

North Maple Regional Park Master Plan

Phase 3: Concept Development What We Heard Report





# **Acknowledgments**

#### **Land Acknowledgment**

We respectfully acknowledge that the City of Vaughan is situated in the Territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. The City of Vaughan is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

#### **Community Acknowledgments**

Special thanks to the Vaughan community and many interested parties who took the time to participate in our engagement events and activities. Your insights, contribution and commitment are an integral part of this journey and the development of North Maple Regional Park.



# **Table of Contents**

Project Background	4
Phase 3 Engagement Snapshot	5
Park Context	6
Park Goals	7
Public Engagement	8
Engagement Approach	9
How and Who We Engaged	10
What We Heard	14
Park Concepts	15
Park Zones	16
Zone 1: Keele Street Frontage	17
Zone 2: Central Activity Zone	20
Zone 3: Natural Area and Nevada Park	23
Zone 4: Former Landfill Sites	26
Key Themes	29
Conclusion	31
Next Steps	32
Appendix	33
Appendix A: Popularity of Proposed Programs	34
Appendix B: Online Survey Responses	37
Appendix C: NMRP Park Concepts	48

# **Project Background**

In December 2023, the City of Vaughan (City) initiated a process to develop the North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) Master Plan to help guide the site's development into a major destination, while protecting and strengthening its natural features.

The plan will help guide the decision-making process for the site's ongoing and long-term development, programming and level of service and management.

#### **Phase 3 Engagement Overview**

This round of engagement focused on understanding public priorities for programming. To better understand community preferences, the City sought feedback on two draft concepts for NMRP — one focused on preserving nature (Concept A) and the other focused on expanding recreation (Concept B).

#### **Project History**

Decades in the making and at 364 hectares (900 acres), NMRP is the most ambitious park development to date for the City.

The NMRP team has a vision to transform what used to be open space and former landfills into a signature park and legacy project for future generations under the guiding pillars of **Restore**, **Engage** and **Play**.

#### **Project Timeline**

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6
Start-up and Discovery	Vision and Principles	Concept Development	Preliminary Master Plan	Final Master Plan	Project Endorsement
	<b>Goal Setting</b>	Prioritizing	Validating	Celebrating	

# **Phase 3 Engagement Snapshot**

#### **January to May 2025**

#### **Engagement Purpose**

The objective of this engagement was to gather community feedback on two park concepts and proposed programs within NMRP.

#### Who and How We Engaged

Approximately 745 residents, including:

200 pop-up attendees

**460** survey respondents

**24** Community Advisory Committee members

**59** youth campers

#### **Key Themes**

Across the two concepts, there was a desire for the following elements:



Eco-Tourism and Education



Natural Retreats



Robust Trail Network



Sports and Recreation Infrastructure



Food and Social Amenities

#### **Preferred Concept**

Participants preferred the recreation-focused amenities of Concept B with the natural backdrop of Concept A. They envision NMRP as a multifaceted destination blending nature, recreation and community engagement.

#### **Park Context**

#### **Park Size Comparison**



High Park - Toronto 161 hectares (398 acres)



Central Park - New York 341 hectares (843 acres)



NMRP - Vaughan 364 hectares (900 acres)

#### **Oak Ridges Moraine**

NMRP is part of the Oak Ridges Moraine. a significant natural feature and source of water for the region. It is home to thousands of unique species and provides clean water that flows into nearby watersheds and rivers.

#### **Quick Facts:**

#### 160 km

from Trent River to Niagara Escarpment

#### 1.000+

unique plant species

#### 1,900 sq. km.

of land across Southern Ontario

#### 65 rivers

connect within the Don River Watershed

#### **Key Site Features**

Vaughan's most ambitious park currently has:



Significant ecological features



**T** Heritage building



Sports fields and amenities



Parking, pavilion and washrooms



Open space and pathway system

#### **Park Components**

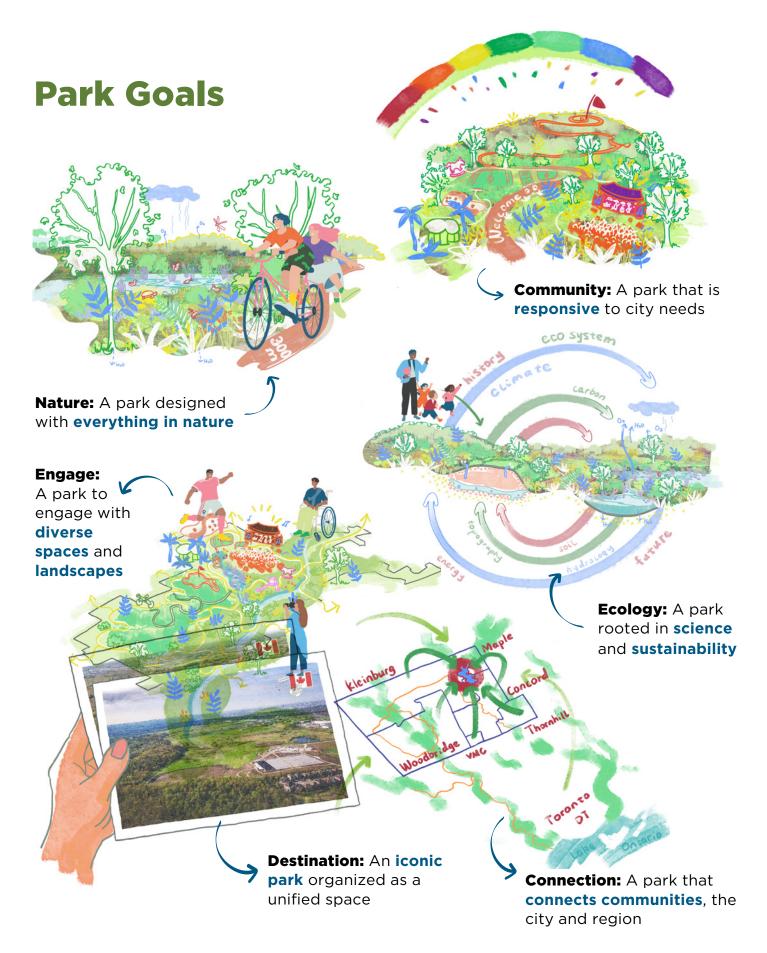


Vegetated Areas 115 hectares (284 acres)

Open Space

117 hectares (289 acres)

Rehabilitated Landfills 132 hectares (326 acres)





# **Engagement Approach**

#### **Purpose**

Community input plays a vital role in shaping the NMRP Master Plan that will lead to the development of a dynamic, sustainable and welcoming destination for generations to come.

The objective of this round of engagement was focused on raising awareness about NMRP while collecting input on the vision, values and guiding principles to establish a strong foundation for the planning process.

A variety of engagement methods were used to ensure that a wide range of quantitative and qualitative data was collected. Some engagement activities were tailored to a specific audience, while others were designed to engage the broader public.

#### **Foundation**



#### **Principles**

These principles were designed to ensure the project team's engagement approach was intentional and thoughtful.

#### **Informative**

Build awareness of the NMRP Master Plan project and the park itself as a place of pride for the city.

#### Accessible

Be responsive to the community's engagement preferences and meet people where they are.

#### **Inclusive**

Lower barriers to participation and invite a diversity of voices and perspectives to the table.

#### **Diverse**

Invite feedback from various interested parties, ensuring that a range of lived experiences is represented in the development of the NMRP Master Plan.

#### **Forward**

Gather feedback to inform the next phases of work in the master planning process, and to shape a legacy park for generations to come.

# **How and Who We Engaged**

The project team engaged with over 745 community members through pop-ups, workshops and more.

#### **Engagement at a Glance**



#### Pop-ups

200 people engaged

**104** questionnaires completed

200 zines distributed



#### **Online Survey**

**460** survey responses



#### **Dufferin Clark Camp**

**20** campers

**4** counsellors

#### **North Thornhill Camp**

20 campers

**2** counsellors

#### Maple Camp

19 campers

**3** counsellors

#### **Communication Tactics**

The public was informed about the NMRP Master Plan and ongoing engagement opportunities through various City communications channels, such as the website, eNewsletters, social media campaigns, signage and more.



#### Pop-ups

Building on the success of the pop-ups hosted in the previous round of engagement, the NMRP team held six more pop-ups throughout the city:

- Earth Hour at Vaughan City Hall
- Maple Community Centre (Ward 1)
- Father E. Bulfon Community Centre (Ward 2)
- Vellore Village Community Centre (Ward 3)
- North Thornhill Community Centre (Ward 4)
- Promenade Mall (Ward 5)

Pop-ups ran from March to April 2025 and the team successfully engaged with new community members who were unfamiliar with NMRP and spread awareness of the master planning process. Booklets (or "zines") and questionnaires were distributed to provide additional context and collect feedback.

#### **Online Survey**

The public survey ran from March to May 2025, collecting 460 responses. The survey reached a broad audience and collected both qualitative and quantitative insights regarding the two concepts, desired park amenities and programs.





#### **Community Advisory Committee**

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was reconvened for a second meeting. The CAC is made up of 27 members representing various wards, age groups, ethnicities and lived experiences.

Twenty-four of the 27 CAC members attended a virtual meeting, during which the project team presented each concept and facilitated an open discussion to rank programming ideas and collect feedback.

#### **Youth Summer Camp**

Nine camp counsellors and 59 campers (ages four to 12) from City-run summer camps were engaged in March 2025. Participants were asked to complete various engagement activities to help provide feedback on proposed park amenities and programs while gathering new ideas.

- Collaborative Mapping: We invited participants to design the park by creating flags for their preferred programs and amenities and deciding where to place them on the map within each zone.
- Individual Worksheet: We asked participants to rank their top five programming choices as listed per zone and leave comments and suggestions.

A gap remains as input from older youth (e.g. teens and people in their twenties) is lacking. This will be a focus area for future engagement.

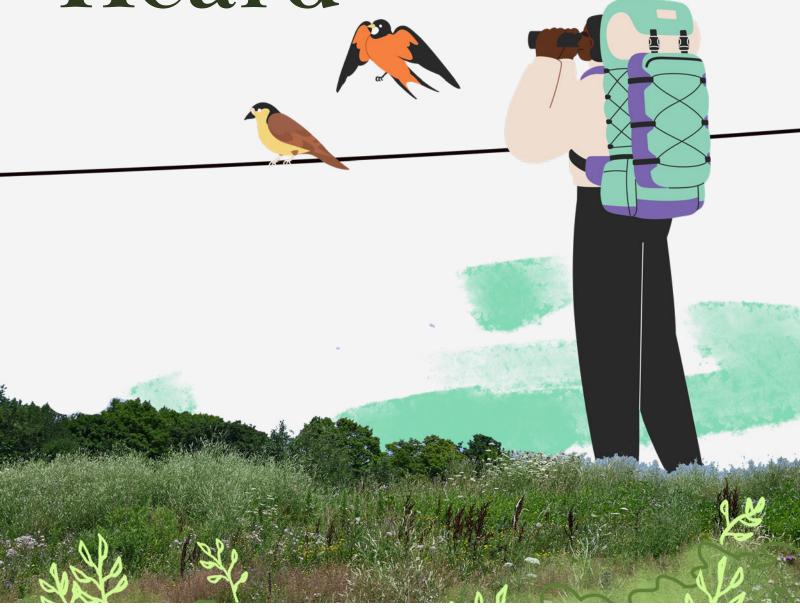
#### First Nations Engagement

The project team has met and will continue to engage with First Nations key parties to gain advice and insight from an Indigenous perspective. It is important that the City meaningfully connect with Indigenous communities to integrate traditional knowledge, cultural values and stories into the park's design and programming, through this master plan process and beyond.



Phase 3: Concept Development What We Heard Report

# What We Heard



# **Park Concepts**

During this round of engagement, participants were shown two concepts:

 Concept A focused on nature, preserving greenspaces, enhancing biodiversity and creating a peaceful setting for passive recreation.

 Concept B emphasized recreation, featuring expanded sports facilities, active play areas and community amenities for gathering and fitness.

When asked to choose between the two concepts, most participants selected Concept B as the preferred concept. However, when selecting from the list of proposed programs, some nature-focused Concept A programs were also selected.

Participants look forward to engaging in recreational activities, playing sports and exploring the park, but but a natural backdrop is also important to them. The protection of nature also continues to be a priority for the community (full concept maps are provided in Appendix B).



### **Park Zones**

#### **Engagement Approach**

To make it easier to compare the two draft concepts, NMRP was divided into four zones:

- **Zone 1:** Keele Street Frontage
- Zone 2: Central Activity Zone
- Zone 3: Natural Area and Nevada Park
- Zone 4: Former Landfill Sites

Before being shown the concepts, community members were introduced to the four zones and the unique environmental conditions and design constraints associated with each.

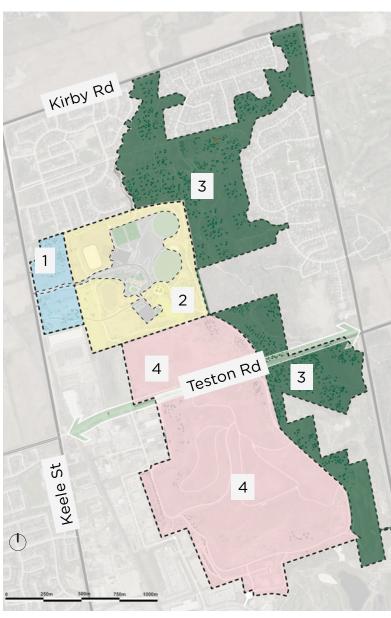
In order to manage expectations and provide clarification around timelines, engagement materials also included information about phasing and whether zones would be developed in the short/medium-term (0-10 years) or long-term (25+ years).

#### **Zone Restrictions**

Zone 1 includes Public-Private Partnership lands. This means there is a possibility that the City could partner with private companies to develop, finance and/or operate potential mixed use commercial projects that complement and enhance the park experience.

Zone 4 includes closed landfill sites, which means development will not happen until all regulatory processes and approvals are complete.

#### **NMRP Zone Map**



# **Zone 1: Keele Street Frontage**

#### **Short/Medium-Term Development (0-10 years)**

Top 5 Programs

Most number of mentions

**271** nature-based tourism

244 natural retreat and parkland

**228** sports hub

**218** food and beverage

**192** sports facility

Zone 1 is located along the east side of Keele Street, bordered by residential areas and an industrial zone. It serves as the park's main entrance via Vaughan CARES Way and offers potential for mixed-use commercial opportunities. Participants want Zone 1 to prioritize transportation upgrades (e.g. bike-shares) and accessible entrances. They also envision it as a hub for connectivity and community engagement, where public events can take place. Furthermore, participants would like to see Zone 1 integrate cultural amenities like an Indigenous medicine garden and the heritage house repurposed as a welcome centre and local history museum.

They emphasized that commercial partners should share the value of sustainability and incorporate eco-conscious design into their facilities—like solar lighting, flexible trails and natural sound barriers. Participants also preferred low-rise structures that match the park landscape.

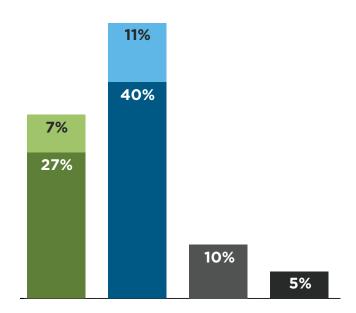














#### **Concept Preference**

Participants were asked if they preferred the nature-based programs of Concept A or recreation-based ones of Concept B.

Participants had a strong preference for Concept B and noted a need for outdoor sports facilities. However, they emphasized that development should focus on protecting as much natural land as possible.

Strong preference for Concept A

Moderate preference for Concept A

Strong preference for Concept B

Moderate preference for Concept B

Neither preferred

I don't like either concept

#### **Activity Preferences**

Participants were asked how they would like to interact with Zone 1 in the future.

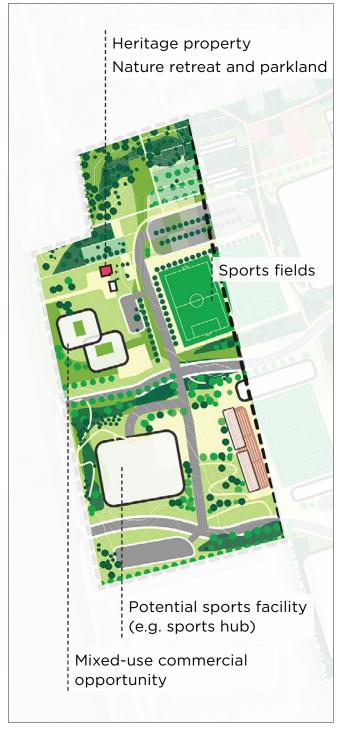
Many agreed that exploring nature is the top priority, with recreational opportunities nestled in the natural areas of the park.

#### **Zone 1 Concept Maps**

#### **Concept A: Nature-Focused**



#### **Concept B: Recreation-Focused**





# **Zone 2: Central Activity Zone**

#### **Short/Medium-Term Development (0-10 years)**

**Top 5 Programs Most number of mentions** 

**206** active recreation amenities

**172** multi-use pathway

**162** covered sports pavilion

142 botanical garden

**123** arboretum

Zone 2 is the area around the existing parking lot, soccer fields, pavilion and the future Family Recreation Area—ideal for play spaces and picnic opportunities. Building on the existing infrastructure in the park, Zone 2 should strategically balance revenue generation, ecological preservation and a fun user experience.

In Zone 2, participants want seamless mobility (e.g. shuttles and bike rentals), social spaces (e.g. food and beverage vendors and rest areas) and separate active and quiet spaces (e.g. pickleball courts should not be next to the botanical garden). They share a desire for indoor and outdoor features—like a calming botanical garden and indoor waterfalls—to act as year-round attractions.

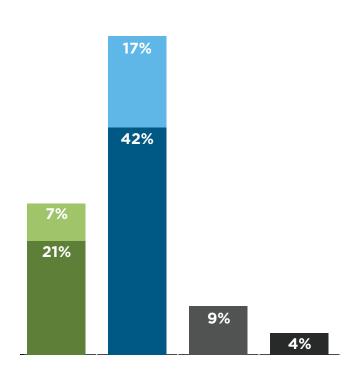












# Top 5 Desired Activities Most number of mentions

**166** explore nature

**165** active recreation and sports

**162** relax and socialize

**132** bike and cycling amenities

**114** adventure and attractions

#### **Concept Preference**

Participants were asked if they preferred the nature-based programs of Concept A or recreation-based ones of Concept B.

Although participants liked Concept B, some noted that the park should focus on outdoor recreation (public gardens, arboretums) that allow visitors to become immersed in nature as they partake in various activities.

Strong preference for Concept A

Moderate preference for Concept A

Strong preference for Concept B

Moderate preference for Concept B

Neither preferred

I don't like either concept

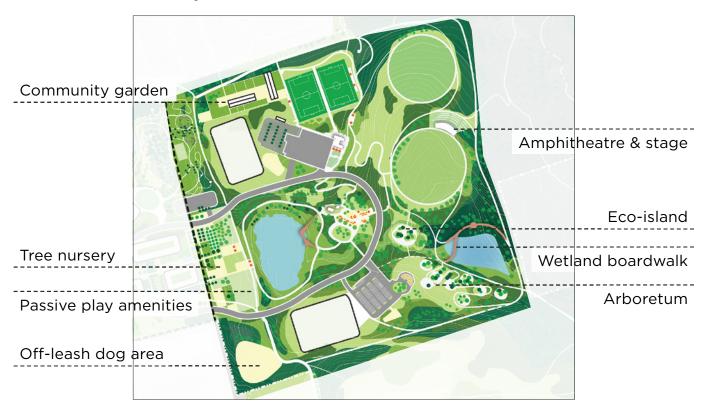
#### **Activity Preferences**

Participants were asked how they would like to interact with Zone 2 in the future. Again, many participants agreed that exploring nature is the priority.

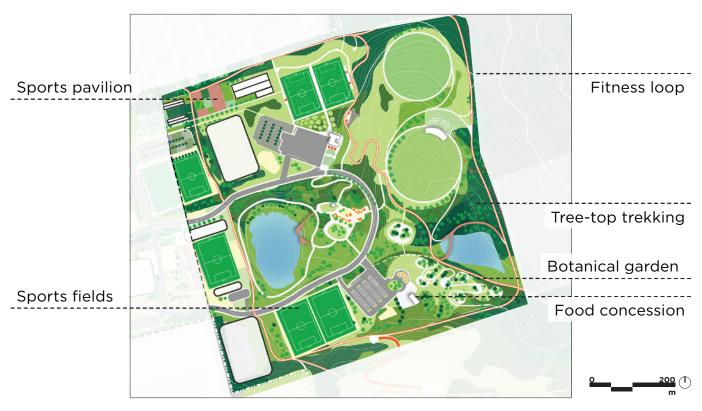
However, there was also strong support for outdoor-based passive and active recreation within Zone 2.

#### **Zone 2 Concept Maps**

**Concept A: Nature-Focused** 



**Concept B: Recreation-Focused** 



## **Zone 3: Natural Area and Nevada Park**

#### **Short/Medium-Term Development (0-10 years)**

**Top 5 Programs Most number of mentions** 

200 wetland boardwalk

**197** multi-use pathways

197 treetop canopy walk

179 wildlife lookout

174 mountain biking trails

133 neighbourhood playground

Zone 3 protects the park's richest ecosystems—from forests to wetlands—threaded with trails. This area contains the headwaters of the East Don River and existing bike paths and trails.

Participants appreciate that Zone 3 is a preserved natural environment that is distinct from active zones. They imagine Zone 3 as home to a well-connected trail network (supporting mountain biking, hiking, rolling, etc.), elevated features (e.g. canopy walks and bridges) and scenic natural areas (e.g. boardwalks). Participants are enthusiastic about a dedicated learning space in this zone, which could offer hands-on school programs, Indigenous teachings, camps and expert-led ecology talks.

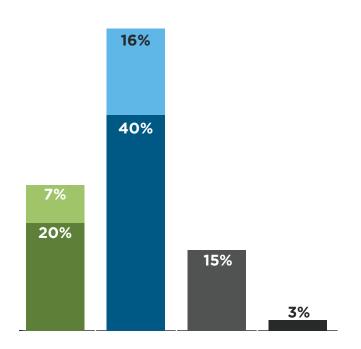












# Top 5 Desired Activities Most number of mentions

**193** trails and outdoor pathways

**161** connect with nature

**137** unique park features

**133** wildlife and restoration

**125** nature-based play

#### **Concept Preference**

Participants were asked if they preferred the nature-based programs of Concept A or recreation-based ones of Concept B.

Participants liked the family-oriented activity spaces proposed in Concept B. They liked the idea of exploring nature with kids, parents and elders alike.

Strong preference for Concept A

Moderate preference for Concept A

Strong preference for Concept B

Moderate preference for Concept B

Neither preferred

I don't like either concept

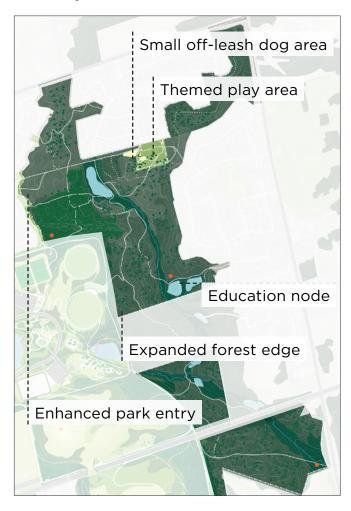
#### **Activity Preferences**

Participants were asked how they would like to use or get involved with Zone 3.

Many participants agreed that recreation facilities should be outdoor with a minimal footprint on the surrounding natural land.

#### **Zone 3 Concept Maps**

#### **Concept A: Nature-Focused**



#### **Concept B: Recreation-Focused**





## **Zone 4: Former Landfill Sites**

#### **Long-Term Development (25+ years)**

**Top 5 Programs**Most number of mentions

210 picnic areas

**199** winter trail activities

**189** diverse trail types

172 hilltop lookouts

148 mountain biking trails

Zone 4 comprises two successfully remediated landfill sites (Vaughan Township and Keele Valley), which will be repurposed for recreational use in the future. The restored grassland habitat and elevated hills offer opportunities for recreation and nature appreciation, as well as panoramic views of the city.

Participants value year-round activities (e.g. winter trails and an all-ages hill slide), while protecting Zone 4's serenity. They envision low-impact events, like kite or lantern festivals, bringing visitors to NMRP with minimal disruption to the natural environment. Participants would like to use the hilly terrain for picnics, iconic views, stargazing spots and mountain biking trails.

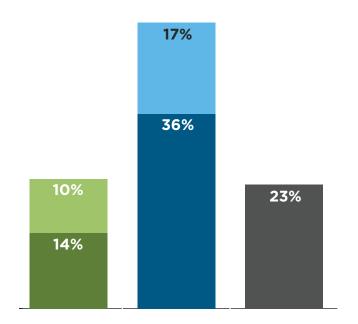












# Top 5 Desired Activities Most number of mentions 169 scenic views 168 diverse trails and biking 142 fitness and adventure

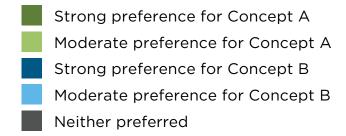
**141** winter recreation activities

**132** relax and socialize outdoors

#### **Concept Preference**

Participants were asked if they preferred the nature-based programs of Concept A or recreation-based ones of Concept B.

Participants noted a preference for a natural area with a multi-seasonal trail network.



#### **Activity Preferences**

Participants were asked how they would like to use or get involved with Zone 4.

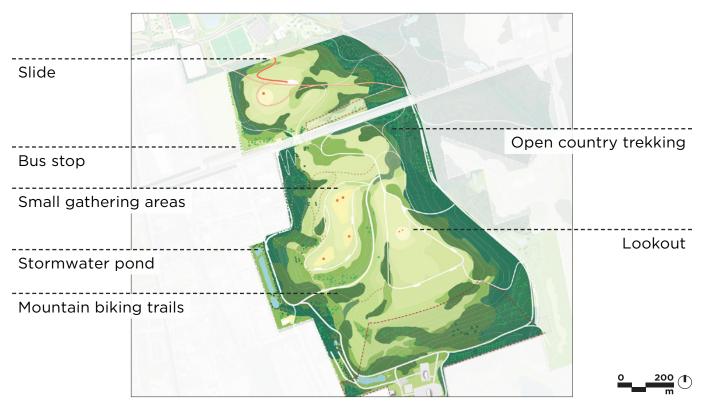
Many participants agreed that Zone 4 should stay relatively natural with trails, rest areas and viewpoints being a priority.

#### **Zone 4 Concept Maps**

**Concept A: Nature-Focused** 



**Concept B: Recreation-Focused** 



# **Key Themes**

An analysis of the engagement results revealed that across the two concepts, participants desired the following elements:



#### **Eco-Tourism and Education**

There was a strong desire for immersive experiences in natural settings that serve educational, environmental and tourism purposes. Programs and amenities, such as a botanical garden, arboretum, wetland boardwalk and treetop canopy walk, would encourage visitors to engage with native plants and animals and provide opportunities for education through signage. Many participants supported educational attractions for families, schools and eco-conscious tourists to promote conservation and climate resilience while enriching public understanding of local ecosystems.



#### **Natural Retreats**

Participants value leisure time in natural spaces. Natural retreats, picnic areas and winter trail activities support relaxation, passive recreation and year-round engagement with the outdoors.

These elements cater to people looking to unwind, gather socially or enjoy the park's seasonal beauty in low-intensity ways. The design of such spaces should prioritize tranquility, natural aesthetics and family-friendly infrastructure, enhancing community well-being and mental health while providing inclusive outdoor experiences.



#### **Robust Trail Network**

Participants expressed a desire for a robust trail system featuring multi-use paths, mountain biking trails and jogging routes to encourage active living and sustainable transportation. The trail design should be allow for dedicated lanes—for walkers, runners, cyclists or skaters—to pursue their preferred activities safely.

Participants see these networks as crucial for connectivity within the park to surrounding communities, transit stops and other trail networks. There was demand for the integration of mountain biking trails to attract tourists, regional users and local mountain biking groups.



#### **Sports and Recreation Infrastructure**

There were calls for permanent athletic facilities and flexible recreation spaces. A sports hub and training facilities could support leagues, tournaments and youth development programs and ensure multi-seasonal utility. Participants shared new ideas regarding active recreation facilities for sports such as speed skating, ball hockey and track and field.

Participants were interested in social opportunities and skill development for various sports and across different age groups. When combined with adjacent natural amenities, this mix of spaces can create a dynamic where competition, leisure and ecological restoration coexist.



#### **Food and Social Amenities**

Food and beverage opportunities complement other uses by enhancing the comfort and social vibrancy of public spaces. These amenities—whether food trucks, cafes or picnic-supportive kiosks—extend visit durations and attract casual users. They provide important social and cultural opportunities, making recreational areas more attractive to a broader demographic, including non-sport visitors. Integrating food options near key attractions can significantly increase foot traffic and community usage, making NMRP an attractive destination for hosting events or attracting private partnerships.

### **Conclusion**

Phase 3 of engagement was successful in raising awareness of NMRP and engaging participants in a meaningful way. By hosting pop-ups in different neighbourhoods, the project team was able to bring new community members into the engagement process and provide them with an opportunity to shape the future of NMRP.

There was more word-of-mouth promotion of the NMRP Master Plan project this round, with some participants asking to take extra zines to share with their networks. This was also reflected in the survey results, with more respondents indicating they heard about the project through friends and family.

While slightly fewer participants were engaged in this phase, deeper and more informed conversations were had with community members. When the project team returned to previously visited locations in this phase (e.g. Maple Community Centre), those who participated in the first phase of engagement saw their contributions reflected in the master planning process. Many thoughtful insights and important considerations were brought forth in this phase of public engagement, which will shape the development of the draft preliminary master plan.

#### **Themes**

#### **Park Concepts**

Through the two concepts shared, participants were excited to see what NMRP could become. The visualizations helped the public imagine how the park will become a key destination for the Vaughan community, York region and beyond. Participants gained a better understanding of the scale of the park, resulting in more ambitious ideas for athletic amenities, scenic attractions and unique experiences. The vast majority of participants found a few proposed programs that resonated with them.

#### **Context and Constraints**

There was also an acknowledgment of the unique context and constraints associated with of each zone. For example, participants appreciated the need for Zone 3 to be a protected ecological area with minimal development. There was understanding that natural areas, buildings and amenities could coexist within the 900-acre park, resulting in less push-back on development.

#### **Destination Park**

The community looks forward to NMRP as a destination park with broad aspirations for it to serve as a natural, athletic and tourist hub that promotes environmental stewardship, fosters education, encourages wellness and strengthens community connections.

# Next Steps

#### Thank you to everyone who participated!

Community input plays a vital role in shaping a master plan that will guide NMRP into a dynamic, sustainable and welcoming destination for generations to come.

Now that Phase 3 is complete, the project team will start drafting the preliminary master plan, informed by the feedback provided in this phase. The public will be given an opportunity to view and comment on a consolidated park concept during Phase 4 in winter 2025.



# Appendix

# **Appendix A:**

#### **Popularity of Proposed Programs**

This appendix outlines the programs for each zone and their popularity, denoted by how often they were selected

#### **Zone 1: Keele Street Frontage**

Options	Number of mentions
Nature-based tourism (e.g. botanical garden)	271
Natural retreat and parkland	244
Sports hub	228
Food and beverage opportunities	218
Sports facility (e.g. soccer training)	192
Tree nursery/native seed orchard	142
Library branch	140
Bookable indoor event space	126
Discovery centre and welcome pavilion	116
Spa and wellness centre	103
Complementary commercial and retail	97
Solar panels above parking lot	97
Convention centre	62

#### **Zone 2: Central Activity Zone**

Options	Number of mentions
Active recreation amenities (e.g. jogging paths, baseball diamond)	206
Multi-use pathway	172
Covered sports pavilion	162
Botanical garden	142
Arboretum (a garden of trees or wooded plants)	123
Bike amenities/rentals	122
Food and beverage concession	116
Treetop canopy walk	112
Racquet courts	109
Skate park	106
Playful site furnishings (e.g. swing benches)	102
Maintained meadow and wildflower displays	94
Community garden/urban agriculture	89
Tree nursery/native seed orchard	64
Indigenous placekeeping	60

#### **Zone 3: Natural Area and Nevada Park**

Options	Number of mentions
Wetland boardwalk	200
Multi-use pathways	197
Treetop canopy walk	197
Wildlife lookout	179
Mountain biking trails	174
Neighbourhood playground	133
Off-leash dog area	127
Informal natural play opportunities	116
Enhanced ecological restoration	111
Educational node	75
Gathering area at key park entry	64
Wayfinding and signage	51
Gateway features	41
Interpretive signage (e.g. fun info panels)	35

#### **Zone 4: Former Landfill Sites**

Options	Number of mentions
Picnic areas	210
Winter trail activities	199
Diverse trail types	189
Hilltop lookouts	172
Mountain biking trails	148
Hill slide	137
Resting areas	129
Ecological restoration and habitat enhancement	119
Observation tower	105
Land art	73
Bike & Interpretive Node	63
Interpretive nodes (e.g. spots to observe and connect with surroundings)	25

## **Appendix B:**

### **Online Survey Responses**

This appendix outlines all sociodemographic information collected from the Phase 2 online survey.

# How would you like to use or get involved in Zone 1? Please select all that apply.

Options	Number of mentions
Enjoy nature	218
Participate in sports and recreation	189
Attend community events and cultural programming	123
Patronize food and beverage establishments	117
Engage in eco-tourism/sustainability initiatives	106
Explore educational and discovery based opportunities	100
Shop and engage with local businesses	86
Visit for a getaway	79
Use a library and learning spaces	72
Hosting or attending private events/gatherings	60
Be involved in other ways	15

# How would you like to use or get involved in Zone 2? Please select all that apply.

Options	Number of mentions
Explore nature and scenic landscape	166
Engage in active recreation and sports	165
Relax and socialize in outdoor spaces	162
Bike and enjoy cycling amenities	132
Experience adventure and unique attractions	114
Attend events and group activities	85
Support conservation and environmental education	84
Participate in community gardening and urban agriculture	58
Enjoy Indigenous cultural experience and gathering spaces	50
Be involved in other ways	4

# How would you like to use or get involved in Zone 3? Please select all that apply.

Options	Number of mentions
Explore trails and outdoor pathways	193
Relax and connect with nature	161
Enjoy adventure and unique park features	137
Experience wildlife and ecological restoration	133
Engage in nature-based play and exploration	125
Support conservation and sustainability efforts	86
Learn through outdoor education and interpretation	62
Gather at key park entry points and social spaces	59
Participate in guided tours and environmental programs	52
Be involved in other ways	5

# How would you like to use or get involved in Zone 4? Please select all that apply.

Options	Number of mentions
Enjoy scenic views and observation points	169
Explore diverse trails and biking routes	168
Use the park for fitness and outdoor adventure	142
Participate in winter recreational activities	141
Relax and socialize in outdoor gathering spaces	132
Connect with nature through self-guided exploration	107
Engage in ecological restoration and conservation efforts	64
Enjoy artistic and cultural elements in the landscape	57
Experience interactive and educational installations	49
Attend guided tours and environmental education programs	44
Be involved in other ways	3

### How familiar are you with the NMRP?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Know NMRP well.	35%
Know a little about NMRP.	24%
Know a fair amount about NMRP.	20%
Have never heard of NMRP.	12%
Have heard of NMRP.	8%

### In the past two years, how many times have you visited NMRP?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Two to five times	26%
Zero times	26%
Eleven or more times	22%
Once	14%
Six to ten times	12%

### What are the first three digits of your postal code?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
L6A	56%
L4H	8%
L4J	8%
L4K	5%
L4E	2%
L4L	2%
L3T	2%
L4C	2%
M4K	2%
L4A	1%
LOL	1%
L3P	1%
L3R	1%
L3X	1%
L5A	1%
L6P	1%
L6T	1%
L7B	1%
L7E	1%
L9P	1%
M1W	1%
МЗМ	1%
M4P	1%
M5P	1%
M9B	1%
N8H	1%
P3A	1%

### What is your age?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
35 to 49 years old	39%
50 to 64 years old	35%
20 to 34 years old	19%
65 years or older	3%
13 to 19 years old	3%

### Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Not Indigenous	91%
First Nations	2%
Métis	1%
Inuit	1%
Yes - not listed	0.4%
Prefer not to answer	6%

### What is you racial identity? Select all that apply.

Options	Percentage of Respondents
White	58%
East Asian	10%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean	5%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian	3%
Southeast Asian	3%
West Asian	3%
Black	3%
First Nations	2%
Latin American	2%
Not sure	2%
Not listed	1%
Prefer not to answer	17%
North African	0.04%

### What best describe your residency in Canada?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
A second generation Canadian	42%
A first second generation Canadian in 2016 or earlier	28%
Being born in Canada and whose family has been in Canada for multiple generations	23%
A first generation Canadian who arrived between 2017 and now	2%
Prefer not to answer	6%

### What is your religion, if any?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Christian	53%
Having no religious affiliation	12%
Agnostic	7%
Atheist	5%
Jewish	4%
Muslim	2%
Practicing Indigenous spirituality	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Indigenous Spirituality	1%
Prefer not to answer	16%

### What best describes you gender?

Options	Percentage of Respondents	
Cisgender women	40%	
Cisgender men	33%	
Transgender woman	0.4%	
Two-spirit	0.4%	
Gender non-binary	0.4%	
Prefer not to answer	23%	

#### What best describes your sexual orientation(s)?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Heterosexual	67%
Asexual	8%
Bisexual	2%
Not sure	1%
Two-spirit	1%
Not sure	1%
Prefer not to answer	23%

# Do you consider yourself to be a person with a condition and/or disability?

Options	Percentage of Respondents	
Not having a condition and/or disability	84%	
Living with a condition and/or disability	5%	
Prefer not to answer	11%	

### What best describes your living situation?

Options	Percentage of Respondents	
Own the home where they live	76%	
Live in a home owned by someone else	11%	
Rent the home where they live	6%	
Rent a home owned by someone else	1%	
Prefer not to answer	6%	
Not listed: Tent camp	0.4%	

### What best describes your current type of housing?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
A single-detached house	62%
A townhouse/rowhouse	13%
A semi-detached house	10%
Apartment in a mid-rise building (six to 12 storeys)	3%
Apartment in a low-rise building (up to five storeys)	2%
Apartment in a high-rise building (13 or more storeys)	1%
A secondary suite (e.g. basement apartment)	0.4%
Not listed: Tent camp	0.4%
Prefer not to answer	8%

### Are you a dog owner?

Options	Percentage of Respondents	
Is not a dog owner	63%	
Is a dog owner	37%	

### What is your total household income?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
\$200,000+	31%
\$150,000-\$199,000	9%
\$100,00-\$124,999	7%
\$125,000-\$149,000	7%
\$80,000-\$99,999	5%
\$40,000-\$59,999	3%
\$60,000-\$79,999	3%
\$0 to \$19,999	1%
\$20,000-\$39,999	0.4%
Not sure	3%
Prefer not to answer	30%

## Are you personally or professionally affiliated with any community groups? If so, which ones?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	48%

- Athletics Ontario
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bike riders
- Concord West Ratepayers Association
- Criminal Justice Association of Ontario
- Durham Mountain Biking Association
- Eclipse Track & Field Club
- National Track & Field
- Non-profit social services agency
- Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care
- Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) hockey Provincial
- PEO
- Personally connected to a local mosque.
- Polish Scouting Association in Canada
- Professionally connected with a Canadian university

- Professionally connected with a local hospital.
- Ratepayers association [x2]
- Ratepayers association in Ward 1
- Running club [x2]
- Soccer Soccer club [x2]
- Social service agencies
- Son does track and field
- Track and field
- Track Club
- Trans
- Vaughan Soccer Club
- York Region Mountain Biking Association
- York Region Runners Club
- Youth clubs
- Youth sports club

#### How did you hear about the survey?

Options	Percentage of Respondents
Word of mouth	23%
Vaughan News eNewsletter	16%
City of Vaughan website	13%
Roadside signs	10%
City of Vaughan social media	9%
Email from the NMRP project team	8%
Councilor office communications	6%
Vaughan Engagement eNewsletter	6%
Signs at NMRP	4%
NMRP eNewsletter	2%
Table at an event	2%
Digital signs at a community centre	1%
Other social media account	5%
Not listed	7%

#### Other social media account

- Athletics Ontario [x5]
- A track member's Instagram
- Facebook [x2]
- Instagram [x2]
- LinkedIn

#### Not listed

- Athletic Ontario [x4]
- City Hall Connects [x8]
- Mayor's newsletter
- Phone message at City of Vaughan number
- Trans event

### What language(s) do you prefer to speak at home? Select all that apply

Options	Percentage of Respondents
English	85%
Italian	12%
French	7%
Spanish	5%
Cantonese	4%
Mandarin	3%
Russian	3%
Arabic	2%
Urdu	2%
Gujarati	1%
Hebrew	1%
Tagalog	1%
Tamil	1.00%
Persian	1%
Anishinaabemowin / Ojibwe	0.40%
Inuktitut	0.40%
Punjabi	0.40%
Hindi	1%
Polish	1%
Romanian	1%
Amazigh	0.40%
Amharic	0.40%
German	0.40%
Malayalam	0.40%
Japanese	0.40%
Macedonian	0.40%
Odia	0.40%
Portuguese	0.40%
Serbian	0.40%
Turkish	0.40%
Twi	0.40%
Prefer not to answer	6%

## **Appendix C:**

#### **NMRP Park Concepts**

#### **Concept A**

This concept prioritizes ecological restoration, emphasizing the protection and enhancement of natural areas with less human impact than concept B. This approach focuses on passive trails, allowing for immersive wildlife experiences and biodiversity conservation. Recreational activities are limited to low-impact play areas, ensuring that the park remains a haven for native species. The design supports long-term environmental sustainability, making it a preferred option for those who value conservation over active recreation. Compared to Concept B, this plan has fewer developed areas and a stronger emphasis on preserving the site's natural integrity.

#### **Concept B**

This concept introduces a greater focus on active recreation and sports, responding to community feedback—particularly from youth—who desire more dynamic spaces. This plan includes expanded play areas and increased site development, leading to a more significant human footprint. While still mindful of ecological considerations, it integrates more active uses, balancing environmental restoration with recreational amenities. The location at the Don River headwaters makes ecological planning crucial, but this concept leans towards accessibility and engagement. In contrast to Concept A, it represents a higher level of development and a shift toward a multi-use community space.

