Edgeley Pond + Park | The Story

**Design Vision**

Edgeley Pond and Park is the next step in the evolution of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. Its dramatic topography, naturalized waterways, and woodland groves recall the area’s rich landscape heritage, one that was originally dominated by apple orchards and rolling valley lands. This new open space will act as a catalyst for the VMC by supporting its dynamic and fast-paced transformation through innovative ecologically-sensitive stormwater management design, creation of unique spaces, and the seamlessly integration of parkland amenities where VMC residents and visitors can interact, learn, play, and grow.

**History of Edgeley**

The Village of Edgeley was established over two centuries ago around the intersection of Jane Street and Highway 7 with a small collection of services which included a post office and general store, hotel, cider mill, steam-powered wood mill and casket maker, church, hall, blacksmith shop and slaughter house. The community of Edgeley was known for fruit production, mainly apples, because of its fertile land, which is represented in local street names. The central island on the site with two-hundred year old Red Oak trees is a reminder of the spirit of the Village of Edgeley.

The industrial character of the Edgeley area took a stronghold with the 1,000-acre Canadian National Railway marshaling yards which opened in 1965.

The City of Vaughan continued to evolve through the urbanization of agricultural lands. Edgeley Pond and Park is located with the heart of a major regional industrial area and transportation network.

**Current Conditions**

Black Creek currently flows through the site and mixes with urban stormwater. The new design will improve the quality of urban stormwater and help better manage the 760 hectares of Black Creek sub-watershed that enters the site from the north. Flooding controls and water quality improvements will help to unlock adjacent development while providing a park space for all to enjoy.

A new and improved Black Creek corridor will be designed in parallel with a complex ecological landscape that will transform the site into a diverse habitat area that will strengthen and expand the existing flora and fauna.
Conceptual Design Options

CONCEPT 1 / Sculpted Landforms
Vision statement: Sculpted landforms define the language and form of the park, organizing the storm water management, social spaces and ecological areas of the site.

CONCEPT 2 / Terraced Landforms
Vision statement: Architectural walls and grade separations organize a more formal landscape approach, creating terraces that step down from the surrounding streets and development edges into the park.

CONCEPT 3 / Basins + Ecologies
Vision statement: Through the strategic manipulation of topography, placement of walls, and the creation of a series of stormwater basins, new social and ecological clusters are be created.

Guiding Principles

1. DESIGN A PARK FOR THE FUTURE
To design Edgeley Pond and Park as a flexible framework, one that embraces and celebrates the site’s important history, and can respond and adapt to changing needs of the community.

2. CELEBRATE STORM WATER
To integrate innovative stormwater management, improve water quality and the ability to manage stormwater during flood events. To celebrate the heritage of Black Creek and the roots of the Edgeley community in order to increase awareness to how the urban and natural environment can support both the environmental and social processes of the VMC.

3. ESTABLISH HABITAT, ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM, EDUCATE AND INFORM
To enhance and strengthen existing ecologies, to introduce appropriate new habitats and enrich native flora. To demonstrate and educate how to live sustainably; and to showcase the stormwater facility the dynamic processes that define the site, the changing nature of Black Creek and open water as well as the evolving ecologies and its relationship to larger regional systems.

4. CREATE NEW CONNECTIONS
To provide a hierarchy of pedestrian walking circuits and multi-use trails throughout the park and to establish strong connections to the VMC.

5. ACTIVATE AND CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES
To encourage passive and active programming, children’s play and discovery and provide un-programmed open spaces for gathering and pick-up sports.

6. CREATE AN ICONIC VMC PARK
To make a strong statement using bold moves with landform, quality implementation and workmanship to create an iconic landscape and precedent for integrated sustainable design.

Bird’s Eye View Looking North
The preferred concept is based on the first concept, ‘Sculpted Landforms’, but blends strengths from concepts 2 and 3. The active use area is focused on the strata park with the adjacent flexible lawn area to the south. Active uses include: skating loop, splash pad, play equipment, all-season washroom and community room pavilion, shade structure and integration with the parking garage access structures at grade.

A linear informal amphitheater is proposed adjacent to the open water body in the southeast corner. An iconic east-west pedestrian / cycle bridge would connect park visitors from Applemill Rd and Jane St to Maplecrete Rd. A second pedestrian / cycle bridge would connect tableland trails south of Portage Pkwy.

Community gardens would be located on the north side of the active use area, close to the park pavilion.

The Jane St and Hwy 7 urban plaza would accommodate grade changes between the Zzen + Midvale development and the adjacent road grades. It would also control pedestrian movement across the private driveway and encourage visitors to move into the larger park to the north.

Landforms would strongly define Jane St and create controlled views into the park. The existing hydro lines would need to be undergrounded to facilitate the landforms and tree planting.

A smaller urban plaza would welcome visitors on the north-west park edge. The upper pathway will offer views to SWM storage and a unique overall southern view of the park and the new Black Creek watercourse. Pedestrian connections would be made in 3 controlled locations with The Met. Buffer planting would be integrated along the parks edge.

Multiple paths would connect tableland paths to valley trails and galvanized grating boardwalks with two valley bridges connecting multiple walking circuits through the park. Adult exercise equipment would be located along the minor trails and can form part of an exercise route.

Stone and vegetated treatment train features would increase SWM quality treatment along the west and east inlets.

The island and mature oak trees will be preserved. Additional topography in the valley will create ecologically rich environments. Groups of orchard planting in the tablelands will allude to the history of the Village of Edgeley.
Design a Park for the Future

PROJECT PHASING - PHASE 1

1. Jane Street Lighting Strategy
2. Jane Street Promenade with Layby Parking and Urban Nodes
3. LID Stormwater Management Feature
4. Northern Park Entrance
5. Island with Mature Oak Tree Stand
6. Open Water Body, Viewing Platform and Amphitheater
7. Strata Park, Active Play Area
8. Urban Mews
9. Urban Plaza with Transitional Stormwater Management Feature

PROJECT PHASING - PHASE 2

1. Primary East-West Bridge Connection
2. Secondary North Park Bridge Connection
3. Park Pavilion
4. Community Garden Plots And Food Hub
5. Heritage Orchard Planting
6. New Park Connections
7. New North-East Gateway Node
8. Extend Portage Parkway Crossing and Vehicular Bridge Over Black Creek (Not Included in Scope of Work)

View Southeast From the Primary East-West Pedestrian / Cycling Bridge
Celebrate Storm Water

TWO YEAR STORM EVENT

2 Hrs After Rain Storm Starts

Peak – 2 Hrs 48 min After Rain Storm Starts

4 Hrs After Rain Storm Starts

AUGUST 2005 STORM EVENT

47 Min After Rain Storm Starts

Peak – 1.5 hrs After Rain Storm Starts

3.5 Hrs After Rain Storm Start
Establish Habitat, Enhance Ecology and Educate

PLANTED ECOLOGIES

ECOLOGICAL + EVENT SCHEDULING

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POSSIBLE PROGRAMMING EVENTS

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WAYFINDING + SIGNAGE

Minor Signage
Pylon

Major Signage
Historical Flooding Pylon

Major Signage
Lit Pylon
Create New Connections

MOVEMENT IN THE PARK

A. Pedestrian Pathways
Raised landforms along LID Stormwater Treatment Feature

B. LID Stormwater Treatment Feature

C. Wooded Thicket
North Edge of Site

D. Orchard and Meadow
North Edge of Site

E. Primary East-West Pedestrian / Cycling Bridge
Platform Over Existing Island

F. Jane Street Streetscape
West Edge of the Site

G. Flexible Lawn Open Space
South Edge of the Site

Pedestrian Circulation System, Gateways and Secondary Points of Entry

Key Plan

Circuit Loop Analysis
Create New Connections

The sustainable transitional water feature will be fed by captured stormwater. It will demonstrate and highlight the relationship between stormwater and Black Creek, which runs directly below the urban place.

Edgeley Pond + Park serves a very important stormwater function for the neighbourhood. It enables adjacent development by controlling large storm events by providing water storage for the northerly catchment of Black Creek, approximately 702 ha, as well as the adjacent urban catchment.

The stormwater feature will have plant material that thrives in both very wet and very dry conditions. During and immediately after storm events, the feature will have surface water and subdrainage that is connected directly to Black Creek.

The prime location at the corner of Jane Street and Hwy 7 is well suited to integrated educational signage about the feature and what lies beneath the surface.

Sustainable Transitional Water Feature

View Northwest of Urban Plaza and Sustainable Transitional Water Feature
Activate and Create Opportunities

PARK PROGRAMMING

**NORTHERN TERRACE**
- SHADE STRUCTURE
- SEATING + HAMMOCKS
- PICNINC
- PASSIVE PLAY
- FENCED DOG OFF LEASH AREA

**URBAN NODES**
- BIKE PARKING
- SEATING

**STORMWATER TREATMENT FEATURE**
- EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**PRIMARY EAST-WEST PEDESTRIAN / CYCLING BRIDGE**
- PEDESTRIAN LOCKOUT
- WALKING / RUNNING / CYCLING
- PLAZA
- CONNECTION TO VMC CYCLE PATH SYSTEM + TTC

**JANE STREET PROMENADE**
- WALKING / RUNNING / CYCLING
- MULTI-USE PATH
- LAYBY PARKING
- FOOD TRUCKS IN LAYBY PARKING
- CONNECTION TO VMC CYCLE PATH SYSTEM

**THE LAWN**
- FESTIVAL / EVENT SPACE
- PUBLIC ART
- PICNINC
- PASSIVE PLAY
- ACTIVITY CLASSES
- INFORMAL ACTIVE PLAY

**URBAN PLAZA**
- TRANSITIONAL WATER FEATURE
- BIKE PARKING
- SEATING
- ADJACENT FOOD / BEVERAGE AMENITIES
- PUBLIC ART

**THE VALLEY**
- WALKING / RUNNING CIRCUITS
- BIRD + ANIMAL WATCHING
- PEDESTRIAN LOCKOUTS

**URBAN NODE**
- BIKE PARKING
- SEATING

**OPEN SPACE / SCULPTED LANDFORMS**

**ADULT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT**
- TOTAL OF 4 STRUCTURES, GROUPED IN TWO'S

**COMMUNITY FOOD HUB**
- GARDENING
- PICNINC
- FOOD HARVESTING
- PIZZA OVEN / BBQ PITS
- PICNIC / COMMUNITY TABLE
- TURFED MOUNDS

**ACTIVE PARK**
- SPLASH PAD
- MOVEABLE SEATING
- CHILDREN'S PLAY STRUCTURES
- BIKE PARKING
- SEASONAL SKATING LOOP
- SEATING
- FOOD TRUCKS IN LAYBY PARKING
- TURFED MOUNDS
- PAVILION WITH WASHROOMS
- COMMUNITY ROOM

**AMPHITHEATER**
- VIEWING PLATFORM
- CONCERTS IN THE PARK
- MOVIE NIGHT
- ACTIVITY CLASS
- SEATING
- PICNINC
- PUBLIC ART

**VIEW NORTHWEST OF STRATA PARK WITH SKATING LOOP AND PAVILION**
Iconic VMC Park

Potential Public Art Locations

Proposed Lighting Strategy

View Southeast of LID Stormwater Management Feature
Shadow Impact Study

Note: Building heights are taken from existing developments and proposed developments.