



Active Together Master Plan

Parks, Recreation & Libraries

2013 Review & Update



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Limitations

This report was prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd. for the account of the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries. This report contains recommendations intended to maintain and/or enhance the local quality of life through the provision of community-responsive parks, recreation, and library facilities. The assessments contained herein are based on several inputs, including demographic indicators, activity trends, facility provision principles, and priorities identified by the public, community groups, and internal stakeholders. The material in this report reflects the Consultant's best judgment in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation and is subject to change based on further analysis. Using a variety of techniques – including additional public engagement, where appropriate – the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries will continually assess options, costs, and risks for implementation of the Plan's recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Purpose & Approach

This 2013 Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) represents a review and update to the 2008 ATMP, which was the City's first long-range planning study for parks, recreation, and library facilities. The purpose of this ATMP is to identify current needs and future facility provision strategies, consistent with the City of Vaughan's commitment to providing safe, accessible, and community-responsive parks and facilities that appeal to a wide range of interests and abilities. Given that Vaughan is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada, timely short and long-range planning is critical to ensuring that facility provision properly coincides with development.

It is the intent that the ATMP will guide planning for parks, recreation, and library facilities until the City's ultimate build-out, with a primary focus on the next eight to ten years; a five-year update undertaken in collaboration with the City's Development Changes Study is recommended. The integrated nature of planning recognizes that other processes are also involved and the ATMP builds upon Vaughan's foundational documents, including Vaughan Vision 2020, Green Directions Vaughan, and the City's new Official Plan.

The development of this Plan followed a process similar to that employed for the 2008 ATMP, including an analysis of demographic data and forecasts, activity and facility provision trends, and an extensive public engagement program consisting of:

- Public Information Sessions and participation in the Youth Forum
- Random sample household telephone survey
- User group survey and targeted consultation (Sports Congress)
- Interviews with key community agencies and stakeholders
- Ongoing consultation with the Library Board, City officials, and staff

Based on a series of guiding principles (see Section 6), a comprehensive needs assessment for parks, recreation, and library facilities was also prepared, including verification of the provision targets that were established in the 2008 ATMP. The last phase of the project involved the development of an implementation strategy that established priorities, timing, and other considerations for the sustainable provision of parks and facilities.

Arts and cultural facilities, which were included within the scope of the 2008 ATMP, are not addressed in this Update as the City prepared a separate *Creative Together Plan* in 2010. The 2008 ATMP also included a *Physical Activity Strategy* that provides direction to the provision, coordination, and marketing of physical activity programs and services; this Strategy remains in effect. Lastly, although the focus is on physical infrastructure, there are some high-level directions relating to programming as a result of their inherent relationship with facilities and parks; a detailed review of programming and service delivery is beyond the scope of the ATMP.

B. Key Drivers

Since the 2008 ATMP was prepared, the City has continued to invest in its parks, recreation, and library infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population, which has been estimated at 311,200 (as of December 31, 2012). Recent accomplishments are numerous and include (but are not limited to) the following:

- North Thornhill Community Centre in Block 10 (2010)
- Fitness Centre at Vellore Village Community Centre (2013)
- Several recreation and library facility enhancements (e.g., accessibility)
- New skate zones, waterplay facility, off leash dog park, sports fields, and other outdoor amenities
- Acquisition of North Maple Regional Park, MacMillan Farm, and several other park properties
- Establishment of policies for facility allocation and financial assistance (RecAssist)

Planning is also underway for several new parks (including the 80-hectare North Maple Regional Park), libraries at the Civic Centre and North Thornhill Community Centre, improvements to Fr. Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre, and the future development of a community centre in Block 11. Future investments in Vaughan's parks, recreation, and library facilities are supported by increasing usage of existing assets and anticipated population growth across all age groups, including youth and older adults.

Through the public engagement program, it is evident that residents and organizations are pleased with the major strides the City has made in recent years, but are eager for these improvements to continue. Given the City's new Official Plan and policies for growth, there is a particular urgency to define infrastructure requirements in intensifying and emerging communities (e.g., Vaughan Metropolitan Centre) to ensure that sufficient land is set aside, funding is allocated, and that partnerships can be established.

C. Key Themes

The 2013 Active Together Master Plan contains over 90 recommendations intended to guide municipal and community investment in parks, recreation, and library facilities. Some of the key themes of the Plan include:

- establishing a preferred strategy for the provision and distribution of parks, recreation, and library facilities, in concert with other providers where appropriate
- improving the equitable distribution of recreation and library facilities through the promotion of smaller community-based neighbourhood hubs and library branches, to complement the system of larger multi-use community centres and resource libraries
- ensuring that appropriately located sites are secured for required future parks and facilities
- upgrading older facilities and parks to meet evolving community needs, particularly those within or near areas of residential intensification

- recognizing the impact that a growing – but aging and increasingly diverse – population will have on facility and park usage and design requirements
- finding the proper balance between providing spaces to be used for structured sport activities (e.g., arenas, sports fields, etc.) and spaces for less formal, self-scheduled activities (e.g., picnic areas, trails, fitness centres, skateboard parks, off-leash dog areas, etc.)
- focusing on meeting provision targets at a City-wide level (e.g., 2.2 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents) and undertaking community-specific assessments to identify opportunities and strategies
- policy considerations for the acquisition, design, and development/redevelopment of parkland; a parkland acquisition strategy has been recommended to identify options and potential priority properties
- expanding the local system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways, trails, and routes through ongoing coordinated planning strategies

D. ATMP Implementation

Each recommendation, along with a preferred timing and priority, is listed on the following pages; their supporting rationale can be found throughout the Plan. Preliminary cost estimates have also been estimated and are contained in Section 11, with the recognition that parks, recreation and libraries cannot and should not operate at full cost recovery levels. Successful implementation will be dependent upon variety of factors including (but not limited to) funding, partnerships, land availability, and ongoing community engagement. It is expected that the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the capital budget process.

The timing of the capital projects proposed in this Active Together Master Plan is based on ideal circumstances (considering projected population targets) and recognizes the need for phased implementation. Where possible, this timing has been coordinated with the preparation of the City's long-term capital forecast and Development Charges Background Study. Timing of implementation will be dependent on several factors, including population growth, funding, land availability, and partnerships. In many cases, proposed timeframes are linked to the population forecasts approved by the Region of York; should growth be slowed or accelerated, the timing of implementation may require adjustment. Furthermore, the proposed timing may not align with the City's funding capacities as time goes by; should funding levels not be sufficient, it is possible that some projects will have to be deferred to later years. As part of the annual budget process, this Plan will be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of facility development.

Each recommendation within this ATMP has been assigned a preferred timeframe for initiation:

- Short-term (1-4 years) – 2013 to 2016
- Medium-term (5-9 years) – 2017 to 2021
- Longer-term (10+ years) – 2022 to 2031

Each recommendation within this ATMP has also been assigned a priority level: High, Medium, or Low. Priority has been determined based on an assessment of need, as identified throughout the ATMP process (including public engagement, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of facilities, parks, programs, etc.). All recommendations are important and, if properly implemented, will benefit parks, recreation, and library services within Vaughan. In the event that a recommendation is not implemented within the proposed timeframe, it may become a higher priority and hence be upgraded to a shorter time frame. For this reason and others, it is important that the City regularly monitor and update the ATMP and its recommendations. Determining priorities is an exercise that should be revisited each year prior to the capital and operating budget development exercise.

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

Note: The recommendations are numbered according to the order in which they are presented in the body of the Active Together Master Plan; they are not intended to be sequential.

Table ES-1: Parkland Recommendations (see Section 7)

Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Parkland Classification and Types	1. Continue to ensure consistency between Vaughan's Official Plan, Secondary Plans, and this Active Together Master Plan. Where applicable, the evaluation of parkland and facility requirements relative to development applications should reference the findings, targets, and recommendations of this Plan. Furthermore, parkland requirements should be stated and evaluated using per capita measures, where possible.	●	●	●	High
	2. Develop an urban parkland hierarchy and conveyance policy that serves as an appropriate, equitable, consistent, and transparent framework for parkland dedication in higher density areas. Policies should take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> parkland dedication amounts and alternative provision rates (e.g., 1 ha : 300 units); smaller and more urban park types, along with minimum park sizes; policies for strata parks (built on a development site, over top of a structure), with a view towards ensuring appropriate legal agreements and public access; policies for private amenity space; these may be accepted at the discretion of the City, but should not result in full parkland dedication credit; guiding principles for private sector involvement in park operation (e.g., cafes, markets, etc.); policies should seek to maximize public access, affordability, and municipal accountability; and alternative funding, maintenance, and management strategies. 	●			High
Active Parkland Supply	3. Integrate the municipal parks and community facility inventory into a GIS-based system in order to improve research, future planning, asset management, and coordination. A formal updating mechanism will be required to keep this database current.	●			Medium
Active Parkland Needs and Acquisition	4. Acquire active parkland at the maximum applicable rate as permitted by the Planning Act and the City's implementing documents, with the goal of maintaining a City-wide supply of 2.2 hectares of active parkland per 1000 residents. The City may utilize different community-specific targets that are representative of local supply and demand factors.	●	●	●	High
	5. If deemed necessary by the City, developers may be required to provide additional parks and recreational amenities in areas of intensification (or indoor space in lieu of parkland), in addition to the prescribed parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu. This may be achieved by area-specific subdivision / condominium agreements or other implementing mechanisms, such as bonus as per Section 37 of the Planning Act.	●	●	●	Medium

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Active Parkland Needs and Acquisition (continued)	6. Continue to require parkland conveyance within employment areas in order to create public spaces that attract and serve businesses and their employees.	●	●	●	Medium
	7. Do not accept undevelopable Open Space lands (e.g., stormwater management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement (i.e., no credit should be applied). Where appropriate, the City may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement. Trails and connections may be dedicated through 51(25)(b) of the <i>Planning Act</i> .	●	●	●	High
	8. Develop a Parkland Acquisition Strategy to identify alternative parkland provision mechanisms and potential priority properties for acquisition, with a focus on under-served areas and larger district and regional park types.	●			High
	9. Where appropriate, use cash-in-lieu to offset the total cost of renewing and revitalizing existing parks intended to serve areas of residential intensification.	●	●	●	Medium
Park Renewal and Redevelopment	10. Promote appropriate community and public-private partnerships in the municipal parks system in order to leverage additional resources, expedite development, and improve accessibility. Partnerships and creative approaches for park maintenance in areas of higher density may be required (e.g., adopt-a-park).	●	●	●	Medium
	11. In designing parks , continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporate spaces and amenities encouraging physical activity, wellness, and informal use opportunities; consider the needs of a diverse and aging population through the provision of washrooms, seating, shade, drinking fountains, pathways, and picnic areas; follow accessibility legislation and guidelines to accommodate persons with disabilities; apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles; promote designs that encourage sustainable maintenance practices; incorporate native and drought resistant vegetative features; utilize materials that are robust, durable, and mindful of future maintenance requirements; seek innovative and engaging initiatives that encourage environmental stewardship (e.g., recycling bins); encourage public art; and encourage active transportation connections and a linked open space system. 	●	●	●	High

Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Parkland Design Considerations (continued)	12. Continue to encourage the development of joint and/or shared community sites, such as schools, community centres, libraries, and parks.	●	●	●	High

Table ES-2: Indoor Recreation Facility Recommendations (see Section 8)

Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Community Centres	13. Pursue the timely development of a major community centre in the Carrville area (Block 11). Construction is currently recommended for 2015-16.	●			High
	14. In the short-term, acquire land for a major community centre in Block 41 to serve growth in the City's north end, including the Vellore area. Construction is currently recommended for 2017-18.	●	●		High
	15. In the short-term, acquire land (or negotiate) to develop a major community centre in Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. This facility is likely to be part of a high rise development, the timing of which should coincide with other construction activities in the area. Timing of construction will depend on a number of factors, but is currently recommended around the year 2021.	●	●		High
	16. Expand the City's facility provision model to include neighbourhood hubs to fill distribution gaps in emerging areas undergoing substantial population renewal/growth. Neighbourhood hubs require a minimum population threshold of 8,000 people and should focus on multi-use activity spaces, such as gymnasiums and meeting rooms (generally provided at a rate of 1.5 square feet per capita). Neighbourhood hubs may take several forms, but should be in accessible and prominent locations that reinforce their "public" image. Such indoor space may be constructed by the City or by developers, potentially in lieu of part of the required parkland conveyance or through bonusing provisions within Section 37 of the Planning Act.		●	●	Medium
	17. Secure a site for the establishment a neighbourhood hub in the Kleinburg/Nashville area in the short-term; a location capable of serving the existing village and residential growth anticipated for Blocks 61 and 62 is preferred. Pending further study, the neighbourhood hub may include amenities such as a gymnasium, fitness studio, activity rooms, meeting rooms, and possibly a larger library branch to replace the existing Kleinburg branch. Construction in the 2016-2019 timeframe is recommended based on current population forecasts.	●	●		High

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Community Centres (continued)	18. Consider the need for a neighbourhood hub in Block 27 (north Maple) in the longer-term (2023 or beyond), subject to residential development in this area.			●	Medium
	19. Consider the need for a neighbourhood hub in the Vaughan Mills (east of Highway 400) in the longer-term (2023 or beyond), subject to residential redevelopment in this area.			●	Medium
	20. Develop a business plan to identify and assess options for community centre operational models that involve: (1) greater coordination between Recreation & Culture and Vaughan Public Libraries; and (2) the creation of full service centres that provide a wider variety of community services beyond recreation.	●			Medium
	21. Within its community facilities, including neighbourhood hubs, the City may provide office and/or program space for third-party tenants that are aligned with the municipal mandate and where surplus space exists, where public benefits can be achieved, and where supported by the City's partnership framework.	●	●	●	Low
	22. Community centre renewal and expansion must become a greater priority for the City over time, with direction from asset management plans, accessibility plans, and community needs. Demand will be greatest for facilities with mounting lifecycle requirements and those in proximity to areas of residential intensification (e.g., Fr. Ermanno Bulfon, Garnet A. Williams, and Dufferin Clark Community Centres).	●	●	●	High
	23. Explore options for installing electronic roadside signage and providing public access to a free wireless network (WiFi) at municipal community centres. WiFi is currently available at all VPL branches and City Hall.	●			Medium
Arenas	24. Pursue partnerships with community agencies and the development sector in areas with below average access to municipal community centres.	●	●	●	Medium
	25. Develop a twin pad arena to the major community centre proposed for Block 11 (Carrville) in 2015/16. Once this facility opens, Maple Arena should be closed and a re-purposing study should be undertaken to determine a future uses.	●			Medium
	26. Develop a twin pad arena as a second phase to the proposed community centre in Vellore (Block 41), beyond the year 2022. Pending further study, Memorial Arena may also come off-line at this time.			●	Medium

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Indoor Aquatics	27. Include an indoor aquatic facility as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017/18.		●		High
	28. Include an indoor aquatic facility as part of the major community centre proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre around the year 2021.		●		High
	29. Pending further study, should Woodbridge Pool be removed from service, consideration should be given to shifting its programming to nearby pools, including the one proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. The therapeutic pool component of Woodbridge Pool should remain open.		●	●	●
Age-specific Activity Spaces (Youth, Older Adults)	30. Continue to accommodate age-specific activities (e.g., pre-school, youth, older adults, etc.) in major community centres and neighbourhood hubs through a focus on flexible multi-use spaces . Dedicated spaces may also be provided, but should only be provided where justified by demand and operational requirements.	●	●	●	High
	31. Make Vaughan an “ age-friendly ” city recognized by the World Health Organization. This will require an action plan for ensuring that municipal policies, services, and infrastructure enable people of all ages – particularly older adults – to be active in their community.	●	●		Medium
Fitness Centres / Active Living Spaces	32. Review options for stand-alone / storefront older adult centres that are suffering from declining membership and utilization. New stand-alone older adult centres are not recommended.	●			Medium
	33. Include an equipment-based fitness centre as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017/18.		●		High
	34. Include an equipment-based fitness centre as part of the major community centre proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre around the year 2021.		●		High
Fitness Centres / Active Living Spaces	35. Ensure that all municipal fitness centres have sufficient studio / multi-use activity rooms to accommodate the growing demand for health and wellness programs. Expansions or reconfigurations to existing facilities may be required to address shortfalls.	●	●	●	High
	36. Continue to develop innovative and engaging fitness and active living programming that responds to the needs of the growing and evolving population.		●	●	Medium

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Gymnasiums	37. Include a gymnasium as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 11 in 2015/16.	●			High
	38. Include a gymnasium as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017/18.		●		High
	39. Include a gymnasium as part of the major community centre proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre around the year 2021.		●		High
	40. Consider designing gymnasiums as part of proposed neighbourhood hubs (e.g., Kleinburg, Block 27/North Maple, Vaughan Mills, etc.).		●	●	High
	41. Continue to seek and facilitate reliable access to school board gymnasiums through joint use agreements.	●	●	●	High
Indoor Bocce	42. No additional indoor bocce courts are recommended at this time. Monitoring of usage and membership trends at existing facilities is recommended.	●	●	●	Low
Other Indoor Recreational Spaces	43. In evaluating municipal involvement in specialized indoor facilities and/or unsolicited proposals , consider the seven questions from the Council-approved Program Review framework and require proponents to prepare comprehensive business plans (completed to the City's satisfaction) to enable the evaluation.	●	●	●	High
	44. Consider low risk municipal participation in a community partnership for a seasonal indoor tennis facility (air-supported structure) that maximizes use of an outdoor court complex. Such a project would require a favourable assessment through the Program Review framework and appropriate partnership agreements.	●			Low

Table ES-3: Outdoor Recreation Facility Recommendations (See Section 9)

Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Recreational Trails	45. Develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Strategy that identifies operational and capital improvements for on and off-road routes. The strategy should take into account City and Region initiatives such as the 2012 <i>Transportation Master Plan</i> and 2007 <i>Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan</i> .	●			High
	46. Seek opportunities to create a linked network of recreational trails through the integration of woodlots, open spaces, and parks, as well as loop trails within parks and open spaces.	●	●	●	High
	47. Work with the TRCA and other partners to undertake a risk assessment and explore options for addressing maintenance of public trails.	●			Medium
	48. Improve the quality and quantity of signage, mapping, and promotion of recreational trails in Vaughan.	●	●	●	High
	49. Utilize 51(25)(b) of the <i>Planning Act</i> to require the conveyance of pedestrian and bicycle pathways as part of subdivision applications.	●	●	●	High
Soccer Fields	50. Develop 38 additional fields by 2031 (these are unlit equivalent fields, where every lit field is equal to 1.5 unlit fields and every outdoor artificial turf field is equal to 2.0 unlit fields). Future field development will require a range of sizes that meet or exceed the minimum LTPD requirements, to be developed throughout the City. Full size lit artificial turf fields should also be considered where warranted. To the greatest extent possible, new fields should be clustered together to form multi-field complexes.	●	●	●	High
	51. Identify opportunities to adjust the dimensions of existing fields to meet current and emerging requirements (e.g., minis, 9v9 fields, etc.). The redevelopment of under-utilized ball diamonds may also present an option for some of the smaller field templates.	●			High
Ball Diamonds	52. Assess existing fields to determine the feasibility of expanding up to four junior and/or senior fields to meet adult slo-pitch requirements in the short-term.	●			High
	53. In addition to those projects identified in the City's park development capital plan, consider options for developing adult ball diamonds (possibly as part of the Block 18 District Park). Multi-field development is preferred and all new diamonds should be suitable for adult play, with lights provided in Regional and District Parks.	●	●		Medium

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Ball Diamonds (continued)	54. Explore opportunities to convert or repurpose underutilized and low quality junior or t-ball diamonds to other uses (e.g., skateboard parks, soccer fields, passive space, dog parks etc.), especially when undertaking park renewal projects and/or when searching for land to accommodate other needed facilities. Consultation with local ball organizations throughout this process is recommended.	●	●	●	Medium
Other Sports Fields	55. Continue with plans to develop multi-use fields (football, rugby, lacrosse, etc.) at Agostino Park and the proposed North Maple Regional Park.	●	●		High
	56. Seek to develop a proper cricket pitch at the Dufferin Reservoir in the short-term (requires agreement with the City of Toronto). Continue with longer-term plans to develop cricket pitches at the proposed North Maple Regional Park, and potentially the District Park planned for Block 35W.	●	●	●	Medium
Tennis & Basketball Courts (outdoor)	57. Undertake an “ observation project ” to document usage and assist in prioritizing opportunities for the re-purposing, repair, and/or expansion of unscheduled and casual use park amenities, such as tennis courts, basketball courts, bocce courts, waterplay facilities, skate parks, playgrounds, etc.	●			Medium
	58. Develop up to 25 new tennis courts in growing residential communities (Carrville, Vellore, Maple, Kleinburg, and VMC) to meet the 2031 projections, using a target of 1 tennis court per 5,000 residents as a guideline. Single court park designs should be avoided.	●	●	●	Medium
	59. Develop up to 15 new basketball courts and/or play courts in growing residential communities (Carrville, Vellore, Maple, Kleinburg, and VMC) to meet the 2031 projections, using a target of 1 basketball court per 500 teens (ages 10-19) and a 1-kilometre service radius as guidelines.	●	●	●	Medium
Skateboard Parks and Skate Zones	60. Develop three additional (major) skateboard parks by 2031, with a focus on developing most of these in the short-term. Potential locations include Concord Thornhill Regional Park, North Maple Regional Park, and another site west of Highway 400.	●	●		High
	61. Develop five or more additional (minor) skate zones by 2031, with a focus on developing most of these in the short to medium-term. Skate zones may be considered for areas that are underserved (e.g., Woodbridge) and/or growing (e.g., Kleinburg, northwest Vellore, VMC), with consideration being given to equitable distribution.	●	●	●	High
	62. Engage local youth and the skateboarding community when designing skateboard parks.	●	●	●	High

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Outdoor Aquatics	63. Develop approximately 13 additional waterplay facilities by 2031, guided by a target of one facility per full residential block. Waterplays are typically designed for district parks, but smaller non-traditional waterplay features may be considered for gap areas without this park type.	●	●	●	High
	64. Perform minimal lifecycle investments to the Thornhill outdoor pool to extend its lifespan as long as possible. Public engagement and renewal/replacement strategies should be explored prior to undertaking major capital repairs or replacements to the pool.	●	●	●	Low
Playgrounds	65. Provide playgrounds within 500-metres of all residences within urbanized neighbourhoods, unobstructed by major pedestrian impediments such as highways, major arterial roads, railway corridors, waterways, valleys, etc. Achieving this target requires existing gaps in playground distribution to be addressed and for new communities to be planned with distribution in mind.	●	●	●	High
	66. Install one to two outdoor fitness stations in each of Vaughan’s seven communities by 2031, with a focus on providing them in areas with older age profiles and multi-ethnic compositions.	●	●	●	Medium
Off-Leash Dog Parks	67. Develop a second off-leash dog park in an area west of Highway 400 in the short-term. Sponsorship from an affiliated organization is recommended to assist with park management.	●			High
	68. Develop off-leash dog parks in the District Parks proposed for Blocks 35 and 59 (both are in employment areas).		●	●	Medium
Outdoor Skating Rinks	69. Explore options for establishing smaller, more localized off-leash areas in closer proximity to residential communities and higher density areas. These secondary facilities would be in addition to the larger primary off-leash parks recommended for each quadrant of the City.		●	●	Medium
	70. Develop a total of 4 to 5 outdoor artificial rinks , to be located in Maple (North Maple Regional Park and/or City Hall), Carrville (possibly at the Block 11 District Park or MacMillan Farm), Kleinburg/Nashville (location to be determined), and VMC (proposed District Park).	●	●	●	Medium
Outdoor Bocce	71. Play courts may be considered where there is community support for maintenance of the winter natural rink and there is a need for outdoor basketball opportunities.	●	●	●	Medium
	72. Track usage of outdoor bocce courts to determine if any can be declared surplus and/or re-purposed for other recreational requirements. Continue with plans to re-purpose outdoor bocce courts at Fr. Ermanno Bulfon District Park .	●			Low

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Community Food Gardens	73. Develop a policy to encourage the establishment of additional community gardens and orchards, to define the City's role in their provision and/or management, and to further refine existing procedures and selection criteria.	●			High
Picnic Areas	74. As opportunities permit, establish additional picnic sites (with appropriate ancillary amenities, e.g., picnic shelters, washrooms, parking, playground, open space, etc.) to accommodate the growing demand for larger outdoor gathering spaces in Vaughan. This may include North Maple Regional Park, MacMillan Farm, and/or other future or existing parks (e.g., Rainbow Creek Park in Woodbridge).	●	●	●	High

Table ES-4: Library Facility Recommendations (see Section 10)

Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Library Facilities	75. Giving consideration to the recommendations of this Active Together Master Plan, refresh the Library's Facilities Development Plan , with a continued focus on accessibility, equity, integration with other civic facilities, flexible design, and customer service.	●			High
	76. Continue to develop a Library Branch in the North Thornhill Community Centre in 2013-14.	●			High
	77. Continue with plans to develop a Resource Library at the Civic Centre in 2014-15.	●			High
	78. Develop a Library Branch at the Vellore Village Community Centre in 2014-15.	●			High
	79. Undertake a study in 2015-16 (once the Civic Centre Resource Library has been open for a period of time) to determine future uses for the Maple Library .	●			Medium
	80. Develop a Library Branch in the community centre proposed for Block 11 in 2016-17.	●	●		High
	81. Develop a Library Branch in the community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017-18.		●		High
	82. In 2013-14, seek to secure land/space for a Resource Library in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre . Timing of construction will depend on a number of factors, but is currently recommended around the year 2021.	●	●		High

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Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Library Facilities (continued)	83. Explore opportunities to relocate the Kleinburg Library to create a larger Library Branch (possible co-location with a neighbourhood hub) beyond 2021.			●	High
	84. Explore opportunities to develop a Library Branch in the neighbourhood hub proposed for the Vaughan Mills area beyond 2026.			●	High
	85. Address future service gaps with the development of 2 to 3 Library Branches beyond 2026 (e.g., Block 27, etc.).			●	High

Table ES-5: Active Together Master Plan Implementation Recommendations (see Section 11)

Subject Area	Recommendation	Proposed Timing			Priority
		2013-16	2017-21	2022-31	
Implementation & Financial Considerations	86. As a general principle, encourage partnerships and sponsorships in the provision and delivery of facilities and services, in keeping with the framework outlined in the Council-approved Program Review and other municipal policies, as amended from time to time.	●	●	●	High
	87. Where appropriate and consistent with municipal policies and priorities, consider alternative funding and cost-sharing approaches to achieve capital and operating cost recovery levels, such as (but not limited to) surcharges, fundraising, grants, Section 37 bonusing, and various forms of collaboration. The Recreation User Fee Surcharge recommended in the City's 2012 <i>Long-Range Financial Master Plan</i> is a good example of an alternative funding approach intended to offset infrastructure maintenance and/or replacement.	●	●	●	High
	88. Review the status of the Active Together Master Plan and priority projects as part of the City's annual business planning/budgeting process.	●	●	●	High
Monitoring & Updating	89. Conduct feasibility studies, business plans, site assessments, and/or public engagement prior to developing or expanding major parks, recreation, and library facilities to ensure that the project is aligned with community needs, partnership opportunities, and financial capacities.	●	●	●	High
	90. Implement a system for the regular monitoring and reporting of the Active Together Master Plan, including participation rates and other performance measures.	●	●	●	High
	91. Undertake a comprehensive five-year review of the 2013 Active Together Master Plan in 2018, in collaboration with the 5-year Development Charges Study.		●		High