North Maple Regional Park Master Plan

Volume 5: Cultural Heritage Research Report

2026

Prepared by:

City of Vaughan, Facilities and Parks Delivery, North Maple Regional Park Program

O2 Planning and Design Inc., Lead consultant in collaboration with

Archaeological Services Inc.

Volume 5

Cultural Heritage Research Report for the Cultural Heritage Plan

North Maple Regional Park Master Plan
City of Vaughan, Ontario

Prepared for:

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Archaeological Services Inc. File: 23CH-174

March 2025 (Updated April 2025, May 2025, April 2026, August 2026)



Executive Summary

This technical volume is part of the comprehensive planning documentation developed for the North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) Master Plan, an initiative undertaken by the City of Vaughan to transform 364 hectares (900 acres) of former landfills and open space into a nationally significant signature park and legacy project for future generations. The Master Plan establishes a framework for the park's ongoing and long-term development, programming, and management under three guiding principles: Restore, Engage, and Play.

The Master Plan suite consists of one public-facing master plan document and seven supporting technical volumes that provide detailed engineering, environmental, cultural, and operational guidance. This technical volume is one of seven discipline-specific documents that provide the technical foundation and implementation details necessary to realize the master plan vision.

Archaeological Services Inc. (A.S.I.) has been retained by O2 Planning & Design Inc., on behalf of the City of Vaughan, to conduct a Cultural Heritage Research Report for the NMRP. This work is being undertaken as part of a Cultural Heritage Plan to support the development of a Master Plan for the NMRP. In addition to the former landfill areas, the subject property includes playing fields, a tributary of the East Don River, and a designated property. It is located in the northwest area of Vaughan and generally bounded by Kirby Road to the north, Dufferin Street to the east, McNaughton Road to the south, and Keele Street to the west.

The purpose of the Cultural Heritage Research Report is to inform the Cultural Heritage Plan through an understanding of the NMRP as a whole, including the park's structures, spaces, natural elements, and its heritage resources and sensitivities. The park history documents the history of Indigenous peoples and early settlers, geological and ecological significance, and the history of the landfill areas. Historical research situates the park within the broader context of the historical Township of Vaughan and the Don River watershed. The Cultural Heritage Research Report also informs the Cultural Heritage Plan through the identification of cultural heritage resources, sensitivities, and opportunities in the park.

The results of background historical research and a review of secondary source material, including historical mapping and aerial photography, indicate a study area with an Indigenous history dating back millennia, a rural-agricultural land use history dating back to the early nineteenth century, followed by a history of aggregate extraction and landfill activities in the second half of the twentieth century. The combination of a site visit (which documented the publicly-accessible parts of the park) and a review of federal, provincial, and municipal registers, inventories, and databases revealed that there is one known built heritage resource (B.H.R. 1) and one potential cultural heritage landscape (C.H.L. 1) within the NMRP.

B.H.R. 1 is located at 11151 Keele Street and is Designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The property consists of an 1850s farmhouse, entrance driveway, small parking lot, garage, mature trees, low-lying vegetation, and open spaces. Given the known heritage value of the property, the NMRP should be appropriately planned to conserve B.H.R. 1 and integrate it into future land use development as appropriate. The retention of heritage attributes should be prioritized and adaptive reuse for the property should be considered. Should any changes be proposed for the property, completion of a Heritage Impact Assessment (H.I.A.) will be required. The H.I.A. will assist in further defining specific proposed intervention strategies on the property where recommended and appropriate.

C.H.L. 1 is the headwaters of the Don River, located within the NMRP. Within the park, the waterway features small embankments and is surrounded by low-lying vegetation and/or mature trees within the valley lands. On either side of the waterway the land rises up to some of the highest areas (naturally occurring) within the park. Given the potential heritage value of the river and the potential for adverse impacts to it as part of future land use development in the park, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (C.H.E.R.) should be completed. A C.H.E.R. typically includes property-specific archival research, field review results, and application of Ontario Regulation 9/06 to determine cultural heritage value and identification of heritage attributes. Should the C.H.E.R. determine that the headwaters of the Don River has heritage value, the completion of a Heritage

Impact Assessment (H.I.A.) will assist in further defining specific proposed intervention strategies to the resource where recommended and appropriate.

As part of the development of a Master Plan for the NMRP, there is an opportunity to conserve and integrate both the tangible heritage attributes of identified cultural heritage resources, as well as the intangible heritage values of the site that are not directly expressed in physical attributes. Heritage interpretation and commemoration is particularly important in the conservation of intangible heritage values. Public awareness and celebration of the cultural heritage value and heritage attributes of a place is an important component of successful conservation. Interpretation and commemoration are effective strategies to transmit the history of a site and can contribute to the layered storytelling linking the past, present, and future of the park.

An interpretation and commemoration plan should be developed as part of future phases of park planning and development. The development of robust and integrated interpretation and commemoration plans and strategies is necessarily an iterative process that requires multiple perspectives from stakeholders, First Nations and Indigenous groups, custodians, designers, and experts.

The NMRP project team's preliminary engagement with Indigenous communities has begun the process of establishing a collaborative relationship. Community-informed perspectives can assist the project team with more nuanced understandings of the site's history and significance, with the level of involvement and types of roles that Indigenous Nations would like to have in future phases of park design and programming, with greater insights about their contemporary connections to the land, and with ideas and recommendations for knowledge sharing, programming, and placekeeping at the NMRP moving forward. Continued engagement with Indigenous communities will be crucial as the NMRP team transitions to the detailed design stage; the involvement of Indigenous peoples will strengthen the team's comprehension of the park's human and natural history, present, and future in the hopes of achieving a multi-functional park that balances biodiversity, ecological health, and recreational opportunities.

The recommendations presented in this report form a point of departure for a future interpretation and commemoration plan for the NMRP and provides opportunities to reveal and celebrate the cultural and Indigenous history of the park. More detailed information and recommendations as it relates to public art, events and programs, and education, and which round out the Cultural Heritage Plan for the park, are outlined in the body of the Master Plan. For further guidance on themes and storytelling opportunities that will inform a future commemoration and interpretation plan, refer to the key strategies section on Cultural and Ecological Heritage, and key strategies section on Interpretive Themes and Stories within the Engage chapter of Volume 1.

Report Accessibility Features

This report has been formatted to meet the Information and Communications Standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, 2005 (A.O.D.A.). Features of this report which enhance accessibility include: headings, font size and colour, alternative text provided for images, and the use of periods within acronyms.[1] Given this is a technical report, there may be instances where additional accommodation is required in order for readers to access the report's information. If additional accommodation is required, please contact Annie Veilleux, Manager of the Cultural Heritage Division at Archaeological Services Inc., by email at aveilleux@asiheritage.ca or by phone 416-966-1069 ext. 255.

[1] For the sake of consistency with the rest of the Master Plan document, the acronym NMRP does not include periods in this report.

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1.0 Introduction: Project Background and Site Context

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Heritage Research Report also informs the Cultural Heritage Plan through the identification of cultural heritage resources, sensitivities, and opportunities in the park.

This report is focused on providing historical and cultural heritage research findings for the purposes of public engagement and development of overall park vision and goals and includes:

- Results of background information review (Section 2);
- A summary of historical development of the study area and its broader context, including a mapping review (Section 3);
- A description of the existing conditions (Section 4);
- A description of identified built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the study area (Section 5); and,
- Results and recommendations, including recommendations for heritage interpretation, commemoration, and programming (Section 6).

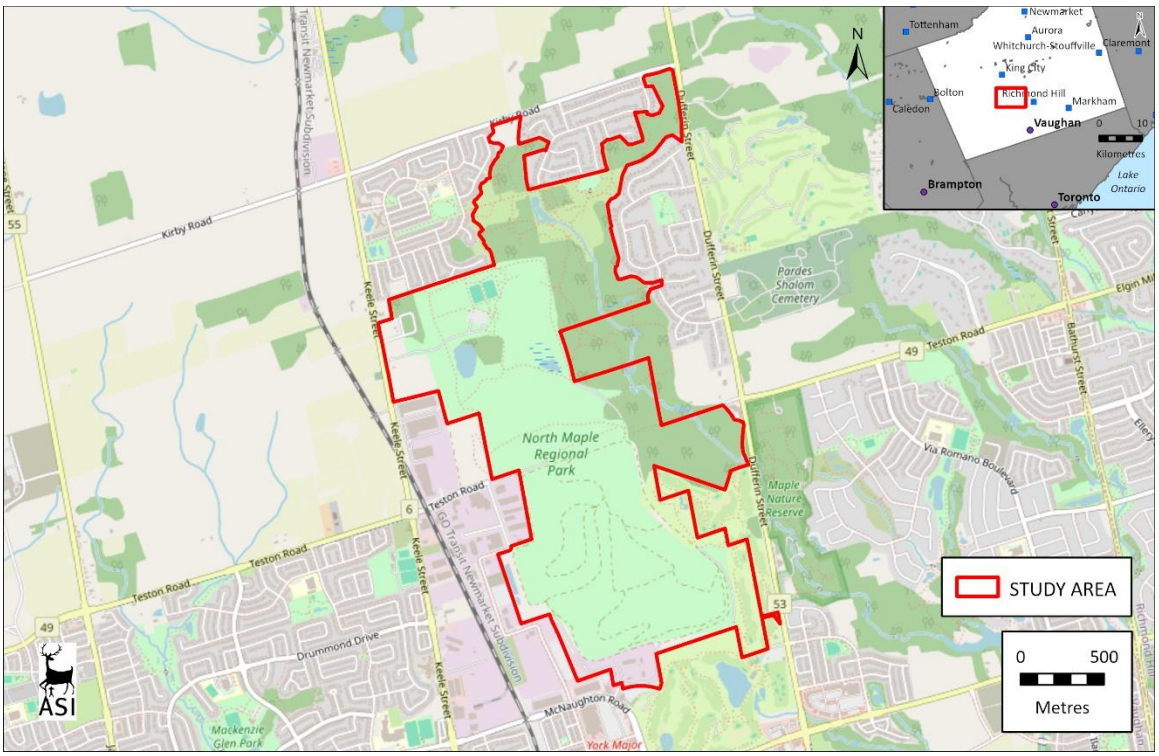


Figure 1: Location of the study area (Base Map: ©OpenStreetMap and contributors, Creative Commons-Share Alike License (C.C.-By-S.A.))

2.0 Background Information Review

To make an identification of previously identified known or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the study area, the following sections present the resources that were consulted.

2.1 Review of Existing Heritage Inventories

A number of resources were consulted in order to identify and research heritage information related to the study area. These resources, reviewed on 18 April 2024, include:

- The City of Vaughan's *Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value* (R.P.C.H.V.)[2] (City of Vaughan, 2024);
- The *Ontario Heritage Act Register* (Ontario Heritage Trust, 2025);
- The *Places of Worship Inventory* (Ontario Heritage Trust, n.d.b);
- The inventory of Ontario Heritage Trust easements (Ontario Heritage Trust, n.d.a);
- The Ontario Heritage Trust's *An Inventory of Provincial Plaques Across Ontario*: a PDF of Ontario Heritage Trust Plaques and their locations (Ontario Heritage Trust, 2023);
- The Ontario Heritage Trust's *An Inventory of Ontario Heritage Trust-owned properties across Ontario*: a PDF of properties owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust (Ontario Heritage Trust, 2019);
- Inventory of known cemeteries/burial sites in the Ontario Genealogical Society's online databases (Ontario Genealogical Society, no date);

[2] Note that the R.P.C.H.V. is also sometimes referred to as the Heritage Inventory and as the Inventory of Cultural Heritage Resources. It includes all individually designated properties (buildings or structures designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*); all properties within a Heritage Conservation District (buildings or structures designated under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*); all properties in the Listing of Property of Architectural and Heritage Significance (L.S.H.S.); and all properties of interest to the Cultural Services Division.

- Canada's Historic Places website: a searchable register that provides information on historic places recognized for their heritage value at the local, provincial, territorial, and national levels (Parks Canada, n.d.a);
- Directory of Federal Heritage Designations: a searchable on-line database that identifies National Historic Sites, National Historic Events, National Historic People, Heritage Railway Stations, Federal Heritage Buildings, and Heritage Lighthouses (Parks Canada, n.d.b);
- Canadian Heritage River System: a national river conservation program that promotes, protects and enhances the best examples of Canada's river heritage (Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and Technical Planning Committee, n.d.); and,
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O.) World Heritage Sites (U.N.E.S.C.O. World Heritage Centre, n.d.).

2.2 Review of Previous Heritage Reporting

Additional archaeological reports and cultural heritage studies undertaken within or in close proximity to parts of the study area were also reviewed. These include:

- 11244 Keele Street Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (Archaeological Services Inc., 2022);
- Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment: 11085 Keele Street (AMICK Consultants Limited, 2022);
- Stage 1 Archaeological Background Study of the North Maple Regional Park (AMICK Consultants Limited, 2022);
- The Stage 3-4 Archaeological Excavation of the Hope Site (AIGv-199), Draft Plan of Subdivision 19T-02V07 and 19T-02V08, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario (Archaeological Services Inc., 2011); and,
- City of Vaughan Official Plan Archaeological and First Nations Policy Study (ASI, 2010).

2.3 Community Information Gathering

The following individuals, groups, and/or organizations were contacted to gather information about the study area:

- Vaughan Township Historical Society (vaughanhistorical@gmail.com)
  - Email correspondence on 23 April 2024 requested documentation, photos, or general knowledge related to the owners or occupants of the properties that now encompass the study area. No response was provided at the time of this report's submission.
- Carrie Manary, Archives Records Analyst, City of Vaughan Archives (clerks@vaughan.ca)
  - Email correspondence on 23 April 2024 requested documentation, photos, or general knowledge related to the owners or occupants of the properties that now encompass the study area. A series of responses on 24, 25, and 29 April 2024 provided maps of landowners in 1851, 1878, and 1918; archival photos; and detailed land ownership trails for, and associated documentation related to owners of, Lots 22 to 30, Concession 3.
- Katrina Guy, Cultural Heritage Specialist, City of Vaughan (CulturalHeritage@vaughan.ca)
  - Email correspondence on 23 and 24 April 2024 requested documentation, photos, or general knowledge related to the owners or occupants of the properties that now encompass the study area. A response provided information and documentation related to the Part IV designated property at 11151 Keele Street and a former house at 11067 Keele Street (now demolished). Some information related to the nearby Maple Heritage Conservation District and a property at 10533 Keele Street was provided, though it was determined that both of these sites were outside of the study area. Information on archaeological sites in the vicinity of the study area

were also provided, including the Hope Site (AlGv-199) and a Late Archaic-Early Woodland camp (AlGu-175).[3]

3.0 Summary of Historical Development

This section provides a summary of historical research undertaken as part of this study. A review of available primary and secondary source material was undertaken to produce a contextual overview of the study area and its larger context, including the historical Township of Vaughan and the broader Don River watershed. The historical overview provides a general description of physiography, Indigenous land use, and Euro-Canadian settlement.

3.1 Don River Watershed

The study area is located at the headwaters of the Don River and drains that river's east branch on a southeasterly axis. The land within present-day York Region has been a place of human activity for over 12,000 years. The ancestors of the Mississauga, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabeg nations inhabited what is now York Region and used the land as hunting grounds, for habitation, and for travel. In addition, with the presence of distinct landforms, resources, and many important trade routes throughout the area, the land has a rich human and ecological past.

The topography between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay has facilitated the development and continued use of major transportation routes for millennia. A network of major rivers and tributaries flows both north and south from the Oak Ridges Moraine, the drainage divide between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay. Along with the surrounding landforms, this network has always influenced both methods and direction of travel. For example, while canoe travel in south-central Ontario was limited to the lakes and the lower reaches of the major

[3] Note that this camp was uncovered during a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment in 1996. Archaeologists recovered a projectile point fragment, two cores, and five flakes, all of Onondaga chert. The site is located southwest of the intersection of Kirby Road and Dufferin Street.

streams and rivers, the waterways provided a permanent system of landmarks to orient people traveling on foot along the dry highlands of the river valleys. A number of these land and water routes connected Lake Ontario to the upper Great Lakes (MacDonald, 2002). The Toronto Carrying Place trails were a network of routes that connected the navigable portions of the Rouge, Don, and Humber rivers in the south to the navigable portion of the Holland River in the north, thus completing a transportation corridor between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe, and on to the upper Great Lakes. Additional trails followed other major waterways along the north shore of Lake Ontario.

Historical accounts and archaeological evidence highlight the importance of these routes in the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, though the location of the trails along major environmental features could indicate a significantly longer use of the transportation routes (Austin, 1995). The Toronto Carrying Place trails were routed to avoid, as much as possible, having to cross steep ravines, swampy lowlands, and water crossings, and were advantageously routed to minimize the work required in crossing the Oak Ridges Moraine (MacDonald, 2002). The North Maple Regional Park study area is located on a relatively wide section of the Oak Ridges Moraine, and as such, is located between what would have been the paths of the Humber River and Don River trails (Figure 2).

The Toronto Carrying Place trails were in use at the time of European arrival in the region and were travelled by several well-known explorers and traders as well as officials within the colonial government. For example, Governor John Graves Simcoe and his team traveled the trails in the autumn of 1793 on their exploration of the region between York (now Toronto) and Matchedash Bay, the eastern-most point of Georgian Bay's Severn Sound. They followed the Humber River trail from south to north, explored the area between Lake Simcoe and Matchedash Bay, and returned to York following the trail along the Don River (Robinson, 1933). The latter route would become the precursor to Yonge Street. When Yonge Street was opened in 1796, it eclipsed the Toronto Carrying Place trails as the main route from York, on Lake Ontario, into the interior (Benn, 2008). While the ancient Indigenous trails were shaped by the landscape they crossed, meandering around wetlands, high ridges, and extensive tangles of

underbrush, surveyors were tasked with creating straight lines through the landscape regardless of these obstacles (Ladell, 1993). This led to the grid-like pattern of concession roads that we know today, and which surround the park.

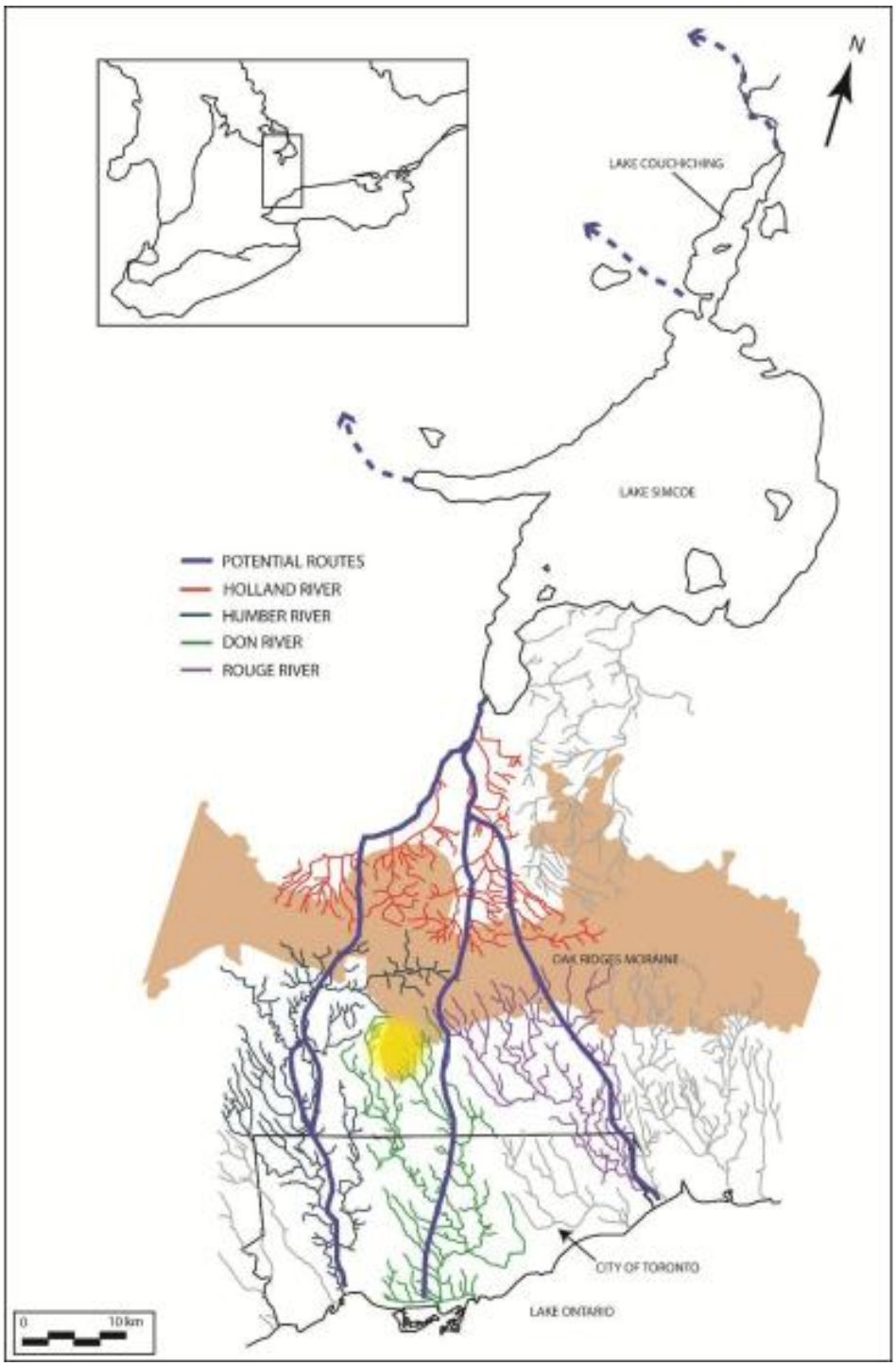


Figure 2: Approximate location of the North Maple Regional Park study area (in yellow) overlaid on a map showing potential routes of the Toronto Carrying Place Trails north and south of Lake Simcoe – annotated by A.S.I. (Veilleux, 2011)

3.2 Physiography of the Study Area

The study area is located within two physiographic regions: the South Slope physiographic region in the northwest portion of the study area and the Oak Ridges Moraine physiographic region in the southeast portion of the study area (Chapman & Putnam, 1984; Groundwater Environmental Management Services Inc., 2018).

The South Slope physiographic region is the southern slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The South Slope meets the Moraine at heights of approximately 300 metres above sea level and descends southward toward Lake Ontario, ending, in some areas, at elevations below 150 metres above sea level. Numerous streams descend the South Slope, having cut deep valleys in the till. The Oak Ridges Moraine physiographic region extends from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River forming the height of land separating the drainage basin of Lake Ontario from the drainage basins of Georgian Bay and the Trent. This physiographic region, covering approximately 1,300 square kilometres, is characterized by hilly, "knob and basin" topography of sandy or gravelly till. The Moraine was created during the melting of the Laurentian Glaciers approximately 13,000-12,000 Before Present. The meltwater ran into present-day Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe areas, and into the Great Lakes, forming Lake Iroquois to the south (over present-day Lake Ontario), and Lake Algonquin to the north (over present-day Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, and Lake Simcoe). On the moraine itself, glacial melting formed a series of kettle lakes (Bennett & Glasser, 1996; Chapman & Putnam, 1984).

Further, the study area is set within rolling terrain which is associated with both the Oak Ridges Moraine and the grading work carried out during the years in which much of the site was occupied by gravel pits and landfills. The study area's topography ranges from 270 to 307 metres above sea level (A.S.L.). Elevations generally slope from west to east and northwest to southeast (Figure 3) (Groundwater Environmental Management Services Inc., 2018).

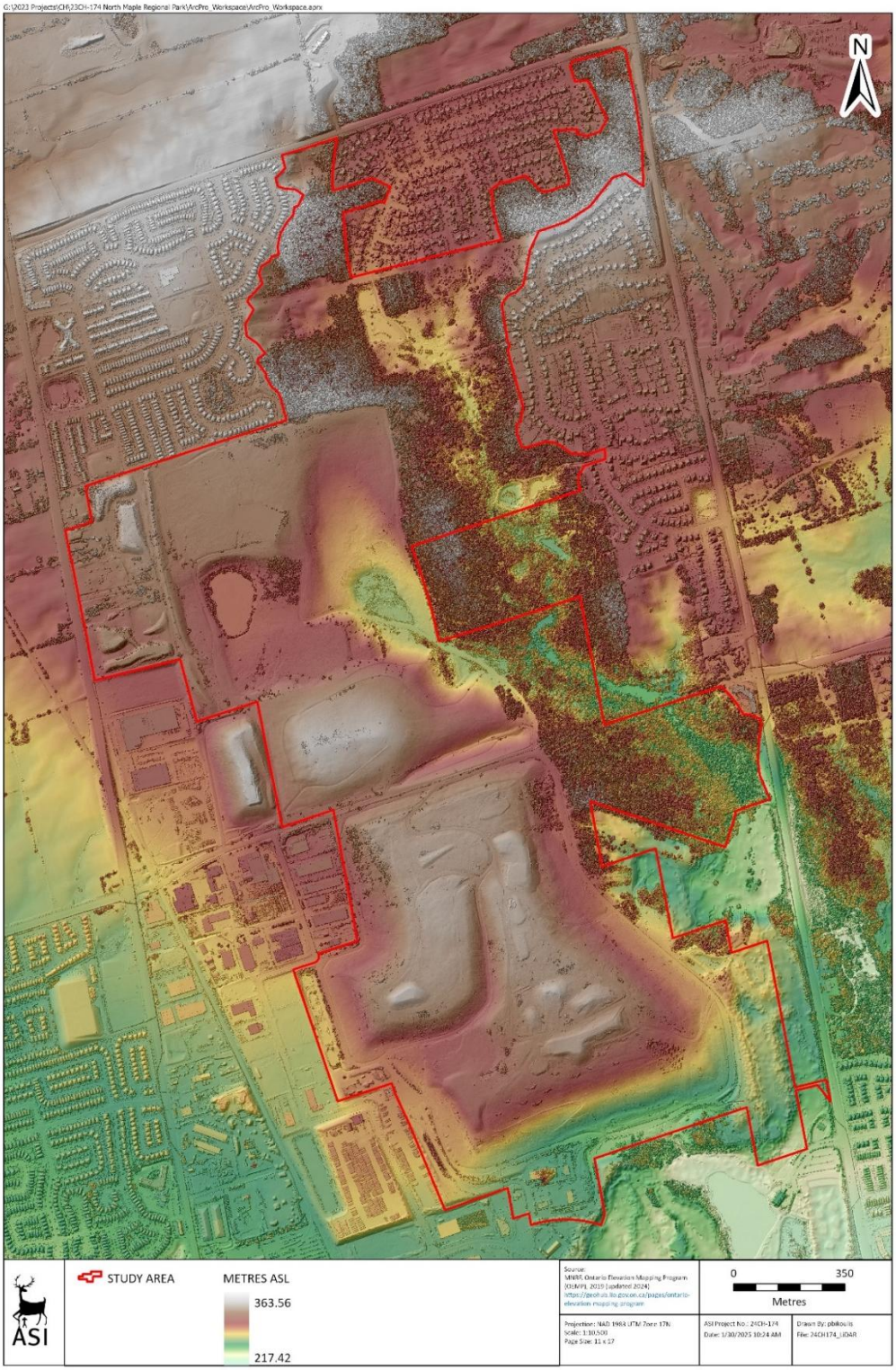


Figure 3: Lidar map showing elevation of lands in metres above sea level (A.S.L.) within and surrounding the North Maple Regional Park (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2024)

3.3 Key Historical Periods to 1800

The following sections provide a brief overview of key time periods in the land use history of the study area and its surrounding context and are based on a range of available primary and secondary source materials. The resulting historical summary is not an exhaustive or definitive history of the study area and its surroundings. It begins with establishing the thousands of years of Indigenous land use and settlement, starting around 11,000 Before Common Era (B.C.E.). While many types of information can inform the precontact settlement of Ontario, such as oral traditions and histories, this summary provides information drawn from archaeological research conducted in Southern Ontario over the last century.

3.3.1 Paleo Period, circa 11,000 B.C.E. to 9,000 B.C.E.

- First occupation of the area following deglaciation.
- Low population densities.
- Groups tended to be small and highly mobile.
- Population relied on hunting, fishing, and gathering.

3.3.2 Archaic Period, circa 9,000 B.C.E. to 1,000 B.C.E.

- Increasingly diverse environmental setting.
- Groups generally remained small, nomadic, and non-hierarchical.
- Seasonally-based mobile subsistence-settlement systems based on warm-weather riverine sites and cold-weather inland sites.
- Extensive trade networks existed including both raw materials and finished objects.
- Diversification of lithic tool kits.
- Presence of burial practices and traditions associated with death.

3.3.3 Woodland Period, circa 1,000 B.C.E. to 1600 C.E.

- Stabilized environmental setting.

- Progressive increase in population densities, with groups covering larger territories, and increasingly complex socio-political organization.
- Introduction of ceramic technology.
- Emergence of agriculture in some regions, facilitating long-term settlement occupation and permanent villages and less reliance upon hunting and fishing.
- More elaborate burials.
- Emergence of political alliances with Europeans.

Hope Site, circa 1400 to 1450

- Located north of the North Maple Regional Park soccer fields, in the location of what is now a residential subdivision.
- The site is a late Iroquoian village settlement that encompassed approximately three hectares in two components on elevated plateaus separated by a seasonal tributary of the East Branch of the Don River.
- A total of 13 longhouses were uncovered and documented as part of archaeological excavations, as well as a midden, a semi-subterranean sweat lodge, and thousands of artifacts.
- Among the specific types of artifacts found were ceramic vessels, pipes, projectile points, tools, scrapers, celts, hammers, axes, and chisels.
- Site excavations indicates that maize, beans, squash, sunflower, and tobacco were cultivated, and diets were supplemented by small and large mammals, fish, and birds as well as nuts and fruits such as strawberries, elderberries, and raspberries.
- Among the collected plants were seeds of sumac, hawthorn, spikenard, and cattail.
- Likely coincided with at least three other archaeological sites within a 10-kilometre radius (McNair, Murphy-Goulding/Orion, and McGaw Sites).
- See Figure 83 to Figure 87 for images associated with the Hope Site as well as representative images of Wendat structures and daily life in southern Ontario.

3.3.4 Post-Contact Period, circa 1600 to circa 1790

- By 1600, the Confederation of Nations were encountered by the first European explorers and missionaries in Simcoe County.
- In the 1640s, devastating epidemics and the traditional enmity between the Haudenosaunee and the Attawandaron and the Huron-Wendat (and their Algonquian allies such as the Nipissing and Odawa) led to their dispersal from southern Ontario. Some of the surviving Huron-Wendat were assimilated into the Haudenosaunee.
- Shortly afterwards the Haudenosaunee established a series of settlements at strategic locations along the trade routes inland from the north shore of Lake Ontario. By the 1690s, the majority of Haudenosaunee had returned to their homelands of what is now New York State.
- Peace was achieved between the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe Nations in August of 1701 when representatives of more than twenty Anishinaabe Nations assembled in Montreal to participate in peace negotiations. Peace was confirmed again at council held at Lake Superior when the Haudenosaunee delivered a wampum belt to the Anishinaabe Nations. This agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations is referred to as the Dish with One Spoon.
- The continuing effects of European diseases, warfare, and periods of starvation through the mid-and late seventeenth century contributed to further population reductions among all Indigenous peoples.
- In 1763, following the fall of Quebec, New France was transferred to British control with the Treaty of Paris.
- The British government began to pursue major land purchases to the north of Lake Ontario in the early nineteenth century. The Crown acknowledged the Mississaugas of the Credit as the owners of the lands between Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe and entered into negotiations for additional tracts of land as the need arose to facilitate European settlement.
- British government acquire the area that later comprises Vaughan Township from the Mississaugas in 1787.

3.4 Vaughan History, circa 1790 to 2025

Throughout the period of initial European settlement, First Nations continued to inhabit Southern Ontario, and continued to fish, gather, and hunt within their traditional and treaty territories, albeit often with legal and informal restrictions imposed by colonial authorities and settlers. In many cases, Indigenous peoples acted as guides and teachers, passing on their traditional knowledge to Euro-Canadian settlers, allowing them to sustain themselves in their new homes. Indigenous peoples entered into economic arrangements and partnerships, and often inter-married with settlers. However, pervasive, and systemic oppression and marginalization of Indigenous peoples also characterized Euro-Canadian colonization, with thousands being displaced from their lands, denied access to traditional and treaty hunting, fishing, and collecting grounds, and forced to assimilate with Euro-Canadian culture through mandatory attendance at Day and Residential Schools (Ray, 2005; Rogers & Smith, 1994).

3.4.1 Circa 1790 to 1860 – Establishment of the Township

- John Stegman, deputy surveyor, drew up a rough plan for Vaughan Township in 1788.
- Creation of Upper Canada in 1791.
- Governor John Graves Simcoe and a team of support workers traveled through parts of Vaughan Township in 1793.
- Abraham Iredell conducted the first official survey of the township in 1795.
- Early settlers to Vaughan Township included Pennsylvanian Germans and those from the United States prior to the War of 1812.
- The population of the township in 1801 was 103 but rose to 510 by 1817 and 947 by 1825.
- From 1820s to 1840s, settlers are primarily from the British Isles.
- Four churches or meeting houses are recorded in the township by 1825.
- Mills are erected and land is cleared for agricultural development.
- The population of Vaughan Township was 3,039 in 1837 and approximately 4,200 by 1842.

- Six grist mills and 25 saw mills in Vaughan Township by mid-1840s.
- Emergence of an Agricultural Society, Masonic Lodges, Temperance Halls, and several other social, cultural, or religious organizations in the first half of the nineteenth century.
- In 1846, Smith's *Canadian Gazetteer* described the township as one with "excellent land; it is well settled and contains numerous, well cleared and highly cultivated farms. The land is generally rolling, and the timber a mixture of hardwood and pine".
- Municipal government established in 1850, with the first Township Hall in the village of Vellore, and Vaughan Township divided into five wards.
- The Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway reached Vaughan by 1853.
    - Railway corridor renamed Northern Railway in 1858, and was later part of the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian National Railway.
- Vaughan Township surveyed in its entirety in 1851, with sideroads re-surveyed in 1861.
- Villages, hamlets, and towns emerged to support the burgeoning agricultural growth in Vaughan.
    - The 1860 Tremaine Map notes the following communities within Vaughan Township: Brownsville, Burwick (Woodbridge), Claireville, Coleraine, Elgin Mills, Kleinburg, Maple, Pine Grove, Richmond Hill, Richmond Hill Station, Thamesville (Teston), Thornhill, and Thornhill Station (Concord).
- Other communities that existed prior to 1860 but which do not appear on the map include Burrlington, Carrville, Elder Mills, Jefferson, Patterson, Sherwood, and Vellore.

3.4.2 Circa 1860 to 1950 – Township Growth

- By the 1860s, Vaughan Township had a well-developed, agricultural landscape, with small towns and hamlets, a local road system, as well as social, cultural, political, and economic institutions.
- Many farmscapes evolved in the second half of the nineteenth century which may have included a more substantial residence either built of frame, brick, or stone masonry complemented with agricultural

outbuildings such as barns, drivesheds, silos, and storage sheds, as well as orchards.

- Agricultural buildings were primarily wood-frame or heavy timber construction, one or two stories in height and rendered in simple vernacular or utilitarian styles according to their function.
- Population growth is relatively stagnant through this period.
- The Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway was opened through the west part of the Township in 1871, joining the Northern Railway as the two railway corridors in Vaughan.
- Improved roads and railways facilitated greatly increased market access for farmers and contributed to the township's prosperity as well as to the development or growth of many small urban communities to serve the surrounding countryside (Figure 4).
- Social, cultural, and institutional development included saw, grist, and woolen mills, churches, cemeteries, schools, stores, blacksmith shops, carriage making shops, tanneries, saddleries, hotels or inns, post offices, and halls.
- Agricultural and Horticultural Societies and associated fairs are in full force during this period.
- Township population reached 4,873 in 1935.
- Highway 400 was built through Vaughan Township in the late 1940s
- Commercial-industrial centres became established, in addition to residential housing, institutional amenities, and improvements to water and sewage infrastructure.
- Agriculture continued as the principal land use throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century.

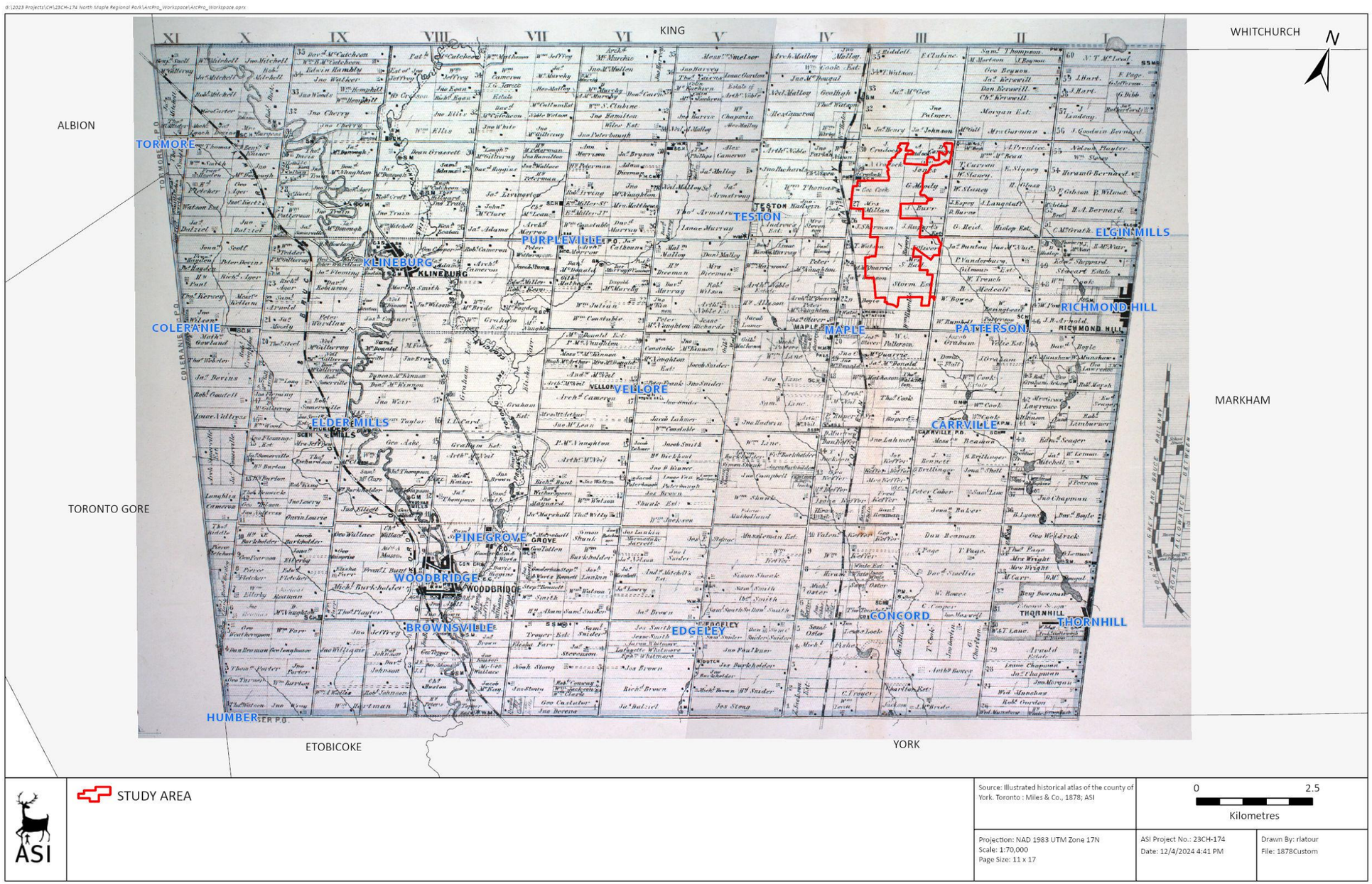


Figure 4: Towns and villages in Vaughan Township in 1878 (Miles & Co., 1878)

3.4.3 Circa 1950 to 2025 – Urbanization

- An influx of immigration occurred after World War II, spurring the development of a multicultural community.
- By the 1950s, there was an increase in suburban development, including detached and semi-detached housing, particularly in the southern part of the township.
- Population jumped to approximately 16,000 by 1960.
- Many family-owned farms were purchased early in this period by the development industry for potential commercial, industrial, and residential development.
- The principal north-south oriented roads were improved as development moved northward.
- Regional Municipality of York was created in 1971.
- Vaughan Township merged with Village of Woodbridge to form Town of Vaughan in 1971.
- The formerly independent community of Thornhill was divided between the new Towns of Vaughan and Markham in 1971.
- The City of Vaughan was incorporated in 1991, and had a population of 111,359.
    - First municipality to have the status of a city within York Region.
- City of Vaughan the fastest-growing municipality in Canada between 1996 and 2006, and with great diversity in language, ethnicity, religion, etc.
- City of Vaughan population now approximately 340,000.

3.5 History of the Study Area

The history of the lands that encompass the North Maple Regional Park and its immediate surroundings are broadly representative of many of the developments in Vaughan's history for the period prior to 1950 (Section 3.5.1). Post-1950, the history of the study area is relatively distinct (Section 3.5.2). The study area is located within parts of Lots 22-30 of Concession 3 in the Township of Vaughan (see Figure 4).

3.5.1 Circa 1800 to 1950 – Agricultural Land Use

- Land surveyed and 200-acre lots allocated by late eighteenth century.
- First settlers begin to clear the land for agricultural purposes.
- The 1837 census identifies all lots between Lot 22 and Lot 30 of Concession 3 to be occupied except Lot 27 in what had become a rural-agricultural countryside: William Kenworth (Lot 22); Adam Storm (Lot 23); Joseph Thompson (Lot 24); John Stickney (Lot 25); James Hetherington (Lot 26); Hugh Black (Lot 28); William Kenworth Sr. (Lot 29); and William Hetherington (Lot 30) (Reaman, 1971, p. 281).
- A church and burial ground opened on Lot 24, Concession 4 (west side of Keele Street) circa 1835. The church was called Hope Chapel and it became the Hope Primitive Methodist Church in 1858. In 1870, a new church was erected on Lot 29, Concession 4. Between 1884 and 1925, the church was called the Hope Methodist Church. In 1925, the congregation joined in the union of the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Methodist Churches in Canada, and the church was renamed to Hope United Church. It remained active until 1966, and then, two years later, the building was dismantled and removed (City of Vaughan Archives, n.d.; Reaman, 1971, pp. 140–141).
- Hope School (S.S. No. 5) was erected on the west side of Lot 28, Concession 3 (east side of Keele Street) in 1864 (see Figure 88 and Figure 89). The first trustees included George Wilson, Archibald McQuarrie, and William Craddock. The school operated until it was demolished in 1955. Population growth necessitated a new two-room school, which operated from 1955 to 1967 immediately adjacent to the original Hope School. Following its closure in 1967, the building was first transformed into a nursing home and is now a childcare centre at 11191 Keele Street (Reaman, 1971, pp. 166, 174).
- Combination of the church and school established Hope as a small community within the larger Vaughan Township.
- The 1871 census provides a snapshot of the study area which reflected larger trends within the township at this time:

  - The farms produced wheat, barley, oats, peas, potatoes, turnips, carrots, hay, apples and other fruits, and many had white pine trees that they used for firewood.
  - The farms included cows, other horned cattle, horses, colts and fillies, sheep, pigs, and the families produced butter, wool, and cloth from the animals they kept.
  - The farms were generally part of 100-acre lots, with one to two houses, and one to four outbuildings (such as barns and stables).
  - Many landowners within the study area had between one to three carriages/sleighs, two to five wagons/sleds, one to three ploughs/cultivators, and generally one each of reapers, horse rakes, and fanning mills (Library and Archives Canada, 1871).
- The study area is representative of a mature agricultural landscape in the nineteenth century, with defined lots, distinct crop fields with diverse agricultural products, farmhouses near the concession roads, and barns and other associated buildings.
- See Figure 90 to Figure 92 for representative farmstead images.
- Many women who lived on farms within or near the study area were members of the Maple Women's Institute, which was the first Women's Institute in Vaughan Township and among the earliest in the province when it organized in 1898 (Reaman, 1971, p. 244).
  - Among the earliest members were those with the surnames Cook, Craddock, Crooks, Kirby, McMillan, Nixon, and Rumble, and Thomas (Maple Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History).
  - Besides the social camaraderie, members organized parties and dances, held lectures, raised money for various causes, and held teas, picnics, and parades (Maple Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History).

3.5.2 Circa 1950 to 2025 – From Pits and Landfills to Environmental Stewardship and Recreation

- In the 1950s and 1960s, Lots 22 to 30 of Concession 3 included sand and gravel pits, farms which included farmhouses, barns, small orchards,

pastures, and/or agricultural lands, the Honey Pot Ski Resort, some industrial buildings along the railway corridor, a sanitary landfill, rural-residential dwellings close to Keele and Dufferin Streets, and vacant lands (Figure 93 and Figure 94).

- Sand and gravel excavation through much of the southern half of the study area begins circa early 1950s.
- Sand and gravel pits replaced by landfills beginning in 1960s.
- Vaughan Township Landfill Site (V.T.L.S.) opened in 1965 and closed in 1984.
    - Collected approximately 8 million cubic metres of solid non-hazardous municipal waste.
- Keele Valley Landfill Site (K.L.V.S.) opened in 1983 and closed in 2002.
    - Collected approximately 28 million tonnes of solid non-hazardous municipal and industrial waste.
    - Once the largest landfill in Canada.
- See Figure 95 to Figure 97 for representative images of the landfill sites.
- Residents and organizations such as the Vaughan Committee of Associations to Restore Environmental Safety (CARES), which was established in 1988, planned and partook in a diverse array of activities to advocate for its closure, including holding public hearings and demonstrations, and fought to establish more stringent and sustainable environmental policies (City of Vaughan, 2025).
- See Figure 98 to Figure 100 for representative images of activists and demonstrations.
- Following the closure of the landfill in 2002, Vaughan CARES shifted their advocacy over the next decade toward rehabilitating the site (City of Vaughan, 2025).
- City of Vaughan purchased 200 acres in 2003 and acquired more adjacent properties over the following decade.
    - Between 2013 and 2016, Phase 1 of park's development begins with studies and various design plans.

    - Construction activities for soccer fields, pavilion building, roadway, parking lot, and trail system in what is now known as the North Maple Regional Park begin in 2017.
    - At 900 acres by 2018, an expanded vision sees an emphasis on naturalizing and remediating the former landfills and further developing the trail network (City of Vaughan, 2025).
- Phase 2 of the park's development began in 2022 with a wide array of enabling works, including site grading, stormwater management, servicing, road work, environmental restoration efforts, and expansion of park amenities (City of Vaughan, 2025).

3.6 Historical Mapping Review

A review of available maps and aerial photographs from the 1790s to the present illustrates a variety of developments in the area that is now the North Maple Regional Park (Figure 5 to Figure 14). Taken together, these maps provide useful information such as the names of property owners, topography, land use patterns, built structures (residences, church, town, school, railway, mills, etc.), and key roads and waterways.

3.6.1 1798

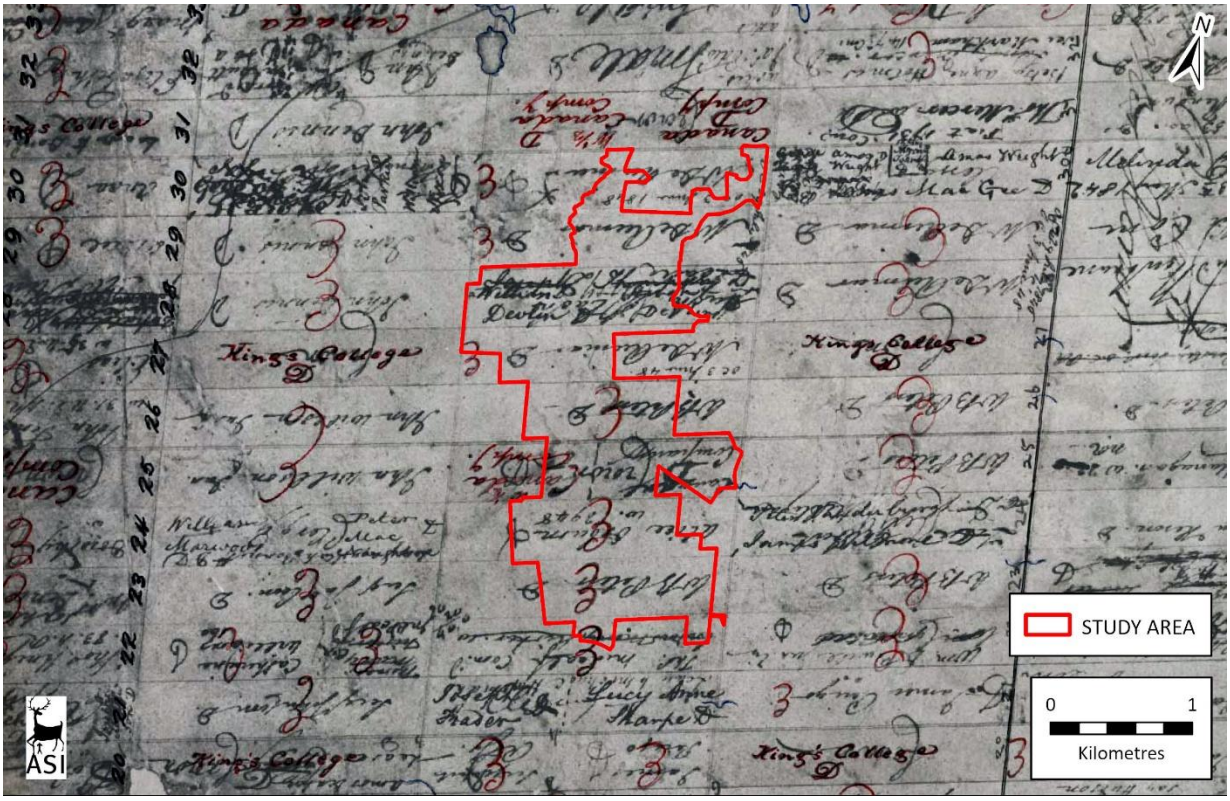


Figure 5: The study area boundary overlaid on the *Vaughan Township Patent Plan*, 1798 (*Patent Plan for Vaughan Township*, 1798)

The 1798 *Vaughan Township Patent Plan* shows that lots and concessions have been surveyed and delineated in Vaughan Township. All individual 200-acre lots within the study area and in its vicinity have been allocated to either individuals or organizations (such as King's College and the Canada Company). It is unlikely that any of the properties within the study area were occupied at this time, as the whole population of Vaughan Township was only 103 in 1801 (Reaman, 1971).

3.6.2 1860

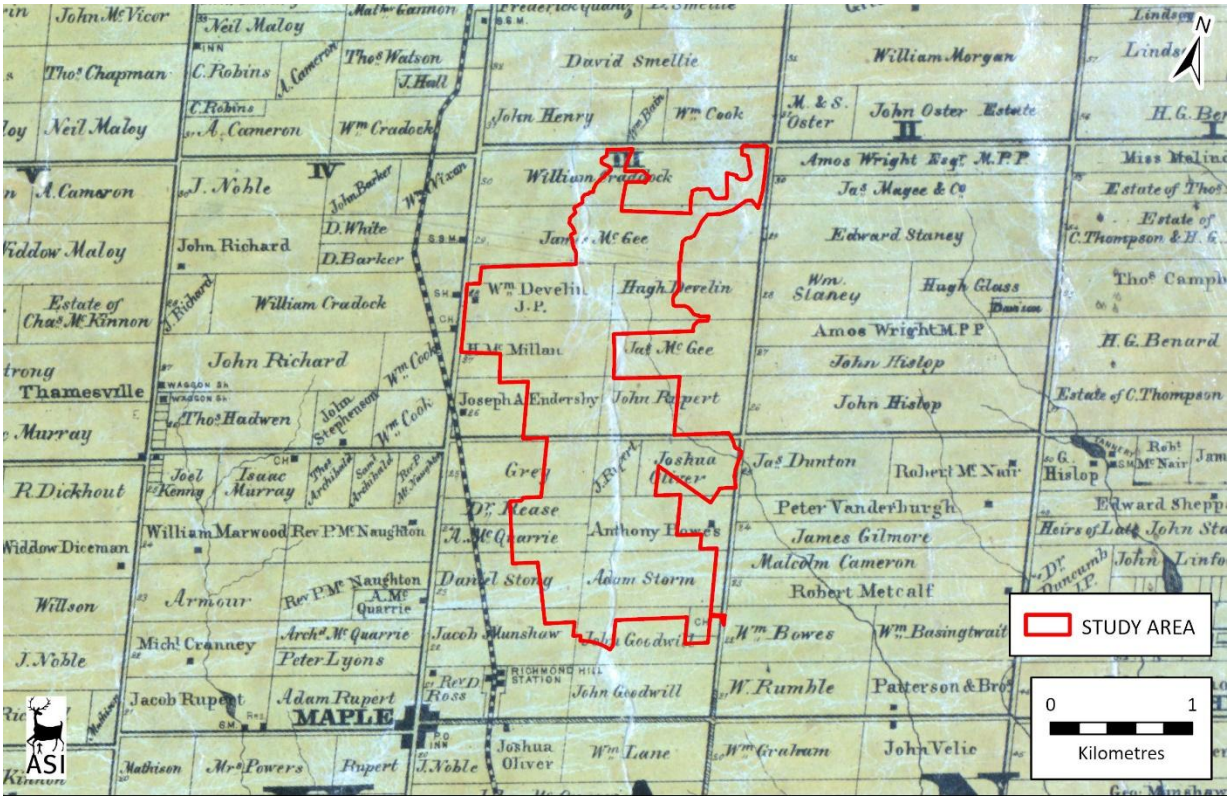


Figure 6: The study area boundary overlaid on the Map of the County of York, 1860 (Tremaine, 1860)

The 1860 *Map of the County of York* provides details on the development of the study area by the mid-nineteenth century. Concession roads are clearly demarcated, and several lots have been subdivided since their initial parcelling. Several lots within the study area have residences thereon, and all are located adjacent to main roadways. Only one residence appears to be within the study area boundary, belonging to William Develin, which is the two-storey stone house at what is now 11151 Keele Street. A church, schoolhouse, and steam sawmill are located west of the study area, and the community of Maple was extant southwest of the study area. There was building density around the four corners of the village as well as a railway station. This is all indicative of social, commercial, religious, industrial, and residential development in the vicinity of the study area at this time. The tracks of the Northern Railway (formerly the Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway), which has a north-south orientation along

the west side of the study area, are marked. A watercourse runs in a south-easterly direction from its headwaters in the northern portion of the study area.

3.6.3 1878

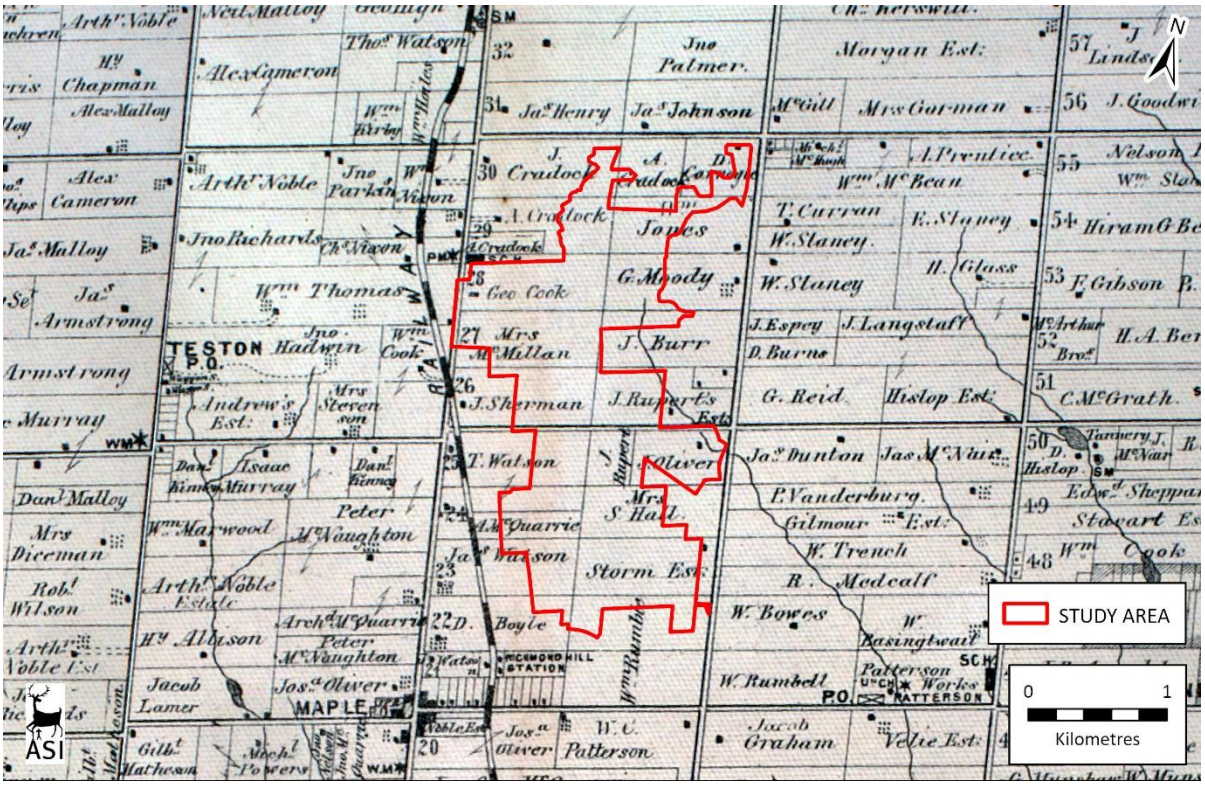


Figure 7: The study area boundary overlaid on the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York*, 1878 (Miles & Co., 1878)

The 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas* depicts the study area in a rural-agricultural context northeast of the village of Maple, which has expanded its area of density with smaller lots and more residential development (see Figure 6). More properties within the study area now have residences thereon when compared with the 1860 map, and some of these houses are surrounded by small orchards. A Primitive Methodist Church and a school are located west of the study area, as is the Northern Railway.

3.6.4 1914

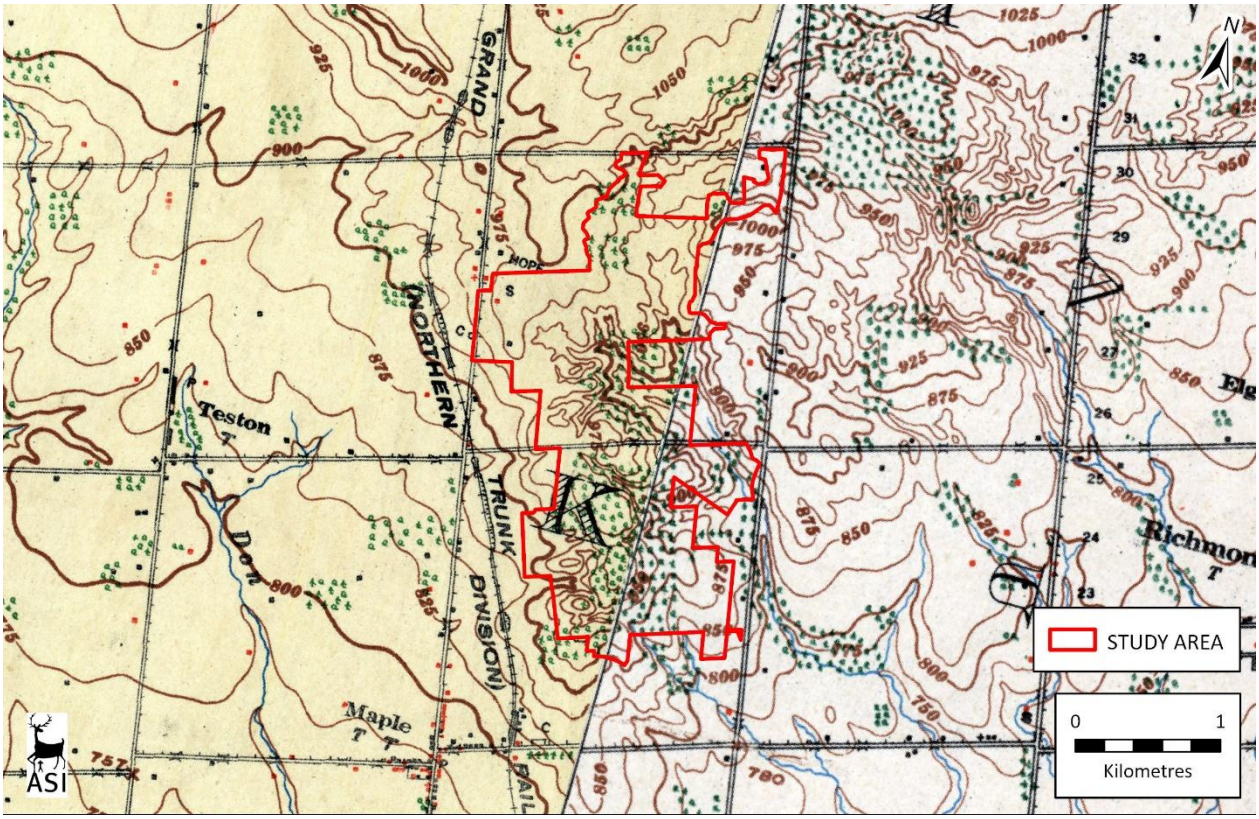


Figure 8: The study area boundary overlaid on a combined topographic map, Bolton and Markham Sheets, 1914 (Department of Militia and Defence, 1914a, 1914b)

The 1914 topographic map depicts the study area within a mixed agricultural and forested environment. The study area features undulating topography, a product of its proximity to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Rural farmhouses dot the landscape, with houses made of brick or stone appearing in red on the map, and those of wood or frame construction appearing in black. Teston Road bisects the study area. The small community of Hope is located west of the study area, and features a cluster of houses, a church, cemetery, and school. The larger villages of Maple and Teston are located to the southwest and west. Also to the west of the study area is the Northern Division of the Grand Trunk Railway, formerly owned by the Northern Railway.

3.6.5 1936-38

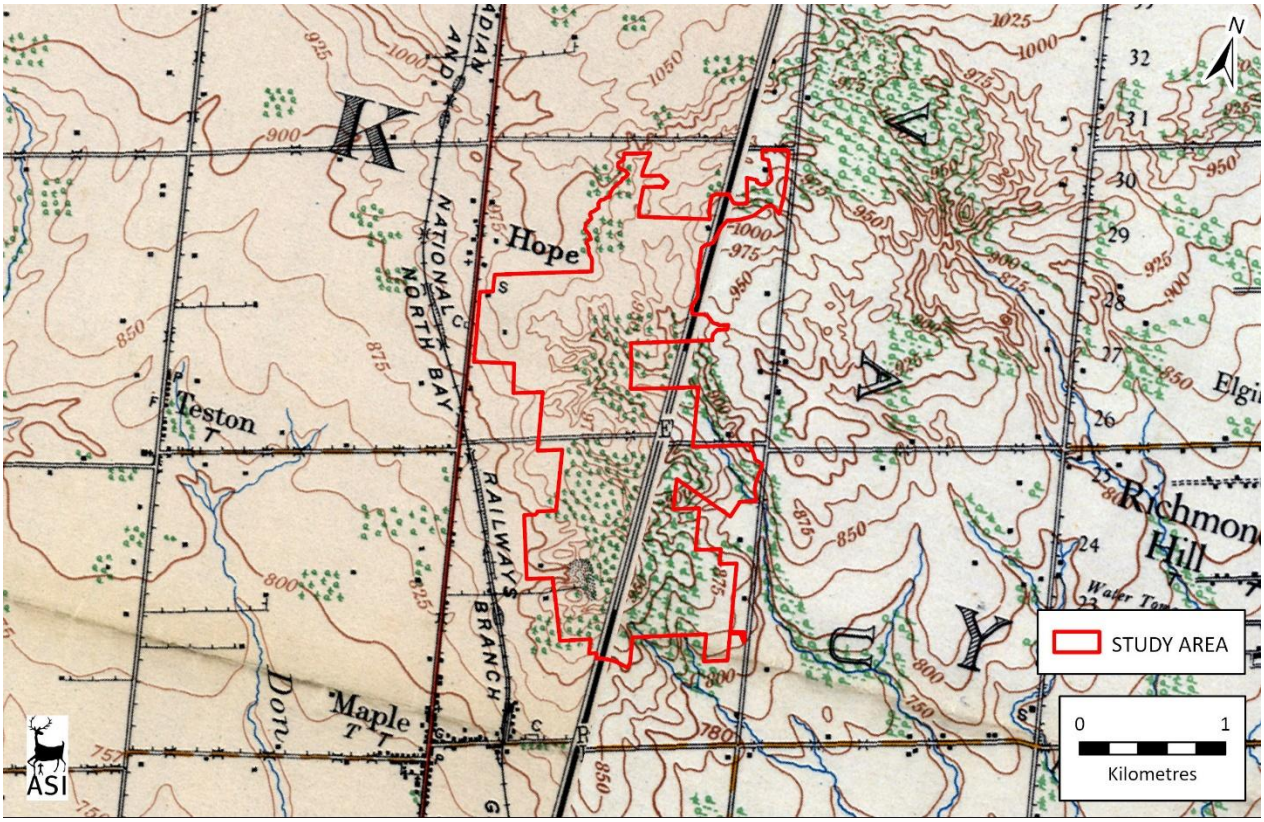


Figure 9: The study area boundary overlaid on a combined topographic map, Bolton sheet, 1938, and Markham sheet, 1936 (Department of National Defence, 1936, 1938)

Topographic maps, dated 1936 and 1938, continue to depict the study area within a rural-agricultural context northeast of Maple and east and southeast of the community of Hope. There is continuity in terms of landscape features such as the rolling topography, forested areas, and location of farmhouses along concession lines and sideroads. The study area is roughly bounded by Kirby Road to the north, Dufferin Street to the east, Major Mackenzie Street to the south, and Keele Street to the west. Teston Road appears to be a navigable road that bisects the study area between Keele and Dufferin Streets.

3.6.6 1954

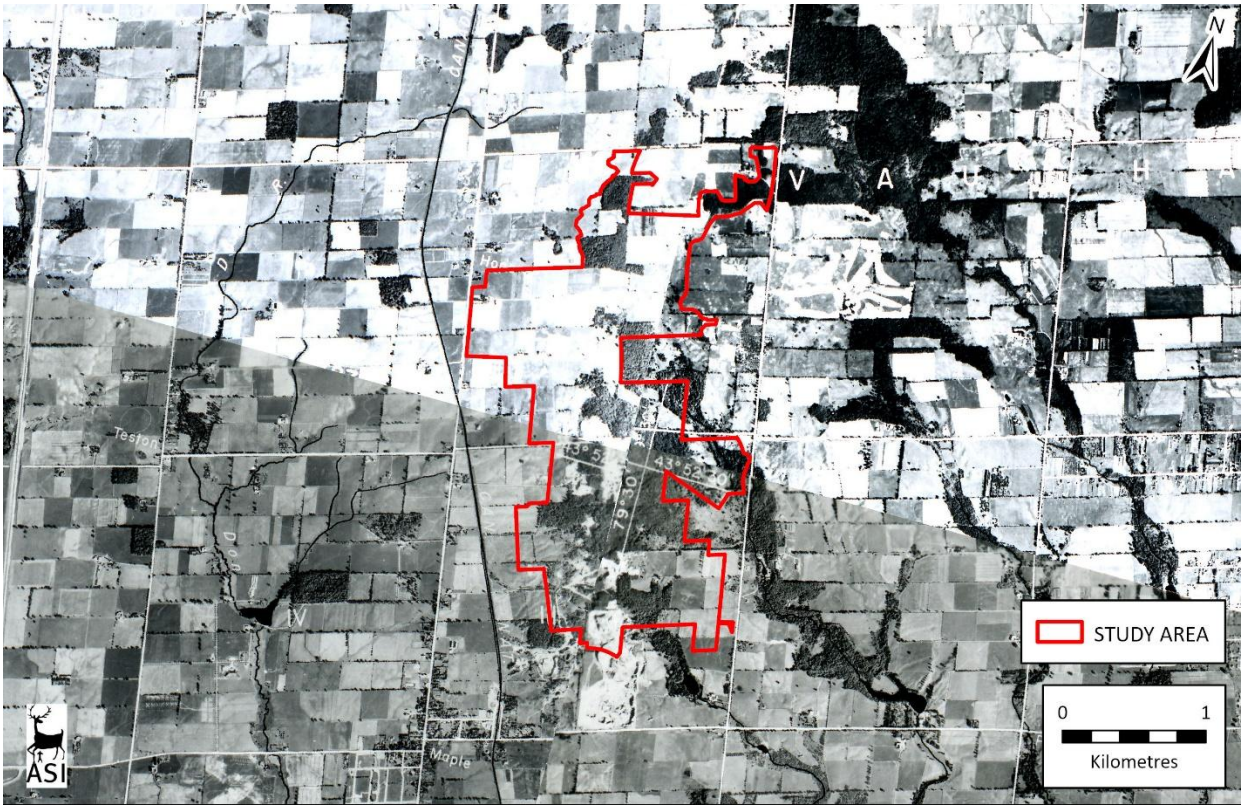


Figure 10: The study area boundary overlaid on an aerial photograph, 1954 (Hunting Survey Corporation Limited, 1954)

The 1954 aerial photograph illustrates that agriculture continues to dominate the landscape within the study area. Fields are clearly delineated and identifiable, separated by hedgerows and/or treelines. Pockets of forested areas are found in the middle and northern areas of the study area and were located at the rear portions of individual farms or along the watercourse. Industrial activity in the form of gravel pits are featured in the southern portion of the study area for the first time in this mapping review.

3.6.7 1970



Figure 11: The study area boundary overlaid on an aerial photograph, 1970 (York Region, n.d.)

The 1970 aerial photograph depicts significant changes within the study area when compared with earlier mapping. The changes are particularly evident within the southern half, where large gravel pits and roadways now appear. Teston Road has been closed off through the study area, terminating at Dufferin Street on the east and Keele Street on the west. Forested areas remain visible within the study area, with two large, wooded areas in the north, and densely packed trees lining the Don River East Branch in the east. The Honeypot Ski Valley, which opened in 1964, is visible on rolling topography east of the study area but west of Dufferin Street.

3.6.8 1972-74

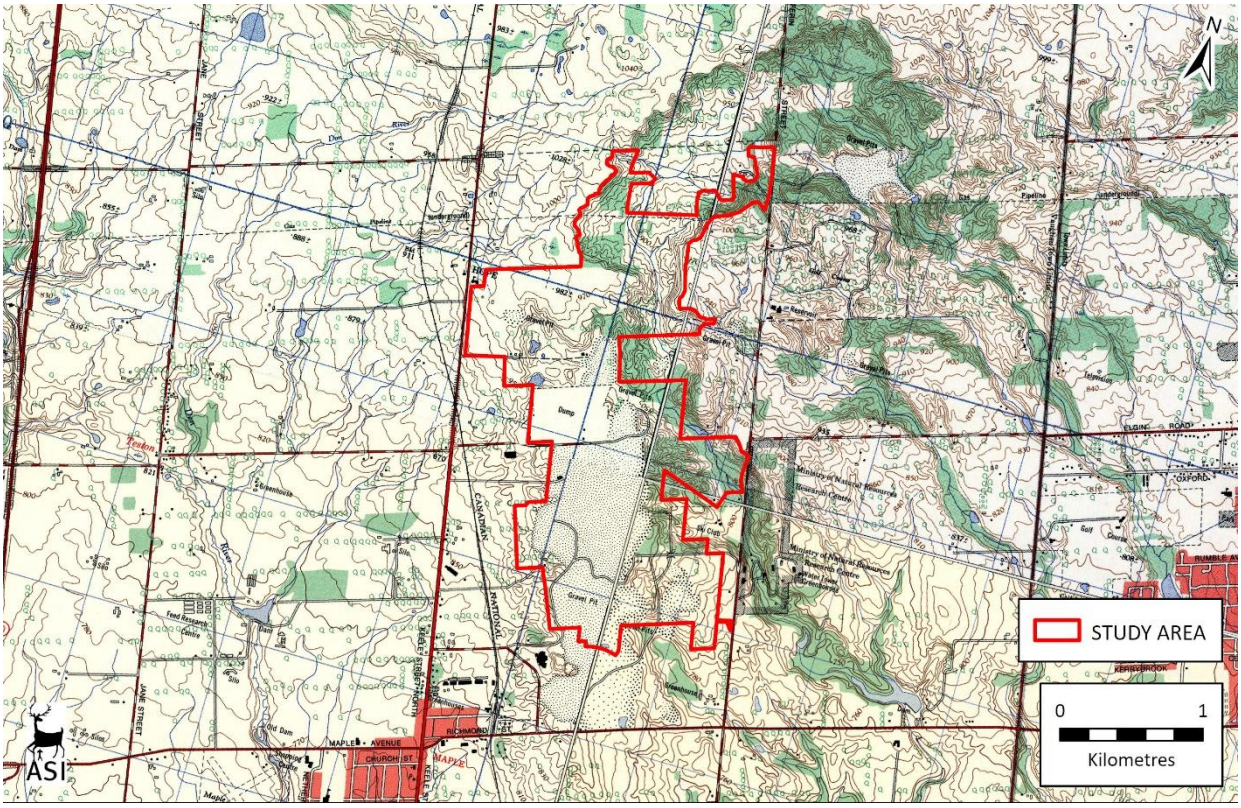


Figure 12: The study area boundary overlaid on a combined topographic map, King City sheet, 1972; Woodbridge sheet, 1973; Richmond Hill sheet, 1973; and Thornhill sheet, 1974 (Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, 1972, 1973b, 1973a, 1974)

Topographic map dating to the early 1970s provide further insights and information related to the study area. While Hope is still depicted on the map, the church, school, and a few houses are the only physical signs of a small community. In terms of roadways, neither Kirby Road nor Teston Road (between Keele and Dufferin streets) appear to exist, and new roadways allow access into and within the gravel pits and a dump. A few structures are located within the study area, and are likely buildings connected with the operations of the gravel pits and/or dump. An underground pipeline crosses through the northern portion of the study area on an east-west axis. A ski club is depicted on the west side of Dufferin Street, though east of the study area.

3.6.9 1995

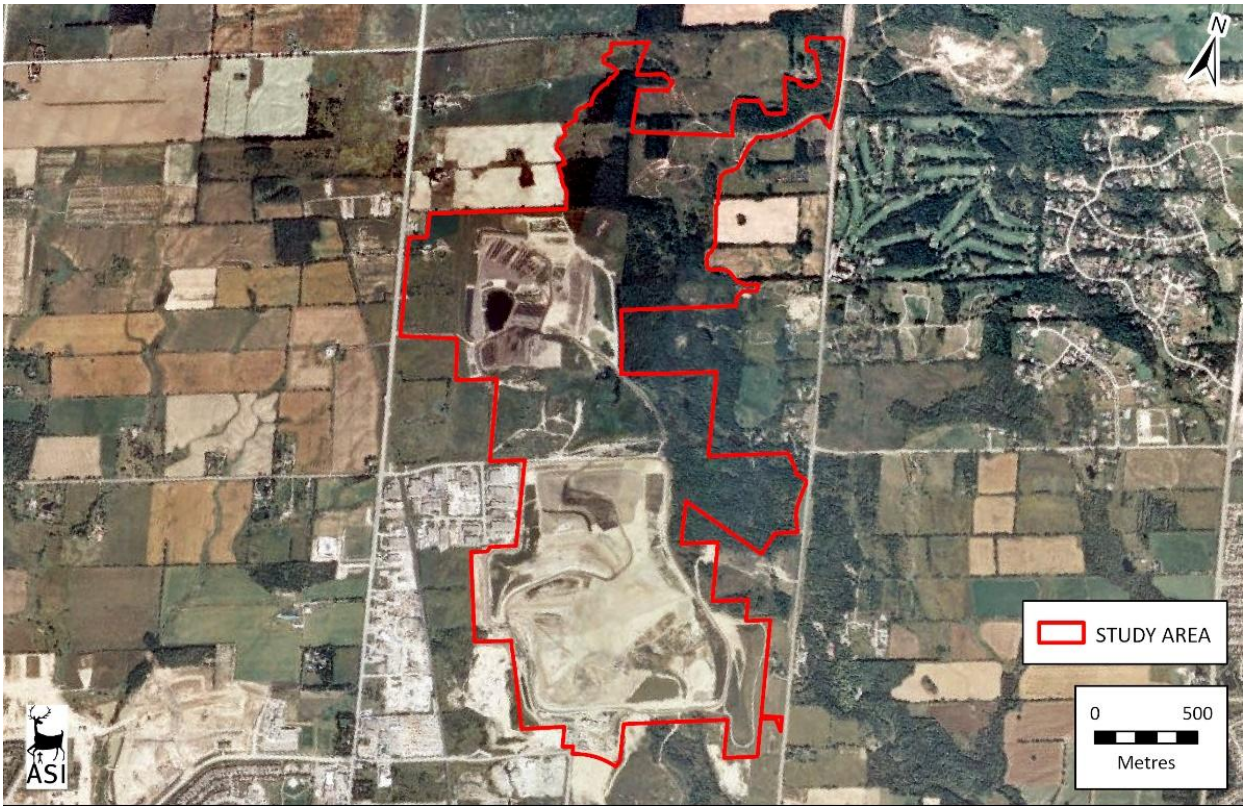


Figure 13: The study area boundary overlaid on an aerial photograph, 1995 (York Region, n.d.)

The 1995 aerial photograph depicts the study area in a mixed industrial, rural-residential, agricultural, and forested context. The southern half of the study area is dominated by landfills, with roadways within allowing trucks to enter and exit the sites. The northern portion of the study area features a large industrial area as well as large fields, presumably for agricultural purposes, while forested areas are located adjacent to the Don River's Eastern Branch. A residential subdivision is depicted southwest of the study area on the west side of Keele Street, and it appears that further land development is underway to the north of that subdivision. A large industrial area is depicted west of the gravel pits at the south end of the study area, in a triangular shaped area between the railway corridor to the east and Keele Street to the west.

3.6.10 2007



Figure 14: The study area boundary overlaid on an aerial photograph, 2007 (York Region, n.d.)

Significant changes within and in the vicinity of the study area are seen in the 2007 aerial photograph. Residential subdivisions have been built outside of, but adjacent to, the north end of the study area. Forested areas remain visible, particularly along the northern and eastern boundary of the study area. The formerly industrial lands now appear to show early signs of reclamation in the form of vegetation, and a network of trails is evident. A golf course now appears south and east of the study area's southeast corner.

4.0 Existing Conditions

On 17 January 2025, Annie Veilleux and Michael Wilcox of Archaeological Services Inc. undertook a field review of the North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) study area. This site visit was undertaken to document the park's existing conditions from within the publicly-accessible parts of the park and from existing public rights-of-way surrounding the park. For the purposes of reporting, the existing conditions of the study area and its vicinity are divided into five geographical areas ; each of the following sub-sections (Section 4.1 to Section 4.5) contain a description of the area and a collection of representative photographs.

4.1 Heritage Designated Property Area

The NMRP contains a designated heritage property at the municipal address of 11151 Keele Street. This property, now the headquarters of the Vaughan Soccer Club, is located on the east side of Keele Street, approximately halfway between Kirby Road to the north and Teston Road to the south. The property consists of an entrance driveway, a small parking lot, a former farmhouse and garage, mature trees, low-lying vegetation, and open spaces. The property is generally flat in the immediate surroundings of the former farmhouse and garage, though berms with trees are located to the north and east of the built structures, which act to enclose the property from the rest of the park.

The entrance driveway is paved and is lined with mature coniferous trees on the north side and a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees on the south side (Figure 15). The driveway terminates at a small parking lot located in front of a two-storey stone building known as the Devlin/Cook House. This former farmhouse was built in the 1850s in a vernacular adaptation of the Georgian architectural style and features a mix of cut stone and fieldstone/rubblestone, a front verandah with a central entrance, and a rear addition. A three-car garage is located south of the former residence (Figure 16 to Figure 21). More details about the residence are available in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value (see Section 5.0 and Appendix A).

The rest of the property consists of large open spaces, including two to the west of the residence on either side of the entrance driveway and another to the north of the residence which appears to be used for recreational soccer. Several mounds are located to the north and east of the residence. Dense tree coverage and/or low-lying vegetation are found on this rolling topography (Figure 22 to Figure 24). Note that all photo locations are provided in Figure 25.



Figure 15: Tree-lined driveway of 11151 Keele Street, looking east (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 16: Front (west) façade of the Vaughan Soccer Club headquarters at 11151 Keele Street (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 17: Stone exterior on the south façade of the Vaughan Soccer Club headquarters at 11151 Keele Street (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 18: Addition to the east façade of the Vaughan Soccer Club headquarters, looking northwest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 19: Addition to the east façade of the Vaughan Soccer Club headquarters, looking southwest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 20: Rubble stone exterior on the north façade of the Vaughan Soccer Club headquarters (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 21: The garage on the property at 11151 Keele Street (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 22: Open field surrounded by trees in front of 11151 Keele Street (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 23: Open field and berms with tree coverage, looking north (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 24: Open field and berms with tree coverage, looking east (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 25: Photo locations and directional arrows for the Heritage Designated Property Area

4.2 Park and Pavilion Area

Currently, the NMRP's most developed area is located east and southeast of the designated property, and north of the landfills. This area includes the main road, pavilion/washroom facility, playing fields, parking lot, ponds, and rolling hills. The main thoroughfare within the park is named Vaughan CARES Way, and is a U-shaped, paved, two-lane roadway that begins and ends at Keele Street and provides access to the parking lot and playing fields. There is a large sign at the northern entrance that includes the acronym NMRP in large letters on both sides, visible to passing northbound and southbound motorists. The roadway generally follows the rolling topography of the park, meaning there are several curves and elevation changes which allow for broad views, particularly to the south and southwest. The roadway wends its way to a 200-vehicle parking lot and the main pavilion building area, which includes washrooms, changerooms, and a concession stand. In the immediate vicinity of the building are a terrace, picnic tables, a toboggan hill, and several interpretive displays, including commemorative signage and plaques discussing the area's natural habitat, advocacy groups that contributed to the opening of the park, and vision for the future (Figure 26 to Figure 36).

The NMRP has two FIFA-certified soccer fields and one cricket field, with all three located to the north and northeast of the pavilion building. This area is generally flat. The soccer fields are made of artificial turf and have bleachers for fans and benches for players, and all three fields have lights to allow for activities at night. There are paved pathways extending from the parking lot and pavilion area to the fields, and various pathways surround the fields and connect with the larger trail system throughout the park. A large open space south of the cricket field has low-lying vegetation, though it appears to be the site of a second cricket field based on its location, size, shape, and level surface. To the west and south of the playing fields, the terrain is hilly and features ponds, low-lying vegetation, newly-planted trees, signage related to the park's bat habitat, and a mix of paved and gravel trails, some of which will ultimately connect to new trails within the landfill area, though which are currently

inaccessible to the public (Figure 37 to Figure 46). Note that all photo locations are provided in Figure 47.



Figure 26: Entrance sign at northeast corner of Keele Street and Vaughan CARES Way (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 27: Vaughan CARES Way, looking east from near Keele entrance into the park (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 28: Vaughan CARES Way, looking east to pavilion building (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 29: Parking lot, looking southwest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 30: Pavilion building, looking northeast (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 31: Picnic area on south side of pavilion, looking north (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 32: NMRP sign next to pavilion (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 33: Signage next to the pavilion (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 34: Signage for the park's vision next to a pathway (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 35: Signage commemorating the activist volunteers of the Committee of Associations to Restore Environmental Safety (C.A.R.E.S.) (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 36: Plaque commemorating the activist volunteers of the Committee of Associations to Restore Environmental Safety (C.A.R.E.S.) (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 37: Pathway from parking lot to soccer fields, looking north (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 38: Soccer field, looking east from bleachers (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 39: Future site of the new cricket field, looking north to completed cricket field (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 40: Pond, looking south from Vaughan CARES Way (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 41: Low-lying vegetation in undeveloped area northwest of the parking lot, looking west (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 42: Representative maintained pathway lined by low-lying vegetation, with trees in the distance, looking northeast (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 43: Pathways, undeveloped open spaces, and trees on rolling topography, looking south to former Vaughan Township Landfill site (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 44: Representative non-maintained trail, looking south (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 45: Future pathway, currently a restricted area associated with the landfill, looking south (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 46: Signage related to Bat Habitat in the NMRP (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 47: Photo locations and directional arrows for the Park and Pavilion Area

4.3 Natural Area and Nevada Park Area

The NMRP has a vast and largely forested area to the north, east, and southeast of the park and pavilion area. This area primarily features a trail network, a playground, ponds, a creek, and dense woods set within a hilly landscape.

The natural area of this portion of the NMRP has both formal and informal trails that wend their way through rolling topography and at times run adjacent to ponds and the beginning of the Don River's East Branch. The informal trails appear to be unmarked and unmaintained and are much narrower as they wend their way through the forested areas. The formal trails, which are maintained by the City of Vaughan, are paved, wide, and include signage; they also include insect paintings such as dragonflies on the pavement. One paved trail, extending from the cul-de-sac at the south end of Laurentian Boulevard, allows for vehicular access along a wide trail to a fenced off stormwater pond and maintenance area. Dense trees, including a cedar grove, line these maintained trails, as do a creek and several ponds. The cedar grove includes trees planted in straight lines, though now with significant undergrowth. The trees within the cedar grove grew progressively taller in the second half of the twentieth century. Some of the ponds have large culverts that connect with the municipal water system on Laurentian Boulevard and Hunterwood Chase. The Nevada Park area has a playground, open fields, and a series of formal and informal trails that connect to residential subdivisions located to the north and east (Figure 48 to Figure 61). Note that all photo locations are provided in Figure 62.



Figure 48: Paved pathway, looking west from just south of cul-de-sac on Laurentian Boulevard (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 49: Paved path lined by trees and low-lying vegetation along hilly terrain, with houses of Maple Highlands subdivision at top right (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 50: Paved pathway, looking east from just south of cul-de-sac on Laurentian Boulevard (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 51: Paved pathway, looking south from just south of cul-de-sac on Laurentian Boulevard (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 52: Paved pathway, looking northwest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 53: Cedar grove near pathways at north end of NMRP (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 54: Dense cedar trees (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 55: Pond next to pathway, looking northwest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 56: Unmaintained pathway (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 57: Fenced-off maintenance area for adjacent stormwater pond (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 58: Unmaintained pathway next to Mapleridge Pond (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 59: Unmaintained pathway through the forest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 60: Open space and trees along pathway in Nevada Park (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 61: Nevada Park playground area, looking southwest (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 62: Photo locations and directional arrows for the Natural Area and Nevada Park Area

4.4 Landfill Areas

The following description is based on a combination of aerial imagery, Google Streetview, and what was visible from public and accessible rights-of-way within and outside of the NMRP on the day of the site visit. While the landfill areas do not retain significant built heritage fabric, they are a key part of the evolution and history of the site.

The northern portion of the landfill areas – the former Vaughan Landfill site – features a mix of low-lying vegetation and newly-planted trees atop several hills and berms. Circulation networks wind through the area, including the former principal road accessing the landfill, which had an east-west orientation, from its terminus at the intersection of Teston and Rodinea Roads (Figure 63 to Figure 65).

The southern portion of the landfill areas – the former Keele Valley Landfill site – also features a mix of low-lying vegetation, trees, and a rugged hilly topography. The entrance to this area is located off Eaglet Court, allowing access to a parking lot, the circulation network within the landfill, and to buildings associated with the landfill. These structures, including an administrative building, a garage, and another serving an unknown purpose, were all built at some point between 1978 and 1988, and likely after the landfill opened in 1983. They are all single-storey rectangular structures that feature brown brick; the two more eastern structures also feature large garage door openings (Figure 66 to Figure 69). Note that all photo locations are provided in Figure 70.



Figure 63: Looking south to Vaughan Landfill site from Vaughan CARES Way (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 64: Large mound on grounds of former Vaughan Landfill site, looking north from intersection of Teston and Rodinea Roads (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 65: Entrance to Vaughan Landfill site, looking east from intersection of Teston and Rodinea Roads (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 66: Rolling topography adjacent to parking lot of the former Keele Valley Landfill site, looking north from parking lot at 191 McNaughton Road (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 67: Entrance to former Keele Valley Landfill site on Eaglet Court, looking east (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 68: Brown brick garage building on grounds of former Keele Valley Landfill site, looking northeast (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 69: Brown brick administrative building on grounds of former Keele Valley Landfill site, looking north (A.S.I., 2025)

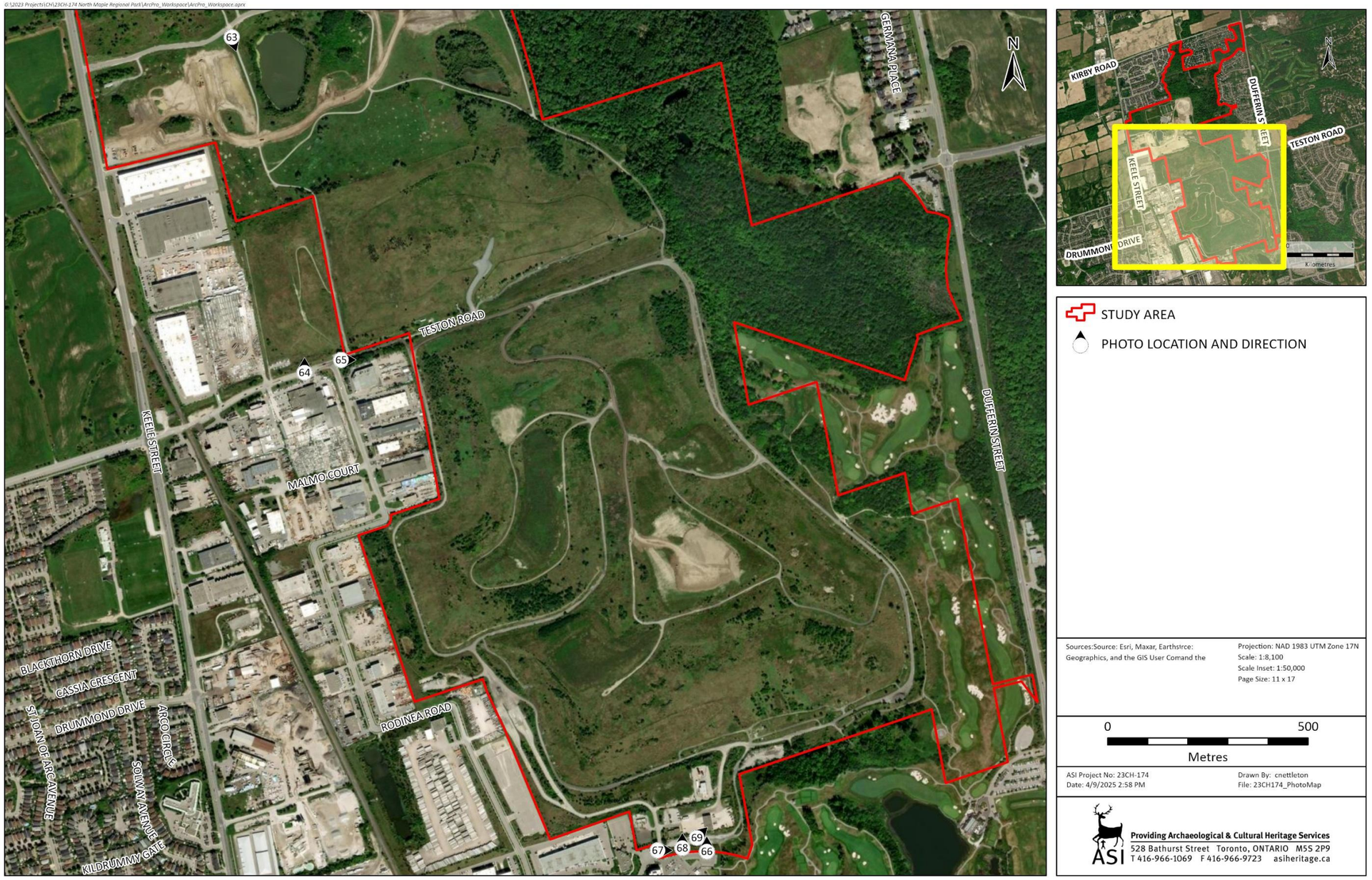


Figure 70: Photo locations and directional arrows for the Landfill Areas

4.5 Surrounding Context

Surrounding land uses around the NMRP include agricultural land, residential subdivisions, commercial and industrial properties, and a golf course.

The west side of Keele Street, west of the park's northern half, is primarily farmland while the west side of the park's southern half (north of McNaughton Road and east of Keele Street) is a mix of industrial and commercial properties. The higher elevation areas within the park allow for long range views, especially to the southwest, where the land use shifts from agricultural to urban and residential, including the most metropolitan area of Vaughan near the intersection of Highway 400 and Highway 7 (Figure 71 to Figure 73).

To the northeast, northwest, and west of the park's northern half are primarily residential subdivisions. These subdivisions feature curved roads, a school, parks and parkettes, and access points into the NMRP's trail network (Figure 74 and Figure 75).

To the east and southeast of the park's southern half is the Eagles Nest Golf Course, which is located on the west side of Dufferin Street and the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive West. The course has a mix of maintained greens and unmaintained vegetation set on rolling topography, as well as a parking lot, club house, trees, and ponds (Figure 76 and Figure 77). Note that all photo locations are provided in Figure 78.



Figure 71: Looking north from 11151 Keele Street (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 72: Looking southwest from the intersection of Vaughan CARES Way and Keele Street to agricultural land in the foreground and buildings near Vaughan Metropolitan Centre in the background (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 73: Looking south from Vaughan CARES Way to industrial properties west of landfill (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 74: Looking northeast along Regency View Heights, a representative subdivision street northwest of the NMRP (Google Streetview)



Figure 75: Representative entrance trail to NMRP from Hunterwood Chase (A.S.I., 2025)



Figure 76: Eagle's Nest Golf Course off Dufferin Street (Google Streetview)



Figure 77: Looking east to rolling topography of Eagles Glen Golf Course from McNaughton Road East (Google Streetview)

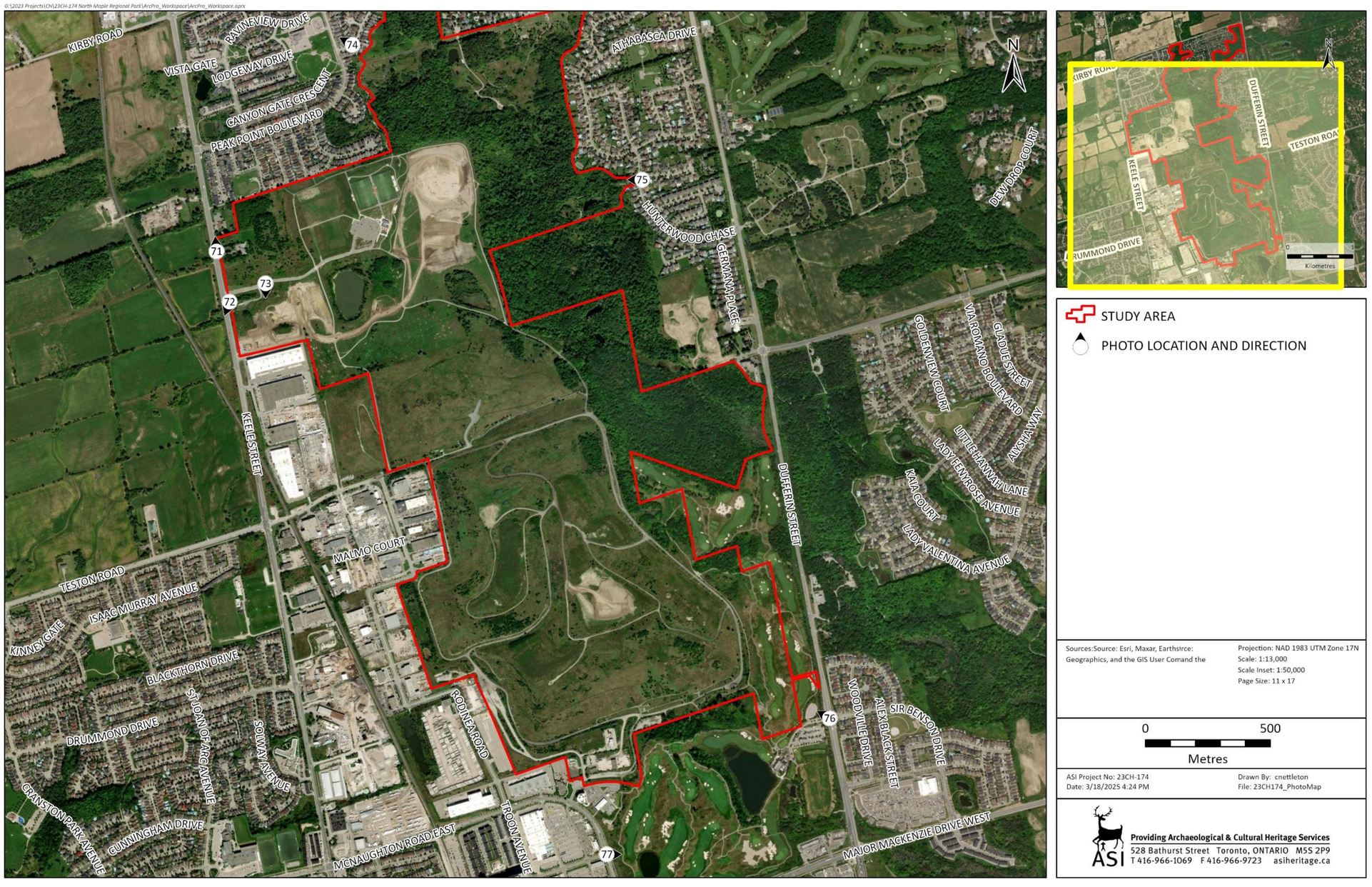


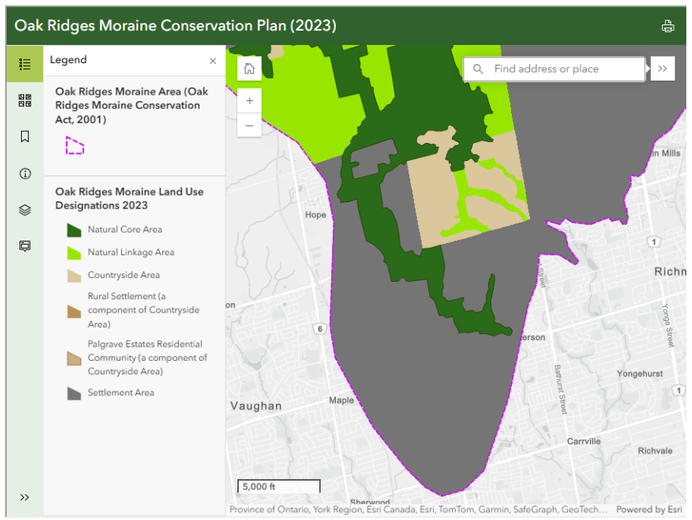
Figure 78: Photo locations and directional arrows for the Surrounding Context

5.0 Identification of Known and Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

Based on the results of the background research and field review, one known built heritage resource (B.H.R.) was identified and one potential cultural heritage landscape (C.H.L.) was identified within the study area. An inventory showing these resources is presented below in Table 1. See Figure 82 for mapping showing their location.

Table 1: Inventory of Known and Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes within the Study Area

Feature I.D.	Type of Property	Address or Location	Heritage Status and Recognition	Description of Property and Known or Potential Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (C.H.V.I.)	Photographs/ Digital Image
B.H.R. 1	Institutional /formerly residential	11151 Keele Street, City of Vaughan	Known B.H.R. - Designated (Part IV) on The City of Vaughan's *Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value*	The property at 11151 Keele Street includes a two-storey stone residence – the Devlin/Cook House – built in the 1850s in a vernacular adaptation of the Georgian architectural style. The property has design/physical value for being a rare surviving example of a two-storey stone residence in Vaughan. Using local fieldstone, the original house was constructed in an L-shaped plan with a two-storey main portion and one-storey tail. Other notable features include its three-bay front façade, central door and sidelights, and windows with stone trapezoidal voussoirs. The property has historical/associative value for its association with the family of William and Eleanor Devlin who began living on the property circa 1850. William Devlin was a farmer as well as a Justice of the Peace from the 1860s to the 1880s. The property also has historical/associative value for its links to the family of George and Jane Cook. George was a merchant, but his two sons were farmers, and members of the Cook family continued to reside on the property until 1959. Both the Devlin and Cook families were important members of the community: various members of these two families served on local school boards, helped establish the Maple Methodist Cemetery and Methodist Churches in the area, and helped launch the Maple Women's Institute. The property has contextual value because of the house's setback from Keele Street and the landscape's deciduous and coniferous trees, particularly evident along the driveway and the property's north side. Overall, the property is an excellent visible reminder of Vaughan's rural-agricultural past. This property (see Figure 2) is owned by the City of Vaughan and is currently used as the headquarters of the Vaughan Soccer Club. The full Statement of Cultural Heritage Value is provided in Appendix A.	 Figure 79: The former farmhouse at 11151 Keele Street (A.S.I., 2025).

Feature I.D.	Type of Property	Address or Location	Heritage Status and Recognition	Description of Property and Known or Potential Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (C.H.V.I.)	Photographs/ Digital Image
C.H.L. 1	Headwaters of the Don River	n/a	Potential C.H.L. – Identified during field review/ desktop research	From its headwaters in the North Maple Regional Park, the Don River's east branch flows with a meandering alignment approximately 38 kilometres along a southeasterly trajectory toward its outlet into Lake Ontario in Toronto. Within the park, the headwaters feature small embankments and is surrounded by low-lying vegetation and/or mature trees within the valley lands. On either side of the waterway the land rises up to some of the highest areas (naturally occurring) within the park (see Figure 3). The C.H.L. generally corresponds to a "Natural Core Area" as identified on the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Land Use Designation Map.  Figure 80: Land Use Designations in the Oak Ridges Moraine (Government of Ontario, 2023) The potential heritage attributes of the headwaters of the Don River's east branch include its association with Indigenous Peoples who have for millennia fished and hunted on the river, collected plants in the creek valley, and used it as a travel corridor and place marker. The watercourse also supported early Euro-Canadian settlement.	 Figure 81: Looking southwest toward the headwaters of the Don River (A.S.I., 2025).

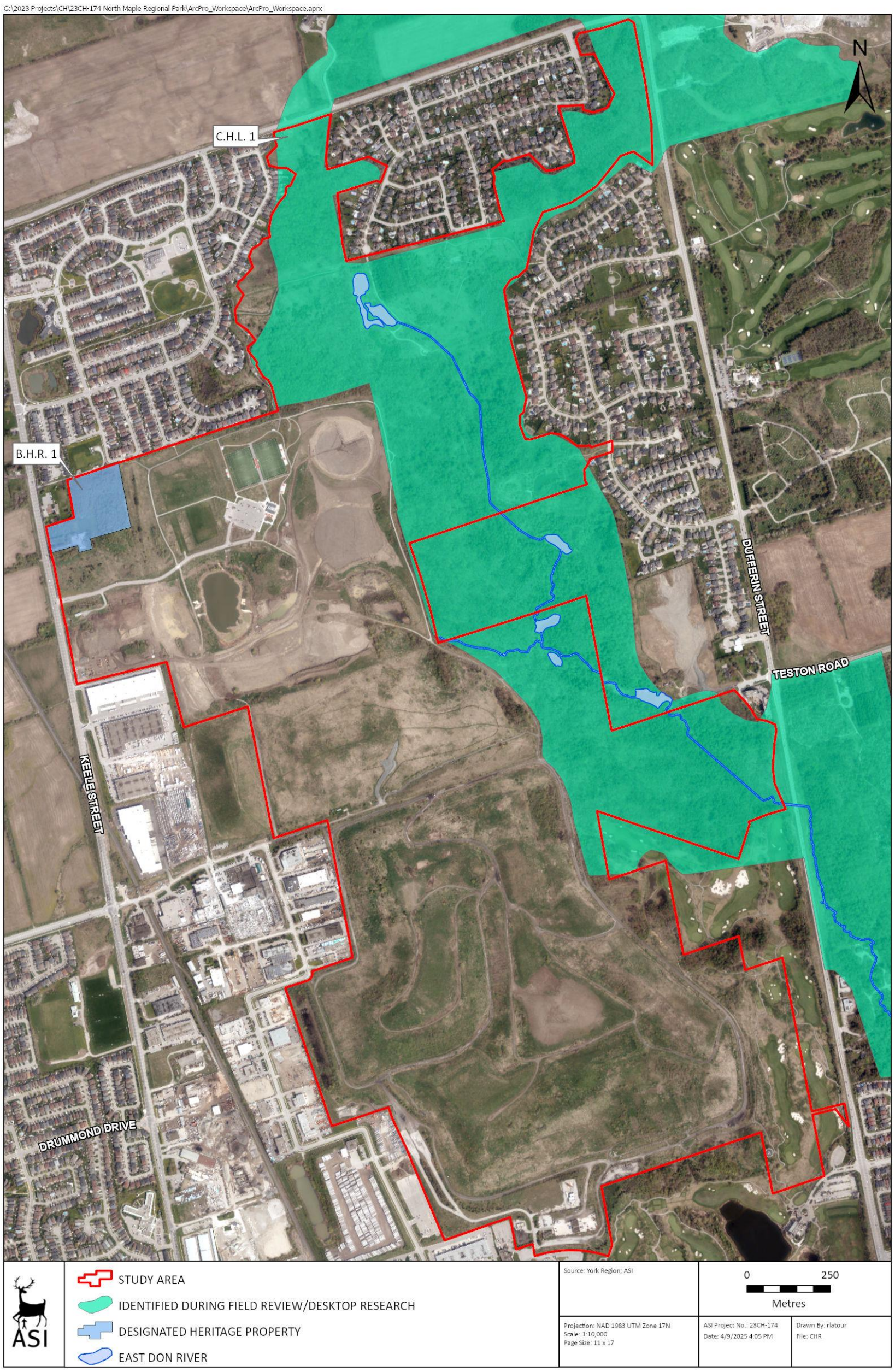


Figure 82: Location of identified B.H.R. and C.H.L. within the study area

6.0 Results and Recommendations

The following sections present key findings and recommendations.

6.1 Key Findings

The results of background historical research and a review of secondary source material, including historical mapping and aerial photography, indicate a study area with an Indigenous history dating back millennia, a rural-agricultural land use history dating back to the early nineteenth century, followed by a history of aggregate extraction and landfill activities in the second half of the twentieth century. More recently, the site has seen a history of environmental stewardship and recreation which continues today. A review of federal, provincial, and municipal registers, inventories, and databases revealed that there is one known property that is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* within North Maple Regional Park. The Headwaters of the Don River was identified as a potential cultural heritage landscape (C.H.L.) during background research and field review.

The following sections provide recommendations to address the conservation and integration of identified cultural heritage resources within the study area and during future land use development and park design plans. As part of the development of a Master Plan for the North Maple Regional Park, there is an opportunity to conserve and integrate both the tangible heritage attributes of identified cultural heritage resources, as well as the intangible heritage values of the site that are not directly expressed in physical attributes. Heritage interpretation and commemoration is particularly important in the conservation of intangible heritage values. Public awareness and celebration of the cultural heritage value and heritage attributes of a place is an important component of successful conservation.

6.2 Identified Cultural Heritage Resources

One known built heritage resource (B.H.R.) and one potential cultural heritage landscape (C.H.L.) have been identified within the study area.

6.2.1 B.H.R. 1 – 11151 Keele Street (Designated Part IV)

The designated property at 11151 Keele Street is currently being used as the headquarters of the Vaughan Soccer Club. The NMRP should be appropriately planned to conserve the property and integrate it into future land use development as appropriate. This can be accomplished through retention of features that express the resource's cultural heritage value. Consideration should also be given to appropriate adaptive reuse for the property, should the soccer club relocate at any time. Should any changes be proposed for the property, completion of a Heritage Impact Assessment (H.I.A.) will assist in further defining specific proposed intervention strategies on the property where recommended and appropriate.

6.2.2 C.H.L. 1 – Headwaters of the Don River

The headwaters of the Don River was identified as a potential C.H.L. Should any adverse impacts to the river be anticipated as part of future land use development in the park, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (C.H.E.R.) should be completed. The requirements for and scope of this C.H.E.R. should be confirmed in consultation with the City of Vaughan Heritage Planning staff. A C.H.E.R. typically includes property-specific archival research, field review results, and application of Ontario Regulation 9/06 to determine cultural heritage value and identification of heritage attributes. Should evaluation determine that the headwaters of the Don River has heritage value, completion of a Heritage Impact Assessment (H.I.A.) will assist in further defining specific proposed intervention strategies to the resource where recommended and appropriate.

6.3 Heritage Interpretation and Commemoration – Preliminary Recommendations

An interpretation and commemoration plan should be developed as part of future phases of park planning and development. Interpretation and commemoration are effective strategies to transmit the history of a site and can contribute to the layered storytelling linking the past, present, and future of the

park. An interpretation and commemoration strategy allows for the history and stories of the NMRP to be shared, understood, and appreciated by members of the public through a variety of means. These include, but are not limited to, interpretive signage, exhibits, plaques, cultural festivals and events, public art, tours, apps and social media campaigns, and educational programs.

The development of robust and integrated interpretation and commemoration plans and strategies is necessarily an iterative process that involves multiple perspectives from stakeholders, First Nations and Indigenous groups, custodians, designers, and experts. The NMRP project team's preliminary engagement with Indigenous communities has begun the process of establishing a collaborative relationship. Community-informed perspectives can assist the project team with more nuanced understandings of the site's history and significance, with the level of involvement and types of roles that Indigenous Nations would like to have in future phases of park design and programming, with greater insights about their contemporary connections to the land, and with ideas and recommendations for knowledge sharing, programming, and placekeeping at the NMRP moving forward. Continued engagement with Indigenous communities will be crucial as the NMRP team transitions to the detailed design stage; the involvement of Indigenous peoples will strengthen the team's comprehension of the park's human and natural history, present, and future in the hopes of achieving a multi-functional park that balances biodiversity, ecological health, and recreational opportunities.

The recommendations presented in this report form a point of departure for a future interpretation and commemoration plan for the NMRP, and provides opportunities to reveal and celebrate the cultural and Indigenous history of the park. More detailed information and recommendations as it relates to public art, events and programs, and education, and which round out the Cultural Heritage Plan for the park, are outlined in the body of the Master Plan.

6.3.1 Themes and Stories

A thematic approach to an interpretation and commemoration plan will ensure that park users and visitors have a holistic understanding and experience of the

park. Themes for the interpretation and commemoration at the NMRP should be identified using the following interconnected sources:

- Site context and setting, including the summary of historical development presented in Section 3.0 above. Undertaking further research will emphasize a greater range of voices, perspectives, and experiences in the themes and stories identified for the site. This could include gathering traditional knowledge, oral histories, and stories from Indigenous communities, environmental stewardship groups, members of the public, and others.
- Known and potential cultural heritage significance and heritage attributes of the identified cultural heritage resources, including the designated property at 11151 Keele Street (B.H.R. 1) and the Don River (C.H.L. 1).
- Indigenous and stakeholder feedback, which is a primary source of information in the development of any interpretation and commemoration plan to consider potential themes and help craft potential stories to be shared as part of the interpretation and commemoration of the site.
- The overall design narrative of the park.

Given the expansive nature of the NMRP, both in time and in space, and the natural and cultural features of the site, there are opportunities to explore similar land-based themes through time – from earliest Indigenous land use to today – and exploring the diversity of the landscape and of its people. For example:

- Agricultural practices and food through time: this could provide the opportunity to create a public/community garden exploring the various agricultural practices and foods that were grown in this area, starting with early Indigenous agriculture.
- Habitation through time: how shelter and housing has changed over time
    - Opportunity to explore construction methods, materiality, and architectural features of early Indigenous housing and shelter as

well as nineteenth-century settler housing and shelter using the Hope Site and the Designated property as a jumping points.

- Stewardship of the land through time: Indigenous perspectives on stewardship; farmers as stewards; environmental activism related to extraction sites and/or landfills; role of Vaughan CARES in the process of community advocacy.
- How has the site changed through time: what did the site look like 10,000 years ago? 1,000 years ago? 500 years ago? 150 years ago? 50 years ago?
    - How has the organization of the site changed over time? How have humans changed the shape of the landscape over time? What is the legacy of these changes?
- Who has lived, worked, and played here? Why? What was daily life like?
    - Opportunity to incorporate personal experiences and oral histories from a range of people.
    - The existing and future sports programming at the park provides an opportunity to explore sports and games through time.
- The Oak Ridges Moraine and the Don River.
    - This larger theme provides an opportunity to explore the headwaters of the Don River, including associated wildlife and ecological restoration and habitat creation in and around the park.
    - It also provides the opportunity to explore watershed-based stories, highlighting broader connections between the headwaters and the mouth of the Don River in Lake Ontario, and points in between.

For further guidance on themes and storytelling opportunities that will inform a future commemoration and interpretation plan, refer to the key strategies section on Cultural and Ecological Heritage, and key strategies section on Interpretive Themes and Stories within the Engage chapter of Volume 1.

6.3.2 Interpretation, Commemoration, and Programming Opportunities

Interpretation and commemoration strategies can reflect the heritage value and history of a site through a range of mediums and tools, which assist in creating a narrative and a sense of place related to the site's heritage significance. These can be static or dynamic, permanent or temporary, tangible or intangible, physical or digital, a one-off or ongoing and evolving. Potential interpretation opportunities that could be explored as part of the NMRP Master Plan include, but are not limited to:

- Community-based celebrations, ceremonies, events, and/or workshops that could speak to a number of topics
- Public art as an interpretive tool exploring any of the potential themes outlined above
- Interpretation panels, plaques, timelines
- Potential for exhibit and/or programming space in the designated property at 11151 Keele Street
- Active interpretation such as lectures, walking tours, musical or dramatic performances, etc. which can animate the site
- Oral history project
- Landscape design features, wayfinding aids, flags, branding
- Themed furniture and structures
- Interpretation opportunities at the location of long-range views
- Educational materials such as pamphlets and brochures
- Plantings/vegetation relevant to the history of the site
    - Public/community garden exploring the history of agriculture at the site
- Moccasin Identifier installation (https://moccasinidentifier.com), and/or partnering with other Indigenous-led initiatives
- Virtual podcasts, blog posts, publications
- Mobile/smart phone applications to allow access to historic photo overlays, interactive walking tours, etc.

Some key considerations when developing an interpretation plan include but are not limited to:

- Site size;
- Environment (indoor or outdoor installations);
- Budget and timeline;
- Staffing;
- Accessibility; and
- Audience.

6.3.3 Potential Locations for Interpretation

The NMRP provides a number of opportunities for potential locations for interpretation and commemoration, including but not limited to:

- In and around the park and pavilion area
- In and around the designated property, including within the building itself
- Along walking trails
- At high points which provide uninterrupted views of the surrounding area

Interpretation opportunities are currently not available for the landfill areas as they undergo remediation. Once remediation is complete, interpretation programming can expand within these areas.

6.3.4 Summary of Public Feedback

From July to December 2024, a diverse array of community engagements occurred as part of the development of the NMRP Master Plan. This included pop-ups, community events, meetings with community advisory committees, workshops, surveys, and interviews. Feedback was provided on current perceptions and experiences of the park and on the values, guiding principles, areas of opportunity, and potential uses of the park.

In terms of interpretation, commemoration, and programming ideas, some participants voiced support for the following:

- Historical education, whether that be natural or human history of the area;
- Acknowledgement and honouring of Indigenous peoples and history in the area, including potential partnerships with Indigenous organizations and public art opportunities, as well as programming and/or interpretation tied to the nearby Hope Site;
- Development of public gardens and ecological education programs and spaces, such as heritage trails;
- The creation of event spaces and facilities;
- The fostering of public events, such as concerts, festivals, and cultural performances that could have connections to cultural heritage;
- Adaptive reuse of the designated heritage property as a welcome centre, interpretive/educational centre, or an area for commercial activities; and,
- Opportunities to incorporate pre-landfill landscape features into the design of the park and/or its program offerings.

Further engagement with Vaughan community members and First Nations throughout 2025 will assist in collecting feedback and informing the next phase of development of the NMRP.

7.0 References

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Appendix A: Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for 11151 Keele Street

Appendix B: Historical Images



Figure 83: Black necked type vessel from the Hope Site (Archaeological Services Inc., 2011)



Figure 84: Iroquois Ring Smoking Pipes from the Hope Site (Archaeological Services Inc., 2011)



Figure 85: Projectile Points from the Hope Site (Archaeological Services Inc., 2011)



Figure 86: Ska nah Doht, Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Photograph colourized by Archaeological Services Inc.

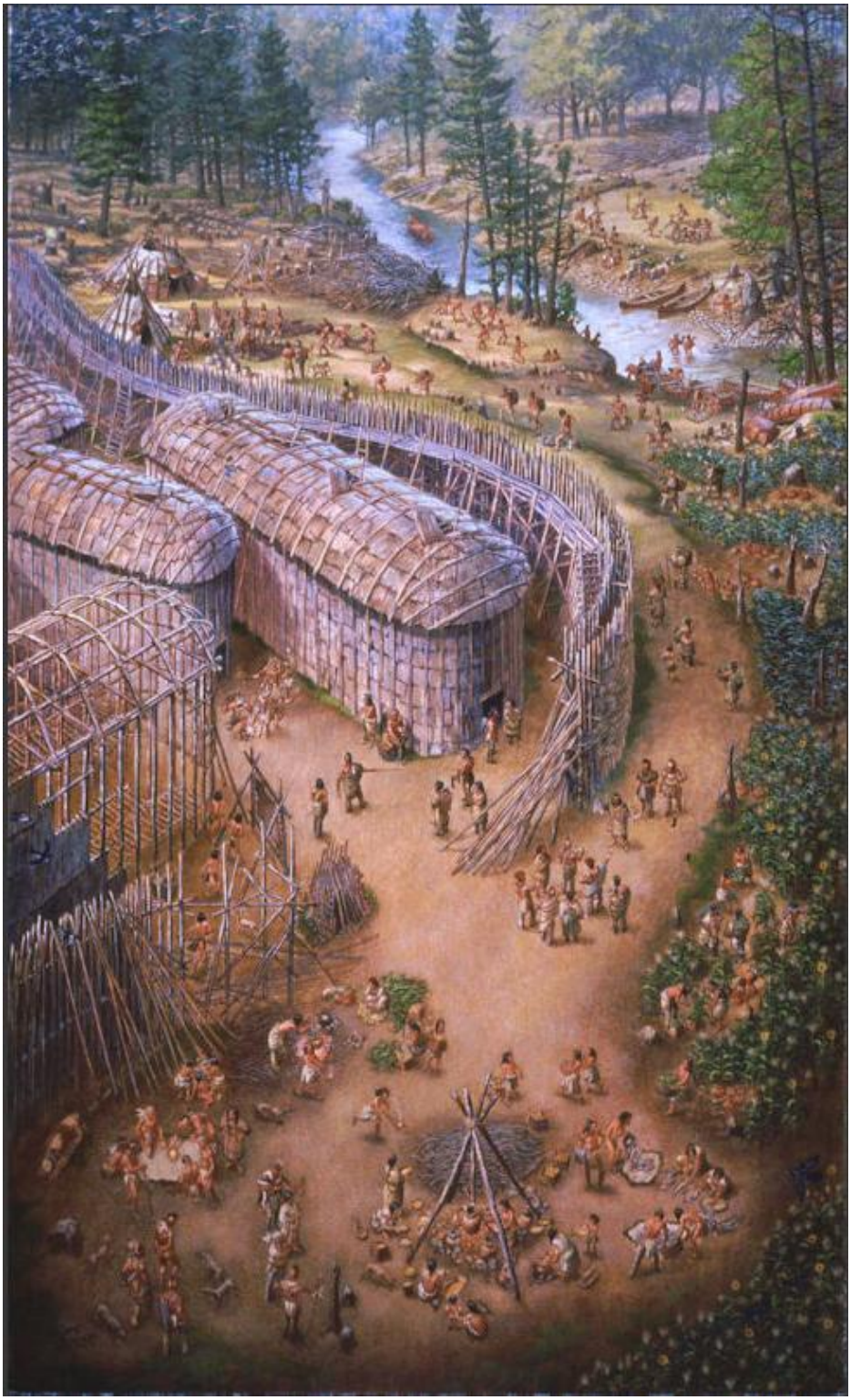


Figure 87: Wendat (Huron) Daily Life, painting by Lewis Parker, 1968-1974



Figure 88: Historic photograph of Hope School (City of Vaughan Archives)

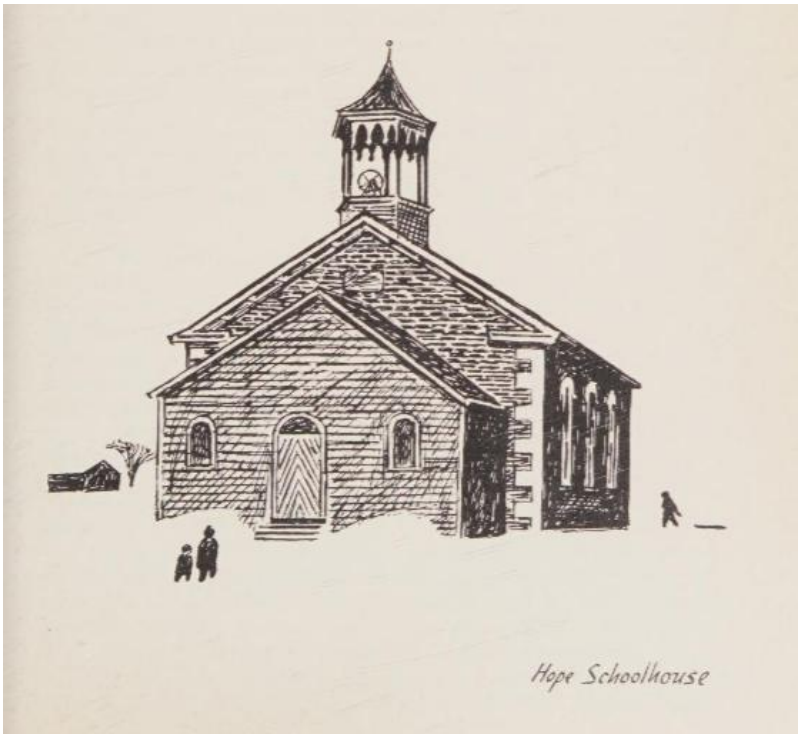


Figure 89: Drawing of Hope Schoolhouse (Reaman, 1971, p. 77)



Figure 90: Log structure on Dufferin Street, Concession 3, north of Maple Sideroad (now Major Mackenzie Drive), date unknown (Reaman, 1971)



Figure 91: Combine on the McQuarrie Farm, circa 1928 (City of Vaughan Archives)



Figure 92: McQuarrie farm buildings, circa 1928 (City of Vaughan Archives)

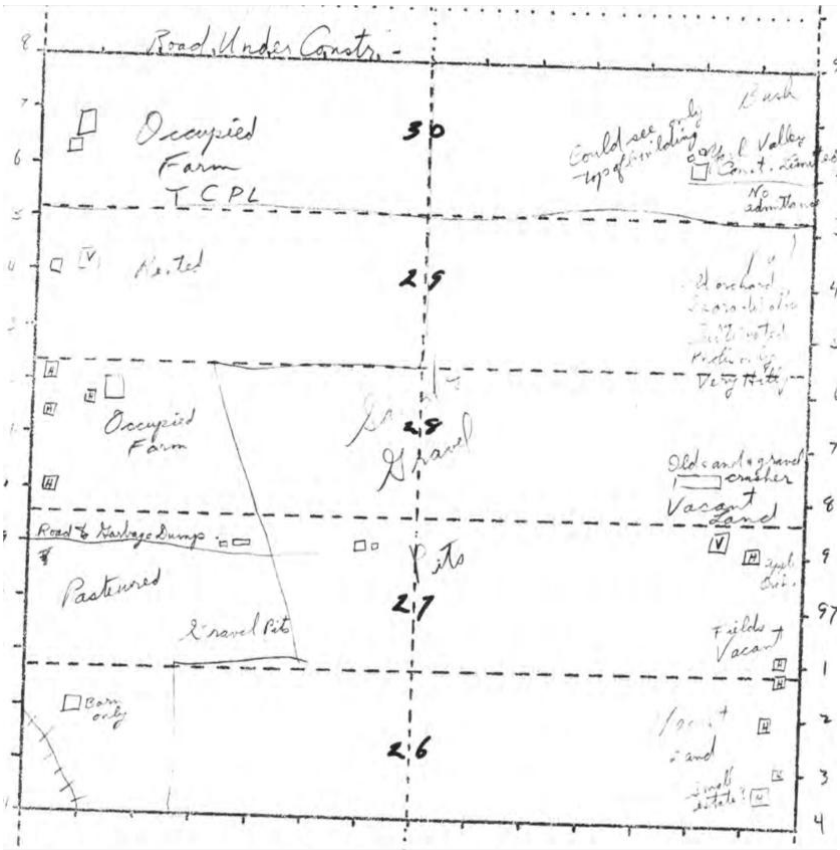


Figure 93: Land usage for Lots 26 to 30, Concession 3, in 1969 (Cook, 1969)

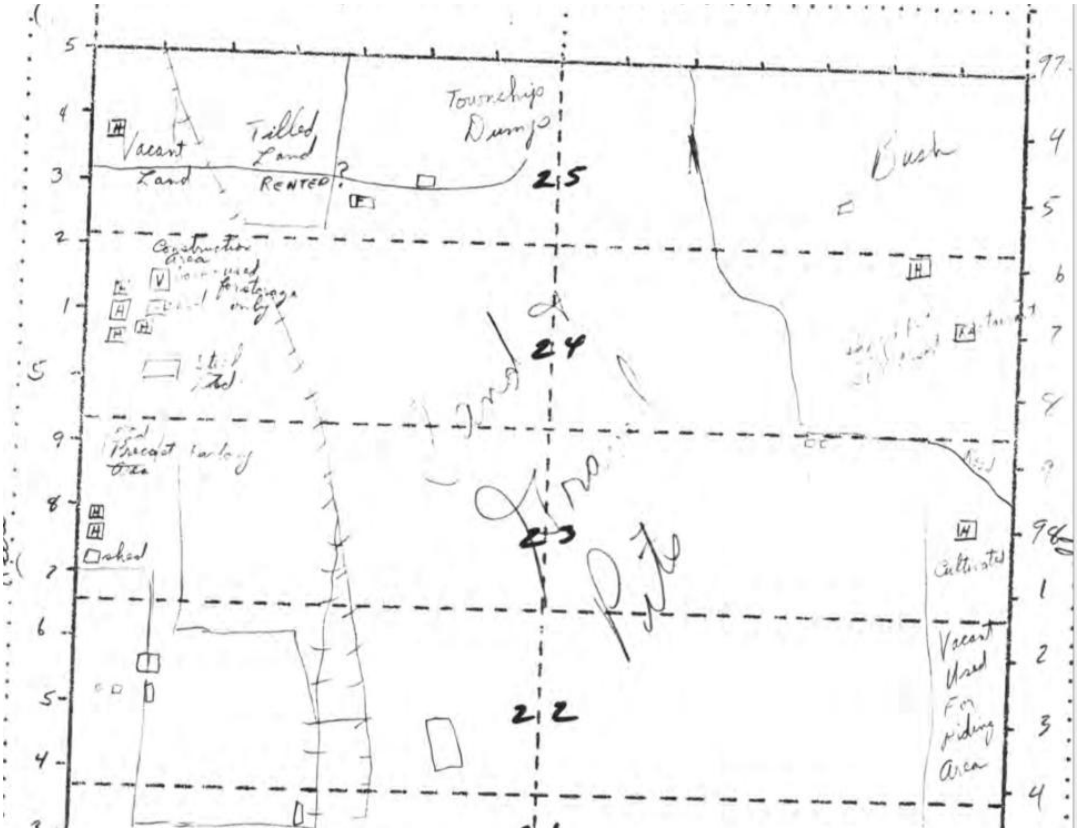


Figure 94: Land usage for Lots 22 to 25, Concession 3, in 1969 (Cook, 1969)


Figure 95: Keele Valley Landfill and industrial area along east side of Keele Street, looking southeast, 1985 (City of Vaughan Archives)



Figure 96: Keele Valley Landfill, looking west, 1985 (City of Vaughan Archives)



Figure 97: Keele Valley Landfill (background) and farm (foreground), 1989 (City of Vaughan Archives)



Figure 98: Activists advocating for the closure of the Keele Valley Landfill site (City of Vaughan, 2025)



Figure 99: Media and activists marking the closure of the landfill on 31 December 2002 (City of Vaughan Archives)



Figure 100: A large crowd at the official closure of the landfill on 31 December 2002 (City of Vaughan Archives)