

MacMillan Farm Master Plan

Phase 2

What We Heard Report

March 2026



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About the Project

Project Overview

The City of Vaughan is engaging the community to develop a master plan to create a unique experience at MacMillan Farm, setting it apart from other park experiences within the city and neighbouring municipalities.

The purpose of the MacMillan Farm Master Plan is to:

- Develop and refine a shared vision
- Create concept plans that reflect the City's, residents' and interested parties' goals and objectives for the site
- Provide recommendations on programs and management
- Introduce an implementation and phasing plan

This report describes the approach, results and key takeaways from Phase 2 of engagement on the MacMillan Farm Master Plan project.

Site Context and History

MacMillan Farm sits on land rich with layered histories. For over 15,000 years, the area was part of what is now Treaty 13 territory, traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee, which includes ancient village sites and trade routes along the Humber and Don Rivers. Evidence of 16th-century Huron-Wendat settlements just south of the site reflects this long-standing Indigenous presence.

European settler history is also deeply rooted here. In the late 1800s, English immigrants William Cook and, later, the MacMillan family shaped the agricultural landscape by establishing farms, building houses and a sawmill. Today, two heritage houses, the William Cook and Valentine Keffer Houses, are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, symbolizing the site's transition from early settlement to modern community resource.

Together, these Indigenous and settler stories form the foundation of MacMillan Farm's identity, creating a significant opportunity to honour, share and weave both narratives into the master plan for future generations.



Engagement Approach

Phase 2 Engagement

Phase 2 of engagement for the MacMillan Farm Master Plan was designed to build on the insights gathered during Phase 1. The goal was to move from understanding broad community aspirations to refining and prioritizing design concepts for the site. Specifically, Phase 2 aimed to:

- **Gather Feedback on Preliminary Concepts:** Present early design concepts and alternatives for the Master Plan and invite feedback on their alignment with community needs and values.
- **Understand Priorities:** Explore how participants would prioritize various elements and amenities such as trails, natural areas, food growing and cultural spaces at the farm. This phase also asked the public to provide feedback on the different options for how the site could be accessed via transit, active transportation (e.g. walking or biking), or personal vehicle.
- **Determine Preferred Directions:** Use the insights of this phase of engagement to inform the development of a preferred concept and key elements that should guide the final Master Plan.

Who We Engaged

Residents of Vaughan were invited to participate in a public open house and an online survey which was accessible via the MacMillan Farm Master Plan webpage (vaughan.ca/MacMillan). These engagement methods offered members of the public an opportunity to provide feedback on emerging concepts for amenities and programs they would like to have access to at MacMillan Farm in the future.



How We Engaged

This section outlines the engagement, communications, and outreach activities carried out during Phase 2 of the MacMillan Farm Master Plan study.

Communications and Outreach Tactics



Project Webpage

The online hub for all project information and engagement opportunities (vaughan.ca/MacMillan).



eNewsletters

The City of Vaughan shared opportunities for the public to get involved in the master plan through various e-newsletters. By the numbers:

- 1 public service announcement,
- 1 Vaughan News email (~6,176 subscribers)
- 2 Vaughan Engagement eNewsletters (Sept. 10 issue went out to 2638 people and Oct. 16 issue went out to 2627 people)
- Three Councillors included advertisement of the survey and open house in their newsletters, of which two councillors mentioned it in two newsletters.



Social Media Campaign

Social media posts were used to raise awareness about the project on Facebook, Instagram and X.

By the numbers: 8 social posts



Promotional Signage

Digital and mobile signs were displayed in the community to raise awareness about the project and opportunities to engage.

By the numbers: 5 mobile signs

Engagement Methods



Public Open House

A public open house was held on Sept. 25, 2025 at Carville Community Centre. Preliminary design concepts for MacMillan Farm were presented to the community to gather feedback on design and programming priorities and preferences.

By the numbers: 65-70 participants



Online Survey

To better understand public opinions and ideas about the future use of the property, the project team conducted an online survey. The survey was open to the public from Sept. 26, 2025 to Oct. 20, 2025 and was available through the City's official webpage.

By the numbers: 158 survey responses



Information Packages for Indigenous Nations

To honour reconciliation and support meaningful engagement, the City shared information packages with the local Indigenous nations who were previously engaged in Phase 1 through one-on-one meetings. They were invited to provide any additional feedback via email or by meeting, if there was interest.

Over the course of Phase 1 and 2 of this project, we have had **nearly 1000 engagement touchpoints** with people across surveys, pop-ups, open houses and other engagement opportunities.

What We Heard

Key Takeaways

Throughout Phase 2 public engagement, six themes emerged which are summarized below:

Preserving Natural Heritage

Participants expressed a strong desire to keep MacMillan Farm as natural as possible, prioritizing habitat protection and biodiversity. Pollinator-friendly design and other ecological features were highlighted, and visitors valued opportunities for quiet nature immersion through walking, wildlife observation, and minimal built interventions.

Enhancing Trails, Access, and Nature Experiences

There was widespread appreciation for simple, nature-based activities, including walking trails, bird and wildlife watching, and forest and grassland exploration. Trails with interpretative signage were seen as an important way to connect people to nature while minimizing environmental impact and preserving the landscape.

Growing Food and Community Gardens

Community gardens received strong support as spaces where visitors can grow, learn, and harvest. Participants were interested in hands-on food-based learning, such as gardening workshops, composting, beekeeping, and native/perennial plant education, as well as seasonal food production experiences like pick-your-own and foraging.

Markets, Food Experiences, and Local Vendors

There was enthusiasm for farm shops, farmers' markets, and local vendors that reflect the site's agricultural heritage. Support was also expressed for a nature café, seasonal food events, and demonstrations such as holiday cooking or farm-to-table experiences, all seen as ways to attract visitors and provide unique offerings.

Enabling Education, Workshops and Learning Opportunities

Many were interested in hands-on educational opportunities focused on Indigenous history and culture, ecology, sustainability, gardening, and wildlife. Workshops on native plants, pollinators, composting, and beekeeping were particularly valued, emphasizing the community's desire for interactive and practical learning experiences.

Integrating Arts, Culture and Creativity

Arts and culture were viewed as complementary to nature and food experiences rather than standalone features. Ideas included nature-based art workshops, exhibitions, maker spaces, artisan studios, and performances. The barns were highlighted as flexible spaces to support arts and culture programming, events, and rentals, with potential to generate revenue.

Online Survey Findings

As part of Phase 2, the City conducted an online public survey to gather feedback on the proposed features and programming ideas within each concept. A total of **158 responses** were collected between Sept. 26, and Oct. 20, 2025. The online survey invited participants to share their preferences and ideas for potential features and activities at MacMillan Farm based on three concepts. The three distinct design concepts presented to the public included the following components:



Concept A: Emphasizing nature and habitat protection

Key features of the ecology-forward concept include:

- Prioritization of naturalization and habitat creation
- Limited trails and parking to reduce disturbance
- Repurposing of buildings for environmental education
- Low-impact design and programming



Concept B: Highlighting local food production and Vaughan's agricultural heritage

Key features of the food-forward concept include:

- Showcasing urban agriculture in creative ways
- Additional parking to support new uses
- Introducing new trails to invite foraging and gathering
- Re-purposing of buildings as a local food hub
- Moderate impact design and programming



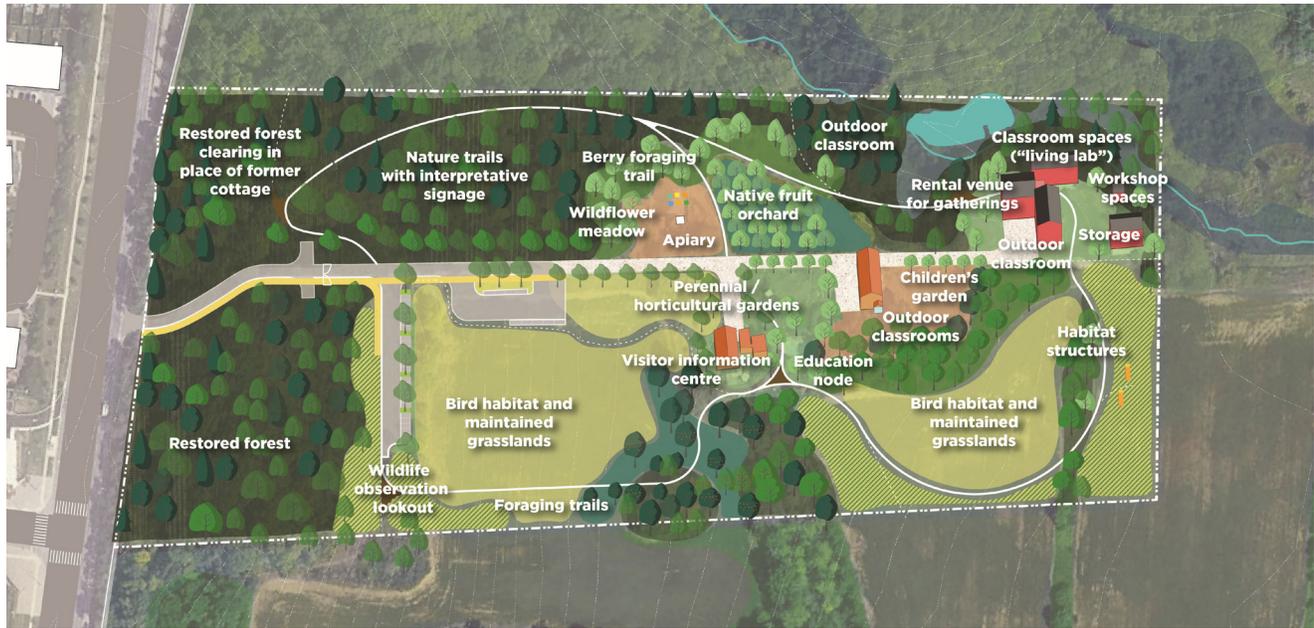
Concept C: Celebrating local art and culture

Key features of the arts and culture-forward concept include:

- Local arts, culture, and creativity
- Repurposed buildings for learning, exhibitions, and events
- More trails through grasslands and forests
- Greatest parking allocation to support large gatherings
- Highest-impact design and programming

Maps for each concept are included in the appendix.

Concept A: Ecology-Forward



Key Precedents and Features

These precedent images illustrate potential activities and features that could be supported at MacMillan Farm. Actual programming, design elements, and final concepts are subject to change.



Nature trails



Interpretative signage



Habitat structures



Maintained grasslands



Classroom "living lab"

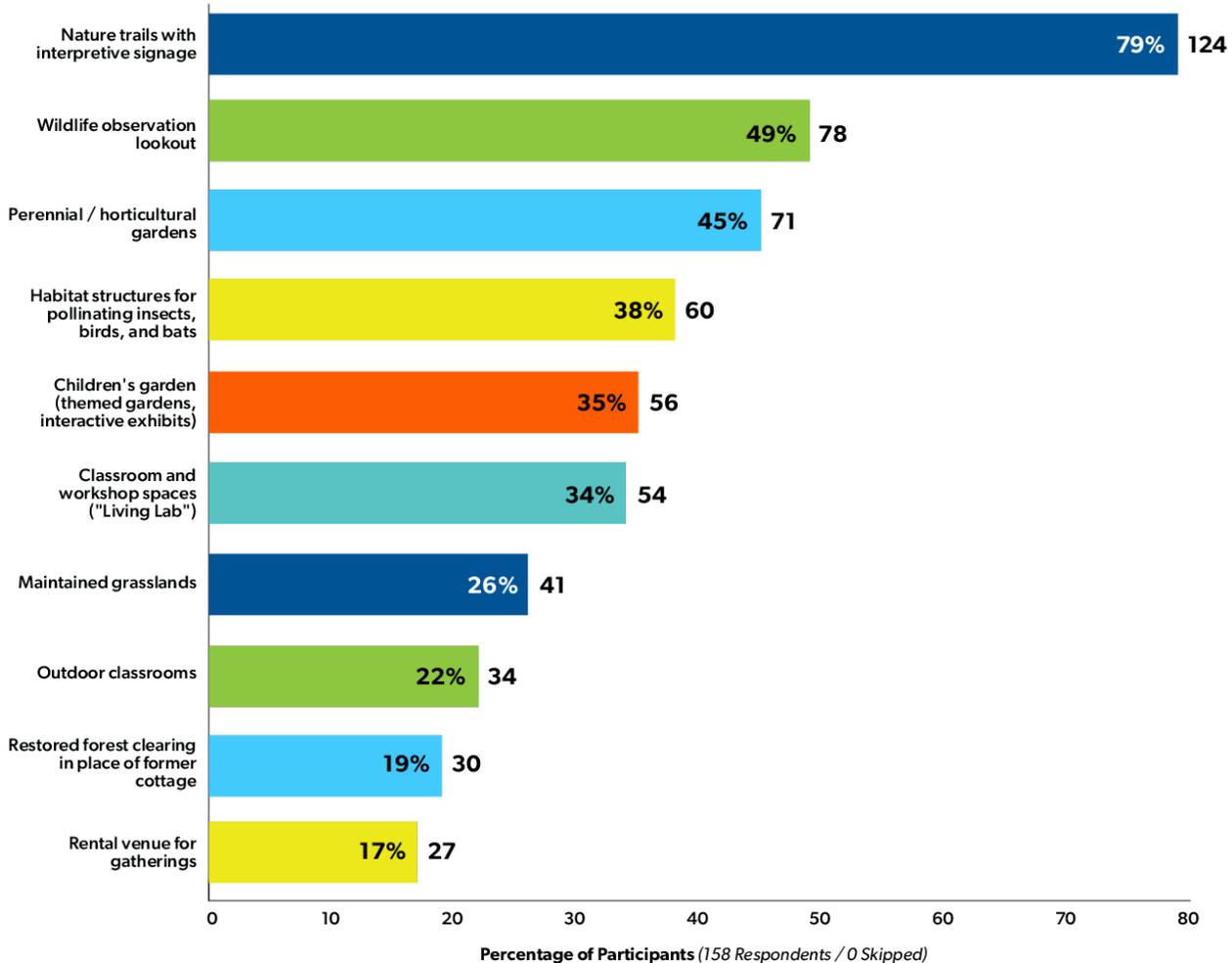


Outdoor classroom

Question #1: Most desired ecology-forward features

“Which of the following suggested features are most exciting to you?”

Survey respondents were asked to select four nature- and ecology-forward features they were most excited to see at MacMillan Farm. All survey respondents (158 respondents) answered the question.



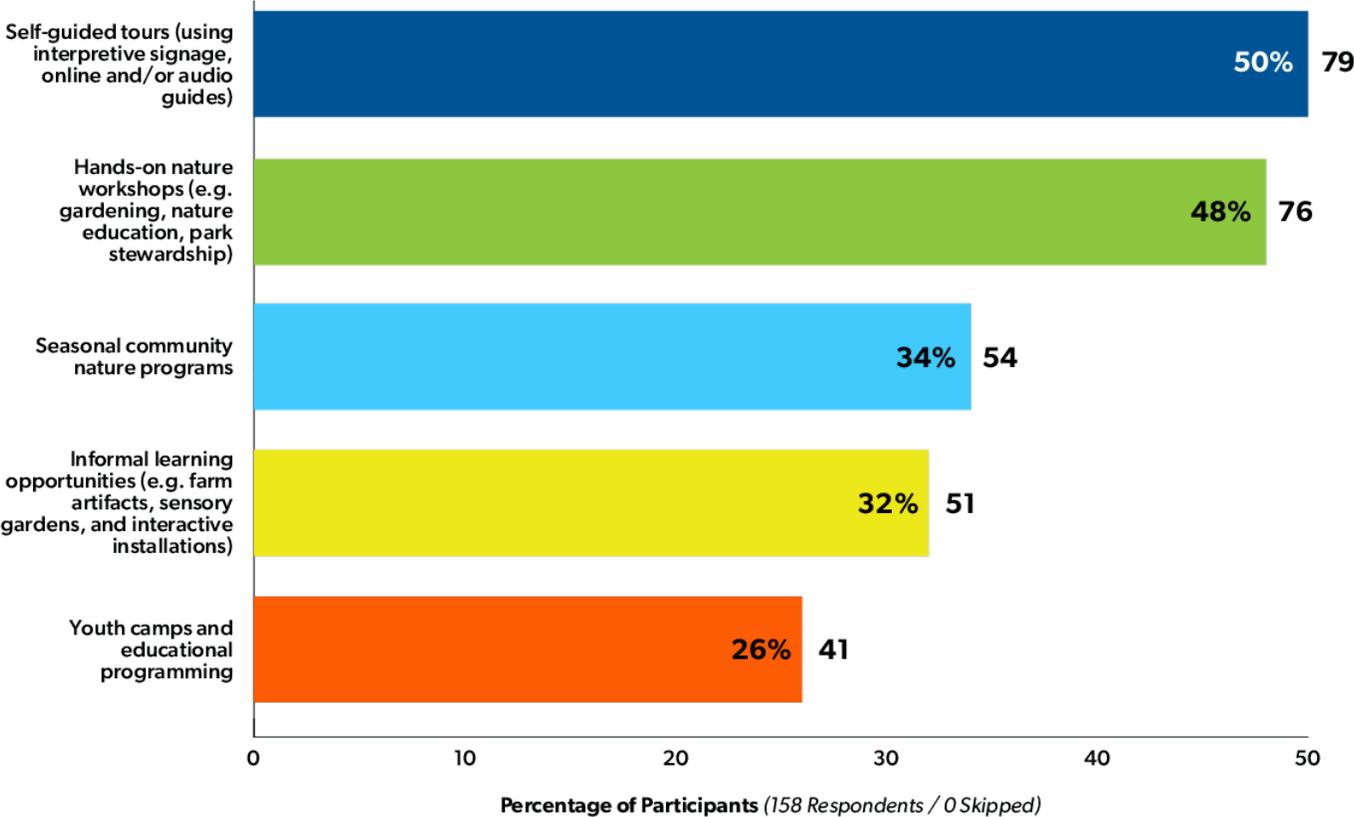
Many respondents were most excited to see nature trails with interpretive signage in this concept, with **79 per cent** of respondents indicating interest in this feature. The other top three features included opportunities for wildlife observation lookouts (**49 per cent**), perennial and horticultural gardens (**45 per cent**), and habitat structures for pollinating insects, birds, and bats (**38 per cent**).

Features that respondents were moderately excited about a children's garden (e.g. themed gardens, interactive exhibits and sensory elements for children), with **35 per cent** of respondents expressing interest. Classroom and workshop spaces such as a "Living Lab" attracted interest from (**34 per cent**) and maintained grasslands (**26 per cent**). The least popular features were an outdoor classroom (**22 per cent**), a restored forest clearing in place of the former cottage (**19 per cent**), and a rental venue for gatherings (**17 per cent**).

Question #2: Most desired ecology-forward activities and programming

“Which of the following suggested features are most exciting to you?”

Survey respondents were asked to select two nature- and ecology-forward event or programming options they were most interested in experiencing at MacMillan Farm. All survey respondents (158 respondents) answered the question.



Self-guided tours (e.g. using interpretive signage, online, or audio guides) were the most frequently selected, chosen by **50 per cent** of respondents. The second most popular option was hands-on nature workshops such as gardening, nature education, and park stewardship selected by **48 per cent** of respondents. These top two options align with the top features (e.g. nature trails and perennial/horticultural gardens) respondents expressed excitement about in the previous question.

Seasonal community nature programs had moderate interest, with **34 per cent** of respondents expressing interest, followed by informal learning opportunities (e.g. farm artifacts, sensory gardens, and interactive installations) at **32 per cent**. Youth camps and educational programming were the least popular options at **26 per cent**.

Question #3: Other proposed ideas for ecology-forward features and programming

“What other ideas for nature and ecology focused features and programming would attract you to visit MacMillan Farm?”

Respondents were invited to share additional ideas for nature- and ecology-focused features and programming that would encourage them to visit MacMillan Farm. A total of **58** respondents provided suggestions, while **100** respondents did not provide additional ideas for features.

Nature Preservation and Protection

Many respondents emphasized a desire to keep MacMillan Farm as natural and undeveloped as possible, prioritizing habitat preservation and ecological restoration over built amenities or organized programming. Comments reflected strong support for minimal human intervention, concerns for environmental protection, naturalized walking trails, and allowing the landscape to regenerate and serve as a sanctuary for wildlife.

Trails and Nature Observation

Many respondents expressed interest in nature trails and opportunities for wildlife observation. Suggestions included forest and walking trails, strategically placed seating, guided nature or bird-watching walks, and connections to nearby trail networks such as the Upper East Don River and Valleyland Trail.

Educational Programming

Respondents suggested offering educational and hands-on programs focused on nature, gardening, and local ecology. Ideas included forestry programs for children, workshops on native and perennial plants, and classes on the ecological and medicinal value of vegetation. Others expressed interest in presentations on the local history of MacMillan Farm and separate or combined programs for adults and children to encourage lifelong learning and intergenerational participation.

Pollinator-Friendly Design

A few respondents suggested making MacMillan Farm pollinator-friendly, including beehives and honey production and planting flowers to attract bees and butterflies.

“Make it as natural as possible - not like a city park.”

“Just walking in nature and looking at the wildlife.”

“Workshops relating to native plants/perennials.”

“Love the idea of making the space pollinator friendly”

Other Ideas

Some respondents shared new and interesting ideas that hadn't been considered in the ecology-forward concept, which are summarized in the table below:

Amenity Ideas

- Fishing ponds (catch and release)
- Nature-based playground
- Iconic viewing tower (e.g. Malahat Skywalk)
- Use of natural construction materials (e.g. cob, straw, wood, clay, etc)
- Trail connection to Upper East Don River

Program / Experience Ideas

- Partnership with colleges and universities for environmental education programming
- Forest bathing; yoga in nature; mindfulness walks
- Stargazing
- Snowshoeing
- Natural ornament making classes in winter

Concept B: Food-Forward



Key Precedents and Features

These precedent images illustrate potential activities and features that could be supported at MacMillan Farm. Actual programming, design elements, and final concepts are subject to change.



Food forest



Outdoor dining



Small gathering space



Native fruit orchard



Market lane

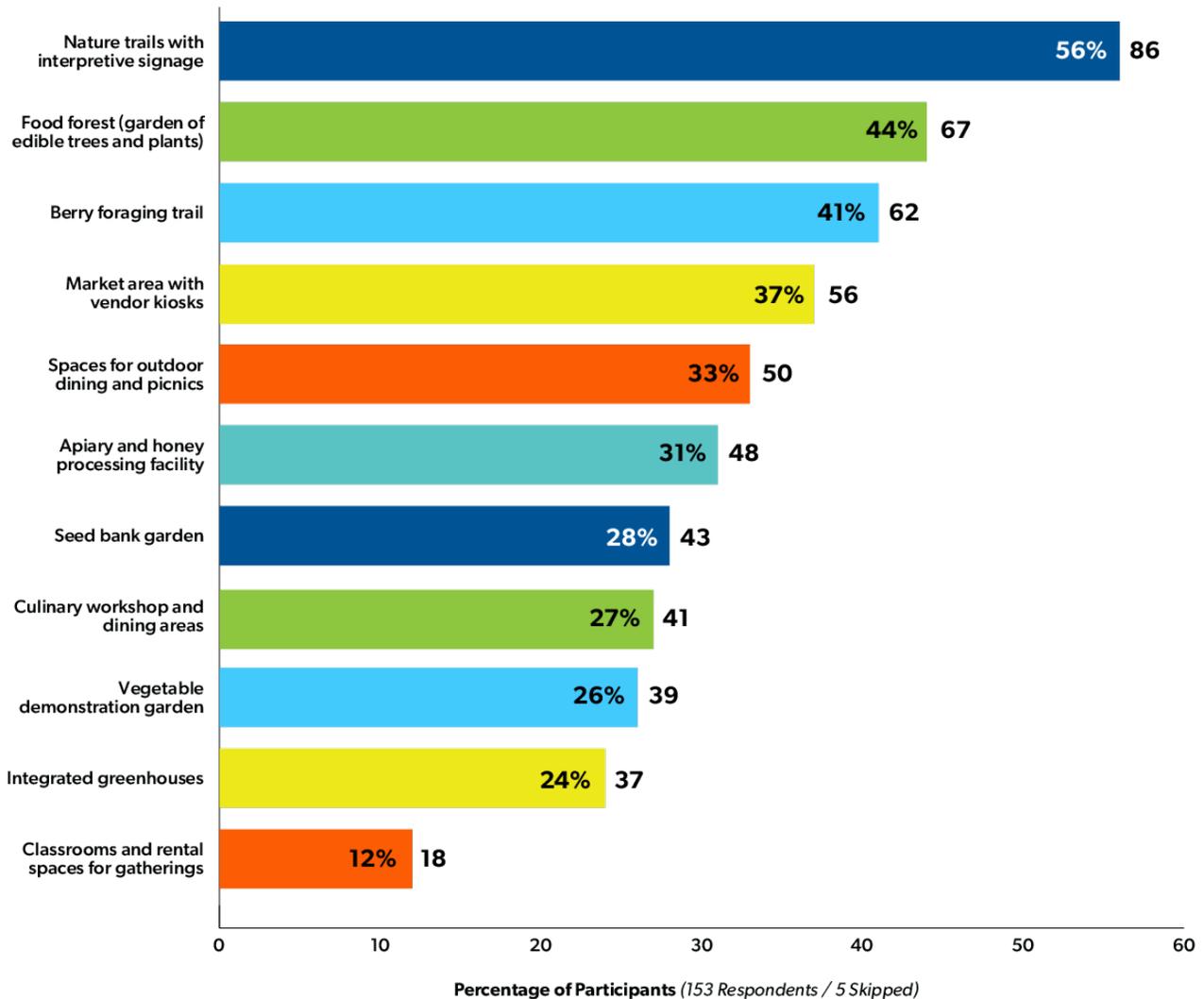


Local food hub

Question #4: Most desired food-forward features

“Which of the following suggested features are most exciting to you?”

Survey respondents were asked to select four food-forward features they were most excited to see at MacMillan Farm. A total of **153** respondents answered and **5** respondents skipped the question.



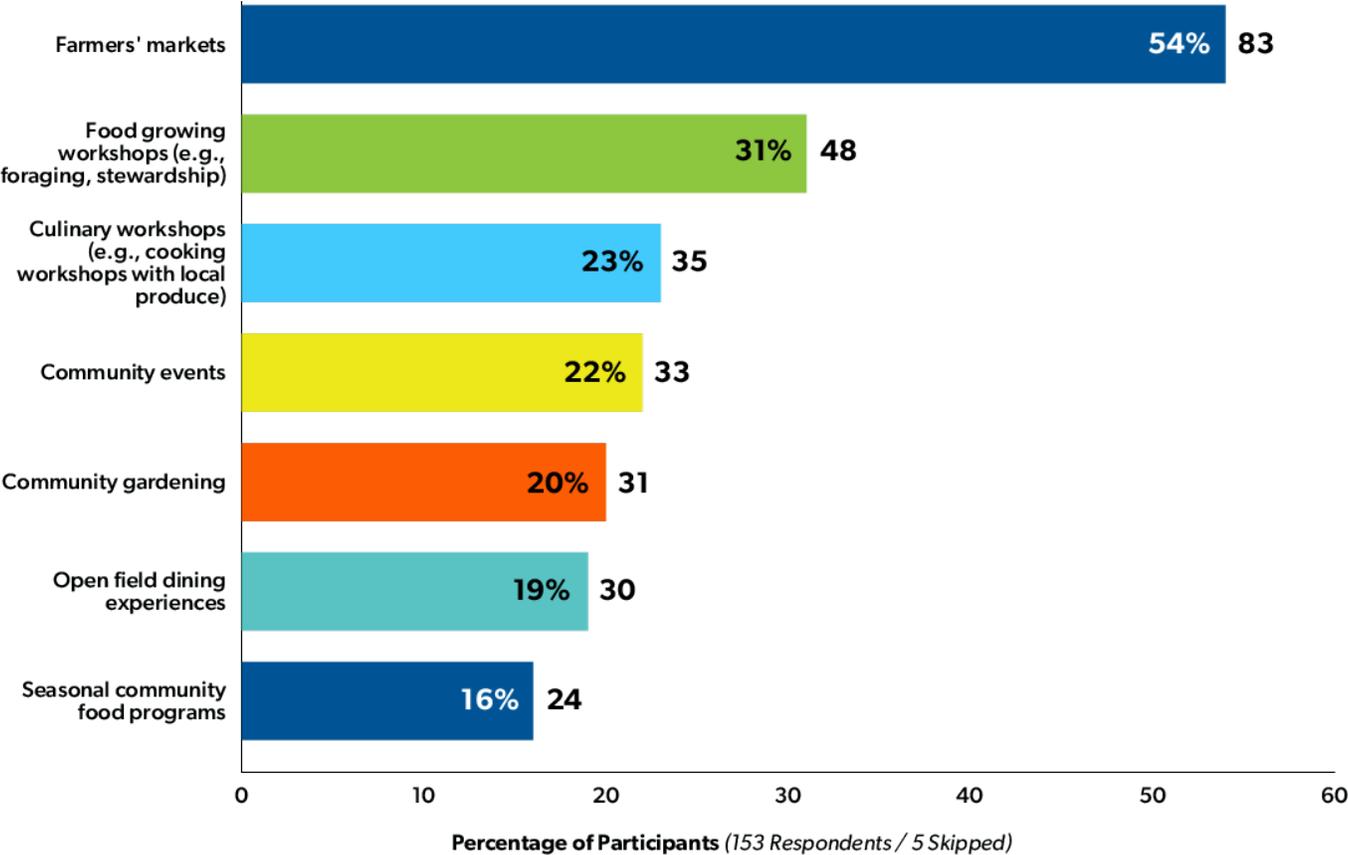
The most popular feature was nature trails with interpretive signage, with **56 per cent** of respondents expressing excitement, which was also indicated as a top choice for the previous concept. A food forest with a garden of edible trees and plants was also frequently selected (**44 per cent**), followed by a berry foraging trail (**41 per cent**) and a market area with vendor kiosks (**37 per cent**).

Features with moderate interest included spaces for outdoor dining and picnics (**33 per cent**), an apiary and honey processing facility (**31 per cent**), a seed bank garden (**28 per cent**), culinary workshop and dining areas (**27 per cent**), a vegetable demonstration garden (**26 per cent**), and integrated greenhouses (**24 per cent**). Classrooms and rental spaces for gatherings were the least popular option, chosen by **12 per cent** of respondents.

Question #5: Most desired food-forward activities and programming

“Which of the following suggested features are most exciting to you?”

Survey respondents were asked to select two event or programming options they were most interested in experiencing as part of a food-forward concept at MacMillan Farm. A total of **153** respondents answered and **5** respondents skipped the question.



Farmers’ markets were the most popular choice with **54 per cent** of respondents expressing excitement, followed by food-growing workshops such as foraging and stewardship at **31 per cent**. Respondents further emphasized their interest in farmers’ markets in the following question.

Other options that attracted moderate excitement included culinary workshops (**23 per cent**), community events (**22 per cent**), and community gardening (**20 per cent**), and open-field dining experiences (**19 per cent**). Few respondents expressed interest in seasonal community food programs (**16 per cent**).

Question #6: Other proposed ideas for food-forward features and programming

“What other ideas for food focused features and programming would attract you to visit MacMillan Farm?”

Respondents were invited to share additional ideas for food-focused features and programming that would encourage them to visit MacMillan Farm. A total of **52** respondents answered and **106** respondents skipped the question.

Farmers’ Market and Vendors

Many respondents expressed strong support for establishing farmers’ markets at MacMillan Farm, highlighting them as an opportunity to connect the community with local food systems. Comments emphasized interest in weekly markets, high-quality produce, cut flowers, and the potential to combine markets with picnics, live music, and community gatherings. Several respondents noted that a farmers’ market would be a unique attraction that also reflects the farm’s historical context.

“Having a market area / farmers markets will attract visitors and be unique. Also has a strong linkage to the historical context of MacMillan Farm.”

Community Gardens

There was strong interest in providing opportunities for community gardening and hands-on food-growing programs at MacMillan Farm. Respondents highlighted the value of community gardens, accessible garden beds for wheelchair users, and programs that encourage home gardening. Some also suggested learning opportunities and workshops such as growing wild greens and ancient grains.

“Community garden where members can learn about gardening and prep, grow, harvest...”

Educational Programming and Workshops

Many respondents emphasized the educational potential of MacMillan Farm, suggesting a variety of workshops and learning opportunities. Ideas included regenerative agriculture and soil science education, beekeeping workshops, herb and rose classes, sustainable foraging and cooking with invasive species, and composting and soil health programs to teach visitors practical, hands-on skills.

“Bee-keeping workshop.”

Growing Food and Pick-your-own Experiences

Respondents expressed enthusiasm for on-site food production and pick-your-own experiences at MacMillan Farm. Suggestions included fruit orchards (e.g., apple and berry picking) for visitors to harvest, activities for children, and opportunities to collect eggs and other produce.

“Educate visitors how to create their own compost.”

Food-Related Events and Experiences

Respondents suggested a variety of food-themed events and experiences at MacMillan Farm. Ideas included food fairs and BBQs, holiday cooking demonstrations in heritage buildings, themed food events, farm-to-table restaurant experiences with patio dining, and a nature café featuring locally grown produce.

Other Ideas:

Some respondents shared new and interesting ideas that hadn't been considered in the food-forward concept, which are summarized in the table below:

“Many residents of Vaughan enjoy apple picking during the fall months but are forced to travel far away...”

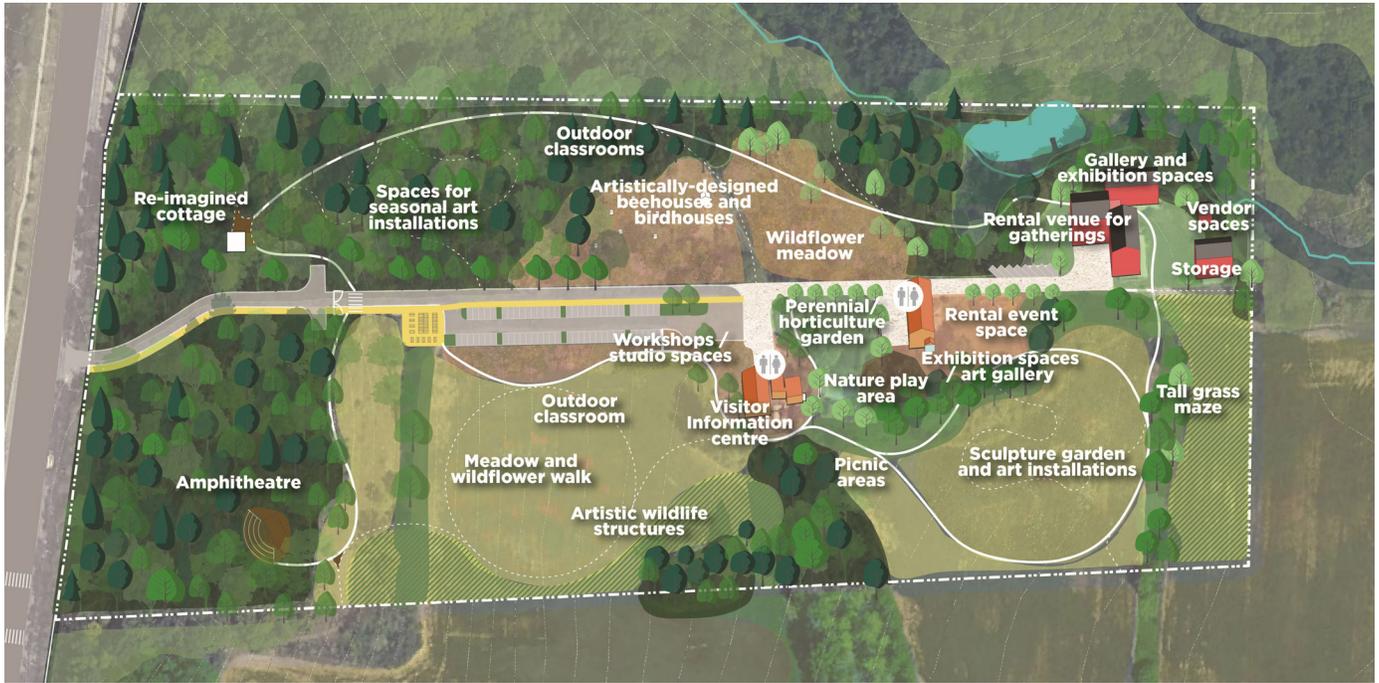
“Holiday cooking demonstration in the heritage houses, like baking cookies during Christmas.”

Amenity Ideas

Program / Experience Ideas

-
- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restaurant / cafe with local produce• Vertical farm• Wheelchair accessible gardens• Compost program | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food production:• Maple syrup making• Education/Workshops:• Safe and sustainable foraging• Composting workshops• Food security workshop• Events:• Food festivals• Community seed/seedling/plant swap |
|--|--|

Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward



Key Precedents and Features

These precedent images illustrate potential activities and features that could be supported at MacMillan Farm. Actual programming, design elements, and final concepts are subject to change.



Re-imagined cottage



Amphitheatre



Sculpture garden



Insect hotel



Tall grass maze

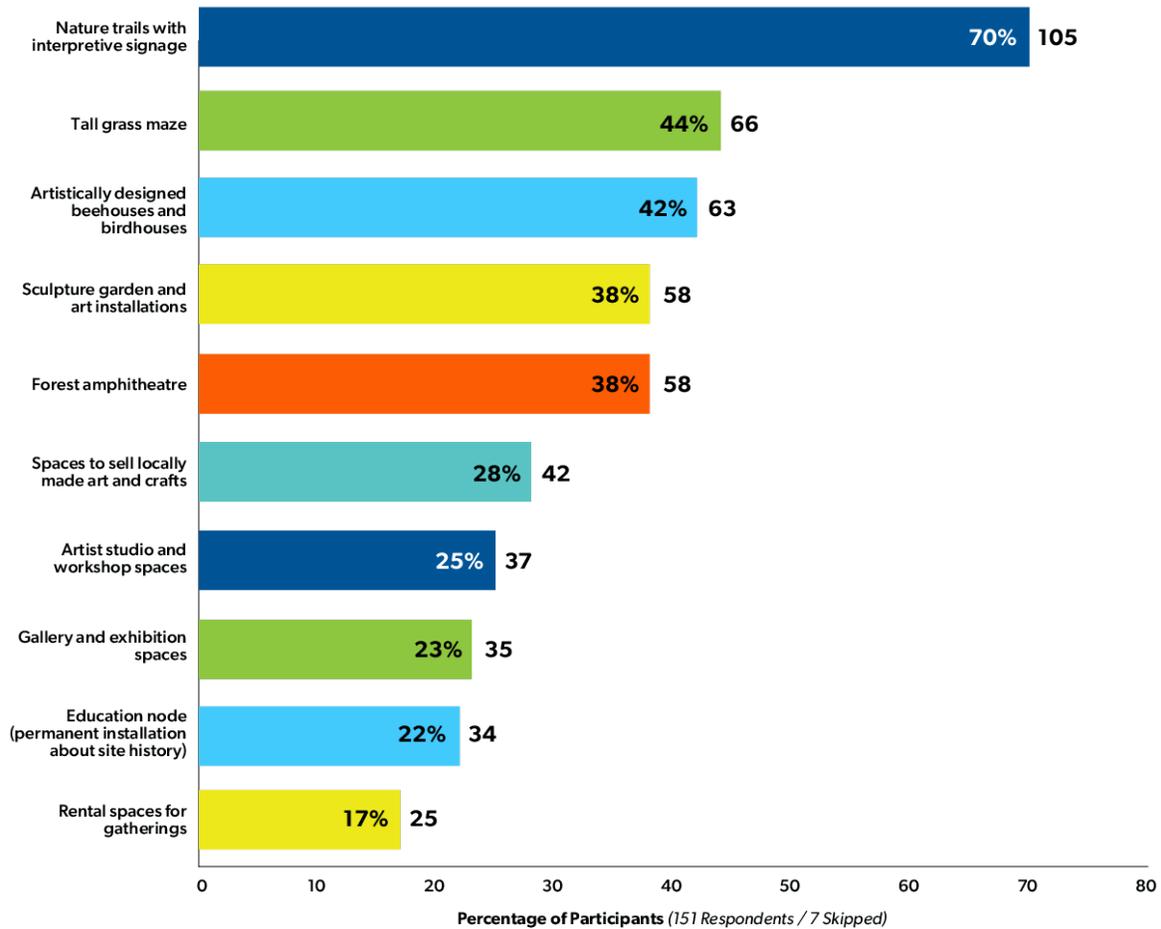


Workshop / studio / gallery

Question #7: Most desired arts and culture-forward features

“Which of the following suggested features are most exciting to you?”

Survey respondents were asked to identify which arts and culture-forward features they were most excited to see at MacMillan Farm. A total of **151** respondents answered and **7** respondents skipped the question.



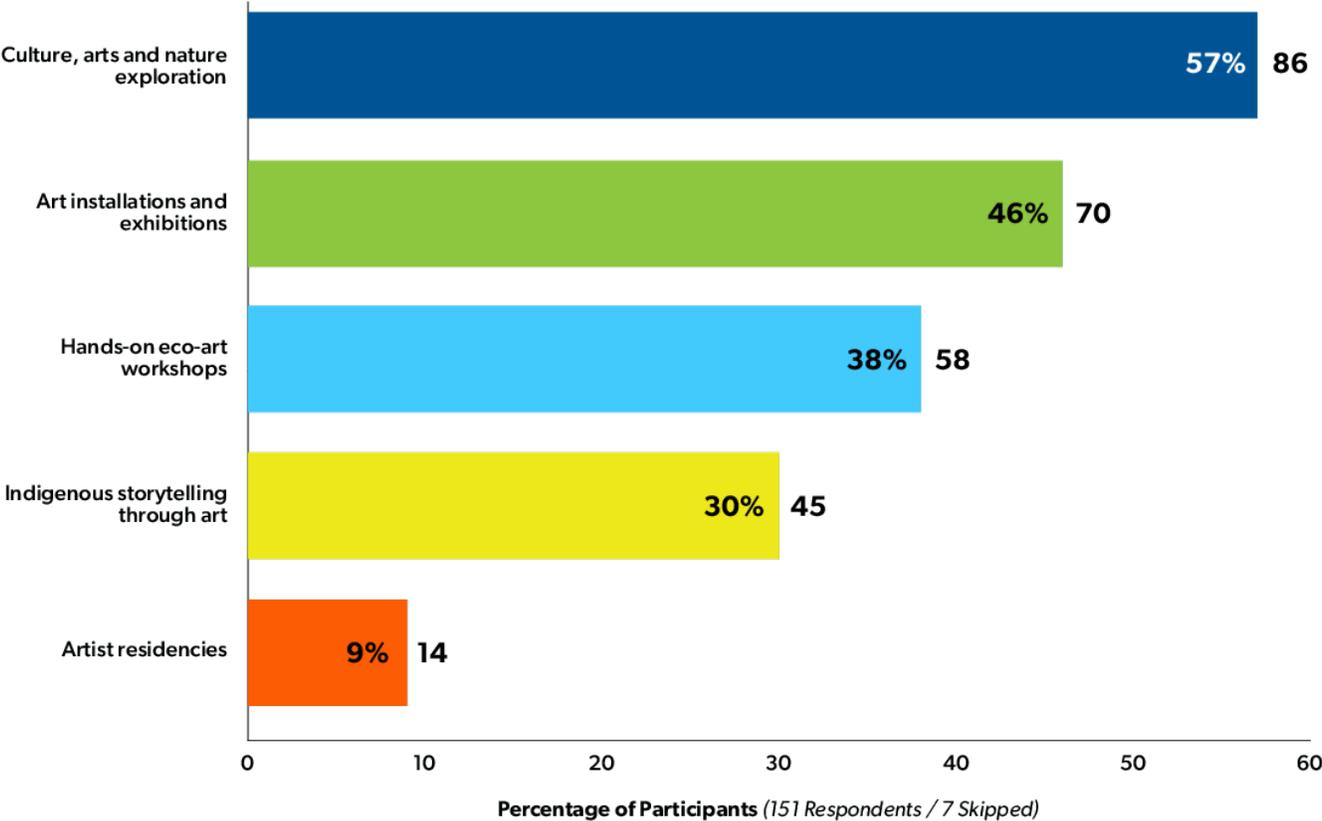
The most popular feature was nature trails with interpretive signage, with **70 per cent** of respondents indicating interest and carrying forward the same level of excitement from the previous two concepts. Other desired features include opportunities for a tall grass maze (**44 per cent**), artistically designed beehouses and birdhouses (**42 per cent**), a sculpture garden and art installations (**38 per cent**), and a forest amphitheatre (**38 per cent**).

Features with moderate interest included spaces to sell locally made art and crafts (**28 per cent**), artist studio and workshop spaces (**25 per cent**), gallery and exhibition spaces (**23 per cent**), and an education node such as a permanent installation of site history (**22 per cent**). The least popular feature was rental spaces for gatherings, with **17 per cent** of respondents expressing interest.

Question #8: Most desired arts and culture-forward activities and programming

“Which of the following suggested features are most exciting to you?”

Survey respondents were asked to choose two arts and culture-forward event or programming options they were most interested in experiencing at MacMillan Farm. A total of **151** respondents answered and **7** respondents skipped the question.



The most popular activity was culture, arts, and nature exploration (**57 per cent**), followed by art installations and exhibitions (**46 per cent**), and hands-on eco-art workshops, with **38 per cent** of respondents expressing enthusiasm, indicating strong interest in immersive and visually engaging experiences.

Indigenous storytelling through art attracted **30 per cent** of respondents. Respondents provided additional comments on Indigenous representation and cultural heritage in the following question. Artist residencies received the lowest level of interest, with only **9 per cent** of respondents selecting this option.

Question #9: Other proposed ideas for arts and culture-forward features and programming

“What other ideas for arts and culture-focused features and programming would attract you to visit MacMillan Farm?”

Respondents were invited to share additional ideas for arts and culture-forward features and programming that would encourage them to visit MacMillan Farm. A total of **37** respondents answered and **121** respondents skipped the question.

Indigenous Representation and Cultural Heritage

There was support among respondents for meaningful Indigenous inclusion, leadership, and representation across MacMillan Farm’s programming and design. Comments emphasized the importance of Indigenous-led art, exhibitions, workshops, and cultural activities, as well as opportunities for educational experiences about Indigenous history, stories, and traditions. Respondents highlighted interest in hands-on activities, such as Indigenous-led art classes, and expressed broad support for honouring Indigenous culture throughout the site.

Nature-based Art Workshops

Respondents expressed interest in hands-on, nature-based experiences that connect people with art, culture, and the environment. Ideas included workshops and art using natural materials, playgrounds integrated with natural elements, wildlife conservation initiatives, and archaeological areas exploring Indigenous history.

Presentation of Art and Performances

Respondents expressed interest in spaces for art and performances, including gallery and exhibition spaces and opportunities for local musicians to perform at an amphitheatre. There was also support for art and music classes for children.

Other Ideas:

Amenity Ideas

- Pottery studio
- Seasonal light displays
- Spaces for night-sky observation

Program / Experience Ideas

- Immersive arts experiences
- Cultural food programming
- Month-long art classes

“I do love the idea of honouring Indigenous storytelling and culture.”

“Many opportunities here for inclusion of First Nations including, but not limited, to your mentions of workshops, art exhibitions, vendors and more. Signage just does NOT cut it.”

“Art made of nature not plastic or metal, workshops for kids and adults.”

“Opportunities for local musicians to play for visitors at the amphitheater.”

Question #10: Getting to MacMillan Farm

As parking at MacMillan Farm will be limited, respondents were asked how they or members of their household would travel to the site, evaluating a range of transportation options using a scale from very likely to very unlikely or not sure.. A total of **145** respondents answered and **13** respondents skipped the question.

	Very Likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Not Sure
Personal vehicle (note that limited parking will be available on-site)	46%	27%	10%	6%	11%	---
Walking or wheeling (using mobility device)	40%	23%	6%	9%	18%	3%
Cycling (bike parking will be available on-site)	32%	27%	13%	10%	17%	1%
Shuttle bus from a local community centre	18%	17%	15%	15%	33%	2%
Public transportation	14%	9%	12%	19%	45%	2%
Ride-share drop-off (e.g. taxi, Uber, Lyft)	8%	12%	13%	16%	49%	2%

A majority indicated they would be most likely to use a personal vehicle (**46 per cent**), with another **27 per cent** saying they would be likely to do so. There was also strong interest in active transportation, with **40 per cent** of respondents saying they would be very likely to walk or wheel (using mobility devices) and **23 per cent** likely to do so. Cycling was another preferred mode, with **32 per cent** of respondents very likely and **28 per cent** likely to use this option.

In contrast, shared and public transportation options were less appealing. Ride-share services (e.g., taxi, Uber, Lyft) were the least likely to be used, with **49 per cent** of respondents saying they would be very unlikely to use them. Public transit was also less preferred (**45 per cent**), along with a shuttle bus from a local community centre, which **33 per cent** of respondents said they would be very unlikely to use.

Question #11: Overall findings

Respondents were asked how likely they would be to visit MacMillan Farm if the overall concept of the park focused on one of three design concepts. A total of **144** respondents answered and **14** respondents skipped this question.

	Very Likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Not Sure
Concept A: Ecology Forward Focus on naturalization, habitat restoration, environmental education and connecting with nature.	53%	23%	15%	5%	4%	---
Concept B: Food Forward Focus on growing and harvesting food and bringing community together around food education and programming.	41%	29%	15%	9%	5%	1%
Concept C: Arts and Culture Forward Focus on highlighting local artists and creating space for creating and exhibiting art and culture.	22%	29%	18%	15%	14%	---

Concept A: Ecology-Forward was the most popular concept, with **53 per cent** of respondents indicating they would be very likely to visit and **23 per cent** likely to visit if the park emphasized naturalization, habitat restoration, environmental education, and connections with nature.

Concept B: Food-Forward ranked second, with **41 per cent** very likely and **29 per cent** likely to visit if the concept focused on growing and harvesting food and bringing the community together through food education and programming.

Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward was the least popular, with **22 per cent** very likely and **29 per cent** likely to visit if the park highlighted local artists and created spaces for making and showcasing art and culture.

Although the survey focused on feedback related to the design concepts, participants shared a few out-of-scope comments that did not address the topic of some questions in the survey. These comments included concerns about Indigenous representation, municipal budgets, waste management, and concerns about similarity to other nature-focused amenities in the Greater Toronto Area.

Open House Findings

The Open House introduced preliminary design concepts for MacMillan Farm and provided an opportunity to gather community feedback on design and programming priorities and preferences. Presentation panels showcased three concepts—Concept A: Ecology-Forward, Concept B: Food-Forward, and Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward—organized across five key zones (see Figure 2):

- Zone 1: Woodlands
- Zone 2: Open Fields
- Zone 3: Houses and Garden
- Zone 4: The Glade
- Zone 5: The Barns



Figure 1: Overview of zones

The presentation panels included maps with design and programming details for each of the five zones based on the three concepts. These maps can be found in the appendix. Participants were asked to vote for their preferred concept for each zone based on the details in each map.

Using sticky notes, participants were encouraged to share which design features and programming ideas they liked the most and if they had any additional ideas for each zone. The voting results and comments are summarized in this section.

Zone 1: Woodlands

Among the options for this zone, Concept A: Ecology-Forward was the most preferred, receiving the greatest number of votes (see Figure 3):

- Concept A: Ecology-Forward - **27** votes
- Concept B: Food-Forward - **15** votes
- Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward - **13** votes

* 1 vote was placed between Ecology-forward and Food-forward suggesting an interest in programming that combines both, which was reflected in some of the comments.

Comments

A total of **20** comments were provided for this zone. There was strong support for an ecology-focused approach, with participants emphasizing the importance of protecting and enhancing the forest and existing ecosystem.

Attendees also expressed interest in features from Concept B: Food-Forward that could be incorporated within Concept A: Ecology-Forward, such as food forests, berry picking, and other edible landscape elements, reflecting a desire for interactive, nature-based experiences that bring together different communities.

The proposed amphitheatre was widely appreciated and identified as a key feature that could support community events and gatherings. In addition, some participants expressed interest in year-round programming, improving accessibility, and ensuring programming is accessible and affordable for all ages.

Overall, the feedback for Zone 1: Woodlands suggests that the community values a balance between nature conservation, hands-on food experiences, and shared gathering spaces.



Figure 2: Zone 1: Woodlands open house panel

Zone 2: Open Fields

Among the options for this zone, Concept A: Ecology-Forward was the most preferred, receiving the greatest number of votes (See Figure 4):

- Concept A: Ecology-Forward - **22** votes
- Concept B: Food-Forward - **17** votes
- Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward - **23** votes

* 1 vote was placed between Food-forward and Arts and Culture-forward suggesting an interest in programming that combines both, which was reflected in some of the comments.

Comments

A total of **12** comments were shared for this zone. Comments suggest that respondents are particularly interested in incorporating food-forward features with arts-and-culture features.

Participants shared interest in more opportunities for eating areas such as small picnic areas and food-foraging opportunities. In addition, respondents expressed excitement such as incorporating more arts programming for all ages, exhibitions, mazes, and gardens in the open fields zone. Additionally, a dog park and more space to walk were mentioned as other ideas to incorporate.

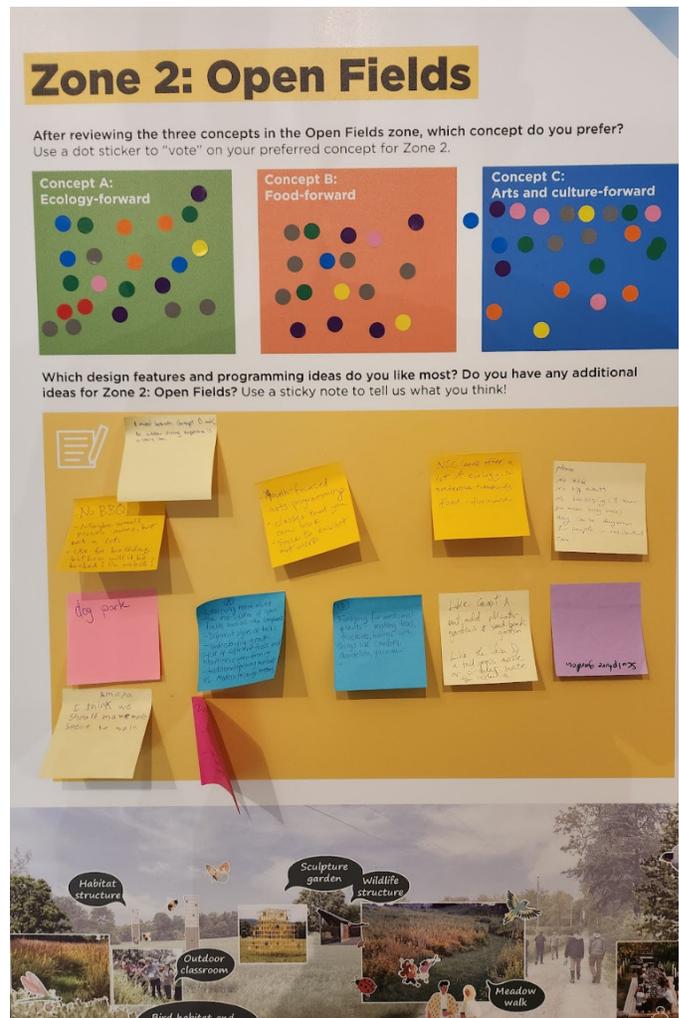


Figure 3: Zone 2: Open Fields open house panel

Zone 3: Houses and Gardens

Concept A: Ecology-Forward was the most preferred concept for this zone, receiving the greatest number of votes (See Figure 5):

- Concept A: Ecology-Forward - **21** votes
- Concept B: Food-Forward - **16** votes
- Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward - **13** votes

* 6 votes were placed between Food-forward and Arts and Culture-forward suggesting an interest in programming that combines both, which was reflected in some of the comments.

Comments

This zone generated a lot of interest with a total of **21** comments shared for houses and gardens. Although Concept A: Ecology-Forward received the highest number of votes, most comments focused on Concept B: Food-Forward and Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward, highlighting opportunities for integrating food and cultural uses in the houses and gardens zone.

Respondents expressed strong interest in farmers' markets and market stalls, and many referenced successful examples of heritage properties that have been transformed into spaces celebrating local history and culture while providing educational opportunities for students and the public.

Other ideas that were mentioned by respondents included calming activities, play opportunities, opportunities for local vendors, and improvement of trail and seating options.



Figure 4: Zone 3: Houses and Gardens open house panel

Zone 4: The Glade

Concept A: Ecology-Forward was the most preferred concept for this zone, receiving the greatest number of votes (See Figure 6):

- Concept A: Ecology-Forward - **24** votes
- Concept B: Food-Forward - **16** votes
- Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward - **13** votes

* 1 vote was placed between Food-forward and Arts and Culture-forward.

Comments

7 comments were shared for this zone, which may suggest the need for more clarity and differentiation between this zone and Zone 2: Open Fields. A few participants shared interest in pollinator and wildlife-friendly design including a pollinator garden, and artistically designed bee and bird houses. One participant mentioned incorporating art and educational opportunities.

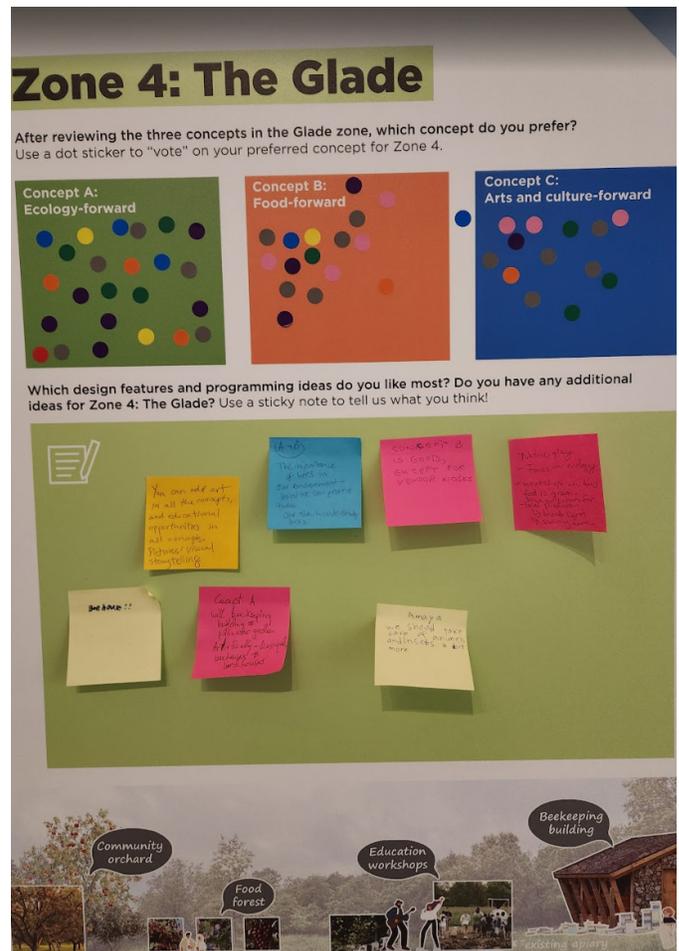


Figure 5: Zone 4: The Glade open house panel

Zone 5: The Barns

Voting indicates nearly equal interest in both Concept A: Ecology-Forward and Concept B: Food-Forward for this zone (See Figure 7):

- Concept A: Ecology-Forward - **19** votes
- Concept B: Food-Forward - **18** votes
- Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward - **10** votes

* 3 votes were placed between Ecology-forward and Food-forward, and 4 votes between Food-forward and Arts and Culture-forward.

Comments

This zone received **22** comments, reflecting strong enthusiasm for the potential of the barns to host a variety of programs and features.

Although Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward received the fewest votes, it generated the most discussion. Participants suggested strong interest in blending Concept B: Food-Forward with Concept C: Arts and Culture-forward elements within the barns. Respondents expressed enthusiasm for educational programs, both indoor and outdoor, as well as event and market spaces, artist studios, and cooking classrooms.

Participants were also excited about opportunities for greenhouses and local food production, alongside arts and culture activities such as workshops and year-round gathering spaces for diverse communities. These ideas point to a desire for versatile, hands-on, and community-oriented uses focused around food and arts and culture.

Overall, feedback suggests that the barns are envisioned as a flexible community hub that integrates cultural, culinary, and educational experiences to engage a wide range of visitors.



Figure 6: Zone 5: The Barns open house panel

Getting Around MacMillan Farm

“How would you like to get to MacMillan Farm?”

Open House participants were asked how they or members of their household would travel to the site if the City were to offer a range of transportation options. Participants used dot stickers to vote for their preferred mobility option as shown in the table below. Blue table cells with a bold number indicate higher dot votes for each mobility option.

	Very Likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Shuttle bus from a local community centre	8	2			5
Public transit	1				7
Personal vehicle (note that limited parking will be available on-site)	8	11	2		
Ride-share drop-off (e.g. taxi, Uber, Lyft)	2			1	3
Cycling (bike parking will be available on-site)	22	2			
Walking or wheeling (using mobility device)	22	7			

Most participants preferred active transportation options, such as walking, wheeling, and cycling, while personal vehicles remained moderately popular:

- **Cycling:** 24 participants were very likely or likely to cycle.
- **Walking or wheeling (using a mobility device):** 29 participants were very likely likely to walk or wheel.
- **Personal vehicle:** 19 participants were very likely or likely to drive.

The least popular methods of transportation were shuttle buses, public transit, and ride-share drop-offs:

- **Shuttle bus:** 5 participants were very unlikely to use a shuttle bus (while 10 participants were very likely or likely to use a shuttle bus).
- **Public transit:** 7 participants were very unlikely to use public transit.
- **Ride-share drop-off:** 3 participants were unlikely to use a ride share.

Other Mobility Ideas:

Participants proposed opportunities for rentable scooters and bicycles to access the site. Participants also emphasized the importance of a well-connected trail system, noting that safe and continuous pedestrian routes would encourage more people to access the site.

Conclusion and next steps

Phase 2 engagement demonstrated community enthusiasm for a future MacMillan Farm that protects its natural character while offering meaningful opportunities for learning, gathering, and hands-on experiences. Feedback from the online survey, open house, and Indigenous engagement highlighted the importance of ecological preservation, accessible trails and nature experiences, food-growing and market opportunities, and cultural programming that honours the site's heritage.

How engagement will be used

The insights gathered through Phase 2 engagement will be analyzed alongside technical input from the City of Vaughan's internal advisory teams and external specialists. This combined analysis will inform the development of a hybrid design concept for MacMillan Farm including:

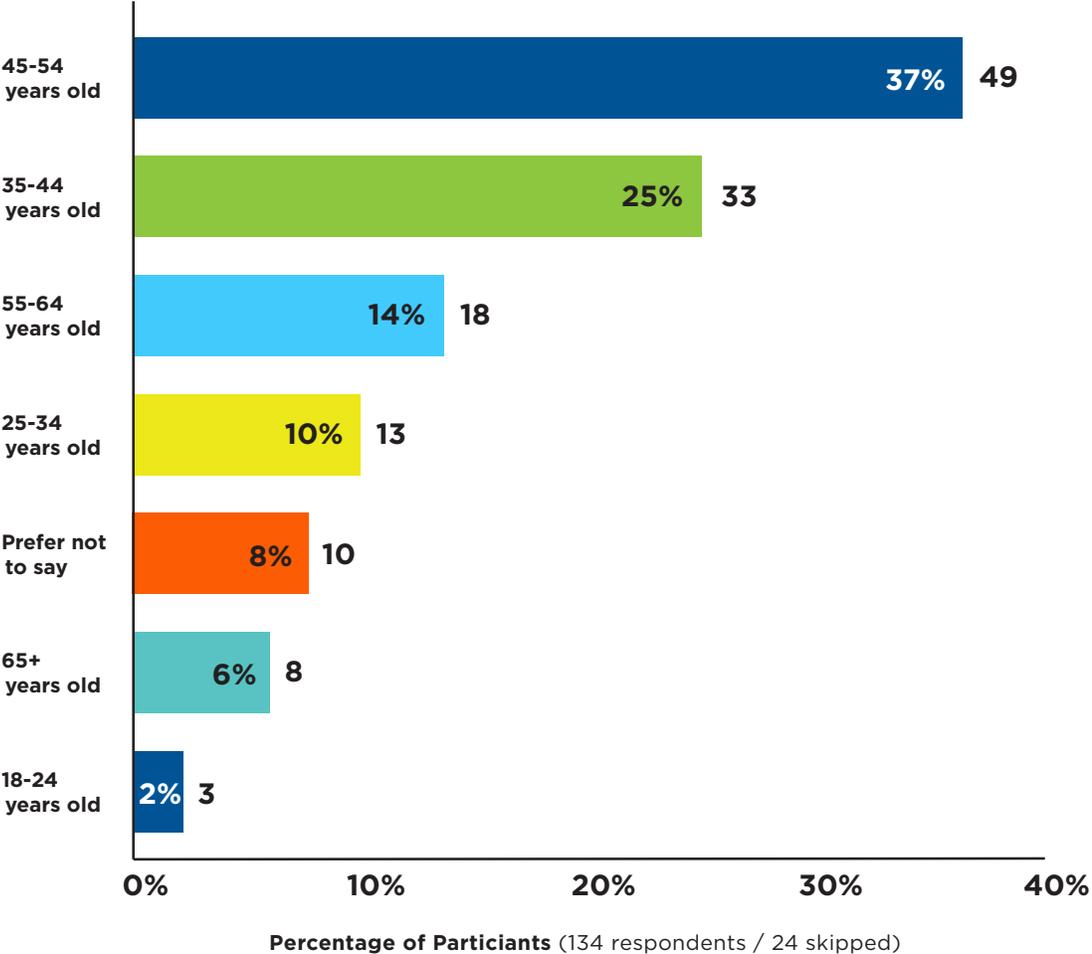
- Overall plan and vision for the site including character areas and potential design options.
- Proposed programming and activation opportunities balancing ecological preservation, food-focused uses, and arts and culture.
- Site recommendations including circulation and paths, signage and lighting, utilities and servicing, ecological planing and sustainable design, and adaptive re-use of heritage structures.
- Recommendations for integration of Indigenous stories, cultural heritage, educational and interpretive experiences.

Next steps

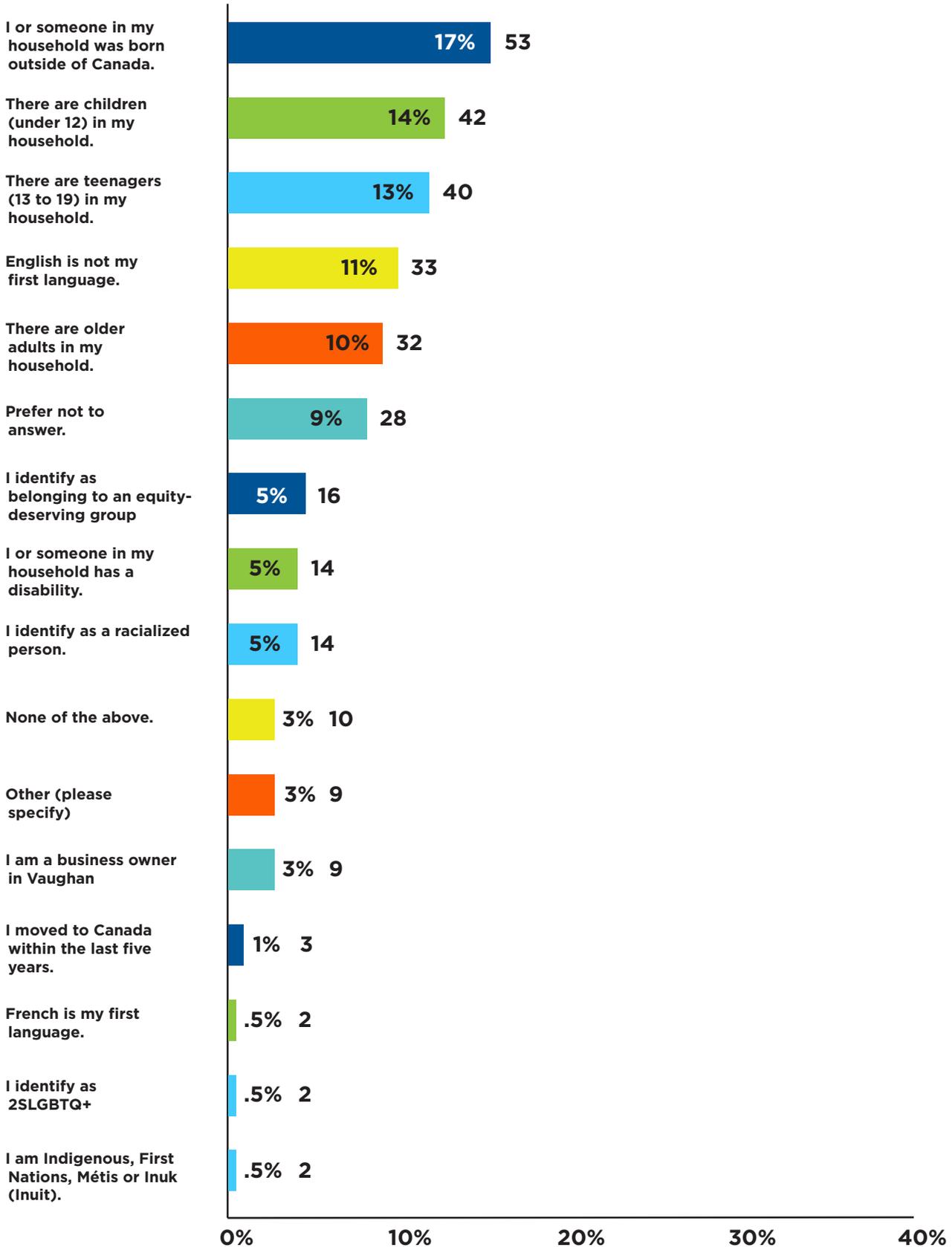
Following Phase 2 engagement, the project team will consolidate a preferred design concept for the MacMillan Farm. This concept will guide the preparation of a draft Master Plan that outlines the site vision, programming, and implementation approach. Once complete, the draft Master Plan will be presented to Vaughan City Council for review and approval. After Council endorsement, the City will begin prioritizing projects, identifying funding opportunities, and advancing detailed design and technical studies as needed to support phased implementation and future construction.

Appendix A: Survey Participant Demographics

“What is your age?”



“Please select any of the following that are applicable to you.”



Appendix B: Zone Maps

Zone 1: Woodlands - Concept A: Ecology-Forward



Zone 1: Woodlands - Concept B: Food-Forward



Zone 1: Woodlands - Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward



Zone 2: Open Fields - Concept A: Ecology-Forward



Zone 2: Open Fields - Concept B: Food-Forward



Zone 2: Open Fields - Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward



Zone 3: Houses and Gardens - Concept A: Ecology-Forward



Zone 3: Houses and Gardens - Concept B: Food-Forward



Zone 3: Houses and Gardens - Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward



Zone 4: The Glade - Concept A: Ecology-Forward



Zone 4: The Glade - Concept B: Food-Forward



Zone 4: The Glade - Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward



Zone 5: The Barns - Concept A: Ecology-Forward



Zone 5: The Barns - Concept B: Food-Forward



Zone 5: The Barns - Concept C: Arts and Culture-Forward

