultures in the implementation of the strategy</li> <li>○ Champion sports and physical activity in diverse communities</li> </ul>
Organizations Supporting Persons With Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure that programs and initiatives are accessible</li> <li>○ Champion sports and physical activity within the community</li> </ul>
Other Under Represented Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reflect community needs of girls and women, low income residents, diverse cultures and other under-represented groups</li> </ul>
Persons with Specific Skills and Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support the strategy utilizing needed skills and competencies (marketing, fund development / sponsorships etc.)</li> </ul>

### Objective Three: Active Programs and Initiatives

To capture an abundant inventory of physical activity opportunities in Vaughan and create programs and initiatives to prompt physical activity where there are apparent gaps.

Initiatives – Objective Three	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Strengthen linkages with the Boards of Education to integrate Recreation and Culture Department active programming through a “seamless day concept” and integrating community animators into the schools			√	√	√
Develop a monthly theme and focus mostly based on existing events and activities (Heart and Stroke month, SummerActive and WinterActive events, World Walk Day, Healthy Workplace Week, World Physical Activity Day – April, etc.)		√			
Mark distances on sidewalks and walking trails; provide signage promoting active lifestyles along the way		√	√		
Walking Campaigns – Form and support the development of additional local walking clubs where current gaps exist Formalize walking clubs and walk times from all community centres Promote mall walking clubs – Promenade and Vaughan Mills have current programs		√	√	√	√
Place decision prompts in strategic places; e.g., “take the stairs” or “get off the bus a stop or two before your regular stop and walk”				√	
Work in concert with the Planning Department and the Boards of Education to promote the “Safe Routes to Schools” concept			√	√	√
Partner to create active events in and around trails to encourage their use				√	√
Promote walking, wheeling and bicycling as an alternative to vehicle transportation			√		
Develop and promote lane swimming programs that swim to a destination		√			
Create annual open house events in the districts to promote all sports and physical activity opportunities; (e.g., the doors are open for all to come out and try out various activities and sports).			√	√	√
Initiate “Bring a Buddy” programs during specific weeks at community centres			√		
Compile baseline data on what active and sports programs and initiatives exist within Vaughan, their capacity and usage. Monitor use on an annual basis	√	√			
Promote all active and sport opportunities on the website and in the Recreation Guide		√	√	√	√
Promote unstructured play opportunities (public swim, public skate, tennis, playgrounds, trails and open spaces) and the value of unstructured play			√	√	√
Complete ongoing needs assessments with active and sport groups as to their satisfaction levels and need for additional active programs				√	√
Stay on top of trends and preferences of active pursuits nationally, provincially and locally	√	√	√	√	√
Connect and leverage all active events and initiatives (e.g., joint use of the “Active Together” logo).		√	√	√	√

**Objective Four: Infrastructure**

To support the maintenance and development of infrastructure and amenities that can increase the capacity and range of choice to enable the enjoyment of safe physical activity.

<b>Initiatives – Objective Four</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
Place priority on the planned construction and refurbishment of recreation and parks infrastructure to maintain the capacity to provide active programs and opportunities		√	√	√	√
Ensure that active spaces are audited and considered safe and accessible		√	√	√	√
Promote and support planning processes, policies and design guidelines that address active transportation principles and infrastructure		√	√	√	√
Support efforts to ensure that infrastructure is accessible regardless of income or ability including green corridors, bike lanes and paths, safe and connected sidewalks, traffic calming and major parks connections			√	√	√
Develop signage beside all escalators, elevators and bus shelters to encourage the use of the stairs and walking (e.g., 5,000 steps to the next bus stop, do you have the time to be more active for your health?)			√	√	
Promote the use of all related active and sport infrastructure (i.e., mall walking clubs).		√			
Provide updated maps of all areas available for unstructured play (hard copy and on the website)			√	√	√
Provide tool kit to enable local neighbourhood groups to host active special events for families			√	√	√
Work with existing institutions and agencies to promote physical activity and introduction to sport (Brownies, Girl Guides, Scouting, Big Brothers and Sisters)		√	√	√	

### Objective Five: Social Environments and Support

To enable and support opportunities to support a welcoming, inclusive and supportive social environment to increase the number of active residents.

<b>Initiatives – Objective Five</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
Encourage activity at the neighbourhood level; train ambassadors from the neighbourhood associations to encourage physical activity			√	√	√
Set up activity teams, buddy systems and adopt-an-exercise partner programs.			√	√	√
Work with sport organizations to encourage training programs (both off and in season) for participants and also for parents and families			√	√	
Encourage walking routes for sport spectators before and after games; mark walking routes and information around the arena/ pool or sports fields			√	√	√
Identify natural leaders in the community and assist them in becoming champions of physical activity and sport			√	√	√
Initiate “door to door” and neighbourhood campaigns to discuss active opportunities in the neighbourhood (utilizing summer students through employment programs)				√	√
Arm social support workers and health workers with a physical activity and sport tool kit to enable clients to access physical activity opportunities in the community			√	√	√
Ensure that all medical offices are equipped with the PACE Canada toolkit and counselling guide that serves to assist physicians in increasing their patient’s physical activity levels			√	√	√

### Objective Six: Including Underrepresented Groups

To reach out and take different approaches to include under-represented groups to ensure that all Vaughan residents are welcome and able to participate in physical activities.

<b>Initiatives – Objective Six</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
Ensure that the “Active Together” Coalition includes members from under-represented groups (women, diverse populations, persons with disabilities, low income residents)	√				
Inventory what is being done to include each of the more prevalent under represented groups in Vaughan		√			
Host annual focus groups with each of the groups to determine what gaps exist, brainstorm around solutions and review the results of previous initiatives		√	√	√	√
Include special initiatives and programs on the website, and distribute through supportive social agencies and community organizations to encourage greater inclusion		√	√	√	√
Ensure that an award and recognition program is developed that rewards efforts to include diverse populations and those individuals/groups who champion sport and physical activity		√	√	√	√

**Objective Seven: Workplace Initiatives**

To provide support and encouragement to businesses to offer programs and incentives to their employees in embracing active lifestyles

<b>Initiatives – Objective Seven</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
Vaughan leads by example – promote Vaughan’s wellness program within the organization and develop an annual report that measures its participation and its success	√				
Utilize the Business Directory to promote the importance of workplace physical activity and wellness and the “Active Together” strategy			√		
Develop a scan of the businesses that have workplace wellness programs in place				√	
Develop a tool kit in concert with the Business Improvement Areas and Economic Development and Business Community that prompts business to develop employee wellness programs				√	
Promote the benefits of wellness programs at relevant forums and equip Economic Development Officers with a tool kit					√
Measure the number of businesses that have implemented wellness programs year over year					√
Include corporate wellness program excellence in the “Active Together” awards and recognition program					√

**Objective Eight: Policy Support Considerations**

To remove barriers to participation and promote physical activity through policy considerations.

<b>Initiatives – Objective Eight</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
Vaughan will act as a leader and will include “active targets” as part of staff performance agreements (where possible)		√			
All directly-offered Recreation and Culture programs will at a minimum include stretching, age appropriate discussions and encouragement regarding increasing physical activity and decreasing screen time		√	√		
All camps will provide at least one hour in total of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day		√	√	√	√
All partners / groups who provide sport and active programs / opportunities and that utilize municipal facilities will be encouraged to be more inclusive of all under-represented groups		√	√	√	√
Recognizing the need to take special approaches for under represented groups, Vaughan will provide equitable delivery and facilitation of physically active programs and services		√	√	√	√

Objective Nine: Communications and Social Marketing

To implement a social marketing communications strategy that emphasizes key messages to various age groups about the importance of being active and prompting Vaughan residents to adopt active lifestyles.

**Simplified Communications Framework**

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Key Messages</b>	<b>Communications Vehicles</b>
The General Public	<p>“Active Together” – Physical activity is critical to your health, lets get active</p> <p>“Active Together” – Start with just 30 minutes three times weekly</p> <p>“Active Together” – Turn off the computer and TV screens</p> <p>“Active Together” – There is an active pursuit for everyone in Vaughan</p>	<p>Recreation Guide</p> <p>Posters in Community Centres</p> <p>Vaughan Website</p> <p>Community Partner websites</p> <p>Local newspapers</p> <p>Water and tax bills</p> <p>Rogers Cable</p>



**Objective Ten: Measuring the Effectiveness of the Physical Activity Strategy** To create a framework that will assist in measuring the effectiveness of the “Active Together” strategy, enable data collection and annual reporting.

Objective	Inputs	Outputs	Effectiveness
<b>Plan Identity and Recognition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Budget</li> <li>○ Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual identity utilized in concert with like and supporting initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of impressions and uses</li> <li>○ % of the population that recognize the strategy, initiatives and branding</li> </ul>
<b>Community Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Total partnership (staff and volunteer) time dedicated in FTEs (full time equivalents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of active community partner organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perception of the effectiveness of partnerships in increasing physical activity</li> </ul>
<b>Programs and Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Budget</li> <li>○ Time</li> <li>○ # of partners and stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participation #s</li> <li>○ # of walking clubs - participation by age group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average time spent per week spent engaged in physical activity</li> <li>○ Fitness levels of various age groups</li> <li>○ Reduction of screen time</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual capital budget for upgrading and developing new active spaces and active transportation routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kilometres of trails</li> <li>○ Square footage of active community facility spaces</li> <li>○ Green space in hectares</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average number of trail uses per week (summer and winter)</li> <li>○ Use of active facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Social Environments and Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff time spent in a community building capacity with respect to physical activity and sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of community leaders and early adaptors</li> <li>○ # of self governing groups</li> <li>○ # number of participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Satisfaction levels with social supports in encouraging activity</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff time spent in engaging under-represented groups in physical activity and sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of outreach connections</li> <li>○ New programs for under-represented groups</li> <li>○ Participation #s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Satisfaction levels of under-represented groups</li> </ul>
<b>Workplace Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff time spent promoting workplace</li> <li>○ Interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of workplaces with activity plans in place as a % of total workplaces</li> <li>○ # of workplace participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Satisfaction levels with workplace supports</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff time dedicated to policy development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of new and supportive policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Impact on increased participation and education</li> </ul>
<b>Public Education and Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff time</li> <li>○ Budget</li> <li>○ Sponsorships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ # of media and print impressions</li> <li>○ # of visits to the website</li> <li>○ # of presentation participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Impact of education/ information initiatives and self assessment tools</li> </ul>

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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 PURPOSE

Parks, recreation, culture, and libraries contribute to the social, physical, cultural, and economic well being of residents and enhance overall quality of life. The City of Vaughan is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and activities that appeal to a wide range of interests and abilities to ensure a high quality of life for its residents. With this in mind, the City has initiated the preparation of an “Active Together” Master Plan that will provide policies, goals and objectives to guide the provision of appropriate recreational, cultural and library facilities and programming to meets the needs of the Vaughan residents.

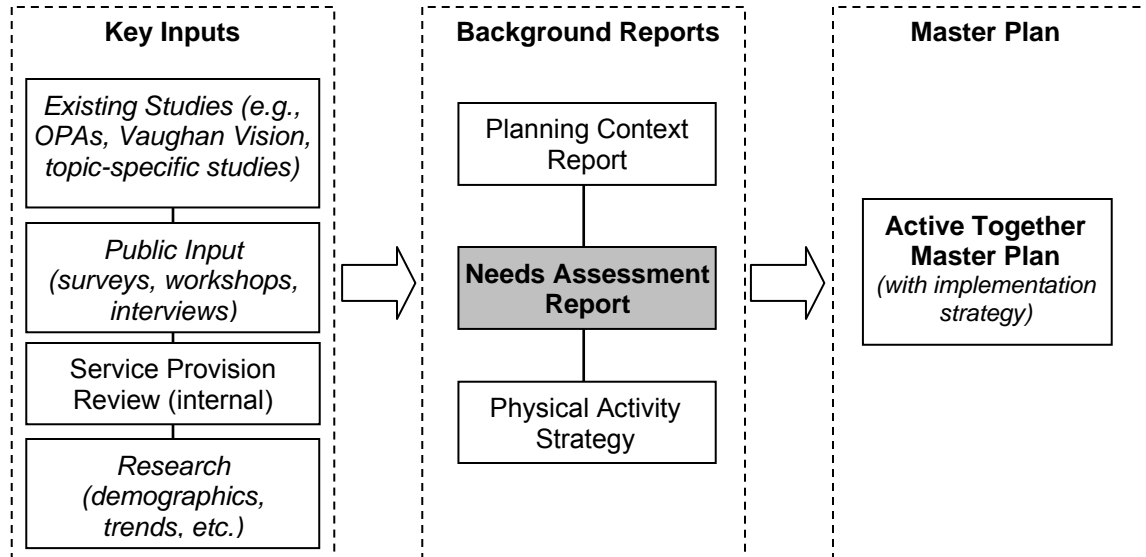
Firmly grounded in a foundation built on public input, trends and demographic profiles, activity and facility assessments, and reasoned analysis, the Master Plan provides the Community Services Commission and the Vaughan Public Libraries with a clearly articulated and strategic roadmap for addressing the needs of current and future residents. The goal of the Master Plan is to provide an action plan that leads the development of future municipal parks, facilities and services in a responsible manner. The scope of the Master Plan encompasses the City’s role in providing services and facilities pertaining to parks, recreation, culture and libraries through to the year 2031, which is projected as the City’s build-out timeframe.

The Active Together Master Plan is not a response to “wants” – although there is always a natural inclination for residents to want more, want it today not tomorrow, want it close (but not too close), want it to be the best there is, but not to want to pay more for it. The Master Plan has taken the concerns and opinions expressed by residents and stakeholders into consideration and has balanced this with an understanding of facility capacities, land requirements, trends in leisure activities, and a variety of socio-demographic characteristics. From this analysis comes the development of realistic and sustainable recommendations that address existing and anticipate future “needs”.

In some cases, the identified needs of current residents and anticipated needs of future citizens are extensions of what is currently being provided in the City; in other cases, they represent entirely new or expanded services. The Active Together Master Plan has a planning timeframe of nearly twenty-five years and projects needs based not only existing supplies, but also how this supply aligns with trends, demographic characteristics, geographic distribution, and anticipated future conditions. In this way, the Master Plan sets a vision for the future delivery of services and facilities, giving it a much different purpose from such documents as the City’s Development Charges Background Study (which identifies service levels attributable to new growth based predominantly on existing supplies and recent investment).

In conjunction with the Master Plan, the City of Vaughan and the Project Consultants have prepared a Physical Activity Strategy (see Appendix C). The goal of the Physical Activity Strategy is to foster higher levels of physical activity and sport participation by Vaughan residents. The study will provide an understanding of the scope of physical inactivity and related health problems, barriers to participation in sports and physical activities, and the sport and recreation needs of the community, with a plan to address these issues facing Vaughan.

The following diagram illustrates the relationships between the various documents and this Master Plan. Although both the Planning Context Report and the Needs Assessment Report can stand-alone as substantive background documents, they have been included in this full Master Plan (in slightly modified/summarized form) in order to provide complete context for the recommended action plans.



## 1.2 CONTEXT

The City of Vaughan is located in the Region of York and is centrally located within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The City is bounded by Caledon and Brampton to the west, King Township to the north, Markham and Richmond Hill to the east, and Toronto to the south. Provincial Highways 400, 407 and 427 connect Vaughan to the rest of the GTA and other major urban centres across Ontario. The City is also served by York Transit and the Toronto Transit Commission.

Vaughan is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, with a population growth rate of 25% and an employment growth rate of 18% between 2001 and 2006<sup>1</sup>. For the purposes of this Master Plan, the current (2008) population was estimated at 259,359. Due to the considerable changes that have taken place in Vaughan over the past decade and the continued rapid pace of change anticipated, there is a need to develop a relevant and new strategy to guide planning for parks, recreation, culture and library facilities and services while building upon the City's existing infrastructure.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada 2001 and 2006 Census and Region of York Preliminary Employment Forecast 2007.

## 1.3 PLANNING PROCESS

Guided by a Technical Committee comprised of staff from various departments of the City of Vaughan as well as representation from Vaughan Public Libraries, the planning process began in late 2006. A Consulting Team led by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was retained by the City to facilitate the project.

The planning process was divided into 4 appropriate phases, described below.

### **Phase 1 – Research and Consultation** (September 2006 to December 2007)

Culminating in a Planning Context Report, the research and consultation phase provided the building blocks of the Master Plan through the development of a community profile, analysis of trends, benchmarking, public consultation and identification of inventory.

### **Phase 2 – Physical Activity Strategy** (September 2006 to April 2008)

The Physical Activity Strategy is a distinct deliverable that is separate from, but relate to, this Active Together Master Plan document. The Physical Activity Strategy was guided by the overarching vision and key result areas of the Federal Sport Policy and the Ontario ACTIVE 2010 Physical Activity Strategy. Through an assessment of trends, challenges, resources, and opportunities – combined with the development of a vision and a series of recommended objectives and initiatives – the Physical Activity Strategy will allow Vaughan to increase activity levels through the employment of various measurement tools, supports and resources.

### **Phase 3 – Master Plan Preparation** (January to March 2008)

The Needs Assessment phase involved a qualitative and quantitative analysis of parks, indoor and outdoor recreation, culture and library facility needs. Parks and facilities were evaluated in terms of total provision, distribution, and their ability to serve current and future populations. The creation of measurable level of service/provision standards (market-driven and per capita-based) that are unique to Vaughan coincided with the identification of facility needs. This Phase culminated in a public meeting through which feedback was sought regarding proposed parks and facility provision strategies.

### **Phase 4 – Master Plan Finalization** (March to August 2008)

The final Phase involved the development of an Implementation Plan including priority and timing pertaining to the primary Master Plan's action plans, followed by the finalization of the Master Plan.

## 1.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

The Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries is organized as follows:

### Executive Summary & Implementation Plan

Includes a summary of Sections 1-11 and contains a listing of all Master Plan action plans, along with pertinent information regarding timing/priority. In addition, the executive summary has included the findings of the Physical Activity Strategy which is attached as Appendix C to this document.

### Section 1: Introduction

Provides an overview of the Master Plan's purpose, scope and planning process.

### Section 2: Background Review

Summary of key documents reviewed by the Consultants.

### Section 3: Demographic Profile

Contains an overview of the City's demographic characteristics, population projections, and their relevance to the City's system.

### Section 4: Public Consultation Program

Outlines and evaluates the public's perceptions of the current state of parks, recreation, culture and library facilities and services in the City as well as future needs, opportunities and challenges as identified through the various community consultation methods.

### Section 5: Key Trends

Identifies major activity and facility provision trends along with a discussion of the impact of the key changes and trends in the community regarding the delivery and provision of parks, recreation, culture and library programs and services.

### Section 6: Parkland Assessment

Assesses the City's supply of parkland, including their quantity and quality as well as design considerations surrounding active and natural parks.

### Section 7: Indoor Facility Assessment

Contains an assessment of various indoor recreation facilities in terms of their quantity, scope and program utilization.

### Section 8: Outdoor Facility Assessment

Offers an assessment of major outdoor recreation facilities in terms of scope, distribution and quality.

### Section 9: Arts, Culture & Heritage Assessment

Contains an examination of the City's creative and cultural assets, as well as policies which direct their provision.

### Section 10: Library Facilities Assessment

Includes an assessment of library space needs and provision strategies.

### Section 11: Monitoring & Updating the Plan

Outlines considerations and initiatives that will assist the City in keeping the recommendations of this Plan current for years to come.

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## **SECTION 2: BACKGROUND REVIEW**

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### **2.1 OVERVIEW**

A number of planning documents, research papers, and other literature are relevant to the Master Plan. These items have been reviewed in the context of the Plan to provide base-line information for the report. This section briefly describes two key documents, including the 1991 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City's Official Plan, and also identifies the other documents included in the background review. A more detailed summary of these documents and their relevance to the Master Plan is contained within the Planning Context Report.

### **2.2 CITY OF VAUGHAN PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (1991)**

The 1991 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed to create a strategy for the provision of parks, recreation and arts services over a 20-year period (1991 to 2011). Numerous recommendations were formulated addressing leisure service delivery, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and parks and open space.

Since the time the 1991 Master Plan was completed, much has changed in the City of Vaughan. Most notably, the City's population has increased significantly. With a 2006 population of approximately 240,000, the population of Vaughan has increased by approximately 28% since 2001 and is already higher than the "high" forecast for 2011 contained in the 1991 Master Plan. In other words, actual population growth in Vaughan has outpaced even the highest growth projections determined when the original Master Plan was prepared. This rapid rate of growth has brought considerable demand for additional and upgraded parks and facilities (e.g., renovating older assets and adding more features/opportunities to existing sites), programs and services; this has rendered some of the recommendations and strategies of the 1991 Plan irrelevant or inapplicable. Keeping pace with the demands of a rapidly growing population will continue to be a challenge for the City – a new Master Plan is needed not only to establish a strategic framework for coping with these pressures but also to re-assess current needs in light of the unanticipated volume of population growth.

In addition, a new Master Plan is required to consider the implications of more recent and emerging provincial and local socio-demographic and leisure trends, and to determine how best to meet the future needs of the community to 2031 consistent with the planning horizon adopted for the City's other planning initiatives. The analysis also needs to be expanded to include libraries and other facilities and services that were not included in the previous Master Plan.

Where appropriate, the new Master Plan will build upon the 1991 Master Plan and will also ensure that all recommendations reflect the needs of the City's current and future residents.



## 2.3 CITY OF VAUGHAN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 600 (2000)

The designations and policies of OPA 600 are a refinement of OPA 400, and are based upon the findings of the OPA 400 Review Process undertaken by the City in response to the Planning Act's requirements for review of local official plans on a five-year basis. The policies of this amendment are intended to guide the future land use and development decisions of the City into the 21st Century (Source: City of Vaughan Website - Major Projects).

Section 2.5 of the Official Plan establishes a series of land use goals and objectives related to Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces in Vaughan. The current Master Plan project is needed to establish an actionable strategy for achieving many of the goals set out in this section of the City's Official Plan. The Official Plan also sets out the parkland dedication requirements for new development to facilitate parkland acquisition and cash-in-lieu of parkland in accordance with the Planning Act, and establishes a hierarchy of park classifications including criteria for park size, location and other attributes. These elements of the Official Plan have been reviewed as part of the Parks Assessment, with resulting direction feeding into the City's preparation of a new Official Plan (see below).

The City is embarking on the preparation of a Growth Management Strategy and a new Official Plan under the *2005 Provincial Policy Statement*, the *Places to Grow Plan*, the *Greenbelt Plan* and the *Oakridges Moraine Plan*. The City's growth management and land use planning initiatives will also be guided by the *York Region Growth Management Plan* currently underway.

During Phase 1 of the Master Plan process, meetings were held with City of Vaughan Planning Staff and the Region of York to discuss population growth projections and ensure effective coordination of the Master Plan and the City's Growth Management and Official Plan exercises. As a result of these meetings, the work plan for the Master Plan project has been adjusted to expand the analysis to encompass the same planning horizon as the City's other planning initiatives (to 2031) and the Region of York's population projections have been obtained (see Section 3). These meetings also provided an opportunity to review major infrastructure projects, development areas, densities and shifts in policy that will shape future growth in Vaughan as well as the key issues and linkages between the Master Plan and the Growth Management/Official Plan. The City's Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries will provide important policy direction to these broader planning initiatives with respect to parks and leisure facility and service needs over the next 25 years.

In addition to OPA 600, the Consultants reviewed other major amendments to the City's Official Plan which establish a land use and policy framework for the City's planned growth areas, including OPA 620 (Steeles Corridor – Jane to Keele), OPA 650 (Vellore Village District Centre), OPA 651 (Carrville District Centre), OPA 637 (Highway 400 North Employment Lands), and the Vaughan Corporate Centre Streetscape and Open Space Master Plan Study. Each of these amendments/studies provides varying levels of detail on the parks, open space, recreation, culture and/or library facility components planned or needed within each these growth areas. An objective of the Master Plan is to ensure that the planned parks and facilities outlined in the OPAs/Secondary Plans fit within an overall strategic framework for future facility and service provision for the City of Vaughan.

## 2.4 OTHER DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

A number of other documents provided by the City and/or available on the City's website were reviewed by the Consultants during Phase 1 of the Master Plan, including:

- City of Vaughan New Civic Centre: Leading the Environmental Age
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study
- Accessibility Plan
- Maple Valley Parks and Open Space Concept / Strategy Plan
- Development Charges Background Studies (2003 & 2008)
- 2006 Community Profiles
- Recreation and Culture User Fee and Pricing Policy
- Annual Economic Report
- Vaughan Vision 2007 and Vaughan Vision 2020
- Historical Research of the Thoreau MacDonald Property
- Strategy for the Maintenance and Preservation of Significant Heritage Buildings
- Uplands Golf and Ski Master Plan
- Maple Nature Reserve Master Plan and Background Report
- Vaughan Soccer Campus Proposal
- City of Vaughan Tourism Strategy 2005
- Budgets, recreation brochures, and business plans from departments within the Community Services Commission
- Various Library Background Materials, including:
  - Media Release: Growth Management Consultations Engage Public (July 2006)
  - Today for Tomorrow: Strategic Plan 2008-2011
  - The Changing Face of York Region: A Demographic Profile
  - Guidelines for the Development of Library Facilities (2004)
  - Development Charges Reports (2003 and 1999)
  - From Information to Understanding: Strategic Agenda 2005-2007 and Progress Report
  - Strategic Agenda 2002-2004
  - Fact Sheets on each Library location
  - Development for Library Facilities 2003-2012 (Jan 19 2004)
  - Facilities Development Discussion Paper (January 1997)
  - @ the Library – March April May Program Guide
  - Pamphlets/Brochures – How to Join the Library, Book Dedication Opportunity, Suggestion & Comment Form, Encouraging Reading and Have a Safe Trip!

## SECTION 3: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### 3.1 OVERVIEW

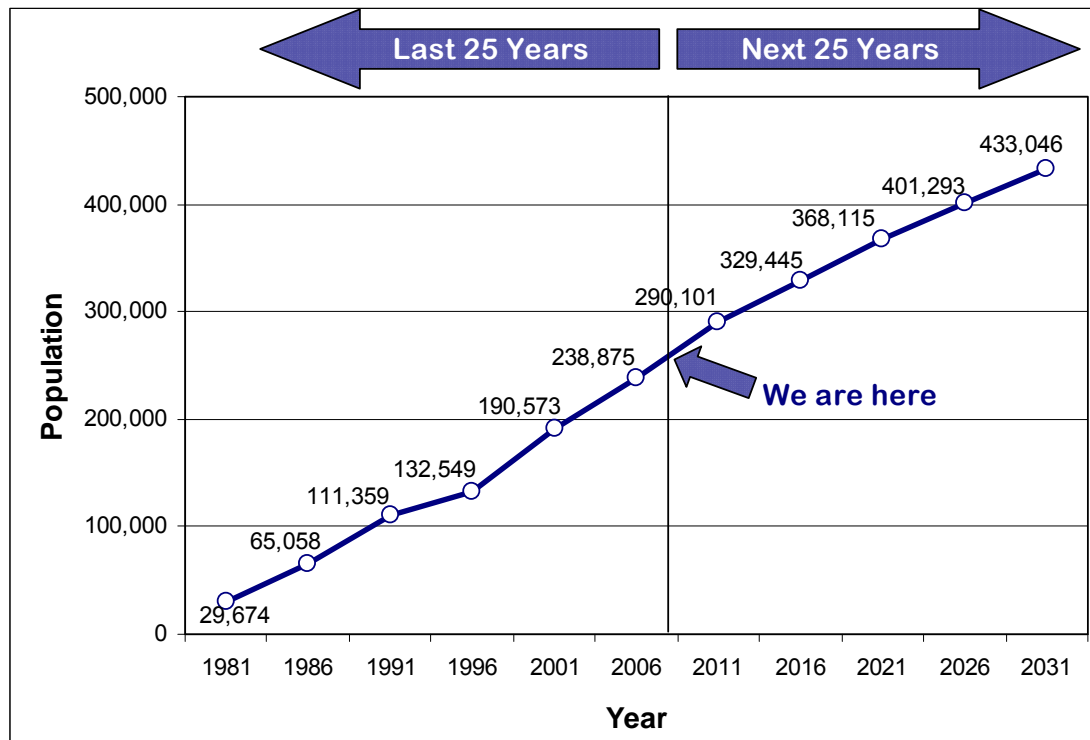
To help identify the specific needs of current and future residents, it is essential to understand and integrate important demographic factors such as age composition, population projections, household income and education into the Active Together Master Plan.

Traditionally, provisions for leisure services and facilities are made on a per capita basis, which does not account for City-wide socio-demographic differences such as age or income. Thus, solely focusing on absolute population as the basis for service and facility provision has its shortcomings. Future population levels are heavily dependent on a great number of factors, therefore, where possible, the Master Plan utilizes a flexible and market-driven approach to parks and facilities planning that will enable Vaughan to adjust its strategy based upon updated population data as it becomes available in the future.

### 3.2 HISTORIC AND FORECASTED POPULATION FIGURES

Based on the 2006 Statistics Canada Census, the City of Vaughan has a population of 238,875, an increase of 25.3% from 2001. Figure 3.1 identifies the historic growth in the City's population from 1981 to 2006 and the projected growth from 2006 to 2031. The illustration demonstrates both the rapid growth rates in Vaughan and the consistency of growth in the area. A straight-line interpolation results in an estimated population of nearly 260,000 residents in 2008.

**Figure 3.1: City of Vaughan Historic and Forecasted Population Growth (1981 to 2031)**



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 1981 to 2006; Region of York Preliminary Population Forecasts, 2007

Map 1 identifies the general limit of growth for each community planning area based on the City's Official Plan and amendments. Current population data and forecasts have been compiled through the use of traffic zones and census tracts, which in some instances do not fully coincide with the City's planning communities but provide reasonable estimates upon which to conduct the Master Plan analysis. Recent population estimates for these areas are provided in Figure 3.2, while Figures 3.3 and 3.4 identify the forecasted population growth. For more information regarding the forecasts, please see the note at the beginning of the Plan.

**Note:** Planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast or the tables below.

**Figure 3.2: Population by Planning Area, 2006**

Planning Area	2006 Census Data	
	Population	% of City
1 Kleinburg	3,342	1.4%
2 Woodbridge	49,708	20.8%
3 Woodbridge East	25,629	10.7%
4 Vellore Village	20,787	8.7%
5 Maple	47,694	20%
6 Vaughan Corporate Centre	25	0.01%
7 Steeles – Jane to Keele	0	0%
8 Carrville	20,271	8.5%
9 Thornhill (including Concord)	63,725	26.7%
<b>URBAN AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>231,181</b>	<b>97.5%</b>
Long-Term Residential Growth Area (LTRGA)*	3,864	1.6%
Employment/Rural Area	3,770	1.6%
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>238,886</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Note: Delineation of the LTRGA boundary (generally north of Teston Road) is subject to Regional and City growth management processes.

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census Tract Data.

**Figure 3.3: Forecasted Population by Planning Area, 2006-2031**

Area	Population	Forecast Population**					Total Growth
	2006*	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	
1 Kleinburg	3,342	5,211	7,168	7,060	6,977	6,919	3,577
2 Woodbridge	49,708	52,780	52,185	51,696	51,084	50,659	951
3 Woodbridge East	25,629	25,776	25,329	24,947	24,652	24,771	-858
4 Vellore Village	20,787	31,583	39,340	40,561	40,081	39,932	19,145
5 Maple	47,694	49,694	49,712	49,686	49,098	48,690	996
6 Vaughan Corporate Centre	25	2,386	5,167	8,711	12,901	16,227	16,202
7 Steeles – Jane to Keele	N/A	N/A	2,296	4,444	6,960	13,123	13,123
8 Carrville	20,271	43,565	58,955	60,992	61,699	61,624	41,353
9 Thornhill (incl. Concord)	63,725	69,750	73,814	77,497	82,843	89,085	25,360
<b>URBAN AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>231,181</b>	<b>280,745</b>	<b>313,968</b>	<b>325,595</b>	<b>336,294</b>	<b>351,029</b>	<b>119,849</b>
Long-Term Residential Growth Area (LTRGA)	3,864	5,559	11,260	37,986	60,365	77,217	73,353
Employment/Rural Area	3,770	3,796	4,216	4,534	4,634	4,800	1,030
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>238,886</b>	<b>290,101</b>	<b>329,445</b>	<b>368,115</b>	<b>401,293</b>	<b>433,046</b>	<b>194,232</b>

\*Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

\*\*Source: Region of York Preliminary Population Forecasts, 2007

Note: All projections and delineation of the LTRGA boundary are subject to Regional/City growth management processes.

**Figure 3.4: Forecasted Population Growth by Planning Area, 2006-2031**

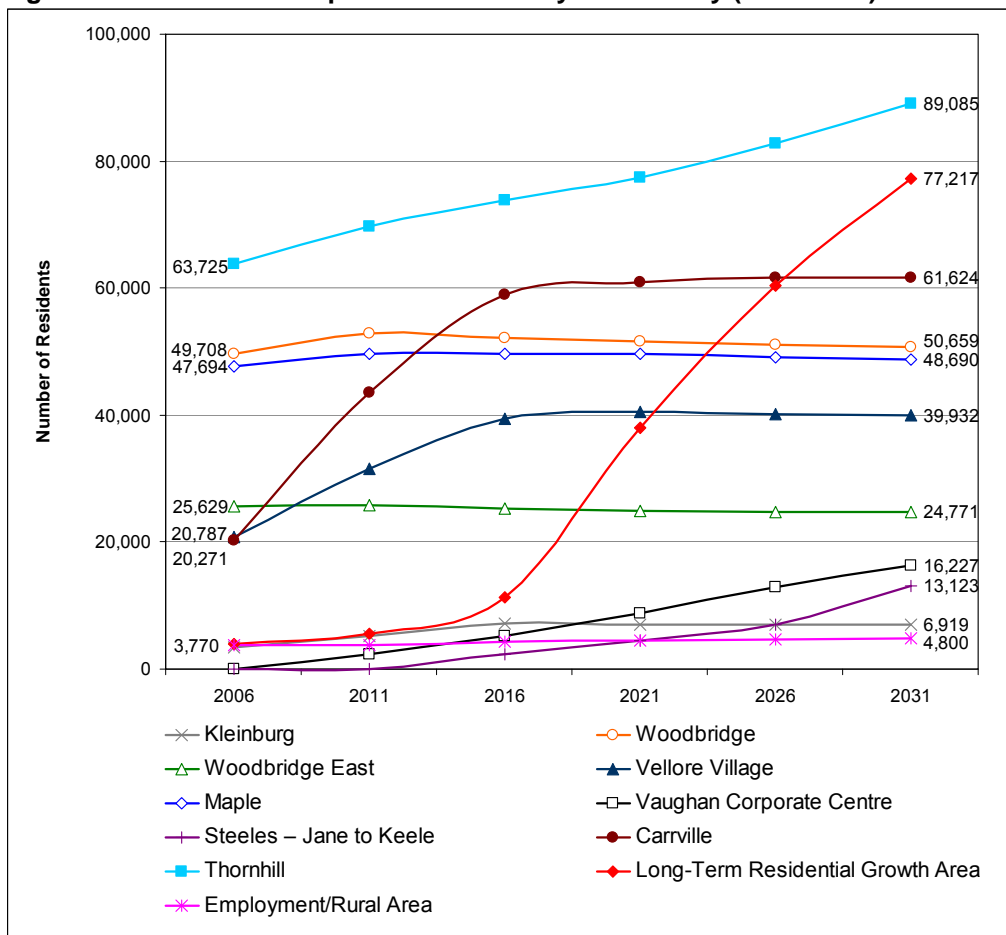
	Area	Forecast Population**					Total Growth
		2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026	2026-2031	
1	Kleinburg	56%	38%	-2%	-1%	-1%	107%
2	Woodbridge	6%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	2%
3	Woodbridge East	1%	-2%	-2%	-1%	0%	-3%
4	Vellore Village	52%	25%	3%	-1%	0%	92%
5	Maple	4%	0%	0%	-1%	-1%	2%
6	Vaughan Corporate Centre	N/A	117%	69%	48%	26%	N/A
7	Steeles – Jane to Keele	N/A	N/A	94%	57%	89%	N/A
8	Carrville	115%	35%	3%	1%	0%	204%
9	Thornhill (incl. Concord)	9%	6%	5%	7%	8%	40%
	<b>URBAN AREA TOTAL</b>	21%	12%	4%	3%	4%	52%
	Long-Term Residential Growth Area (LTRGA)	44%	103%	237%	59%	28%	1898%
	Employment/Rural Area	1%	11%	8%	2%	4%	27%
	<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	21%	14%	12%	9%	8%	81%

\*Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

\*\*Source: Region of York Preliminary Population Forecasts, 2007

Note: All projections and delineation of the LTRGA boundary are subject to Regional/City growth management processes.

**Figure 3.5: Forecasted Population Growth by Community (2006-2031)**



\*Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

\*\*Source: Region of York Preliminary Population Forecasts, 2007

Based on the previous information, the following growth trends are identified:

1. 62% of growth in the next 25 years is projected to be in existing/planned urban communities of Kleinburg, Woodbridge, Vellore Village, Maple, Vaughan Corporate Centre, Steeles (Jane to Keele), Carrville and Thornhill.
2. Growth in Kleinburg, Vellore Village and Carrville will be strongest between 2006 and 2016.
3. Woodbridge East will have most of its growth in the next five years (2006-2011).
4. The number of residents in both Maple and Woodbridge will remain relatively stable between 2006 and 2011, but will very slightly after 2011.
5. Vaughan Corporate Centre will experience significant growth between 2006 and 2031, but in terms of the sheer number of additional residents, it projected to be less than Carrville, Vellore Village, and Thornhill.
6. Growth in the Steeles (Jane to Keele) area will occur largely between 2016 and 2031.
7. Carrville's growth will be strongest between 2006 and 2011, but its population will plateau after 2016.
8. While Thornhill's growth rate in the next 25 years will continue to increase, in terms of sheer numbers the community will have the third highest number of additional residents.
9. The Long Term Residential Growth Area (LTRGA), located on the north end of the City and anticipated to become part of the City's urban growth area at some point in the future (note: delineation of the LTRGA boundary are subject to Regional and City growth management processes), will experience significant growth between 2011 and 2031.
10. Population in the Employment/Rural Area will remain relatively stable.

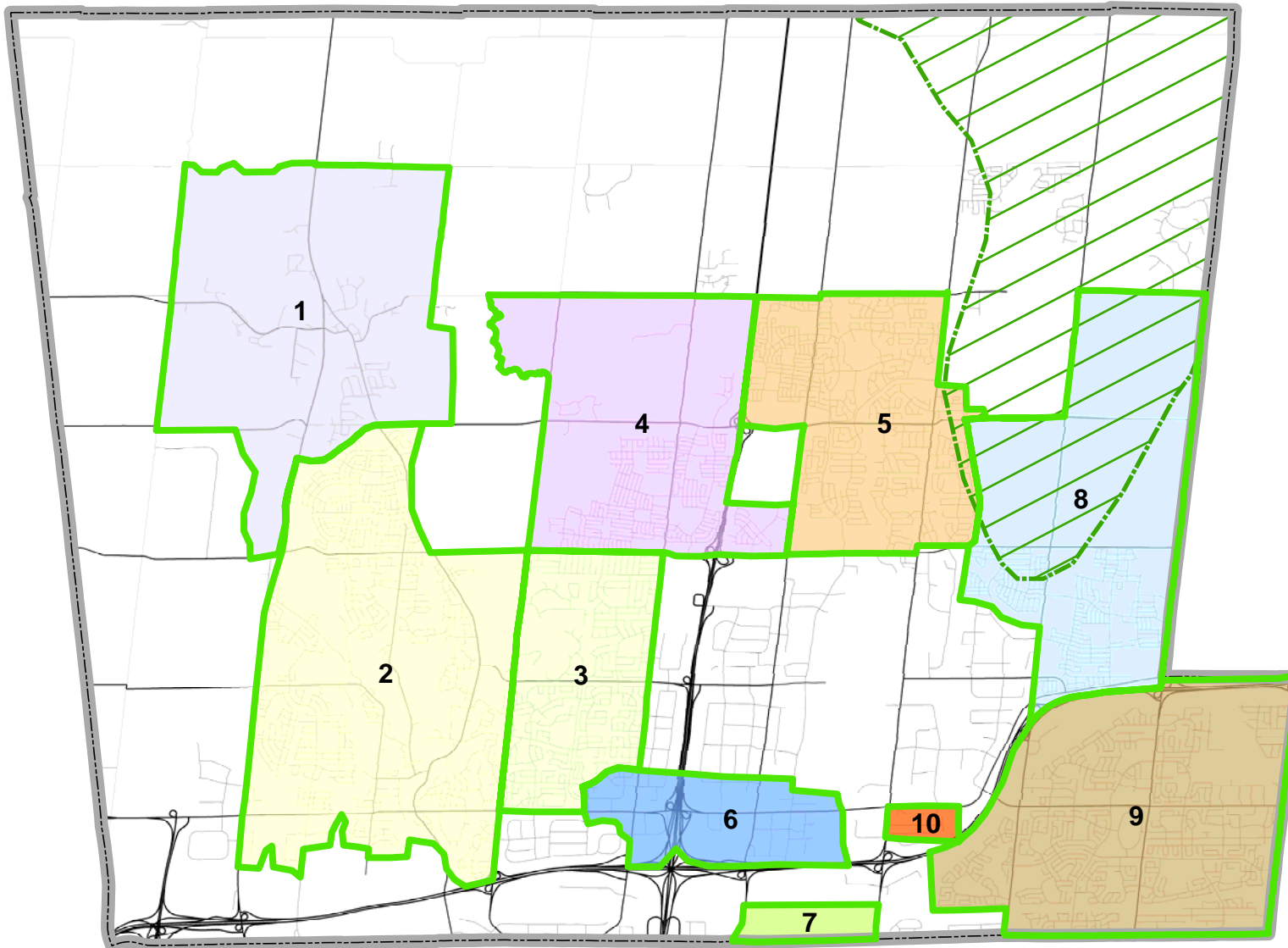
Density mapping has been produced for the years 2006, 2021, and 2031 using transportation zones as the base layer. These maps can be found on the following pages (Maps 2-4).



# City of Vaughan

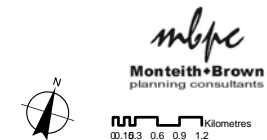
## Community Planning Areas

Map 1



-  Area 1: Kleinburg
-  Area 2: Woodbridge
-  Area 3: Woodbridge East
-  Area 4: Vellore Village
-  Area 5: Maple
-  Area 6: Vaughan Corporate Centre
-  Area 7: Steeles - Jane to Keele
-  Area 8: Carrville
-  Area 9: Thornhill
-  Area 10: Concord
-  Oak Ridges Moraine
-  Employment/Rural/Long Term Residential Growth Area\*

\* The Long Term Residential Growth Area, as it is referred to in this Plan, is located on lands generally north of Teston Road. Policies pertinent to future growth in this area are subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.



# City of Vaughan

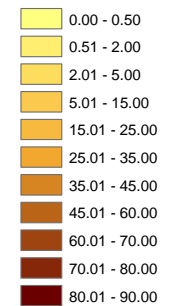
## Population Density 2006

Map 2

### Legend

#### Population Density (2006) by Traffic Zone

##### Persons per Hectare



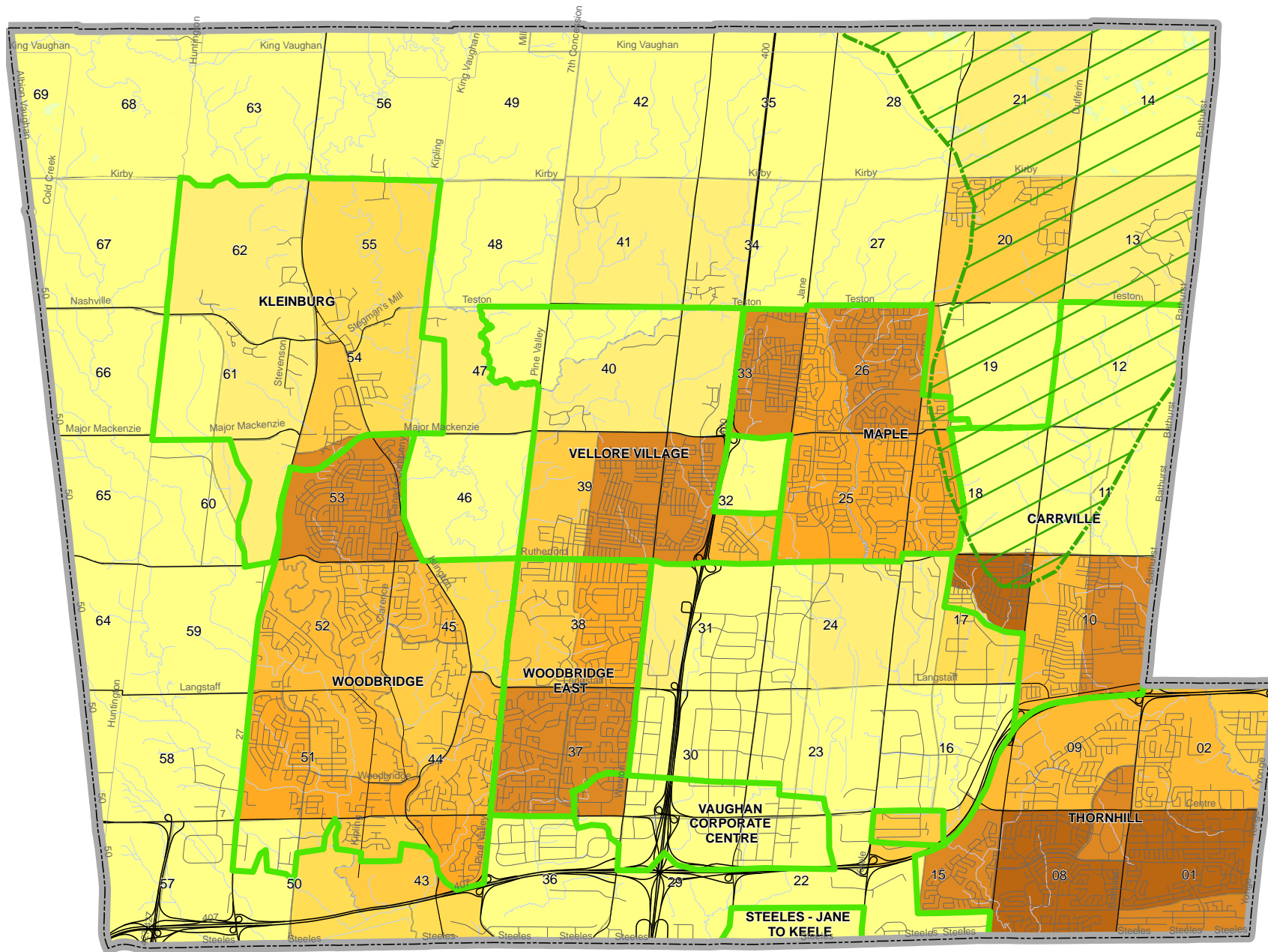
Total Population = 238,886

- Community Planning Areas
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- City Boundary
- # Block Number

### Notes:

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.



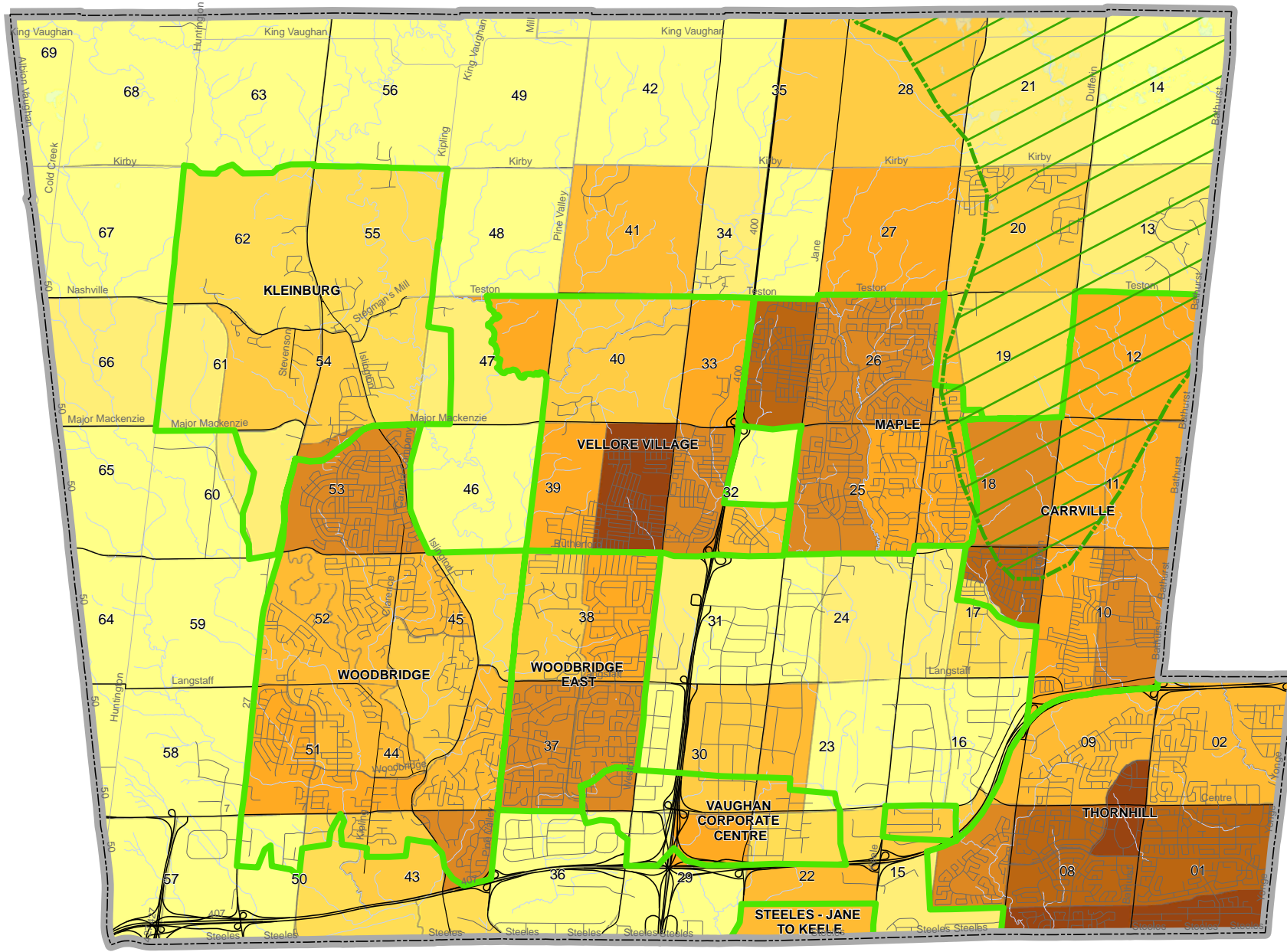
Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone), confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2006 population at 238,886.



# City of Vaughan

## Population Density 2021

### Map 3



#### Legend

##### Population Density (2021) by Traffic Zone

- Persons per Hectare
- 0.00 - 0.50
  - 0.51 - 2.00
  - 2.01 - 5.00
  - 5.01 - 15.00
  - 15.01 - 25.00
  - 25.01 - 35.00
  - 35.01 - 45.00
  - 45.01 - 60.00
  - 60.01 - 70.00
  - 70.01 - 80.00
  - 80.01 - 90.00
- Community Planning Areas
  - Oak Ridges Moraine
  - City Boundary
  - # Block Number

**Notes:**

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.

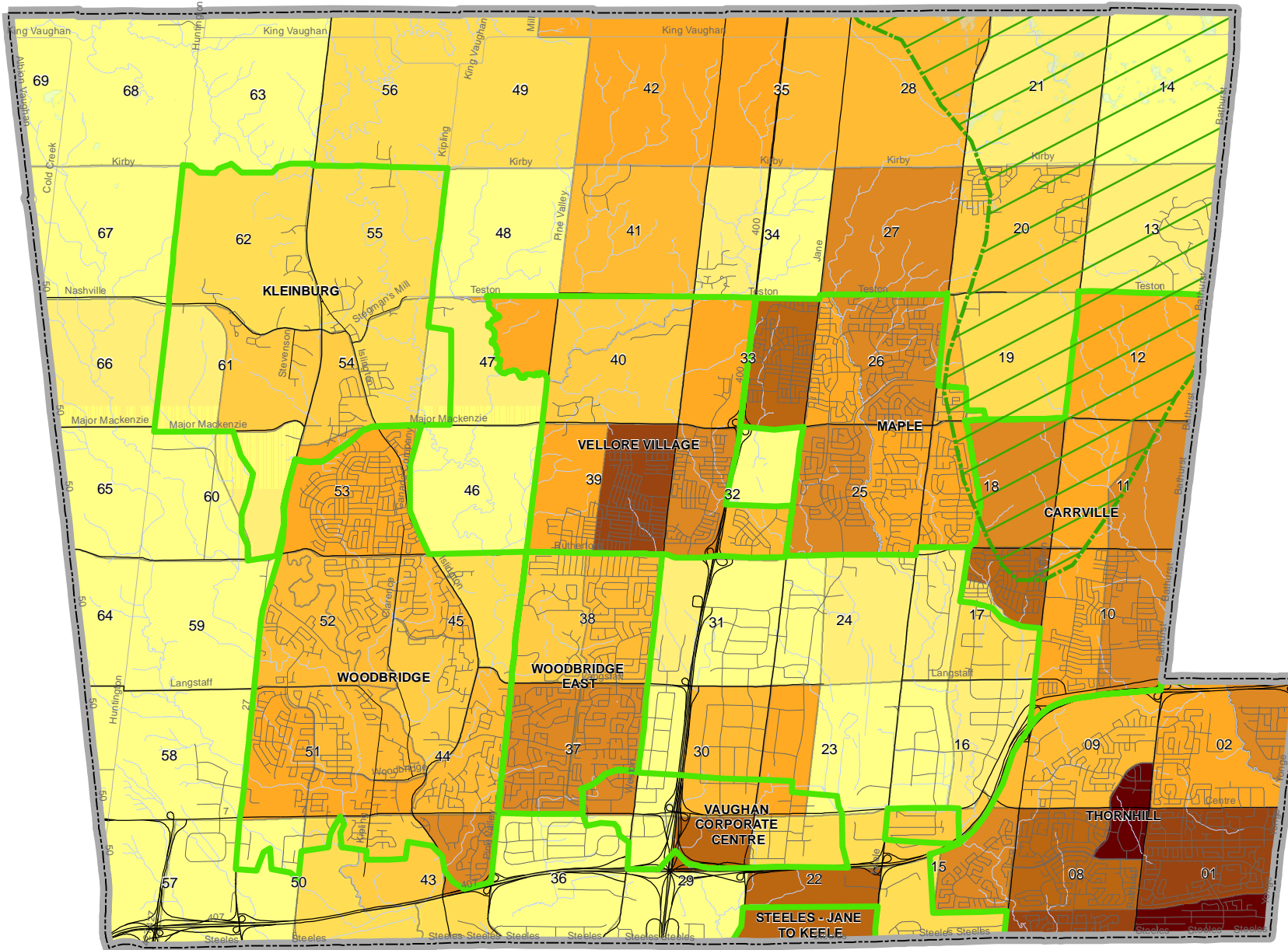
Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario)  
 Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone, confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2021 population at 368,115.





## Population Density 2031

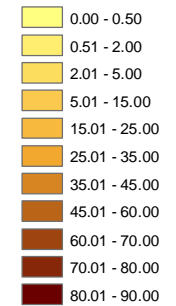
Map 4



### Legend

#### Population Density (2031) by Traffic Zone

Persons per Hectare



Total Population = 433,046

Community Planning Areas

Oak Ridges Moraine

City Boundary

# Block Number

### Notes:

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.

Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone), confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2031 population at 433,046.

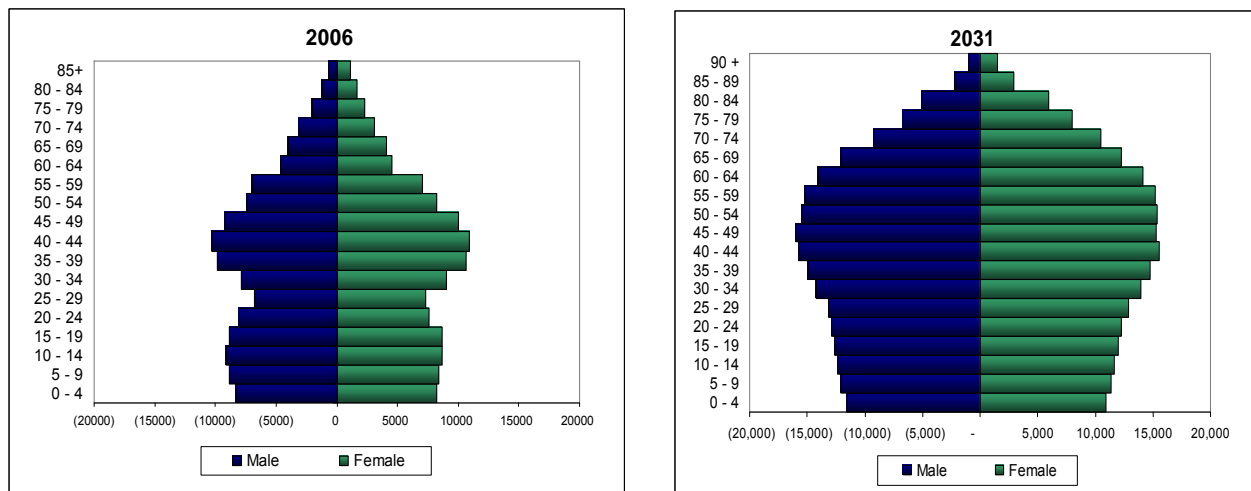


### 3.3 AGE COMPOSITION

Age can be a significant factor in determining what kinds of services are needed – younger age groups tend to partake in more physically active forms of recreation (such as soccer, ice hockey, etc.) while the propensity to participate in more passive activities tends to increase as a person ages. The older adult (residents 55 years of age or older) population are generally more likely to participate in cultural activities, such as live theatre and art galleries.

As noted in Figure 3.3, Vaughan's over all population is expected to increase from 238,886 to 433,046 persons between 2006 and 2031. The increased population will be felt in all age groups; Figure 3.6 illustrates the anticipated changes to the age profile of Vaughan's population for this time period.

**Figure 3.6: Population by Age and Gender – 2006 and 2031**



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006; Region of York Preliminary Population Forecasts, 2007

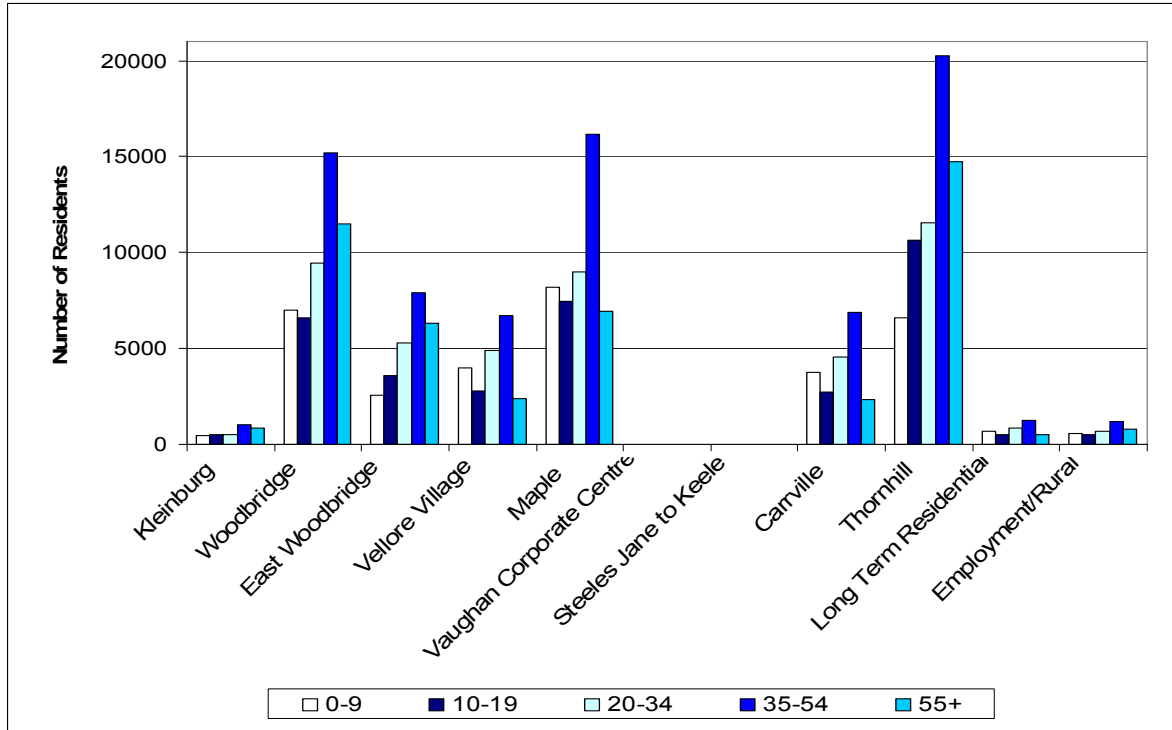
Consistent with trends across the Province, Figure 3.6 indicates that the population will continue to age as the 'baby boom' generation reaches retirement, although the magnitude of this trend does not appear to be as pronounced in Vaughan as in many other Ontario municipalities. Based on the Region's Preliminary Population Forecast (2007), the percentage of Vaughan's population age 60 or greater is expected to increase from 13% in 2006 to nearly 25% in 2031.

This increase in the older adult population will trigger a greater demand for passive forms of leisure, cultural opportunities and passive park spaces (i.e., walking trails). It is anticipated that the majority of Baby Boomers will pursue their leisure interest and will focus on 'active living' as opposed to traditional 'senior activities'. This group will be more active than previous generations and will wish to participate in many of the same activities they did at an earlier age, albeit at a gentler pace. The boomer generation will also likely be more comfortable with "information technology" and will expect to see new technologies integrated into libraries and municipal services (property tax forms, etc.). However, demands for traditional senior activities will also continue to increase as the number of seniors over 80 continues to climb.

While the proportion of older adults in the City's population will see the greatest increase, it is important to also note that the forecasts for Vaughan show increases for all age cohorts. This means that demands for all forms of recreation and leisure, as well as library services.

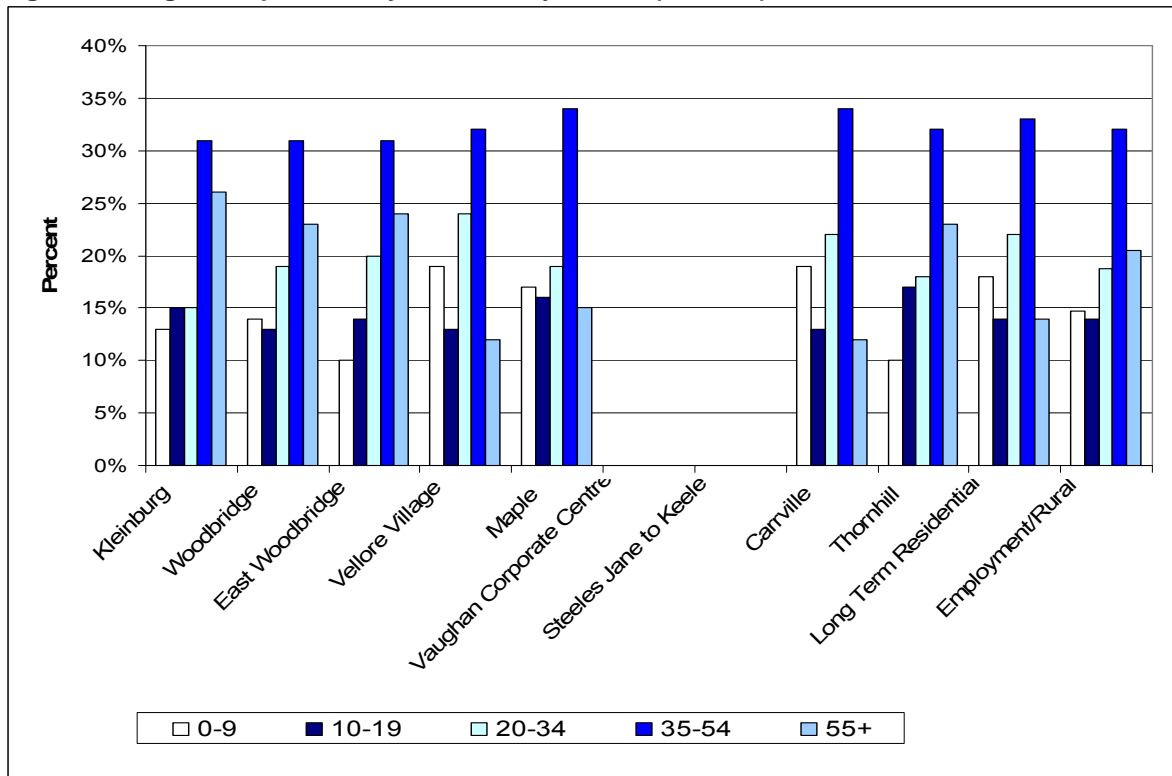
Figures 3.7 and 3.8 identify the age composition of each Vaughan community.

**Figure 3.7: Age Composition by Community – 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006

**Figure 3.8: Age Composition by Community – 2006 (Percent)**



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006

Figure 3.7 and 3.8 illustrate the variation in the age composition of the various communities across the City. For example, Thornhill and East Woodbridge have a lower percentage of residents between the ages of 0 and 9, particularly when compared to Vellore Village and Carrville. Conversely, the communities of Kleinburg, Woodbridge, and East Woodbridge have the highest percentage of residents 55 years of age or older.

As illustrated in the Figure 3.9, the age profile of Vaughan's current population closely mirrors that of other GTA municipalities and the average for Ontario as a whole, with a slightly higher proportion of adults between the ages of 24 and 44 and fewer older adults between 75 and 85 than the average Province-wide. Vaughan's age composition is, on the whole, younger than the average for York Region. Due to Vaughan's younger age profile it is anticipated that pressure for programming directed towards children, youth, and young adults will continue to increase in Vaughan.

**Figure 3.9: Age Cohorts for Vaughan, York Region, and Ontario (2006)**

Age	Vaughan	Toronto	Markham	Brampton	York	Ontario
0-4 years	7%	5%	5%	7%	6%	6%
5-14 years	15%	11%	13%	15%	14%	13%
15-19 years	7%	6%	7%	7%	8%	7%
20-24 years	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
25-44 years	30%	32%	28%	33%	29%	28%
45-54 years	15%	14%	17%	14%	16%	15%
55-64 years	10%	10%	12%	9%	10%	11%
65-74 years	5%	7%	6%	5%	6%	7%
75-84 years	2%	5%	3%	2%	3%	5%
85+	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006

### 3.4 PROJECTED HOUSING UNIT GROWTH

The housing unit forecast provides insight as to the type of housing that will be required to accommodate the future population. Housing type affects population density which in turn has significant impacts on the type, size and location of recreation and leisure facilities as well as libraries, cultural venues and parks to meet current and future demand. Additionally, the projected mix of housing units provides an indication of the types of recreation activity and facilities that will be demanded in the future.

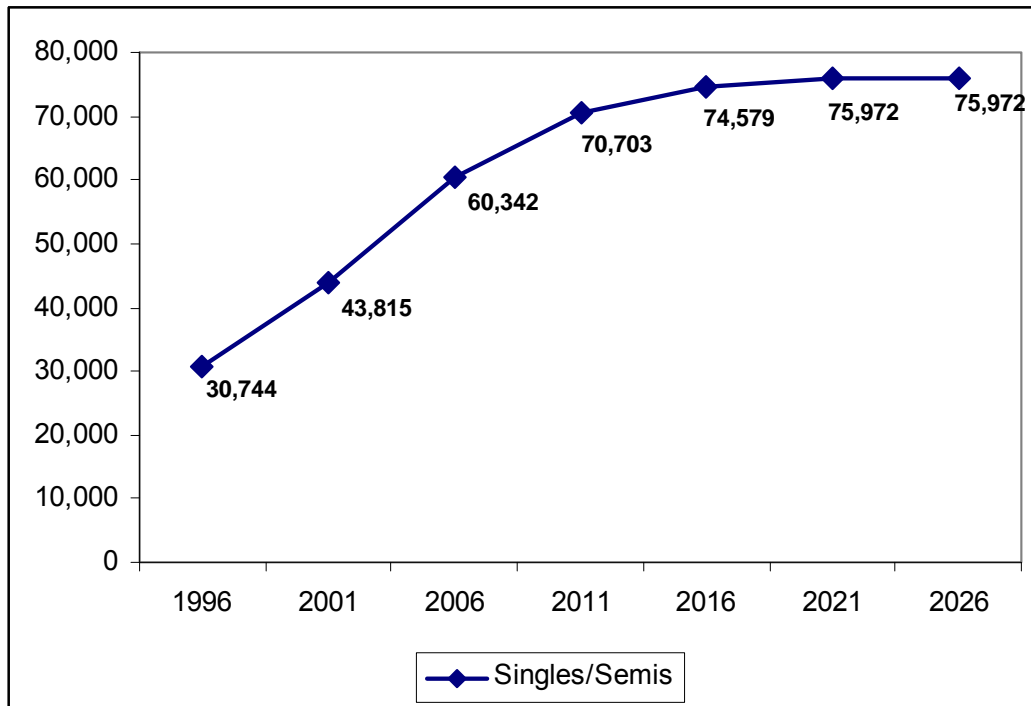
Figures 3.10 and 3.11 identify the projected housing unit growth, indicating the total number of housing units by type in 5 year intervals. The strongest growth is forecasted for the addition of row houses and apartments. The growth in semi and single detached houses is forecasted to level off by 2016. This trend will have strong implications for the provision of recreation facilities, as those residing in row houses or apartments have less access to individual green space, but may have access to a private communal recreation facility (e.g., fitness room, pool, meeting rooms, etc.). As the percentage of row house and apartments increases and higher densities are achieved, there will be strong demand for trails, open spaces, and active park space. Open space will be demanded from children, youth, young adults, and older adults alike for spontaneous walking, biking, dog walking, children's play, basketball and other outdoor sports, rest areas and shade.

At the time of preparing this report, housing forecasts were only available to 2026. Additionally, these projections were undertaken prior to the release of the Growth Plan for the Greater



Golden Horseshoe and the amended Provincial Policy Statement. It is anticipated that revised projections prepared as part of the City's Growth Management and Official Plan initiatives will yield higher levels of multi-unit housing development given that the Provincial Growth Plan requires that, by 2015, all Urban Growth Centres must achieve a minimum of 40% of development through intensification of existing built-up areas<sup>2</sup>. In addition, Vaughan Corporate Centre must reach a minimum of 200 persons and jobs per hectare by 2031. This will result in a significant increase in higher density housing (row houses and apartments), beyond the projections identified earlier. Finding available land in order to provide adequate parks, recreation facilities, and library facilities to service population growth resulting from intensification of existing built-up areas will be a significant challenge.

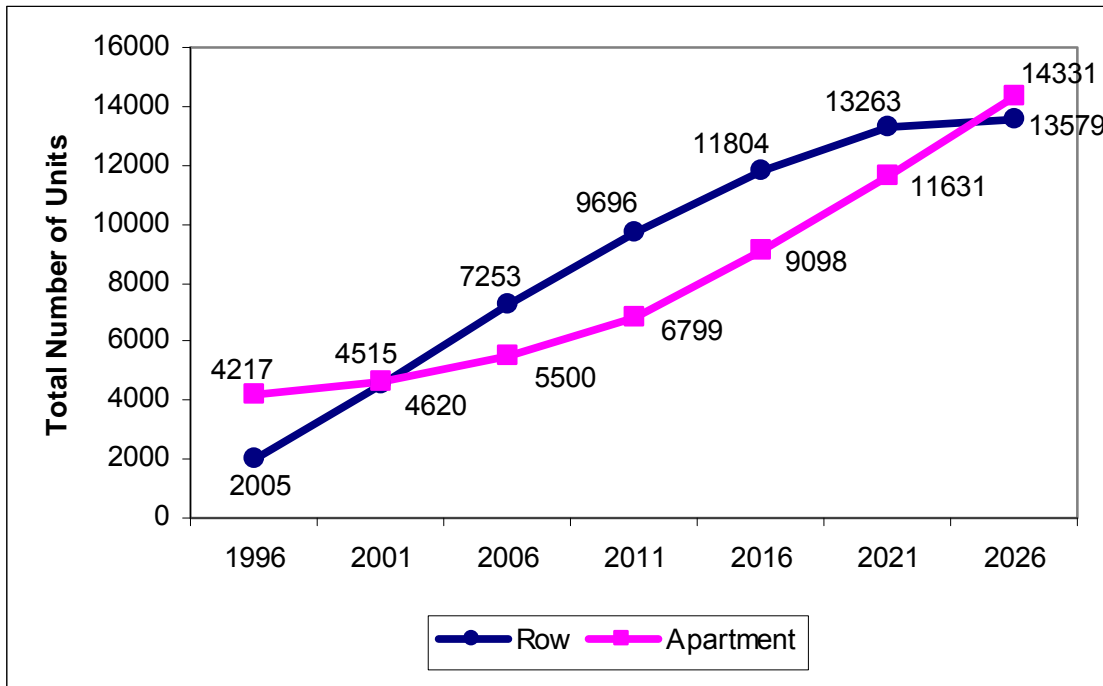
**Figure 3.10: Projected Growth in Singles/Semi-detached Housing Supply**



Source: Hemson Consulting, 2003

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal. (2005). [Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#).

**Figure 3.11: Projected Growth in Row/Apartment Housing Supply**



Source: Hemson Consulting, 2003

### 3.5 HOUSEHOLD INCOME & EDUCATION

Research suggests that participation in recreational and cultural activities is directly influenced by income, with a higher degree of participation associated with higher levels of income. As shown in Figure 3.12, the 2000 median household income of households in Vaughan was substantially higher than the Provincial average (2006 Census data for income and education is not presently available). The relatively high median household income in Vaughan is believed to be attributed to an abundance of employers and business headquarters in the City.

Based solely on recreation trends related to income, residents of Vaughan will express significantly higher expectations for both the quality and quantity of recreation, cultural, and library facilities, compared to residents in other communities across Ontario.

**Figure 3.12: 2000 Median Household Income - All Households**

Ontario	Toronto	Mississauga	Brampton	Markham	Vaughan	Aurora
\$53,626	\$49,345	\$67,542	\$69,646	\$77,163	\$80,321	\$84,682

Source: Statistics Canada, Census (2001)

A person's level of education also has a bearing on participation, with many studies correlating increased participation with higher degrees of education. As shown in Figure 3.13, when compared to the 2001 Census education levels in Ontario, the City of Vaughan has a higher percentage of its population with a University Certificate, Diploma or Degree. The percentages of Vaughan's population with an education below the university level are identical to the provincial averages.

**Figure 3.13: Education Levels**

Level of Education	Vaughan	Ontario
% of population with less than a high school graduation certificate.	12%	12%
% with a high school graduation certificate and/or some post-secondary.	16%	16%
% with a trades certificate or diploma.	6%	6%
% with a college certificate or diploma.	11%	11%
% with a university certificate, diploma or degree.	18%	14%

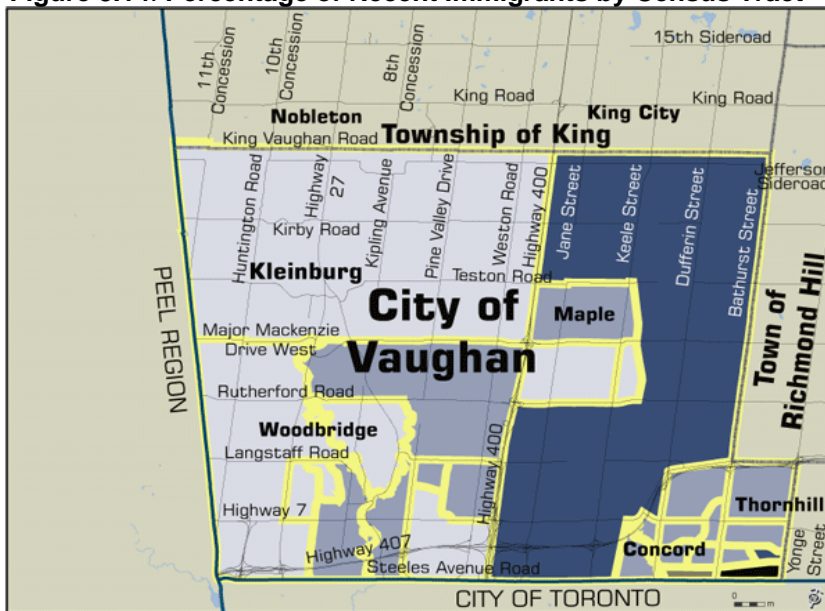
Source: Statistics Canada, Census (2001)

### 3.6 COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

Many municipalities within the GTA are experiencing a greater degree of diversity in their ethnic composition, as new immigrants choose the region because of its economic and social supports. Although, many new Canadians strive to assimilate, they also bring preferences for cultural festivals, picnics, pick up games, gathering places, concerts, library collections focussing on language and culture, and certain sports such as soccer, rugby, and cricket.

Figure 3.14 shows the percentage of recent immigrants by census tract in Vaughan from the 2001 Census (2006 data not yet available).

**Figure 3.14: Percentage of Recent Immigrants by Census Tract**



Legend: Percentage of recent immigrants per census tract.



Source: York Region 2001

The areas showing the highest percentage of recent immigrants in the City include the south-east part of Thornhill along Steeles Avenue while the areas with the lowest percentage are generally located west of Highway 400 including Kleinburg and Woodbridge areas.

The 2006 Statistics Canada Census Data revealed the following information regarding language and immigration:

- 54% of Vaughan residents stated that their 'Mother Tongue' is neither English nor French, compared with 27% of Ontario residents.
- 27% of Vaughan residents speak a language other than English or French most often at home, compared with the Provincial average of 15%.
- 45% of Vaughan residents were born outside Canada, compared with the Provincial average of 28%.
- 56% of Vaughan residents are first generation Canadians, compared with the Provincial average of 34%.

These figures underscore the degree of diversity in the City of Vaughan and the variety of cultures that reside in the community.

## **SECTION 4: PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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### **4.1 OVERVIEW**

The community consultation program is an essential component of the Master Plan process as it provides the necessary insights, public perceptions and attitudes towards the various forms of parks, recreation, culture, and library services in the City. Locally collected data, when compiled with an analysis of national and provincial trends and other factors, facilitates the critical formulation of community-specific decisions.

The Master Plan process employed a number of public participation tools including:

- Web site ([www.vaughan.ca](http://www.vaughan.ca)) for project awareness and posting of documents
- Awareness Campaign: Posters, Brochures, Leisure Guide
- Two (2) initial community input Workshops
- Random household telephone survey
- Community/sports group surveys & interviews
- Arts/Culture/Heritage Workshop
- Seniors Association (SAVI) Workshop
- Staff and Senior Management Workshops
- Consultation with Library Board and staff (including a Board meeting on October 16, 2008)
- Interviews and working sessions with Mayor and members of Council, municipal officials, committees and staff (City & Region)
- Public Open House (March 5, 2008)
- Committee of the Whole Working Sessions (May 27, 2008 and September 23, 2008)

These tools gathered valuable input regarding the strengths and challenges of the existing situation, while establishing the desired needs of leisure users in the City of Vaughan. Each consultation technique offers a unique perspective to the Master Plan and the results must be weighed against other inputs such as trends, demographics, and the consultant's experience when assessing current and future needs.

The consultation process for the Master Plan is guided by the following objectives:

- a) To inform the public of the purpose and scope of the project, emphasizing how the results may affect the provision of parks, recreation, culture, and library services;
- b) To encourage members of the general public and interest groups to participate in the process;
- c) To promote the many opportunities to provide input and inform the public about how, when and where they can participate and provide feedback;
- d) To identify and explore the key issues relating to parks, recreation, culture and libraries in the City of Vaughan;
- e) To achieve consensus with the general public, stakeholder groups, City staff and officials around the findings of the Plan and their relative priorities.

This section provides a summary of each of the consultation methods employed and a synopsis of the input received. The results represent the interests of the groups and individuals involved

and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the greater public and/or the Consultants. A full account of public consultation methodologies and input can be found in the Planning Context Report.

## 4.2 COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

To provide opportunity for candid discussion on major topics, the current mayor and regional and local councillors were engaged individually by the Consultants in one-on-one interviews. During the interviews, Council members were asked to comment on: what they thought the City does well with regards to parks and recreation; what could be done better and what complaints they are hearing from the community; and priorities for the future. The following is a brief summary of the views and input received from the Mayor and Councillors.

### What Vaughan Does Well?

- Have abundant parks and facilities with good programs particularly for children and mother and child and do exceptionally well for the elderly;
- Facilities are accessible to everyone – good distribution;
- Communities in Bloom was a great success and Parks did a wonderful job;
- Like the link to the library – parents appreciate the ease of the multi use facilities. Libraries have good service and programs;
- Fields are well maintained and very usable. The permitting system is working quite well and field locations are good;
- We have some of the top soccer fields in the country;
- Ontario Soccer Centre is fabulous - great indoor Sportsplex; also have Rutherford Soccer Camp;
- No kids are limited from participating – no one is denied;
- Provide very good quality and diversity of services throughout Vaughan ranging from bocce, soccer, recreation and other organized use;
- We have seen great successes with various community service organizations, and have individuals that have excelled at the world stage in hockey, soccer, and other sports;
- Some of the best recreation centres in the country – great blend of arenas, pools, libraries and parks;
- Do wonderful special events. Great success with international youth year;
- WinterLights competition was great.

### Community Complaints

- Elderly feel the fee for service for swim programs is too much. We may have to look more closely at the ability to pay model;
- Do get complaints that there is not enough opportunity or time allowed for figure skating or synchronized swim;
- Get complaints that they need more soccer fields and more ice time for everything;
- Main one is from new subdivisions where the residents want the parks to come on line faster than the City can actually fund them – they do have a target of getting them on line within 3 years;
- Biggest issue is Bocce – they pay \$50 a year and think it is too much;
- Number one is that they do not go out and solicit partnerships or foster community development with organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs or YMCA.

## Need to Do Better

- We should be looking at the provision of programs in conjunction with school boards and anyone the City can partner with – we really need to make sure there are enough youth programs out there so options exist;
- The City needs to address safety in everything they do, particularly in the design of parks;
- Programs also need to be more accessible in order to ensure all can participate - no longer “Vaughan the affluent”;
- Do not want to see the pool sitting idle – if no lessons it should be open to swim even free and the same goes for skating;
- Need to have a better understanding of the ethnic communities needs. Although we cannot supply culturally specific programs we should be able to meet their needs where we can;
- Need to develop water parks in the new communities especially where there are young families;
- Unfortunately we do not put enough emphasis on arts and culture; the City playhouse is underutilized;
- Could do better promoting the library and its services and could do better in partnering and stop having separate worlds;
- There are still a lot of issues around costs – in areas where the incomes are lower such as the cooperative housing areas we need to make sure local needs are being met;
- We need to make sure that any facilities we build are accessible by public transit;
- Need to get some facilities into Kleinburg – they are growing and really have nothing;
- Need to also look at our programming for the disabled;
- Have to educate the residents that parks are for people and activities and not an extension of their back yard;
- Everyone is important – we seem to cater only to kids and seniors – and forget about adults, especially at the libraries. We charge them the most for what they want to offset the cost of kids and seniors;
- Longer hours of service, at no additional costs;
- We need to make sure that older community centres keep up the quality level – the facilities should be comparable to the new facilities even if they are older;
- Would really like to see the centres become more service centres – the new city centre will be a true service centre as well as a recreational facility.

## Priorities

- Priorities should be to the higher density areas and to the areas where growth is on the rampage. High densities are happening in Maple, Rutherford, and Dufferin.
- The main areas lacking parks and community centres are Rutherford, Bathurst, and Dufferin as there are a lot of young families;
- Hoping to build a park for young people with skateboarding and basketball and soccer but needs to be away from residential and needs to be away from busy street yet visible and accessible;
- Do NOT hold on to programs if no one is attending;
- Need to build more pools and ensure that all cultures are able to use the pool and if have to go back and erect screens then we will have to do so;
- Geographic priorities should be Block 11, Kleinburg;
- Accessibility to all community centres and facilities, including signage. Ensure that centres are accessible to pedestrians;
- Made a commitment to create three major recreational parks – done 2 and need to do third;



- Build more fields, manage the permit system better and then manage any abuse of the system better;
- There is some pressure to develop leash free dog parks;
- Keep costs to residents down as much as possible;
- Better communication with the community about what the City has and how wonderful it is;
- Treat recreation and culture and parks as essential services;
- Need to get the people out and participating – need to get active;
- Need to connect more with schools – part of the program to get kids active;
- Need to be more inclusive and accommodate Muslims, Orthodox Jews, even Nudists – have to think about the changing interests;
- Accommodate capacity building with buildings with community groups and with community organizations.

### 4.3 SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING

A meeting was held with the City's Senior Management Team to obtain input on key issues and priorities related to the Master Plan. After providing an overview of the project, the Consultants asked the group to comment on key issues and priorities related to the provision of parks, recreation, culture and library facilities and services. The following is a summary of the input:

- Should we continue building large facilities and parks versus small facilities?
- Any new facilities and/or parks should be sustainable. Need to also know when should the service come from the private sector and when from the public sector;
- Going to find a different perspective from each culturally different neighbourhood;
- One goal of this plan is to understand what the community expects from the City and what they need – we already know that the builders market their development on the basis of what parks and recreational amenities are in the area;
- Get a strong impression that baseball is no longer in demand and that soccer is taking over (complaints include lack of soccer, poor condition of fields, particularly the fields the city does not manage i.e., the school fields). Vaughan is very lucky to be the home of the Ontario Soccer Association and the Canadian Soccer Association;
- Vaughan really has the greatest facilities anywhere – lots of tournaments, the best fields are well kept but the teams are looking for longer seasons which is hard on the fields – if they had their way they would play out doors all year long – should consider artificial turf;
- Other priority is what are we doing for the youth?
- Non-leisure opportunities should also occur at community centres – pilot project under way to look at blue box and green box and garbage tags being available at community centres. Issue is always the space – who pays for it and maintains it?
- Arts and culture needs to be fully addressed;
- Key component is land, we do not have enough.

### 4.4 STAFF WORKSHOPS

Two staff workshops were facilitated by the Consultants including approximately 33 staff from various departments. The discussion during each session was divided into several topic areas as identified in Figure 4.1 on the next page. For each topic area, the group was asked to identify what they believe the City does well, what needs to be done better, and any geographic gaps or deficiencies in facility or service provision. Figure 4.1 summarizes the input received for each topic area.

Figure 4.1 – Summary of Input from Staff Workshops

Topic	City Does Well	Need to do Better	Geographic Gaps
Indoor Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fitness centres – make \$, high quality, professional staff, etc.</li> <li>- Number of community centres – good supply (quality and size)</li> <li>- Maximize usage/programming of space and participation in programs</li> <li>- Arenas – well-maintained, high quality facilities, good service to teams/ community organizations</li> <li>- Bowling Centre – high demand, well used, makes money (but only have 1)</li> <li>- Indoor Bocce – unique type of facility, high quality</li> <li>- Activity Rooms – multitude of rooms accommodate a wide range of events, programs, parties, etc.</li> <li>- Managed growth well at fitness centres (didn't spread it out too much)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual identity/visibility – signage not done well, no consistency, hard to recognize facilities and no indication of amenities provided inside</li> <li>- Users flock to newer facilities</li> <li>- Each new facility raises the standard of expectations for facility quality and components, but forgetting about older facilities.</li> <li>- Design – look of some newer facilities “cold” or “sterile” – need something to make them more welcoming and comfortable – art work, colour, detail, interest, plants.</li> <li>- Security – some older facilities have sight line issues (e.g., basement hallways)</li> <li>- Location of customer service desks – not always the best location in older facilities</li> <li>- People expecting all facility components at each centre</li> <li>- Not all facilities have youth rooms but compensate with workshops/ programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribution – some competition between centres due to proximity</li> <li>- Overabundance of certain facilities in some areas.</li> <li>- Maple is growing but only has one centre – existing centre is at or over capacity</li> <li>- Timing of facility provision – not going in fast enough</li> <li>- Overlap – high cost of having multiple facilities in close proximity</li> <li>- Youth and senior facilities need to be locally accessible (don't drive).</li> </ul>
Outdoor Sports, Activities, Passive Parks/ Open Space and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outdoor rinks attract a lot of people to the City's facilities</li> <li>- Outdoor pool and Splash Pads well used, popular, well designed.</li> <li>- Soccer fields and baseball diamonds well-maintained, high quality</li> <li>- Adopt-a-Park on community basis – selling public role/responsibility in keeping parks clean</li> <li>- Communities in Bloom Award</li> <li>- First artificial turf field opening this year (but users already say they want more)</li> <li>- Creative park design – functional, maintenance free, good interdepartmental communication/input on park designs, go to public and reflect comments in final design</li> <li>- Trails – excellent natural resources</li> <li>- Parks – entrance features, partnerships through communities in bloom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demand for outdoor ice for hockey but current facilities designed for and restricted to skating</li> <li>- No change rooms at artificial turf field</li> <li>- Existing trails need improvement</li> <li>- Currently do not include Recreation and Culture in circulation of park design</li> <li>- Timing of park development – need area-specific development charges.</li> <li>- No funding for renewal of playgrounds, equipment (but this is needed)</li> <li>- Need longer term thinking for renewal of capital (lifecycle).</li> <li>- Need pro-active capital reserve fund</li> <li>- No funding for trails but high demand.</li> <li>- Disheartening when funding denied over and over</li> <li>- Need to tie to health of the community</li> <li>- No revenue streams for parks – difficult to get funding for improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4-5 more parks needed in Block 10 but no funding/land. E.g., 1 large park vs. 4-5 smaller ones – can only do 1 or the other due to funding limitations but residents want both</li> <li>- New demands – skateboard parks, some BMX requests, walking tracks/trails, sheltered picnic areas, washrooms, bike paths</li> <li>- Cricket – demand for dedicated field but no facility provided.</li> <li>- Supply - soccer wants more fields, mostly youth soccer</li> <li>- Tennis vs. ball hockey – no outdoor ball hockey facilities so they use tennis courts and no place to play tennis</li> </ul>

Topic	City Does Well	Need to do Better	Geographic Gaps
Recreation, Arts and Cultural Programming/Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive portfolio of aquatic programming at a reasonable rate</li> <li>- Staff re-generation – aquatic and camp programs geared to future creating future instructors (leadership training, certification, etc.)</li> <li>- Many return clients</li> <li>- Recreation staff well trained</li> <li>- Volunteer recognition through annual corporate event</li> <li>- Good response to program requests – if waiting list City will add a new program – good analysis of program data and corresponding adaptations to offerings</li> <li>- Community Profiles – big step forward</li> <li>- Playhouse – full season of shows, theatre courses, rentals, etc. Over 80% booked annually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not utilizing CLASS system to full potential – could track customer retention, etc.</li> <li>- Youth – big potential but space limitation and need more staff resources</li> <li>- Heritage – had one heritage district, now have 3 but no staff increase</li> <li>- No formal process for addressing requests for new programs or coordinating community members to run programs</li> <li>- No overall strategy for volunteer support, training, etc.</li> <li>- Need customer service standards.</li> <li>- Some gaps in programming, no formal process for identifying and filling gaps.</li> <li>- Playhouse – could do more if had a bigger facility – a lot of requests for art shows, etc.</li> <li>- Room for improvement of youth involvement in arts – different programs, progressive, e.g., music, drama, DJ, creative writing, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some inconsistency in program areas/offerings at each centre, need to mesh it back together – but some programs should be customized to meet the needs of the local community (doesn't have to be the same City-wide)</li> </ul>
Community Development/ Customer Service/ Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level of service and staff qualifications.</li> <li>- Customers now get answers more quickly.</li> <li>- Increasing self-serve online registration (50% plus)</li> <li>- Good communication among staff</li> <li>- Cross-marketing – swimming programs/ facilities are filled to the best of ability – benefit of centralized registration – sell a spot instead of putting on waiting list</li> <li>- Looking into outreach/partnership with schools</li> <li>- Volunteer coordinator, park ambassadors – well accepted, very successful</li> <li>- A lot of community volunteers for soccer, baseball and other sports</li> <li>- Speed of registration process – used to wait days/weeks now same day within hours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need standards on where to draw the line between revenue generation vs. public service</li> <li>- Marketing – need to add a newsletter or something as events are not listed in the Guide; Need marketing strategy.</li> <li>- Need more targeted marketing</li> <li>- Lack of youth awareness and outreach in schools</li> <li>- Standards important so everyone develops understanding of level of service</li> <li>- Communication – web site should provide more info about parks and facilities, GIS mapping, virtual tours, etc.</li> <li>- Need to do better corporately building awareness about Vaughan – take the word Toronto off of our logo</li> <li>- No mechanism to inform people about their community (website?) – what is Vaughan doing?</li> <li>- Need to review how we are making use of the data from our class system</li> </ul>	

At the end of each session, the group was asked to list their top priorities for the Master Plan. Key priorities identified include:

- Need to improve visual identity of recreation facilities - standardize signage, branding;
- Programming model / mix, including multi-cultural programs;
- Resolving geographic gaps – e.g., the Maple Area needs more facilities;
- Customer Service – knowing the customer and what they want;
- Need a place and something to do for youth;
- Funding of parks development and improvements;
- Timing of park development;
- Need to be more pro-active in providing infrastructure – e.g., Brampton, Richmond Hill – park goes first, then houses (but if the park is already built can't react to what people want);
- Reinvestment in existing infrastructure – retrofitting older buildings – no funding, need to explore funding from other sources;
- Grants – not formally pursuing – need to keep track of what's available, seize opportunities;
- Affordability – getting to threshold with pricing due to cost recovery demands – price point;
- Access to information, outreach/marketing;
- Replacing aging infrastructure – need to retrofit/improve existing, ODA standards, etc.
- Adding Density – how can we accommodate with parks and facilities if no land
- Gaps – missing youth, need to address geographic deficiencies
- Customer Service Program – training for existing and new hires, access to resources
- Performance Measures – what is a performance success? e.g., meeting budget?

#### 4.5 ARTS/CULTURE/HERITAGE WORKSHOP

A separate workshop session was held to gain additional insight into key issues and priorities related to arts/culture and heritage in Vaughan. A total of sixteen participants attended the session including representation from a cross-section of arts, culture and heritage groups. Participants were asked to comment on what Vaughan does well and what could be done better in relation to arts, culture and heritage facilities and services/programs in Vaughan. The following is a summary of input received:

##### Vaughan Does Well

- Recreation Facilities are very good;
- McMichael Facility (not City owned) is very accessible and has heritage trails;
- MacDonald House has an excellent location for workshops, art shows, etc;
- Communities in Bloom - WinterLights program, strong community involvement, enjoy that there is both resident and business involvement; excitement generates involvement;
- City Playhouse is a great place, good wall space, although it needs better lighting in foyer;
- Wallace House has activities every month with good guest speakers. Like the idea of the City supporting the use of the house for displays, heritage walks, teas, etc;
- New Civic Centre.

### Need to Do Better

- Creating a town square, synergy – has to be a ‘hub’ to gather, for culture/arts with flexible space. But, smaller plazas within each community are also important;
- There is a lack of art culture. Need space for an outdoor art show;
- The cost of renting facilities from Vaughan is too expensive;
- Vaughan has lost its small town feeling, with unfriendly streetscapes;
- Incorporate and protect heritage structures and cultural landscapes. Buildings should be designed with more character;
- Vaughan designed for driving with parking lots everywhere. Parking should not be at the front, or the first thing you see;
- Every development should have a percentage for a public art component in development;
- There is a need for a versatile centre to meet changing needs and/or demographics;
- As the City has grown so quickly there is little sense of history or City identity. What does it mean to be a citizen of Vaughan? The City is a culturally diverse, fantastic, unique community, but there is no cohesion;
- Children have lost sense of heritage and culture – how do we get them involved? There should be the promotion of student art shows/plays;
- Funding of programs and activities is a continual concern;
- There may be a need for an art gallery/museum or performing arts centre;
- Raise awareness through the City’s website.

## 4.6 COMMUNITY INPUT WORKSHOPS

As part of the consultation program during Phase 1 of the Master Plan, the consultants held two community input workshops with representatives of sports organizations, community groups, local agencies, as well as unaffiliated citizens. Participants were chosen for their interest in the various types of programs and services addressed in the Master Plan. Similar to the previous consultations, participants were asked to identify what Vaughan does well and what could be done better in relation to specific topic areas. The four topic areas covered during these workshops are identified in Figure 4.2. All participants were provided an opportunity to direct input from a list of semi-structured questions developed by the Consultants based on a review of background information.

To ensure an opportunity was available to attend a session on both the east and west side of the City, the first session was held at the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre in Thornhill on May 15, 2007 and the second session was held on May 23, 2007 at the Al Palladini Community Centre in Woodbridge. Both sessions had over 20 attendees. Figure 4.2 summarizes the input received at these workshops:

**Figure 4.2: Summary of Input from Community Workshops**

	Vaughan Does Well	Vaughan Could Improve
<b>Indoor Recreation Facilities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swimming pools</li> <li>2. Community Centres</li> <li>3. Good variety of programs</li> <li>4. Arenas</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance the security at Community Centres (lighting, cameras and more people)</li> <li>2. Need more Community Centres</li> <li>3. More youth facilities</li> <li>4. Better promotion of what facilities and activities are available</li> <li>5. Greater variety of cultural programs</li> </ol>
<b>Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks and Trails</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a lot of open space</li> <li>2. Well maintained gardens</li> <li>3. Parks are very nice</li> <li>4. Well maintained ball diamonds</li> <li>5. Lots of playgrounds and parkettes</li> <li>6. Water parks</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More variety with outdoor recreation to meet to needs of the various cultural interests</li> <li>2. More activities and better accessibility for youth</li> <li>3. Improve the maintenance of soccer fields</li> </ol>
<b>Recreation, Arts and Cultural Activities/ Programs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summer Concerts and events</li> <li>2. City Play House</li> <li>3. Festival of Lights</li> <li>4. Santa Claus Parade</li> <li>5. Summer Camps</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Too expensive to rent city facilities</li> <li>2. Partnership with schools to get children more interested in art and culture</li> <li>3. Need to display a diverse range of art</li> <li>4. Better garbage disposal is needed.</li> </ol>
<b>Library Facilities and Programs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The new library facilities are nice</li> <li>2. There is a variety of books for different cultures</li> <li>3. Good availability of computers and access to them</li> <li>4. Like the programs offered to preschoolers</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Would like newspapers in a variety of languages</li> <li>2. More culturally diverse DVDs, CDs and Books</li> <li>3. Stronger link to schools for cultural days and opportunities to read about their community</li> <li>4. Need to communicate better with the City on permits</li> </ol>

#### 4.7 CONSULTATION WITH THE LIBRARY BOARD AND STAFF

A separate session was held to gain additional insight into key issues and priorities related to library facilities in the City of Vaughan. Participants include the Library Board and Library staff. The following is a summary of input received:

##### **What library facilities, services, programmes and policies are successful?**

Programmes and services are developed in response to the community demands and changing interests. The public like the variety of workspaces as well as the provision of computers and technology.

The library locations are well planned, within acceptable distances from one another and throughout the community.

The Library is successful in assisting economic development for the community and meeting citizens' expectations for such services as:

- children's, seniors and heritage programming
- excellent, responsive collections, especially non print, graphic novels, anime
- computer training and electronic database instruction, especially for business
- summer reading programs
- professional staff and top notch customer service
- study rooms

### **With regards to the Library, what does the City do well?**

There is a good working relationship between the library and the City, including promotion of events and programs and the development of initiatives in the area of technology. The Library has joint/shared service agreements with the City in areas such as human resources, financial services and IT.

### **Issues, obstacles or constraints facing the Library**

- External factors to the library place some obstacles in the way of progress: aging infrastructure, population growth and diversity, and municipal/provincial funding formulas.
- Concern that the Library is able to keep pace with the City's growth.
- Keeping up with the need for diverse, multilingual collections and formats e.g., DVDs and the funding to support them is one of the biggest areas challenging the library.
- The library could improve its visibility through telling its success stories, more partnerships and using the technology more effectively to inform the public of its broad range of services.
- Concession areas could be included in each library location for food and drink.
- Hours of operation need to be increased.
- More collections for college and university level interests should be purchased.
- The Library needs to work more closely with the public regarding the migration to newer formats (internet).
- While library staff responds as quickly as possible to collection demands, collection arrivals may be slow.

### **What Opportunities Exist to Address these Challenges?**

To date, the library has responded well to these challenges by building a strong infrastructure of skilled staff, planning processes, ongoing communication with all stakeholders, and effective use of its resources. Its positive attitude to change, willingness to innovate with different groups, ready adaptation and development of technology for all aspects of its organization such as flexible technology are just a few things the library has in place to address challenges.

Partnerships have been and will continue to be a hallmark of library operations. It has participated in joint facility planning and building, and developed beneficial partnerships with the City and corporate organizations such as Starbucks and TD bank.

Citizens are vocal and are placing more political pressure to define the community and create the services specific to meeting Vaughan's needs. Opportunities are afforded the community due to growth, more money and technology. The Library can be an important part of defining the Cityscape.



## **Do you receive praise or complaints from residents? What are you hearing?**

### Praise:

- large video collection;
- Internet;
- computers that include PowerPoint, Excel plus training to use a variety of applications;
- children's programs;
- new internet policy on gaming;
- free collections and services;
- knowledgeable staff; and
- joint/multiuse facilities.

### Complaints:

- Not enough collections and current collections e.g., best sellers;
- Need to improve intra-branch transfer;
- Video and DVD fines;
- Waiting to use a computer at the library; and
- Quality control on materials e.g., scratched DVD.

## **What do community groups, volunteers, not for profit agencies and private enterprises do well with regard to the library?**

The Board likes that community groups and agencies see the library in a positive light, using it as an information centre and meeting place for their own interests.

Groups particularly like access to the community rooms and space free of charge or at a nominal fee. The training rooms at the Pierre Berton library are very attractive and in high demand like our community space—free or nominal fee. City staff uses facilities at Maple.

## **What are your views on partnerships with community groups, non profit organizations and private sector?**

- There is value in exploring corporate sponsorships and finding revenue-generating opportunities within the limitations of the legislation.
- Sponsorships are attractive but very complex; the Early Years partnership is essential and a proven success.
- Outreach into seniors' homes is an attractive partnership but there is concern about lost materials.

## **Are there any Geographical Gaps in Service?**

- Rutherford and Major Mackenzie area needs a library' if it could be part of a joint/shared facility (with a community centre, high school complex).
- Kleinberg area may be underserved; it is a smaller, older established community but the building is not easily accessible.

## **How has interest and participation in local leisure activities changed over the years?**

A community needs to offer its citizens a variety of services responsive to their interests. Making services more convenient to users demonstrates good use of resources (e.g., extended hours of operations, after-hours book drops and shared/joint planning of facilities).

**In the short term (the next five years), what should be the main priorities for the City in relation to the Library and the Library Board?**

Strengthening two-way communications and increasing marketing to all citizens is an important priority. Meeting the funding challenge is a major short term and long term priority for the Board. Exploring more strategic partnerships and sponsorships are priorities which may help address the funding shortfalls.

In anticipation of even further growth, the Library and the Board will need to review its services model to see if it can hold up to growing demands.

The Library can be an important part in “defining” the new City of Vaughan, through community-wide growth and locations.

**4.8 SENIORS ASSOCIATION OF VAUGHAN INITIATIVE (S.A.V.I.) WORKSHOP**

A separate session was also held with the Seniors Association of Vaughan Initiative to gain additional insight into key issues and priorities related to seniors in the City of Vaughan. The following is a summary of input received:

**What Vaughan does well?**

- Take care of seniors - actually take care of people of all ages. Very community focused and ethnically focused.
- Facilities are great - If a seniors group grows to 50 members the city will give them meeting space free – not dedicated space but meeting space.

**What Vaughan could do better?**

- When building a community centre it should have everything – library, computer lab/internet, pool, meeting rooms, lounge, and coffee shop – in a good location where you can get to by bus.
- Community centres should be located in hub where other goods and services are located (e.g. groceries, pharmacy, banks, doctors, etc.).
- Chancellor Community Centre needs to be updated.
- Centres should have similar facilities and amenities, but avoid duplication.
- Why did they build Vellore Village without a library and concession stand – needs a lounge for moms and kids and for seniors.
- The quality of new building could be better.
- Should have a balance of small and large meeting spaces to accommodate the range in group sizes.
- Difficulty in using PowerPoint at Vellore Village due to the brightness and one is not able to do exercises without being visible from the pool.

**Trends**

- Different clubs do different things – cards, bocce, bingo, games, exercise, tai chi, yoga low impact exercise etc.
- Bocce is down at Maple, Father Ermanno Bulfon, and Dufferin – although it is up at Chancellor.
- Starting a Father and Son bocce program.

## Barriers to Participation

- The largest barrier is transportation. Many of the women do not drive so husband brings for one thing and the men play cards.
- Many would attend Chandler or Woodbridge, but they are not able to get there. There are no kneeling buses and bus stops not close enough to community centres or the length of time to wait for bus is too long.
- Mobility does work, but sometimes forget that you have to book in advance or have to go too early and end up waiting around a lot. Every time they meet this is the topic and it does not ever seem to improve.
- Should focus on creating hubs of activities to reduce transportation barriers.
- Community Services home support – is volunteer run like a buddy system but they are having trouble getting volunteers.
- Another barrier is cost – cannot afford the cost of exercise program and the programs at the seniors club. Some cannot afford anything - what if City subsidized those individuals? Wondered if they were to increase the number taking a class like a swim class could they get the price down.
- A smart card could work for seniors clubs and in community centres.
- Communication is also a barrier - most worried about how other cultures are learning about what is available. Need to continue to engage the leaders of the different groups.
- Seniors will not register on-line, but that is the only way to register in the City.

## 4.9 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

To assist in the preparation of the Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture, and Libraries, a statistically significant household telephone survey of Vaughan residents was conducted in early 2007. This report summarizes and correlates the principal findings of this survey.

The survey collected information on the respondents' attitudes towards various aspects of parks, recreation, and cultural activities and priorities as well as library needs (e.g., recreation and parks opportunities, facility needs, service delivery priorities, etc.).

A telephone survey of 385 randomly selected households within the City of Vaughan was conducted by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants between February 12 and March 2, 2007. The sample size yields a confidence level of 95% with a confidence interval of  $\pm 5\%$  (i.e., the survey provides for an accuracy of  $\pm 5\%$ , 19 times out of 20). To qualify, respondents were required to reside in the City of Vaughan and to be 16 years or older. To achieve the required response rate, approximately 3400 households were contacted.

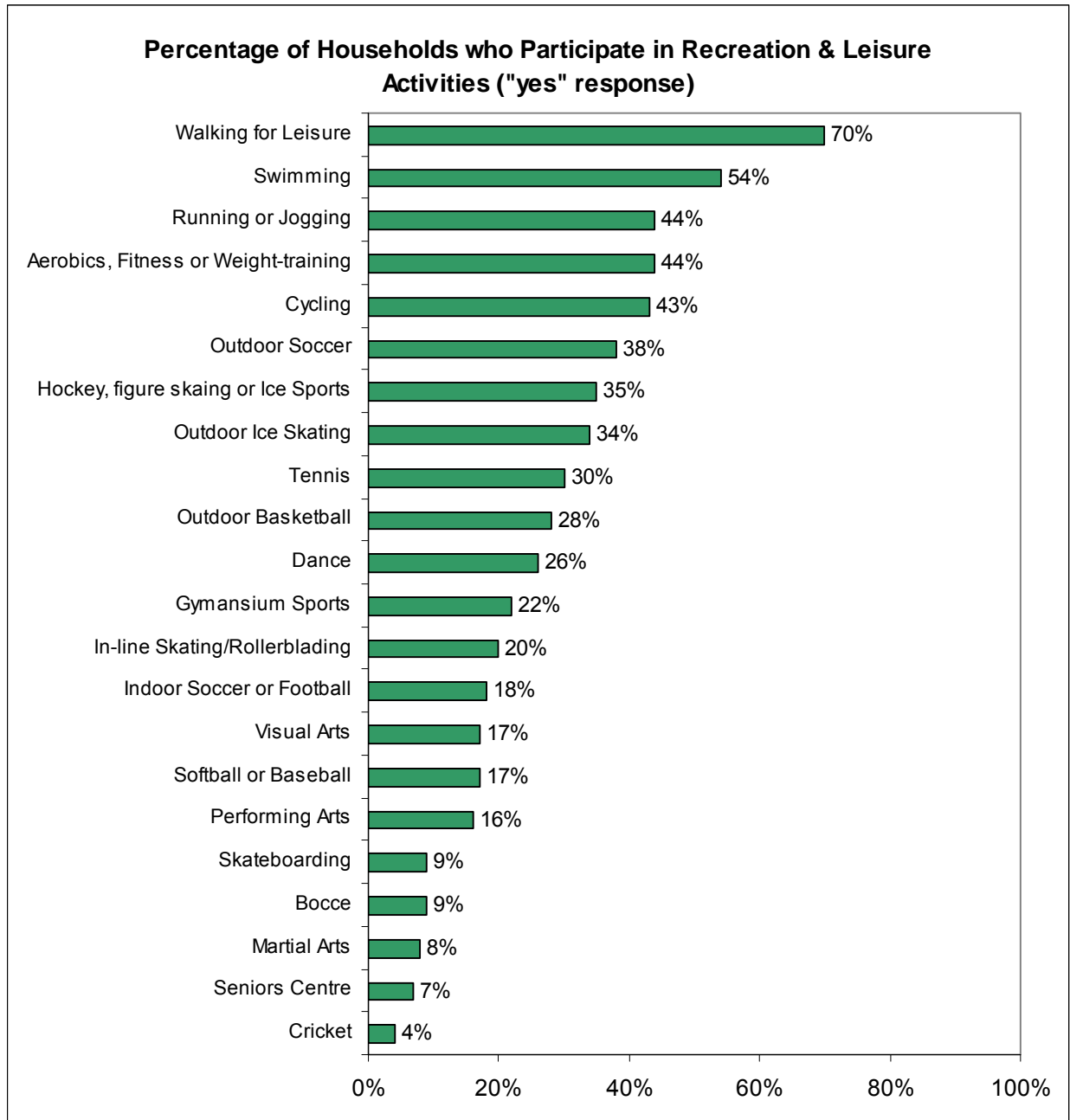
Although representative of Vaughan residents, the survey did not specifically target only those that participate in leisure activities but rather captured input from both users and non-users of City parks and facilities. Also of note, where possible, the survey results were separated into subsets based on socio-demographic characteristics and inferences were drawn on this basis. For example, respondents who live in Maple are more likely to participate in recreational activities than respondents from Thornhill/Concord or Woodbridge. This report has noted where the differences between these variables are considered to be significant.

### 4.9.1 Activity Participation

This section presents the survey findings related to participation in parks, recreation, and culture activities, as well as library services.

#### Household Participation in Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they participated in a list of activities, such as swimming, cycling and tennis. The response format is 'yes' or 'no'. The results are identified in the following table.



- The top five activities that Vaughan residents participate in are, walking (70%), swimming (54%), running or jogging (44%), aerobics, fitness or weight training (44%) and cycling (43%).
- These percentages generally compare well to research we have undertaken in similar municipalities. Participation in fitness and tennis, however, is at the higher end of what we have witnessed in other communities.
- Respondents with a total annual household salary over \$80,000 are more likely to participate in walking, swimming, hockey/skating, outdoor ice skating and tennis.
- Respondents from Maple are less likely to participate in swimming.

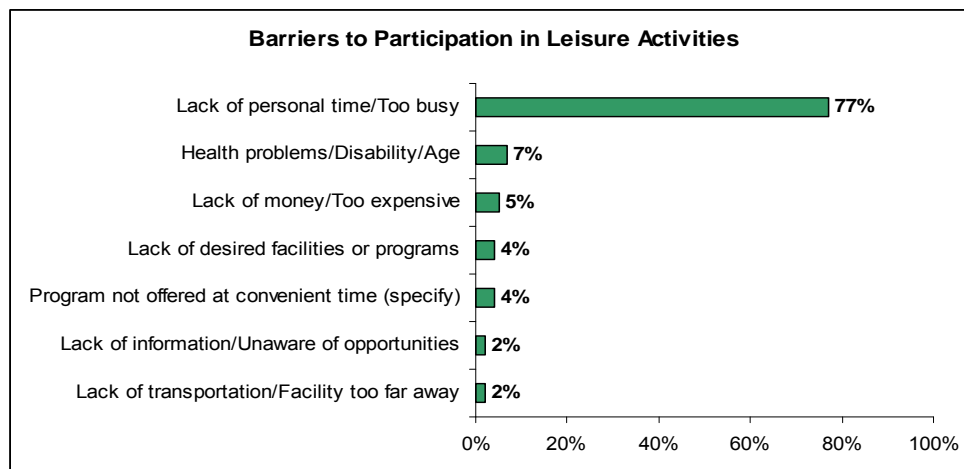
Survey respondents were also asked to indicate whether they have attended any cultural activities in the past year. Half of respondents attended live theatre and 43% visited art galleries and museums. Respondents are most likely to attend these facilities in the City of Toronto, followed by the City of Vaughan.

- Respondents from Thornhill/Concord or those who have lived in Vaughan for more than 10 years are more likely to attend live theatre.

### Barriers to Participation

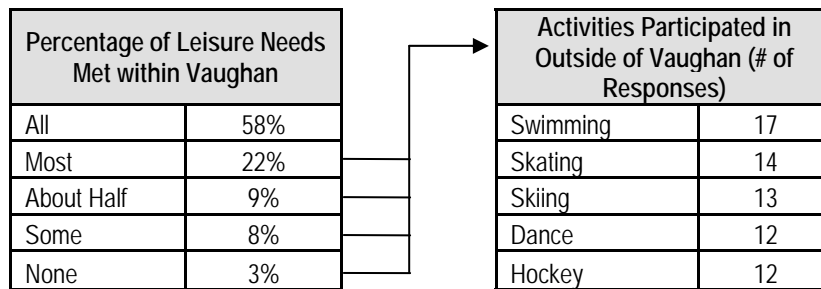
47% of respondents indicated that they or members of their household are unable to participate in activities in Vaughan as often as they would like. Research from other communities suggests that on average 4 out of 10 households cannot participate in recreation and leisure activities as often as they would like.

The following chart illustrates the main reasons why residents are unable to participate in more activities, despite their desire to do so.



- Of those who indicated that they cannot participate in leisure activities as often as they would like, 77% said it was due to the fact that they were too busy or had a lack of personal time to participate.

- This question yielded similar results as other surveys from across Ontario. Time after time, a “lack of time” is cited as the number one barrier, and unfortunately, there are no direct strategies that the City can employ to significantly alter this barrier.
- Respondents from Maple are more likely to be able to participate in recreation and cultural activities.
- The survey found that 80% of Vaughan residents have most or all of their leisure needs met within the City, and only 11% have some or none of their needs met by local providers. The following chart identifies the percentage of respondents that have their leisure needs met within Vaughan. These findings are indicative of a community with a well developed array of leisure programs that are responsive to residents’ needs.



Of those who participated in activities outside of Vaughan, the reasons are as follows:

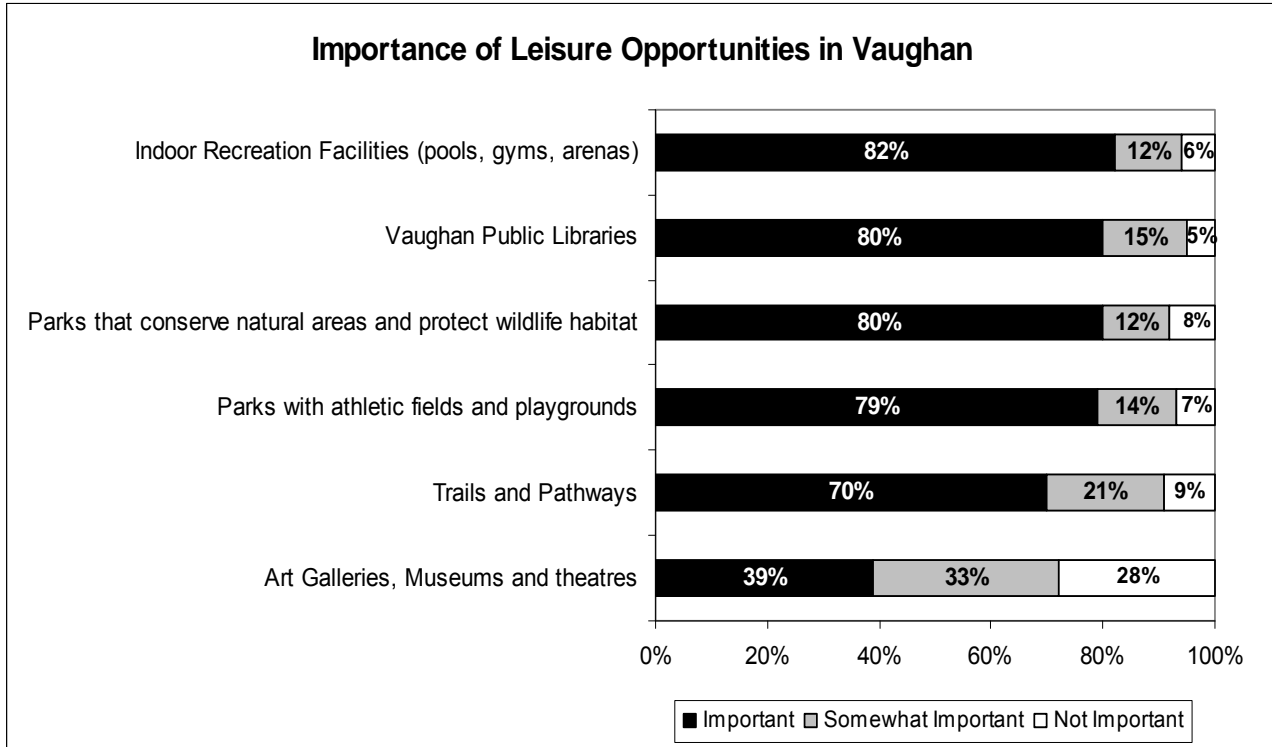
Reason for Participating Outside of Vaughan	%
Facility/program is not available in the area	26%
"Connected" to other community/Used to live there	14%
Closer to work or school	10%
Quality of facility/program is superior	9%
Less expensive	7%
Closer to other activities or shopping	5%
Facility/program is not available in the area at the preferred time	4%
Tournaments/Special Events	2%

### Importance of Parks, Recreation, Culture & Library Services

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, the importance of leisure opportunities to their household.

- Indoor recreation facilities were rated the most important, with 82% of respondents indicating a high level of importance for these types of facilities. Respondents from Thornhill/Concord place a lower level of importance on indoor recreation facilities than respondents from Maple or Woodbridge.
- ‘Parks that conserve natural areas and protect wildlife habitat’ and ‘Vaughan Public Libraries’, are both ranked high, with 80% placing a strong level of importance on these facilities.

- Art Galleries, museums and theatres ranked substantially lower than any other opportunity presented to survey respondents. Only 39% indicated that they are important to their household.
- Respondents from Woodbridge place a higher level of importance on parks that conserve natural areas and protect wildlife habitat.

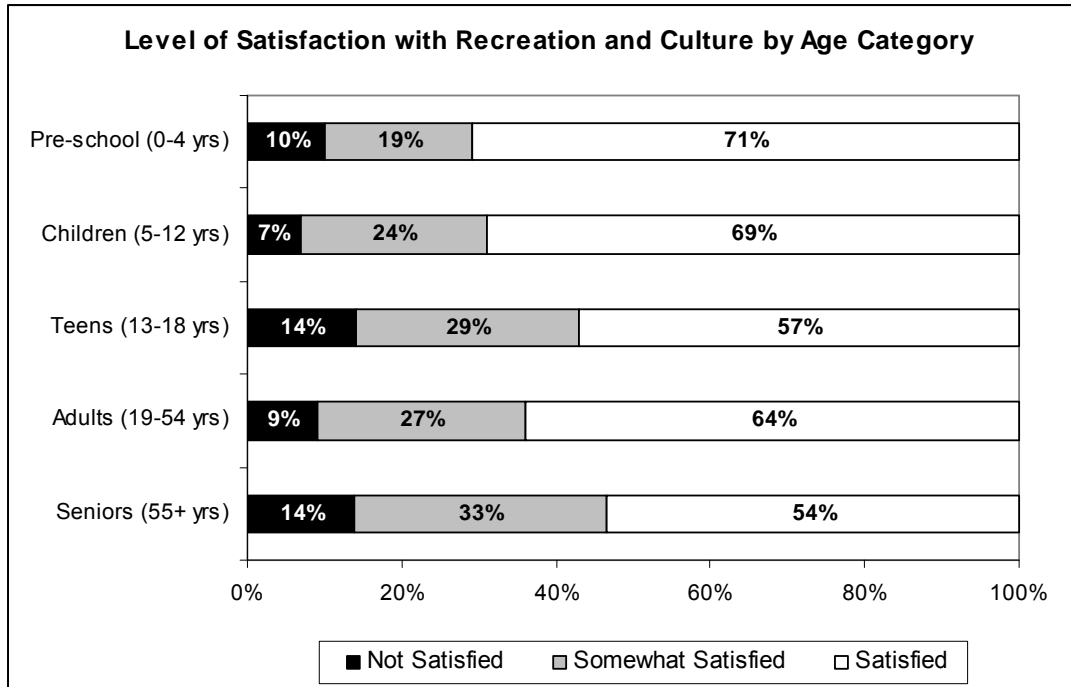


#### 4.9.2 Assessment of Public Facilities and Programs

##### Local Activities Evaluation by Age Group

Respondents were asked to rate their household’s level of satisfaction with local recreation and cultural activities for specific age groups. The age groups identified to the respondents were: Pre-school (0-4 years); Children (5-12 years); Teens (13-18 years); Adults (19-54 years); and Seniors (55 plus). It should be noted that, with the exception of perceived adult opportunities, a significant number of respondents were not willing to offer an opinion on the quality of opportunities available for specific age groups. “Don’t know” responses have been removed from the data presented in the following chart.

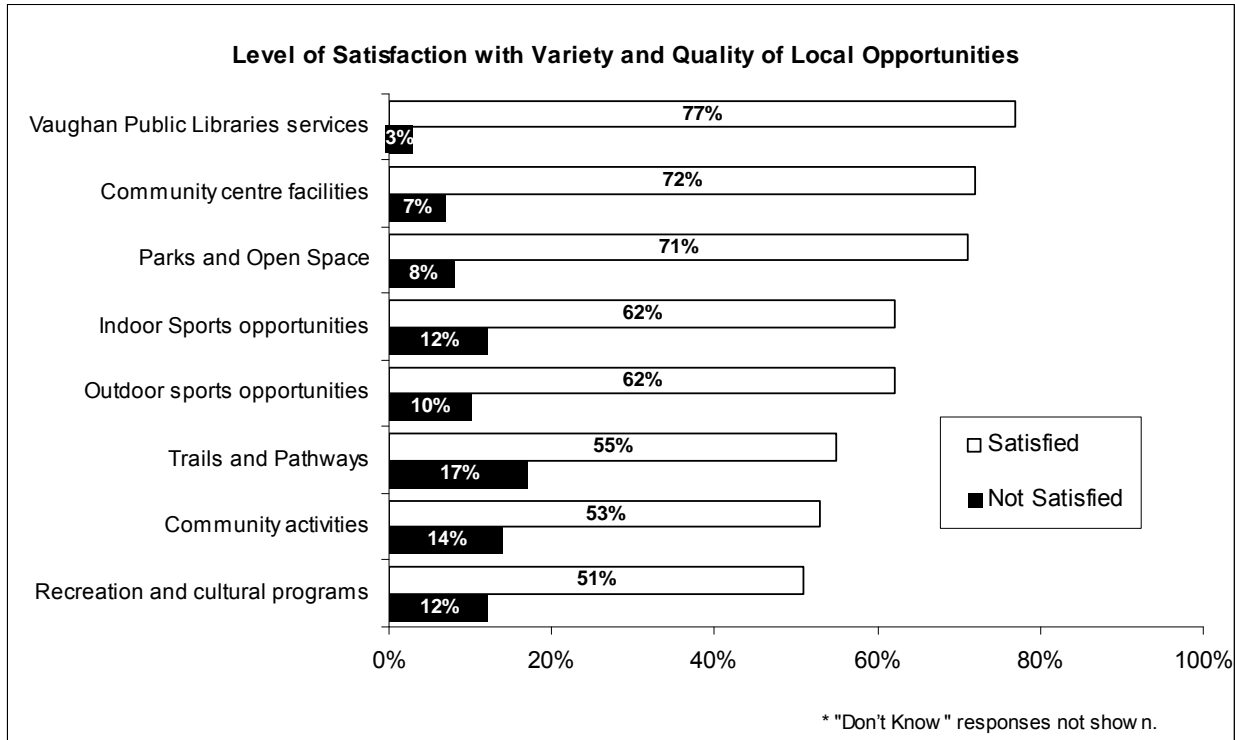




- The pre-school and children age groups have the highest overall rating, with 71% and 69% (respectively) stating that they are satisfied with the local recreation and cultural opportunities.
- The adult age group received a moderate level of satisfaction, with 64% stating that they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the local opportunities.
- The senior age group has the lowest level of satisfaction, with only 54% stating that are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the local opportunities. The youth age group also has a lower level of satisfaction, with 14% being “unsatisfied” or “not at all satisfied”. This level of satisfaction for the youth age group is common in these types of household surveys, and therefore should be interpreted with caution. While a perception may exist that teens are under serviced, this is not always the case.
- Respondents from Woodbridge or with an annual household income under \$80,000 are more likely to be satisfied with the local recreation and culture opportunities for pre-school children.
- Respondents from Thornhill/Concord or who have lived in Vaughan for less than 10 years are least likely to be satisfied with the local recreation and culture opportunities for seniors.

### Satisfaction Level with Vaughan Public Facilities

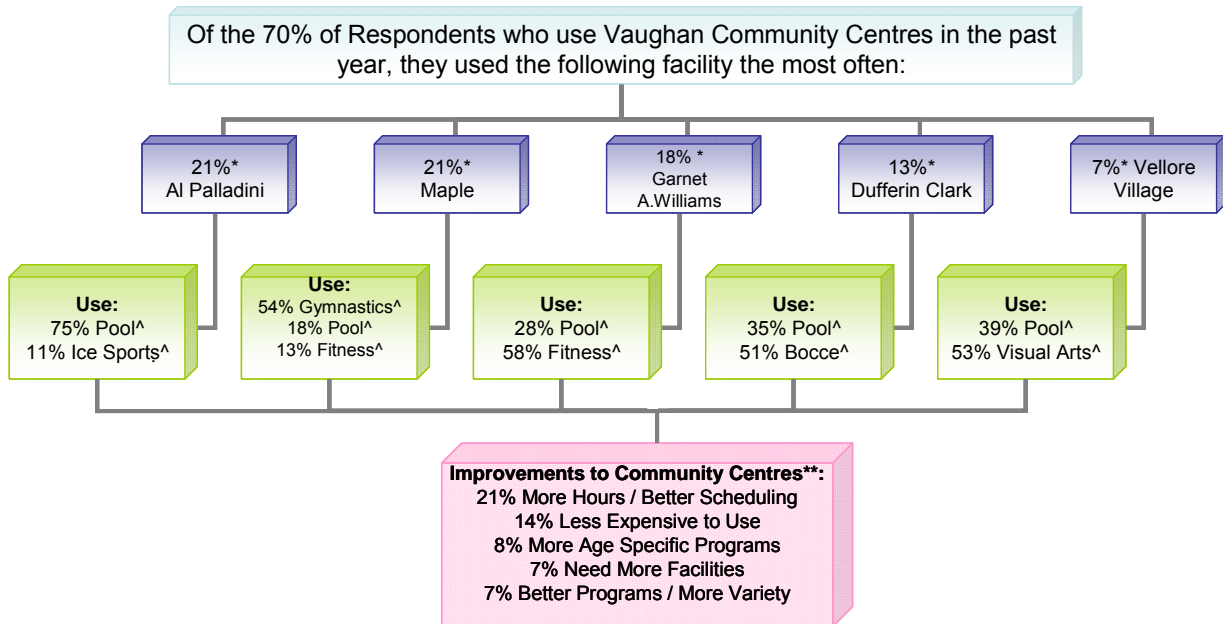
Respondents were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 their level of satisfaction with the parks, recreation, culture, and library opportunities in Vaughan (where 1 is the lowest). The following table highlights the percentage of respondents who are satisfied and those who are not. “Don’t know” and “somewhat satisfied” responses have been excluded.



It is evident that respondents are most satisfied with Vaughan Public Libraries Services, Community Centre Facilities and Parks and Open Space. This high level of satisfaction translates into a high usage of the facilities by respondents, as is seen in the following sections.

## Vaughan Community Centres

A series of questions were posed to respondents regarding Vaughan Community Centres, including whether they have used them in the past year, which one they use, for what purpose and what improvements would make their household use the centres more. The following chart outlines the responses.



\*Specific Vaughan Community Centre used most often by respondents (one response only, totals 100%).

<sup>^</sup>Percentage of Respondents who used that specific community centre, participated in the particular activity.

\*\*Percentage of all survey respondents who provided a response to this question.

- The chart above identifies that Al Palladini Community Centre and the Maple Community Centre are the most frequented centres in Vaughan. The Vellore Village Community Centre recorded the lowest level of usage, however, this may be a result of the newness of the facility (it opened in late 2005); we understand that it is extremely well used now.
- Overall, Vaughan Community Centres are predominately used for swimming (pool) and fitness.
- Respondents who have lived in Vaughan for less than 10 years are more likely to use the Al Palladini Community Centre.
- Respondents who have lived in Vaughan for more than 10 years are more likely to use the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre.

## Vaughan Parks

A similar line of questioning was posed to survey respondents regarding Vaughan Parks. The results are as follows:

- 75% of respondents have used Vaughan parks within the past year.
- Of those who have visited parks within the past year, the most frequented parks include: Boyd Conservation Area (not City-owned), Chancellor District Park, Dufferin District Park, Maple District Park and Rainbow Creek Park.
- Respondents were asked whether they would prefer a small park close to their home or a large, full-service park further from their home. 57% of all respondents stated they would prefer a smaller park close to home and 23% indicated a preference for a larger full-service park. 14% of respondents preferred a little bit of both options.
- The most common uses of Vaughan Parks are (in order from most to least mentioned):
  - walking;
  - playground;
  - to get outside;
  - picnics;
  - soccer; and
  - relaxation.
- Respondents from Thornhill/Concord or those whose children get over 30 minutes of physical activity a day are most likely to use Vaughan parks for walking.

## Vaughan Public Libraries

74% of respondents indicated that they have used Vaughan Public Libraries in the past year. Of those who stated that they use Vaughan Public Libraries, Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Maple Library and the Pierre Berton Resource Library are the most frequented libraries in Vaughan. The following table summarizes the use of the library system in each of the four identified communities. It is evident from the table that the majority of respondents use their local library as their main branch.

Library	% of Respondents Using the Library*	Community	% of users by Community	% of Respondents in each Community
Bathurst Clark Resource Library	23%	Thornhill/Concord	35%	36%
Dufferin Clark Library	12%			
Pierre Berton Resource Library	16%			
Ansley Grove Library	16%	Woodbridge	41%	43%
Woodbridge Library	9%			
Maple Library	22%	Maple	22%	20%
Kleinburg	2%	Kleinburg	2%	1%

- Respondents who have lived in Vaughan for more than 10 years are more likely to use Vaughan Public Libraries.
- Of those who use Vaughan Public Libraries, the most common uses of the facilities are:

- borrowing books (41%);
- studying / doing research (29%);
- borrowing DVDs or VHS (8%); and
- using the internet (5%).

All respondents were asked to indicate what would make them or members of their household use the libraries in Vaughan more than their current level of usage. This question was an open-ended question, and no responses were promoted.

- 37% of respondents provided at least one suggestion on how to improve the library facilities, while 25% stated that they are satisfied with the existing libraries, 9% are not interested in using the libraries and 28% did not provide a response to the question.
- The suggestions provided by respondents on ways to improve the libraries in Vaughan are highlighted in the table below.

Suggestion	% of Respondents*
Longer hours of Operation	18%
More Locations	14%
More Bestsellers	13%
More Computers/Internet	11%
More Children's Programs	10%
More Foreign Language Materials	10%

\*Percentage of respondents who provided areas of improvement for Vaughan Public Libraries and excludes "don't know"; "satisfied", and "not interested in libraries" responses.

- Respondents were asked whether they would prefer a smaller branch library that is close to their home or a larger, full-service library that is further from their home. 47% of respondents indicated a preference for a smaller library, while 38% stated a preference for a larger library. Of note, 4% stated no preference for a smaller local library or a larger community library.
- Respondents with an annual household salary under \$80,000 are more likely to prefer a small library branch close to their home.

Respondents' comments regarding the collection shortfalls for Vaughan are not unexpected. When compared to other libraries within the region, some of which are used by Vaughan citizens, Vaughan's size and budget lags behind. Drawing on 2006 statistics (Canadian Urban Libraries Council), Vaughan collection size is 2.2 items per capita, compared to Markham at 2.5 and Richmond Hill at 2.4 items per capita. Vaughan's materials budget per capita is also low (\$3.43) when compared to Markham at \$6.04 and Richmond Hill at \$10.26.

### 4.9.3 Future Directions

This section identifies the survey results related to future capital priorities for the City.

#### New Recreation and Cultural Programs Desired

In order to understand gaps between what programs are provided, and which are desired, respondents were asked what new programs they would like to see offered that are not currently available. 23% of respondents stated they would like to see new recreation and cultural programs offered in Vaughan, and the following is a list of the most common responses\* (in order from most to least mentioned);

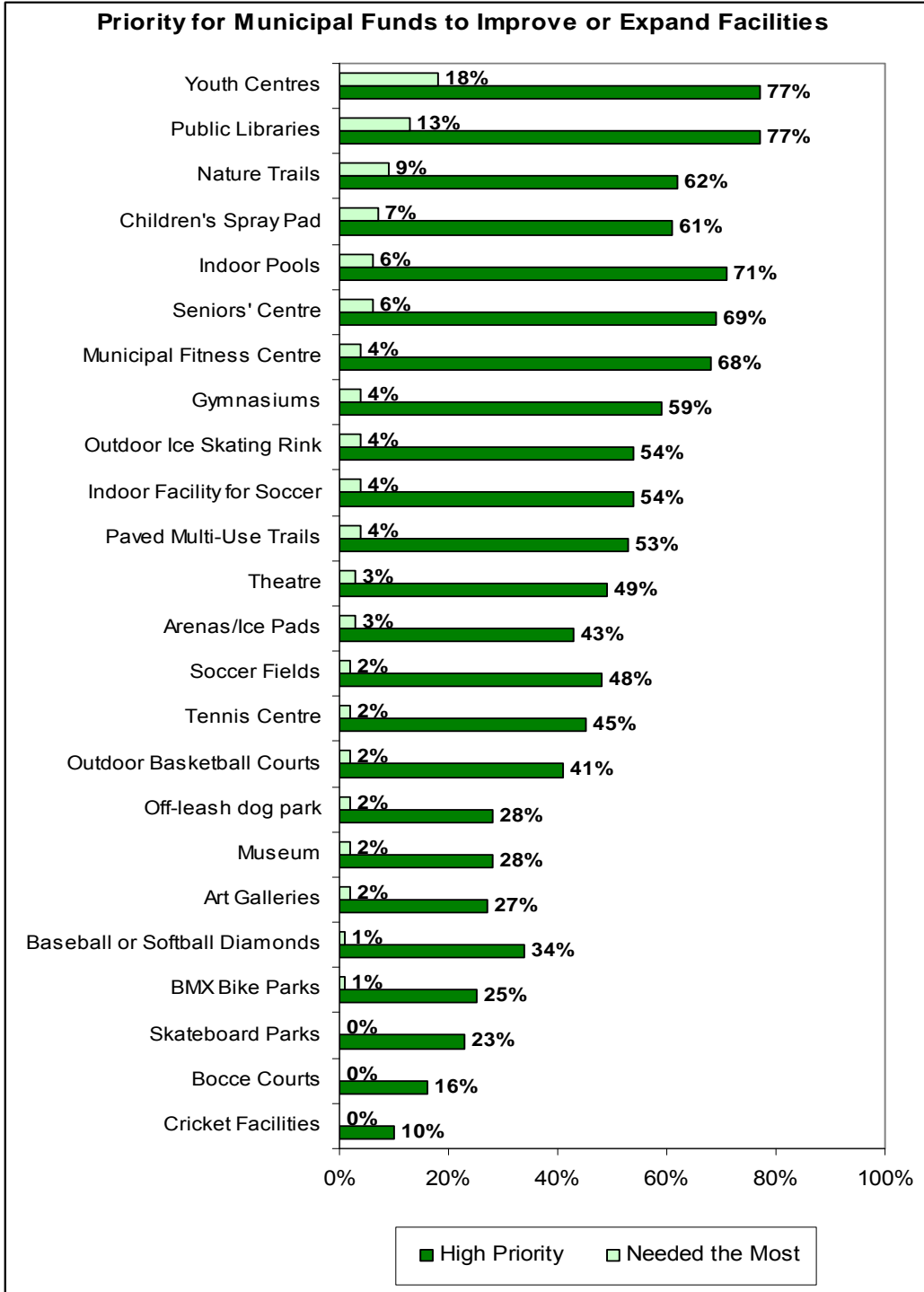
- Theatre
- Arts & Craft Classes
- Organized Sports
- Concerts
- Outdoor Facilities
- Cultural Programs

While it is noted in a previous section that art galleries, museums and theatres received the lowest importance rating, theatres are the most mentioned new facility desired in Vaughan. This result should be interpreted with caution, as there is typically a small core group of theatre (and art) enthusiasts who strongly voice their desire for more cultural opportunities.

*\*Note that these suggestions above represent a relatively small number of responses and are not considered to be statistically significant.*

#### Financial Priority for Development or Improvement

Respondents were asked to indicate the priority level for spending money to either improve or develop new parks, recreation, culture, and library facilities in Vaughan. Respondents were asked to indicate a priority level using a scale of '1' to '5', where '1' indicated that money should not be spent to improve and/or build a new facility and '5' meant "*definitely spend*". As a follow-up, the survey also asked respondents to indicate the two most needed facilities for improvement. In this way, we see not only what residents "want", but also their greatest "need". The following table summarizes the responses.





Note that the percentage of respondents who indicate that a particular facility is needed the most is substantially lower than the percentage who stated that the facility should be a high priority because respondents were requested to pick the two most important facilities out of 24 choices.

The results show strong support for Youth Centres (77% high priority, 18% greatest need), Public Libraries (77% high priority, 13% greatest need), Trails (62% high priority, 9% greatest need) and Children's Splash Pads (61% high priority, 7% greatest need). The high priority placed on youth centres should be interpreted with caution as it may relate more to perception than reality (i.e., is this really what youth want or are there alternatives to meeting their needs?).

Moderate support was indicated for:

- Indoor Pools;
- Seniors' Centre;
- Municipal Fitness Centre;
- Gymnasiums;
- Outdoor Ice Skating Rink;
- Indoor Facility for Soccer;
- Paved Multi-Use Trails;
- Theatres; and
- Arenas / Ice Pads.

The lowest priorities according to respondents are:

- Softball / Baseball Diamonds;
- Bocce Courts;
- Skateboard Parks;
- BMX Bike Parks; and
- Baseball or Softball Diamonds.

- The support for Arenas and Ice Pads is typically higher in other municipal household surveys, such as the Town of Milton and the Town of Halton Hills.
- Respondents with an annual household salary of less than \$80,000 are more likely to support financial investment in BMX Bike Parks and Skateboard Parks.
- Respondents from Woodbridge place the strongest level of importance on the investment in Children's Splash Pads. Woodbridge has a slightly higher percentage of families with children under 10 years old, but this variance is not statistically significant.
- Respondents living in Vaughan over 10 years place the strongest level of importance on investment in Art Galleries.

## General Direction for the City of Vaughan

Respondents were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with the following statements. There is likely some degree of response bias toward agreement with each of the statements; for this reason, there may be some information that could appear to conflict with other data contained in the survey. For example, while 80% of respondent's state that parks and recreation facilities in Vaughan compare favourably with neighbouring cities, over 50% of respondents provided suggestions on areas to improve these types of facilities.

Statement	Agree	Disagree
The City does a good job of informing the community about parks, community centres, libraries, recreation and cultural services	75%	25%
Children's and youth recreation programs should have priority over adult leisure programs	70%	30%
People who cannot afford to participate in recreation activities should be subsidized	77%	23%
The parks and recreation facilities in Vaughan compare favourably with those in neighbouring cities	80%	20%
Recreation programs, parks and community centre facilities are distributed equitably across the entire City	69%	31%

\* "Don't Know" responses have been excluded

- While 80% of respondents agreed that the parks and recreation facilities in Vaughan compare favourably with those in neighbouring cities, only 69% agreed that these facilities are distributed equitably across the entire City.
- Respondents with children who receive less than 30 minutes a day of physical activity are more likely to agree with the statement "the parks and recreation facilities in Vaughan compare favourably with those in neighbouring cities".

### 4.9.4 Demographics

This section presents a demographic profile of the survey sample based on responses to the demographic questions.

- The average household size is 3.71 people. 64% of the sample households contain children under the age of 20.
- The average respondent age is 43-44 (year of birth: 1963). The 2006 Census Data indicated that the median age of Vaughan residents is 35.9 years. The average respondent age is expected to be higher than the median age of residents, as residents must be 16 years of age or older to complete the household survey.
- Respondents living in Maple have a lower average age (year of birth 1967).
- 63% of respondents are female and 37% are male. A slight gender bias is common in phone surveys of this type. According to the 2006 Census Data, 51% of Vaughan's population is female.

- The percentage of respondents in each community is as follows:

Community	% of Respondents*	2007 (Canada Post)
Woodbridge	43%	39%
Thornhill/Concord/Carrville	36%	39%
Maple	20%	20%
Kleinburg & Rural	1%	2%

\*"Don't Know" responses have been excluded

- The table below summarizes the data collected on the number of years survey respondents have lived in Vaughan.

Years Living in Vaughan	%
Less than 1 year	2%
1 to 4.9 years	18%
5 to 9.9 years	25%
10 or more years	53%

\*"Don't Know" responses have been excluded

- 56% of respondents provided their household's total annual income before taxes. The table below summarizes data collected for this response category. As noted in the demographic section of the report, the median income of a full-time worker in Vaughan is \$78,324.<sup>3</sup>

Reported Household Income	%
Under \$40,000	6%
Between \$40,000 and \$60,000	14%
Between \$60,000 and \$80,000	21%
Between \$80,000 and \$100,000	19%
Over \$100,000	40%

#### 4.10 USER GROUP SURVEYS

It is critical that stakeholder groups be involved early in the process in order to gain support for the implementation of the recommendations in the latter stages. As such, Phase 1 of the Master Plan process included a mail-out survey to parks and recreation facility user-groups such as sports and community organizations, senior groups, clubs, etc.

The questionnaire was mailed out to approximately 200 different organizations in Vaughan who have an interest in parks, recreation, culture, and library-related activities. Of the 200 surveys mailed, a total of 32 completed surveys were received back by the deadline. The purpose of the stakeholder survey was to solicit information regarding:

- the activities of each group and the facilities and/or parks they use,
- the type and level of demand for their service(s) and/or program(s);
- recommendations for improving coordination with the City; and
- any perceived deficiencies, future needs, trends in participation levels, partnership potential, willingness to expand role, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. (2001). 2001 Vaughan Community Profile. Available online at: [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

There are two main types of organizations that completed the stakeholder survey: minor sports organizations and seniors clubs. This section provides a brief summary of the major issues identified by these groups.

### **Minor Sport Organizations**

The sports groups that completed surveys include:

- Thornhill Minor Softball Association
- Glen Shields Baseball Association
- Woodbridge Softball Association
- Vaughan Minor Ball Hockey
- Sunday Night Hockey
- Woodbridge Figure Skating Club
- Kleinburg/Nobleton Soccer Club
- Vaughan Soccer Club
- Vaughan Aquatic Club
- Thornhill Park Tennis Club
- Ahmadiyya Youth Association
- Vaughan Youth Athletic Association

Key comments from these groups include:

- There is a need for more outdoor recreation facilities such as softball diamonds and soccer fields. Additional space is needed to store equipment, for spectator seating and meeting rooms.
- The cost of renting space for organizations is often too expensive.
- Many respondents indicated that they need better training of their staff and volunteers. There is also a need to seek opportunities to increase the number of volunteers to assist with sports related organizations.

### **Seniors Clubs**

The senior clubs that completed the survey include:

- Maple Pioneer Italian Seniors Club
- West Woodbridge Seniors Club
- Seniors Association of Vaughan Initiatives (SAVI)
- Pine York Seniors Club
- The Sephardi Seniors Club
- Woodbridge Seniors Club
- Thornhill Senior Citizen's Club
- Vellore Village Seniors Club
- Kleinburg/Nashville Seniors Club
- Filipino Seniors Club of Vaughan (FSCV)
- Pinecrest Seniors Club

Key Comments include:

- There is need for more space to hold meeting and events, particularly in the winter months.
- Generally, organizations would like to see more programming for older adults, as well as intergenerational outreach.
- A suggested area of improvement for Vaughan parks, community centres and libraries is maintenance and cleanliness.
- Many facilities are inaccessible to older adults as they no longer are able to drive and the transit system is expensive.
- There is a need to provide more training and information to volunteers who assist community organizations.

### **Other Organizations**

The other organizations that completed surveys include:

- Vaughan In Action Community Program Inc.
- Hadassah/Wizo
- Vaughan C.A.R.E.S.
- Historic Wallace House Association
- Woodbridge Legion Air Cadet Squadron 283
- Maple Lions Club
- Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association
- Crestwood, Springfarm, Yorkhill Residents' Association
- Glen Shields Co-op Nursery School

Key comments from these groups include:

- Most respondents stated that the location, hours, and staff at Vaughan parks, community centres and/or libraries are good or extremely good, although there is some concern over the maintenance and cleanliness of these types of facilities.
- The majority of respondents indicated that their membership levels are low and they are seeking opportunities to increase their participation levels.
- Funding is a concern for many of the organizations, particularly the need for consistent funding and support.

Many of the comments or concerns provided by stakeholder survey respondents were generally similar in nature to those presented by community workshop participants.

## **4.11 PUBLIC MEETING**

A meeting was held at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre on the evening of March 5, 2008. Approximately 55 residents (in addition to municipal staff and officials) attended the event. Following a presentation by the Consultant of the preliminary needs assessment recommendations, several of those in attendance provided input regarding the Master Plan through verbal means and/or written means (comment sheets were provided). As most of the comments raised by the public were of a specific nature, they have not been summarized here, but rather have been integrated into the needs assessment recommendations, where appropriate.

## **SECTION 5: TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION AND PROVISION**

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### **5.1 OVERVIEW**

Effective planning for the City of Vaughan's current and future residents requires the identification of existing and emerging trends that could potentially affect facility and program needs. Understanding trends related to demographics, participation, and facility provision can assist with anticipating shifts in the demand for recreation and parks opportunities. This section summarizes major trends in participation, demand and the delivery of recreation facilities and services, based largely on information collected from provincial and national research, with references to local implications or data where appropriate.

### **5.2 ACTIVITY LEVELS AND PREFERENCES**

#### **a) Lack of Free Time is the Main Barrier to Participation**

Canadians have – in every survey conducted by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute since 1988 - identified “lack of time” as the most significant variable affecting participation in leisure activities. The 2002 CFLRI Physical Activity Monitor found that 75% of adults cite “lack of time” as a barrier to physical activity, followed by “lack of energy” (64%), “lack of interest” (62%), and “illness or disability” (57%).

Lack of time as a barrier to participation is largely a result of the evolving employment and family structures in Canada. Commuting, home-based occupations, night-shifts and weekend work are creating the need to have services open later and the need to promote drop-in opportunities. Similarly, the changing family structure with many lone-parent families is putting significant time pressures and constraints on recreation and leisure participation. The time crunch is generally the greatest in the age groups between 15 and 54, where burdens of school, work and child rearing are heaviest<sup>1</sup>.

This will have implications on the provision of both recreation and cultural facilities and services, including the demand for services during non-traditional hours, drop in activities, and the continued popularity of multi-purpose facilities that provide cross-programming opportunities serving more than one family member.

The time crunch is also impacting participation in arts and cultural activities. The average Canadian has only 6 hours of free time a day (including 2 hours devoted to the TV) and is presented by an unprecedented range of opportunities in the marketplace (e.g., the Internet, video games, etc.) which are consuming more time<sup>2</sup>. Not surprisingly, the 65+ age group has the greatest amount of free time and those in the 25-44 have the least (3 hours). This supports the notion that casual and unstructured activities, as well as events and programs for older adults, will offer the greatest opportunity for growth.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. (1999). General Social Survey. Available online at: [www.statscan.ca](http://www.statscan.ca)

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. (2004). Television Viewing, by Age and Sex. Available online at: [www.statscan.ca](http://www.statscan.ca)

**b) Polarization of Income Groups leaves Recreation Unaffordable to Many**

Statistics Canada has identified that the richest 10% of the Canadian population have seen an increase in their income by 14%, while the poorest 10% have seen an income increase of less than 1%<sup>3</sup>. The term “working poor” has been put forward in recent years to describe the financial situation of many Canadians who have a job but do not have any additional funds beyond paying for life necessities (due to increasing cost of living). This growing polarization may impact recreational participation patterns, as private facilities and programs grow in popularity for the higher income brackets and municipal programs come under increased pressure to assist those who cannot afford to participate.

**c) Awareness and Understanding of Challenges Confronting Persons with Disabilities**

The *Ontario Disabilities Act* has been amended to require each municipality to update their Disabilities/Accessibility Plan every year. The Act requires that every plan shall ‘address the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities’<sup>4</sup> (9, 2001). Barriers are defined to include anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, or policy/practice barrier. For recreation and parks facilities, this could include accessibility to facilities, ramps to entrances, proper lighting, clearly marked identification signs, removal of barriers from the pedestrian path (i.e., garbage bins) and hand rails. As the standards associated with this Act are yet to be released, the full extent of the requirements placed on municipalities in implementing accessibility-related improvements is yet to be determined.

**d) Participation in Organized Sports is Declining**

Participation in sport has declined significantly in Canada during the last decade (although there are exceptions, such as soccer). Studies conducted by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute and Statistics Canada have resulted in a number of relevant findings:

- Sport participation levels decline with age, beginning at the age of 12 and dropping off considerably beyond the age of 20. The teenage years are increasingly characterized by reduced participation in physical activity and a corresponding reduction in fitness.
- There are gender preferences for sport; favoured activities for women are generally swimming, golf, baseball and volleyball, while men generally prefer hockey, golf, baseball or basketball.
- Children whose parents participate in sport are more likely to be active (two-thirds of active children have one or more parent engaged in sport).

**e) Activity Participation by Age Group**

In recent years we have seen an increased preference for unstructured or drop-in activities that provide a greater range of flexibility for personal scheduling. With the changes in family structure and employment arrangements, pre-scheduled recreation and leisure programs often exclude those wishing to participate at non-traditional times.

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Council on Social Development. (2003). Census Shows Growing Polarization of Income in Canada. Available online at: [www.ccsd.ca](http://www.ccsd.ca).

<sup>4</sup> The Disabilities Act, S.O 2001, c32 (Bill 125). Ministry of Community and Social Services.



### **Children and Youth**

Walking, bicycling, swimming, running/jogging, and basketball are some of the more popular activities for children and youth. Skateboarding has recently gained momentum as a key activity, especially for male youths, and soccer is the most popular organized sport. The 2000 Ontario Profile found that 26% of Ontario children reportedly spend time in organized activities such as soccer practice or swimming after school, while 74% spend their time in unorganized physical activities after school. The trend away from structured/organized activities and toward more self-directed, self-scheduled, unorganized, unstructured, and spontaneous leisure activities applies to people of all ages.

A number of research studies have found a correlation between youth activity patterns and various socio-demographic circumstances. For instance, the 1998/99 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth found that the children who were least likely to participate in organized facilities were those:

- in lower income families;
- with very young parents;
- whose primary care-giver had less than a high school education; and/or
- in single-parent families<sup>5</sup>.

Most municipalities are challenged in their quest to offer teen programming. In short, young people want a place to just "hang out". Youth centres have the ability to become "community resource centres", combining drop-in facilities with a variety of youth-directed activities and effective access to supports and resources. Appropriate youth supports and facilities are also an important strategy in addressing issues related to "youth at-risk", which are a growing focus of government health and recreation agencies nation-wide. A broad interpretation of "at-risk" groups that includes all ages and circumstances (e.g., new immigrants, low-income earners, people with disabilities, etc.) may be appropriate to use in the context of recreational programming and assistance.

Strong demand for programs and facilities serving the children and youth population will continue in Vaughan as these age groups continue to expand in the next 25 years.

### **Adults**

For this demographic group, the most popular activities will continue to be walking and gardening. Team sports and racquet sports attract a smaller market segment than do individual activities and sports. While the percentage of physically active adults has decreased in recent years, men are more likely to participate in physical activity than women<sup>6</sup>. Also of note, golf has replaced hockey as the number one sport activity for Canadians. Generally, the most popular activities are less physically arduous and, in light of the anticipated aging of the population, this trend is expected to continue.

### **Older Adults**

Based on current and projected demographic data, Vaughan has and will continue to have a young, vibrant population base. While the older adult population continues to grow, it is experiencing a slower growth rate than other age groups in Vaughan. Older adults predominately reside in Thornhill and Woodbridge. By and large, this older cohort will live

<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada. (1999). *National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth*. Available online at: [www.statscan.ca](http://www.statscan.ca).

<sup>6</sup> Canadian Lifestyle and Fitness Institute. (2003). *Increasing Physical Activity*. Available online at <http://www.cflri.ca>

longer and generally will have a higher disposable income than previous generations. With the increase in “active” older adults, it is expected that there will be a shift to:

- less physically rigorous activities as well as personal skill development;
- activities that are more informal, casual and self-scheduled;
- higher expectations in terms of quality services and facilities;
- demand for outdoor programs (e.g., gardening, bird watching, etc.)
- more arts and cultural activities to serve this age group;
- opportunities for life long learning; and
- a greater emphasis on “active living”.

### Summary

The following tables identify the general trends for unstructured and structured activities by age group. These trends are based on research conducted by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants in similar communities and may not necessarily be indicative of local circumstances. Additional research may be required to determine the specific trend in this municipality.

**Note:** The trends are based on average participation levels and do not account for overall growth in a community. In other words, although a participation trend may be stable or declining, in a fast growing municipality this may translate into more people participating (but representing a smaller proportion of the population).

#### LEGEND

Increasing Participation (per capita)	↑
Stable Participation (per capita)	↔
Declining Participation (per capita)	↓

Figure 5.1: Trends in Unstructured Activities

Activity	General Trend	Children (0-12 yrs)	Youth (12-24 yrs)	Adults (24-55 yrs)	Older Adults (55+ yrs)
Cycling	↑	↑	↑	↔	↑
Cross Country Skiing	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑
Fitness/Aerobics	↑	N/A	↑	↔	↑
Gardening	↔	N/A	↓	↔	↑
Jogging	↔	N/A		↔	↓
Skateboarding	↑	↑	↑	↔	N/A
Skiing (downhill)	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Trails/Hiking	↑	↔	↑	↑	↑
Walking	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑
Public Library Visitation	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑
E-Library Utilization	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Figure 5.2: Trends in Structured Activities

Activity	General Trend	Children (0-12 yrs)	Youth (12-24 yrs)	Adults (24-55 yrs)	Older Adults (55+ yrs)
Baseball	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔
Basketball	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔
Curling	↔	N/A	↔	↔	↓
Football	↔	↔	↔	↔	N/A
Golf	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔
Hockey	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑
Lacrosse	↔	N/A	↔	↔	N/A
Soccer	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔
Squash/Racquetball	↓	N/A	↔	↓	↓
Tennis	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑
Volleyball	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔

#### f) Specific Activity Trends

##### *Soccer*

- After major growth in the 1990s, soccer still enjoys great popularity. While numbers may be levelling off in many jurisdictions, the sheer increase in the younger population in Vaughan will create additional demands for soccer facilities and programming.
- Many municipalities continue to have difficulty meeting the demand for one or more program streams including youth and competitive leagues.
- As youth soccer players of today become adults, it is expected that an even greater demand for adult soccer (both indoor and outdoor) will be seen.
- Many municipalities are building multi-field sport parks through partnerships with sports groups as well as private sector sponsorships. Driving this trend is operational efficiencies and the desire to capture the potentially lucrative tournament market.

##### *Other Field Sports*

- In Ontario, tackle football appears to be gaining popularity especially for players in between 7 and 19 years of age ( 60% growth from 2001 - 2004).
- Despite 100,000 registered players in Canada, only about 10% participate in field lacrosse – box lacrosse has grown by 54% in the past three seasons and field lacrosse has also experienced considerable growth.
- Provincially, there is growing interest in sports such as rugby and cricket, although participation remains modest and localized as it is often reflective of ethnic composition.
- Municipalities are increasingly adopting a multi-use approach to sports fields as they attempt to accommodate field needs for soccer, lacrosse, football, cricket, rugby and even Ultimate Frisbee.

### *Baseball, Softball & Slo-Pitch*

- Baseball leagues have seen a decline, partly because of soccer's growing popularity. Provincial figures (Baseball Ontario) indicate that the number of teams declined by 10% between 2001 and 2007, although they have stabilized between 2006 and 2007.
- Softball participation has also declined, however, it appears to be stabilizing as the sport is a popular option for adult recreational leagues and women are increasingly finding the game more attractive, especially at a competitive level.
- Slo-Pitch in Ontario has been growing over the past decade – most players are adult, primarily because it is more of a social sport but has a competitive element as well.

### *'Extreme' Sports*

- Municipalities are increasingly developing extreme sport facilities, often consulting with local youth regarding the design of a new facility and constructing it in partnership with local organizations.
- Skateboarding is one of the country's fastest growing sports and demand for skateboard parks is high.
- BMX / trick cycling has also become a growth area in recent years and shares many of the same attractions as skateboarding.
- Rollerblading / Inline Skating has increased in popularity as skaters can make use of paved infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks and trails, as well as skateboard parks to add an 'extreme' element to the sport.
- Mountain biking is another form of cycling that has gained popularity – many municipalities are providing designated mountain biking areas and parks, which also helps protect sensitive environmental areas by discouraging unregulated use through the provision of a facility in which the activity can take place safely.

### *Festivals & Special Events*

- Municipalities attempt to generate multiplier effects associated with tourism dollars as well as local spending when attending special events – festivals and special events have increasingly been marketed outside of communities to draw tourists in to capitalize on the success of established local events.
- Festivals are reflective of the community, creating a sense of local pride and encouraging people to leave their homes and offering a greater variety of leisure opportunities, thus contributing to the overall well-being of a community by encouraging social interaction within the public realm. Participants from the Vaughan Active Together Master Plan Community Workshops noted that Vaughan's festivals successful and important to the community.
- Tourism is a major contributor to the local, provincial and national economies – parks, recreation and cultural facilities are increasingly being assessed for their contribution to the tourism market, whereas traditionally, the emphasis was primarily on the residential population.
- The desire for family recreation (which relates directly to tourism) is growing, creating the need for more multi-purpose and "destination" facilities (e.g., outdoor water parks, unique educational opportunities, waterfront parks, tournament sites, etc.).

### Aquatics

- Swimming is a favoured activity for people of all ages, however, aquatic facilities are expensive to maintain and operate – gradually, outdoor pools are being closed and replaced with fewer, but better, indoor pools or cost-effective outdoor water play features (e.g., splash pads).
- Swimming lessons are the primary market for indoor pools and participation in such activities tends to decline after age 10. The size of the youth population is an important consideration in setting revenue targets for an adequate facility.
- With the aging of the population has come increased demand for therapeutic pools and programs aimed at rehabilitation. Exercise programs such as aqua fitness and water aerobics are also an increasingly significant component of aquatic participation.
- Pool design is changing as 25-yard pools are giving way to leisure designs (slides, zero depth access, climbing walls, etc.) better suited to recreational swimming (although not entirely useful for competitive swim clubs).

### Off-Leash Areas

- The demand for off-leash dog parks is increasing across North America – studies suggest that the success of these parks lies in a co-operative community-based approach that promotes better design and space utilization, sets out rules and monitoring, and ultimately encourages the acquisition of more parkland.
- Off-leash dog parks provide residents with the opportunity to socialize with members from the community.

### g) Community Diversity Increases

Ethnic diversity in communities is increasing, and subsequently recreation, leisure and cultural needs are evolving. Many cultures see recreation and leisure as a family event and are more inclined to do activities together. The growing diversity also begets the need for a wider range of activities and facilities.

Previous research, which looked at all age groups, identified the type of activities that different cultures participate in. Those with an East and South Asian cultural background showed a greater preference for picnicking, social gatherings, urban fishing and tennis, while those of West Asia and Middle Eastern background preferred cultural festivals, family gatherings, swimming, badminton, cricket and soccer<sup>7</sup>.

Nevertheless, a recent study, which looked at the interests of teenage Korean, Mexican and Polish immigrants in North America, found that they tried to assimilate to the North American culture, by participating in activities such as basketball and baseball<sup>8</sup>.

### h) Spending on Formal Culture Increasing in Ontario

A recent study by Hill Strategies found that Ontarians spending on culture accounts for 41% of the total cultural spending across Canada, and represents 3.1% of Ontarians consumer spending. This is a substantial increase from the 1998 survey, which found that 2.0% of

<sup>7</sup> Tirone, S. (2003). Ethnic Minority Youth and Leisure: Three Meaningful Places. The Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Conference, Banff, Alberta. October 2 to 5, 2005.

<sup>8</sup> Yi, J., and Stodolska, M., (2003). Impacts of Immigrants on ethnic identity and leisure behavior of adolescent immigrants from Korea, Mexico and Poland. Journal of Leisure Research v. 1

Ontarians consumer spending was allocated to cultural items. The top cultural item is concert halls and live entertainment, accounting for \$440 million annually in consumer spending. Absolute attendance for most arts and culture events has increased since 1982, however, these increases have not generally kept pace with population growth.

Following the release of *The Creative Class* by Richard Florida, the importance of providing cultural activities to attract employers and land development has been brought to the forefront. Municipalities recognize the economic benefits of supporting cultural activities and programs and many are undertaking cultural mapping exercises or preparing Arts and Culture Master Plans.

#### **i) Aging Population: Will the New Older Adults Be As Committed to the Arts?**

Conventional wisdom dictates that those with the most leisure time (e.g., retired older adults) should exhibit a higher involvement in cultural activities. Therefore, as the Baby Boom population ages, arts and culture activities should experience increased participation. While older Canadians have traditionally participated in cultural and performing arts activities (in fact, the 45-59 age group has the highest rate of attendance for theatre), a number of factors (e.g., declining disposable income, increased entertainment options, etc.) have been working in the opposite direction over the past few years, thereby dampening the potential growth in the arts and cultural sector. As the Baby Boomers age, we may see a renewed interesting in the arts.

### **5.3 LIBRARY SERVICE PROVISION**

#### **a) The Demand for Public Libraries in Today's Society**

##### ***Attitudes***

A 2001 study entitled the *Ontario Public Libraries Market Survey* measuring the usage and attitudes of Ontario citizens towards public libraries was recently updated, providing excellent information about the shifting demands and usage of public libraries by user groups. 1,102 Ontario residents over the age of 18 were called. In summary, of those citizens polled, the 2006 *Ontario Public Libraries Market Survey* found:

- “66% of Ontario residents used the library in the past year, and 65% hold a library card, in-person use of the public library in Ontario remains at almost identically strong levels as observed in the 2000 research”;
- “attitudes expressed toward the library changed very little over the past five years, with an identical 27% in 2000 and 2005 saying the library will become more important in the future, and a similar 25% rating the library at the top of the list of publicly funded services”; and
- “as in 2000, a majority disagree that the public library will no longer be a building; all information will be accessed electronically, and in 2005, 78% agreed public library buildings will expand and collections of various formats will grow along with new and increased services”.

### **Characteristics of Library Users**

Both the previous Market Survey and the update define key user segments; replacers, seekers, traditionalists and supporters. Replacers and seekers value public libraries and are large public library users. They will however also seek information from other sources. These segments tend to be younger.

Interestingly though, the 2006 study indicated *“younger respondents aged 19 to 24 are more likely than others to hold library card, to say the Internet has changed the way they use the public library and to say the library will become more important in the future.”* This is significantly different from the findings of the 2000 study where *“young respondents were the least likely to believe would be more important.”*

Supporters (the oldest, least affluent yet most enthusiastic segment of the population) and traditionalists see the library as the community cornerstone to providing equal access to information for all Ontario citizens.

According to statistics collected by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council from public libraries across Canada, libraries are more important than ever before. During a time when the nation’s population increased by 4.3%, both circulation of library materials and library visits increased at a faster rate nationwide (19.2% and 9.4%, respectively).

Circulation of Materials (2001)	134,815,704
Circulation of Materials (2005)	160,645,614
Library Visits (2001)	81,912,469
Library Visits (2005)	89,641,073

### **b) Impact of Technology on Libraries**

New technologies are changing how people seek information and how librarians deliver services. For example, many residents rely on the library as their only access point for Internet use (there is a persistent “digital divide”). The growing presence of information technology means that not only are public libraries expected to contain books, but also digital materials and computers, which are now ubiquitous in most libraries. Other technologies that are beginning to impact on library services include:

- e-library initiatives (e.g., website portals);
- new or alternate formats (e.g., DVDs, e-books, etc.);
- electronic/online databases;
- digitization;
- wireless access; and
- self-service and user self-help systems.

*“Information, my way”* is a constant message heard from users of all ages – future citizens will expect nothing less. The pervasiveness and flexibility of personal technology and today’s faster pace life have created an expectation that all products and services must respond directly to the needs of the individual. As a delivery system, there is little doubt that powerful Integrated Library Systems and their 24/7 environment respond to these expectations. Some public library surveys report that one of the most popular services offered by the library is access 24/7 to the library catalogue and attendant services. Many users find that access to the catalogue, hold placements and the opportunity to order from home or from one location, and pick up at another location is one of the most customer-responsive community services available.



Libraries' ability to interface with other public technologies, permitting seamless transfers of information in just in time/interactive information and digitized banks of stored resources is not restricted to print or print to digitized formats.

Some items may need to be available in more than one format in order to respond to more than one community. Our aging population has come to rely on larger print for items that other community members can read in standard print. Audio and video media appeals to many users for a variety of reasons.

Commuters use audio and digitized formats more frequently now. New Canadians may benefit from ESL/literacy based information but may find video and audio formats more relevant when learning about culture and language. As a result of our changing community and their information need, libraries are faced with the explosion of information formats, requiring new strategies for information acquisition, management and delivery.

If libraries have doubts about the future of multi formats, they need only look at our teen population and their use of information. Most day to day information needs to be available in their hands, via an iPod, MP3 player and the like. Although many still read and use print resources as evidenced in readership of graphic novels, for instance, print format appears to have less value in their lives. Colleges and universities have recognized this and have adapted college course and lecture work to downloadable, multimedia formats.

The Market Study report of Ontario public libraries also confirmed the important role of the Internet in libraries. *"Use of the Internet on library premises has grown from 19% to 31% of all Users. Fully 37% of all library users have used the library's web page in the past year, including 14% of those who have not visited a library."*

There is no doubt that the Internet has had a huge effect on the kinds of collections and services expected by the public. While the Internet has dominated the forum of information access, public libraries thrive. A recent article in the *Globe and Mail* quotes:

*"..public libraries are booming through new branches, more resources, more computers...Libraries are spending larger portions of their budgets on electronic materials including subscriptions to research journals, databases, e-books and CD ROMs"*

Internet is only one dimensional – libraries together with the Internet provide the community with the full range of information in all formats and the staff expertise to help everyone navigate all information venues regardless of individual searching abilities.

### **c) Trends for Public Libraries**

When all of these factors are considered – demographics, multicultural community growth, the Internet, the Chapters phenomenon, busy lifestyles and thirst for information of all kinds – proactive public libraries are adopting these best practices:

- purchasing and leasing materials in all formats, including print, large print, multimedia, multilingual and electronic formats
- insuring new materials are available on the shelves as quickly as possible
- access to information in a variety of ways, 24/7
- customizing programs and services as much as possible to meet individual needs
- marketing their programs and services and displaying their collections more effectively

- providing group and one-on-one training to use electronics products and services including the on line catalogue
- seeking beneficial partnerships
- providing a single community point for a number of community services

#### **d) Role of the Library in the Future**

Citizens still rank public libraries as one of the most important community services available to them. Vaughan citizens agree: libraries at 80% are second only to indoor recreational facilities (82%) as the most important leisure service. However, Vaughan Public Libraries at 77% receive the highest user satisfaction rating for all parks, recreational and cultural services.

The library's ability to evolve to meet changing users' demands, yet retain those services critical to most users, accounts for its ability to attract a high percentage of citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

Library roles most commonly identified are:

- Library as community space and "civic integrator"
- Libraries responsive to mega-city growth
- Library as promoter of education and lifelong learning
- Library as a primary source of "just in time" information
- Library as a preferred partner

#### Public Library as Community Space and "Civic Integrator"

The Benton Foundation in its 1996 report entitled Buildings, Books, and Bytes: Libraries and Communities in the Digital Age states "the library will become more of a civic integrator and a focus of community information on health, education, government, and other local services". This trend is evident in many American and Canadian cities, in the presence and planning of multiple use and services centre. The fact that libraries have traditionally served all populations of all ages, without prejudice, makes it an attractive community integrator. In more recent years, the large part public libraries play in the community computing movement and global access to multiple information formats reinforces the important role of the library as civic integrator.

Although lending and information access continue to be the primary functions of public libraries, libraries have expanded their service emphasis to recreational reading services, programs for adults and children, attracting young adults with music, videos and computers, literacy services, community information, and community meeting space. However with the rapid transition of technologies, libraries serve a key role in educating and guiding the community in the use of new electronic vehicles and resources.

#### Public Libraries responsive to Mega City Growth

The City of Vaughan is an edge city, a community that can stand on its own, and a commuter community. As such, their citizens enjoy excellent local library services but may also access the services of other libraries in the communities within which they work.

Research and discussions with some library CEOs in communities adjacent to large metropolitan centres identified these issues and challenges to planning future library services:

- demographic mix of the future may be quite different from the current population served. As well, groups including multicultural communities within an area such as Vaughan relocate from one area to another;
- all services in the community will be vying for the same development charge funds; libraries need to make compelling arguments for those funds, providing a “vision” and a service delivery model blueprint;
- technology will be a major catalyst in accessing, creating and delivering all library collections and services to its community;
- demand by users will drive the need for technology, especially in commuter and highly mobile communities – wireless access has to be front and centre;
- partnerships with schools and recreation centres are natural and highly beneficial;
- staff need to be brought along in all aspects of change – younger staff will have different expectations of the workplace; training and retraining is essential; and
- shorter term renovations address some size and storage problems a number of communities currently face. However, with rapid population migration to cities outside larger centres, libraries need to concern themselves with planning and developing service models beyond a central library. Building one or a number of branches affects the level of services and collections offered at one and all locations over a long term period.

#### Public Library as Promoter of Education and Lifelong Learning

Continued cutbacks in education funding have caused reduced access to in-school libraries and resources. Most public libraries supplement curriculum resources, and provide a place for students to undertake research assignments and group work. A recent study by the Ontario Library Association titled *School Libraries and Student Achievement in Ontario* (2006), recommended that the Ontario government: (1) immediately update the education funding formula salary benchmarks, so that funding for school libraries can be spent on school libraries; and (2) develop policy to ensure all Ontario students, regardless of the size of the schools they attend or their geographic location have access to well-stocked and professionally staffed libraries.

Higher education, small/new business venture, more leisure time, earlier retirements, longer lives, and more information are factors which support the concept of lifelong learning.

Libraries are often believed to be “community schools”, picking up where the school system leaves off. Today’s generations value independent learning and research and will look to the library to provide key resources to support their pursuits.

#### Library as Primary Source of “Just in Time” Resources

##### *Collections*

As more popular materials and best seller materials are purchased in public libraries, circulation statistics are responding positively. In a 2006 library industry survey, 43% of reporting libraries showed an increase in adult book budgets; 55% reported an increase in total circulation (*Library Journal February 15, 2006*) “Just in time” demand for best sellers are accommodated through effective strategies such as multi-copy purchases, paperback purchases, and leasing arrangements. In addition to best sellers, popular library subjects

for adults are how-to materials, medicine and health, biographies, cooking, large print materials and multi media materials of all kinds. Demands for children's and youth collections of all kinds are still high but the latter community is more comfortable with electronic resources. For communities like Vaughan there is an escalating demand for the provision of materials in many languages and many formats.

The use of the Internet and electronic resources for business, career information, and health is still high.

#### *Facility design for optimal Merchandizing*

Libraries are adopting a retail merchandizing approach to delivering collection to their users. They listen closely to users demands and supply items requested wherever possible. They now market their resources by creating attractive, browsable collections, effectively displaying multiple copies of new and attractive items, face out, on highly visible shelving units.

#### Public Library as a Preferred Partner

Newly developing services and facilities encourages community partnerships. Marketers for years have seen some advantage of libraries as partners: an excellent community image, cross-sectoral population, neutral points of view, longer hours of operation, and well honed customer service skills.

Libraries are increasingly seeking out mutually beneficial partnerships with schools, other library systems, municipalities, various information agencies and Early Years programs to provide a wide range of cost effective and complementary programs and services.

Partnerships may take the appearance of shared facility planning and building and, where possible, shared services. In Ontario there are a number of cooperative arrangements including a program which provides preferred pricing for a range of electronic products and services.

As libraries and communities grow, more unusual partnerships emerge. For instance, Vaughan Public Libraries has engaged in a partnership with Powerstream to facilitate the borrowing of Watt Meters from all libraries for residents to measure the power consumption of appliances and electrical apparatuses to foster awareness of energy use.

## **5.4 FACILITY AND PARKS PROVISION**

### **a) Indoor Facility Planning**

There are several key trends related to indoor facility planning, including the following:

1. The desire for multi-purpose facilities to serve the cross-programming demands, family recreation and library outings and rising expectations for quality service and value for money.
2. As the younger, fitter, older adult ("aging boomer") becomes a significant cohort of this segment of the population, the traditional stand-alone older adult centre will not be able meet all of the programming needs of this age group. Integrating activities for older adults into multi-use and multi-generational community centres is the preferred

approach. While we envision the “active” older adult, eventually facilities will have to deal with increasing numbers of “special needs” older adult citizens – a factor that must be taken into consideration in facility design.<sup>9</sup> Traditional stand alone facilities for older adults may continue to have a limited function in the communities where a number of “traditional” older adults are remaining.

Multi-use and multi-generational community centres must accommodate older adults though ensuring accessibility, providing social space, and locating the reception area in a visible location.

3. There is a movement towards developing libraries to be the hub of activity in the community. Libraries may also contain a commercial component and/or City Hall services (e.g., paying taxes).
4. There is a need for flexible space (e.g., multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums with retractable walls, swimming pools with floors that can be raised and lowered) to provide a range of opportunities for the increased segmentation in demand due in part to the increase in community diversity.
5. Multi-pad arena facilities are a key opportunity from a design perspective to accommodate the ranging needs of a community, from women’s hockey leagues to large tournaments. In addition, twin and quad pads provide tourism opportunities and operational cost efficiencies.

In the longer term, the trend literature indicates that there will be a declining need for municipal facilities as less organized activities gain popularity and consumers seek more home-based options for fitness and leisure. We are not witnessing this trend to any great extent at this time, however, as many municipalities in Ontario are generally playing “catch-up” in terms of facility provision.

## **b) Outdoor Facility Planning**

Outdoor recreation represents a growing market in the leisure sector. Activities such as nature study, hiking and walking, eco-tourism, and golf – to name a few – each have strong profiles for growth in the coming years<sup>10</sup>. Not coincidentally, most of these pursuits share common attributes, most notably that they are self-programmed, resource-based, self-scheduled, and can be tailored to the participants’ desired fitness level. Trails and pathways are a cost effective way to provide year round use for all age groups and to promote physical activity.

Outdoor facility planning presents several challenges, as Ontario experiences a dichotomy in temperatures with cold winters and very hot summers. This hinders the ability of outdoor facilities to achieve operational efficiencies, as their open season is relatively short. Swimming for example, which is a favoured activity for all Ontarians, is very costly to offer with aging outdoor pools and short operating seasons. Although it often does not make financial sense to keep these pools open, hot summers make them a very attractive proposition. Gradually, municipalities are beginning to close outdoor pools and replace them with fewer, but better, indoor pools or cost-effective outdoor water play features (e.g., splash pads).

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<sup>9</sup> The Randolph Group Management Consultants Inc. Emerging Issues in the Not-for-Profit Recreation Sector, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, July 2000.

<sup>10</sup> Basen, J. et al (1999). Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends. US Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 1999 - 216.48.37.129

More frequently, municipalities are building multi-field sport parks through partnerships with sports groups and/or adjacent municipalities, as well as private sector corporate sponsorships. Driving this trend is operational efficiencies and the desire to capture the lucrative tournament market. Long gone are the days of the park template, consisting of one ball diamond and one soccer field.

Across the province, many municipalities are struggling to meet the demands for high quality soccer pitches. The lighting of fields and even the installation of artificial turf may extend the usage of limited resources. The use of school fields to assist in meeting the demand for soccer fields is often problematic, as they are often closed in the summer months. Should a municipality decide to develop facilities to meet a specific recreation demand, it is essential to ensure that are not being developed just to meet a peak in demand and that there are opportunities for multi-uses.

Outdoor facilities, such as parks or sports fields, are also seeing an increasing demand for ancillary amenities. This includes higher quality washrooms, recycling stations/facilities, concessions, better playing surfaces and benches.

### **c) Environmental Stewardship in Parks Design**

The importance of environmental protection is increasingly recognized by society. As the population ages and people become more aware of the benefits of environmental protection, demand for more passive settings that connect people to nature is increasing. Municipalities are placing a greater emphasis on the “development” of passive park space (e.g., woodlots, prairie grasslands, flower gardens, civic gathering spaces, etc.), oftentimes ensuring that a portion of new active parks remains in a more natural state.

The health of trees is an issue; drought and disease are taking their toll and in many older areas where trees are reaching the end of their remaining life and tree removal costs are soaring. In newly developed areas, the issue is just the opposite; saplings are often planted and – although they adapt more readily and can outgrow trees of a larger caliper – it takes years for the trees to mature to provide adequate shade coverage.

Naturalized park spaces (whether by “maintaining” a site in its natural state or “returning” a site to its natural site) are becoming more popular and are consistent with many of the principles related to environmental stewardship. Naturalization typically involves reduced grass cutting and pesticide use, as well as the planting of native species (which should be accompanied by a public education program to create awareness in the community of the environmental benefits of this approach). These sites can also include features such as constructed wetlands, bio-swales, edge management plantings, the application of integrated pest management approaches, etc.

### **d) Growing Preference for Community Trails**

A recent survey by the American National Association of Homebuilders found that trails are the most desired feature in a community, especially in new subdivisions. Respondents indicated that they would chose a new community based on the type and extent of the trail system. Trails are a cost-effective method to increase physical activity levels and support positive interaction between the community and the natural environment. In an Ontario survey, 28% of respondents stated that a lack of pleasant places to walk or bike is a barrier to participation.

Time after time, community surveys identify high levels of demand for both paved and nature trail systems. Traditionally, trail development has been under funded; however, municipalities are beginning to see the value of trail expansion and are allocating more resources to trail construction and maintenance. On-road bike lanes are also being considered more and more, especially when major road works are being planned.

### e) Village Squares and Parkettes

While there is a strong need for large, multi-purpose parks to offer active recreational opportunities, there is a new trend for the provision of smaller parks; or parkettes. These types of public spaces, whether grassed or paved, are predominately seen in New Urbanist communities and urban areas. Parkettes offer residents an open space area within their neighbourhood to socialize with neighbours and the opportunity for passive recreation (i.e., swing set). The provision of parkettes in new communities is growing, and in particular, there is strong demand for these types of parks from various ethnic backgrounds (many of whom are more interested in social interaction and passive leisure activities than organized recreation).

Parkettes vary in size and use. They are also most suitable for more dense neighbourhoods, where there is little land available for a full-size park. The main issues confronting the provision of parkettes are maintenance and the resulting need to travel to parkland capable of providing field activities and/or recreational buildings, thus undermining the goal of a “walkable city”. Soccer fields, ball diamonds, skateboard parks, and similar amenities often cannot be accommodated in village squares or parkettes. These parks do, however, provide a wonderful gathering place, but do not replace the need for open space for recreational activities, nor the ability to get in touch with nature. Furthermore, the maintenance cost is higher for multiple smaller parks than one large park is greater, as the parks maintenance crew must travel to multiple destinations in the community.

The Project for Public Spaces developed guidelines for designing smaller parks or village square, which include ensuring that they:

- Are flexible in design for multiple users
- Are accessible by foot
- Include walkways, benches, shade trees, and ponds
- Focus on rest and relaxation
- Have a unique image or identity
- Manage the users of the square to promote positive interaction<sup>11</sup>.

## 5.5 SERVICE DELIVERY AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

### a) Financing Parks, Recreation, and Culture

In 2004, Canadian municipalities on average spent 12.3% of their annual budget on recreation and culture<sup>12</sup>. The Canadian Federal government spent 2% of the annual budget on recreation and culture (2004). The main sources of revenue for government expenditures on recreation and culture are property taxes, user fees and provincial transfers. As is evident in the allocation of the budget for recreation and culture, the bulk of the financing in Canada is derived at the local level. Municipalities are looking to other opportunities, aside from the traditional methods, to raise revenues for recreation and culture (e.g., sponsorships, gas tax allocation, community partnerships, etc.).

<sup>11</sup> Project for Public Spaces. (2007). *Ten Principles for Creating Successful Squares*. Available online at [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org)

<sup>12</sup> Statistics Canada, (2006). *Financial Management System* (mimeograph, May, 2006).

Many municipalities across the province are increasing user fees and rental rates, as downloading continues and risk assessment and liability are key issues. Higher insurance costs are driving up the cost of facility rentals and forcing some community organizations to seek other sources of funding or reduce the scope and scale of their programming. The challenge is to maintain equity and fairness and to ensure that lower income households are not excluded. In 2005, Ontario had the highest proportion of municipalities that charge entrance fees for recreational activities<sup>13</sup>.

As the economic data indicates, older adults have traditionally been subsidized, however, this group is no longer the most economically disadvantaged group. The traditional subsidy for older adults no longer seems appropriate (from an economic standpoint); there is a need to rebalance pricing strategies so that low-income families and youth are not subsidizing high-income older adults.

### **b) School Board Funding Concerns Decreasing**

As school boards face increasing monetary pressure, due primarily to changes in their funding formulas, there has been a downloading of costs to community groups and municipalities that rely heavily on school facilities. Access to schools has been identified as a major concern for non-profit groups who are major users of school facilities. Fees that are being imposed on these user groups may make some programs unaffordable as rate increased by 138% between 1998 and 2003 across Ontario. A report commissioned by the Ontario government identified that rising costs and increasing difficulty in finding appropriate space are among the key concerns of not-for profit recreation sector organizations.<sup>14</sup>

In response to this trend, the Provincial Government launched a program in 2005 that provides school boards with additional funds to cover the incremental costs of community use of their facilities. This government program makes community access after school, on weekends, and in the summer more affordable to local citizens. Like any government program, the long-term availability of this funding is not guaranteed.

Although school properties provide little in terms of outdoor recreational opportunities (i.e., soccer fields, softball diamonds, playgrounds) when compared to municipal provision in the City of Vaughan, School Boards need to be recognized as significant partners in the delivery of leisure services (particularly in relation to indoor spaces). The increased ability to access to school facilities, as a result of additional funding, will alleviate part of the pressure felt by community groups and organizations.

### **c) The Role of Partnerships in Recreation Service Delivery**

Municipalities are facing ever-increasing expectations from their residents as newer programs are developed and newer facilities are built (sometimes by the private sector). There is a growing realization, however, that municipalities cannot be everything to everyone. In response to emerging consumer demands and shifting economic conditions, many municipalities are pursuing partnership approaches that differ from traditional service delivery mechanisms. As identified in "*Vaughan Ventures*", partnerships, alliances and collaborative relationships of varying types are required in today's day and age to effectively and efficiently provide for the leisure needs of citizens.

<sup>13</sup> Play Works Partnership, (2005). *The Cost of Excluding Ontario's Youth from Play*. Available online at [www.playworkspartnership.ca](http://www.playworkspartnership.ca)

<sup>14</sup> Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, *Emerging Issues in the Not-For Profit Recreation Sector*, The Randolph Group Management Consultants Inc. July 2000. Available on line: <http://www.lin.ca>



There is interest in cost sharing arrangements with Trusts acting on behalf of community organizations and formal operating or cost sharing relationships with school boards as well as user/community groups. The most common type of partnership is with other levels of government, such as an upper tier municipality, the local school board, and community recreation organizations (e.g., Gymnastics Club).

A 2006 survey that investigated the level of support amongst Canadians for public-private partnerships (P3s) found that 9 out of 10 Canadians believe that Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments are not keeping pace with demand for new or improved public infrastructure services<sup>15</sup>. Furthermore, 72% agree that P3s should be used in the Recreation sector to improve or create new facilities and programs (the sector with the highest support for P3s). The challenge is to create relationships that provide mutual benefit to those involved in the partnerships while protecting the interests of those affected by them.

#### **d) Volunteer Participation Levels are not Consistent**

Volunteers are essential to the operation of a large number of leisure programs, including special events and programs for children. Many municipalities rely heavily on the assistance of volunteer to deliver programs for community benefit. The 2004 *National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating* has indicated that volunteerism is rising, but many organizations still struggle in finding volunteers. As previous studies have shown a decrease in volunteers, it is clear that volunteering rates are inconsistent from year to year. Some of the key results from the 2004 Study include<sup>16</sup>:

- Approximately 45% of Canadians (15 years or older) volunteered in 2004. While this is an increase from the previous survey completed in 2000, it must be that the absolute average volunteer hours per year only increased from 162 hours per year to 168 hours (the increase may be related to the recent addition of mandatory volunteer hours for high school students, as part of their curriculum);
- 18% of the volunteer hours in Canada are in the sports and recreation sector;
- The volunteer rate is highest in the 19-24 age bracket (55%) and those with a University education and a salary over \$100,000 are more likely to volunteer;
- Fewer immigrants were found to volunteer than native Canadians (41% vs. 48%), although they do contribute almost the same number of hours annually; and
- Ontario has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest volunteer provincial rate (50%), but is 9<sup>th</sup> in terms of total annual hours of volunteering.

Recreation facilities and programs that are facing the most dramatic staffing shortages are indoor and outdoor pools. Many are struggling to hire certified lifeguards and instructors, which are in high demand. The cost of training to be a certified lifeguard in Canada is approximately \$1000<sup>17</sup>, which is a substantial investment for parents.

#### **e) Financial Relief for Aging Infrastructure**

A 2006 study by Parks and Recreation Ontario identified that the majority of the recreation facilities in Ontario are over 25 years old and 30% to 50% of these facilities are near the end of

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<sup>15</sup> The Canadian Council for Public Private Partnership (2006). Trends in Canadian Support for Public Private Partnerships. Available online at: [www.pppcouncil.ca](http://www.pppcouncil.ca)

<sup>16</sup> Statistics Canada, Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians, "Highlights from the 2004 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating". Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 2004.

<sup>17</sup> Martin, J. (2005). Aquatic Staff Shortages. Parks and Recreation Trends Watch. April 2005

their useful life<sup>18</sup>. In fact, infrastructure province-wide is chronically under-funded. The SuperBuild program in the 1990s provided some relief to municipalities, but this only scratched the surface. The 2006 Study investigated the age of Ontario facilities and found the following percentages of facilities are over 25 years of age:

- 80% of community centres;
- 80% of ice pads;
- 53% of indoor pools; and
- 81% of outdoor pools.

In the fall of 2005, Provincial and Federal leaders committed to increasing the number of Canadians who participate in physical activity by 20% through a program entitled the Integrated Pan Canadian Healthy Living Strategy. To date, there is no funding tied to this program for municipalities or organizations. Although, at the 2005 Conference it was identified that there is \$15 billion deficit in recreation and leisure infrastructure.

#### **f) Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Culture**

The parks, recreation, and culture industry and its practices are evolving to become more advanced. Market-driven standards are a tool used to provide parks, recreation, and culture opportunities that reflect the demands of residents. For example, there is a need for buildings and park sites to have the flexibility to change with time and interest is critical, as aging trends and other and socio-economic shifts can alter recreational demands over time. Many municipalities are developing Strategic Plans and specialized studies to further understand the needs of the community and future directions.

Competition for municipal dollars is fierce, creating a need for higher standards of justification and cost certainty. This begets the need for more frequent and comprehensive updates to their master plans and continually monitoring trends and demographic patterns. The City of Vaughan Active Together Master Plan should be regularly monitored and updated every 5 years.

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<sup>18</sup> Park and Recreation Ontario. (2006). Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Study. Available online at <http://216.13.76.142/PROntario/index.htm>

## SECTION 6: PARKLAND ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

The City of Vaughan OPA 600 provides a parkland classification system consisting of a number of parks and open space designations. These designations articulate the size, intended uses, locational criteria and other definitions to guide the parkland development process. The designations are as follows:

- City Wide Parks
- District Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Community Parks
- District Sport Parks
- Linear Parks
- Community Centre Lands
- Open Spaces

These designations will be reviewed as part of the City's ongoing Official Plan review process to determine whether they remain appropriate to address current parkland developments. It bears noting that the OPA 600 park categories are different from those utilized by the City's Parks & Forestry Department, which include:

- Neighbourhood Parks
- District Parks
- Regional Parks
- Open Spaces
- Woodlots
- Schools

The hierarchy used by the Parks and Forestry Department and as reported on in this Master Plan is slightly more reflective of the function of the open space than is the hierarchy expressed in the Official Plan. Whether one calls a park a "Regional Park" or a "City Wide Park" is in some ways semantics, but having terminology for both Community and District parks can be confusing and, most importantly, imply different functions and park features.

Both the Master Plan and the Official Plan should be consistent when it comes to the name and function of a park or municipal public space. While these differences may not be an issue affecting the day-to-day operations of the City – as each classification system was developed with a different purpose in mind – it can create confusion and uncertainty when undertaking long-range planning exercises.

When reviewing its Official Plan, the City should reflect a park classification and public space classification identical to that reflected in this Master Plan. The number of park categories in the Official Plan need to be reduced by combining similar types in an effort to improve clarity and provide the City with more flexibility in planning for new park spaces.

With this in mind, it is recommended that the following classification and criteria be applied:

- Regional Parks (*delete any reference to City Wide Parks*)

Regional Parks are special areas that perform a unique function, attracting users from all areas of the City and beyond and should be accessible by transit, automobile, pedestrian routes, and bicycle paths. Regional Parks would include fairgrounds, extensive valleyland park systems, golf courses, and/or major event sites.

- District Parks (*delete reference to Community Parks, District Sports Parks, and Community Centre Lands*)

District Parks would include larger park sites generally within a 20-minute walk of persons to be served. In this way, they should be central to persons to be served, have frontage on a collector or arterial road, and be accessible by transit, automobile, pedestrian routes, and bicycle paths. If possible District Parks should be coordinated with school sites (whether elementary or secondary) and be large enough to allow flexible for changing recreational/cultural interests. District Parks will be the site of major sports fields, community centres, and recreational facilities that are beyond the neighbourhood level of service (e.g., off-leash dog parks, skateboard parks, lit sports fields, special event venues, etc.).

- Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood Parks are an essential component to residential development and need to be provided within 500-metres of residential development. Neighbourhood Park distribution should be uninterrupted by major thoroughfares (e.g., arterial roads or 400-series highways), rail lines, and major physical barriers such as valley lands and ravines. Neighbourhood Parks should have extensive street frontage for visibility and safety, be coordinated with school sites (primarily elementary sites), and contain a balance of both active and passive space. In more densely populated areas, smaller sites may be considered that are within a safe and convenient walking distance of the residents or linked by a trail system.

- Woodlots

Woodlots are treed areas that may be in private or public ownership. The Woodlots provide environmental and economic benefit to both the private landowner and the general public by helping to prevent erosion, assisting in hydrological and nutrient cycling, the provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of wildlife habitat, and the sustainable harvest of a wide range of forest products. Provincially, regionally, or locally significant woodlots may not be developed unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions. Not all woodlots will become public lands but will be protected from development unless studies (as noted above) can prove no impact. Woodlots owned by the City or other public body or through a partnership with a private land owner may contain trail systems if it has been demonstrated that the linear trail will not negatively impact the woodlots ecological function.

- Open Space

Open Space areas are lands that possess natural features such as significant habitat for endangered species and threatened species and/or significant wetlands. Open Space areas with these characteristics may not be developed whether in private or public ownership. Open space areas may also include lands that are significant valley lands or significant wildlife habitat or areas of natural and scientific interest. The latter may be developed only if demonstrated that there will be no negative impact on the natural features or ecological functions. Open Space areas owned by the City or other public body or through a partnership with a private land owner may contain trail systems if it has been demonstrated that the linear trail will not negatively impact the ecological function of the lands proposed for the trail system. Open Space areas may also be linear pedestrian/bicycle linkages between Regional, District or Neighbourhood parks or

other public space such as schools, libraries, public buildings, etc. Not all linear linkages will be classified as public parkland but may form part of the City's overall transportation network of connectivity.

Furthermore, "Linear Parks" should be removed as a formal parkland category from the Official Plan. Linkages are not part of the parkland dedication process but rather part of the transportation services required for orderly development. The Official Plan should make it clear that the pedestrian and bicycle linkages are as important to the connectivity of the City as the automobile transportation network and that dedication of linkages will be given the same status as the dedication of roads when considering plans of subdivision, consents, condominiums, and site plan approvals.

### **Action Plans**

- The City should, as part of its Official Plan review process, have regard to the findings of this Master Plan as they relate parkland classification system and determine if revisions should be made to the policies and park typology currently articulated through OPA 600.

## **6.2 PARKLAND SUPPLY**

As illustrated in the following table, the City of Vaughan currently provides almost 1,088 hectares of parkland at a total of 216 parks. In terms of service levels, the City is providing parkland at a rate of 4.19 hectares per 1,000 residents (assuming a current population of 259,359). In addition, 15 hectares of land is available at 39 school sites; however, this land has been removed from the inventory as it is a shared resource that is not under municipal control.

*Note: The park categories identified in the following table were provided by the City's Parks & Forestry Department and differ from those contained in OPA 600.*

### **Current Municipal Parkland Supply, 2008**

	<b>Neighbourhood Parks (ha)</b>	<b>District Parks (ha)</b>	<b>Regional Parks (ha)</b>	<b>Woodlots (ha)</b>	<b>Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Total (ha)</b>
<b>Kleinburg</b>	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Woodbridge</b>	156.4	41.8	54.2	3.2	130.2	<b>385.7</b>
<b>Woodbridge East</b>	89.3	13.0	0.0	5.6	7.3	<b>115.1</b>
<b>Vellore Village</b>	19.6	10.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>30.4</b>
<b>Maple</b>	44.5	61.7	0.0	7.0	35.2	<b>148.4</b>
<b>Vaughan Corporate Centre</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.5	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Steeles – Jane to Keele</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Carrville</b>	20.5	20.5	0.0	30.6	38.8	<b>110.4</b>
<b>Thornhill/Concord</b>	98.2	26.2	61.2	2.0	15.8	<b>203.4</b>
<b>Long-Term Residential</b>	6.9	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Employment/Rural Area</b>	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.5	<b>70.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>450.2</b>	<b>174.0</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>297.3</b>	<b>1,087.9</b>

Consultation with the public, politicians and staff indicated that the City of Vaughan is doing well in terms of the amount of open space available and in the quality of design and maintenance of those parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and gardens.

With walking for pleasure being the top recreational activity – followed by other top ten activities such as jogging, cycling and outdoor sports activities – one can understand why Vaughan residents are pleased with the open space system. 75% of those surveyed used the park system. After youth centres and public libraries, the next most desired facility was more nature trails. Other high priority items included children's spray pads, outdoor skating rinks, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, skateboard parks, off-leash dog parks, and cricket facilities. Each of these recreational facilities needs to occur within the open space land base. The current supply level of 4.19 hectares per 1000 residents is seen as a one of the things that Vaughan does very well. To maintain that ratio in light of current growth rates will require a continued commitment toward parkland acquisition. In addition to the open space component, the City of Vaughan also has 0.11 hectares of land per 1000 persons (34.4 hectares) associated with indoor recreational facilities.

### **Action Plans**

- Every effort should be made to maintain a healthy ratio of active and passive parkland to the population served.
- Policies in the City's Official Plan regarding parkland objectives and the classification of parkland should be reviewed to incorporate reference to the desired standard of **4.0 hectares of active and passive parks and open space for every 1000 residents.** This objective should be utilized when assessing development applications and evaluating natural lands for public dedication or acquisition.

## **6.3 PARKLAND NEEDS**

As mentioned, the City is currently providing parkland at a rate of 4.19 hectares per 1,000 residents. The table below illustrates current parkland provision rates by community and projects this forward into the future illustrating the effect if no new parkland is acquired. The required parkland is based on residents needs for public and open parkland. Quasi-private parkland (e.g. YMCA, ethnic-specific recreation centres, etc.), augment the supply; however, as access is not available to all residents, it has not been included in the analysis.

**Current & Future Parkland Servicing Levels by Community**

Community	Total Supply (ha)	Forecasted Level of Service (ha/1,000 residents)					
		2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Kleinburg	5.9	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Woodbridge	385.7	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6
Woodbridge East	115.1	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.6
Vellore Village	30.4	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8
Maple	148.4	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
Vaughan Corporate Centre	8.5	8.7	3.6	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5
Steeles – Jane to Keele	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Carrville	110.4	3.7	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Thornhill/Concord	203.4	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3
Long Term Residential Growth Area	9.8	2.2	1.8	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.1
Employment / Rural	70.4	18.6	18.5	16.7	15.5	15.2	14.7
<b>City-wide Average</b>	<b>1,087.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>

*Note: assumes the supply of parkland remains at 2008 levels (i.e., no new parkland is added)*

Active parkland is defined as open space that can accommodate major recreation facilities such as playing fields, playgrounds, outdoor rinks, tennis courts, etc. The current Official Plan identifies a number of parks that would fulfill the active parkland function. The Official Plan speaks of sizes associated with certain parks, as well as the ratio at which they should be supplied. If one applied the Official Plan policies to create a provision standard for active parkland for Vaughan, it would be in the range of 1.75 to 2.8 hectares of active parkland per 1000 residents.

Research in other municipalities suggests that a provision level between 2.2 and 2.5 hectares per 1,000 residents is required to support *active* parkland needs. Vaughan's ratio of active parkland (neighbourhood, district and regional) of 2.85 hectares per 1,000 residents is presently the Official Plan's upper range and just beyond the upper end of the benchmarking range (i.e., 2.85ha/1000 vs. 2.5ha/1000).

The household survey indicated that 71% of respondents are satisfied in some form with municipal parks and open spaces. It would, therefore, appear that the City's present level of service is satisfactory. It is understood that land costs are high and that the techniques available under current development legislation will not likely yield active parkland at the 2.85ha/1000 or even the 2.5ha/1000 level.

Nevertheless, given the expectations of the Vaughan residents and the need to have an active and healthy community, it is recommended that the City target the provision of active parkland at a rate of 2.5 hectares per 1,000 residents. Application of this provision target results in the need for an additional 343 hectares of active parkland by build out in 2031 (includes the 245ha additional land required to service new growth plus the 98ha that are expected to be dedicated to the City between 2009 and 2014).

**Forecasted Active Parkland Requirements, 2008-2031**

<b>ACTIVE PARKLAND</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2031</b>
Projected Population	259,359	290,100	329,445	368,113	401,291	433,046
<i>Parkland Provision Standard</i>	<i>2.5 hectares (active parkland) per 1,000 residents</i>					
Parkland Supply (ha)*	739.6	792.8	837.6	837.6	837.6	837.6
Parkland Provision per 1,000 residents	2.85	2.73	2.54	2.28	2.09	1.93
Parkland Supply Required to Attain 2.5 ha per 1,000	648.4	725.3	823.6	920.3	1,003.2	1,082.6
<b>Parkland Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(83)</b>	<b>(166)</b>	<b>(245)</b>

Note: Does **not** include passive parkland such as woodlots and open space (349ha) or school lands (15ha).  
Does **include** anticipated parkland acquisition/dedication of 98ha of active parkland between 2009-2014.

With regard to passive parkland, provision standards are more difficult to establish as passive open space is often a function of the local physical environment (e.g., valley lands, woodlots, waterways and area of environmental or geological significance). Generally, the lands in the more passive parkland category are not 'development' lands as defined by the Provincial Policy Statement (issued under the *Planning Act*). Natural areas often follow watercourses or valleys and make ideal linear linkages for non-vehicular transportation as well as providing recreational pleasure and relief from the more intense urban form of development. The City currently has a ratio of 1.34 hectares per 1000 residents of passive open space. Ideally these sites are larger parcels (e.g., woodlots, corridors along waterways, etc.). The City should continue with its efforts to maintain its present level of service for passive parkland, obtaining new open spaces where the opportunity presents itself, but not at the expense of needed active parkland.

If the City was to maintain the current provision standard, an additional 229 hectares of passive parkland (open space, woodlots) would be required. As a minimum, the City should strive to obtain 1 hectare per 1000 new residents in this natural/passive parkland category. As these lands are generally not suitable for active recreational development, they are not recommended to be taken as parkland dedication under the Planning Act (whether as 5% of the subject lands, 1 hectare per 300 units, or cash in lieu), but rather as additional lands to be donated or acquired; the City's woodlot acquisition program is a good example of this.

**Forecasted Passive Parkland Requirements, 2008-2031**

<b>PASSIVE PARKLAND</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2031</b>
Projected Population	259,359	290,100	329,445	368,113	401,291	433,046
<i>Parkland Provision Standard</i>	<i>1.34 hectares (passive parkland) per 1,000 residents</i>					
Parkland Supply (ha)*	348.6	348.6	351.1	351.1	351.1	351.1
Parkland Provision per 1,000 residents	1.34	1.20	1.07	0.95	0.87	0.81
Parkland Supply Required to Attain 1.34 ha per 1,000	347.5	388.7	441.5	493.3	537.7	580.3
<b>Parkland Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>(142)</b>	<b>(187)</b>	<b>(229)</b>

Note: Does **not** include active parkland such as neighbourhood, district, or regional parks (740ha) or school lands (15ha).

The following tables have taken the concept of active parkland and broken it down further to the neighbourhood and district/regional levels of supply (according to the typology identified in the



City's inventory) and have identified the existing supply per community. A target of 1.5ha/1000 is recommended for neighbourhood parkland and a target of 1.0ha/1000 is recommended for district/regional parkland; this adds up to **2.5ha/1000 for active parkland** (neighbourhood, district and regional park types).

Although the intention of these provision standards is not to strictly apply them to each community (rather they should be applied at the City-wide level), this exercise does provide a good indicator as to which areas have above and below average supplies.

There are presently 4 communities that do not currently meet the recommended standard of 2.5ha/1000 of active parkland:

- Maple would require 15 hectares of additional active parkland to meet the recommended standard; planned district parks in this area are projected to fill this need;
- Carrville would require 33 hectares of additional active parkland to meet the recommended standard;
- Vellore Village would require 32 hectares of additional active parkland to meet the recommended standard; the southern portion of this area may, however, be adequately served by the more supply of parkland in Woodbridge East; and
- Kleinburg would require 4 hectares of additional active parkland to meet the recommended standard; this area may, however, be adequately served by the more supply of parkland in Woodbridge.

Over time, these and other growing communities will require the development of additional active parkland to keep pace with the increased populations projected for their areas. Accounting for current population forecasts, existing supplies, and planned conveyances up to and including 2014, the following communities will require additional active parkland by 2031 to achieve the recommended standard of 2.5ha/1000:

- Long Term Residential Growth Area – will require approximately 186 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 193ha);
- Carrville – will require approximately 77 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 154ha);
- Vellore Village – will require approximately 58 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 100ha);
- Vaughan Corporate Centre – will require approximately 41 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 41ha), although the densities forecasted for this area may require that the City take some of this as cash-in-lieu for nearby park acquisition or improvements;
- Thornhill/Concord – will require approximately 37 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 223ha);
- Steeles (Jane to Keele) – will require approximately 33 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 33ha), although the densities forecasted for this area may require that the City take some of this as cash-in-lieu for nearby park acquisition or improvements; and
- Kleinburg – will require approximately 11 more hectares of active parkland by 2031 (for a total of 17ha).

**Neighbourhood (Active) Parkland Requirements by Community, 2008-2031**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKLAND (ha)	Existing Supply	NEEDS based on PROVISION STANDARD (1.5 ha/1000 pop.)						Planned Parkland (2009-14)	Surplus/ Deficit - 2031
		2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031		
Kleinburg	5.9	6.1	7.8	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.4	0.0	-4.5
Woodbridge	156.4	76.4	79.2	78.3	77.5	76.6	76.0	0.0	80.4
Woodbridge East	89.3	38.5	38.7	38.0	37.4	37.0	37.2	0.0	52.1
Vellore Village	19.6	37.7	47.4	59.0	60.8	60.1	59.9	11.6	-28.7
Maple	44.5	72.7	74.5	74.6	74.5	73.6	73.0	5.5	-23.0
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	1.5	3.6	7.8	13.1	19.4	24.3	0.0	-24.3
Steeles – Jane to Keele	0	0.0	0.0	3.4	6.7	10.4	19.7	0.0	-19.7
Carrville	20.5	44.4	65.3	88.4	91.5	92.5	92.4	25.7	-46.2
Thornhill	98.2	99.2	104.6	110.7	116.2	124.3	133.6	0.0	-35.4
Long-Term Residential	6.9	6.8	8.3	16.9	57.0	90.5	115.8	0.0	-108.9
Employment/Rural Area	8.9	5.7	5.7	6.3	6.8	7.0	7.2	0.0	1.7
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>450.1</b>	<b>389.0</b>	<b>435.2</b>	<b>494.2</b>	<b>552.2</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>649.6</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>-156.7</b>
	A						B	C	=(A+C)-B

**District & Regional (Active) Parkland Requirements by Community, 2008-2031**

DISTRICT & REGIONAL PARKLAND (ha)	Existing Supply	NEEDS based on PROVISION STANDARD (1.0 ha/1000 pop.)						Planned Parkland (2009-14)	Surplus/ Deficit - 2031
		2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031		
Kleinburg	0	4.1	5.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	0.0	-6.9
Woodbridge	89.1	50.9	52.8	52.2	51.7	51.1	50.7	0.0	38.4
Woodbridge East	13	25.7	25.8	25.3	24.9	24.7	24.8	0.0	-11.8
Vellore Village	10.8	25.1	31.6	39.3	40.6	40.1	39.9	0.0	-29.1
Maple	61.7	48.5	49.7	49.7	49.7	49.1	48.7	45.2	58.2
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	1.0	2.4	5.2	8.7	12.9	16.2	0.0	-16.2
Steeles – Jane to Keele	0	0.0	0.0	2.3	4.4	7.0	13.1	0.0	-13.1
Carrville	20.5	29.6	43.6	59.0	61.0	61.7	61.6	10.0	-31.1
Thornhill	87.4	66.1	69.8	73.8	77.5	82.8	89.1	0.0	-1.7
Long-Term Residential	0	4.5	5.6	11.3	38.0	60.4	77.2	0.0	-77.2
Employment/Rural Area	0	3.8	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.8	0.0	-4.8
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>282.4</b>	<b>259.4</b>	<b>290.1</b>	<b>329.4</b>	<b>368.1</b>	<b>401.3</b>	<b>433.0</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>-95.4</b>
	A						B	C	=(A+C)-B

In terms of passive parkland (open space and woodlots), most of the City's established areas have good supplies. If the City were to maintain its current level of provision for passive parks, the greatest per capita needs would be found in Thornhill/Concord (approximately 105ha by 2031), the Long Term Residential Growth Area (approximately 104ha by 2031), and Vellore Village (approximately 55ha by 2031). As mentioned earlier, however, the existence of natural features and availability of such lands often dictates how and where passive parkland supplies are accrued; therefore, it is not likely that each community will have equal passive park opportunities.

**Open Space & Woodlot (Passive Parkland) Requirements by Community, 2008-2031**

OPEN SPACE PARKLAND &	Supply	NEEDS based on CURRENT PROVISION (1.38 ha/1000 pop.)						Planned (2009-14)	Surplus/ 2031
		2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031		
Kleinburg	0	5.6	7.2	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.5	0.0	-9.5
Woodbridge	133.4	70.3	72.8	72.0	71.3	70.5	69.9	0.0	63.5
Woodbridge East	12.9	35.5	35.6	35.0	34.4	34.0	34.2	0.0	-21.3
Vellore Village	0	34.6	43.6	54.3	56.0	55.3	55.1	0.0	-55.1
Maple	42.2	66.9	68.6	68.6	68.6	67.8	67.2	0.0	-25.0
Vaughan Corporate Centre	8.5	1.3	3.3	7.1	12.0	17.8	22.4	0.0	-13.9
Steeles – Jane to Keele	0	0.0	0.0	3.2	6.1	9.6	18.1	0.0	-18.1
Carrville	69.4	40.8	60.1	81.4	84.2	85.1	85.0	0.0	-15.6
Thornhill	17.8	91.3	96.3	101.9	106.9	114.3	122.9	0.0	-105.1
Long-Term Residential	2.9	6.3	7.7	15.5	52.4	83.3	106.6	0.0	-103.7
Employment/Rural Area	61.5	5.2	5.2	5.8	6.3	6.4	6.6	0.0	54.9
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>348.6</b>	<b>357.9</b>	<b>400.3</b>	<b>454.6</b>	<b>508.0</b>	<b>553.8</b>	<b>597.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-249.0</b>
	A						B	C	=(A+C)-B

**Action Plans**

- Using the Master Plan as a guide, the City should obtain sites that are suitable for active recreational pursuits in keeping with the recommended provision standards of 2.5 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents (excluding linear parks).
- The City's Official Plan policies should reference the objective of achieving a supply of 2.5 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents (as part of the overall target of 4.0ha/1000 for parks and open space).
- Using environmental assessments/studies as guides, valley lands, woodlots, areas of natural and scientific interest, and linear linkages should continue to be preserved as public open space (i.e., passive parkland), but will not necessarily be accepted as the required parkland dedication under the meaning of the *Planning Act*.

**6.4 PARKLAND ACQUISITION**

As previously articulated in this section, it is recommended that the City adopt a parkland provision standard to differentiate between active and passive forms of parkland. Through its proactive parkland acquisition approach, the City is presently in a favourable situation with regard to meeting an appropriate level of parkland and open space for approximately the next five to ten years. Nonetheless, population pressures will increase the demand for parks and open spaces, and will necessitate the acquisition of additional parkland to meet future needs. Furthermore, as discussed in greater detail in Sections 7 and 8, there is a need to identify and secure appropriate sites for future major recreational and library sites.

*Parkland Dedication & Cash-in-Lieu*

Under the terms of the *Planning Act* and OPA 600, the City is able to levy parkland dedications at a rate of 5% of developable land or 1.0 hectare per 300 dwelling units in higher density developments (or, alternatively, take cash in lieu). The standard which conveys the City the most favourable supply of parkland should be utilized in cases where the City intends to develop lands for park purposes. Given that the City's base of developable land will become increasingly limited as the projected build-out approaches, higher density development and intensification of existing areas will be encouraged. As a

result, the latter standard (1ha per 300 units) is expected to be utilized more frequently. Where additional parkland is not required, cash-in-lieu should continue to be collected.

The *Planning Act* also allows the City to request the conveyance of land for park purposes at the rate of 2% of the area of all commercial or industrial land (or, alternately, cash-in-lieu). At present, the City does not require full conveyance of employment land developments as it is, at least in part, seen as an incentive to attract employment growth. Unfortunately, the lack of appropriate park space in these areas can also be seen as a detriment to entice businesses and people to these developments. Presently, most “business parks” in the City are virtually devoid of any public park space to serve businesses and their employees.

The provision of public parkland amenities to serve the City’s employment lands is essential. Parkland within employment lands would provide employees with places to meet, socialize, eat lunch, relax, walk and/or exercise; they also provide an opportunity to introduce elements of the natural environment into the urban landscape. The parks need not be large district-level spaces, but rather would be small parcels of land that can accommodate the social requirements of the employment population. In cases where on-site amenities provided by the developer are sufficient, the City may wish to accept cash-in-lieu and investigate the potential to apply the funds for the development of district parks and facilities in the surrounding area.

As such, it is recommended that the City reassess its policy regarding parkland dedication within industrial and commercial areas. With the Official Plan currently undergoing a review, the time is right to reconsider this approach (as appropriate policy needs to be contained within the Official Plan).

Although covered under Section 8.2 of this Plan, Trails should be treated as any other required service under Sections 50, 53 or 41 of the *Planning Act* and provided by developers in the same manner as roadways and sidewalks – a necessary pedestrian corridor.

Furthermore, in order to provide the City with improved flexibility in meeting localized needs, the City could consider updating its Parks Dedication By-law to allow the City to utilize cash-in-lieu for park development as well as parkland acquisition.

#### *Parkland in Areas of High Density & Residential Intensification*

Under Provincial legislation (i.e., the *Places to Grow Act*), Vaughan – being a municipality within the Greater Golden Horseshoe – has been identified as a community that will be allocated a significant portion of new growth through both new greenfield development and intensification. Within the Vaughan Corporate Centre, for instance, the province has set a target of achieving a minimum gross density of 200 residents and jobs (combined) per hectare. In addition, the *Provincial Policy Statement* also requires all urban areas to establish intensification targets within all settlement areas. The objective of these senior government policy documents and legislations is to produce a more compact urban form that encourages the efficient use of land, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed land uses, improved transit options, and reduced infrastructure. The result will be more semi-detached homes, townhouses, and apartment buildings, as well as smaller lots, higher densities, and more mixed use developments.

Higher density areas still require open space and recreational opportunities. The standard of 1 hectare per 300 units can present issues when the land mass to be dedicated is nearly as large as the land mass being developed. For example, a development of 5,000 units at 300 units per hectare would occupy 14 hectares of land, accommodate 12,000 to 15,000 people and have a parkland dedication requirement of 16.6 hectares. Application of the City's current park supply ratio of 4 hectares per 1000 population would suggest that 48 hectares of parkland are needed to meet the needs of 12,000 people; therefore, a 16.6 hectare dedication is not overabundant even though it exceeds that land mass being developed. It is recommended that the City develop a policy for dealing with higher density developments of this nature. The policy should permit the City to take sufficient land to create meaningful open space blocks to meet basic needs, while receiving the remainder of the dedication as cash-in lieu so that the City can acquire lands elsewhere. Consideration could also be given to improving the quality of facilities within the open space area or developing linkages to other City facilities within a reasonable geographic area.

Within the Steeles (Jane to Keele) area and the Vaughan Corporate Centre, parkland acquisition will be a combination of 1 hectare per 300 units and – if the City changes its policy on acceptance of land/cash for industrial and commercial development as previously recommended – 2% for employment land development.

Although intensification will result in less open space compared to more traditional developments, this general area has been identified as requiring both a community centre and neighbourhood parks to provide play opportunities for the thousands of residents and employees who will live and/or work there. It is recommended that the community centre site be on the transit corridor and would contain facilities such as swimming pools, fitness centre, running track, meeting rooms, arts and cultural programming rooms, and possibly a gymnasium. Specifically, the Vaughan Corporate Centre would be the preferred location for a more “urban” community centre (e.g., a more vertical design, less parking, etc.) and may be a centre developed in partnership with other parties. Section 7.3 contains more direction regarding community centres.

Both the Vaughan Corporate Centre and the Steeles (Jane to Keele) area will require parkland. Money from cash-in-lieu may also be required for the community centre site, to enhance the urban park and for the trail linkages (pedestrian and bicycle) to the school site, park site and community centre site. In the Steeles area, it is recommended that the parkland be in two formats.

- 1) The first would be a District Park site large enough to accommodate a variety of activities. This District Park will need to be at least 2.5 hectares (6 acres) in one location in order to achieve the greatest open space / park impact. This park site has to meet the needs of a lot of different groups and should contain both active and passive components. In short, it needs to be a “mini Central Park”. Within the park there will need to be areas where one can throw or kick a ball, walk a dog, be able to hold a gathering or festival, have some quiet time, do Tai Chi or chess, just sit on a bench and contemplate life, and play on facilities such as spray pads, outdoor ice skating rinks, or basketball courts.
- 2) Secondly, the Steeles area will also require smaller neighbourhood parks which will provide a place to sit, play, read, gather, and find relief from the day. These neighbourhood parks may be smaller than a traditional neighbourhood park and

may take on a more “plaza” design, but should be more than just a landscape feature.

In the higher density areas it is often difficult to obtain all of the required parkland dedication as actual land. In such situations the City needs a policy outlining guidelines describing when, where, and why land and/or cash-in-lieu will be taken. As a general “rule of thumb” when applying the 1ha per 300 unit provision, it is recommended that: (1) no park be less than 2.5 hectares in size; (2) a 50/50 split between land and cash in lieu be considered; and (3) if the development yields a smaller parkland dedication than 2.5 hectares, 100% cash-in-lieu be taken in order to acquire an appropriate site elsewhere.

The City may also give consideration to requiring developers to provide recreational amenities for higher density developments in addition to the parkland dedications required under the *Planning Act*. Depending on where the intensification occurs, existing parks and recreational facilities may not be able to withstand additional users. In locations such as Thornhill where land is limited, existing parks and facilities may need to be substantially refurbished to accommodate the over-utilization of these existing resources. Some municipalities use cash-in-lieu to assist in capital improvements required to accommodate intensification, as well as the provision of on-site amenities associated with the intensification projects; the potential to use this approach in Vaughan would need further investigation.

#### *Possible Alternate Acquisition Measures*

It is unlikely that parkland dedications alone will meet the calculated demand for municipal parks, especially for larger and higher order parks, as well as for open spaces even within areas that are not proposed for higher density development. For this reason, the City will need to continue to employ a number of alternative acquisition initiatives to maintain an acceptable supply of parkland.

A few alternative acquisition measures to consider, among others, may include:

- municipal purchase or lease of land;
- encouraging the development of parkland over and above *Planning Act* mandates by employing a density-bonusing system (this is more relevant in the future context when build-out occurs and development focuses upon intensification);
- land exchanges or swaps, particularly if development is to occur in natural areas highly valued by the community;
- off-site conveyance of parkland (e.g., providing additional parkland in a nearby subdivision owned by the same developer);
- establishment of a Parks Foundation (i.e., community, corporate and/or municipal donations to be put toward parkland acquisition);
- reallocating surplus municipal lands to parks use;
- seek to purchase “over-dedication” of parkland associated with new development and/or infill areas; and
- partnership / joint provision of lands with community partners.

### *Timing of Park Development*

Timing of parkland development has traditionally been a concern among local residents; however, the City targets the development of parkland at or around new subdivisions within a three year time frame. This target remains appropriate in order to allow the City to ensure that sufficient time is allowed to develop concept plans, observe neighbourhood characteristics and consult local residents in the design process, accrue funds necessary for development and provide a park type that responds to a maximum number of residents (as opposed to developing earlier when only a few households are established in the area).

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ The City should consider trails as an essential pedestrian corridor in the same manner as roadways and sidewalks.
- ☑ The City should ensure the acquisition of an adequate land base for the outdoor recreation facilities proposed in this Master Plan, particularly those requiring large land bases (such as soccer fields) and those required to serve new residential communities (before appropriate land becomes unavailable).
- ☑ Developers may be required to provide recreational amenities and opportunities in areas of intensification, in addition to parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu.
- ☑ Where shortfalls may occur in parkland acquisition through the development process, the City should employ a range of alternative parkland acquisition mechanisms to obtain the necessary amount of parkland.
- ☑ The City should give strong consideration to requiring full parkland conveyance (or acceptance of cash-in-lieu) within industrial and commercial developments in order to create public spaces that attract and serve businesses and their employees.
- ☑ Within higher density development areas, the City must ensure that parkland dedication results in park areas that can accommodate recreational activities, recognizing that cash-in-lieu of parkland may be applied to achieve this objective.
- ☑ The City should continue to ensure that new parks anticipated through subdivision applications are constructed in newly developed residential areas within three years of residential construction being initiated (based on the date that the subdivision agreement is registered). Procedures should be put into place for deadline extensions (e.g., if there is a downturn in the market) and for early ownership transfer to the City as a result of non-compliance (at which point the City could seek to complete the park using the developer's deposit).

## 6.5 PARK RENEWAL AND REDEVELOPMENT

In addition to the parkland acquisition process, the City should also investigate parkland renewal and redevelopment opportunities at its existing parks. The City's rapid growth has resulted in many high quality parks in recent years; however, there is a natural inclination to focus attention on parks in new areas while neglecting older parks in established areas. Not only do older parks tend to deteriorate over time due to the amount of use they sustain, but they can also become irrelevant if leisure interests and neighbourhood composition change. An opportunity exists to redesign them to better reflect evolving ideas about parks and to ensure that they remain responsive to local needs. There are many good examples of this, including the conversion of underutilized tennis courts into basketball or skateboard facilities, scrub ball diamonds into soccer fields or naturalized passive space, or even the creation of a more "urban parks" such as plazas and squares. In order to determine needs and priorities associated with the retrofit and redesign of older municipal parks, a comprehensive study should be undertaken that examines the physical condition of parks, usage patterns, demographic factors, public input, design trends and practices, maintenance and management functions, financing options, etc.

An added dimension to redevelopment and or renewal of existing parkland is that it can be an efficient and effective technique for addressing the pressure of new population growth and, therefore, is eligible for partial funding through Development Charges (as the changes are largely to address the needs of new residents). Due to new Provincial guidelines and policies (such as Places to Grow and those relating to "Smart Growth") many established neighbourhoods are going to experience intensification in the future. With intensification will come increased demands on already established parkland and amenities/facilities. New residents will also have needs that reflect current trends, rather than the trends that existed when parks were originally developed. Any changes that are made to existing parks to accommodate new growth (such as changing a ball diamond to a soccer field as a result of increased soccer demands) should be classified as a Development Charge-related item. Similarly demands for an expanded trail system may also require the redevelopment of existing parkland in order to "link" new development to established facilities, resulting in even greater cost savings.

Parks also get "tired" and – although this aspect may not be Development Charge-eligible – it should be viewed in the same way as budgeting for a roof replacement at a community centre or arena. There are lifecycles with all aspects of public facilities be they brick and mortar or parkland. With parks, however, the lifecycle is not as predictable and is more a function of past utilization levels (e.g., wear and tear) and changes in participation and community demographics (i.e., a need for different amenities or designs). Furthermore, budget availability and community pressure will also influence timing of park renewal projects. For these reasons, no hard and fast timeframe should be set for revisiting the design of older parks.

As the population ages and as the distance between amenities gets greater there will be an increased need for additional amenities within existing parks to accommodate persons with limitations to deal with distances. Some of the amenities are needed for all residents, but those that are particularly required for an aging population include:

- more washrooms;
- more benches;
- more shaded seating areas;
- removing barriers for accessibility;



- ensuring CPTED principles are in play;
- walking paths with less grade or with hand rails in select locations; and
- more off-leash dog areas (as dogs often replace children in the world of older adults).

With our desire for a walkable/bikable city there will also be the need for more bicycles parking stations.

Furthermore, with a more culturally diverse community there is increased need for stages or platforms within parks so that festivals or dances or spontaneous performances can occur. This may mean looking for existing parks that could accommodate bandshells, outdoor amphitheatres, or even a plaza within the park.

In order to achieve the redevelopment of existing parks that are tired, that no longer meet the needs of the community, and/or that require the addition of new facilities to meet the needs of new growth, there is a need for the City to establish an annual/regular source of funding for park upgrading. The City should devote additional capital budget funds on an annual basis so that improvements can be undertaken (either as an add-on Development Charges improvements or as stand alone improvements). The source of this funding may not be limited to Development Charges and the tax base; options such as redirecting dollars from revenue-generating programs or the creation of special reserves should be explored.

### **Action Plans**

- The City should undertake a study to better understand the changes and costs required for renewing and redeveloping its older park sites in an effort to ensure they remain responsive to changing community needs and that they embody modern park design principles.
- The City should develop a list of priority park renewal projects having regard to the Master Plan needs assessments as well as the need to revitalize tired park areas.
- The City should determine which of the existing parks are best suited to meet needs identified in the Master Plan (e.g., better linkage/trails, skateboarding, soccer, off-leash dog areas, cultural opportunities, etc.) and combine the growth-related development improvements with overall park renewal projects.
- The City should increase funding to a capital conservation budget for the purpose of renewing and redeveloping existing parkland to better meet the needs of the existing and changing neighbourhoods.
- The City should look to partnerships with the community or public memorial contributions to assist in offsetting parkland beautification costs. For example, community organizations could be approached to participate in adopt-a-park or park beautification projects.
- To better reflect changes in Vaughan's population, the City should incorporate amenities that increase the usability of parks for: (a) older residents; (b) residents of different ethnic backgrounds; and (c) residents that prefer additional pedestrian and bicycle-oriented options.

## 6.6 PARKLAND DESIGN & AMENITIES

Through park design, a number of amenities are provided at municipal parks which enhance the user experience and allow the parks to be used for different functions. Common amenities include public washrooms (at Regional and District level parks), pavilions and shelters, outdoor amphitheatres, and picnic areas. Signage also plays an important role in the user experience.

In recent years, the trend to integrate natural features into park settings has been growing, as environmental protection becomes increasingly recognized by society. Many municipalities are making efforts to provide passive areas that incorporate native plant species, conserve woodlots, and ensuring that certain areas of new active parks remain in a natural state. With the interest in outdoor recreation, many municipalities are also designing parks to include provisions for bird watching, wildlife viewing and capitalizing on eco-tourism opportunities.

Regarding more active use parks, wherever possible, the City should cluster the same type of playing fields together to increase a sense of form and function. Such parks should also include contain washrooms, electrical outlets, benches and safe, pedestrian-friendly pathways, etc. Washrooms are generally provided at parks where major sporting facilities (e.g., soccer fields, ball diamonds) are located and along key destinations in the greenways system. The City should continue to consider permanent or portable washroom facilities at heavily utilized park and trail locations as these conveniences can attract a greater use by individuals and families.

A greater emphasis should also be placed on providing more informal space in new parks in order to promote unstructured and organized activities, as well as emerging interests. For example, picnicking has been observed to be a popular endeavour in communities with high levels of multiculturalism, thus can be expected in Vaughan as well. The design of active and passive parks should also incorporate elements that cater to individual physical activity and wellness, through features such as exercise / stretching stations, personal reflection / meditation gardens, vertical differentials along pathways (e.g., hilly terrain, stair zones with associated wheelchair ramps, etc.).

In selecting potential park sites, a number of factors will influence the decision-making process including, but not limited to:

- topographical and geological and considerations
- ecological functions, wildlife and native plant species
- location and access to the area
- the ability to support the desired recreational infrastructure
- visibility/public frontage
- opportunity for pedestrian linkages

The City should continue to employ a holistic approach to park redevelopment in order to ensure activities are made in an appropriate sequence and minimizing costs through economies of scale. A holistic approach is especially important with escalating park renewal/redevelopment costs due to the period of development.

New and replacement parks and trails 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 generally be selected on the basis of durability and replacement part availability to support ease of maintenance and repair. It would also be appropriate to identify a simple hierarchy of site features (e.g., basic, contemporary,

heritage, etc.) to achieve a consistent image and cost efficiencies. Any use of non-standard materials and equipment (such as might occur in “special” parks) is to be based on a full understanding and justification of the operational ramifications and cost increases that will accrue to the relevant municipal department. As mentioned later in this plan, incorporation of public art into the future design of public and private spaces is encouraged.

With an ever-increasing amount of public attention being cast to environmental issues, Canadians are becoming more informed regarding their roles in environmental stewardship and are desiring parks and open spaces near the places in which they live. Opinion polls and other forms of research suggest that parks play an important role in community development, public safety, tourism and overall quality of life. A key objective of the *Vaughan Vision 2020* initiative is to “lead and promote environmental sustainability”, giving further credence to the importance that local residents place on the natural environment.

The success of developing a sustainable parks system is achieved on both a governmental and an individual level, therefore, educating the public and promoting the benefits of parks is key to facilitating environmental stewardship. The City, in conjunction with local conservation authorities, should continue to develop environmental education initiatives that inform the community about the role of the individual in enhancing ecological processes and teach them how to live sustainably within their immediate environment.

The provision of appropriate signage and entranceways are also key components of good park and trail design. Signage is an important element in promoting recognition and stewardship in the community. Without proper and consistent signage, park users may be confused about the property’s ownership. Signage and appealing entrance features are also important as part of the tourism infrastructure that directs tourists easily to destinations and encourages them to return because of the ease of travel – they are also one of the first impressions of a site. Signs and entranceways develop a sense of place and combined with good urban design, can create unique districts and foster aesthetic development. They also provide interpretive information that connects a user to the park and may encourage the person to take further interest in their surroundings. A good sign is clear, attractive and designed in context to its surroundings (in this case, parks and open spaces).

Finally, new and existing parks should continue to be designed with patrons’ safety in mind through the application of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and other design principles. High volume areas should be well lit, limited visibility areas should be limited, and neighbourhood level parks should be designed so that surrounding residents and streets have visibility into the park, thus discouraging illicit activities. Maintenance of parks and open spaces is now accepted in the industry as a key component of perceived “safety” in parks and in deterring inappropriate behaviour.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Provisions to incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness, and informal use opportunities – in an effort to encourage use and improve activity levels – should be paramount considerations in the design of parks.
  
- ☑ The City should continue to design parks that incorporate natural, indigenous vegetation features in order to foster an appreciation for such areas and maintain crucial ecological functions.

- ☑ Public washroom facilities (through a combination of permanent and portable facilities) should continue to be provided at heavily utilized parks and key trailheads along the greenway systems.
- ☑ To ensure that safety concerns do not become a barrier to park usage, the City should continue to incorporate CPTED principles in park design.
- ☑ The City should ensure that adequate and consistent signage and/or appealing entrance features exist at all municipal parks, trailheads (with appropriate routing information). These amenities should be restored or replaced when they deteriorate.
- ☑ The City should develop guidelines for site features (e.g., light fixtures, site furnishings, signage, etc.) according to park type to achieve a consistent image and level of service across the parks system. Consideration should be given to durability and ease of maintenance and repair.
- ☑ In partnership with local conservation authorities and other experts in environmental management, the City should continue to develop innovative and engaging initiatives that encourage environmental stewardship and the role of individuals in maintaining and enhancing ecological systems.

## SECTION 7: INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY ASSESSMENT

### 7.1 METHODOLOGY FOR INDOOR & OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Needs are assessed using methodologies involving market-driven and population-based (per-capita) targets. Market-driven targets (e.g., 1 soccer field per “x” active soccer participants) are used to provide an accurate indication of demand for facilities that are largely registration-based. Per capita targets (e.g., 1 indoor pool per “x” residents) are not always able to account for socio-economic or cultural differences among diverse communities, but can be useful for City-wide facilities and when comparing levels of service with other municipalities.

Targets should not necessarily be considered as steadfast standards; rather they represent a point where the City needs to consider the justification and priority of additional investment in specific facilities, based upon whether or not the facility in question is optimally used and if latent/growth-related demand is present, etc. For example, after achieving a target the City should consider including (but not limited to) the following criteria prior to confirming the need for new facilities:

- Historical increases in growth;
- Evidence of latent demand (e.g., waiting lists);
- Usage patterns and capacity available at existing venues;
- Geo-spatial equalities;
- Capacity of the City to fund, operate and maintain.

### 7.2 INDOOR RECREATION & CULTURE FACILITY SUPPLY

#### Indoor Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory, City of Vaughan

Existing Facilities	Municipal Supply	Current Per Capita Provision (2008 pop. = 259,359)	Location / Comments
<b>Community Centres</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1 : 25,936</b>	Rosemount C.C., Garnet A. Williams C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C., Al Palladini C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., Woodbridge Pool & Memorial Arena, Maple C.C., Vellore Village and <i>1 new community centre to be built on the Block 10 lands in Carrville in 2009</i> Patricia Kemp C.C. and Sports Village (public-private partnership) have <u>not</u> been included as they represent single purpose buildings
<b>Ice Pads</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1 : 32,420</b>	Rosemount Community Centre, Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, Al Palladini Community Centre (2), Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena, Maple Community Centre and the Sports Village (2) There are two additional ice pads at Sports Village but are not under the public-private partnership

Existing Facilities	Municipal Supply	Current Per Capita Provision (2008 pop. = 259,359)	Location / Comments
<b>Indoor Pools</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1 : 21,661</b>	One leisure pool located at the Vellore Village Seven 25m lane pools located at the Garnet A. Williams C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C., Al Palladini C.C., Chancellor C.C., Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena, Maple C.C. and Vellore Village One 14m pool at Father Ermanno Bulfon One 11m pool at Woodbridge <i>One leisure pool and one 25m lane pool are to be included at the proposed facility (Block 10) in Carrville in 2009</i>
<b>Senior's Rooms</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1 : 23,578 or 1 : 4,706 persons over the age of 55</b>	Garnet A. Williams C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C. (3), Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C. (2), Chancellor C.C., Maple C.C., Vellore Village C.C. <i>and 2 to be constructed at the proposed facility in Carrville (Block 10)</i> In addition, there are several storefront facilities used by the City for seniors' clubs.
<b>Teen Rooms</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1 : 37,051 or 1 : 5,194 persons between 10-19</b>	Rosemount C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., Maple C.C. and Vellore Village <i>and 1 to be constructed at the proposed facility in Carrville (Block 10)</i>
<b>Fitness Centres</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1 : 50,718</b>	Garnet A. Williams C.C., Al Palladini C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C. and Maple C.C. <i>and 1 fitness centre to be included at the proposed facility in Carrville in 2009</i>
<b>Gymnasiums</b> municipal school board	<b>13</b> 10 3	<b>1 : 19,950</b>	City facilities include Rosemount C.C., Garnet A. Williams C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C., Al Palladini C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., Maple C.C. and Vellore Village, Patricia Kemp C.C. <i>and 1 gym to be included at the proposed facility in Carrville in 2009</i> In addition, Dufferin Clark C.C. and Al Palladini C.C. have play rooms or kindergyms. The City permits three school board gymnasiums
<b>Indoor Bocce Courts</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1 : 14,911</b>	Located at Dufferin Clark C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., and Maple C.C.
<b>Activity Rooms</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1 : 8,105</b>	Located at Rosemount C.C., Garnet A. Williams C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C., Al Palladini C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena; Maple C.C.; Vellore Village <i>and 2 rooms to be included at the proposed facility in Carrville (Block 10) in 2009</i>
<b>Pre-School Rooms</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1 : 13,650 or 1 : 874 persons 0-4</b>	Located at Rosemount C.C., Garnet A. Williams C.C., Dufferin Clark C.C., Al Palladini C.C., Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., Maple C.C.; Vellore Village, <i>and 3 rooms to be included at the proposed facility in Carrville (Block 10) in 2009</i>

**Note:** Inventory data considers only municipal assets located on parkland owned or under agreement by the City of Vaughan, and is considered to be accurate as of February 2008. Parks and facilities to be acquired and/or constructed in 2008 have also been included in the inventory. Recreation and cultural facilities located on school board properties are not included as part of the supply unless otherwise noted. While quasi-private facilities (e.g. YMCA) augment the supply, but have not been included in the analysis as access is not available to all residents.

While important and useful to understand the current per capita provision of indoor facilities, it is necessary to determine how the provision will change as the population increases – see below.

#### Change in Per Capita Provision of Indoor Facilities (2008-2031)

Existing Facilities	Municipal Supply	2008 Per Capita Provision (2008 pop. = 259,359)	2021 Per Capita Provision (2008 pop. = 368,115)	2031 Per Capita Provision (2008 pop. = 433,046)
Community Centres	10	1:25,936	1:36,812	1:43,305
Ice Pads	8	1:32,420	1:46,014	1:54,131
Indoor Pools	12	1:21,613	1:30,676	1:36,087
Senior's Rooms	11	1:4,706 <sup>1</sup>	1:8,661 <sup>1</sup>	1:12,362 <sup>1</sup>
Teen Rooms	7	1:5,194 <sup>2</sup>	1:6,463 <sup>2</sup>	1:6,944 <sup>2</sup>
Fitness Centres	5	1:51,872	1:73,623	1:86,609
Gymnasiums	13	1:19,951	1:28,317	1:33,311
Bocce Courts	17	1:15,256	1:21,654	1:25,473
Activity Rooms	32	1:8,105	1:11,504	1:13,533
Pre-School Rooms	19	1:917 <sup>3</sup>	1:1,094 <sup>3</sup>	1:1,182 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Per Capita Provision based on population 55 years of age or older.

<sup>2</sup> Per Capita Provision based on population 10 to 19 years of age.

<sup>3</sup> Per Capita Provision based on population 0 to 4 years of age.

The change in the per capita provision between 2008 and 2031 demonstrates that as the population increases and provision of indoor facilities remains static, the per capita provision increases (thereby reducing the service standard). If the City intends to maintain the existing service standard, additional indoor facilities, such as a community centre, indoor pool, ice pad, fitness centre, and/or seniors' rooms, should be added to the current facility portfolio.

As part of the Needs Assessment, the geographic distribution of indoor facilities across the City of Vaughan was prepared and analyzed (see [Appendix B](#)). It was found that the current geographic distribution is generally equitable; however, projected population growth in select communities could create an inequitable distribution in the near future. Of note, while Kleinburg currently has a limited number of indoor facilities compared to other communities, the population is forecasted to be only approximately 7,000 in 2031, which on its own is not sufficient to sustain any major indoor recreational facilities.

The geographic distribution of new indoor facilities across the City will depend on the:

- density of development in both Steeles (Jane to Keele) and Vaughan Corporate Centre;
- population growth in Vellore Village, Carrville and Thornhill; and
- rate of growth in the Long Term Residential Growth Area.

The need for additional indoor facilities is discussed in greater detail in the following subsections.

## 7.3 MULTI-USE COMMUNITY CENTRES

### **Supply**

The City of Vaughan owns and operates a total of nine community recreation centres and one new community centre is expected to be constructed in 2009 (to be located on the Block 10 lands in Carrville). Including the proposed Carrville facility, the provision ratio is 1 community centre for roughly every 26,000 persons. In addition to the 10 multi-purpose community centres, the City also has Patricia Kemp which is a gymnasium and Sports Village which is a four pad arena (with the City having access to the equivalent of two ice pads as covered under a public private partnership), both of which also provide public recreation space. Without the development of additional multi-use community centres, the City's provision ratio would become 1 per 36,810 persons by 2021 and 1 per 43,300 persons by 2031.

Map 5 on the following page illustrates the locations of Vaughan community centres, along with 2006 recorded population density. Reference should also be made to the 2031 density map in Section 3 to understand where future growth is planned within Vaughan.

### **Planning Context**

Input from the public, the politicians, and staff all concurred that the City had excellent indoor recreation facilities and that they were well distributed across Vaughan; in our view, Vaughan does have some of the best recreation centres in the country, providing a great blend of arenas, pools, libraries and parks. It was also agreed that Vaughan offers a good variety of programs and activities at these facilities. Linkage with libraries and the development of campus sites with school boards were viewed as extremely good planning.

When asked how any of this could be improved, concerns were expressed as to how the City would ensure that existing community centres would continue to be kept on par with newer facilities. There was also a desire to see the community centres become more of a hub of activities, serving such functions as a pick-up location for recycling bins and garbage tags or serving as a location to pay taxes, learn about job opportunities, housing, etc. Although space is always an issue at the community centres, the facilities are ideally situated to become "mini service centres" for a wider range of City services; this could also aid in reducing the number of vehicular trips and distances traveled by residents for accessing common municipal services. Of note, the City has recently added stand-alone kiosks/computers with the goal to have them be used to search brochure content and register for programs; adding more services such as parking ticket payment and garbage tag purchase is a potential second phase of this program.

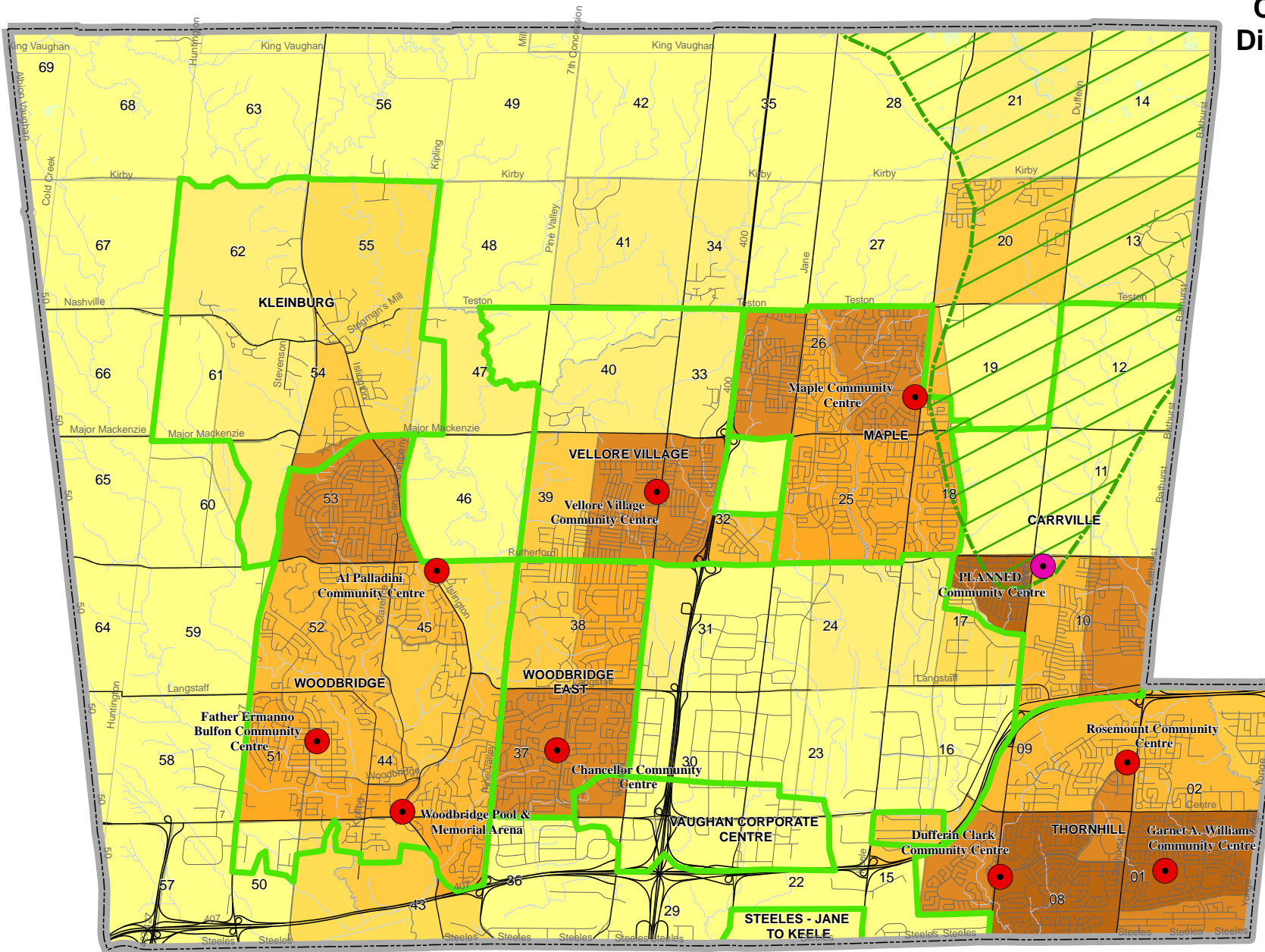
The City of Vaughan has long recognized the value of consolidating multiple uses at a single site rather than pursuing the development of stand-alone, single purpose multi-site venues. As leaders in this facility design trend, the City has been able to streamline services and make delivery much more cost effective. Emerging leisure facility design trends suggest that community centres are beginning to accommodate even more uses, such as other municipal services, child care, tenant spaces for retail uses, office space for community organizations, etc. Designs are also becoming increasingly "green" to enhance the environmentally-friendliness of facilities.



# City of Vaughan

## Community Centre Distribution (Existing)

Map 5



### Legend

- Community Centre
- Planned Community Centre
- Population Density (2006) by Traffic Zone**
- Persons per Hectare**
- 0.00 - 0.50
- 0.51 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 5.00
- 5.01 - 15.00
- 15.01 - 25.00
- 25.01 - 35.00
- 35.01 - 45.00
- 45.01 - 60.00
- 60.01 - 70.00
- 70.01 - 80.00
- 80.01 - 90.00
- Community Planning Areas
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- City Boundary
- # Block Number

### Notes:

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.

Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone), confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2006 population at 238,886.



The community indicated that there was a desire to see more arts and cultural activities take place at the community centres. Currently only Vellore Village has art rooms, while the proposed Carrville (Block 10) Community Centre is expected to also have an art room. As discussed further in Section 9, new community centres should have sufficient space allocated to arts programming and cultural events and be able to display local arts works. Reprogramming of activity rooms or re-purposing rooms to accommodate arts programming may be required to accommodate programs at the older community centres.

Although they are generally satisfied with the quantity and quality of existing facilities, community consultations suggest that residents would like to see additional community centres. 82% of household survey respondents indicated that indoor recreation facilities are very important to them. As the population increases, the high level of satisfaction with existing community centres will in all likelihood decrease as greater numbers vie for the same space.

In subsequent subsections, the geographic distribution of facilities has been assessed, as well as the supply to both current and projected populations. In addition, quality of facilities available has also been assessed (e.g., identifying that 11 metre pool cannot be considered to provide the same service level as a 25 metre pool).

## **Assessment of Need**

### *Existing Community Centres*

The City maintains a supply of many high quality community recreation centres, which offer an excellent mix of arenas, pools, libraries, adjacent parkland, etc. In addition to the need to build new community centres for the new development areas, it will also be important that existing community centres continue to be kept on par with newer facilities (e.g., Garnet Williams, Maple and Woodbridge) to ensure that existing facilities offer a comparable level of service. Existing community centres may need to be retrofitted or redeveloped to achieve this objective.

Across Ontario, recreational standards for the provision of a municipal community centre can range from one for every 25,000 to 50,000 residents. Over time, the ability to meet a provision standard of one centre per 26,000 persons (which is Vaughan's 2008 ratio) is not seen as a financially sustainable ratio. A better way to look at the provision standard is to look at what are the required component parts of a community centre (e.g., pools, ice pads, meeting rooms, libraries, gyms, etc.) and where are the physical locations that could serve the residents without over or under supplying these services. The later approach would result in fewer (but larger) community centres with greater programming opportunities and reduced maintenance and staffing requirements.

The City's Development Charges Background Study (2003) identified that the City of Vaughan has 4.31 square feet of indoor recreational facilities per capita. It is recommended that efforts be made to maintain this provision standard, but that the number of sites for the development of community centres and the associated indoor recreational and library facilities be limited to four new sites over the next 20 to 25 years.

### New Community Centres

As mentioned, the City will be constructing a new facility on the Block 10 lands in Carrville, which is anticipated to open in 2009. This community centre will contain a number of facilities that will address short-term demands; expected components include:

- two indoor pool tanks (one 25 metre lane pool and one leisure pool);
- fitness centre and gymnasium;
- two activity rooms and one art room;
- two senior rooms, a teen room, and three pre-school rooms

Due to its excellent location on the periphery of Block 10, it is anticipated that the Carrville Community Centre will be sufficient to serve Blocks 10, 17 and 18. The entire Carrville community is poised to more than double in population by the year 2031 (from 29,600 people currently to 61,600 people). This location will also help provide the eastern half of Vaughan with adequate access to aquatic, fitness and gymnasium opportunities. As Carrville and portions of the Long Term Residential Growth Area reach build-out, there will be a need for an additional community centre to serve the north-eastern portion of Vaughan.

As will be described throughout the following subsections, there are a number of facilities that are required to meet future indoor recreational community needs in the City of Vaughan. These components are identified as follows (and exclude components that are proposed at the Carrville facility):

- indoor pools (2)
- full gymnasiums (2-3)
- fitness / active living studio
- indoor walking track
- dedicated youth/teen space
- 4-6 library service locations
- 2-4 ice pads – if private facilities (8) remain and all municipal prime time is utilized
- preschool programming space
- seniors' space
- non-dedicated multi-purpose spaces

Most notably, the facility needs assessment has found a future need for a total of two indoor aquatic facilities, up to three new gymnasiums (depending upon long-term access to school gyms), 4 to 6 libraries, and 2 to 4 ice pads. The aquatic tanks, libraries and ice pads are assumed to be the primary drivers of the community centre developments due to the significant costs involved in constructing and operating these facilities. As a result, it is believed that the multi-use community centre template should continue to be employed.

The 2003 Development Charges Background Study had anticipated the development of a community centre in Block 10 of Carrville and in Vellore Village. It also identified community centres being developed in Blocks 11 and 18. Experience has shown us that larger, more complete community centres are better at meeting the needs of the community and are financially more sustainable than multiple sites with single-use facilities. Placement of three small community centres within such close geographic proximity is not seen as the best distribution of recreational resources.

It may be more effective and efficient in terms of the geographic distribution of resources to develop a larger community centre in the northern portion of Block 11 of the Carrville area, rather than to develop a community centre in Block 18. Future development patterns (subject to Regional and City growth management processes), as expressed on the density map for 2031 in Section 3, show that the Long Term Residential Growth Area will require two community centres and the area containing the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles

(Jane to Keele) high density communities will require one community centre by build out. It is absolutely imperative that the long-term development of these sites be planned for through land acquisition in the short-term (as discussed in Section 7).

There are a number of options for the City to consider in terms of long-term facility development. One option would be to construct four separate multi-use facilities (the timing to be driven by demand for aquatic facilities, libraries and ice; resulting in the development of two around 2012, one more by 2021 and the fourth by 2031). A second option would be to construct fewer (i.e. two) but even larger community recreation centres with one containing two indoor aquatic tanks (similar to the proposed Carrville facility), possibly a four pad arena or two twin pads, district level libraries, a double gymnasium, and related activity spaces. If the second option is selected, a location in the Long Term Residential Growth Area capable of serving the entire north end of Vaughan would need to be secured as soon as possible before development makes it difficult to find a suitable site.

Our recommendation is for the City to construct four separate multi-use communities centres, although the following analysis explores in more depth the pros and cons of each approach.

The benefits of proceeding with the development of four separate community recreation facilities include the fact that they will provide the City with improved spatial coverage in terms of service. As will be discussed below, the Long Term Residential Growth Area would be an ideal site for two of the new facilities. This approach will also allow the City to defer construction costs for two facilities, which may prove to be more feasible from a financial planning standpoint, particularly as development charges receipts accrue with the housing unit growth that occurs in the time period between the proposed facility developments.

The most notable disadvantages of constructing four multi-use facilities would be the cost to acquire four separate parcels of land, the loss of economies of scale in construction and ongoing operation / maintenance, and the number of staff that would be required would nearly be twice as much as in two mega facilities.

As explained through the rest of this section, there are also a number of facility components (e.g., equipment-based fitness centre, child care centre, indoor turf, etc.) that may potentially be included as part of the community centre(s), pending further studies and development of appropriate partnership agreements.

With the exception of the community centre recommended for the high density Corporate Centre/Steeles area, the following outdoor facilities are the minimum recommendations for provision as part of each multi-use centre site (the number and scope is dependent upon site constraints or other mitigating factors):

- soccer fields
- multi-use field
- waterplay facility
- multi-use court
- barrier-free playground
- linkage to trails system

There are benefits to consolidating a number of leisure components at a multi-use community centre including: the facility's ability to offer multi-purpose, multi-generational opportunities; cross-programming opportunities between various facility components; and achieving economies of scale in capital investment as well as ongoing operational efficiencies. This concept is further reinforced by the Vaughan Vision 2020 initiative, which

encourages the City to “investigate and develop the feasibility of establishing a multi-service centre for residents in our community centres.”<sup>1</sup>

One of the options available to the City in dealing with both the new community centres and with the retrofitting of existing community centres is sponsorships and naming rights. Naming of facilities, assistance with outfitting youth rooms or seniors rooms, and the like are all options that can be explored to increase revenues and offset capital costs.

### *Timing & Phasing Options*

Demand for the various facilities above may not be apparent at the same time; therefore, the City should be open to the possibility of phasing construction. Needs assessments suggest that the demand for library facilities in both Carrville and Vellore Village is immediate, while the need for the next new indoor aquatic facility will emerge around the year 2021 and demand for the second indoor aquatic facility would not be apparent until the build-out population is attained. Whether the City chooses to construct two or four new community centres will undoubtedly present different capital development scenarios.

In the event that four community centres are constructed (this is the preferred approach), the timing of such should be fairly straightforward and should occur when demand for a new library, new indoor aquatic facility, and/or ice pads are justified in the context of space requirements, utilization, population thresholds, and funding availability. Initial observations suggest that two community centres are needed as soon as possible due to an overall deficiency in library space in both Carrville and Vellore Village. Developing sites in Block 11 and 40/41/42 that are capable of accommodating a library, twin pad arena, gymnasium, teen room, seniors’ facilities, fitness facilities and/or meeting space would address the library deficiencies and geographically distribute community focal points throughout Vaughan.

The third community centre would need to be developed in or around the year 2021 and is seen as a more urban centre with less outdoor recreational features. The fourth community centre would be developed in or around the year 2031 to serve the Long Term Residential Growth Area and should be a full complement facility with a pool, library, twin pad arena, gymnasium, teen, seniors, fitness etc. as well as the multiple outdoor opportunities.

In the event that one of the community facilities is developed to accommodate two pools, the City has multiple options. The first is to phase the development so that the tanks are provided when necessitated by demand (i.e., in 2021 and expansion in 2031). The second option would be to construct the facility to meet current and future demands at once, thus necessitating a larger capital outlay at the onset. If the latter scenario is preferred, the timing of the facility may be delayed until the year 2026, in the middle period when demand reaches 1.5 indoor aquatic facilities. In terms of the cost differential between the two options, it should be noted that the majority of the upfront costs associated with the first pool will likely be borne in the first phase unless designed in a manner that allows for cost-effective expansion to take place.

Prior to the development of the multi-use community centre(s), the City should undertake a feasibility study and business planning process to reconfirm demand for the facility components outlined in this Master Plan. As a community can significantly evolve over the course of ten years (in terms of leisure demands, land constraints, etc.), so too can the

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<sup>1</sup> City of Vaughan. Vaughan Vision 2020. 2007.

municipality's financial resources. The business planning process should re-evaluate whether or not investment is more cost-effective in one or two facilities given the outcomes of the future feasibility study.

This assessment has not assumed that any existing pools (such as Woodbridge) will be removed from the inventory.

### *Location & Design Considerations*

As previously mentioned, the Long Term Residential Growth Area (LTRGA) would be the ideal location for one multi-use community centre. A westerly location within the LTRGA would better serve the Kleinburg community and the developing Vellore Village area. This would bring the number of community centres located north of Rutherford Road roughly on par with the southern half of the municipality (after factoring in the Carrville facility as well).

If all four facilities are to be developed instead of two (as recommended), other proposed community centres should be located close to the Vaughan Corporate Centre to serve not only this area, but also the Steeles corridor (Jane to Keele) and any increased populations as a result of intensification along the mass transit and 400 series highway corridors. As previously mentioned, further analysis closer to the date of design and construction should be undertaken to confirm which of the two facilities should proceed first.

As mentioned above under timing, the Carrville and Vellore Village areas are deficient now in terms of library space. The location of community centres with library facilities in Blocks 11 and 40/41/42 would be effective in serving both existing and anticipated populations.

The appropriateness of potential sites for a new multi-use recreation centre should be confirmed through the development of a concept and site plan in order to enable the City to locate a number of logical facilities at this site. Depending on the final facility footprint, the City may be in a position to locate additional outdoor facilities (e.g., sports fields, playing courts, public gardens, etc.) that may be required over and above what is planned at other existing and future park locations, or to replace facilities in other parks should this become necessary.

The City may also benefit from examining alternative sites, which could put the City in the position to proactively plan for future needs and initiate a process of "land banking" (if necessary) to mitigate future land supply constraints and escalating real estate prices.

In terms of facility design, the modern template is to employ a user-friendly layout which creates an inviting and comfortable environment. Community centres should be aesthetically pleasing and highly visible to help build an identity and brand specific to Vaughan, possibly becoming destination points for residents and visitors alike. Outdoor and indoor signage should be added as mandatory standards for new and existing centres to create a consistent visual identity and brand.

Facilities should be designed in a manner which maximizes user safety, physical accessibility and convenience. This may include functional layouts which are: open concept; easily facilitate customer access to reception and facility staff; are easy to navigate; are wheelchair and stroller accessible; incorporate public art; etc. Facilities may also contain leasable spaces for potential tenants (e.g., physiotherapy, massage and other health services, smaller-scale retail outlets, library, child care centre, etc.) which complement the

services offered at the complex, enhance the user experience, and provide the City with cost-recovery opportunities. The co-location of other municipal services (e.g., billing, licensing, registration, etc.) would also be beneficial to consider from a customer service perspective.

Issues surrounding the environment are paramount considerations in design and provide an opportunity for the City to showcase itself as a leader in environmental issues through the application of leading environmental management technologies. As a leader in environmental stewardship, new municipal facilities could incorporate “green” technologies such as green roofs, be designed to LEED specifications, draw energy from “off-the-grid” sources, etc. For example, mutual HVAC systems can be employed to use excess heat emitted from ice refrigeration equipment to warm indoor pool systems. Although highly variable, the incorporation of LEED certified components to a multi-use facility can range anywhere from 5% to over 20%, depending upon the level (LEED Silver, Gold or Platinum) and the type and scope of applicable design components.

Although there is usually an inherent cost associated with “going green”, the City’s leadership role may provide an example for those in the commercial, industrial and residential sectors to follow. Furthermore, the payback period of incorporating energy efficient initiatives (such as those certified by the LEED program) can be fairly short through reduction in operating expenses. Defining the payback more definitively is part of the LEED (or equivalent) design process.

### *Community Centres as Multi-Service Centres*

One of the issues raised in this Master Plan was the opportunity to make community centre sites more like “mini city halls or service centres” for the community. By utilizing a site that is already City-owned and operated, community centres have the opportunity of becoming the hub or heart of the community for not only their recreational and cultural pursuits but also to serve as the “one stop shop” for many day-to-day services that are provided by the City, the Region, or other public service agencies.

Locating the library at community centres is the primary complementary partner that is most requested by residents. Adding services such as the ability to pay taxes, pick up garbage recycle bins or tags, or find out about other City services are all a natural fit for the community centre. The issue often becomes one of space and who is financially responsible for that space. These are issues that are important, but more administrative than “deal breakers” in terms of enabling a community centre to truly serve the needs of the residents.

Scattering the recreational components of community centres about within a neighbourhood does not meet the needs of the community but rather sends residents from pillar to post looking for services and recreational opportunities. Scattering also increases staffing and maintenance issues and discourages the sense of a hub or true gathering place for the community.

Placing buildings closer to the street, on bus lines, and on linked pedestrian and bicycle routes will also increase the options as to how one reaches this hub or heart of the community.

Research into willing and compatible partners to locate at existing and future community centre sites should be undertaken as part of any feasibility study for major facility

redevelopment or development. Assessing the right mix of services and responsibilities between departments may require further research as part of future feasibility studies.

The concept of community centres as “multi-service centres” is already operating within the City of Greater Sudbury, with libraries (many of which are located adjacent to community centres) being used as the local hub. The City’s Citizen and Leisure Services Department encompasses the entire library system as well as parks, recreation, museums, transit, parking, school crossing guards, and cemeteries. There are seven Citizen Service Centres in Greater Sudbury and each centre offers a variety of services including:

- Bus passes
- Business licenses
- Cemetery services (selecting a plot)
- Commissioning of documents
- Dog and cat licences
- Employment support services
- Facility and hall rentals
- Garbage bag tags
- Housing applications
- Leisure program registrations
- Lottery licences
- Marriage licences (including renting a gazebo for pictures)
- Meeting rooms
- Municipal and utility bill payments (taxes, hydro, water)
- Parking ticket payment
- Recreational facility rentals from ice rental to hall or meeting room rentals
- Social housing applications
- And of course...borrowing books and CDs, accessing the Internet, and all the other wonderful things offered at libraries

Residents receive comprehensive and cost-effective municipal services through a variety of access points including in-person visits, telephone, facsimile, e-mail, web, and e-government and e-reference solutions. The Citizen Service Centres could also locate in community centres if such community centres are not already aligned with a library. The library combination has the added advantage that most librarians are natural information disseminators and are already well trained in problem solving. Cross training of personnel would be the first step to ensure a seamless provision of service to the customer.

The end result has been an overwhelming success particularly in the area of customer service. There has also been a financial savings estimated at over one million dollars a year. Libraries are no longer billed for use of city services, so libraries end up saving as well. Suddenly the library is a key city department and the customer receives almost seamless service for a wide range of topics that would have taken them all over the city in the past. It is all about service and information, so it is logical that many services be in one place for the taxpayer, especially in areas that have transportation challenges. Although different unions were involved, solutions were found.

In addition to the convenience of accessing so many municipal services without going to city hall, the customer has the benefit of the extended library or community centre hours of operation. A “mini city hall” open on a Saturday has to be the ultimate in customer service.



Greater Sudbury has now been operating this model for nearly six years and survey results indicate that it has been a huge success. Roughly 45% of the residents use a Citizen Service Centre to access municipal services in addition to the library services.

Other communities are starting to add customer service features to their community centre recreation functions, such as the ability to pick up “blue boxes” and garbage tags in Vaughan. A few others, such as the Regional Municipality of Cape Breton, have followed Greater Sudbury’s example and developed full citizen service centres. In the five Cape Breton Citizen Service Centres, residents can pay their taxes / bills / tickets, register for recreation programs, gain access to recreation staff, as well as their area Councillor, and buy bus tickets. The public can also obtain information about other municipal services and where they have to go to access services for such things as housing or social assistance.

We know that the number one reason many people are not able to participate in recreational activities as often as they would like is due to lack of time. With an increase in households with both parents working, as well as single parent households, the pressure to “do it all” and still live a healthy and active life is immense. What better way of helping residents address their time-stressed lives and increase their opportunities for recreation than to bring them into community centres to do tasks they already had to perform, such as paying their water bill or getting their garbage tags? By bringing more traffic into community centres, a greater sense of familiarity is created, which could lead to an increased awareness of recreational activities and, in turn, greater participation. This familiarity can also lead to an increased sense of ownership and belonging.

This model is not expected to be without its challenges. At a minimum, it is expected that the implementation of a multi-service centre approach will require solutions to matters such as:

- staffing and allocation of resources;
- union contracts;
- training across disciplines;
- customer service guidelines and protocols;
- automation requirements;
- possible facility renovations (e.g., central reception area, storage), which may or may not be eligible for DC funding; and
- marketing and communication.

Vaughan continues to grow and is becoming more ethnically diverse and environmentally conscious. These factors all strongly support the development of community-based multi-service centres; facilities which have the potential to not only reduce the length of time residents spend travelling in their cars, but also increase the chances of one participating in meaningful recreational or cultural activities. We already know from extensive surveying that residents prefer multi-use centres over single purpose facilities. We also know that the more familiar people are with a facility, the more likely they are to participate...and the more they participate, the more the whole community benefits. Building strong communities starts by having a place where people can gather, intermix, and start to care about others within the community.

### Summary of Proposed Community Centres and Facility Components

Based on the foregoing, the table on the following page summarizes the various indoor components proposed in each of the four recommended community centres. This schedule of facility components has been adjusted in the Master Plan's Implementation Strategy in order to provide more concrete size and cost targets. Facility-specific feasibility studies will be required to further define these components and their sizes.

Proposed Facility Components	Proposed Community Centres			
	Carrville (Block 11)	Vellore Village (Block 40/41/42)	Vaughan Corporate Centre	Long-Term Residential Growth Area
Indoor Ice Pads <sup>1</sup>	twin pad	to be determined (here or at centre in Long Term Residential Growth Area)	--	to be determined (here or at centre in Block 40/41/42)
Indoor Pool(s)	--	--	Potential replacement of Woodbridge Pool	2 pool tanks
Gymnasium <sup>2</sup>	to be determined (potential 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase)	to be determined (potential 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase)	to be determined	to be determined
Fitness / Active Living Studio <sup>3</sup>	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included
Multi-use Program Space & Dedicated Space for Older Adults/ Seniors, Youth/ Teens, Pre-Schoolers, and Arts/ Culture	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included
Library Space	Community Branch	Community Branch	Resource Library (to be confirmed)	Community Branch (to be confirmed)
<b>PROPOSED TIMING FOR CONSTRUCTION <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>2012-2014</b>	<b>2013-2015</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>	<b>2029-2031</b>

Notes re: Proposed Community Centre Components:

- <sup>1</sup> A twin pad arena is recommended in either the Block 40/41/42 community centre (as a second construction phase) or in the Long Term Residential Growth Area community centre; further study is required to determine the preferred location. Future arenas should consider the inclusion of indoor walking tracks. Estimated size is based on a community rink with limited spectator seating.
- <sup>2</sup> Two of the proposed community centres should contain a full gymnasium (to be determined through facility-specific studies).
- <sup>3</sup> Equipment-less fitness "studios" are recommended at all new community centres; business plans are required to assess market demand and feasibility for equipment-based fitness facilities.
- <sup>4</sup> Should the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena be redeveloped for non-recreational land uses, timing of the Vaughan Corporate Community Centre may need to be advanced.

Additional facility components could be considered as part of the community centres, pending further study and assessment. Prior to the development of future multi-use community centres, the City should conduct appropriate feasibility studies, site selections and business plans to verify that recommended facility components are justified given future community demographics and market demand at that time.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ The City should acquire an adequate land base for each of the four proposed multi-purpose community centres (Block 11, Block 40/41/42, the Vaughan Corporate Centre, and the Long Term Residential Growth Area), as well as the required library facilities (which should be designed in coordination with community centres, wherever possible).
- ☑ Based upon facility need assessments conducted as part of the Master Plan, the City should construct four additional multi-use community centres, not including the planned Block 10 facility. Community centres are required in both Carrville (Block 11) and the northern portion of the Vellore Village (Block 40/41/42) by 2012, both of which will also serve a portion of the future Long Term Residential Growth Area. A third community centre should be built around 2021 to serve the Vaughan Corporate Centre and surrounding areas, while the fourth centre is recommended in the Long Term Residential Growth Area (with a preference to the western portion of the area) by 2031 as it reaches build out.
- ☑ Should the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena be removed from service due to intensification and/or financial sustainability concerns, timing of the Vaughan Corporate Community Centre may need to be advanced, while ensuring that it contains a pool (as a replacement), seniors' room, teen room, a gymnasium, and fitness facilities. The Memorial Arena ice surface should also be replaced through the twinning of another ice pad.
- ☑ New community recreation facilities should be designed to incorporate "green" technologies to a level supported by LEED or equivalent standards, thereby reinforcing the City's role as a leader in environmental efficiency and stewardship.
- ☑ New community centres should, at a minimum, be located in highly accessible locations and on transit routes, have high visual identification, and be designed in consultation with community representatives to ensure that spaces are responsive to their users.
- ☑ The City of Vaughan should consider providing select municipal services and appropriate private services at local community centres to reduce transportation barriers for citizens, including seniors. Potential services could include, but are not limited to:
  - postal services;
  - health and wellness clinics and practitioners;
  - municipal application forms and licensing; and
  - property tax and municipal bill payment.

A feasibility study – guided by a multi-departmental working committee – should be undertaken to investigate in greater depth the cost, benefits, challenges, and opportunities of moving towards a multi-service centre concept in the future.

- ☑ The City should continue to ensure that standards established in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* are met at all community centres.
- ☑ Existing community centres should be renovated and or retrofitted as necessary to keep pace with the quality associated with newer community centres.
- ☑ The City should ensure that adequate and consistent signage and/or appealing entrance features exist at all municipal recreation and cultural facilities. These amenities should be restored or replaced when they deteriorate.

*Note: Also see action plans in Sections 7.4 to 7.11.*

## 7.4 ICE PADS

### Supply

The City operates six arenas which contain eight (8) ice pads between them. Arenas are located at the Al Palladini Community Centre (2 pads), Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, Maple Community Centre, Rosemount Community Centre, Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena, and the Sports Village (4 pads in total , but City access is equivalent to 2 pads).

Community	Supply of Ice Pads
Carrville	0
Thornhill	2
Woodbridge	3
Woodbridge East	0
Maple	3
Vellore Village	0
Other Areas	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>

Map 6 on the following page illustrates the locations of Vaughan's municipal arenas, along with 2006 recorded population density.

It should be noted that the Sports Village facility is operated through a partnership agreement between the City of Vaughan and a private-sector operator and, although it is a four pad facility, the City has access to 140 hours of ice per week, which is generally equivalent to 2 pads. In addition, there is another four pad and a two pad private ice facilities in Vaughan for a total of 16 ice pads within the City (8 public and 8 private).

### Planning Context

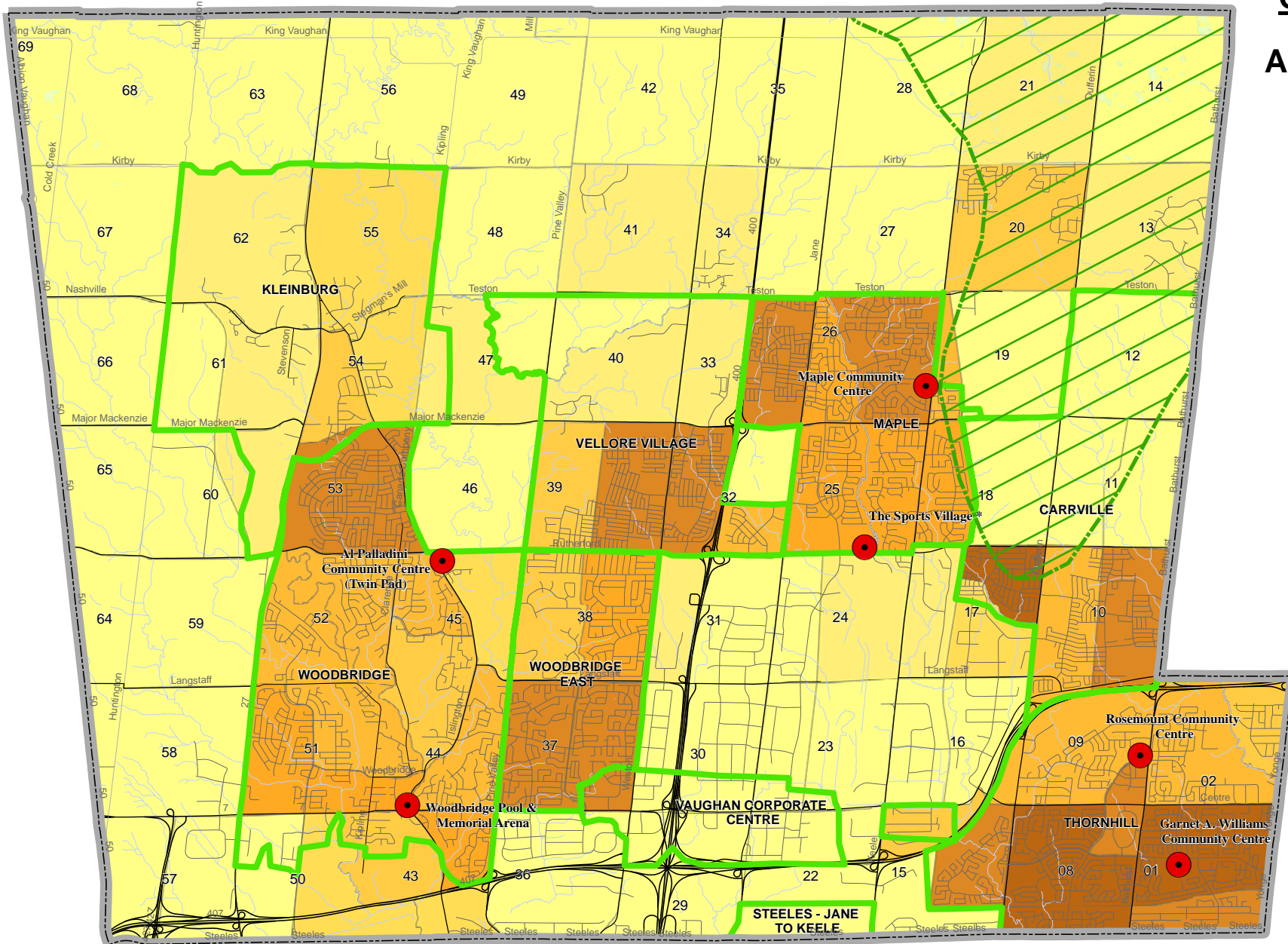
As they are with community centres, residents, council and staff are generally pleased with the ice facilities in Vaughan. While some complaints have been received regarding insufficient ice time for certain groups, a review of ice schedules finds that 93% of prime time ice is currently utilized, suggesting that there is still some capacity within the current supply.

Registration data provided by the City of Vaughan indicates that there were 3,597 youth players registered in ice sports for the 2007/2008 winter season. Historic figures suggest that the demand for hockey has remained fairly stable since the year 2004, while figure skating has grown slightly (although Woodbridge Figure Skating has experienced a 32% drop in its CanSkate program in the last two years).

# City of Vaughan

## Arena Distribution (Existing)

Map 6



### Legend

- Arena
- Population Density (2006) by Traffic Zone**  
Persons per Hectare
- 0.00 - 0.50
- 0.51 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 5.00
- 5.01 - 15.00
- 15.01 - 25.00
- 25.01 - 35.00
- 35.01 - 45.00
- 45.01 - 60.00
- 60.01 - 70.00
- 70.01 - 80.00
- 80.01 - 90.00
- Community Planning Areas
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- City Boundary
- # Block Number

### Notes:

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.

Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone), confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2006 population at 238,886.



<b>Youth Organization</b>	<b>Registered Participants (2007/2008 winter season)</b>
City of Vaughan Hockey	2,554
Vaughan Panther Hockey	240
Thornhill Figure Skating	450
Woodbridge Figure Skating	353
<b>Total Organized Ice Sport Participants (youth)</b>	<b>3,597</b>

The household survey conducted for this Master Plan reports that 35% of households had at least one member participating in some form of ice sports, making it the seventh most popular recreational activity. The demand for additional arenas was neither high nor low when compared to other facility demands (43% of respondents stated that municipal funds should be directed towards arenas; only 3% identified arenas as a top priority).

### **Assessment of Need**

Judging from utilization of prime time hours (which is considered to be the most accurate measure for usage rates), the City of Vaughan appears to have capacity to accommodate future ice demands. From our review of a typical week in the winter, 93% of all prime time ice is utilized, leaving a total of 37 hours of available hours remaining (prime time is defined by the City as 4pm-11pm Monday to Friday and 7am-10pm Saturday/Sunday). Minor hockey and figure skating account for approximately 82% of prime time utilization, adult shinny/rentals use 10%, and the remaining 8% is available for public skating. Overall utilization is greatest at Sports Village and Al Palladini, while Garnet Williams and Maple arenas receive the lowest degree of use.

The City has traditionally applied a per capita provision standard to determine arena needs. Application of a “population-based” standard for indoor ice provision is not appropriate for identifying current and future needs in Vaughan. Due to the various dynamics of the City – notably its aging population, high levels of ethnicity which impacts participation in ice sports, and existence of private ice – a “participant-based” standard that is unique to Vaughan’s characteristics is recommended.

As mentioned earlier, the City collects registration data for youth organizations (e.g., figure skating and minor hockey), but not for adult rentals. The private rinks (6 ice pads) in the City largely serve the adult market, although they do offer some youth opportunities (e.g., camps, summer leagues, etc.). Due to the supply of private ice facilities, the municipal rinks focus mostly on youth rentals and recreational skating (at present, these account for 90% of prime time utilization), as well as the occasional adult rental during the evening (e.g., pick-up/shinny). For these reasons, a “youth-based” participant standard is appropriate for projecting future arena needs.

It is important to note that the City has a very low capture rate, with approximately 7% of the 5 to 19 age group participating in organized youth hockey or figure skating in Vaughan. This can be attributed to two primary factors:

- 1) The composition of the population. For example, Vaughan is a diverse City with a high percentage of foreign-born residents; ice sports are not traditionally as popular with many of these cultures as they are with multi-generation Canadians.

- 2) The number of rep (competitive) hockey teams in Vaughan is limited. As a result, many youth players who cannot be accommodated in the City play in Toronto leagues and use arenas outside the City; therefore, it is likely that the capture rate of Vaughan youth playing ice sports is slightly higher than 7% (just that not all are utilizing municipal rinks).

A provision standard of one ice pad per 600 to 1,000 total (youth and adult) registered participants is common in urban municipalities similar to Vaughan. Arenas that serve predominantly youth tend to be closer to the 500 to 700 range (as youth require more practice time and cannot play during the later evening), while adult-oriented rinks can accommodate 1,000 or more organized players. In addition to the mix of youth and adult participants, the ratio of house league to rep players and the degree of municipal programming (e.g., public skating) can also alter this provision level. Nevertheless, this range generally provides for adequate access to prime hours and greater opportunities for new groups to access ice time. This is not a capacity calculation, but rather an indication of what a comfortable operating range would be given accepted standards of play in a scenario where supply and demand are generally in equilibrium.

In order to establish an appropriate provision standard that focuses on youth demand (as is the emphasis currently for the City), we have made a number of assumptions:

- Based on ice schedule and utilization data, it would appear that there is little latent demand for ice usage in the community (with the possible exception of new rep teams wishing to form). This means that everyone wishing to use rinks in the community is currently given access to them, although not always at the desired time. Should additional demand become apparent, the participant-based standard can be applied to provide a determination as to the need for additional ice surfaces.
- It is assumed that the current supply of privately-operated will not change, nor will their programming profile.
- It is further assumed that participation rates will remain steady (e.g., 7% of the youth population will continue to register with community ice organizations).

With 3,597 recorded participants and the equivalent of 8 municipal ice pads, the City of Vaughan is currently providing one ice pad for every **450** registered youth players (excluding adult leagues and pickup rentals); this service level is higher than that observed in many other communities. Given the previously-noted research and assumptions, it is felt that the City of Vaughan can justify a target level of provision of one ice pad per 500 registered youth participants.

The following table illustrates the demand for ice sports by applying the current youth capture rate to population forecasts and then dividing by the recommended participant-based target.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>3,597</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>4,432</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>4,758</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 ice pad per 500 registered youth participants</i>					
Required Ice Pads	7.2	7.6	8.3	8.9	9.2	9.5
Existing Ice Pads	8	8	8	8	8	8
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>(0.9)</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>	<b>(1.5)</b>

Application of the participant-based service target suggests that the City is presently in a surplus situation (of nearly one full ice pad, although supplemental rentals by adult groups during prime time minimize this surplus). According to stakeholder surveys received, many groups are reporting either stable or slightly growing registration levels, thus the number of future participants can be further expected to increase with population growth. In forecasting youth participation, it is interesting to note that the number of projected players increases, but not as quickly as the City's total population – this is because Vaughan is aging and will have a greater rate of growth in its older age groups.

The present supply of ice pads appears to be sufficient to meet immediate and medium-term needs. Vaughan is not expected to observe more acute demand pressures until 2011. As the previous table illustrates, Vaughan will be in a position to justify the development of one additional ice pad between 2016 and 2021 and second slightly beyond 2031.

Should local registration in youth ice sports increase (e.g., interest in skating is increased by learn to skate programs or if a new series of rep teams is formed), this could advance the timing and need for more municipal ice rinks. Due to the changing cultural characteristics of Vaughan, it will be important that the City continue to maintain accurate registration figures for ice sport organizations. As recommended earlier in this report, monitoring of participation rates will allow the City to plan for the timing and delivery of new or replacement ice pads. The removal of privately owned facilities or the closure of an existing municipal single pad may also impact demand and timing of a new multi-pad facility. Single pad arenas are not nearly as financially viable as multi-pad facilities and are outdated from a user perspective as well.

New ice surfaces should be provided in multi-pad configurations (either through new development or twinning of an existing arena) and ideally as part of a multi-use community centre. Furthermore, new or redeveloped arena facilities should provide sufficient space to accommodate storage for local sports organizations.

In addition to the medium and long-term need for more arenas, the renewal of existing single pad arenas should also be considered. The City operates four single sheet arenas:

- Rosemount and Garnet A. Williams Arenas serve the Thornhill community. Although some population growth is forecasted for this area, it is not expected to be sufficient enough to justify the development of a third ice pad. Furthermore, the potential to consolidate both ice surfaces at the same site is low due to the lack of available land. No changes are recommended to the ice supply in this community.
- Memorial Arena serves the Woodbridge area and could be subject to redevelopment pressures due to future mass transit and intensification projects. Given the unknown future of this site, this is clearly a matter that requires monitoring. Should Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena site be required for other purposes, a twin pad in the Woodbridge/Woodbridge East area should be constructed as a replacement and also to serve future population growth in the Vaughan Corporate Centre area. Timing is dependent upon the loss of the existing arena facility (this also affects the indoor pool, which is recommended to be replaced at the proposed community centre in Vaughan Corporate Centre – see the next section of this report). Should this project be pursued, this would replace one existing ice pad and add one more to the City's supply.
- Maple Community Centre is also a single pad that cannot be twinned due to site constraints. The area is also served by the Sports Village. With a community centre being proposed for Block 11 in the adjacent Carrville community, it is recommended that



a twin pad be developed at this site and that the existing ice surface at Maple Community Centre be closed, with consideration to redeveloping the space for related community centre activities. The Block 11 community centre is recommended for development by 2012; however, the need for an additional ice pad has not been identified until between 2016 and 2021. Additional study is required to determine appropriate timing for this project (i.e., whether the arena should be developed at the same time as the community centre or as a second phase). This strategy would result in the replacement of one existing ice pad and the addition of one more to the City's supply.

The aforementioned projects would help to modernize the City's arena supply, thereby increasing their attractiveness to users and improving the efficiency of operations. The proposed Carrville twin pad (Block 11) and re-purposing of the Maple arena would increase the City's arena supply by one ice pad. A similar approach is recommended in Woodbridge if the existing facility is closed; however, there are still too many unknown variables to recommend this strategy with any confidence – more study will be required. The bottom-line is that these strategies would add 1 to 2 additional ice pads to the City's supply.

With the needs assessment finding a long-term need for only two additional ice pads, twin pad developments in Carrville and/or Woodbridge/Woodbridge East (along with the closure of up to two single pads) would generally be sufficient to accommodate future demand. Notwithstanding this, there is the possibility for considerable residential growth in the Long-term Residential Growth Area (and Vellore Village, to a lesser extent). While it is true that most arena users are willing to travel considerable distances to access quality facilities, there are no arena facilities within reasonable proximity to the City's northeast growth areas (e.g., west of Highway 400 and north of Major Mackenzie – it is currently forecasted that this area will grow from 5,000 people at present to approximately 65,000 residents by 2031).

A twin pad arena will be required to service this growing area, located at one of the proposed community centres (i.e., either Block 40/41/42 or other land in the Long Term Residential Growth Area). Preferred timing is in the 2021-2031 period, and may require phased development.

This strategy would increase the City's supply of municipal ice pads to 11 (or 12 if Memorial Arena is replaced with a twin pad). Although this exceeds the demand that is projected by the needs assessment, this can be justified on the basis of geographic distribution, operational efficiency, and capital renewal of existing infrastructure. It bears noting that, like every long-term strategy contained in this Master Plan, ongoing monitoring will be required as conditions and demands can shift over time. While the recommended arena provision strategy is currently projected to result in less than optimal usage levels, this is based strictly on present information and a set of assumptions that are appropriate at the current time.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ A twin pad should be developed at the proposed community centre in Carrville (block 11). Once this facility is operational, the ice surface at the Maple Community Centre should be closed, with consideration given to redeveloping the space for community centre activities. Additional study and ice time commitments from user groups is required to determine the timing of the twin pad arena (i.e., should it be developed at the same time as the community centre or as a subsequent second phase).

- ☑ Should a decision be made to remove the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena from service due to redevelopment proposals, a twin pad in the Woodbridge/Woodbridge East area should be constructed as a replacement and also to serve future population growth in the Vaughan Corporate Centre area. Timing is dependent upon whether or not the existing arena facility is removed.
- ☑ A twin pad arena should be built west of Highway 400 between 2021 and 2031 at either the multi-use community centre proposed for the Long Term Residential Growth Area or the Vellore Village area (Block 40/41/42).

## 7.5 INDOOR AQUATICS

### **Supply**

The City provides indoor aquatic facilities at nine community centres, which – between them – contain a total of twelve tanks (including the two proposed for the Block 10 community centre site in Carrville). The design of the aquatic facilities ranges from standard 25m lane pools to freeform leisure pools to smaller 11m and 14m rectangular pools. The City also operates one outdoor pool in Thornhill. For more information regarding outdoor aquatics, please refer to the outdoor recreation facilities section.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Supply of Indoor Aquatic Tanks</b>
Carrville	2*
Thornhill	2
Woodbridge	4
Woodbridge East	1
Maple	1
Vellore Village	2
Other Areas	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

\* new facility anticipated for development in 2009 (2 tanks)

Map 7 on the following page illustrates the locations of Vaughan's municipal indoor pools, along with 2006 recorded population density.

### **Planning Context**

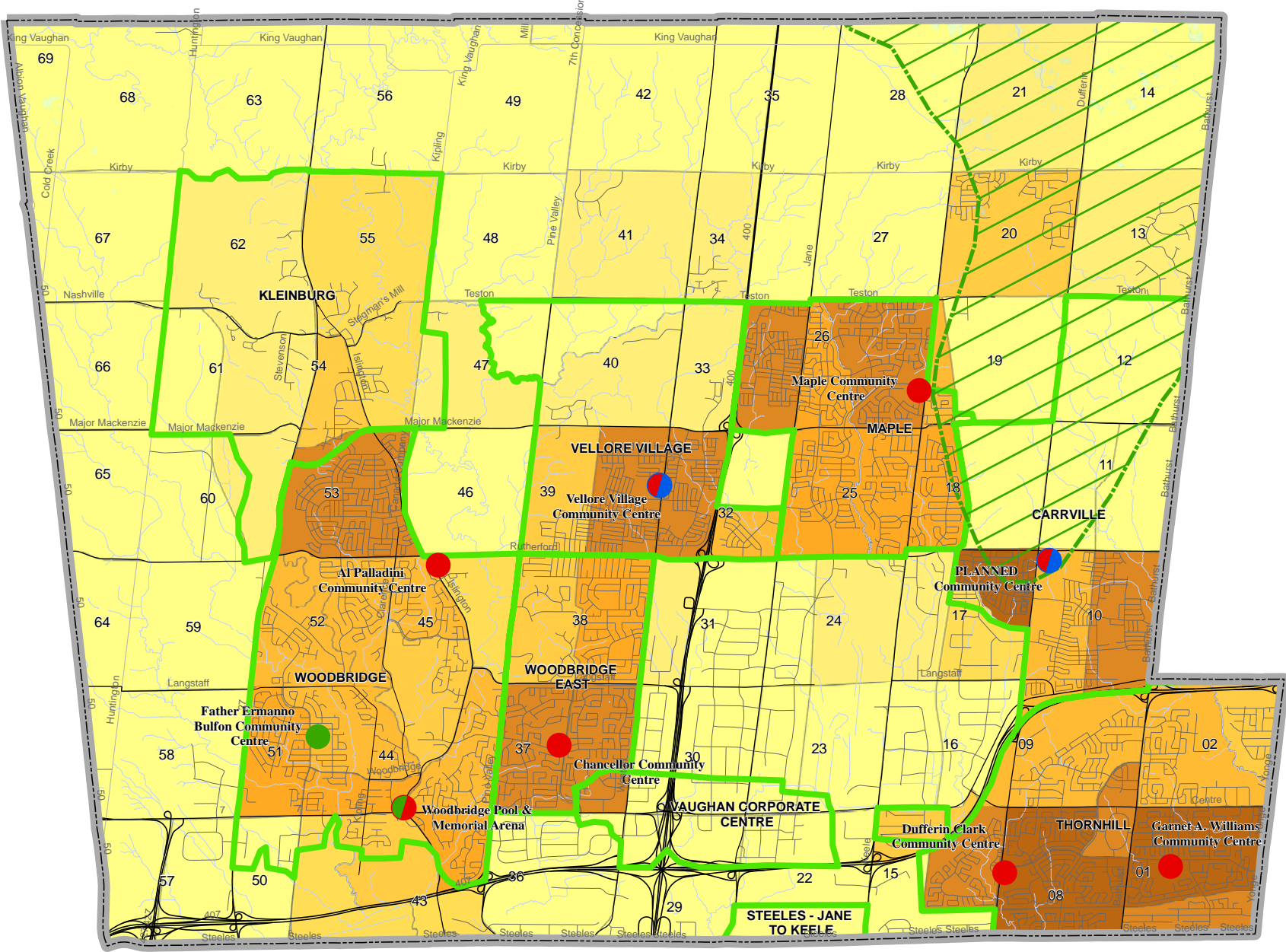
The City offers a wide variety of programming at its indoor aquatic facilities, including learn-to-swim, special interest (e.g., diving, synchronized swimming, etc.), swimming leadership, aquatic fitness, and community rentals.

Swimming is an activity that is popular among all ages, from toddlers to seniors. The popularity of the active living movement has led most municipalities with indoor aquatic centres to adjust the scope of their programming to include aquatic fitness to complement the traditional provision of lessons, lap swims, and recreational swimming. Household survey respondents indicate that swimming is the second most popular recreational activity in the City, with 54% of households reporting participation in the activity. Demand for indoor pools rounded out the top five facility requests with 71% of respondents indicating a preference for additional municipal spending on these types of facilities (and 6% ranking it as their top priority).

# City of Vaughan

## Indoor Pool Distribution (Existing)

Map 7



**Legend**

- 25m Indoor Pool
- Small Lane Indoor Pool
- Leisure Indoor Pool

**Population Density (2006) by Traffic Zone**  
Persons per Hectare

0.00 - 0.50
0.51 - 2.00
2.01 - 5.00
5.01 - 15.00
15.01 - 25.00
25.01 - 35.00
35.01 - 45.00
45.01 - 60.00
60.01 - 70.00
70.01 - 80.00
80.01 - 90.00

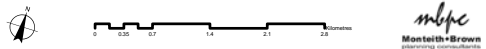
- Community Planning Areas
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- City Boundary
- # Block Number

**Notes:**

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.

Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone), confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2006 population at 238,886.



Other comments arising from community consultations suggested that pools should continue to be accessible and affordable to the diverse range of households in Vaughan, both from an income and a cultural/ethnic perspective. A request was also received for pools to be made more available to organized aquatic clubs, particularly when they are otherwise sitting idle.

The changing cultural composition of Vaughan has not affected an interest in swimming, though the design of the newest pool (Vellore Village) was not sensitive to cultures that require restricted viewing for women-only swims. Any future pool development needs to be designed with these considerations in mind.

## **Assessment of Need**

### *Aquatic Facilities*

Generally speaking, municipal indoor aquatic facilities are provided at level of one facility per 30,000 to 50,000 residents depending upon the size of the municipality, population distribution, utilization levels, etc. Given existing service levels (1:25,936) and based upon the aforementioned variables, a service target of one indoor pool tank per 30,000 residents is deemed appropriate for the City of Vaughan.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>259,359</b>	<b>290,100</b>	<b>329,445</b>	<b>368,113</b>	<b>401,291</b>	<b>433,046</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 indoor pool tank per 30,000 residents</i>					
Required Indoor Aquatic Tanks	8.6	9.7	11.0	12.3	13.4	14.4
Existing Indoor Aquatic Tanks*	10	12	12	12	12	12
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>(2.4)</b>

\* reflects the addition of two tanks at the proposed facility in Carrville (Block 10) in 2009

The established provision target is somewhat aggressive compared to municipal averages; therefore, the City should carefully consider its application in concert with other demand-based indicators when evaluating future needs. This will require the City to remain apprised of community-specific demands, population levels, usage statistics, etc. as well as the cost that would be required to construct and operate a new facility on an ongoing basis. The development of two tanks at the proposed Block 10 facility in Carrville is anticipated to alleviate any latent demand and bring the supply to a level that should be sufficient for at least the next ten years. It is anticipated that the City will once again begin to observe unmet demand for a new indoor aquatic facility somewhere between the years 2021 and 2026, with another pool eventually being required towards build-out (2031).

Municipal swimming pools appear to be well distributed, particularly once the Carrville facility is developed. The Long Term Residential Growth Area (LTRGA) would also be a logical site for investment in aquatic facilities as its population will grow to over 77,000 by the year 2031. Future planning should give consideration to providing one or both of the required indoor pool tanks at this location. At present, all large urban communities presently have one indoor pool location for every 25,000 to 35,000 residents, with the notable exception of Maple (which is closer to 1:50,000); although not within its boundaries, the planned community centre in Carrville and the Long Term Residential Growth Area may offer additional service to the Maple area.

The only other geographic gap area is Kleinburg (the closest existing pool is at the Al Palladini Community Centre); however, the population of this area will peak at approximately 7,000. Situating an aquatic centre in Kleinburg is not recommended, although if a pool was situated in the western portion of the LTRGA, access to indoor pools for Kleinburg residents would be improved.

Another consideration is that, should the two indoor pool tanks at Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena be removed from service (which was raised as a concern due to the site's location near a future mass transit corridor), at least one pool tank should be replaced at an appropriate location, such as Vaughan Corporate Community Centre.

### *Aquatic Programming*

The City should continue to focus its programming efforts on developing learn-to-swim programs (which are presently the largest revenue generators) and leadership programs. The demand for rapidly growing aquatic fitness programming segment can be further expected to increase as the population continues to age and embraces the active living movement. Looking towards the future, it is not unreasonable to expect that aquatic fitness may rival learn-to-swim programs in terms of demand for pool time and revenue generation. As such, development of an aquatics policy or mandate that clarifies the City's role in serving child/youth and recreational markets first and foremost (as opposed to secondary markets, such as adult and competitive needs) may be required.

As part of the proposed aquatics policy, the City should be prepared to accommodate programs targeted to various ethnic communities, as would likely be required in other programming areas that are delivered throughout the Department. For example, the City may be asked to provide swims that are curtained off from view of the general public or requests for aquatic sports pursued in other countries; accordingly, the City should have plans in place to respond to requests such as these.

### **Action Plans**

- The provision of two new indoor pool tanks is required to meet long-term needs; at least one tank should be a leisure design with some capacity for lane swimming. In addition to reconfirming the feasibility of developing these facilities in the future, the type and size of the tanks should be determined prior to their construction in line with future demand and design trends. A preferred location for one or both pool tanks is at the recommended multi-use community centre in the Long Term Residential Growth Area.
- The City should establish a strategy to address requests for new and non-traditional types of aquatic programming, in order to respond to evolving community demographics.
- Any new indoor aquatic facility should be "senior friendly", including high levels of accessibility, accommodations for lap swimming and aquafit, warmer water (including consideration for a therapeutic pool tank), and appropriate support space (e.g., change rooms).

## 7.6 MULTI-PURPOSE PROGRAM SPACES

### **Supply**

The City's ten community centres each incorporate some degree of multi-purpose space through a combination of meeting areas, activity rooms, halls and age-specific program areas. Additionally, there are a number of meeting rooms located at various community-based resources such as schools, seniors clubs, theatres, etc.

### **Planning Context**

With facility design trends shifting away from the traditional stand-alone "community hall" model, the inclusion of multi-purpose spaces are gaining popularity within the multi-use community centre concept. These spaces are adaptable to a range of programming opportunities that respond to community-based demand, as well as complementing features offered within the entire facility as well.

Although the household survey did not register substantial demand for additional meeting spaces, it did record demand for age-specific spaces (e.g., teen rooms, senior rooms, etc.) which will be discussed later in this section. Other consultations, however, recorded a desire for additional meeting and event spaces, particularly to address demands in the winter months, as well as areas that were capable of offering a range of multicultural programming.

The significant increase in overall population, increased cultural interests, and increased number of seniors are expected to place added pressure on the usage of multi-purpose space.

### **Assessment of Need**

The provision of meeting and program spaces is best determined by spatial distribution and opportunity within new facility development. As mentioned, the development of stand-alone halls is not encouraged due to operational inefficiencies and the limited uses that can be accommodated.

Activity rooms are provided at every municipal community centre, thus achieving a good distribution City-wide. The activity rooms accommodate a wide range of events, programs, parties, etc. In the case of Kleinburg, while there are no municipal community centres in the immediate vicinity, the community has access to meeting rooms in facilities such as the Scout House. With the recommendation that a new community centre be part of the Long Term Residential Growth Area west of Highway 400, there will eventually be an improvement in access to multi-purpose rooms for the Kleinburg residents.

With the new multi-use facility planned for development in Carrville (Block 10), the City should ensure that multi-purpose program space is included. Similarly, when the City constructs new civic facilities (either recreational or otherwise), it should examine the feasibility of incorporating community multi-purpose meeting spaces. The addition of these rooms are generally quite cost-effective in the context of new facility development (both from a capital and operational perspective), and increase the availability and accessibility of these spaces to the surrounding community.

Whether the spaces are designed as large or small rooms, to the greatest extent possible they should be designed in a manner that makes them flexible for a range of uses and/or divisible

into smaller rooms to allow simultaneous uses. In doing so, the opportunity will be provided for activities ranging from banquet functions, active living programming, arts and cultural activities, meeting venues, etc.

Another means for a municipality to facilitate local access to multi-purpose program spaces is to continue to partner with community-based resources such as schools, service clubs, ethnic clubs, faith groups, and others to utilize their respective facilities. In the example of schools, certain municipalities have been able to draft suitable agreements whereby they invest capital into new school development in return for guaranteed usage of meeting areas and other desired facilities (e.g., gymnasiums).

### **Action Plans**

- The inclusion of flexible multi-purpose spaces should be considered in the design of all appropriate community-oriented facilities, including the proposed community centres. These spaces should be designed to accommodate a variety of opportunities and activities, to the greatest extent possible.

## **7.7 OLDER ADULT & SENIOR'S SPACE**

### **Supply**

The City provides a total of eleven senior's rooms at six of its community centres. In addition, there are several storefront facilities used by the City for seniors' clubs.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Senior's Rooms</b>
Carrville	2*
Thornhill	4
Woodbridge	2
Woodbridge East	1
Maple	1
Vellore Village	1
Other Areas	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

\* new facility anticipated for development in 2009 (Block 10)

### **Planning Context**

Presently, adults over the age of 55 years constitute 20% of the City's population; by the years 2021 and 2031 this proportion will increase to 26% and 31%, respectively, reflecting the aging trend that is occurring in Vaughan. As such, services oriented to this age group can be expected to increase in demand.

It is important to understand the difference in needs and expectations of the current (and future) senior in relation to previous generations. Whereas the "traditional" senior was generally more interested in more passive-types of activities (e.g., card-playing, shuffleboard, reading, etc.), the new generation of senior has been observed to demand active-types of pursuits, similar to the ones that they participated in as younger adults, albeit at a gentler pace. For this reason, it can be expected that the "new" senior will maintain demand pressures on municipal services such as ice, aquatics and fitness. While the new senior may be more active the City will also have to

continue to plan for the traditional seniors' activities but rather than consider stand alone facilities seniors should become an integral part of the community centre.

7% of the household survey sample reported participating in activities at a senior's centres in the past year. The majority of respondents (54%) were generally satisfied with the recreation and cultural opportunities available to them in Vaughan. The demand for additional investment into municipal senior's centres ranked sixth with 69% of the sample expressing a need (and 6% rating this as their top priority).

Other consultations suggest that local seniors feel that accessibility is a critical factor, both from transportation, socio-economic and barrier-free perspectives. It was suggested that the Chancellor and Woodbridge facilities were the most difficult to access from a transportation perspective, particularly as public transit to these centres was inconvenient to seniors. Another barrier pertained to communication, particularly for those whose primary language is not English.

Others suggested that the cost of seniors-oriented programming (such as exercise classes) was too expensive, thus a barrier to use. Financial accessibility also continues to be raised during discussions with seniors, the politicians and staff. Seniors that were interviewed were receptive to the City orienting its financial assistance or subsidy program to be based on a person's ability to pay (rather than age); they also endorse the concept of a "smart card" that – once set-up – could be used to access the subsidy program.

### **Assessment of Need**

Aging population trends suggest that programming for older adults and senior citizens will form an increasingly important segment of municipal service delivery; in fact, the population of local residents over 55 is expected nearly triple by the year 2031 (an increase of 190%). Municipalities are now beginning to recognize the challenges associated with meeting the needs of the new senior while also balancing opportunities for the more elderly and other age groups. From a programming standpoint, the City of Vaughan will have to continue to evolve its delivery of services to include more active living, fitness, and arts-based opportunities for older adults. Potential future programs could include, but are not limited to: nutrition and wellness seminars, museums/art gallery tours, sculpture, architectural history, aquafit, and various forms of dance. Culturally and linguistically sensitive programming should also be provided where there are clusters of ethnic enclaves.

Given the considerable growth in the older adult population, additional seniors space will undoubtedly be required if the City is to adequately service the needs of this market. This may necessitate the expansion of existing seniors' facilities as well as the development of new venues for seniors to congregate and participate in leisurely pursuits. It should be noted that it is now considered a "best practice" to provide older adult lounge facilities (which provide for multiple uses and diversified programming opportunities), rather than single purpose, dedicated seniors facilities.

The distribution of seniors' rooms is concentrated in the southern areas of the City; there is only one senior room located north of Rutherford Road (Maple Community Centre). The northwest quadrant of the City is unserved (with the exception of the seniors' room at Vellore Village Community Centre); should a new community centre be built in this area, it is recommended that dedicated seniors space be provided.



Contrary to observations with past generations of seniors, the City may not be able to rely on seniors using facilities during daytime hours to the same degree. One supporting example is a growing trend that sees many retirees spending their days babysitting their grandchildren due to the high cost and limited availability of licensed child care spaces. Furthermore, although many older adults and seniors who are at retirement age may have a higher degree of disposable time, this may not translate into “free” time to be spent on leisure pursuits. Thus, the new senior can be expected to generate demand for peak hours just as the rest of the working population would.

The design of new or upgraded seniors facilities may consist of fitness and wellness studios (which would include wood-sprung floors, light weights, mirrors, etc.), arts and crafts areas (which would include sinks, benches, adequate storage, etc.), games room (e.g., snooker table, dart boards, etc.), reading and/or multimedia areas, social lounges and other amenities. The City would be best suited to consult with its various existing senior’s clubs in Vaughan to find a way to provide spaces that meet the evolving needs of their membership. Through their design, new and existing facilities should be evaluated for their ability to accommodate a range of active and social uses.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ The inclusion of flexible spaces oriented to older adult programming should be considered in the design of all new multi-use community centres. No additional stand-alone seniors’ facilities are recommended.
- ☑ Existing and new community centres should be renovated or designed to be “seniors friendly” in order serve this rapidly growing demographic (the 55+ age group currently represents 20% of the City’s population, but will grow to 31% by 2031).
- ☑ Over time, the City should increase its delivery of recreational, educational, and cultural programming that targets the interests of both older adults (baby boomers) and seniors. New programming should be offered at select municipal facilities – not only in the daytime, but also in the evenings – where local demand warrants.
- ☑ The City should coordinate with the Central Local Health Integrated Network on partnership opportunities for older adult and senior programming.
- ☑ The City should undertake further investigation into implementing an “ability-to-pay” model for recreation user fees (for all age groups, including seniors) and the development of a “smart card” application tool that improves access to available subsidies.

## 7.8 YOUTH SPACES

### Supply

The City provides a total of seven teen rooms at six of its community centres.

Community	Number of Teen Rooms
Carrville	1*
Thornhill	2
Woodbridge	1
Woodbridge East	1
Maple	1
Vellore Village	1
Other Areas	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

\* new facility anticipated for development in 2009

A number of pre-school rooms, play rooms, and kindergyms are also offered at various community centres to offer opportunities for early childhood development.

### Planning Context

Youth and teens aged 10-19 presently account for 14% of the City's population; however, by the years 2021 and 2031 the proportion of youth will fall to 13% and 11%, respectively. This is not to say the *number* of youth is declining – in fact, their numbers will increase by 33% – it simply indicates that the population is both growing and aging. This implies that while the City will have to adjust the scope of its programs specific to other target markets, the demand for youth facilities will continue to increase.

The demand for additional opportunities for youth was strongly expressed throughout the consultation program. Although this is usually the case in most consultations (adults are often the providers of feedback and may not always have an unbiased view towards youth and their activities), the fact that youth centres were reported by household survey to be the number one priority for municipal investment is worthy of significant consideration.

National trends suggest that the number of youth engaged in unstructured, drop-in types of activities is increasing, while youth participation in organized sports is generally declining. For example, activities that are spontaneous and encourage personal expression are extremely popular among teens and includes music, poetry, visual art (including temporary graffiti walls), dramatic art, indoor skateboarding, etc. If the household survey is any indication, demand for another youth centre ranks second only to nature trails among respondents desiring new facilities.

Any new facility and the retrofitting of existing facilities should include an assessment of youth needs and, as mentioned earlier, include more arts and cultural opportunities.

## **Assessment of Need**

There are generally two facility and program models that are frequently applied to the design of youth centres. The first type of facility model caters to leisure-based opportunities and accommodates a wide range of youth interests through the provision of creative spaces, lounges, games, artistic and dramatic programming opportunities etc. With participation in organized sports generally declining, youth are expressing demand for casual, informal opportunities where they can “hang out” on their own schedule; this trend corresponds to the growing popularity of youth lounges and similar facilities. These spaces work well in the multi-use template as youth are able to take advantage of cross-programming opportunities (e.g., indoor aquatics, fitness, gymnasiums, dance floor, stage, etc.).

The second type of facility model is more geared to social services and “youth-at-risk”. Youth-at-risk – who can be broadly defined as those functioning at a disadvantaged level as a result of detrimental influences in their lives and who may come from vulnerable families and/or disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds – are traditionally served by Regional level governments and not-for-profit agencies. Literature suggests that engaging vulnerable youth in recreation reduces “risk” by inducing positive behaviour patterns such as healthy living, deterring them from crime, improved social and conflict resolution skills, and creates a positive connection between youth and their community. Facilities designed for this segment tend to be more resource-based and offer services such as health care, counselling, food distribution, employment databases, etc.; however, incorporation of leisure opportunities is also a key component of facility design.

Regardless of the facility model employed, youth facilities need to be located in highly accessible locations, such as along transit routes, major pathways, etc. that users without consistent access to an automobile can reach. The City currently operates teen rooms out of certain community centres, a facility model which appears to be working effectively. At present, the distribution of teen rooms in municipal community centres is largely concentrated in the southern areas of the City, with the exception of the Maple Community Centre. As in the case of senior’s rooms, north-west Vaughan does not have access to teen rooms; however, the opportunity may present itself should a future community centre be developed in the City’s north.

The City may wish to differentiate the design and scale of new youth spaces as compared to what is presently offered. The development of youth centres or rooms should focus upon a providing a range of recreation and resource-based opportunities. Youth should be engaged in the design and operation of drop-in facilities, thereby empowering them, facilitating positive leadership skills and creating a sense of ownership in the facility. For example, there may be an opportunity to engage the Vaughan Youth Cabinet in the design of future facilities and programs. Youth spaces should also incorporate sufficient areas for arts and cultural activities, which are channels for creative and personal expression opportunities that youth are consistently seeking. Arts and cultural activities for youth are much different than traditionally programmed activities (which responded typically to more adult-oriented interests) and can include opportunities such as urban art, spoken art, etc. As mentioned, facilities should be provided in areas that are highly accessible, such as those serviced by public transit or near bicycle paths.

It is imperative that youth spaces be designed in a manner that engage youth and make them want to use the facility; therefore, it is necessary that they be consulted in the design stages of

the project. For example, some youth centres in the GTA have provided certain “non-traditional” amenities which could be offered at the new facility such as:

- urban art walls (temporary graffiti walls made of plywood);
- indoor skateboarding zones;
- indoor basketball courts
- DJ rooms / sound studio;
- Multimedia areas (home theatres, video game rooms, internet stations, etc.);
- concert hall/stage; and
- arts, crafts and dance studios.

Incorporating a combination of active and passive outdoor spaces which are geared to youth is also seen as a complement to an indoor youth space. By locating facilities such as outdoor basketball/volleyball courts, skateboard or BMX parks, outdoor amphitheatres/stages, open fields (for informal sports, lounging, playing music, etc.), consolidation of youth-focused activities at a single location provides this demographic with a broad range of activities that attract them to a supervised and/or controlled environment without necessarily making them feel uncomfortable. The outdoor area should be designed in a manner that makes it a programmable space to encourage a wider range of use. Outdoor areas should be designed to provide a safe and enjoyable venue for its users, while also allowing a degree of supervision (e.g., from the multi-use centre or using “eyes on the park” principles, etc.).

In partnership with the Region and/or other service providers, local youth centres should provide a venue for new Canadians and vulnerable youth to have access to resources that facilitate integration into society and that encourage positive behaviours. The most successful youth centre models have been found to be distinct spaces incorporating elements of “youth governance”, whereby youth have a degree of influence in the programming content and operations, with feedback directed through municipal staff.

Certain municipalities have found that older teens are not responding well to the dedicated spaces contained in municipal community centres due the “family” atmosphere; therefore, such rooms are more often used by the 10 to 15 age group. To better allow youth to feel a sense of ownership of the space within proposed multi-use facilities, dedicated youth spaces could possibly be designed with a separate entrance. An option also exists for the City to consider stand-alone youth centres; however, these are generally deemed to be a high risk investment and potentially can duplicate services offered in a community centre setting. The decision to invest in youth space within a multi-use centre compared to a stand-alone facility should always entail a business planning process and consultation with local youth.

### *Youth Programming & Engagement*

Given that the majority of Vaughan’s residents are commuters, the provision of child care and youth programming can go a long way in facilitating positive choices for children and youth who may otherwise be alone or not have access to early childhood development opportunities while their parents are returning from work (i.e., “latch-key kids”). The availability of early programs for “latch-key kids” and other youth are important in facilitating their healthy physical and social development. Furthermore, evolving interests and youth programming trends can necessitate specific infrastructure requirements that are outside the traditional facility template.

As a monitoring tool to understand the perceptions and facility/programming needs of youth, the City should develop a Youth Survey which, among other things, should tabulate youths' perceptions of issues such as safety, the stereotypes surrounding them by the rest of the community, barriers to participation, programming demands and their ability to influence the decision-making process. It is preferred that the City undertake broad youth consultations using a Youth Survey (or a similar initiative) every five years as is envisioned that such a tool can help to fulfil recreational requirements as well as social needs of youth (e.g., health, personal well-being, positive choices).

By understanding core issues faced by youth, the City is in a position to develop programs and activities that are meaningful, and more importantly, encourage youth to participate in leisure activities and become leaders in their community. Tools such a Youth Survey can allow the Recreation & Culture Department to effectively respond to youth-specific needs through program offerings such drop-in basketball and badminton programs, break-dancing classes, urban art opportunities, cultural initiatives, etc.

As mentioned, youth should be involved in the design and operation of dedicated youth spaces in order to effectively respond to their needs, provide them with a sense of empowerment and “buy-in”, and instil leadership values that will hopefully stay with them and encourage them to participate in civic life as adults. The City may also wish to provide youth with a new medium for expression (e.g., teen magazines, newsletters, online blog spaces, etc.). Continually training municipal staff to be “youth-friendly”, particularly at facilities where youth spaces are offered, can also make youth feel welcome and encourages use of facilities.

#### *Preschool / Early Childhood Development Rooms*

The City provides play rooms, kindergyms, and pre-school rooms at various community centres. These spaces are not considered to be licensed child care centres but rather are intended for use by caregivers in order to allow their use of the facilities or for personal time and offer a venue for early childhood programming. There are a number of non-profit and private sector child care operators in Vaughan offering licensed child care services.

To respond to the number of children that can be expected in Vaughan, largely as the number of adults in child-bearing age increases, the City should continue to offer preschool programming rooms and similar facilities at its community recreation centres. The provision of drop-in child care facilities not only provides physical and social development opportunities for children, but also mitigates barriers to participation for adults who require child supervision services. It is envisioned that these would not be licensed child care areas but simply a supervised venue largely for the convenience of facility users. It should be noted that the City already offers a limited babysitting service at certain community centres, generally for three days per week in the morning.

It is not recommended that the City enter in the business of providing licensed child care services. The City, however, may wish to entertain the possibility of leasing tenant space at future multi-use facilities (as discussed in Section 7.3) to qualified child care providers as a means to facilitate the supply of these highly demanded services.

## **Action Plans**

- ☑ Dedicated youth space for structured and unstructured recreation and leisure activities should be included at all new multi-use community centres. These spaces should be designed in consultation with local youth (e.g., Vaughan Youth Cabinet). Stand-alone youth centres are not recommended.
- ☑ The City should continue to include drop-in preschool and early childhood development programming space in the design of future multi-use community centres.
- ☑ The City should develop a set of consultative tools to keep apprised of youth demands and opinions pertaining to the municipality's new and existing facilities and services.
- ☑ The City should ensure that appropriate municipal staff are regularly trained to be "youth-friendly" and responsive to youth needs in order to facilitate a welcoming atmosphere at civic facilities.

## **7.9 FITNESS TRAINING CLUBS / ACTIVE LIVING PROGRAMMING**

### **Supply**

The City provides a total of five fitness rooms/centres at five of its community centres. In addition, a weight room is provided at the Dufferin Clark Community Centre and eight squash/racquetball courts are offered between three facilities.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Fitness Rooms</b>
Carrville	1*
Thornhill	1
Woodbridge	2
Woodbridge East	0
Maple	1
Vellore Village	0
Other Areas	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

\* new facility anticipated for development in 2009 (Block 10)

### **Planning Context**

In addition to the municipal fitness facilities, a number of private sector fitness clubs are operating in Vaughan. Province-wide, the fitness industry has been observed to be growing, largely in response to public awareness of the benefits of physical activity as well as strong competition within the industry itself. While demand for traditional types of aerobic and fitness activities continues to be high, the fastest growing segment of the fitness industry the active living and wellness programs that employ holistic, health-based and specialized components (e.g., pilates, sport-specific training, athletic therapy, etc.). The older adult market segment is largely responsible for driving the trend towards wellness programming.

Demand for additional fitness centres was a fairly high priority for respondents of the household survey, ranking seventh among other requests for municipal investment. The City presently offers a range of fitness opportunities including aerobics, cycling "spin" classes, weight training,

etc. for youth, adults and seniors alike. The “new senior” is also very interested in staying fit and is interested in both weights (anti-osteoporosis) and aerobics and dance (anti heart and stroke).

With regard to the City’s squash courts, trends indicate that the while indoor racquet sports are a popular fitness activity, they are not attracting a high number of younger players, and thus future demand is uncertain.

## **Assessment of Need**

### *Fitness Facilities*

In general, the provision of fitness facilities has become more of a private sector service in many communities. Although certain municipalities choose not to compete with private clubs (many also believe that they are duplicating services), municipal fitness centres can play an important role in personal health by offering a more affordable and/or inclusive level of service. Both staff and the general public saw the City being in the fitness business as a very desirable activity. This is generally achieved by a providing a more limited or introductory level of amenity than the private clubs would, although the City’s existing facilities appear to be of very good quality in relation to private clubs. It is recommended that the City continue its role in providing affordable and differentiated fitness facilities so that residents continue to have a choice of where to engage in their fitness activities. The City does not need to provide elite-level fitness amenities; rather it should concentrate on providing fundamental free-weight and exercise machines which are complemented by appropriate programming.

Existing municipal fitness centres in Vaughan appear to be generally profitable and are able to offer a high level of quality to its users. The existing distribution appears to be satisfactory and the City has not appeared to over saturate its market.

Residents in Vaughan see the City as a key provider in meeting their fitness needs. Based upon a review of market conditions and partnership options at the time of facility design, a fitness facility should be included at each new multi-use complex as it would also offer dry-land training opportunities for other users (such as ice sport groups, indoor aquatics, etc.).

At a minimum, the City should provide equipment-less fitness studios at the new community centres which have a focus on active living programming and encouraging holistic health opportunities. The studios should be designed to accommodate multiple uses and program options, preferably with a surface that is low-impact yet can also accommodate multiple uses without damage (e.g., wood-sprung floor), mirrored wall, ceilings that are of sufficient height (e.g., to encourage golf club swings, ball tosses, etc.), adequate storage spaces, and that can potentially cater to other users (e.g., sinks for arts and culture groups). These types of studios flexible enough to accommodate programming opportunities targeted to a variety of ages and interests.

It is recommended that the City refrain from providing new squash courts at the present time as it appears that existing municipal courts (in conjunction with private facilities) are sufficient to serve community demand. Declining participation trends and the sport’s seasonal nature (court bookings tend to significantly increase in the winter) suggest that providing additional courts at new or existing facilities would not be the best use of municipal resources. The

private sector is deemed to be the best provider of these facilities as they are more readily able to adjust their fee structures in response to uncertain long-term demand for the sport.

Finally, a component that may be well used (as evidenced from experience in other municipalities and in Vaughan) is an indoor walking track. Although little feedback has been received about the demand for such an amenity, walking for leisure is consistently identified as one of the most popular leisure pursuits and appeals to all age groups. Such a facility is well suited to encouraging walking and jogging in a controlled environment, making it an all-weather facility. Surface materials are generally made of rubber composite or synthetic floor that are very low impact (thus minimizing the strain on leg joints and the lower back) and may have designated lanes specifically for walking or running. A number of facility design templates could be considered such as encircling a fitness area, gymnasium, other fitness space on a second storey, or even an ice pad.

### *Fitness Programming*

Given trends towards active living (i.e., the integration of physical activities into an individual's daily routine), the City should continue to expand its focus, over time, on such programs that facilitate health benefits associated with physically active lifestyles. The City's fitness centres are well positioned to respond to these demands through the availability of equipment and studio-type spaces.

The aging and diversifying population base will challenge the City to provide responsive and innovative programs if it is to meet the needs of a range of residents. Growing youth populations and the tendency for this age group (as well as adults) to find the motivation to participate in physical activity will necessitate a focus to be placed on the development of new program choices as well. One opportunity in this regard is the observation that people of all ages are responding to the active living / personal wellness movement; for example, spiritual-based fitness (e.g., yoga, dance, tai chi, etc.) have been embraced by teenagers and older adults alike.

As recommended in Section 6, the City should also consider the provision of outdoor fitness amenities at its parks and/or civic spaces that facilitate a more casual opportunity; for example, incorporating programmable or unstructured active living opportunities (e.g., stretching stations, exercise zones, meditation areas, jogging loops, self guided tours, etc.) in outdoor spaces can effectively complement physical activity goals that traditionally have been addressed through organized programming.

### **Action Plans**

- At a minimum, the City should provide equipment-less fitness "studios" at all new community centres, with a focus on active living programming and encouraging holistic health opportunities. The provision of full service fitness facilities (with exercise equipment) should be determined by a business planning process that includes a market demand assessment.
- The City should continue to develop innovative and engaging fitness programming that responds to the needs of the growing and evolving population.



## 7.10 GYMNASIUMS

### Supply

The City provides a total of nine gymnasiums at its community centres (including the proposed facility in Block 10), plus an additional facility at Patricia Kemp (stand-alone gymnasium). Additionally, three school gymnasiums are permitted under a joint-use agreement with the York Region School Board at the Vellore Village Community Centre (which is attached to a local school).

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Gymnasiums</b>
Carrville	1*
Thornhill	4
Woodbridge	2
Woodbridge East	1
Maple	1
Vellore Village	4**
Other Areas	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

\* new facility anticipated for development in 2009 (Block 10)

\*\* Owned by York Region School Board. City of Vaughan has access on evenings and weekends.

### Planning Context

Gymnasium sports continue to exhibit high levels of demand, especially among youth and younger adults who participate in programs such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc. The household survey indicates that 59% of respondents believe a gymnasiums warrant additional municipal investment (4% believe it should be a top priority), ranking moderately in terms of priority spending compared to other facilities. Consultations with stakeholders also did not reveal any significant level of demand for new gymnasium facilities.

Strong reliance upon school gymnasiums is common among municipalities across the province, although concerns have been voiced regarding the affordability of these spaces as school boards have been constrained. The Provincial Government, however, has made funding available to increase the community use of schools by working to ensure groups are not excluded because of an inability to afford rental costs. Other concerns that tend to be expressed on the part of community users pertain to the types of uses permitted in a school gym and the non-guaranteed scheduling associated with the possibility of being “bumped”. The City of Vaughan and the local school boards appear to have a generally positive relationship, if cooperation on the Vellore Village Community Centre project is any indication.

### Assessment of Need

A number of municipal gymnasiums are concentrated in Thornhill (four) and Woodbridge (two); however, gymnasiums appear to be otherwise generally well dispersed according to population concentrations. Kleinburg and Carrville are the notable exceptions as they do not have gyms; however, Kleinburg’s population (4,100) does not necessarily warrant investment at this time and Carrville will gain access to a new gym in 2009 through the development of the facility on the Block 10 lands.

In terms of per capita service levels, Vaughan appears to have a healthy supply with one gymnasium per 19,951 residents (or 1:25,936 excluding the joint City-school gymnasiums). This service level is further increased when considering school gyms for which the City does not have agreements (but that accommodate some level of community usage); these gyms are not included in this analysis due to usage restrictions impacting community use. Experience in similarly sized municipalities shows that service levels can range from as high as 1:30,000 to as low as 1:60,000, largely depending upon the municipality's size and level of dispersion.

It is recommended that the City employ a service target, slightly below the existing level of provision, of one *municipal* gymnasium per 35,000 residents. This target does not apply to the permitted school gyms at Vellore Village Community Centre as access to these gyms is not identical to what it would be at municipal facilities; nevertheless, usage of these facilities should remain a priority for the City.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>259,359</b>	<b>290,100</b>	<b>329,445</b>	<b>368,113</b>	<b>401,291</b>	<b>433,046</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 municipal gymnasium per 35,000 residents</i>					
Required Gymnasiums	7.4	8.3	9.4	10.5	11.5	12.4
Existing Gymnasiums	9	10	10	10	10	10
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>	<b>(1.5)</b>	<b>(2.4)</b>

*Notes: Three gyms at Vellore Village C.C. which are permitted by through School Board are not included in the supply.*

*Supply reflects the addition of one gym anticipated for development at the proposed facility in Carrville (Block 10) in 2009.*

The development of the Carrville (Block 10) facility in 2009 will likely be sufficient to address growth-related pressures 2021, when the target shows that demand will outstrip municipal capacity. If the City is able to maintain access to the three school gyms, it will be able to absorb most of the demand associated with the increasing population base during the next 10 to 15 years. As is the case for community centres, there will be a need for 1 additional gymnasium around 2021 and another by 2031. As such, it is recommended that two of the multi-use community centres proposed in this Plan contain a full gymnasium (to be determined through facility-specific studies).

Ideally, a full gymnasium should have sufficient dimensions and height to comfortably accommodate gym sports and/or other activities (e.g., groups that require a facility with high ceilings, recreation basketball/volleyball programs which need appropriate court sizes, etc.). Additionally, hockey associations and swim clubs have been known to use gyms for dry-land training activities, while minor soccer organizations run indoor soccer leagues during the winter.

Other design considerations could include rock climbing walls to facilitate other physical activity opportunities – for example, the Sports Village presently offers rock climbing opportunities. If developed under a municipal model, a rock climbing wall should offer a basic level of service as opposed to the specialized service at the Sports Village. Furthermore, designing gymnasiums to be divisible and flexible spaces can allow a greater range of uses (e.g., banquet halls, recital and theatre areas with a stage, etc.) and increase opportunities for community access and development.

## **Action Plans**

- ☑ A total of two new municipal gymnasiums will be required to serve long-term needs and should be considered at the two of the proposed multi-use community centre facilities.
- ☑ Continued access to school board gymnasiums (through agreements negotiated by the City) is required in order to reconcile community-level distribution criteria, as well as to alleviate pressure on the municipal supply.

## **7.11 INDOOR TURF**

### **Supply**

The City of Vaughan presently does not own or operate an indoor turf facility. There are private sector facilities, however, located at the Vaughan Sportsplex, the Astra Sportsplex, the Ultimate Sports Centre and the Ontario Soccer Association's Soccer Centre (to which the City provided an initial capital contribution). A number of indoor turf centres exist regionally throughout the Greater Toronto Area as well (e.g., Markham, Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto, Oshawa, etc.). School gyms are also a venue for indoor soccer activities in Vaughan.

### **Planning Context**

Participation in indoor soccer has increased in line with the growth of outdoor soccer in the 1990s. Presently, indoor soccer programs are being offered by many soccer clubs out of indoor turf facilities and school gymnasiums. The popularity of the sport is also strong among adults, particularly during the winter months.

With the popularity of indoor soccer on the rise, municipalities are increasingly being pressed to enter the realm of provision. Traditionally, this level of service has been borne by the private sector, however, experience suggests that many municipalities in Ontario with a population of over 100,000 have invested in the development and/or operations of an indoor turf centre.

Generally, the most cost-effective approach to facility development and operation has employed a public-private partnership model (see Section 11). More and more, however, there are examples of municipalities who are solely responsible for the funding and operation of indoor turf centres (generally receiving fundraising dollars and community contributions in the capital development stage). It has been found that, if a sound business planning process has been undertaken, municipal investment in indoor turf can be an endeavour with a tolerable level of risk.

The household survey observed that 54% of respondents believed the City should be investing in new or improved indoor turf facilities (4% rated this as their top priority), rounding out the top ten list of facility demands. Furthermore, 18% of the sample indicated that a member of their household had participated in indoor soccer or football. The ratio of indoor to outdoor soccer players is believed to be higher than average in Vaughan when compared to most other communities.

### **Assessment of Need**

With four existing private-sector venues (of fairly high quality) already offered locally, municipal entry into the indoor turf market should be cautiously approached. Any new municipal facility would compete with the existing venues and is undoubtedly viewed to be a higher risk investment than would be considered in a municipality without an existing indoor turf facility. The popularity of the sport locally may be enough to warrant further examination into the provision of a municipal venue; however, this will require the City to prepare a feasibility study and business plan if it deems entry into this service realm is appropriate.

A feasibility study and business plan should examine a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Regional demand and anticipated use;
- Capital and operational outlays required;
- Funding opportunities and potential partnerships (see Section 11); and
- Site selection and/or retrofit opportunities (e.g., at older gyms, arenas, etc.).

The future outlook for indoor field sports indicates that indoor soccer will become more popular as more youth and adults pick up the game and conduct additional off-season training. Increasing popularity of soccer (both indoor and outdoor) is certainly anticipated in Vaughan where there is a strong enthusiasm and interest in soccer, as well as a strong local and regional market for the sport (as evidenced by the presence of multiple organizations leading soccer advancement). Vaughan is also promoted as a soccer tournament destination and the city's location at the hub of major transportation infrastructure adds to its attractiveness and potential in the sport tourism market. Interest in other sports such as ultimate frisbee, lacrosse and football is also increasing – although participation in these sports is expected to remain modest – suggesting that there will be even greater demand for indoor turf venues (and multi-purpose outdoor playing fields) over time.

### **Action Plans**

- Prior to investment in any municipal indoor turf facilities, the City will be required to undertake a feasibility study and business planning exercise to ensure that investment is justified in the context of a tolerable level of risk and the ability/desire to compete with a strong base of existing local service providers.

## SECTION 8: OUTDOOR FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

For more information regarding the methodology for the outdoor recreation facility needs assessment, see section 7.1.

### 8.1 OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY SUPPLY

#### Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory, City of Vaughan

Facility	Municipal Supply	Current Per Capita Provision (2008 pop. = 259,359)	Comments
<b>Soccer Fields:</b>	<b>131 (143)</b>	<b>1 : 1,814 (unlit equivalents)</b>	Each lit field is equivalent to 1.5 unlit fields due to the ability to accommodate evening play. Artificial Turf is equivalent to 2 fields due to the ability to accommodate play over an extended weather period. <i>The Mini Mini fields have not been included in calculation of ratio to population due to their limited usage.</i>
Mini Mini	31		
Mini	84		
Senior – unlit	23		
Senior – lit	7 (10.5)		
Premium – unlit	2		
Premium – lit	13 (19.5)		
Artificial Turf – lit	2(4)		
<b>Ball Diamonds:</b>	<b>72 (85)</b>	<b>1 : 3,051 (unlit equivalents)</b>	Each lit diamond equivalent to 1.5 unlit fields due to the ability to accommodate evening play.
T-Ball	12		
Junior – unlit	27		
Senior – unlit	3		
Senior – lit	14 (21)		
Premium – lit	12 (18)		
Other - unlit	4		
<b>Cricket Pitches</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1 : 2,092</b>	
unlit	52		
lit	72		
<b>Basketball Courts and Playcourts</b>	<b>83 (64 + 19)</b>	<b>1 : 3,125</b>	
<b>Bocce</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1 : 4,052</b>	40 are lit; 24 are not
<b>Playground Apparatuses</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1 : 1,764 (total sites)</b>	Located at 147 parks
Junior Play	112		
Senior Play	140		
<b>Outdoor Aquatic Facilities</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1 : 12,350</b>	
Recreational Pools	1		
Wading Pools	2		
Water Play	18		
<b>Outdoor Skating Rinks</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1 : 23,578</b>	Two rinks are provided on outdoor basketball courts in the winter
Artificial Ice	9		
Natural Ice	2		
<b>Skateboard Parks</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1:259,359</b>	

**Note:** Inventory data considers only municipal assets located on parkland owned or under agreement by the City of Vaughan, and is considered to be accurate as of February 2008. Parks and facilities to be acquired and/or constructed in 2008 have also been included in the inventory. Recreation and cultural facilities located on school board properties, with the exception of permitted soccer and ball fields, are not included as part of the supply unless otherwise noted.

The current per capita provision of outdoor recreational facilities noted above is based on City-wide population counts for 2008. Again, while quasi-private facilities (e.g. YMCA) augment the supply, as access is not available to all residents; it has not been included in the analysis. Any reference to future proposed facilities is subject to change due to funding availability.

While these ratios are useful in understanding the current per capita provisions of outdoor facilities, it is also important to examine how those provision rates will change with time and how facilities are geographically distributed throughout Vaughan. The following sections will look at the ability of these facilities to serve the residents of Vaughan based on changing demographics, trends, and geographic distribution.

#### **Change in Per Capita Provision of Outdoor Facilities (2008-2031), assuming no new facilities**

<b>Existing Facilities</b>	<b>2008 Municipal Supply</b>	<b>2008 Per Capita Provision</b> (2008 pop. = 259,359)	<b>2021 Per Capita Provision</b> (2021 pop. = 368,115)	<b>2031 Per Capita Provision</b> (2031 pop. = 433,046)
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	<b>143</b>	1:1,814	1:2,574	1:3,028
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	<b>85</b>	1:3,051	1:4,331	1:5,095
<b>Cricket Pitches</b>	<b>0</b>	--	--	--
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>124</b>	1:2,092	1:2,969	1:3,492
<b>Basketball Courts and Playcourts</b>	<b>83</b>	1:3,125	1:4,435	1:5,217
<b>Bocce</b>	<b>64</b>	1:4,052	1:5,752	1:6,766
<b>Playground Apparatuses</b>	<b>252</b>	1:141 <sup>1</sup>	1:170 <sup>1</sup>	1:183 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Playground Locations</b>	<b>147</b>	1:241 <sup>1</sup>	1:290 <sup>1</sup>	1:312 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Outdoor Aquatic Facilities</b>	<b>21</b>	1:12,350	1:17,529	1:20,621
<b>Outdoor Skating Rinks</b>	<b>11</b>	1:23,578	1:33,465	1:39,368
<b>Skateboard Parks</b>	<b>1</b>	1:259,359	1:368,115	1:433,046

<sup>1</sup> Per Capita Provision based on population 0 to 9 years of age.

In actuality, the future provision ratios note above will not be realized in most cases as the City will continue to provide additional facilities where needed; however, the table does illustrate the effect of a status quo approach to facility provision. Specifically, the change in the per capita provision between 2008 and 2031 demonstrates that as the population increases and provision of outdoor facilities remains static, the per capita provision decreases, thereby reducing the service standard. If the City intends to maintain existing service standards, additional outdoor facilities must be added to the current facility portfolio.

As part of the Needs Assessment, the geographic distribution of outdoor facilities across the City of Vaughan was prepared and analyzed (see [Appendix B](#)). It was found that the current

geographic distribution is generally equitable; however, projected population growth in select communities could create an inequitable distribution in the near future.

The geographic distribution of new outdoor facilities across the City of Vaughan will depend primarily on the rate of growth in the Long Term Residential Growth Area. The need for additional indoor facilities is discussed in greater detail in the following subsections.

## 8.2 TRAILS

### **Supply**

The City of Vaughan's trails system is capable of accommodating a variety of leisure activities as well as contributing to the City's transportation system. As identified in the City's *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study* (2007), the two core municipal trails include:

- Humber Trail – 3.5 km gravel and dirt trails with links to the Canadian McMichael Art Collection and Boyd Conservation Area, free of charge and allows hiking, biking and walking; and
- Bartley Smith Greenway – 15 km gravel trail following the course of the West Don River and connecting to a number of ecologically significant areas.

Through these core trail systems, the City also operates and maintains links to trails falling under the purview of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail Association, the Bruce Trail, and the Rouge River Watershed.

### **Planning Context**

Trends research and surveys undertaken in Vaughan and almost all other municipalities indicate that walking is the second most popular leisure activity, behind only reading. Furthermore, as age increases, so too does the propensity to identify walking as a favourite leisure time activity. This bodes well for future demand given that the 55+ year age group is expected to grow substantially over the course of the planning period. Bicycling and walking are an important part of a sustainable and efficient transportation system and can function very effectively in urban areas, as well as linking the rural areas and less dense communities (e.g., Kleinburg) to recreational facilities and other nodes such as transportation and service nodes.

The household survey also found considerable support for trails and trail-related activities; in fact, three of the top five activities that respondents participated in pertain to trails in some way (70% walked for leisure in the past year, 44% jogged and 43% cycled). The demand for additional investment in nature trails ranked third among other facilities (62% requested additional spending on this facility and 9% rated it as their top priority), while paved trails ranked more moderately (53% requested additional municipal spending with 4% rating it as their top priority). It is also worth noting that the household survey found that 17% of residents were least satisfied with trails and pathway opportunities (this was the highest degree of dissatisfaction compared to other services), although 55% reported being satisfied. Other consultations revealed similar sentiments stating that existing trails require improvement.

## **Assessment of Need**

The increasing age of the average user will influence fitness program structure and provision. As such, the City will need to shift slightly its programming concentrations to include a stronger focus on leisure and recreational activities for adults and older adults. Though people over the age of 55 will continue to pursue active lifestyles, it will be in a more passive manner (e.g., walking is replacing jogging for many people). Youth and younger adults are also well served by trail systems when engaging in more strenuous walks, jogging, or bicycling activities. As such, trails are an especially flexible and responsive type of facility as they permit “unprogrammed” fitness or “active living” opportunities for all ages, particularly adults and older adults.

The first phase of the Humber Trail has been completed and future phases will extend this route south towards Langstaff Road (near Islington Avenue). The Bartley Smith Greenway also continues to be a work-in-progress (there is still about 1.3 km of uncompleted trailway), connecting to a number of parks, woodlots and eventually the Vaughan Sports Village. Other than these trail networks, the City’s supply and distribution of recreational trails is limited, particularly among east-west corridors.

The City should continue to place a high importance on its trail facilities by making multi-use trail development a high priority. Trails are as much of a recreational “facility” as arenas, parks and sports fields. They are multi-seasonal facilities that can accommodate walking, hiking, and cycling in the spring, summer and fall months, as well as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Furthermore, trails are used by people of all ages and levels of ability, including people with disabilities. The convenience factor of trails is also important through the provision of trail-related amenities such as appropriately spaced benches, washrooms, etc.

There is significant merit both from a community and environmental perspective for creating a linked open space system. In tandem with the recommendations established in the City’s *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study* (2007), it is recommended that the City undertake the necessary studies to determine if trails can be developed within the Woodlots or Open Space areas without impacting the ecological function of these areas. The City should also consider entering into partnerships with private land owners of Open Space or Woodlots if it has been determined that a linkage would be beneficial to the overall development of the area or to the overall trail system.

Parking at key trailheads is another important consideration and – in reviewing plans of subdivision – the Planning Department should make every effort to acquire suitable parking at key access points. It is preferred that the City avoid the acquisition of dedicated parking areas through parkland conveyances; however, in some cases this may be unavoidable. Should the City find itself accepting a parkland dedication for parking areas, cash-in-lieu is considered the most appropriate form of conveyance. The most ideal approach to providing parking is through municipal purchase (or other appropriate acquisition methods) of lands adjacent or nearby to key trailheads.

The City recently completed a *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study* (January 2007) which specifically evaluated pedestrian and bicycle use. It finds that the City maintains just over 17km of “Class 1” multi-use pathways and no other types of trails; upon build out, the Master Plan proposes a system-wide total of almost 615 km of on and off-road pedestrian and cycling routes, of which over 60% (385 km) is recommended by the year 2016. Upon completion, 35% (216 km) of the pathway system would be devoted to Class1 multi-use / recreational pathways. This is an aggressive strategy, but one that is supported by the public consultation and trends



analysis. It is recommended that the City proceed with the implementation of key pathways as identified in the *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study*.

As mentioned, cycling also forms a critical part of a sustainable transportation system. The provision of dedicated on-road bicycle lanes is a mechanism to encourage commuter and utilitarian types of usage by offering a safer and more convenient cycling option to interested residents. Providing a safe and convenient option for cycle use has been found to facilitate usage on roadways that may have been perceived as a barrier beforehand. The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study* indicates that nearly 170 km of bicycle lanes should be developed by the year 2026.

As trails form an integral part of the transportation network they are not seen as traditional open space or a recreational facility. Trails are needed as part of the “walkable” city and should be a mandatory service level provision of any development application under the *Planning Act*.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Proceed with the implementation of key off-road pathways as articulated in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study as a high priority project.
- ☑ As part of subdivision agreements required under Section 51(25)(d) of the *Planning Act*, trails/liner corridors should be required as an essential service in the transportation linkage system and should not be part of parkland dedication obtained under Section 44 of the Act.
- ☑ The City should continue to seek and capitalize on opportunities to create a linked open space system through the integration of woodlots, open spaces, and parks into an overall network of trails through partnerships, tax incentives, and the mandatory service level requirement.

## **8.3 SOCCER AND OTHER SPORTS FIELDS**

### **Supply**

There are a total of 131 soccer fields in the City of Vaughan: 84 mini, 23 senior unlit, 7 senior lit, 2 premium unlit, 13 premium lit, and 2 outdoor artificial turf (lit). This inventory includes 30 fields on school property that are permitted by the City, as well as 7 fields developed in partnership with the Ontario Soccer Association at Vaughan Grove Sports Park. The 31 “mini mini” fields have not been included in the inventory due to their small size and restricted range of use.

In total 22 fields have been developed with lights. To provide a more accurate depiction of field type related to use and to reflect additional playable hours associated with evening play, the supply considers each lit field as being the equivalent of 1.5 unlit fields and each lighted artificial turf as being equivalent of 2.0 unlit fields. Therefore, the *effective* supply of soccer fields is considered to be 143 (unlit equivalents).

Currently, there are no cricket pitches in the City, and school board fields are generally utilized for other field sports such as football, lacrosse, rugby, etc.

Based on the following table, the growing areas of Vellore Village and Carrville have the lowest per capita soccer field supplies.

Community	Number of Unlit Soccer Fields	Number of Lit Soccer Fields	Total # of Unlit Equivalent Fields	2008 Per Capita Provision Rates	Planned Fields (2009-14) – unlit equivalents
Kleinburg	8	1	9.5	1: 431	0
Woodbridge	20	7*	31	1: 1,643	0
Woodbridge East	15	1	16.5	1: 1,557	0
Vellore Village	8	1	9.5	1: 2,643	5
Maple	25	4*	31.5	1: 1,564	8
Vaughan Corporate Centre	2	0	2	1: 486	0
Carrville	8	2	11	1: 2,690	10
Thornhill/Concord	21	5	28.5	1: 2,320	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	0	0	0	--	0
Employment / Rural	2	1	3.5	1:1,081	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1: 1,820</b>	<b>23</b>

\* includes one artificial turf field

In addition to the current supply, the City has plans to develop 23 new soccer fields (unlit equivalents) and 1 cricket pitch in Maple over the next six years (by 2014).

### **Planning Context**

National trends suggest that after major growth in the 1990s, soccer still enjoys great popularity, particularly amongst youth. The youth aged 5-19 (the primary market for soccer) presently account for 21% of the City's population and forecasts suggest that the proportion of youth in the community will decrease slightly towards 2021. This is not to say the number of youth are declining – in fact, their numbers will increase by 32%. The sheer increase in the younger population in Vaughan will create additional demands for soccer facilities and programming. As youth soccer players of today become adults, it is expected that an even greater demand for adult soccer (both indoor and outdoor) will be seen.

Many other field sports are gaining popularity in Ontario and competing with soccer for time on existing sports fields. User conflicts are often prevalent between soccer and lacrosse/football groups as the heavy use on the fields can result in undesirable turf conditions for the next user. Municipalities have generally relied upon school fields to accommodate the majority of non-soccer usage.

The demand for additional soccer fields was expressed through the consultation program, although many noted that the soccer fields in Vaughan are well maintained and highly usable. Praise was also provided for the permitting system, field location, and the Sportsplex. The consultation program did not reveal substantial demand for other field sports (e.g. football, rugby, lacrosse, etc.).

The results of the household survey demonstrated that 48% of households would like additional public funds allocated towards outdoor soccer fields and that 38% of households participated in outdoor soccer in the past year. The suggestions for improvement included change rooms at the new artificial turf field and a desire for more outdoor artificial fields.

The City of Vaughan is also fortunate to be the home of both the Ontario Soccer Association and Canadian Soccer Association.

## Assessment of Need

Across much of Ontario, the vast majority of organized soccer players are children and teens – likely in the 80% to 90% range. As the following table illustrates, our experience in other municipalities suggests that most communities are providing one soccer field for every 92 youth players (data is not available for adult players as the figures are more difficult to verify); but many are having difficulty meeting needs are, therefore, targeting a level of service closer to one field per 80 youth players. This level is generally sufficient to accommodate a weekday playing schedule, provide sufficient field regeneration time, and meet the needs of a limited number of other field users, including adult soccer.

This research also suggests that organized soccer capture rates for youth ages 5-19 is approximately 20%. This means that one out of every five youth is likely to register in soccer. The percentages tend to be higher in the younger (e.g., 5 to 12) cohorts and in smaller municipalities (e.g., less than 100,000), and lower in the older age groups (e.g., 13 to 19) and in larger communities (e.g., greater than 100,000).

### Soccer Field Supply and Ratios in Other Municipalities

Municipality	Permitted Fields	Population (age 5 to 19)	Minor Soccer Players	Participation Rate	Total Population	Per Capita Ratio	Participants per Field
Milton (2006)	38	9,965	2,660	26.7%	53,939	1:1,419	70
Halton Hills (2006)	39	12,460	3,187	25.5%	55,290	1:1,418	82
Clarington (2005)	48	19,277	5,015	26.0%	79,586	1:1,560	104
Ajax (2007)	56	22,527	5,508	24.5%	93,553	1:1,670	98
Waterloo (2006)	47	18,620	4,549	24.4%	93,885	1:1,998	97
Guelph (2005)	50	20,830	4,915	23.6%	106,170	1:2,123	98
Oshawa (2003)	60	29,555	5,541	18.7%	139,035	1:2,317	92
Sudbury (2003)	71	31,115	5,500	17.6%	155,228	1:2,186	77
Oakville (2005)	87	30,302	10,100	33.3%	158,700	1:1,824	116
Richmond Hill (2005)	46	34,060	4,455	13.1%	167,000	1:3,630	97
Markham (2003)	73	47,740	5,153	10.8%	222,440	1:3,047	71
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>25,132</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>120,439</b>	<b>2,154</b>	<b>92</b>
Vaughan (2008)	<b>143</b>	<b>54,482</b>	<b>8,172*</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>259,359</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>57</b>

Notes: Players include those in affiliated minor soccer organizations only. Each lighted field counts has been 1.5 fields to ensure equal comparisons. Allocated fields include municipal, school and other fields under agreement and may be multi-use.

\* See following page for additional explanation.

Source: Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2008

Between data provided by the City and the Master Plan's stakeholder survey, it was estimated that there were approximately 8,009 registered outdoor youth soccer players in the City in 2007 (in four youth organizations); this represents 16% of the youth population and translates into a provision of one field per 56 players.

Organization	Registered Players
Kleinburg Soccer Club	1,300
Vaughan Soccer Club	2,859
Glen Shields Soccer Club	1,445
Woodbridge Soccer Club	2,705
<b>Total Youth Soccer Participants</b>	<b>8,009</b>

There are two interesting observations that arise from this finding:

- 1) This 15% youth capture rate for organized soccer is lower than that seen in most other communities. Given the high level of local interest exhibited in the sport – as witnessed through the public consultation process – this leads us to assume that a considerable number of youth players are participating in privately-operated leagues or club teams that are not captured by the registration data.
- 2) Demand for additional soccer fields was expressed through the consultation program, yet the City is providing one field for every 56 youth players, compared to many other communities that operate closer to 1:90. This could be an indicator of several things, such as: groups choosing not to use certain fields for one reason or another (e.g., poor quality, undesirable location, etc.); the City not providing enough fields of the correct size; greater demand for more practice time and tournaments than in comparable communities; or significant demand from adult groups, who are not accounted for in the youth ratio. Without a more detailed examination of field usage records and membership data from all permitted users, it is difficult to ascertain the degree to which these factors contribute to local field demand.

Based on the assumption that the current level of City-wide soccer field provision is generally meeting needs (although there may be issues with regard to geographic distribution or the size of fields, for example) and that adult soccer participation rates in Vaughan are higher than in most other communities, it is reasonable to establish a provision target of one field for every 56 organized youth soccer participants. The following table utilizes this target and extrapolates soccer registration based on an estimated youth capture rate of 15% to arrive at an estimation of future needs.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Estimated Youth Participants</b>	<b>8,172</b>	<b>9,608</b>	<b>9,425</b>	<b>10,069</b>	<b>10,469</b>	<b>10,809</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 soccer field per 56 registered youth participants</i>					
Required Soccer Fields	146	154	168	180	187	193
Existing Soccer Fields (unlit equivalents)*	143	152	166	166	166	166
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(27)</b>

\* 14 mini fields and 6 senior lit fields are planned to be added to the inventory between 2009 and 2014 (equivalent to 23 fields). Plans beyond 2014 are unknown.

Application of the recommended standard suggests that there is a small deficit of soccer fields City-wide. With 23 new soccer fields (unlit equivalents) being planned for development over the next few years, the City should generally be able to keep pace until at least 2016, after which 27 more fields will need to be developed by build-out. Unfortunately, these numbers do not tell the entire story.

Although overall supplies seem to be appropriate, a closer examination the inventory finds that 60% of the City's soccer fields are minis (suitable for play only by children age 10 and under). Examination of inventory data from several communities surveyed earlier suggests that, at a minimum, 50% of municipal soccer fields are full size fields. In a City where a substantial proportion of soccer play is at the older youth and adult levels, it appears as though there are not enough large/senior fields to meet current needs. In addition, full size soccer fields can accommodate a greater range of users, as they can easily be divided into 2 or more mini fields if

portable/movable goals are available; for this reason (as well as growing interest in adult soccer), many communities are moving away from mini field provision in favour of larger and more flexible field templates.

Without detailed registration data and field utilization reports, it is difficult to approximate the number of full size soccer fields that the City is deficient. As mentioned several times throughout this report, it is recommended that the City work with local organizations to collect data on the number of registered players by level of play (both youth and adults) in order to facilitate a more detailed analysis of current and future needs. Annual reviews of bookings versus actual use should also be undertaken to assist in verifying demand.

In the meantime, given the need for more full size soccer fields, the City should look for ways to develop larger fields in its future parks, including outdoor artificial turf fields. The resilient, durable, and consistent synthetic surface is not subjected to the usual closures of natural grass fields due to heavy usage or poor weather. Artificial fields can not only be used more intensely week in and week out, but also for a much longer season. In addition to soccer, outdoor artificial turf fields can be used for football, field lacrosse, and field hockey. While the maintenance cost for outdoor artificial turf fields is low compared to grass fields, the initial capital outlay, replacement costs, and revenue potential can be higher. The City currently has a provision level of one outdoor artificial turf field for every 130,000 residents. Given the high cost of land and the increased usability of an artificial turf field, the City should strive for a provision standard in the range of one for every 60,000 to 80,000 residents. This will amount to a total target of 4 to 5 artificial fields by 2016 and 5 to 7 by build-out.

At present, 14 of the 23 new fields scheduled for development over the next six years are mini fields. While some of these minis might be needed to meet a geographic need, larger fields would better meet City-wide needs.

The areas with the lowest per capita supplies at present – Vellore Village and Carrville (and Thornhill, but to a lesser extent) – should be the focus of new soccer field development over the short and medium-term, with provision in the Long Term Residential Growth Area gaining more emphasis over time. The City should evaluate appropriate locations within each of these communities to accommodate new soccer fields (preferably senior/premium fields). Where possible, the City should cluster new soccer fields at single locations in order to create multi-field complexes that offer efficiencies associated with maintenance and that encourage tournament play.

Cricket pitches are considered separately from soccer fields (some of which may also be capable of accommodating sports such as football, rugby, lacrosse, field hockey, and ultimate frisbee) largely because they are oval in shape and require a larger area than one traditional rectangular field; nonetheless, rectangular fields – particularly two situated next to each other – can accommodate most cricket activities. Some interest for additional investment in the sport was identified through the public open house; however, little additional evidence has been presented (e.g., participant numbers, field requests) to suggest that significant demand exists for cricket pitches. Nevertheless, many adjacent municipalities are seeing growth in the sport and – with a growing population from cricket-playing countries (e.g., the United Kingdom, South Asian countries, the West Indies, etc.) – local demand for the sport is likely on the rise.

As recommended for several sports activities earlier in this report, the City should closely monitor the number of players in cricket, rugby, football and lacrosse to determine if and when dedicated fields are required.

The City has plans to develop its first dedicated cricket pitch over the next few years (in Maple). Once this field is in place, usage should be closely monitored, particularly amongst youth participants as provision of most recreational facilities has traditionally been based on youth-level demands (in many other communities, requests for cricket pitches are adult-driven). A policy level decision should be made as to the balance that will be sought in relation to youth and adult demands when establishing strategies for the future provision of cricket fields. Based on the City's experience with its first municipal cricket field, it is possible that additional pitches may be required in the future.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Steadily increase the number of soccer fields – with an emphasis on “senior field” development – from 143 to 193 by 2031 (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields and every outdoor artificial turf field is equal to 2 unlit fields). To the greatest extent possible, new fields should be clustered together to form multi-field complexes, either at existing parks or at future park locations.
- ☑ In developing new fields, preference should be given to designing most fields as senior fields that can be used for older youth and adult play, as well as by younger children through the division of the field into mini pitches.
- ☑ Due to land shortages, more fields should be artificial turf. Artificial turf provides extended seasonal play, requires less maintenance and field rest, generates increased revenues, and provides a consistent, durable and flexible playing surface that can be used for a variety of sports.
- ☑ The City should provide one new sports field that gives priority scheduling to non-soccer users. At a minimum, this field should have appropriate irrigation, drainage and lighting systems.

## **8.4 BALL DIAMONDS**

### **Supply**

There are a total of 72 ball diamonds in the City of Vaughan, including 12 t-ball, 27 junior unlit, 3 senior unlit, 4 unlit of unspecified size, 14 senior lit, and 12 premium lit diamonds. To provide a more accurate depiction of field type related to use, the supply considers each lit diamond as being the equivalent of 1.5 unlit fields in order to reflect additional playable hours associated with evening play. Therefore, the *effective* supply of ball diamonds is considered to be 85 fields. The quality of these diamonds may vary from park to park and the degree to which each is used by local sports organizations may also vary considerably.

Community	Number of Unlit Ball Diamonds	Number of Lit Ball Diamonds	Total # of Unlit Equivalents	2008 Per Capita Provision Rates	Planned Fields (2009-14) – unlit equivalents
Kleinburg	3	1	4.5	910	0
Woodbridge	5	7	15.5	3,286	0
Woodbridge East	6	0	6	4,282	0
Vellore Village	2	1	3.5	7,173	2
Maple	11	3	15.5	3,129	7
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	0	0	--	0
Carrville	3	5	10.5	2,818	6
Thornhill/Concord	16	9	29.5	2,242	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	0	0	0	--	0
Employment / Rural	0	0	0	--	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>15</b>

Note: Supply includes T-Ball, Junior, Senior and Premium diamonds

Of the 85 unlit equivalent fields, 7.5 are on school grounds and 6 are utilized through a community partnership (i.e., Vaughan Grove Sports Park).

### **Planning Context**

Registration data from the City of Vaughan indicates that there were 2,389 youth players registered in ball sports for the 2007 season. Registration data for adult ball groups – which are likely considerable users of ball diamonds – is not recorded by the City. As a point of reference, there are approximately four times as many youth soccer players in Vaughan as there are baseball players (8,660 v. 2,289), but only 1.7 times as many soccer fields as ball diamonds (143 v. 85, unlit equivalents).

Organization	Registered Players
City of Vaughan Baseball	1,271*
Glen Shields Baseball	141
Thornhill Baseball Club	760
Woodbridge Minor Softball	217
<b>Total Ball Sport Participants</b>	<b>2,389</b>

\* Note: Actual registration for Vaughan Baseball was 1,171; however, approximately 100 players participate on both house league and select leagues and the effective number has been increased to reflect this added demand.

Registration numbers provided by the two largest youth ball clubs suggests that demand increased by 40% between 2004 and 2007 (City-wide population growth for this period was approximately 12%); this trend line is contrary to provincial trends (which show a slight decline in participation), but could be reflective of the success of local programs and an increasing interest in the sport in Vaughan.

The household survey reports that 17% of households had a member participating in softball or baseball in the past year; this ranks last among other “major” sports such as soccer (38%), ice sports (35%), gym sports (22%) and indoor soccer/football (18%). Furthermore of the 34% of respondents who stated additional municipal investment was needed in ball diamonds only 1% ranked this as a top priority placing this facility type towards the bottom of the list.

## **Assessment of Need**

Local participation in baseball has risen considerably over the past few years, likely more as a result of effective management and increased population than additions to the ball diamond supply. As is the experience currently with soccer, it is our belief that an above average rate of growth for baseball will not be sustained for very long. This is not to say that local participation in baseball will not increase – in fact, the needs assessment that follows assumes that it will increase at a rate commensurate with the growth in youth population. Nevertheless, provincial trends and experiences in other communities do not suggest that the sport is poised for above average gains like soccer produced in the 1990s.

With 2,549 registered youth ball players in Vaughan (extrapolated to 2008 to coincide with the facility inventory), the City is presently providing diamonds at a level of one diamond per 30 youth players (or one per 3,051 residents). This service level is on par with many communities (e.g., Oakville, London, Ajax, etc.) for which a surplus of diamonds has been identified. Furthermore, some communities that higher participation rates (e.g., 9-10% of youth, as opposed to Vaughan which is attracting 5%) have demonstrated an ability to accommodate more users on their ball diamonds.

Generally, ball diamonds are provided around a target level of one diamond per 50-100 registered youth players, depending on the degree of adult ball participation. As shown below, application of a generous standard of one diamond per 50 youth registered players yields a substantial surplus in the number of ball diamonds in Vaughan. This recommended youth-based standard is set at a level that should enable sufficient access and usage by adult ball organizations and tournaments as well.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>3,265</b>	<b>3,371</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 ball diamond per 50 registered youth participants</i>					
Required Ball Diamonds	51	54	59	63	65	67
Existing Ball Diamonds*	85	92.5	100	100	100	100
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>

\* 5 unlit diamonds, 1 t-ball, and 6 senior lit field are planned to be added to the inventory between 2009 and 2014 (equivalent to 7.5 fields). Plans beyond 2014 are unknown.

The analysis suggests that 51 ball diamonds (of an appropriate quality and design for organized use) are required to meet local needs at present, growing to a total of 67 diamonds by 2031. Given the extent of the large ball diamond surplus (34 diamonds at present and 33 projected to 2031), it is recommended that the City consider converting selected lower-quality diamonds into other facilities or spaces that are in demand, such as soccer fields, skateboard parks, open space, outdoor performance spaces, sand volleyball courts, or even off-leash dog zones. Park-specific assessments and consultation with user groups would have to be undertaken to determine which diamonds would be the best candidates for removal.

As a starting point, the communities with the higher per capita supplies should be considered, including Thornhill, Maple, and Woodbridge. Interestingly, these areas also have the least amount of available land for new park development and freeing up space could create welcome opportunities.



When considering which diamonds to decommission or redevelop for other uses, the following criteria may be considered during the decision-making process:

- Are there any better quality diamonds in the immediate areas?
- Are there any schools in the area that provide practice diamonds?
- What is the condition of the diamond and what resources would it take to rehabilitate it?
- Does the diamond have conflicting / overlapping uses (e.g. sports fields in the outfield) or obstructions?
- What level of usage does the diamond attract in its current state?
- Is the site suitable for conversion to soccer fields (or other needed facilities)?
- How many children/youth live in the area?
- What other uses are in the park and would a new use better complement the existing facilities?

Despite a City-wide surplus, it is recommended that new ball diamonds be developed within the Long Term Residential Growth area and the northern portion of Vellore Village – all growing areas – as the ability to experience the sport of baseball should not be a major “drive to” event but rather available at the community or district park level. Each of these communities will be experiencing significant growth and need to have a full complement of recreational opportunities. In Appendix B, per capita provisions for outdoor recreational facilities by community for the years 2006 to build-out in 2031 are shown based on current levels of supply. Current projections indicated that the Long Term Residential Growth Area will eventually have a population of about 77,000 persons and will need 7-10 ball diamonds if ball demand and participation rates remain as they are today. The 6 diamonds planned for Carrville and the 2 planned for Vellore Village should be sufficient to meet long-term needs.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Based on current participation rates, the City should maintain a minimum of 51 ball diamonds (of an appropriate quality and design for organized use) in order to meet local needs at present, growing to a total of 67 diamonds by 2031.
- ☑ The City should identify and implement opportunities to improve the quality of select ball diamonds and removal of other diamonds (where demand or lack of demand warrants) in an effort to ensure that the existing supply continues to satisfy local needs.
- ☑ Several diamonds within established areas of the City are surplus to community needs. The City, in cooperation with local organizations, should consider converting/repurposing underutilized or low quality ball diamonds to other uses (e.g., skateboard parks, soccer fields, passive space, dog parks etc.), especially when undertaking park renewal projects and/or when searching for land to accommodate other needed facilities in the communities of Woodbridge, Maple and Thornhill.
- ☑ The City should monitor the participation levels of ball players to determine the number and timing of any new ball field development within the Long Term Residential Growth Area communities. Planned development of ball diamonds in Carrville and Vellore Village should be sufficient to meet future needs in these areas.

## 8.5 MULTI-USE COURTS (BASKETBALL, TENNIS, ETC.)

### Supply

The City maintains a supply of 124 tennis courts (72 of which are lit) and a supply of 83 basketball courts (19 of which are play courts also capable of accommodating ball hockey).

Between 2009 and 2014, the City has plans to develop 22 additional tennis courts and 23 basketball/play courts.

Community	Number of Tennis Courts	2008 Per Capita Provision Rates	Planned Courts (2009-14)
Kleinburg	3	1:1,364	0
Woodbridge	22	1:2,315	0
Woodbridge East	24	1:1,070	0
Vellore Village	7	1:3,587	6
Maple	8	1:6,062	4
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	--	0
Carrville	13	1:2,276	12
Thornhill/Concord	43	1:1,538	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	2	1:2,273	0
Employment / Rural	2	1:1,892	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1:2,092</b>	<b>22</b>

Community	Number of Basketball + Play Courts	2008 Per Capita Provision Rates	Planned Courts (2009-14)
Kleinburg	1 + 1 = 2	1:2,047	0
Woodbridge	12 + 4 = 16	1:3,184	0
Woodbridge East	7 + 1 = 8	1:3,211	0
Vellore Village	6 + 0 = 6	1:4,185	7
Maple	14 + 7 = 21	1:2,309	3
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0 + 0 = 0	--	0
Carrville	6 + 1 = 7	1:4,227	11 (+2 playcourts)
Thornhill/Concord	16 + 5 = 21	1:3,149	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	2 + 0 = 2	1:2,273	0
Employment / Rural	0 + 0 = 0	--	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64 + 19 = 83</b>	<b>1:3,125</b>	<b>23</b>

### Planning Context

Trend research is not conclusive when it comes to participation in the sport of tennis. While some studies suggest that tennis is not a growth sport, other trends point to participation levels increasing as the Baby Boom generation could fuel demand for the sport through their pursuit of active living opportunities. Experience also suggests that the interest in tennis varies greatly between municipalities and can be influenced by the existing level of service and ethnic composition. The household survey found low to moderate demand for additional tennis courts, with 45% of respondents indicating this was a desire (but only 2% stating that it was a priority).

Basketball, on the other hand, is considered to be a growth sport, especially among youth, and local popularity has benefited from the National Basketball Association's expansion into the Toronto market in the mid-1990s. Demand for outdoor basketball courts has been found to be

extremely popular in many urban areas, particularly as they are easily incorporated into neighbourhood-level parks, thus allowing easy access (by foot or bicycle) and opportunity for spontaneous, informal play. Although demand ranked relatively low in the household survey (where adults constituted the majority of respondents), basketball courts are consistently identified by youth as being a favoured recreational facility.

The household surveys and the public consultation process both supported the need for more recreational opportunities for youth. As youth are looking for spontaneous recreational opportunities and basketball is popular with today's young people, we would encourage additional basketball court development.

Many municipalities – such as Vaughan with the development of play courts – are beginning to construct multi-use courts rather than the dedicated basketball or tennis courts traditionally incorporated into park design. Multi-use courts are beneficial from the standpoint that they can accommodate a wider range of neighbourhood interests, spanning all four seasons. For example, multi-use courts may offer a venue for basketball, tennis, ball hockey, and/or outdoor skating to name but a few. Consultations have suggested that ball hockey takes place on local tennis courts and can create user conflicts.

### **Assessment of Need**

#### *Tennis*

Through its present supply, the City of Vaughan is providing tennis courts at a rate of one court per 2,092 residents, which is a level of service that is higher than most other municipalities. Experience in other municipalities suggests that a service target of one tennis court per 4,000 to 5,000 residents is acceptable in accommodating competitive needs as well as neighbourhood-level demand. Even if no additional tennis courts are developed, the City would maintain a surplus of courts under this standard (by build-out, the ratio would be one court for every 3,492 residents).

With tennis courts being a neighbourhood-level service level, a slight surplus may be required in order to maintain an equitable spatial distribution. At present, Woodbridge East, Kleinburg, and Thornhill have very strong supplies of tennis courts, with one court of every 1,000 to 1,500 residents. Despite some future population growth in Thornhill, no new tennis courts are recommended in this area; in fact, the oversupply should be carefully evaluated as to opportunities to convert underutilized tennis courts to basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, or skateboard parks, where needs warrant.

New court development should be limited to new neighbourhoods. The developing Long Term Residential Growth Area will need to have new tennis courts provided within the district parks. As with the ball diamond recommendations, the existence of a surplus does not mean that new facilities will not be required within new communities. Applying a standard of 1 court per 5,000 residents, the Long Term Residential Growth will need up to an additional 15 courts. Additional court development could be considered for the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles (Jane to Keele) area.

## Basketball

Given that youth are the primary users of outdoor basketball courts, an age-specific target is deemed to be the most appropriate tool for determining demand. Through recent experience, a target of one full basketball court per 500-750 youth aged 10 to 19 has been found to appropriately satisfy demand in other municipalities in the GTA. Given existing service levels in Vaughan, utilization of a target of 1:500 is recommended.

With an estimated 36,348 youth (ages 10 to 19) in the City at present and 83 existing basketball courts (for an average of one per 438 youth), the City appears to be generally well served. As in the case of tennis courts, however, a slight surplus is preferable in order to ensure spatial equality between neighbourhoods. As such, the current supply is generally at equilibrium with demand at present.

New basketball court development should be limited to new neighbourhoods (at a rate of 1 for every 500 youth ages 10 to 19; this is generally equivalent to 1 for every 4,000 residents, although the ratio changes as the population ages) and should include the development of play courts in ratios similar to current supplies (i.e., one play court for every 3 basketball courts). With nearly 174,000 new residents forecasted by the year 2031, this would imply that 44 new basketball/play courts are needed. This means that new court development could be considered in the areas of Vellore Village (7 are currently planned), Carrville (13 are currently planned), Thornhill (up to 2 new courts), Long Term Residential Growth Area (up to 18 new courts), as well as up to 8 courts in the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles (Jane to Keele) area.

## Action Plans

- ☑ New tennis court development should be limited to new neighbourhoods. Using a recommended target of 1 court per 5,000 residents in new areas, new court development can be justified in the Long Term Residential Growth Area (up to 15 courts) and the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles (Jane to Keele) area.
- ☑ As needs arise, the City may consider evaluating the supply of tennis courts in Woodbridge East, Kleinburg, and Thornhill and converting a small number of underutilized courts to basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, or skateboard parks (where justified).
- ☑ Utilizing a target of 1 court for every 500 youth ages 10 to 19, the City should develop basketball courts within the new developing portions of the City, including Thornhill (up to 2 courts), Long Term Residential Growth Area (up to 18 courts), as well as a up to 8 courts in the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles (Jane to Keele) area.

## 8.6 OUTDOOR BOCCE

### Supply

The City of Vaughan has 64 outdoor bocce courts, with 40 of the courts being lit facilities. The service level is 1 outdoor bocce court per 4,052 persons; when indoor bocce facilities are also considered, the level of supply rises to 81 courts and the service level to 1 court per 3,202 persons. No new facilities are currently planned during the next six years.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Total Number of Bocce Courts (number with lights)</b>	<b>2008 Per Capita Provision Rates</b>
Kleinburg	0	--
Woodbridge	24 (13)	1:2,123
Woodbridge East	18 (15)	1:1,427
Vellore Village	4 (0)	1:6,277
Maple	5 (1)	1:9,699
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	--
Carrville	0	--
Thornhill/Concord	11 (11)	1:6,013
Long Term Residential Growth Area	2	1:2,273
Employment / Rural	0	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>64 (40)</b>	<b>1:4,052</b>

### Planning Context

Bocce has traditionally been played by first generation male Italian senior citizens. Although that trend is changing and more women and even youth are participating in the sport, it is still dominantly an Italian male recreational activity. With this in mind, it is important to consider that the socio-demographic composition of Vaughan is becoming a diverse community; in 2001, one-quarter of the population belonged to a visible minority group. At one time, more than 45% Vaughan's population was of Italian decent; today it is less than one-third and this is continuing to decline.

Added to this changing demographic picture is a preference by the bocce players to use the very high quality indoor bocce facilities available at four of the City's community centres. It has also been reported that enrolment numbers are down at three out of the four indoor facilities.

### Assessment of Need

With 21% of the population over the age of 55 (54,465 persons) and if one conservatively assumes that one-third of this population group is of Italian decent (17,974 persons) and that half of that group (8,896) is male, we have a bocce participation group of around 9,000 persons. This would result in a ratio of one outdoor bocce court for every 141 males over the age of 55 who are of Italian decent; when the indoor courts are considered the ratio becomes one per 111. A review of provision standards in other municipalities (e.g., Ottawa, St. Catharines, Oakville, Mississauga, former Etobicoke and former Scarborough) reveal provision levels ranging from 1 bocce court per 710 males of Italian decent to 1 per 1,736.

Given the changing demographics, usage levels, and the generous supply of courts, no additional bocce courts are being recommended. Nevertheless, interest and enrolment amongst residents living within the Long Term Residential Growth Area and other growth

communities need to be monitored. To maximize use of existing courts, programs such as the Father and Son program should be encouraged, as well as female leagues.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Given current usage profiles, no additional outdoor bocce courts should be developed. Demand in growing communities should be monitored over time to determine future provision strategies.
- ☑ Usage of existing outdoor courts should be tracked to determine if any can be declared surplus and re-purposed as higher-need recreational facilities.

## **8.7 SKATEBOARD / BIKE PARKS**

### **Supply**

The City of Vaughan currently has one skateboard park and another proposed for development in Thornhill within the coming years.

### **Planning Context**

Although once considered a fad, skateboarding and BMX cycling have demonstrated sustained longevity and appears to have become a mainstream pursuit among children, youth, and to a lesser extent, young adults. Skateboard parks are increasingly being viewed as positive venues that respond to the interests of a number of youth; this includes skateboarders, BMX/trick cyclists and inline skaters. Many younger adults (19-30 years of age) have also been found to continue to pursue skateboarding, while female participation in the sport is also on the increase.

Demand for additional skateboard parks ranked low through the household survey (but ahead of bocce courts and cricket pitches); however, this result should be interpreted with caution since the majority of respondents were adults (who may not always be the best gauge of facilities demanded by youth).

### **Assessment of Need**

Skateboard parks can also be designed to accommodate trick cyclists and inline skaters. Furthermore, because skateboarding and similar activities take place in open public plazas or on private property, conflicts with other activities are often reported along with associated damage and/or vandalism. Skate parks provide an important alternative to alleviate this problem.

Skateboard parks have now become a core municipal service in many communities and have largely generated positive responses if designed appropriately. Most large communities are moving toward a skate park provision strategy that involves a small number of larger City-serving facilities (e.g., 20,000 square feet or greater), combined with a series of smaller community-level parks (e.g., 12,000 to 15,000 square feet). Having only recently established skateboard parks as a municipal service level, the level of funding from new development available to the City of Vaughan is limited (but growing). While there is sufficient demand to justify a considerable expansion of skateboarding opportunities, traditional funding approaches cannot sustain this level of investment.

An age-specific target is deemed to be the most appropriate tool for determining the demand for skateboard / bike parks since youth are the primary users of these facilities. Experience suggests that a target of one skateboard/bike park per 5,000 to 7,500 youth aged 10 to 19 is appropriate. Given the City's low provision levels, a ratio of 1:7,500 (ages 10-19) is recommended as a target at this point in time; the City may wish to adjust this target (e.g., closer to 1:5,000) over time as the availability of funding increases.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Total Youth Population (10-19)</b>	<b>36,348</b>	<b>37,980</b>	<b>41,888</b>	<b>45,237</b>	<b>47,166</b>	<b>48,608</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 skateboard park per 7,500 youth (aged 10-19)</i>					
Required Skateboard / Bike Parks	5	5	6	6	6	6
Existing Skateboard / Bike Parks	1	1	2*	2	2	2
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>

*Assumes that the proposed skateboard park will come online before 2016 (Thornhill).*

The aforementioned target yields a significant deficit in skateboard/bike parks, largely due to the fact that there is only one facility available. In addition to the proposed facility in Thornhill, at least 4 additional skateboard parks will be required by build-out, although the deficit is as large today as it will be in 2031.

It would be preferable for new skateboard parks to be constructed in the more urbanized areas of Vaughan, assuming appropriate space can be secured within the park sites. As recommended earlier in this report, the City may also consider decommissioning surplus ball diamonds or tennis courts in favour of replacing them with skateboard parks. Thornhill, Maple, Woodbridge, Woodbridge East, and Carrville (in no particular order) would be ideal communities for the City's future skateboard parks, as well as eventually a seventh facility in the Long Term Residential Growth Area.

In order to encourage children and youth, particularly those who are learning to skateboard, to make use of the casual opportunities offered by neighbourhood-level parks, the City should consider incorporating smaller-scale introductory-level skateboard features (e.g., funboxes, rails, etc.). Known as "skate zones", these amenities are ideally added in during park development and redevelopment projects and appeal to a market that may not be ready for the advanced skill set required at major skateboard parks. Skate zones are generally unfenced and unsupervised areas in neighbourhood-level parks, preferably those with large youth populations and further away from full skate parks. Ideally, they should be located in high visibility areas, near a paved pathway to allow easy access for users to easily, yet out of the pedestrian routes to avoid the potential for collisions. The design of skate zones may vary from park to park; however, they should be appropriate for beginners and intermediate-level users. An area of 1,000 to 2,000 square feet should generally be sufficient for such a facility.

There is a preference for skateboard parks to be located as part of district parks as they can capitalize on being close to other recreation facilities. Geographic distribution is a key consideration given the fact that youth have limited transportation opportunities. Public amenities such as telephones, water fountains and bicycle racks are desirable, as is being in a highly visible location to promote safety and the social aspect of the sport. The design of these facilities should be conducted in consultation with local youth and facility users in order to ensure that it responds to current trends and interests of local users.

## **Action Plans**

- ☑ The City seek creative funding opportunities in expanding its supply of skateboard park facilities from 1 at present to 5 or more by build-out, with a focus on developing most new facilities within the next five to ten years. Existing demand justifies the provision of skate parks in Thornhill, Maple, Woodbridge, Woodbridge East, and Carrville, while the Long Term Residential Growth Area would be a good candidate for a future skate park.
- ☑ The introduction of smaller-scale skate zones into neighbourhood-level parks is encouraged to facilitate the causal use of the park by those who are seeking basic skateboarding elements.
- ☑ Local youth and skateboarding/biking representatives should be consulted in the design of any new skateboard/bike parks developed by the City.

## **8.8 OUTDOOR AQUATICS**

### **Supply**

The City maintains one outdoor swimming pool, two outdoor wading pools and 18 waterplay facilities (i.e., spray or splash pads).

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Pools</b>	<b>Number of Waterplay Facilities</b>	<b>2008 Per Capita Provision Rates (Waterplays)</b>	<b>Planned Waterplays (2009-14)</b>
Kleinburg	0	0	--	0
Woodbridge	0	5	1:10,188	0
Woodbridge East	0	2	1:12,846	0
Vellore Village	0	1	1:25,108	1
Maple	0	5	1:9,699	0
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	0	--	0
Carrville	0	2	1:14,796	1
Thornhill/Concord	1 swimming pool, 2 wading pools	3	1:22,046	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	0	0	--	0
Employment / Rural	0	0	--	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1:15,256</b>	<b>2</b>

### **Planning Context**

Trends in municipal service delivery suggest that investment in outdoor pool construction is giving way to the provision of more cost-effective waterplay templates. While citizens have come to expect outdoor pools as a traditional municipal responsibility, outdoor pools require significant financial outlays in construction, maintenance and operation; furthermore, they are generally open for no more than two-and-a-half months of the year. Wading pools are also not seen as being cost-efficient or beneficial to a large proportion of families because of the more limited age range they serve (generally 7 and under) and the substantial operating costs (including lifeguarding).

Waterplay facilities, on the other, generally require a similar (if not less) capital investment in construction, depending upon the design and size, and are be used by children as old as 12.



The real savings are achieved, however, by removal of direct staffing costs (no lifeguards, no staff required to test and treat water, etc.) as there is no standing water. Water can be treated on-site and recycled, metered and discharged into the storm sewer, or collected and used for other municipal requirements (e.g., irrigation). The provision of new splash pads ranked fourth among facilities which 61% of household survey respondents requested additional investments, and 7% placing their top priority on the development of these facilities.

### **Assessment of Need**

#### *Outdoor Pools*

The provision of new outdoor swimming pools and wading pools, as mentioned, is being less favoured by municipalities. In terms of wading pools, their benefit is seen as being highly limited due to the costs involved with maintenance and staffing in relation to the quality of the experience offered, particularly compared to what is offered through splash pads. It is recommended, therefore, that the City not construct additional wading pools but rather focus investment on waterplay facilities.

A similar recommendation is made with regard to the one existing outdoor swimming pool in Thornhill. With the pool operating within a limited season, significant capital costs associated with its upkeep and maintenance, as well as a potential duplication in service as to what is offered at indoor pool locations, investment in new outdoor swimming pools is discouraged.

Nevertheless, there remains a value to maintaining the Thornhill outdoor pool as it is familiar to local residents and the experience is slightly different from that of an indoor venue. For this reason, it is suggested that the City continue to operate its outdoor swimming pool so long as it remains safe to do so and that major capital replacements to the tank and pool deck are avoided unless supplemented by significant community-based funding.

#### *Waterplay Facilities*

The City's existing waterplay facilities appear to be very well utilized; given the age-specific market these facilities are serving, a provision target of one waterplay facility per 2,000 children aged 9 and under is recommended to maintain a similar level of provision throughout the future.

	PROJECTED DEMAND					
	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Total Child Population (0-9)</b>	<b>35,547</b>	<b>38,124</b>	<b>40,614</b>	<b>42,676</b>	<b>44,213</b>	<b>45,919</b>
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 waterplay facility per 2,000 youth (aged 0-9)</i>					
Required Waterplay Facilities	18	19	20	21	22	23
Existing Waterplay Facilities*	18	18	20	20	20	20
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>

\* Does not include outdoor swimming or wading pools. Includes the 2 planned facilities between 2009-14.

Based upon the age-specific target, the City would require one additional waterplay facility by 2011 and four more to meet long-term needs (not accounting for the two planned facilities in the next six years).

Just as it is for playgrounds, an equitable distribution of waterplay facilities is key as many residents prefer to walk to these facilities. Furthermore, their high levels of usage and target demographic support a provision strategy that emphasizes geographic accessibility. Given this, it would not be unreasonable for the City to provide waterplay facilities at a greater rate than recommended by the age-based provision target. A goal of providing one waterplay facility per full residential block should be considered; if implemented, this would result in a build-out total of 30 or more waterplay facilities.

In keeping with an approach that values geographic distribution over total population (but that considers growth forecasts when deciding on timing of construction), it is recommended that waterplay facilities be developed in Vellore Village (2 more, including the one that is planned), Carrville (2 more, including the one that is planned), Thornhill (1), Kleinburg (1), Vaughan Corporate Centre (1), and the Long Term Residential Growth Area (5 or more). The locations of these facilities should be reconfirmed prior to their construction to ensure that they remain appropriate in the context of maximizing the number of users which they would serve.

Not all new waterplay facilities need to be the same size or configuration. Generally speaking, “major” splash pads such as those currently offered in Vaughan are best suited at Community and District level parks, given that the waterplay facilities will be larger in terms of size and scope. The City may also wish to investigate the development of “minor” splash pads at selected neighbourhood-level parks, which would offer a more basic cooling amenity at a lower cost. This would offer a greater and more efficient degree of distribution and would reduce the need for residents to travel further distances to access waterplay facilities. For example, at least one minor waterplay facility would be ideally located in Kleinburg to afford residents in this community access to a water feature as their lower population in relation to other communities does not necessarily warrant a major waterplay facility.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Continue to provide one waterplay facility for each full residential block (in District level parks). Approximately 12 new waterplay facilities will be required by build-out. The anticipated provision strategy involves providing additional facilities in Vellore Village (2), Carrville (2), Thornhill (1), Kleinburg (1), Vaughan Corporate Centre (1), and the Long Term Residential Growth Area (5 or more); however, the location of these facilities should be reconfirmed prior to construction.
- ☑ The scale and location of waterplay features should reflect the population levels and age characteristics of each area. A two-tiered hierarchy of minor and major waterplay facilities should be established to guide the design process.
- ☑ No additional wading pools or outdoor swimming pools should be constructed. The existing pools in Thornhill should be phased out when they become economically unfeasible to operate or maintain and be replaced with waterplay facilities or removed altogether. Major facility renewal should only be considered if supplemented by significant community-based funding as this is no longer a required service level.

## 8.9 PLAYGROUNDS

### Supply

There is playground equipment at 147 municipal parks; the physical supply consists of 252 creative play apparatuses (140 senior and 112 junior).

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Playground Apparatuses</b>	<b>Number of Playground Locations</b>	<b>2008 Per Capita Provision Rates (Locations)</b>	<b>Planned Locations (2009-14)</b>
Kleinburg	7	4	1:1,364	0
Woodbridge	50	29	1:1,819	0
Woodbridge East	21	13	1:1,976	0
Vellore Village	25	13	1:2,318	5
Maple	52	29	1:1,617	5
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	0	--	0
Carrville	26	13	1:2,959	11
Thornhill/Concord	59	39	1:1,788	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	8	4	1:1,136	0
Employment / Rural	4	3	1:1,892	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1:1,764</b>	<b>21</b>

### Planning Context

Playgrounds serve as a neighbourhood-level amenity which can provide opportunities for early childhood leisure. The modern design template for these facilities focuses upon providing safe structures, as provincial hospitals are reporting an increase in the number of playground injuries (the most common being bone fractures to arms, wrists and elbows).<sup>1</sup> As a result, creative play structures have replaced the traditional steel design and include soft structures and surfaces, creative and cognitive stimuli, and/or barrier free components for children with special needs. While it is inevitable that injuries will occur on playgrounds, regular maintenance, inspections and staff training can help minimize the risk. It is necessary that all new playgrounds be approved to CSA standards and inspected on a regular basis to avoid the incidence of equipment-related injury.

### Assessment of Need

#### *Playground Distribution*

Playgrounds are neighbourhood-level facilities that are best situated in walking distance to nearby residential areas. For this reason, service levels are best determined by geographic distribution rather than a population based target; it is recommended that the City provide a playground within 500-metres (roughly a ten minute walk time) of all built-up residential areas. The service radius should be unobstructed by major barriers such as waterways/ravines, railway lines, highways, etc.

Using the City's current inventory, an analysis of playground distribution in existing urban areas was undertaken to identify geographic gaps (see Map 8 on the following page). Based on this analysis, seven gap areas – all of which are located in established areas within Maple, Woodbridge East and Thornhill – have been identified.


















<sup>1</sup> Canadian Institute for Health Information. News Release – July 18, 2007.

# City of Vaughan

## Current Playground Service Gaps (2008)

Map 8

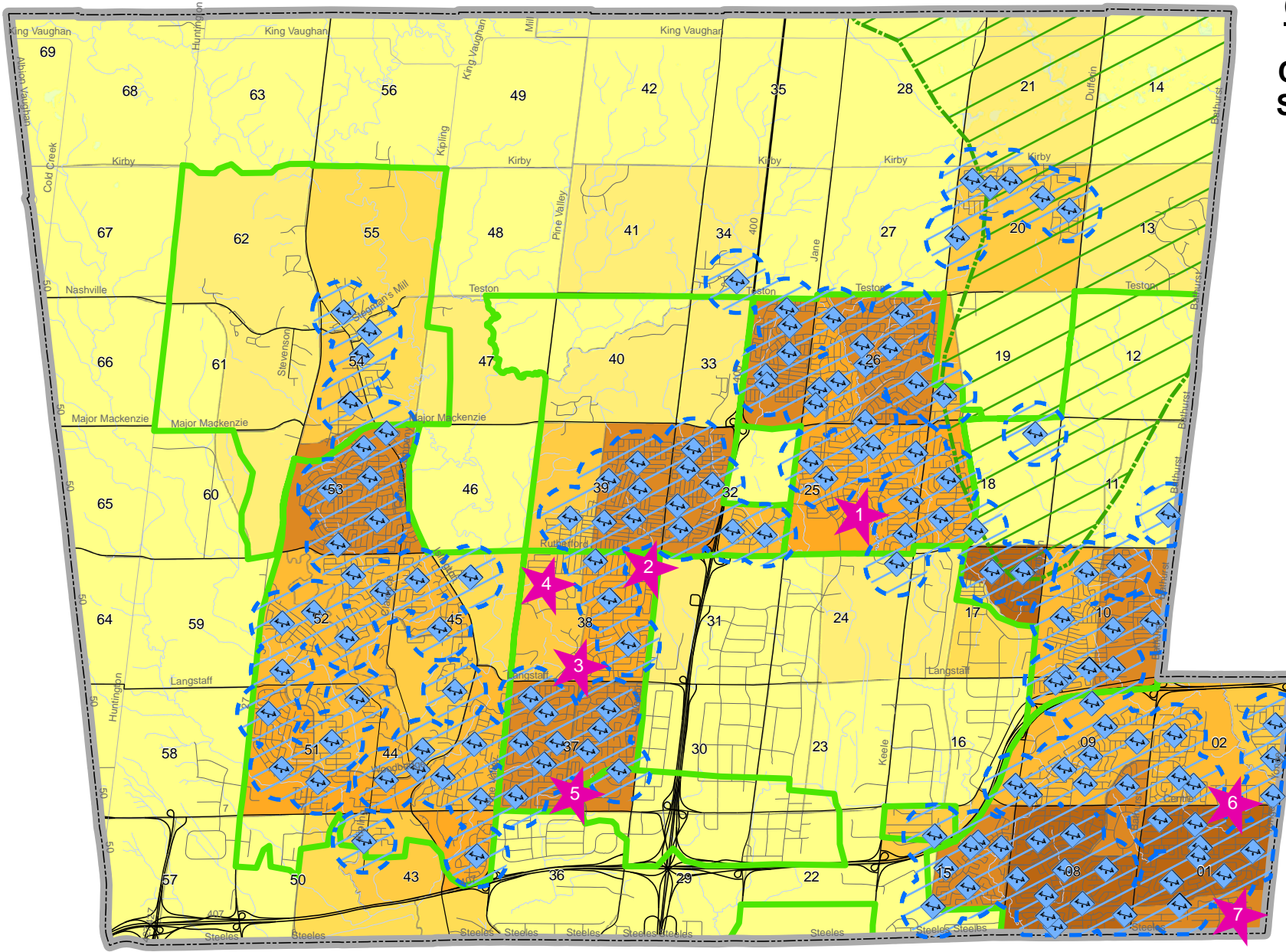
### Legend

-  Playground
  -  Playground Service Gaps
- Population Density (2006) by Traffic Zone Areas**  
Persons per Hectare
-  0.00 - 0.50
  -  0.51 - 2.00
  -  2.01 - 5.00
  -  5.01 - 15.00
  -  15.01 - 25.00
  -  25.01 - 35.00
  -  35.01 - 45.00
  -  45.01 - 60.00
  -  60.01 - 70.00
  -  70.01 - 80.00
  -  80.01 - 90.00
-  Community Planning Areas
  -  Oak Ridges Moraine
  -  City Boundary
  -  # Block Number

### Notes:

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.



Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zones) confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2006 population at 236,896.



Although the lack of opportunities may restrict the City from addressing each of these gaps, efforts should be made to establish municipal play structures in or near each of these areas, as well as within 500-metres of future urban residential development.

**Gap #1 – Maple**

Service gap 1 consists of the residential area located to the north of the Sports Village. Extending west to Greenock Dr. and east to Melville Ave., this area is bisected by a creek/open space area.

**Gap #2 – Woodbridge East**

Service gap 2 consists of the northeast corner of the community of Woodbridge East.

**Gap #3 – Woodbridge East**

Abutting the southeast corner of the National Golf Club, service gap 3 extends south of Langstaff Rd.

**Gap #4 – Woodbridge East**

Located north of the National Golf Club, this gap area extends north to Rutherford Rd. and east to Pine Valley Drive.

**Gap #5 – Woodbridge East**

Service gap 5 is located to the east of the Seven/400 Power Centre.

**Gap #6 – Thornhill**

Service gap 6 is in the vicinity of Oakbank Pond Park, directly south of Thornhill Country Club.

**Gap #7 – Thornhill**

Service gap 7 consists of the southwest corner of the community of Thornhill.

***Barrier-Free Playgrounds***

The provision of barrier-free playground equipment is another emerging trend and one that Vaughan has embraced in many of its more recent park designs, which have included universally accessible components for persons with and without disabilities. Some communities are going as far as to design one or more fully accessible playgrounds (as opposed to limiting it to a few key elements); however, the cost for these facilities can be considerable.

While entire playgrounds need not be accessible, the portion that is inclusive of all users should be reached by a level and firm surface path or walkway. Designs should consider parents and other caregivers with disabilities who are supervising their children. At the present time, there are no set standards for the construction of barrier-free playgrounds; however, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* sets the groundwork for this objective.

## **Action Plans**

- ☑ The City should continue to provide a playground within 500-metres of all residences within urbanized neighbourhoods, unobstructed by major pedestrian impediments such as highways, major arterial roads, railway corridors, waterways, valleys, etc. This goal applies to existing and future residential areas.
- ☑ The City should take appropriate steps to address gaps in playground provision within existing residential neighbourhoods.
- ☑ The City should continue to consider the needs of persons with disabilities when developing and replacing playground equipment.

## **8.10 OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS**

### **Supply**

There are presently no municipally owned or operated off-leash dog parks in the City of Vaughan.

### **Planning Context**

With municipal by-laws regulating the use of leashes, dedicated off-leash areas provide pet owners with the opportunity to exercise and socialize their dogs in a controlled area; these parks also facilitate interaction between pet owners bringing about social and physical activity benefits to residents.

Consultations have suggested that there is some pressure to develop leash free dog parks in Vaughan, in keeping with similar services offered in many other GTA communities and across Ontario. In fact, this topic has been publicly discussed – and City staff have developed criteria for locating off-leash parks – but a decision on a location has yet to be made. 28% of household survey respondents would like investment in a dog park, with 2% rating it as their top priority.

### **Assessment of Need**

As a relatively new level of service, a provision target has not been established for leash-free dog parks. These types of parks are best established by way of opportunity and should ideally be developed only when an affiliated organization is willing to take responsibility for their operation and/or enforcement. As a pilot project to gauge interest, the City should develop one off-leash dog park, preferably in partnership with an interested community organization.

Off-leash parks are best located away from residential areas and schools, usually placed in naturalized areas that are not highly sensitive to ecological disruptions. Safety to people is of paramount consideration and, therefore, off-leash dog areas are generally best suited as dedicated parks rather than zones within parks.

If the recommended pilot project is determined to be effective and successful, the City should continue to look for alternative venues in which additional off-leash dog parks can be accommodated should new demands arise. For a municipality the size of Vaughan, up to 5

additional off-leash parks could be considered over time, with the locations being distributed equitably across the City.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ The City should develop at least one new off-leash dog park as a pilot project to gauge the demand for the facility and the capacity of the community to support it through assistance with certain operational aspects. Additional off-leash areas should be pursued if the pilot project is deemed successful.
- ☑ Advance planning should be undertaken for the development of up to 5 additional off-leash dog parks.

## **8.11 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS**

### **Supply**

The City offers nine (9) artificial outdoor ice rinks and two (2) natural rinks which are produced on flooded outdoor basketball courts in the winter. The artificial surfaces all employ ice refrigeration systems to mitigate the impacts of warmer weather throughout the winter.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Outdoor Rinks</b>	<b>2008 Per Capita Provision Rates</b>	<b>Planned Rinks (2009-14)</b>
Kleinburg	1*	1:4,093	0
Woodbridge	1	1:50,940	0
Woodbridge East	1	1:25,691	0
Vellore Village	1	1:25,108	0
Maple	2	1:24,249	0
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	--	0
Carrville	1	1:29,592	0
Thornhill/Concord	4*	1:16,535	0
Long Term Residential Growth Area	0	--	0
Employment / Rural	0	--	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1:23,578</b>	<b>0</b>

\* includes one natural rink

### **Planning Context**

Historically, Canadians have had an affinity for outdoor skating rinks and there is a substantial demand in the GTA for these facilities. Unfortunately, with warming temperatures observed in recent years, natural outdoor rinks are becoming less effective as they are severely impacted by weather conditions, and considering the limited operating season, they are generally a higher cost service.

Uncertain weather conditions have greatly contributed to the provision of artificial outdoor ice rinks. Although artificial rinks are typically able to operate for a longer season, their costs can be substantially higher than those of natural rinks.

Residents participating in the household survey appeared to be interested in further investments devoted to outdoor ice skating opportunities, ranking ninth overall with 54% seeking additional spending and 4% identifying them as their top priority.

### **Assessment of Need**

The provision of outdoor skating venues is one way to alleviate pressures on arena demand, as it can facilitate public skating and pickup shinny opportunities. With outdoor ice skating opportunities always a popular amenity, the City should continue to explore the provision of such facilities on a park-by-park basis. Artificial rinks are ideally suited at municipal sites containing arena facilities to maximize ice maintenance operations, as well as the fact that they would be located at community and district level parks.

In general, geographic distribution is a better determinant of provision for outdoor skating rinks than is total population because of the unprogrammed and social nature of these facilities. Notwithstanding this, it is recommended that the City ensure the provision of one artificial ice rink in each geographic community that has a population exceeding 15,000. This results in the need for one rink eventually in the Long-Term Residential Growth Area and the Vaughan Corporate Centre. An additional rink could also be justified in Woodbridge given its large population.

Furthermore, Thornhill – with a total of 4 outdoor ice pads (3 artificial, 1 natural) – may be oversupplied in this area. Given that the skating rink at Glen Shields Activity Centre is underutilized and this area is also served by the new outdoor rink at the Dufferin-Clark Community Centre, it could be removed from service with little impact on users. As such, it is recommended that the outdoor ice rink at Glen Shields Activity Centre be removed and possibly replaced with a skate park and/or basketball court.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ To enhance the City's existing supply and distribution of artificial outdoor ice rinks, the City should develop one additional artificial ice surface in Woodbridge and eventually in the Long-Term Residential Growth Area and Vaughan Corporate Centre. The establishment of natural ice rinks could be explored as opportunities arise, but is not recommended as a long-term solution for meeting community needs.
  
- ☑ The outdoor ice rink at Glen Shields Activity Centre should be removed and replaced with a skate park and/or basketball court.



## **SECTION 9: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

### **9.1 OVERVIEW**

The City of Vaughan owns and operates the City Playhouse, which provides a venue for professional and community-based theatre, dance and musical performances from professional and amateur production companies, art exhibitions and multicultural events, as well as offering theatre education and outreach programming.

In addition, there are a number of City-owned heritage buildings, many of which offer opportunities for programming, special events and rentals, including the MacDonald House, Armstrong House, Wallace House and the Vellore Cultural Interpretive Centre. The City also offers dedicated art rooms at the Vellore Village Community Centre and the proposed community centre in Carrville (Block 10).

Also available within the community is the McMichael Art Collection – an agency of the Ministry of Culture that is not affiliated with the City of Vaughan – which showcases 20<sup>th</sup> Century Canadian art and attracts special exhibitions, while also offering family programming.

#### **Municipal Cultural Facility Inventory, City of Vaughan**

<b>Existing Facilities</b>	<b>Municipal Supply</b>	<b>Current Per Capita Provision</b> (2008 pop. = 259,359)	<b>Location / Comments</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Culture</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
Theatre	1		<u>Theatre</u> – City Playhouse
Art Gallery	1*		<u>Art Gallery</u> – McMichael Art Collection (*Private Facility)
			<u>Other</u> – MacDonald House, Armstrong House, Vellore Village Interpretive Centre, Wallace House, plus several non-permitted heritage buildings
			<u>Art rooms</u> also exist at Vellore Village and the proposed new Carrville (Block 10) facility

### **9.2 ARTS & CULTURE POLICIES**

#### **Planning Context**

Consultation with both the general public and at an arts and cultural specific focus group revealed that the public would like to see more opportunities to participate in cultural events and more arts programs.

The emergence of the “Creative City” movement as a way to attract and retain the “Creative Class” has been given much attention in recent years, and municipalities are embracing many concepts associated with the arts. Numerous studies have articulated the wide range of intrinsic and extrinsic benefits that arts, culture and heritage contribute to a community; for example, these sectors encourage social interaction, stimulate creativity and personal thought, contribute to economic development and tourism, facilitate healthy lifestyles and understanding of others, etc.

### **Assessment of Need**

A key to advancing the objectives of the municipality as it pertains to the arts and culture sector is to continue to work with, and assisting to build the capacity of, local arts and cultural groups in order to maximize the facilities and services which presently exist and which may be created in the future. *Vaughan Vision 2020* articulates the importance of this sector and one of the key initiatives of the plan is to “develop a strategy to increase support for and promotion of the arts and culture in the community.” Through the research and consultation undertaken for this Master Plan, there is ample support for the City moving forward with the development of an Arts and Cultural Strategy that: clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the City and its partners; establishes program, service and facility needs and delivery strategies for the arts; and identifies appropriate means for the promotion and marketing of local arts opportunities.

Section 4.2.4.6 of OPA 600 notes that “public art is encouraged”; however, there is very little to support this statement in terms of more specific policies. The City will benefit from strengthening this objective; for example, by encouraging the establishment of public art through the land development process. This would ideally involve the drafting of a Public Art Policy which would contain provisions for public art and mandate contributions for applications falling under Section 37 of the *Planning Act* (increased height or density); this could also involve including a provision in the Official Plan to devote 1% of the cost for proposed major development towards public art. The Public Art Policy should also be supported by other funding mechanisms including (but not limited to) the creation of a public art reserve, a framework for soliciting resources from community-based partners, etc.

At the time of the next Official Plan revision, the City should look for ways to strengthen Section 4.2.4.6, Section 4.2.6, and other appropriate parts of the Plan to further recognize the great importance of arts, culture and heritage in local land use and community development matters. Where applicable, references specific to arts and culture should be incorporated elsewhere in the Official Plan as well.

The City may also wish consider establishing a funding strategy targeted to investment in the creative industries to maintain and expand the cultural infrastructure through initiatives such as developing arts and cultural programs, supporting community organizations, ongoing acquisition of cultural assets, provision and maintenance of public art, etc. Such an initiative would certainly be of great benefit in developing and expanding the creative infrastructure of Vaughan.

### **Action Plans**

- As identified in *Vaughan Vision 2020*, the City should develop an Arts and Cultural Strategy to increase support for and promotion of the arts and culture in the community.
- Through its Official Plan review, the City should look for ways to strengthen its land use and development policies and guidelines as they relate to arts, culture and heritage, including considerations such as public art requirements.

### 9.3 MULTI-PURPOSE ARTS & CULTURAL SPACE

#### **Planning Context**

Public consultation identified satisfaction with many of the City's efforts at bringing Vaughan together, with programs such as Communities in Bloom and WinterLights being noted as huge successes.

Others wanted to see an outdoor space created that would allow a significant number of residents to gather and celebrate festivals or cultural activities on a city-wide basis (as opposed to the community level).

Stakeholders, in general, appear to be pleased with existing municipal arts spaces such as the McMichael Art Collection, MacDonald House and Wallace House. Stakeholders were also generally pleased with the City Playhouse, the only municipally-owned theatre in Vaughan, although some believe that this facility could offer much more than it currently does if a larger facility was provided (e.g., there have been many requests for art shows). Satisfaction was also evident when discussing special events such as International Youth Year, etc. Discussions with certain stakeholders, however, indicate that there may be a need for an art gallery, museum or cultural centre. It was also felt that Vaughan needs a distinct cultural hub.

Somewhat contrary to the input mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the household survey found limited support for investment in museums and art galleries as compared to other facilities. 39% of respondents indicated that galleries, museums and theatres were important to them (28% stated they were unimportant), ranking last among other items such as parks and trails, recreation and library facilities, etc. It is interesting to note, however, that nearly half of respondents (49%) supported additional investment in theatres, ranking it near the middle among other desired facilities.

#### **Assessment of Need**

##### *Existing Arts & Cultural Spaces*

There are presently two art rooms located at the Vellore Village Community Centre and the future Carrville community centre (Block 10) will also incorporate an art room. The Vellore Village Community Centre also has an additional three arts rooms under the responsibility of the school board (at the attached school), through which the public has limited access to.

The City of Vaughan has also launched an "Art Exhibition + Studio Space Rental Program", which is a 3-year pilot initiative developed to provide artists, cultural and heritage groups with access to a number of City-owned heritage buildings and their surrounding grounds for self-generated cultural programs and activities. The program requires rental commitments ranging from 6 to 13 days. Three sites are available under this program, including the MacDonald House (6 small program rooms), the Armstrong House (2 small program rooms and one studio), and the Vellore Cultural Interpretive Centre (2 program rooms).

Based on the synergies created and efficiencies realized by multi-purpose facilities, the City should strongly consider providing space for arts and cultural exhibitions in public spaces (e.g. Civic Centre, community centres, etc.). Although the "Art Exhibition + Studio Space Rental Program" presents excellent rental opportunities for local artists and groups, it is not intended for introductory-level, community-based arts programming in the same way as the art rooms in community centres. With a limited amount of dedicated arts-based rooms for

consistent programming (e.g. painting, dance, music, pottery, drama, etc.), the City should look to increase the amount and distribution of such spaces. Meeting spaces intended for a range of arts-based programming should be sufficiently sized and provide ample storage and clean-up facilities (e.g. sinks).

The privately-operated McMichael Art Collection in Kleinburg is one of the most notable cultural facilities in Vaughan and serves as an important resource for the visual arts sector. The facility is situated on 100 acres of woodlot with heritage trails and it appears to be highly accessible to the public and responsive with its collection. This organization currently engages the community and art-based partners maximizing resources and jointly developing capacity in the arts sector (e.g., through initiatives such as the “Partners in Art” with the Haliburton School of the Arts).

### *Performing Arts Facilities*

Although the 381-seat City Playhouse appears to be well utilized and meeting the needs of the general population, the City can expect its already strong arts and cultural base to grow (as mentioned, there are already demands for new arts and cultural facilities).

The market for higher-order performing arts centres is regional in nature – this is significant given that the adjacent Town of Richmond Hill will be opening a state-of-the-art Centre for the Performing Arts later in 2008. The Richmond Hill facility will be the largest cultural facility of its kind in York Region (43,000 square foot), containing a 631-seat auditorium, 150-seat rehearsal hall, and several multi-purpose rooms. Given the likely impact this new facility will have on the regional performing arts market, it is likely that any latent demand for a facility of this nature in Vaughan will be addressed.

### *New Multi-Purpose Spaces*

The diverse range of arts and cultural organizations in Vaughan create many facility-specific demands, ranging from simple gathering places to exhibition halls to studio space to more sophisticated performance theatres. Given that the arts are an “experience”, sensory components (e.g., audio-visual, multimedia, etc.) are generally required in venues designated for creative activity; for example, musical organizations may require rooms that are designed to enhance acoustics while artistic groups may require spaces equipped with sinks and work benches.

To meet the demand for a range of interests, the provision of flexible, multi-use spaces is key to accommodating the arts and culture sector. The design of new meeting/gathering spaces should be flexible enough, where feasible, to allow an appropriate range of arts and cultural activities to take place within their confines; this particularly applies to the new multi-use community centres that are recommended through this Master Plan.

The City should continue to develop civic spaces that encourage social gatherings that are able to accommodate special events and are supported by the necessary infrastructure to do so. The demand and support for community events was apparent throughout the consultation process and residents value the special events and gatherings delivered by the municipality. On a smaller-scale, public gathering features (e.g., seating areas, gazebos, small amphitheatres/stages, etc.) should be incorporated into selected park designs, particularly those in higher density areas with a mixture of cultures and ethnicities. These parks would then be able to host gatherings and events which could foster neighbourhood

interaction between surrounding residents and assist in developing a sense of community. On a larger scale, these spaces could include outdoor performance venues or fairground-type spaces which are able to host larger crowds.

Outdoor civic spaces (particularly gardens and horticultural displays) could also form important parts of a nature-based tourism infrastructure, whereby residents and non-residents alike are drawn to destinations offering opportunities family leisure or personal reflection and enjoyment (e.g., the MacMillan Property). It will be important to continue to work with community-based resources such as Communities in Bloom, BIAs, and the like and provide them with adequate support so that they are able to maintain their operating and outreach efforts, thereby reducing dependency upon the City with regard to the operational aspects of community beautification and cultural programming.

Section 4.2.5 of OPA 600 encourages City-wide arts spaces to be located in Vaughan Centre, a policy which remains plausible given the areas urban characteristics, density and ease of access (by way of Highway 400 and/or Highway 407). It is recommended that the City continue to encourage the development of this area as a hub for creative and cultural activities.

### **Action Plans**

- ☑ Continue to work with the arts and cultural community to optimize the utilization of existing meeting/gathering spaces for their potential to accommodate the needs of these groups.
- ☑ Ensure that all new community centres and renovations to existing community centres have sufficient space for arts programming. Consideration should be given to accommodating local introductory-level arts and cultural needs through these spaces and flexible design for a range of programming (e.g., dance, music, painting, pottery, etc.).
- ☑ Ensure that the new Civic Centre or one of the new community centres has sufficient outdoor space to be a true City-wide gathering location for major cultural and civic events.
- ☑ The City should encourage the display of local arts and cultural exhibitions in indoor public spaces, including all existing and future community centres and libraries. The City should also review the potential for public gallery space in the new Civic Centre.
- ☑ Encourage arts-based components through outdoor facility design to allow casual and programmable opportunities at civic spaces and public parks.
- ☑ The City should continue to encourage the development of Vaughan Corporate Centre as a hub for creative and cultural activities.

## 9.4 HERITAGE BUILDINGS

### Planning Context

The City owns a number of heritage-designated buildings, including the following:

- Armstrong House
- Arnold House
- Charlton House
- Cranny House
- Kleinburg Railway Station
- Kline House
- MacDonald House
- Maple Cemetery Vault
- Noble House (Beaverbrook Activity Centre)
- Vellore School & Township Hall
- Wallace House
- Woodbridge Memorial Park & Tower

Many of these heritage buildings and their surrounding grounds are available for rental or offer some level of community programming and events. Stakeholder input suggests that there is interest in the City – in partnership with Heritage Vaughan – continuing its practice of protecting heritage structures, as well as promoting arts and heritage-based opportunities, particularly for youth.

Section 4.2.6 of OPA 600 devotes an entire section to the protection of cultural heritage resources, which are plentiful in the City. Heritage resources are particularly significant because they contribute to a sense of community and provide continuity between the past and the present. The *Ontario Heritage Act* gives the City the authority to protect buildings of historical or architectural significance (through Heritage Vaughan). Heritage designations can help to preserve the essence of an area, increase the intrinsic and/or monetary value of a property, and protect examples of historic architectural styles. Designations can assist in recognizing and enforcing the cultural value of, and community appreciation for, heritage properties while providing protection against inappropriate treatment.

### Assessment of Need

Where possible, the City should attempt to incorporate appropriate heritage elements into the design of indoor and outdoor public spaces in order help define a sense of history and place. Incorporation of heritage assets through municipal spaces also fosters a greater appreciation through understanding among residents, particularly those who are new to Vaughan, and may even ultimately negate any need to construct and operate a museum-type facility in the future.

As mentioned earlier, the City’s “Art Exhibition + Studio Space Rental Program” applies to three of the area’s heritage-designated buildings and has been launched as a 3-year pilot project. The City should continue to monitor the success of this program and make necessary adjustments upon its completion, including the possibility of extending it to other appropriate sites if it ultimately provides successful.

### Action Plans

- As identified in *Vaughan Vision 2020*, the City should complete a strategy for utilization of City-owned historical houses by the community.
- Opportunities to link heritage buildings to the City’s trail system should be supported in order to improve access to and awareness of these sites.

## **SECTION 10: LIBRARY FACILITIES ASSESSMENT**

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### **10.1 OVERVIEW**

This section contains an analysis of public library space needs, as well as timely and strategic facility provision and distribution strategy for the expansion of the Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) system to the year 2031 (build-out). In order to establish direction for an effective and efficient future building programme, this section evaluates a number of factors including population growth and trends, public and staff input, geographic distribution, and space standards.

Although this assessment of current and anticipated future needs is partly based on the findings of previous studies, it has also been prepared within the broader context provided by other components of this Master Plan. Efforts have been made to ensure that future plans are appropriate and strategic in nature, representing facility provision that is responsive to the needs of existing and new residents. As such, there has been a need to update various data sources (e.g., growth forecasts) and to assess this new information in the context of past recommendations. It is expected that this facilities plan will be under regular review, as changes occur in the City and population forecasts are revised.

### **10.2 CURRENT SITUATION**

Vaughan Public Libraries has enjoyed a rich history of successful programs, services, and collections, all of which have garnered high ratings from local residents. The VPL is a valued service provider and continues to be a leader in meeting the changing needs of an ever-growing community. Their Mission Statement is as follows:

*Vaughan Public Libraries contribute to the success of our growing diverse community; serving its information, learning, leisure and cultural needs in a welcoming and safe environment.*

Throughout the public consultation process, the Vaughan Public Libraries were praised for the quality of their programs, facilities, and staff. The one area of improvement that was raised on several occasions, however, was that residents would like to see a stronger link between libraries, community centres, schools, and the various cultural/ethnic communities in Vaughan.

At present, VPL has seven library service locations totalling 120,603 square feet in size. Two of these facilities are resource libraries (with an average size of 34,750 square feet and are intended to serve the entire City), while the average size of the other five community-based branches is 10,220 square feet. Three of the branches are attached municipal community centres. The most recent branch to be constructed was the Pierre Berton Resource Library in 2004. An “E-Library” system is also available through the Internet.

**Inventory of Vaughan Public Libraries**

<b>Library Facility</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Location/ Association</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Year Built</b>	<b>Facility Size (sf)</b>	<b>Items in Collection</b>
<b>Ansley Grove</b>	Woodbridge East	Chancellor CC	Community	1990	10,487	57,787
<b>Bathurst Clark</b>	Thornhill	Stand-alone building	Resource Library	1994	36,500	153,831
<b>Dufferin Clark</b>	Thornhill	Dufferin Clark CC	Community	1988	12,516	62,382
<b>Kleinburg</b>	Kleinburg	Stand-alone building	Neighbour- hood	1966/75	5,500	27,343
<b>Maple</b>	Maple	Maple CC	Community	1991	13,000	72,268
<b>Pierre Berton</b>	Woodbridge	Stand-alone building	Resource Library	2004	33,000	106,813
<b>Woodbridge</b>	Woodbridge	Stand-alone building	Community	1981	9,600	47,400

Source: Vaughan Public Libraries, 2007

The VPL has regularly examined its facility needs as witnessed through recent studies, most notably “Development for Library Facilities 2003-2012” and “Guidelines for the Development of Library Facilities (2004)”, both of which fed into the City’s 2003 Development Charges Background Study. These studies provided direction for the development of three capital projects that have not been undertaken:

- Construction of a 15,000 square foot community branch in 2007 to serve the Vellore Village area. This was not constructed; however, much of the area is served by the nearby Pierre Berton Resource Library built in 2004.
- Construction of a 12,000 square foot community branch in 2011 to serve the Corporate Centre area. This project remains on the VPL’s long-term capital projects list.
- Construction of a 36,000 square foot resource branch in 2011 in the northeast. Although the proposed Resource Library (Vaughan Civic Centre Campus) in the northeast, will only be approximately 1 kilometre away from the Maple community branch, the VPL anticipates that the Maple Library will remain open due to differentiation in the role and offerings of the two facilities.

Two of the roles of this Master Plan are to: (1) evaluate and refine previous capital proposals; and (2) to define a preferred library facility provision strategy. These assessments will be based on a comprehensive analysis of library, as well as parks, recreation, and cultural infrastructure needs to the City’s ultimate build-out.

Data presented in this plan suggests that there is merit in reassessing the VPL’s current facility provision strategy, particularly due to the rate of growth the City is experiencing. For example, Vaughan grew by 31% between 2001 and 2006 – this appears to be higher than the rate that was projected in the VPL’s most recent facility studies. Furthermore, the City’s ultimate build-out population is presently being forecasted to be 433,000 – this is significantly greater than earlier forecasts, partly as a result of new provincial planning legislation which will lead to greater densities in the urbanized communities of the Greater Toronto Area. As a result, more people will require access to library services and thus, will require more library space and resources than previously anticipated. Growth patterns will also lead to higher population



densities, which could create new challenges for the planning, design and development of future library facilities and also place additional pressure on existing libraries. Keeping pace with the City's dramatic growth must continue to be a key priority for the VPL.

It also bears noting that the historic service level of 0.61 square feet per capita identified in the City's 2003 Development Charges Background Study (a legislated by-law that allows the City to collect up to 90% of the cost to build library space for new residents) is expected to decrease when the next By-law is prepared. This is because the historic service level is based on a blend of facility provision over the past 5 and 10-year periods. Over the past ten years, the VPL has added 33,000 square feet of new public library space; this roughly equates to 0.31sf of additional space for new residents, although the rate of provision has been significantly higher over the past five years with the construction of the Pierre Berton Resource Library. Since the VPL provided less than 0.61 square feet of space for new residents over these periods, they will not be able to secure the same level of funding from new growth. To maintain the same ratio of provision, a greater percentage of funding would have to come from alternate sources (e.g., municipal tax base) – **Development Charges alone will not be sufficient to maintain current service levels of the Vaughan Public Libraries.**

### 10.3 LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

The average size of a branch library is increasing. In Canada, a district or area library now generally ranges from 12,000 to 28,000 square feet (in Vaughan, the current range for a community library is 10,000 to 15,000 square feet). In the United States new branches tend to be in the 20,000 to 30,000 square foot range. Some recent examples in Ontario include the Oakville Public Library (which is planning two branches in the 17,500 to 20,000 square foot range), the Waterloo Public Library (which is planning a 21,000 square foot branch), and the Mississauga Public Library (which has built their most recent branches in the range of 15,000 to 29,000 square feet).

Total floor space of Ontario Public Libraries increased by 200% from 1990 to 1999 according to the Southern Ontario Library Service (*Ontario Public Libraries Today*, 2005). The study indicates that the demand for more computer workstations and larger group study areas are two major reasons why public library floor space has increased in recent years. Additional space dedicated to children and teens, art exhibits, comfortable reading areas with cafés, flexible programming space for community activities, wide aisle ways, and accessible book stacks to accommodate individuals with physical disabilities are some of the other factors that have contributed to an overall increase in library floor space. Because these features are highly desirable amongst modern library users, it is most likely that public libraries will strive to continue offering them. As a result, the demand for more public library floor space is not expected to decrease in the near future. In fact, there is every indication that larger libraries are here to stay.

Due to a number of factors – not the least of which include rising operating costs, the influence of new technologies, and the popularity of super bookstores – several trends in library facility development have recently become apparent. These include:

- closing smaller neighbourhood branches, although it bears noting that this may not always be a locally acceptable strategy; for example, the Vaughan household survey found that 47% of respondents indicated a preference for a smaller library that is close to their home, while 38% stated a preference for a larger library that is further from their home;
- merging two or more existing library facilities into one larger facility;
- combining branch libraries with non-library facilities, such as community centres;
- exploration of options to serve a continually time-pressed population (such as commuters), who value convenience in accessing popular materials; in some cases, this may mean moving toward a different service model that offers new and creative solutions;
- re-orienting libraries as “community gathering places” that not only provide traditional library services, but also act as a venue for social interaction (e.g., provision of multi-purpose space, collaborative work areas, comfortable reading areas, etc.);
- designing libraries to meet the unique needs of their community – “cookie-cutter” service delivery, collections, and even facility designs are being eschewed in favour of approaches that are more responsive to local priorities (e.g., children’s collections, business resources, multi-lingual materials, research and reference services, etc.).

In designing an appropriate facility provision strategy for Vaughan Public Libraries, it will be important to consider the application of these trends and best practices.

## 10.4 SPACE STANDARDS

Demographic characteristics and population forecasts are a significant influence on the usage of – and requirements for – library space and services.

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, the Vaughan Public Libraries will require a building programme involving the creation of new library buildings – as well as the expansion of library services within existing but intensifying communities – that will be spread over the next twenty years and possibly beyond.

For the purposes of library comparisons, a benchmarking exercise was undertaken based on data compiled in the “Canadian Public Library Statistics 2006” by the Canadian Association of Large Urban Public Libraries. This exercise is intended to provide a simple comparison of the Vaughan Public Libraries with select library systems across the Province. The benchmarking communities were chosen largely because they are located in the Greater Toronto Area and/or serve population levels that are similar to those that Vaughan will be experiencing in the coming years.

**2006 Canadian Public Library Statistics – Square Footage per Capita**

<b>Library System</b>	<b>Reported Population</b>	<b>Total Square Footage</b>	<b>Square Feet per Capita</b>
Mississauga Library System	699,700	396,594	<b>0.57</b>
Hamilton Public Library	504,559	312,263	<b>0.62</b>
Brampton Library	436,000	125,375	<b>0.29</b>
London Public Library	355,900	332,455	<b>0.93</b>
Markham Public Libraries	277,797	109,102	<b>0.39</b>
Kitchener Public Library	231,305	126,440	<b>0.55</b>
Windsor Public Library	224,000	156,673	<b>0.70</b>
Richmond Hill Public Library	177,600	87,200	<b>0.49</b>
Oakville Public Library	161,500	91,946	<b>0.57</b>
Oshawa Public Library	155,000	92,700	<b>0.60</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>322,336</b>	<b>183,075</b>	<b>0.57</b>
<b>Vaughan (2006)</b>	<b>238,866</b>	<b>120,603</b>	<b>0.50</b>

Source: 2006 Canadian Public Library Statistics, Canadian Association of Large Urban Public Libraries.

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

The above table indicates that the average per capita library space provision for the benchmarked communities was 0.57 square feet in 2006. At this time, Vaughan was providing approximately 0.50 square feet per capita, slightly lower than all of the other library systems listed. At present (2008), with an estimated population of 259,359, VPL is providing 0.47 square feet of space per capita.

Based on the most recent ten-year average, the City's 2003 Development Charges By-law uses the quantitative standard of 0.61 square feet of library space per capita in order to determine the quantum of the development charge. Although this level could change when the City passes its next Development Charges By-law, it is very similar to the general industry guideline of 0.60 square feet of library space per capita has existed for some time. **A standard of 0.61 square feet per capita is relevant as a planning target for the Vaughan Public Libraries and will be used to project future space needs in this Master Plan.** If additional library space is not constructed the service level will continue to fall. As mentioned earlier, Development Charges will not be sufficient to maintain the recommended service standard for VPL facilities; alternate sources of funding will be required.

While library facility standards are useful – particularly for growing municipalities that are still able to make use of development charges to fund library construction – a more precise calculation of library space needs based on an examination of proposed functions, fixture requirements, collection size, etc. is recommended when designing or expanding each library branch. Furthermore, while the emphasis is on population, other socio-demographic variables which are known to influence library provision (including ethnicity, education levels, and income) should also be accounted for when designing each new or expanded branch. Nevertheless, the application of standards remains a reasonable methodology for projecting needs at the "master planning level" and for initial planning and budgeting purposes.

## 10.5 PROJECTED LIBRARY SPACE NEEDS

The following table provides the space requirements for library provision based on the population projections and the 0.61 sf/capita standard being employed by this Master Plan.

### VPL Space Requirements (2008-2031)

Year	Population*	Space Requirements (0.61 sf per capita)	Deficit (sf) (based on current supply of 120,603sf)
2008	259,359	158,209	37,606
2011	290,101	176,962	56,359
2016	329,445	200,961	80,358
2021	368,115	224,550	103,947
2026	401,293	244,789	124,186
2031	433,046	264,158	143,555

Population growth will continue to place increasing demands on library services and space requirements. Even if the planned library building project (Civic Centre Resource Library) and a branch in either Carrville or the Corporate Centre are undertaken by 2011, this will still not be enough to meet needs during this timeframe and there will be a need for an additional 95,500 square feet by 2031. The deficiencies identified in both Carrville and Vellore Village need to be addressed within the short-term.

## 10.6 SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Since the 1980s, the Vaughan Public Libraries has endorsed a three-tier decentralized facility classification model consisting of resource libraries, community libraries, and neighbourhood libraries. The following table illustrates the differences between the three typologies.

### Vaughan Public Libraries: Current Facility Classification Model

Targets	Resource Libraries	Community Libraries	Neighbourhood Libraries
Population served	100,000	30,000	10,000
Catchment	2.4 to 4.8 km	2.4 km	1.6 km
Floor Space	30,000 to 50,000 sf	10,000 to 15,000 sf	6,000 sf
Collection size (items)	125,000 to 150,000	75,000 to 80,000	26,000 to 30,000
Collection Type	Comprehensive	Intermediate	Basic
Hours of Operation per week	60 to 66	30 to 60	25 to 35
Program/meeting room space	85 people	65 people	35 people
Parking Spaces	75 to 100	30 to 50	15 to 25

Source: Vaughan Public Libraries, Guidelines for the Development of Library Facilities (2004)

With the dramatic growth of the City's population (and its library system) and the establishment of distinct communities with unique profiles – combined with the changing role of library facilities, technological advancements, and changes in residents' expectations and the way in which they access resources – the VPL's service delivery model requires updating.

Vaughan Public Libraries has recognized the need to re-orient its service delivery model to better reflect current realities and future service approaches and are currently in the process of developing a new model.

One option – pertinent to the VPL’s developing of a new service delivery model – that arose during the master planning process was the provision of bookmobiles. Bookmobiles are not recommended as long-term solutions for meeting broad community needs. They do not provide the level of service expected by residents (both in terms of collections, services, and hours) and can be expensive to purchase and operate.

Suggestions were also received to explore partnership options with schools. It bears noting that the financial position of schools is becoming increasingly constrained; across the province, many school boards have been forced to cut their own library budgets in recent years. Aside from a lack of funding, the experience in many communities (Oakville is one of many good examples) is that combining municipal libraries with school libraries creates severe challenges with regard to public access, collection policies, staffing, etc., to the point that public usage is reduced dramatically. Facility partnerships involving shared school and municipal library space are not recommended.

## 10.7 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LIBRARIES

Space allocation and distribution within each plan area is essential to this evaluation as there is an expectation that libraries be geographically accessible to all Vaughan residents, to the greatest degree possible.

Geographic accessibility to public library facilities is an important consideration. As identified in the VPL’s previous planning documents, community libraries should generally be located within 2.4 kilometres of all urban residential areas and a preference for them to be within or adjacent to other civic uses, such as community centres. In Vaughan, the VPL’s existing service model suggests that the service radius for resource libraries is 2.4 to 4.8 kilometres.

Existing library locations (as well as the facility proposed for the Civic Centre campus) have been mapped (see Map 9 on the next page) to show their current distribution; however, the VPL’s service radii have not been used as they no longer properly reflect geographic characteristics and resident expectations in Vaughan.

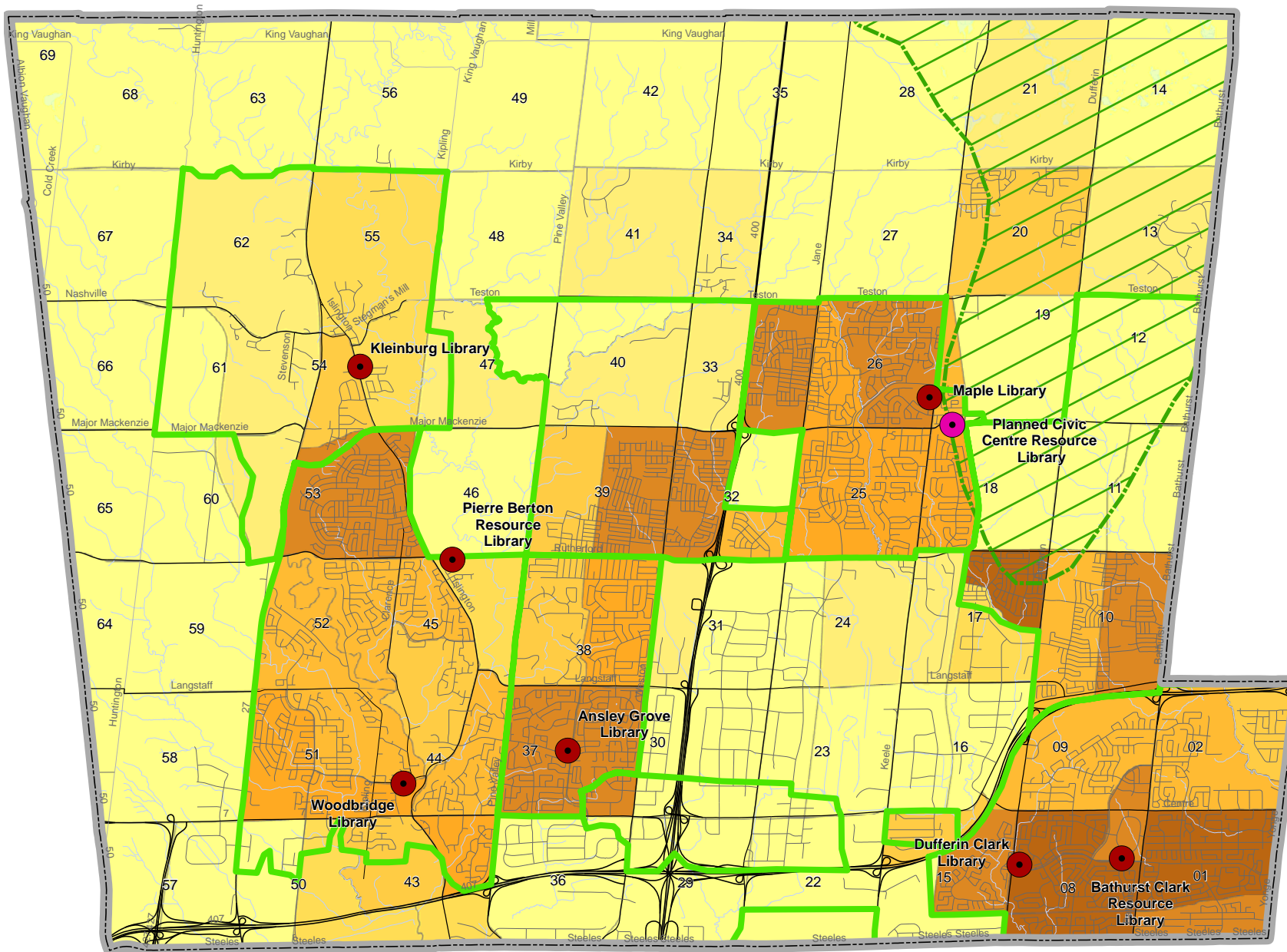
The mapping suggests that small geographic gaps currently exist in Carrville, Vellore Village, and Kleinburg. Furthermore, the future development areas of Vaughan Corporate Centre, Steeles (Jane to Keele), and the Long-term Residential Growth Area are virtually void of library coverage, suggesting that these areas will require improved access once their populations reach appropriate levels. The majority of employment/rural lands are not served by library facilities; this approach remains appropriate and should continue.

As the mapping cannot adequately illustrate the number of people served by libraries in each community, a more detailed assessment is required. The table on the following page identifies the existing and forecasted populations for each planning community, along with the current amount of library space provided within their boundaries. The recommended provision standard of 0.61 square feet per capita has then been applied to the year 2031 to identify provision targets for each community. Because this standard is not intended to be strictly applied to individual planning areas as the service area for libraries often cross community boundaries, these targets are not to be taken literally, but rather provide an indication of general areas where additional facility investment will be required.

# City of Vaughan

## Library Distribution (Existing)

Map 9



### Legend

- Library
  - Planned Library
- Population Density (2006) by Traffic Zone**  
Persons per Hectare
- |               |
|---------------|
| 0.00 - 0.50   |
| 0.51 - 2.00   |
| 2.01 - 5.00   |
| 5.01 - 15.00  |
| 15.01 - 25.00 |
| 25.01 - 35.00 |
| 35.01 - 45.00 |
| 45.01 - 60.00 |
| 60.01 - 70.00 |
| 70.01 - 80.00 |
| 80.01 - 90.00 |
- Community Planning Areas
  - Oak Ridges Moraine
  - City Boundary
  - # Block Number

### Notes:

The population densities contained within this map are based on updated traffic zone forecasts provided by Regional planning staff in 2007; these are the most current forecasts available at the time of printing. The forecasts include additional growth above and beyond what is contained in the Region's and City's current Official Plans; in some cases, this growth is outside currently designated urban boundaries. Growth that is outside the designated urban boundary may or may not be realized, is estimated based on location, transportation, servicing and environmental factors, and does not necessarily reflect the potential capacity. Also of note, proposed planning approvals and development applications in 2008 in the Nashville-Kleinburg area could add approximately 11,000 additional future residents, and are not reflected in the Region's forecast. **Final determination of these forecasts and growth boundaries is subject to ongoing Regional and City growth management processes.**

All lands outside of the defined community planning areas is considered employment, rural, or long-term residential growth boundaries.

Source: York Region Planning Department, March 16, 2007 (40% Scenario Population Forecasts by Traffic Zone), confirmed by Vaughan Planning Department with projected 2006 population at 238,986.



**Projected Library Space Needs by Community (2008 – 2031), based on standard of 0.61 square feet per capita**

Planning Area	Existing Space	2008			2011			2016		
		Pop.	Needs (sf)	Diff. (sf)	Pop.	Needs (sf)	Diff. (sf)	Pop.	Needs (sf)	Diff. (sf)
Kleinburg	5,500	4,093	2,497	3,003	5,211	3,179	2,321	7,168	4,372	1,128
Woodbridge	42,600	50,940	31,073	11,527	52,780	32,196	10,404	52,185	31,833	10,767
Woodbridge East	10,487	25,691	15,672	-5,185	25,776	15,723	-5,236	25,329	15,451	-4,964
Vellore Village	0	25,108	15,316	-15,316	31,583	19,266	-19,266	39,340	23,997	-23,997
Maple	13,000	48,497	29,583	-16,583	49,694	30,313	-17,313	49,712	30,324	-17,324
Vaughan Corporate Centre	0	972	593	-593	2,386	1,455	-1,455	5,167	3,152	-3,152
Steeles – Jane to Keele	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,296	1,401	-1,401
Carville	0	29,592	18,051	-18,051	43,565	26,575	-26,575	58,955	35,963	-35,963
Thornhill/Concord	49,016	66,138	40,344	8,672	69,750	42,548	6,469	73,814	45,027	3,989
<b>URBAN AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>120,603</b>	<b>251,031</b>	<b>153,129</b>	<b>-32,526</b>	<b>280,745</b>	<b>171,254</b>	<b>-50,651</b>	<b>313,968</b>	<b>191,519</b>	<b>-70,916</b>
Long-Term Residential Growth Area	0	4,545	2,772	-2,772	5,559	3,391	-3,391	11,260	6,869	-6,869
Employment/Rural Area	0	3,783	2,308	-2,308	3,796	2,316	-2,316	4,216	2,572	-2,572
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>120,603</b>	<b>259,359</b>	<b>158,209</b>	<b>-37,606</b>	<b>290,101</b>	<b>176,961</b>	<b>-56,358</b>	<b>329,445</b>	<b>200,960</b>	<b>-80,357</b>

Planning Area	2021			2026			2031		
	Pop.	Needs (sf)	Diff. (sf)	Pop.	Needs (sf)	Diff. (sf)	Pop.	Needs (sf)	Diff. (sf)
Kleinburg	7,060	4,307	1,193	6,977	4,256	1,244	6,919	4,221	1,279
Woodbridge	51,696	31,535	11,065	51,084	31,161	11,439	50,659	30,902	11,698
Woodbridge East	24,947	15,218	-4,731	24,652	15,038	-4,551	24,771	15,110	-4,623
Vellore Village	40,561	24,742	-24,742	40,081	24,449	-24,449	39,932	24,359	-24,359
Maple	49,686	30,308	-17,308	49,098	29,950	-16,950	48,690	29,701	-16,701
Vaughan Corporate Centre	8,711	5,314	-5,314	12,901	7,870	-7,870	16,227	9,898	-9,898
Steeles – Jane to Keele	4,444	2,711	-2,711	6,960	4,246	-4,246	13,123	8,005	-8,005
Carville	60,992	37,205	-37,205	61,699	37,636	-37,636	61,624	37,591	-37,591
Thornhill/Concord	77,497	47,273	1,743	82,843	50,534	-1,518	89,085	54,342	-5,326
<b>URBAN AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>325,595</b>	<b>198,612</b>	<b>-78,009</b>	<b>336,294</b>	<b>205,140</b>	<b>-84,537</b>	<b>351,029</b>	<b>214,128</b>	<b>-93,525</b>
Long-Term Residential Growth Area	37,986	23,171	-23,171	60,365	36,823	-36,823	77,217	47,102	-47,102
Employment/Rural Area	4,534	2,766	-2,766	4,634	2,827	-2,827	4,800	2,928	-2,928
<b>VAUGHAN TOTAL</b>	<b>368,115</b>	<b>224,550</b>	<b>-103,947</b>	<b>401,293</b>	<b>244,789</b>	<b>-124,186</b>	<b>433,046</b>	<b>264,159</b>	<b>-143,556</b>

Based on current population estimates (see Section 3), the previous table illustrates that the library space shortfalls are currently the greatest in Carrville, Maple and Vellore Village (each of which are underserved by over 15,000sf, which is generally equivalent to one modern community-level library branch). With the pending development of a resource library in Maple, the long-term needs of this area will be fully addressed. The gaps in Carrville and Vellore Village, however, will continue to grow over time (to 37,600sf and 24,400sf, respectively), unless population growth is accompanied by facility development. Furthermore, by 2031 (build-out), the Long-term Residential Growth Area will be the most deficient (47,100sf) and the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles areas will be approaching a population threshold where library buildings could be contemplated, particularly given the densities that are forecasted.

In assessing the current supplies in Woodbridge and Kleinburg against forecasted population growth, it appears that these areas are presently well served and will continue to be for the duration of the planning period. With regard to the Kleinburg Library, although it is currently the smallest and oldest of the VPL's facilities, it is adequately sized for the needs of the community and – when combined with the restrictions of the existing site – expansion of this facility is not recommended (despite being contemplated in the past).

## **10.8 RECOMMENDED LIBRARY SPACE PROVISION STRATEGY**

Based on a projected population of 433,000 residents in 2031, the VPL will require a total of 264,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of library space. This is approximately 143,500 ft<sup>2</sup> more than what is currently provided and represents more than a doubling of the existing supply. Unlike in the past when Development Charges were used to fund up to 90% of library facility development, the City's declining service levels will cause this funding level to drop as well, meaning that alternate sources of funding (e.g., municipal taxes) will be required to maintain the recommended facility provision strategy, at least in the short-term until the service level stabilizes.

The average age of the City's library facilities is 20 years and the majority of its building stock is in good to excellent condition. While it is possible that one or more facilities may require redevelopment by 2031, no information has been presented to suggest that this is imminent. The VPL should endeavour to establish a strategy for facility renewal as the needs for this become more evident. Furthermore, 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.

From a high-level planning perspective, it has been identified that the Carrville, Long-term Residential Growth Area, and Vellore Village areas will experience the greatest deficits of library space if left unchecked. While part of the Carrville will be served by the resource library to be developed at the Civic Centre campus, additional space will be required. Furthermore, over the long-term, the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles areas would be a good candidate for a fourth resource library given their increasing population levels, densities, and proximity to transportation corridors and post-secondary institutions. A provision level on one resource/comprehensive library per 100,000 residents remains an appropriate target.



Furthermore, it is important to note that this Master Plan is recommending the development of four community centres (not including the one currently proposed in Block 10), with general location and timing as follows:

- Carrville (Block 11) between 2012 and 2014;
- Vellore Village (Block 40/41/42) between 2013 and 2015;
- Vaughan Corporate Centre (also serving the Steeles area) between 2020 and 2022; and
- Long Term Residential Growth Area (west of Highway 400) between 2029 and 2031.

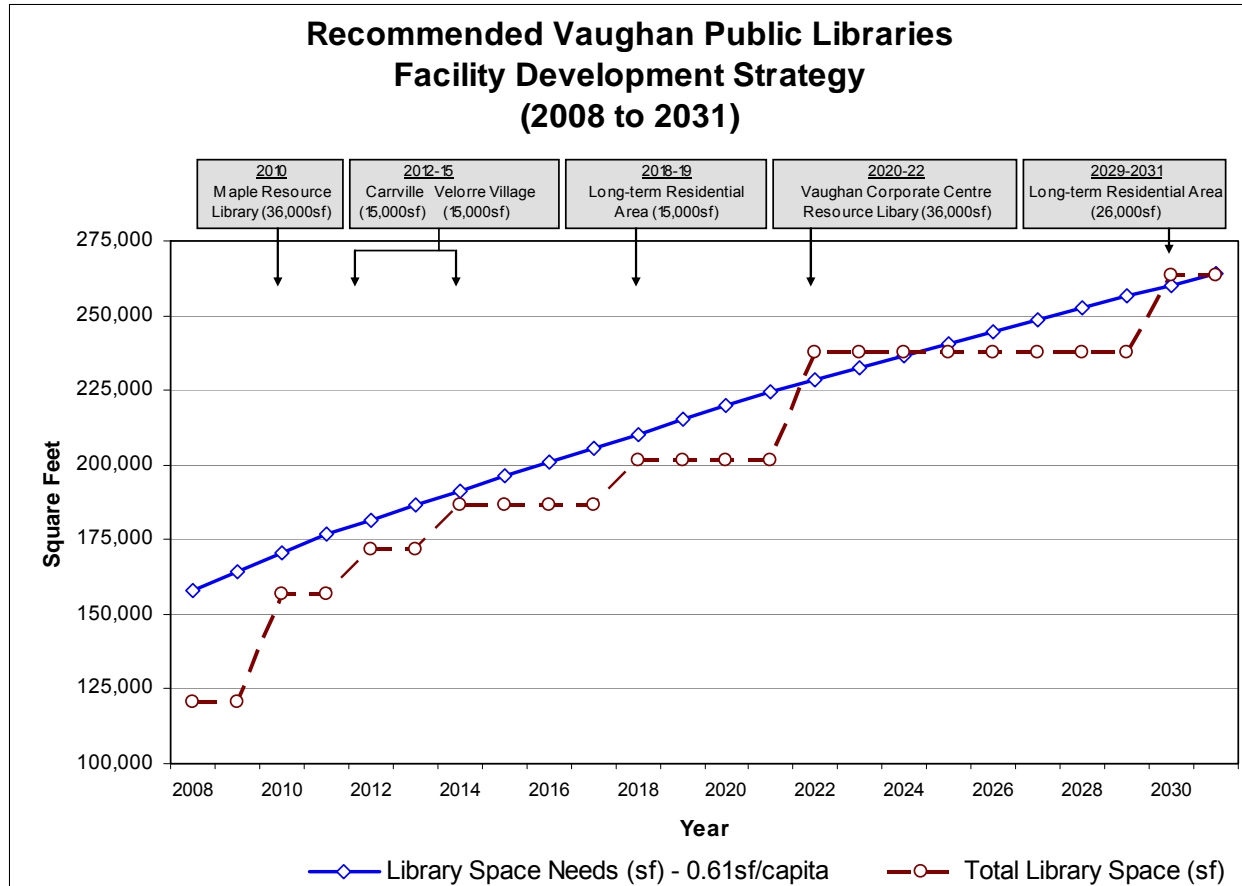
As the VPL has done in the past, it is strongly recommended that library development be coordinated with recreational facilities and community centres as this not only generates economies of scale, but also improves customer service. It is also suggested that select library branches be designed to accommodate older adult/senior lounge areas that can accommodate programming, specialized materials, and large print books for this growing age group.

The following facility provision strategy is recommended based on the information presented in this report. Any changes to the City's population forecasts or the VPL's service delivery model may require this strategy to be updated.

**Recommended Library Development Program** (listed in expected order of implementation)

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Approximate Square Footage</b>	<b>Approximate Timing*</b>
1. Proceed with plans to develop a third resource library at the Civic Centre campus	36,000	2010
2. Address the service gap in the Carrville area	15,000	2012-14
3. Address the service gap in the Vellore Village area	15,000	2013-15
4. Develop a service location in the Long-term Residential Growth Area	15,000	2018-19
5. Develop a fourth resource library to serve the Vaughan Corporate Centre and Steeles areas	36,000	2020-2022
6. Address remaining gaps in the Long-term Residential Growth Area through the development of 1-2 service locations	26,000	2029-2031
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,000</b>	

\* timing will be dictated by population growth, funding and/or timing of joint municipal building projects



Note: Timing will be dictated by population growth, funding and/or timing of joint municipal building projects.

Specific sites and even the type and number of library buildings to be developed in each area have not been identified as this is best left to a more specific analysis.

### **Action Plans**

- A target of 0.61 square feet per capita of library space is recommended for Vaughan Public Libraries.
- An aggressive library building programme will be required in order to keep pace with population growth and resident expectations. At present, service gaps exist in Maple, Carrville, and Vellore Village; library service to the Long-term Residential Growth Area and Vaughan Corporate Centre and/or Steeles (Jane to Keele) will also be required in the future. Vaughan Public Libraries should seek to implement a long-term facility provision strategy using the strategies proposed in this Plan as a point of departure.
- Every effort should be made to coordinate future planning of libraries and civic facilities.
- Vaughan Public Libraries should work towards updating its service delivery model to better reflect current realities and future service approaches.

## **SECTION 11: MONITORING & UPDATING THE PLAN**

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The City of Vaughan should continue to review, assess, and revise the action plans of the Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries in order to ensure that they remain reflective of current realities and responsive to the changing needs of the community. This will require monitoring of activity patterns, conducting annual reviews of the achievements of the Plan, determining which actions have or have not been implemented, tracking satisfaction levels of residents, and undertaking a detailed ten-year update to the Plan.

To properly monitor the Plan, some additional tasks are required, including the monitoring of participation levels by the City. Ongoing tracking of action plans should also be the responsibility staff. Tracking should include status updates at the discretion of senior management or Council.

Through the monitoring of participation levels and qualitative considerations, adjustment of resource allocations, and implementation of shifts in political pressures and direction, it is possible that certain components of the Plan will require updating.

Additional focus group meetings may also be required to better reflect changing interests as Vaughan grows and becomes more culturally diverse. Added research may also be needed as neighbourhoods intensify and densities increase in order to determine which components of existing parkland or community centre redevelopment are growth-related and which components simply represent park/facility renewal intended to serve existing residents.

Updating the Plan requires a commitment from all staff involved in the delivery of leisure services, Council, and the public. An appropriate time for an update of the Plan is during the annual budgeting process.

### **11.1 CONSULTATION ON SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS**

Although public consultation was a critical component in the development of this Master Plan and in establishing the priorities for projects, past observation would indicate that public consultation on site-specific projects can often warp or alter the objectives of the Master Plan for the benefit of a few residents.

Public consultation directed at site-specific projects (such as a park layouts, park development phasing, or facility feasibility studies) should not displace the ideas and objectives of long-term needs of the greater community (or even the long-term needs of the neighbourhood) with specific (often self-serving) objectives of an abutting homeowner. Parks adjacent to homes are not an extension of one's personal private space; rather, it should be seen as a privilege to live next to parkland amenities that are designed to serve the needs of the entire community.

First and foremost, public consultation on site-specific projects (whether they be for new development or redevelopment) is about informing the residents about what is going to occur within the park or the primary component parts of a community facility. While public input is important, these meetings should not necessarily be about asking the advice of the adjacent residents or trying to determine what they would like to see within the park or the community centre. While fine-tuning of specific details may occur at these site-specific public meetings, it is

the policies and priorities of the Master Plan that has been completed (which takes into account the greater community good) that should guide the contents of the park or facility. While municipalities would not ask the advice of residents on the size of the watermain or sewer line or the depth of asphalt on the street, some municipalities can be unnecessarily swayed by a few residents voicing an objection to a much needed recreational facility (such as a basketball court, tennis court, community centre, spray pad, the location of a trail, etc.). The recreational items identified in the Master Plan as needed by the community cannot keep relocating into “someone else’s” park. Public parkland – particularly community and district sites – exists to serve the needs of the entire City.

The City of Vaughan’s Recreation and Culture Department has a policy pertaining to non-statutory community meetings (Policy No. 03-13). This policy sets out guidelines for notification (e.g., notice period, distribution methods, geographic area, media contact, mandatory information, etc.) and meeting processes (e.g., sign-in, minutes, etc.). For example, the following are the minimum requirements for a non-statutory meeting relating to a “District / Community” level matter, such as the planning for a community centre or district park:

- notices must be sent to those living within 500 metres of the site as well as to affected ratepayer, community and special interest groups;
- notification in local newspapers is required; and
- the notice period is 2 weeks.

The requirements for City-wide matters are generally more stringent than identified above, while neighbourhood and local-level meetings are less stringent. Based on our experience, the guidelines established by this policy are reasonable and should remain in effect.

While public consultation should be strongly advocated in future planning efforts, it is not recommended that it be used to cut away at the Master Plan through the opinions of a few residents against the larger community objective. The time to revise the priorities and projects contained within the Master Plan is at the five-year review.

## **11.2 CONSULTATION WITH MINORITY POPULATIONS**

Although broad participation was encouraged throughout the preparation of this Master Plan, the voices that are heard during most public consultation processes are those of the more articulate and educated persons and those with vested interests. This is even more prevalent in ethnic minority communities. Yet, as the community’s composition changes, there is an even greater need to resolve whether or not current recreation programs and facilities are capable of meeting future demands.

Within many minority groups there are added self-imposed caste systems or cultural attitudes related to gender, age, and even place of birth. Added to that is often an ingrained belief that government institutions (i.e., “the powers that be”) do not really care about their needs. Furthermore, some minorities are very grateful to be in this country and they do not want to draw attention to themselves as being different in any way. There is often an internal conflict between the desire to assimilate and the desire to honour one’s heritage.

As noted in Section 3.6 of this Master Plan, community diversity is increasing every year in Vaughan. While many try to assimilate, many also bring preferences for cultural festivals, picnics, pick-up games, gathering places, concerts, library collections focussing on language

and culture, and certain sports such as soccer, rugby and cricket. The Greater Toronto Area will continue to be the focus of where many new Canadians come to live as the vast majority will live in an urban setting. Research indicates that this change in ethnic composition will impact on how parks and open space and recreational facilities are used. While research in the United States, Britain, Europe, Canada, and Australia all indicate that the number one reason for not participating in leisure pursuits is a “lack of time”, the secondary reasons among ethnic minorities are a lack of information, access to programs, or a lack of desirable programs.

From our experience in multi-cultural communities, we understand that ethnic differences can and do result in completely different recreational and leisure values and interests. We also know that involvement in sports, physical activities and the arts – whether casually or as part of an organized team – all contribute to the improvement of neighbourhoods by reducing crime, increasing work ethic, improving academic performance, improving physical and mental health, etc. Only by ensuring that the programs and facilities appeal to the interests of all local citizens will widespread participation be achieved, thereby creating a greater sense of community and ownership of that community.

When participation starts to decline, one has to determine whether this is because the program or facility is not meeting local needs, if it is part of a broader trend, or if it exists merely to serve a very select audience. Another aspect that must be considered is whether or not the community is made to feel welcome (e.g., is the environment too formal, too competitive, etc.). The City also needs to know if the program/facility is financially or physically accessible as well as whether or not the policies and practices accommodate cultural and religious issues such as dress or segregated activity. These types of questions (among others) will need to be probed with ethnic minorities in Vaughan as part of the monitoring process in order to better understand how the City can meet the needs of these growing communities.

Effective consultation with minority ethnic groups will be required if we are to overcome the impression that recreation and libraries are not about “them” or “their” needs and to truly develop a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of all communities that make up Vaughan.

At the next review or during the monitoring process efforts should be made to reach each major ethnic group on a more personal level and in more comfortable environments that can offer good two-way conversation to ensure that specific groups have positive one-on-one type sessions (e.g., a “café style” focus group session or “search conference” session).

Although there are other possibilities, focus groups have proven to be the most effective consultation medium and are the preferred method to consult with the Vaughan’s ethnic communities. Focus groups work best when qualitative information (e.g., observations, issues, suggestions) is required and offer the opportunity to examine and explore sensitive subjects in some detail. In a focus group setting, the quality of input is directly related to the knowledge of the small number of participants (e.g., 10-12 individuals).

In order to know who should participate in any focus group session a two-phased approach is being recommended. The first phase will be the outreach process.

The outreach process is intended to achieve two things. The first is to generate interest or awareness of the project and educate minority groups of the importance of public participation. The second objective is to establish the identification of leaders and individuals (i.e., those associated with community action groups, advocacy groups, neighbourhood groups, community

service organizations, educational institutions, religious organizations and churches) who would be good representatives of the likes and needs or a specific ethnic group. Once identified, these individuals should be contacted and given a briefing on what the City is attempting to accomplish and to determine whether or not they believe they can speak for a segment of the minority populations. They will also be asked to identify other individuals they believe could also make a contribution to better understanding the needs of the group. The briefing material should also be supplied in their native language for distribution among their community.

During the outreach process every effort should be made to identify a good cross-section of the community in order to ensure as many levels of interest as possible are represented at the focus group session. Once the City has identified the strengths of those contacted and have a comfort level with the mix of participants, they should be invited to either participate in workshops and/or solicit their assistance during the implementation of the sessions.

The second phase of the process is the holding of the focus group sessions. As noted above the mix of participants should be diverse (age, gender, financial situations, geography) and representative of the specific ethnic community. Special attention will be given to ensuring that meeting venues are convenient and provide ample access to minority communities.

One of the techniques that should be employed at the focus group sessions is that of visualization; have the participants draw on a map of what they think their neighbourhood looks like. Also ask them to identify and rank the facilities they currently use and how they use those facilities. This process will provide their perspective of both the physical geography of their community within Vaughan and their assessment of how the facilities meet their needs. The focus group session can also be used to set priorities.

In carrying out the consultation, it will be important to produce awareness materials (e.g., advertisements, invitations, briefing packages, etc.). Advertisements of any meetings or issues must be designed to catch the interest of the intended audience. Sufficient time will also be needed to accommodate translation and interpreting services. Where possible, it would be beneficial for the interpreters to have some links to the participants to help encourage full and confident responses; contracting this work to members of the communities themselves may have positive effects.

In order to ensure that the consultation is, and is seen to be, meaningful (rather than tokenistic) a follow-up consultation is also recommended. Feedback should be provided to those consulted and progress reports can be published on the web in English, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, etc. depending on what was learned during the outreach and focus group phases. In this way the groups can see the extent their input influenced the updated Master Plan.

The focus group sessions should be conducted in English. However, a summary of the findings and the presentation should be translated into the primary languages for distribution by those contacted during the outreach process (who can in turn distribute to the larger minority community).

Specifically, the focus group sessions could involve the following:

- Identify that the focus group session will occur in English but if they wish to consult in breakout sessions in their other language they are welcome to do so.
- A brief explanation of how the focus session will work and why they have been asked to participate as well as the overall timing of the project.
- Identify who they are and who they believe they represent.
- Ask them to map what they believe to be their neighbourhood.
- Discuss facilities they use and how.
- Discuss their assessment of those facilities and whether or not they are meeting their needs.
- Identify what they are proud of in their neighbourhood.
- Examine what they like most about Vaughan.
- Brainstorm about what could be done to make their neighbourhood better.
- Identify what they see as issues or priorities for change
- Depending on the number attending the participants may be asked to breakout into smaller working groups to discuss further the ideas that have been presented so far
- Come back to the group as a whole and share any added ideas
- The facilitators will discuss the options and ideas as they heard it to test whether or not true communication is taking place
- Prior to their leaving the group could be asked if there was any thing we could have done to make the process more comfortable or informative and whether or not there are any other persons they believe should be contacted.
- The group could also be advised of the next meeting and where to monitor the process on the Vaughan's web page.

These focus group sessions could occur prior to the parks and facility needs analysis portion of the five year review work program.

The outreach process may also indicate that one-on-one interviews with subsets within these groups that may be necessary. Phone interviews could be used when the individuals are comfortable with English as the language of communication.

### **11.3 A PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK**

The City of Vaughan's Recreation and Culture Department embraces a philosophy of providing services through partner organizations and rounding out any gaps in service through the direct service delivery. Staff within the department enable or facilitate the non-profit groups by providing guidance on governance, programs, operations, and volunteerism and through the provision of facilities. The Department becomes involved in developing partnerships where clear advantages can be demonstrated to both the municipal organization and the taxpayer.

The determination of need, assessment of inherent or potential risks, identification of adequately equipped community partners that could be involved in the service delivery and an assessment of the necessary attributes required to be involved in program provision are all necessary precursors to shaping service delivery approaches.

The following model – based on the City’s Partnership Policy (policy no. 04.1.21) and the *Vaughan Ventures* partnership document – illustrates a sample framework or decision-making process that could assist in selecting between delivery approaches. Defining “who does what” should involve an assessment of the requirements of the service, activity, or program in question to ensure that the responsible party is adequately equipped to be successful.

This might result in the identification of new or additional supports that the Department should provide to volunteer groups or opportunities where organizations (both non-profit and/or private) can become more effective with increased assistance from municipal staff. In other words, if an indirect delivery approach is identified as the most appropriate direction for a particular project, the Department’s role changes from a program delivery to a support function. This may require the deployment of different types of resources and it might be necessary for staff to acquire new types of skills in order to effectively nurture and support partnering and development of community groups.

Is the program consistent with the municipal mandate and service philosophy?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Do not consider municipal involvement in the project.
Is there a municipal role to play in providing the program or service?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Do not consider municipal involvement in the project.
Is there demonstrated community need for the proposed service or program?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Do not consider municipal involvement in the project.
Can operating specifications ensure adherence to municipal service standards?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Consider providing the service using a traditional municipal self managed approach (direct).
Can financial and liability risks be reasonably absorbed by non-municipal partners such as a community organization?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Consider providing the service using a traditional municipal self managed approach (direct).
Are there suitably qualified or properly equipped community organizations willing to provide the service or program?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Consider providing the service using a traditional municipal self managed approach (direct).
Can the delivery responsibility of the service or program be assigned to a community organization on a sole source basis?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Issue a Request for Proposal or other procurement process specified by purchasing policies.
Is there consensus regarding the terms, conditions, standard of delivery and responsibilities of the service delivery agent – such as a community organization?	Yes ▼	No ▶	Negotiate mutually acceptable operating and performance standards with a community organization.
Establish a relationship with a community organization to deliver the program or service and adopt a new and mutually agreeable monitoring system.			



Vaughan has many successful partnership and stakeholder arrangements and has been thoughtful in determining what surrounds successful partnership/stakeholder arrangements. The City should continue to seek to ensure that partnerships and stakeholders:

- Embrace common goals and audience;
- Address current and emerging trends;
- Align with the corporate vision, strategic plan initiatives;
- Align with the departmental mandate and core services;
- Ensure that there is legislative compliance;
- Provide cost avoidance or revenue enhancement to the department;
- Articulate clear deliverables with timelines;
- Address risk management considerations;
- Have ongoing communications and a strong relationship with the department;
- Sign off on the terms, deliverables, and an evaluation mechanism depicted in an agreement;
- Hold flexibility to re-visit the agreement; and
- Understand how the agreement will be managed and the accountability and responsibility of each deliverable.

### **Action Plans**

- The Department should proactively seek out partners to alleviate the capital and operating burden that may be realized through the facility developments and program enhancements recommended through the Master Plan.
- Future partnership opportunities should consider the decision-making protocols outlined in the City's existing partnership policies and this Master Plan; further all future service agreements should be aligned with the priorities outlined in the Active Together Master Plan.

## **11.4 STEPS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MASTER PLAN**

The following steps may be used to conduct an annual review of the Master Plan early on in the budgeting process.

- (1) Review of the past year (action plans implemented, capital projects undertaken, success/failure of new and existing recreation initiatives, changes in participation levels, issues arising from the public and community groups, etc.).
- (2) Issues impacting the coming year (anticipated financial and operational constraints, political pressures, etc.).
- (3) Review of the Master Plan for direction regarding its action plans.
- (4) Staff identification of action plans to be implemented in the short term. Due to implications identified during steps #1 and #2, the output of this task may result in the identification of projects or timing that do not correspond with the action plans of the Master Plan.

- (5) Prioritization of short term projects and determination of which projects should be implemented in the coming year based upon criteria established by staff (e.g., financial limitations, community input, partnership/funding potential, etc.).
- (6) Preparation of staff report. If staff recommendations and priorities differ significantly from those recommended in the Master Plan, the report should detail the reasons for the new direction. If staff recommendations support those established in the Plan, the report should explain how their recommendations conform to the direction of the Plan.
- (7) Communication to staff and Council regarding the status of projects, criteria used to prioritize projects, and projects to be implemented in the coming year.
- (8) Budget revisions as necessary.

### **Action Plans**

- The City should utilize targets in conjunction with other important factors, including trends, spatial and usage data, degree of “pent-up” demand, and population growth in respective age groups to make informed decisions pertaining to facility-based demand and before finalizing capital investment.
- The Recreation & Culture Department should continue to collect annual registration data from local sports organizations in order to benchmark participation levels over time and apply market-specific provision targets articulated throughout this Master Plan.
- The City’s current parks and community facility inventory tools (i.e., “Breakthru”) should be integrated into a GIS-based system in order to improve research, future planning, asset management, and marketing efforts.
- Prior to the development or expansion of major parks, recreation, culture, and library facilities, the City should conduct appropriate feasibility studies, site selections and business plans to verify that recommended facility components are justified given future community demographics and market demand at that time.
- The Active Together Master Plan should be reviewed annually as part of the City’s business planning/budgeting process and be fully updated in 2018. Significant changes in the community or other major planning initiatives may necessitate an update prior to this time (i.e., as early as 2013). In preparation for the Master Plan review, special focus group sessions with ethnic groups and leaders may assist in better understanding leisure interests and cultural preferences.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS (operating)**

## Financial Impact Forecast Assumptions (operating)

Like any financial forecast, key assumptions are utilized in order to assess and project financial implications. The assumptions used are largely based on the City's professional knowledge and available financial information. Detailed below are the assumptions used to forecast the Active Together Master Plan operating impacts, all of which were obtained and vetted through the associated City departments.

### Summary of Active Master Plan Component Operating Costs

Item	Operating Timing from Capital Approval	Estimated Unit Operating Cost	
Active Parkland	1 Year	\$ 10,760	per ha
Passive Parkland	1 Year	\$ 1,575	per ha
Trails	1 Year	\$ 200	per km
Community Centres	2 Years	\$ 25	per sqft
Libraries	2 Years	\$ 63	per sqft
Outdoor Facilities:			
Soccer Fields:			
Lit	1 Year	\$ 26,000	per field
Unlit	1 Year	\$ 6,800	per field
Ball Diamonds:			
Lit	1 Year	\$ 11,400	per diamond
Unlit	1 Year	\$ 3,200	per diamond
Basketball/Play Court	1 Year	\$ 105	per court
Tennis Court	1 Year	\$ 1,000	per court
Playground	1 Year	\$ 1,500	per structure
Outdoor Skating Rink	1 Year	\$ 3,500	per rink
Skateboard Park	1 Year	\$ 1,000	per facility
Smaller Skate Zone	1 Year	\$ 500	per facility
Water Play Area	1 Year	\$ 8,500	per facility
Off-Leash Park	1 Year	\$ 5,000	per park
Cricket Pitch	1 Year	\$ 2,200	per pitch

### Other Assumptions

#### 2% Post-1998 Building and Facilities Reserve Contribution

- Funding begins in year of approval, 1<sup>st</sup> year funded through capital and 2<sup>nd</sup> year in operating.

#### Infrastructure Funding – City Co-Funding (10%)

- No impact on the forecast; funded through established capital from taxation budget.

#### Operating Costs

- Forecast is set in 2008 constant dollars to ensure comparison consistency.

#### Assessment Growth

- Assessment growth is allocated corporately and not allocated to the department level; therefore, this component is not included in the forecast.
- Inflation and assessment growth are assumed to be partially offsetting; as such, inclusion of both items would not likely alter the trends illustrated.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **PER CAPITA PROVISION RATIOS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES (based on current supplies)**

## Per Capita Provision Ratios for Recreation Facilities (based on current supplies)

### Notes:

Supply for all facilities – except those noted below – based on City-wide population:

- Senior Rooms are based on population age 55+
- Teen Rooms are based on population age 10-19 yrs
- Play Rooms/Kindergyms are based on population age 0-4 yrs
- Pre-school Rooms are based on population age 0-4 yrs
- Playground Apparatuses are based on population ages 0-9 yrs

Inventory data considers only municipal assets located on parkland owned or under agreement by the City of Vaughan, and is considered to be accurate as of February 2008. Parks and facilities to be acquired and/or constructed in 2008 have also been included in the inventory. Recreation and cultural facilities located on school board properties, with the exception of permitted soccer and ball fields, are not included as part of the supply unless otherwise noted.

The table below notes City-wide provision standards and the following tables identify provision according to community. Indoor facility tables have not been provided for the Long Term Residential Growth Area, Steeles (Jane to Keele), Vaughan Corporate Centre, and Employment/Rural Area as these areas do not presently have any facilities. An outdoor facility table has not been provided for the Steeles (Jane to Keele) area it does not presently have any facilities.

### INDOOR FACILITIES

CITY WIDE		Population			
Supply	Facility	2006	2008	2021	2031
		<b>238,886</b>	<b>259,359</b>	<b>368,115</b>	<b>433,046</b>
10	Community Centre	1:23,889	1:25,936	1:36,812	1:43,305
8	Ice Pads	1:29,861	1:32,420	1:46,014	1:54,131
12	Indoor Pool	1:19,907	1:21,613	1:30,676	1:36,087
5	Fitness Room/Centre	1:47,777	1:51,872	1:73,623	1:86,609
13	Municipal Gym	1:18,376	1:19,951	1:28,317	1:33,311
8	Squash/Racquetball	1:29,861	1:32,420	1:46,014	1:54,131
17	Bocce Courts	1:14,052	1:15,256	1:21,653	1:25,473
33	Activity Rooms	1:7,465	1:8,105	1:11,504	1:13,533
10	Senior Rooms	1:4,643	1:5,176	1:9,527	1:13,599
7	Teen Rooms	1:5,040	1:5,194	1:6,463	1:6,944
2	Play Room/Kindergym	1:8,280	1:8,711	1:10,393	1:11,234
19	Pre-School Room	1:871	1:917	1:1,094	1:1,182
3	Art Room	1:79,629	1:86,453	1:122,705	1:144,349
3	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	1:79,629	1:86,453	1:122,705	1:144,349
14	Office (Community)	1:17,063	1:18,526	1:26,294	1:30,932
6	Kitchen/Servery	1:39,814	1:43,227	1:61,353	1:72,174
		<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2031</b>
<b>Standard including Private Ice (14 pads)</b>		<b>1:17,063</b>	<b>1:18,526</b>	<b>1:26,294</b>	<b>1:30,932</b>

KLEINBURG		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>7,060</b>	<b>6,919</b>
0	Community Centre	-	-	-	-
0	Ice Pads	-	-	-	-
0	Indoor Pool	-	-	-	-
0	Fitness Room/Centre	-	-	-	-
0	Municipal Gym	-	-	-	-
0	Squash/Racquetball	-	-	-	-
0	Bocce Courts	-	-	-	-
0	Activity Rooms	-	-	-	-
0	Senior Rooms	-	-	-	-
0	Teen Rooms	-	-	-	-
0	Play Room/Kindergym	-	-	-	-
0	Pre-School Room	-	-	-	-
0	Art Room	-	-	-	-
0	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	-	-	-	-
0	Office (Community)	-	-	-	-
0	Kitchen/servery	-	-	-	-

WOODBIDGE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>49,708</b>	<b>50,940</b>	<b>51,696</b>	<b>50,659</b>
3	Community Centre	1:16,596	1:16,980	1:17,232	1:16,886
3	Ice Pads	1:16,596	1:16,980	1:17,232	1:16,886
4	Indoor Pool	1:12,427	1:12,735	1:12,924	1:12,665
2	Fitness Room/Centre	1:24,854	1:25,470	1:25,848	1:25,330
2	Municipal Gym	1:24,854	1:25,470	1:25,848	1:25,330
2	Squash/Racquetball	1:24,854	1:25,470	1:25,848	1:25,330
5	Bocce Courts	1:9,942	1:10,188	1:10,339	1:10,132
8	Activity Rooms	1:6,214	1:6,368	1:6,462	1:6,332
2	Senior Rooms	1:5,741	1:5,084	1:6,690	1:7,955
1	Teen Rooms	1:6,580	1:7,141	1:6,353	1:5,686
1	Play Room/Kindergym	1:3,446	1:3,422	1:3,335	1:3,025
3	Pre-School Room	1:1,149	1:1,141	1:1,112	1:1,008
0	Art Room	-	-	-	-
0	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	-	-	-	-
4	Office (Community)	1:12,427	1:12,735	1:12,924	1:12,665
2	Kitchen/servery	1:24,854	1:25,470	1:25,848	1:25,330

WOODBIDGE EAST		Population			
Supply	Facility	2006	2008	2021	2031
		<b>25,629</b>	<b>25,691</b>	<b>24,947</b>	<b>24,771</b>
1	Community Centre	1:25,629	1:25,691	1:24,947	1:24,771
0	Ice Pads	-	-	-	-
1	Indoor Pool	1:25,629	1:25,691	1:24,947	1:24,771
0	Fitness Room/Centre	-	-	-	-
1	Municipal Gym	1:25,629	1:25,691	1:24,947	1:24,771
0	Squash/Racquetball	-	-	-	-
4	Bocce Courts	1:6,407	1:6,423	1:6,237	1:6,193
5	Activity Rooms	1:5,126	1:5,138	1:4,989	1:4,954
1	Senior Rooms	1:6,317	1:5,127	1:6,456	1:7,779
1	Teen Rooms	1:3,603	1:3,601	1:3,066	1:2,780
0	Play Room/Kindergym	-	-	-	-
1	Pre-School Room	1:1,777	1:1,726	1:1,609	1:1,479
0	Art Room	-	-	-	-
0	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	-	-	-	-
3	Office (Community)	1:8,543	1:8,564	1:8,316	1:8,257
1	Kitchen/servery	1:25,629	1:25,691	1:24,947	1:24,771

VELLORE VILLAGE		Population			
Supply	Facility	2006	2008	2021	2031
		<b>20,787</b>	<b>25,108</b>	<b>40,561</b>	<b>39,932</b>
1	Community Centre	1:20,787	1:25,108	1:40,561	1:39,932
0	Ice Pads	-	-	-	-
2	Indoor Pool	1:10,394	1:12,554	1:20,281	1:19,966
0	Fitness Room/Centre	-	-	-	-
4	Municipal Gym	1:20,787	1:25,108	1:40,561	1:39,932
0	Squash/Racquetball	-	-	-	-
0	Bocce Courts	-	-	-	-
4	Activity Rooms	1:5,197	1:6,277	1:10,140	1:9,983
1	Senior Rooms	1:2,409	1:5,011	1:10,497	1:12,540
1	Teen Rooms	1:2,771	1:3,520	1:4,985	1:4,482
0	Play Room/Kindergym	-	-	-	-
2	Pre-School Room	1:721	1:844	1:1,308	1:1,192
2	Art Room	1:10,394	1:12,554	1:20,281	1:19,966
3	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	1:6,929	1:8,369	1:13,520	1:13,311
0	Office (Community)	-	-	-	-
0	Kitchen/servery	-	-	-	-



MAPLE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>47,694</b>	<b>48,497</b>	<b>49,686</b>	<b>48,690</b>
1	Community Centre	1:47,694	1:48,497	1:49,686	1:48,690
3	Ice Pads	1:15,898	1:16,166	1:16,562	1:16,230
1	Indoor Pool	1:47,694	1:48,497	1:49,686	1:48,690
1	Fitness Room/Centre	1:47,694	1:48,497	1:49,686	1:48,690
1	Municipal Gym	1:47,694	1:48,497	1:49,686	1:48,690
2	Squash/Racquetball	1:23,847	1:24,249	1:24,843	1:24,345
4	Bocce Courts	1:11,924	1:12,124	1:12,422	1:12,170
3	Activity Rooms	1:15,898	1:16,166	1:16,562	1:16,230
1	Senior Rooms	1:6,967	1:9,679	1:12,859	1:15,290
1	Teen Rooms	1:7,7442	1:6,798	1:6,106	1:5,465
0	Play Room/Kindergym	-	-	-	-
3	Pre-School Room	1:1,102	1:1,086	1:1,068	1:969
0	Art Room	-	-	-	-
0	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	-	-	-	-
5	Office (Community)	1:9,539	1:9,699	1:9,937	1:9,738
1	Kitchen/servery	1:47,694	1:48,497	1:49,686	1:48,690

CARRVILLE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>20,271</b>	<b>29,592</b>	<b>60,992</b>	<b>61,624</b>
1	Community Centre	1:20,271	1:29,592	1:60,992	1:61,624
0	Ice Pads	-	-	-	-
2	Indoor Pool	1:10,316	1:14,796	1:30,496	1:30,812
1	Fitness Room/Centre	1:20,271	1:29,592	1:60,992	1:61,624
1	Municipal Gym	1:20,271	1:29,592	1:60,992	1:61,624
0	Squash/Racquetball	-	-	-	-
0	Bocce Courts	-	-	-	-
2	Activity Rooms	1:10,316	1:14,796	1:30,496	1:30,812
2	Senior Rooms	1:1,179	1:2,953	1:7,893	1:9,676
1	Teen Rooms	1:2,709	1:4,148	1:7,495	1:6,917
0	Play Room/Kindergym	-	-	-	-
3	Pre-School Room	1:468	1:662	1:1,311	1:1,227
1	Art Room	1:20,271	1:29,592	1:60,992	1:61,624
0	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	-	-	-	-
0	Office (Community)	-	-	-	-
0	Kitchen/servery	-	-	-	-

THORNHILL		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>63,725</b>	<b>66,138</b>	<b>77,497</b>	<b>89,085</b>
3	Community Centre	1:21,242	1:22,046	1:25,832	1:29,695
2	Ice Pads	1:31,862	1:33,069	1:38,749	1:44,543
2	Indoor Pool	1:31,862	1:33,069	1:38,749	1:44,543
1	Fitness Room/Centre	1:63,725	1:66,138	1:77,497	1:89,085
4	Municipal Gym	1:15,931	1:16,535	1:19,374	1:22,271
4	Squash/Racquetball	1:15,931	1:16,535	1:19,374	1:22,271
4	Bocce Courts	1:15,931	1:16,535	1:19,374	1:22,271
10	Activity Rooms	1:6,373	1:6,614	1:7,750	1:8,909
4	Senior Rooms	1:3,680	1:3,300	1:6,685	1:6,994
2	Teen Rooms	1:5,310	1:4,636	1:4,762	1:5,000
1	Play Room/Kindergym	1:4,418	1:4,442	1:4,999	1:5,319
7	Pre-School Room	1:631	1:635	1:714	1:760
0	Art Room	-	-	-	-
0	Pottery/Voice/Theatre Room	-	-	-	-
2	Office (Community)	1:31,862	1:33,069	1:38,749	1:44,543
2	Kitchen/servery	1:31,862	1:33,069	1:38,749	1:44,543

## OUTDOOR FACILITIES

CITY WIDE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>238,886</b>	<b>259,359</b>	<b>368,115</b>	<b>1:433,046</b>
143	Soccer Fields	1:1,671	1:1,814	1:2,574	1:3,028
85	Ball Diamonds	1:2,810	1:3,051	1:4,331	1:5,095
1	Cricket Pitches	1:238,886	1:259,359	1:368,115	1:433,046
124	Tennis Courts	1:1,927	1:2,092	1:3,969	1:3,492
83	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:2,878	1:3,125	1:4,435	1:5,217
64	Bocce	1:3,733	1:4,052	1:5,752	1:6,766
252	Playground Apparatuses	1:134	1:141	1:169	1:182
21	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:11,376	1:12,350	1:17,529	1:20,621
11	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:21,717	1:23,578	1:33,465	1:39,368
2	Skateboard Parks	1:119,443	1:129,680	1:18,4058	1:216,523

Note: Playground Apparatuses is based on the population between the ages of 0 to 9.

KLEINBURG		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>7,060</b>	<b>6,919</b>
9.5	Soccer Fields	1:352	1:431	1:743	1:728
4.5	Ball Diamonds	1:743	1:910	1:1,569	1:1,538
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
3	Tennis Courts	1:1,114	1:1,364	1:2,353	1:2,306
2	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:1,671	1:2,047	1:3,530	1:3,460
0	Bocce	-	-	-	-
7	Playground Apparatuses	1:63	1:80	1:117	1:105
0	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	-	-	-	-
1	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:3,342	1:4,093	1:7,060	1:6,919
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

WOODBRIIDGE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>49,708</b>	<b>50,940</b>	<b>51,696</b>	<b>50,659</b>
31	Soccer Fields	1:1,603	1:1,643	1:1,668	1:1,634
15.5	Ball Diamonds	1:3,207	1:3,286	1:3,335	1:3,268
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
22	Tennis Courts	1:2,259	1:2,315	1:2,350	1:2,303
16	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:3,107	1:3,184	1:3,231	1:3,166
24	Bocce	1:2,071	1:2,123	1:2,154	1:2,111
50	Playground Apparatuses	1:140	1:140	1:120	1:107
5	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:9,942	1:10,188	1:10,339	1:10,132
1	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:49,708	1:50,940	1:51,696	1:50,659
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

WOODBRIDGE EAST		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>25,629</b>	<b>25,691</b>	<b>24,947</b>	<b>24,771</b>
16.5	Soccer Fields	1:1,553	1:1,557	1:1,512	1:1,501
6	Ball Diamonds	1:4,272	1:4,282	1:4,158	1:4,129
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
24	Tennis Courts	1:1,068	1:1,070	1:1,039	1:1,032
8	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:3,204	1:3,211	1:3,118	1:3,096
18	Bocce	1:1,424	1:1,427	1:1,386	1:1,376
21	Playground Apparatuses	1:122	1:167	1:138	1:125
2	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:12,815	1:12,846	1:12,474	1:12,386
1	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:25,629	1:25,691	1:24,947	1:24,771
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

VELLORE VILLAGE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>20,787</b>	<b>25,108</b>	<b>40,561</b>	<b>39,932</b>
9.5	Soccer Fields	1:2,188	1:2,643	1:4,270	1:4,203
3.5	Ball Diamonds	1:5,939	1:7,174	1:11,589	1:11,409
1	Cricket Pitches	1:20,787	1:25,108	1:40,561	1:39,932
7	Tennis Courts	1:2,970	1:3,587	1:5,794	1:5,705
6	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:3,465	1:4,185	1:6,760	1:6,655
4	Bocce	1:5,197	1:6,277	1:10,140	1:9,983
25	Playground Apparatuses	1:160	1:138	1:188	1:169
1	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:20,787	1:25,108	1:40,561	1:39,932
1	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:20,787	1:25,108	1:40,561	1:39,932
1	Skateboard Parks	1:20,787	1:25,108	1:40,561	1:39,932

MAPLE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>47,694</b>	<b>48,497</b>	<b>49,686</b>	<b>48,690</b>
31.5	Soccer Fields	1:1,514	1:1,540	1:1,577	1:1,546
15.5	Ball Diamonds	1:3,077	1:3,129	1:3,206	1:3,141
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
8	Tennis Courts	1:5,962	1:6,062	1:6,211	1:6,086
21	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:2,271	1:2,309	1:2,366	1:2,319
5	Bocce	1:9,539	1:9,699	1:9,937	1:9,738
52	Playground Apparatuses	1:157	1:128	1:111	1:99
5	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:9,539	1:9,699	1:9,937	1:9,738
2	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:23,847	1:24,249	1:24,843	1:24,345
1	Skateboard Parks	1:47,694	1:48,497	1:49,686	1:48,690

CARRVILLE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
Supply	Facility	<b>20,271</b>	<b>29,592</b>	<b>60,992</b>	<b>61,624</b>
11	Soccer Fields	1:1,843	1:2,690	1:5,545	1:5,602
10.5	Ball Diamonds	1:1,931	1:2,818	1:5,809	1:5,869
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
13	Tennis Courts	1:1,559	1:2,276	1:4,692	1:4,740
7	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:2,896	1:4,227	1:8,713	1:8,803
0	Bocce	-	-	-	-
26	Playground Apparatuses	1:145	1:156	1:272	1:251
2	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:10,136	1:14,796	1:30,496	1:30,812
1	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:20,271	1:29,592	1:60,992	1:61,624
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

THORNHILL		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
Supply	Facility	<b>63,725</b>	<b>66,138</b>	<b>77,497</b>	<b>89,085</b>
28.5	Soccer Fields	1:2,236	1:2,321	1:2,719	1:3,126
29.5	Ball Diamonds	1:2,160	1:2,242	1:2,627	1:3,020
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
43	Tennis Courts	1:1,482	1:1,538	1:1,802	1:2,072
21	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:3,035	1:3,149	1:3,690	1:4,242
11	Bocce	1:5,793	1:6,013	1:7,045	1:8,099
59	Playground Apparatuses	1:112	1:154	1:153	1:160
6	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	1:10,621	1:11,023	1:12,916	1:14,848
4	Outdoor Skating Rinks	1:15,931	1:16,535	1:19,374	1:22,271
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

STEELES - JANE TO KEELE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
Supply	Facility	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,444</b>	<b>13,123</b>
0	Soccer Fields	-	-	-	-
0	Ball Diamonds	-	-	-	-
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
0	Tennis Courts	-	-	-	-
0	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	-	-	-	-
0	Bocce	-	-	-	-
0	Playground Apparatuses	-	-	-	-
0	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	-	-	-	-
0	Outdoor Skating Rinks	-	-	-	-
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

VAUGHAN CORPORATE CENTRE		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>8,711</b>	<b>16,202</b>
2	Soccer Fields	1:13	1:486	1:4,356	1:8,101
0	Ball Diamonds	-	-	-	-
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
0	Tennis Courts	-	-	-	-
0	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	-	-	-	-
0	Bocce	-	-	-	-
0	Playground Apparatuses	-	-	-	-
0	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	-	-	-	-
0	Outdoor Skating Rinks	-	-	-	-
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

LONG TERM RESIDENTIAL GROWTH		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>3,864</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>37,986</b>	<b>77,217</b>
0	Soccer Fields	-	-	-	-
0	Ball Diamonds	-	-	-	-
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
2	Tennis Courts	1:1,932	1:2,273	1:18,993	1:38,609
2	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	1:1,932	1:2,273	1:18,993	1:38,609
2	Bocce	1:1,932	1:2,273	1:18,993	1:38,609
8	Playground Apparatuses	1:88	1:78	1:551	1:1,024
0	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	-	-	-	-
0	Outdoor Skating Rinks	-	-	-	-
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-

EMPLOYMENT		Population			
		2006	2008	2021	2031
<b>Supply</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>4,800</b>
3.5	Soccer Fields	1:1,077	1:1,081	1:1,295	1:1,371
0	Ball Diamonds	-	-	-	-
0	Cricket Pitches	-	-	-	-
2	Tennis Courts	1:1,885	1:1,892	1:2,267	1:2,400
0	Basketball Courts & Playcourts	-	-	-	-
0	Bocce	-	-	-	-
4	Playground Apparatuses	1:139	1:130	1:132	1:127
0	Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	-	-	-	-
0	Outdoor Skating Rinks	-	-	-	-
0	Skateboard Parks	-	-	-	-