

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND REVIEW

Municipal, regional, and provincial planning documents and research reports relevant to the 2013 Active Together Master Plan have been reviewed to provide contextual information. This section discusses the 2008 Active Together Master Plan in particular detail and also briefly examines other documents that may provide guidance to the 2013 ATMP. A more detailed summary of these documents and their relevance to the Plan is contained within [Appendix A](#).

2.1 2008 ACTIVE TOGETHER MASTER PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION & ACHIEVEMENTS

The previous City of Vaughan *Active Together Master Plan* was approved by City Council in November 2008. This plan is “an integrated long-term strategy that guides planning for parks, recreation, culture and library facilities and services until the City’s ultimate build-out.” The 2008 ATMP provided support for the Official Plan and Development Charges background studies and is the foundation upon which this Active Together Master Plan Review and Update is based.

The City and Vaughan Public Libraries have accomplished much since the 2008 Active Together Master Plan was approved, including (but not limited to) the following:

Indoor Recreation Facilities & Libraries

- The **North Thornhill Community Centre** and **District Park** (Block 10) opened in 2010. The community centre contains an indoor pool, fitness centre, gymnasium, youth room, multi-use rooms, etc.
- Enhancements were made to the provision of municipal fitness facilities: (1) a cycling room was added to the **Al Palladini Community Centre**; (2) the **Vellore Village Community Centre** fitness centre addition was completed; and (3) an expansion to the **Fr. Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre** fitness centre is currently being planned.
- The **Maple Arena** was refurbished including (but not limited to) retrofitting of the bowling lanes. In addition, retrofitting of the **Al Palladini and Garnet A. Williams Community Centre Arenas** was also completed (made possible with Infrastructure Stimulus Funding). Accessibility improvements (e.g., customer service counters, doors, etc.) were made at several facilities.
- In 2011, nets were added to two of the four lanes bocce lanes at the Dufferin Clark Community Centre to develop the City’s first set of **indoor cricket practice lanes**. The nets can be raised; allowing for dual-purpose play for bocce and cricket with minimal impact to the current users.
- The City has acquired land for the proposed **Block 11 Community Centre and Library**. The 2008 ATMP also recommended the acquisition of land for future community centres in Block 40/41/42, the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, and the Long Term Residential Growth Area. Planning for the proposed community centre and library in the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre** area has recently been initiated.
- The 2008 ATMP recommended an aggressive library building programme to help keep pace with population growth and resident expectations. The RFP for the design of the proposed **Civic Centre Resource Library** was recently approved by Council, with construction anticipated in

2014. In addition, Vaughan Public Libraries anticipated construction of a **library branch at the North Thornhill Community Centre**, to begin in 2013. The 2008 ATMP also recommended library branch development as part of the community centres proposed for Block 40/41/42, Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, and the Long Term Residential Growth Area (two separate locations).

- Vaughan Public Libraries has created and/or expanded teen spaces at two libraries, made accessibility improvements to the **Kleinburg Library**, and refurbished **Bathurst Clark Resource Library** to improve accessibility and enhance customer service.

Parkland & Park Amenities

- As part of the new City of Vaughan Official Plan, a new **parkland classification hierarchy and park typology** was established, adding “Public Square”.
- The City has continued to acquire strategically-located active/passive parkland, including (but not limited to) **North Maple Regional Park** (including recently issuing an Expression of Interest for a public-private partnership), **MacMillan Farm**, surplus school board land on **Confederation Parkway**, and many new neighbourhood parks (most notably in the **Carrville** area, which was identified as a priority in the 2008 ATMP). The City anticipates preparing a Parkland/Greenland Acquisition Strategy in the near future to ensure acquisition of adequate land base for outdoor recreation.
- A **waterplay facility** was developed in North Thornhill District Park (Block 10). Several new “**skate zones**” have been designed and implemented. In addition, the City’s first **Off Leash Area** was completed as a pilot project in 2009 within Concord Thornhill Regional Park.
- **Artificial turf soccer fields** were developed at Sonoma Heights Community Park and McNaughton Park. An artificial turf soccer field is currently under construction at Concord Thornhill Regional Park and a minimum of one planned for at North Maple Regional Park.
- Several **9v9 soccer fields** have recently been converted from mini/senior fields to assist local soccer clubs in addressing the new requirements brought about by the Long Term Play Development Model.
- The City continues to make the implementation of key **trails and off-road pathways** as articulated in the City’s 2007 *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan* (and the 2012 *Transportation Master Plan*) a high priority. Funding is allocated annually for the creation of pedestrian corridors and additional connections.
- In 2011, the City of Vaughan entered into a partnership agreement with York Region and the TRCA to manage **Baker Woods**, now part of Sugarbush Heritage Park. Baker Woods has international, provincial, and municipal natural heritage protection designations, which preserves Vaughan’s oldest woodlot, dating back to 1816.
- Construction of **outdoor fitness equipment** at Jack Pine and Jersey Creek Park with one currently under construction at Village Green.

Service Delivery

- Since 2008, a number of key studies aligned with the Official Plan Review and Vaughan Vision 2020 strategic initiatives were prepared in the area of **arts and culture**. These studies included: Creative Together Cultural Plan for Vaughan; Diversity Strategy; Art Gallery Feasibility Study; Pierre Berton Discovery Centre Feasibility Study; and Built, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Landscape Studies. Most of these studies are now in the implementation stage, however, some action items are reliant on funding for implementation. In addition, the City continues to expand its arts and culture programs at the City Playhouse Theatre and other sites.
- The 2008 ATMP contained a *Physical Activity Strategy* aimed at fostering higher levels of physical activity by Vaughan residents. Implementation of the **Active Together Physical Activity Strategy** continues to be a high priority for the City and has led to the creation of several new programs, events, initiatives, and partnerships aimed at increasing the physical activity levels of Vaughan residents.
- The City established the **RecAssist Subsidy Program** in 2009. RecAssist subsidizes the cost of recreation and culture programs for low income individuals and families in Vaughan through fundraised dollars and is administered by the Recreation and Culture Department. The City also partners with the Vaughan Community Health Centre to provide programming for low income residents.
- In 2011, the City formed the annual **Vaughan Sports Congress** to provide an opportunity for sports organizations to gather and provide input on existing facilities and future sporting needs. The annual Sports Congress was held in October 2012 to solicit input for the Active Together Master Plan Review and Update.
- The City established the **Youth Forum** in 2010, an annual event that brings youth from local schools together to educate and inform. This event was held most recently in November 2012 and was utilized to gather input to be considered as part of the Active Together Master Plan Review and Update.
- The City updated its **Community Service Organization (CSO) Policy** and **Fair Play, Facility Allocation Policy**. The CSO Policy establishes the benefits becoming a recognized CSO including, but not limited to, higher allocation priority, staff support, fundraising, and subsidized rates. The Facility Allocation Policy establishes the process for allocating, distributing, and administering the use of City-owned facilities to ensure that allocation is fair, transparent, consistent, and equitable. Priority is typically given to the City, followed by CSOs, residents, commercial groups, and non-residents.
- The **Older Adult Guidelines** were updated in May 2011.
- The City initiated a corporate-wide **Program Review** to examine the City's programs and services and validate their alignment with the City's vision, respect for taxpayer's dollars and community interest.
- Additional innovations were introduced including, but not limited to, **performance measure-based report cards** and **community outreach brochures**.

2.2 OTHER DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

A number of other documents provided by the City and/or available on the City's website were reviewed by the Consultant during Phase 1 of the 2013 ATMP, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Planning Legislation & Documents: Ontario Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, York Region Official Plan, City of Vaughan Official Plan
- Corporate Documents & Policies: Strategic Plan, Green Directions Vaughan, City of Vaughan Citizen Survey, Development Charges Background Study, Accessibility Plan, Partnership Policy, Facility Allocation Policy, Program Review, Social Services Study
- Parks & Trails: Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Dedication for High Density Residential Development, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Study, York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan
- Libraries: Vaughan Public Libraries Strategic Plan and Position Papers, User Analysis, various guidelines and best practices
- Other Reports: Diversity – Vaughan's Greatest Asset, Creative Together – A Cultural Plan for the City of Vaughan, Youth in Action, Living in York Region

A summary of these documents and their relevance to the 2013 Active Together Master Plan is contained within Appendix A.