

SECTION 8: INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY ASSESSMENT

This section contains an assessment of indoor recreation facility needs extending to 2031, when the City's population is forecasted to reach 416,600 people. The analysis generally adheres to the methodology established in the 2008 ATMP and has been influenced by public input, City initiatives, emerging trends, and new demographic data.

8.1 Community Centres and Multi-use Space

Community Centres			Inventory
Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2008	2013	2013	Recommended Target
9	10	1 : 31,120	n/a
<i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Thornhill Community Centre opened in 2010 			

Table 6: Inventory of Vaughan Community Centres (2013)

Centre	Community	Year Built/ Expanded	Facility Size (sf)	Pool (tanks)	Arena (pads)	Fitness	Gymnasium
Al Palladini	Woodbridge	1989/ 1990/2001	143,685	✓ (1)	✓ (2)	✓	✓
Chancellor	Woodbridge	1998/2006	50,090	✓ (1)	--	--	✓
Dufferin Clark	Thornhill	1994/2006	96,097	✓ (1)	--	--	✓
Fr. Ermanno Bulfon	Woodbridge	1988/2000	46,187	✓ (1)	--	✓	✓
Garnet A. Williams	Thornhill	1984/2003	126,837	✓ (1)	✓ (1)	✓	✓
Maple	Maple	1974/ 1990/2004	147,739	✓ (1)	✓ (1)	✓	✓
North Thornhill	Carrville	2010	94,766	✓ (2)	--	✓	✓
Rosemount	Thornhill	1996	69,400	--	✓ (1)		✓ (2)
Vellore Village	Vellore	2005	87,619	✓ (2)	--	✓ (2013)	✓ (2)
Woodbridge Pool & Arena	Woodbridge	1974/1992	56,523	✓ (2)	✓ (1)	--	--

Source: City of Vaughan, 2013

With ten full-service community centres (including the City's newest facility in North Thornhill), Vaughan provides at least one such facility in each community with the exception of its lowest populated community – Kleinburg/Nashville. Community centres provide for a wide range of activities, serving the full age and ability spectrum of residents (pre-school to seniors). Vaughan's community recreation centres are high quality, offering an excellent mix of arenas, pools, libraries, adjacent parkland, etc. 72%

of households have used or visited a municipal community centre in the past 12 months, making them valued assets.

The following table illustrates the distribution of community centres throughout Vaughan. As it is hard to compare one community centre to the next due to their varied components, this table also looks at total square footage per community. An examination of the data highlights the lack of space in Kleinburg, as well as lower than average provision levels in Vellore, Maple, and Carrville.

Those communities with arenas (Woodbridge, Thornhill, and Maple) tend to have higher square feet per capita ratios, as arenas represent a significant proportion of total space provision. The City-wide ratio of all community centre space is 3.0 square feet per capita. When arenas, indoor pools, and specialized facilities are removed from the equation (leaving true multi-purpose and general programming space, such as gymnasiums, fitness centres, and community rooms), the City-wide ratio of community space is approximately 1.5 square feet per capita.

Table 7: Current Distribution of Community Centres by Community

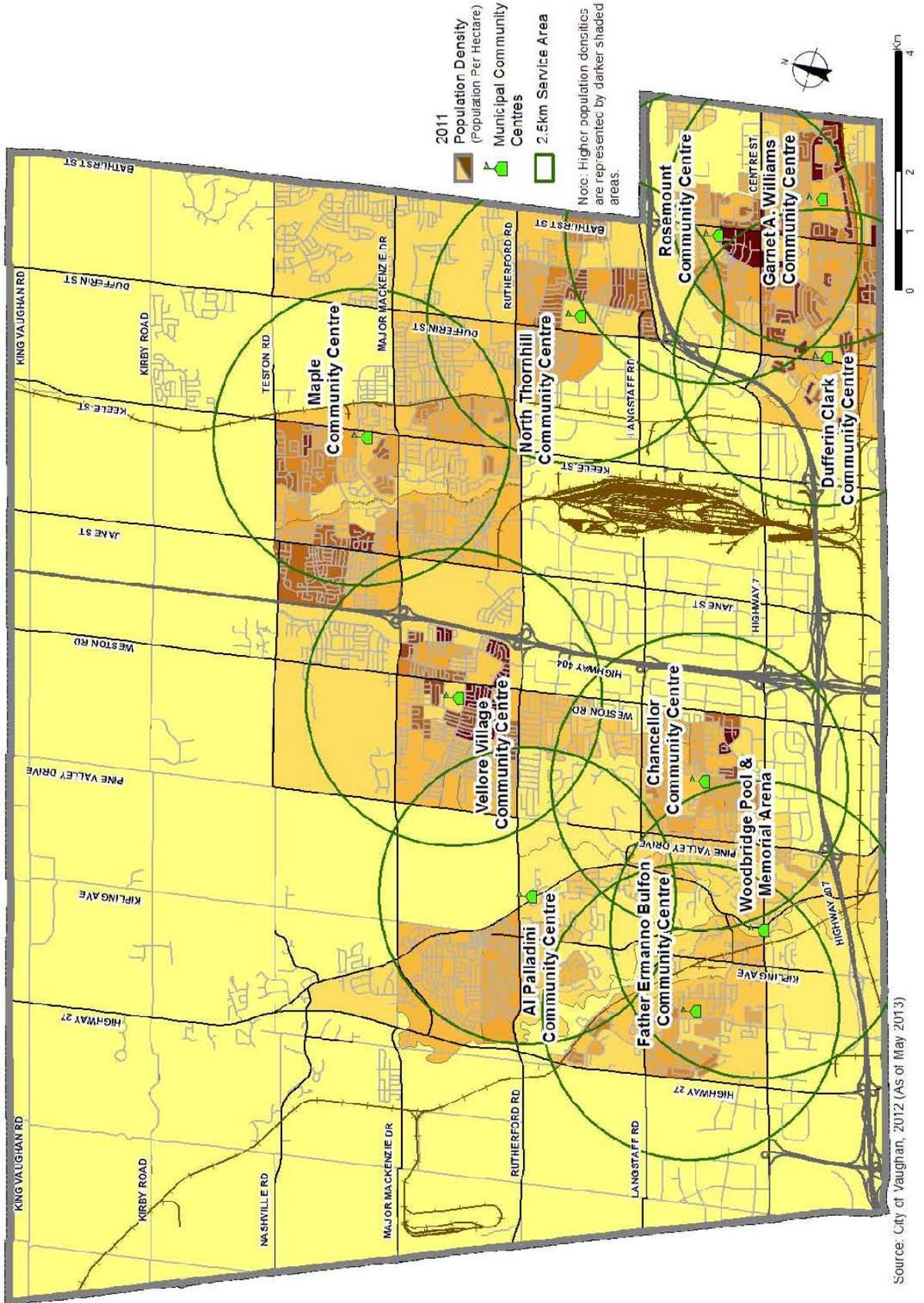
Community	Total Community Centres (2013)	Per Capita Provision Level (2013 – Estimated)	Community Centres – Square Feet (2013)	Square Feet Per Capita (2013 – Estimated)
Carrville	1	1 : 50,860	150,000	2.9
Kleinburg/Nashville	0	0: 12,067	0	0.0
Maple	1	1 : 59,051	147,739	2.5
Thornhill/Concord	3	1 : 22,987	292,334	4.2
Vellore	1	1 : 38,751	53,115	1.4
Woodbridge	4	1 : 19,823	301,366	3.8
Total	10	1: 31,120	944,554	3.0

Map 6 on the following page illustrates the location of municipal community centres, along with a conceptual 2.5 kilometre service radius.

The City of Vaughan has long recognized the value of consolidating multiple uses at a single site rather than pursuing the development of stand-alone, single purpose multi-site venues. As leaders in this facility design trend, the City has been able to streamline services and make delivery much more cost effective. In many jurisdictions and to a degree in Vaughan, community centres are beginning to accommodate even more uses, such as other municipal services, child care, tenant spaces for retail uses, office space for community organizations, etc.

Note: The demand for community centres is largely driven by the need for major components, such as libraries, pools, arenas, gymnasiums, fitness centres, etc. An appreciation of these needs (discussed in the following subsections) is required to fully understand community centre requirements.

Map 6: Municipal Multi-Use Community Centres



Neighbourhood Hubs

In general, larger, full service community centres are more efficient and more successful at meeting resident expectations than smaller, single-use facilities. This model, however, requires re-examination given participation trends and changes to the City's urban form.

Leading practice research suggests that a greater neighbourhood-focus may be necessary in select circumstances (i.e., areas of high density) in order to promote "complete communities" and strong neighbourhoods. Traffic is becoming a greater concern and residents are increasingly seeking options that are "closer to home". In order to promote accessibility and convenience, smaller neighbourhood hubs and program sites will be needed to fill distribution gaps in emerging areas undergoing substantial population renewal/growth, such as **Kleinburg/Nashville** in the shorter-term and possibly **Block 27 (North Maple)** and **Vaughan Mills** in the longer-term.

With the growth that is anticipated for the **Kleinburg/Nashville area**, the need for a neighbourhood hub in this area is more imminent and may include amenities such as a gymnasium, fitness studio, activity rooms, meeting rooms, and possibly a larger library branch. A location has not yet been determined for this facility, but site selection and land acquisition should be high priorities in the short-term; a location capable of serving the existing village and residential growth anticipated for Blocks 61 and 62 is preferred. Construction in the 2016-2019 timeframe is recommended based on current population forecasts.

Neighbourhood hubs may be provided where residents encounter economic or transportation barriers to accessing facilities beyond their local area. A minimum critical mass is needed to justify this level of provision – a population threshold of 8,000 people is recommended for consideration a neighbourhood hub. With alternate providers being a distinct possibility in high density communities (e.g., private fitness clubs, condominium-based recreation areas, etc.), municipal provision should focus more on rentable and flexible programming space (e.g., gymnasiums, multi-use rooms, fitness studios, etc.) that can fill activity gaps. Office space for complementary local organizations may also be considered as may library branches. Larger components such as arenas, indoor pools, and full fitness centres are not suitable for neighbourhood hubs.

A target of 1.5 square feet per capita may be used for the preliminary planning of neighbourhood hubs (this figure is generally equivalent to Vaughan's current provision rate of community space – excluding larger/specialized facilities such as arenas, indoor pools, and the theatre). Based on this guideline, a neighbourhood serving a population of 8,000 would target the provision of a 12,000 square foot hub.

Neighbourhood hubs may also take several forms, such as a main floor within a multi-storey mixed use building, attached to a school, or co-located with another civic facility or park. They 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* (these options are discussed further in Section 7.4 of this ATMP). This space should have frontage on a primary or major street, be centrally located and in a prominent location (with transit access) so that it reinforces its "public" image (this is not private amenity space just for one development). The key is to create an identifiable public place where interaction, involvement, and sense of community can evolve.

This model will not be appropriate for all neighbourhoods, nor is it sustainable on a City-wide scale due to its potentially higher operational costs and loss of economies of scale. The facility and programming

needs of each neighbourhood are unique, and assessments should continue to be undertaken as part of all development applications for high-rise developments, such as those being proposed in the Yonge Street Corridor and Steeles West. Steps should be taken to secure appropriate community facilities where there is a demonstrated need. These facilities will serve as strong focal points of the neighbourhood and key destinations for area residents, helping individuals develop their own skills and capacities while building strong social networks with others.

Multi-use, Office & Lease Space

Each of Vaughan's community centres incorporate some degree of multi-purpose space through a combination of meeting areas, activity rooms, and age-specific program areas (e.g., pre-school rooms, play rooms, youth rooms, and seniors' rooms). Additionally, there are a number of meeting rooms located at various community-based resources such as schools, seniors clubs, theatres, etc. Many of these spaces are adaptable to a range of programming opportunities that respond to community-based demand, as well as complementing features offered within the larger facility. Demand for multi-use room rentals is on the rise, particularly for cultural groups, youth, and older adults. As established in the guiding principles, each new or expanded indoor recreation and library facility should include accommodations for multi-use space.

Non-profit community groups have also expressed a desire for inexpensive office space within community centres, as have others with links to the recreation sector, such as child care and health care. While these arrangements may challenge the City's cost recovery targets, they benefit residents by creating a convenient "one-stop shopping" environment and, in some cases, may help to maximize under-utilized spaces. While third-party tenants should not be pursued at the expense of achieving the core municipal mandate (i.e., space needed for City programs and activities), the City should be open to this option in situations where it has surplus space and/or a partnership agreement can be achieved that is in the best interest of the public, as guided by the City's partnership framework. The provision of lease space would fit particularly well with the neighbourhood hub concept.

Multi-Service Centres

Another option for the City's community centre model is the creation of multi-service centres that also provide other municipal services (some of which the City already does), such as public libraries, the sale of transit tickets and dog licences, payment of parking tickets and property taxes, pick-up locations for items such as building permit applications, etc. Section 7.2.2.1 of the City's new Official Plan states that community centres "*shall be planned to develop as, or evolve into, full service centres that provide for a wide variety of community needs in addition to recreation. To achieve this, community centres may include a variety of municipal services and limited commercial or retail uses that would contribute to the overall function of the centre as a community hub.*" This model has been adopted in some municipalities (e.g., Windsor, Greater Sudbury) and may help to address transportation barriers in Vaughan by provide options that are closer to home for many residents. A variation on this theme is to promote greater coordination between co-located recreation centres and libraries, such as the establishment of one joint customer service desk. Additional study is required to determine if these operational models would provide effective and cost efficient results to the City and its residents and the development of a business plan is recommended.

Major Community Centre Needs

Major multi-use community centres are facilities that combine a variety of recreation components under one roof, such as pools, ice pads, activity/meeting rooms, gymnasiums, and/or libraries. The City of Vaughan currently has ten such facilities, ranging in size from 46,187 square feet (Fr. Ermanno Bulfon CC) to 147,739 square feet (Maple CC).

Provision ratios for community centres range widely across the province, as do the size and design of such facilities. A population based provision target for community centres in Vaughan is not recommended; rather, future major community centres requirements should be informed by demand for their component parts, as well as distribution in relation to current and future populations. To this end, subsequent sections of this report identify the need for the following indoor recreation facilities by 2031:

- two additional ice pads and the potential replacement of two existing single pad arenas through multi-pad designs
- two additional indoor pool locations and the potential decommissioning of one facility
- four additional gymnasiums
- two additional equipment-based fitness centres
- several multi-use / studio activity spaces

The 2008 ATMP recommended that the City construct four additional multi-use community centres by build-out:

- Carrville (Block 11);
- the northern portion of the Vellore Village (Block 40/41/42);
- Vaughan Metropolitan Centre; and
- to serve the whitebelt (northern limit of the City).

Population characteristics (this developing area is attractive to young families) and forecasts continue to support the development of a community centre in **Carrville (Block 11)** and the City has purchased land in this area to facilitate this. The City has earmarked funds in its 2015/16 budget for this project. **This project should be the next major community centre built in Vaughan** and will help to reduce pressure on the Maple Community Centre. Potential components include a twin pad arena, gymnasium, multi-use space, and fitness studio (for more detail, reference should be made to the appropriate section in this Plan). For any major capital project such as this, a feasibility study is recommended prior to design to confirm the preferred sizing and components. In planning the Block 11 community centre, consideration should also be given to the Schwartz-Reisman Centre (Jewish Community Centre), which is located nearby (Bathurst Street north of Rutherford Road). This facility, which opened in 2012, contains a 25-metre indoor pool, therapeutic pool, fitness centre, gymnasium, classrooms, and arts centre, and offers a wide range of sport, fitness, and general interest programs. The intended market area for the Schwartz-Reisman Centre is the Jewish community of Greater Toronto but is also open to non-members. The City of Vaughan has recently formed an agreement to enhance community access to the Schwartz-Reisman Centre pool, gymnasium, and multi-use areas on a limited basis (e.g., 4 hours per week in the pool, 3 hours per week in the gymnasium, and a few days per year in various rooms). Given the availability of the Schwartz-Reisman Centre, the proposed sizing of the Block 11 community centre has been reduced slightly from what was recommended in the 2008 ATMP – most notably changing the fitness centre to a smaller, equipment-less fitness studio.

The recommendation in the 2008 ATMP for a major community centre to serve Blocks 40/41/42 was intended to address the substantial population growth anticipated for the Vellore area and to alleviate pressure on the Vellore Village Community Centre. However, the City's new Official Plan does not propose residential growth for Block 42 and Block 41 is one of Vaughan's "New Community Areas" (along with Block 27), which will be the subject of a secondary plan to determine its residential capacity.

Nevertheless, Vellore is a high growth community in Vaughan that attracts many families, characteristics that generate substantial demand for community centres and associated activities. Furthermore, additional growth is possible in Block 27 (to the east, across Highway 400 in the Maple area) as well as in the Kleinburg area to the west. Vellore is centrally located in the City's north end and well situated to serve new growth areas in the north. In addition, Vellore only contains one municipal community centre for a population of 35,700 (growing to 58,700 by 2031), but benefits from joint use space associated with the attached secondary school. To serve demand generated by new growth in the northern portion of Vaughan, the City should begin planning for the development of a **major community centre in Block 41**. Potential components include a twin pad arena, indoor aquatic centre, gymnasium, multi-use space, and fitness centre (for more detail, reference should be made to the appropriate section in this Plan). Development patterns should be monitored to determine timing for community centre development; however, current projections suggest that this should be the next major community centre developed after the one in Block 11.

There also continues to be justification for a major community centre to serve the **Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC)**, tentatively located in Block 30E. The development of the VMC is a priority for City Council and, by the year 2031, the area is forecasted to accommodate 25,000 to 30,000 residents and thousands of jobs. Potential components include an indoor aquatic centre, gymnasium, multi-use space, and fitness centre (for more detail, reference should be made to the appropriate section in this Plan). The timing of this community centre will coincide with development in this area, which will depend on a number of factors, not the least of which are market forces. At this point, it is recommended that the City establish a placeholder in its budget for development of this community centre around the year 2021.

Given the high-rise form of this community and premium placed on land values and construction costs, it is recommended that the size of the proposed VMC community centre be reduced slightly from what was initially proposed in the 2008 ATMP, without removing or compromising any of the proposed components. The proposed community centre should be able to be accommodated on two floors (noting that the pool and gymnasium require higher ceilings), each with a minimum floor area of 35,000 to 40,000 square feet (for a total of approximately 75,000 square feet, with space for the proposed library being over and above this amount). The specific design and sizing of this facility should be addressed through a feasibility study.

The former recommendation for a major community centre to serve the **whitebelt** (previously referred to as the Long-Term Residential Growth Area) was based on an assumption that lands north of Kirby Road on both sides of Highway 400 would become available for residential development. However, the City's new Official Plan does not propose residential growth for Blocks 42 and 28, which were allocated a population of approximately 36,000 people in the 2008 ATMP (much of this capacity has been reallocated to intensification areas distributed throughout the City). **As a result, the need for a major community centre to serve the whitebelt is no longer valid**; growth in the City's north end will be served by the community centre proposed for Block 41.

In terms of distribution and overall provision, the communities of Woodbridge and Thornhill/Concord are adequately served by existing major community centres, although the potential need for neighbourhood hubs should be assessed for high density residential developments and other mid-sized gap areas (e.g., Kleinburg).

Based on the foregoing, there are now three major community centres being proposed by the City's build-out, as opposed to the four recommended in the 2008 ATMP. The following table summarizes the various indoor components proposed in each of the three recommended major community centres.

Table 8: Proposed Major Community Centres & Facility Components (excluding proposed Neighbourhood Hubs)

	Carrville (Block 11)	Vellore Village (Block 41)	Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (Block 30E)
Indoor Ice Pads	twin pad*	twin pad** (2 nd phase)	No
Indoor Pool(s)	No	Yes	Yes
Gymnasium	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fitness Centre	No (activity studio only)	Yes	Yes
Multi-use Program Space & Dedicated Space for Age-Specific Markets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Library Space	Branch	Branch	Resource Library
PROPOSED TIMING FOR CONSTRUCTION	2015-2016	2017-2018	~2021

* twin pad development in Block 11 is connected to the re-purposing of Maple Arena (see Section 8.2)

** twin pad development in Block 41 is connected to the re-purposing of Memorial Arena (see Section 8.2)

Additional facility components could be considered as part of the community centres, pending further study and assessment. For example, the ultimate design and implementation of each capital project will be further refined through engaging the community and user groups to ensure that the specific needs of stakeholders are addressed. Prior to the development of future multi-use community centres, the City should also conduct business plans to identify a preferred operating model.

Facility Renewal & Expansion

In addition to the need to build new community centres for the new development areas, it will also be important that existing community centres continue to be kept on par with newer facilities to ensure that existing facilities offer a comparable level of service. Existing community centres may need to be retrofitted or renewed to achieve this objective, particularly those that are in highest use, those requiring lifecycle maintenance, and those that are in proximity to areas proposed for residential intensification.

In terms of overall aesthetics and design, Woodbridge Pool/Arena, Fr. Ermanno Bulfon, Garnet A. Williams, and Dufferin Clark Community Centres are the facilities that are most in need of a refresh (unless slated for decommissioning). The City is currently pursuing the renovation and expansion of the Fr. Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre, a project that is proposed to expand the fitness centre, add an activity room in the existing bocce court, and reconfigure the pool change rooms. This and other

projects that extend the lifespan of facilities and enhance their responsiveness to community needs must continue to be advanced.

Over time, as its facilities age, facility renewal and expansion will need to become a greater priority for the City. Substantial renovations must address the accessibility legislation (AODA) and should promote environmental initiatives, as established in this Plan’s guiding principles. The City has recently begun the development of a Corporate Asset Management Strategy, which will be a critical piece in understanding the status and long-term requirements associated with its recreational infrastructure.

Although this Plan is supportive of facility renewal, facilities that no longer provide public benefits commensurate with their level of investment should be considered for decommissioning and replacement with facilities that better serve today’s needs and participation trends. This is particularly true for single use facilities and under-utilized park amenities. Beyond heritage structures, two more prominent single use recreation facilities in the City include: (1) the Glen Shields Activity Centre, which suffered extensive fire damage in 2012; and (2) Patricia Kemp Concord Community Centre, which is a stand-alone gymnasium that was recently leased to the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan for a 20-year term. The latter is a good example of the increasing demand for ethno-cultural activity space and successful partnerships, and is supportive of Vaughan’s Creative Together Master Plan, which recommends that the City “identify spaces in new buildings and those designated for adaptive re-use to provide a range of interconnected or stand-alone spaces to be used for cultural activity and initiatives.”

Community Centres	Recommendations
13.	Pursue the timely development of a major community centre in the Carrville area (Block 11) . Construction is currently recommended for 2015-16.
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.
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.
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 <i>Planning Act</i> .

Community Centres	Recommendations
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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).
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.
24.	Pursue partnerships with community agencies and the development sector in areas with below average access to municipal community centres.

8.2 Arenas

Arenas		Inventory	
Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2008	2013	2013	Recommended Target
8	8	1 : 507 registered youth participants	1 : 500 registered youth participants
<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supply includes municipal rinks and the equivalent of two ice pads covered by the Sports Village partnership agreement • private supply includes the equivalent of two additional ice pads at Sports Village, two pads at The Pavilion (Thornhill), and four pads at Vaughan IcePlex (Thornhill); a six-pad facility (Canlan Ice Sports-York) is located just south of Steeles Avenue 			

The City operates six arenas which contain eight (8) ice pads between them. Municipal arenas are located at the Al Palladini Community Centre (2 rinks), Garnet A. Williams Community Centre (1 rink), Maple Community Centre (1 rink), Rosemount Community Centre (1 rink), and Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena (1 rink). The City also has a partnership agreement with a private-sector operator at the Sports Village; this is a four pad facility and the City has access to 140 hours of ice per week, which is approximately equivalent to 2 pads. The Sports Village is the only facility in Vaughan currently offering summer ice.

Hockey and ice skating have long been mainstays of the Canadian sports landscape, although Vaughan's arena provision ratio is at the lower end of the range seen in comparable communities. However, several communities are beginning to see changes in participation brought largely about by socio-demographic trends. In terms of general trends, an examination of Hockey Canada registration data finds that, in Ontario, youth male participation in hockey is not growing at the same pace as the population. While female participation in the sport has increased rapidly in recent years, it too is beginning to taper off.

In Vaughan, 31% of households have at least one member that has participated in hockey, figure skating, or ice sports in the past 12 months. Registration data provided by the City of Vaughan indicates that over 4,400 youth play organized ice sports in the City (as of 2011/12), an increase over four years ago. The City does not have reliable data on adult participation, many of whom likely rely on several private rinks in and around the City. The municipal rinks focus largely on youth rentals and recreational skating, as well as some adult usage mainly outside of prime hours (a review of Vaughan's schedules suggest that 90% of rentals are for youth sports and 10% for adult sports). It is noteworthy that the city-wide population (ages 5-19) increased by approximately 13% over this same period, suggesting that interest in ice sports may be slowly declining, similar to provincial trends.

Table 9: Youth Ice Sport Registration, City of Vaughan (2012)

Organization	2011/12
City of Vaughan Hockey Association – House League	2,519
City of Vaughan Hockey Association – Rep	323
Vaughan Panthers – Rep	271
Vaughan Girls Hockey Association – House League	114
Vaughan Girls Hockey Association – Rep	117
Thornhill Figure Skating Club	1,075
Woodbridge Figure Skating Club	
Total	4,419

includes waitlist data

Source: City of Vaughan, Recreation and Culture Department (2013).

It is also important to note that 7.2% of the 5 to 19 age group participates in organized youth hockey or figure skating in Vaughan; this figure is generally consistent with other highly urbanized and diverse communities, but is substantially lower than most smaller communities. The City’s capture rate is likely influenced by the composition of the population (e.g., diversity), the regionalism of competitive hockey (which draws skilled players to teams outside Vaughan), and the popularity of other activities.

With 4,450 youth participants (estimate for 2012/13) and the equivalent of 8 municipal ice pads, the City of Vaughan is currently providing one ice pad for every 556 youth participants. A youth-based target is recommended because the City has access to reliable youth registration data (but not so for adult organizations) and because the focus of municipal prime time hours, as per the City’s facility allocation policy, is on youth-based community service organizations. The recommended provision target will continue to allow for a range of users at municipal rinks, including adults, in keeping with the terms of the City’s allocation process. The 2008 ATMP recommended a provision target of one ice pad per 500 registered youth participants, indicating that the City is lagging slightly behind this target at the present time.

To confirm if this target remains a reasonable measure of arena demand in Vaughan, it is helpful to examine current utilization. A review of ice schedules for the 2012/13 season finds that 93% of prime time ice amongst the six City operated rinks is currently booked during peak season, as are 65% of shoulder hours¹. Unbooked hours are common between 4pm-5pm on weekdays and 7am-8am on weekends, as well as many evenings after 10pm. This is a typical usage profile for most rinks in Ontario, many of which are having difficulty renting the “shoulder” hours that decades ago were in higher demand. This profile also suggests that there remains sufficient capacity to accommodate more adult users (late night) or retirees / shift workers (afternoons), but that the prime youth-serving hours are essentially in full use.

The following table illustrates the forecasted demand for ice sports by applying the current youth capture rate to population forecasts and then dividing by the recommended participant-based target to arrive at an arena demand calculation. Should the youth participation rate change or should forecasted population levels not be achieved, this demand calculation should be revisited. For example, accelerated

¹ For the purposes of this report, prime time is defined as 5pm to 10pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 10pm Saturday and Sunday. Shoulder hours are defined as 4pm to 5pm and 10pm to 12am Monday to Friday and 10pm to 12am Saturday and Sunday.

registration in youth ice sports could advance the timing and need for more municipal ice rinks. As a result, it will be important that the City to continue to maintain accurate registration figures for ice sport organizations.

Table 10: Forecasted Demand for Municipal Arenas, 2013-2021

	2013	2021	2031
Youth Population (ages 5-19), forecasted	61,504	64,224	68,247
Youth Participants (ages 5-19), based on 6.6% participation rate	4,450	4,645	4,935
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 ice pad per 500 registered youth participants</i>		
Required Ice Pads (municipal)	8.9	9.3	9.9
Existing Ice Pads (municipal)	8		
Surplus (Deficit)	(0.9)	(1.3)	(1.9)

The analysis suggests that the City’s arena supply is currently under pressure and that **there is justification to add one additional pad to the inventory in the short-term**. Should participation rates remain steady, a **second additional ice pad will be required to meet needs by 2031** (for a total of ten, plus the equivalent of two municipal ice pads at the Sports Village). In forecasting youth participation, it is interesting to note that the number of projected players increases, but not as quickly as the City’s total population – this is because Vaughan is aging and will have a greater rate of growth in its older age groups.

In rationalizing its current and future arena supply, the City should consider the following factors. First, single pad arenas are not nearly as financially viable as multi-pad facilities and are outdated from a user perspective as well; therefore, any future arena construction should occur in the form of a multi-pad facility (ideally two or four pads). Second, public-private partnerships are another consideration, as the arrangement with the Sports Village has proven to be a success (all four pads are extremely well utilized). Third, despite the fact that nearly all ice users are likely to drive, geographic distribution and proximity to residents remains a critical concern, particularly to local associations that draw from a defined community.

The 2008 ATMP also recommended the eventual decommissioning of Memorial (Woodbridge) and Maple Arenas. Due to their age, **the eventual replacement of Maple and Memorial Arenas needs to be planned for** (note: Memorial Arena and Woodbridge Pool are located in a floodplain, which restricts their expansion and/or redevelopment potential). Lifecycle and operating costs analyses of these two arenas should continue to be monitored in order to develop a strategy for capital cost avoidance.

The long-term demand for two additional rinks, plus the eventual replacement of two single pad arenas, translates into a need for four new ice pads over the long term. Multi-pad facilities offer substantial efficiencies over single pad arenas. To achieve the City’s long-term ice needs and improve geographic distribution, it is recommended that the City seek to construct two twin pad facilities associated with community centres. The first twin pad should be located at the proposed Carrville **Block 11 community centre** in 2015/16, to coincide with the closure of **Maple Arena**. Demand for the second twin pad should be monitored as it is longer-term; this twin pad should coincide with the closure of **Memorial**

Arena and should be part of the proposed **Block 41 community centre** (possibly as a second phase of development beyond the year 2022, dependent upon demand).

Under this scenario, timing for arena development would be impacted by the decommissioning of Maple and Memorial Arenas, which should occur at the same time that the replacement rinks are opened. As with all major facilities, feasibility studies are recommended prior to design and construction and/or decommissioning. In new facilities, the potential for summer ice should be considered (this was raised as a need by local user groups), as well as an indoor walking track circling a rink (this was a public request and an increasingly common design element).

Arenas	Recommendations
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.
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.

8.3 Indoor Aquatics

Indoor Aquatics		Inventory	
Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2008	2013	2013	Recommended Target
10 (tanks)	12 (tanks)	1 : 25,933	1:30,000
<i>Comments:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> new aquatic centre opened in North Thornhill Community Centre in 2010 			

The City provides indoor aquatic facilities at 9 community centres, which – between them – contain a total of 12 tanks (the Vellore Village, Woodbridge, and North Thornhill facilities each contain multiple tanks). The design of the aquatic facilities ranges from standard 25m lane pools to freeform leisure pools to smaller 11m and 14m rectangular pools.

Swimming is a popular activity that is enjoyed by all ages, and indoor pools are a core service for the City of Vaughan. In the household survey, 60% of households participated in swimming over the past 12 months. The City offers a wide variety of programming at its indoor aquatic facilities, including learn-to-swim, special interest (e.g., diving, synchronized swimming, etc.), swimming leadership, aquatic fitness, and community rentals.

Another indicator of demand is the number of swims per capita in municipal pool. Vaughan’s pools received approximately 520,000 swims at its indoor pools in 2012 – an average of 1.7 swims per capita at the time, which is slightly above average when compared to other communities in the GTA.

Furthermore, annual indoor pool usage in Vaughan increased by 6% between 2011 and 2012. These findings suggest that demand for indoor swimming in Vaughan is on the rise, particularly recreational swimming (most notably older adults).

Presently, Vaughan has one indoor pool tank for every 25,933 residents, giving it one of the highest provision rates amongst comparable communities. Nevertheless, the public engagement program yielded considerable interest in increasing the provision of indoor aquatic facilities – 77% of Vaughan households support additional funding for indoor pools, tied with public libraries for the most support amongst 23 indoor and outdoor facility types.

Also of note, in 2012, Vaughan’s nine indoor pool locations averaged nearly 60,000 swims each (lessons and recreation swimming; swim clubs excluded), with the larger pools (Vellore Village and North Thornhill) receiving the greatest amount of use. Conversely, Fr. Ermanno Bulfon, Chancellor, and Woodbridge pools received the lowest amount of use, although the Woodbridge Pool has seen a slight resurgence recently as it is a primary venue for swimming and diving clubs and its therapeutic pool is a unique and valued amenity in the City. This data suggests that there is still available capacity within many of the City’s pools, although participation is increasing year over year and prime-time hours are very well utilized.

The 2008 ATMP established a provision target of one municipal indoor pool tank per 30,000 residents (excluding small tot pool or therapeutic pools). This target takes into account the additional capacity that a two tank aquatic centre may have over a facility with only one tank. This target is reasonable and will be used for projecting future needs.

Table 11: Forecasted Demand for Municipal Indoor Pools, 2013-31

	2013	2021	2031
Total Population	311,200	360,380	416,573
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 indoor pool tank per 30,000 residents</i>		
Required Indoor Pools	10.4	12.0	13.9
Existing Indoor Pools	12		
Surplus (Deficit)	1.6	0.0	(1.9)

Based on this calculation, the City currently has a sufficient number of indoor pool tanks, but will require **two additional tanks to serve population growth between 2021 and 2031.**

In terms of distribution, the Woodbridge community contains 5 of the City’s 12 indoor pools and has the highest per capita supply (one for every 16,200 residents). Conversely, the Maple community only has one indoor pool for a supply of one per 57,000 residents. Anticipated population growth in residential intensification areas (most notably Vaughan Metropolitan Centre) and the northern part of the City (Maple, Vellore, and Kleinburg) will generate the most substantial demand for additional indoor pools.

New indoor pools should be associated with major community centres to create synergies with other activities and support amenities. Major community centres are recommended for Block 11, Block 41, and the VMC. The Block 11 (Carrville) community centre is proximate to the new North Thornhill Community Centre (and Schwartz-Reisman Centre) and should not contain indoor aquatic facilities. **The major community centres proposed for Block 41 (Vellore) and the VMC are both viable candidates for**

the provision of aquatic centres given the anticipated population growth in the vicinity. The number and design of the tanks at each facility should be determined at the feasibility study stage.

Any new indoor aquatic facility should be suitable for a broad range of community programming and be “senior friendly”, including high levels of accessibility, accommodations for both lane swimming and lessons/classes, warmer water (including consideration for a therapeutic pool tank), and appropriate support space (e.g., change rooms).

A suggestion was received from a local aquatic club for a 50-metre pool; however, this type of facility would require a more detailed assessment as to a potential operating model, utilization, costs, and partners, with due consideration of other facilities in the region (two are being built in Markham and Toronto for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games). The evaluation of facilities that are driven largely from a sport tourism or economic development platform – such as a 50-metre pool – are outside the scope of this Plan.

The future of **Woodbridge Pool** is uncertain as past reports (including the 2008 ATMP) have called for its eventual decommissioning. Although Woodbridge Pool is one of the City’s oldest indoor aquatic venues, it is still well within a normal lifespan for such a facility. However, this pool is not fully accessible, which limits the range of potential programming. Furthermore, compared to other areas of Vaughan, Woodbridge has a significantly greater number of pools per capita and the overall utilization levels of Woodbridge Pool are amongst the City’s worst. Given the factors involved, this issue requires further study. Should Woodbridge Pool be removed from service, the City should give consideration to shifting the aquatic programming to nearby pools, including the one proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (around the year 2021). The therapeutic pool component of Woodbridge Pool should remain open.

Indoor Aquatics	Recommendations
27.	Include an indoor aquatic facility as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017/18.
28.	Include an indoor aquatic facility as part of the major community centre proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre around the year 2021.
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.

8.4 Age-specific Activity Space (Youth, Seniors)

The City offers dedicated space for pre-school children, youth, and older adults at most of its major community centres; the types of spaces provided typically reflect the composition of the local community. There are also several multi-use spaces available to various age groups throughout Vaughan, including gymnasiums, pools, arenas, activity rooms, and fitness centres.

Pre-School

The pre-school population (ages 0-4) currently constitutes 6% of the City's population, but as the community ages, this proportion is forecasted to decline slightly to 5% (while still increasing in overall numbers). With the Province transitioning its educational curriculum to accommodate full-day kindergarten, the City has experienced some declines in its pre-school programming. Continued monitoring of attendance is recommended, and should demand wane, select pre-school rooms may be considered for re-purposing to other uses in keeping with the needs of the community.

Youth

Youth are traditionally a very challenging market for municipal recreation departments to serve due to their range of needs (e.g., recreational, social support, arts and culture, leisure hang-out, etc.), their segmentation, peer pressures and the changing "trendiness" of certain activities, competing interests, and lack of transportation options. To address the latter point, it is vital that youth facilities be located in prominent locations, such as along transit routes and major pathways so as to maximize accessibility.

Trends suggest that the number of youth engaged in unstructured, drop-in activities are increasing, while the percentage of youth participating in organized sports is generally declining. Activities that are spontaneous, social, and/or encourage personal expression are very popular among teens, including music, visual / dramatic / media arts, basketball, fitness, special events, etc. Based on Vaughan's Youth in Action report (2008), teens are interested in theme nights, drop-in sports, and swimming – consistent with what we heard at the November 2012 Youth Forum.

The household survey revealed that only 43% of households were satisfied with the recreational opportunities Vaughan's youth (slightly better than opportunities for older adults). When asked about additional spending for recreation facilities, 73% of households supported additional funding for youth centres, the third most supported facility type (behind only libraries and indoor pools).

Youth and teens ages 10-19 account for 14% of the City's population; however, by the years 2021 and 2031 the proportion of youth is forecasted to fall to 12% and 11%, respectively. By 2031, the youth cohort will still increase in size, just not as fast as Vaughan's overall population. This suggests that demand for youth space (dedicated and/or multi-use) will persist, particularly in the City's growing areas (Vellore, Carrville, and the periphery of Maple).

It should also be acknowledged that Vaughan has been very successful in engaging and empowering the youth community and these efforts should continue. An Active Together Youth Leadership program has been created to support the City in developing initiatives for youth, advocating for physical activity, volunteering at special events, and providing feedback about the needs and interests of Vaughan's youth. In 2007 and 2013 Vaughan was recognized with a bronze "Youth Friendly" award by the Play Works Partnership Youth Friendly Communities Program.

Older Adults

Six of the City's major community centres offer one or more dedicated spaces for older adults. In addition, there are also five storefront/dedicated facilities used by the City for older adult clubs (Pine York, Sonoma Heights, Concord West, Pinecrest, and Merino Road). Vaughan's approach of providing

older adult spaces as part of multi-use centres is considered a “best practice” that many other communities are emulating.

In 2012, there were approximately 3,850 members within twenty affiliated older adult clubs in Vaughan; this represented a 6% decrease over the previous year. In the household survey, 7% of households indicated that they had at least one member that participated in at least one organized older adult/senior program in the past 12 months. The largest clubs operate out of Fr. Ermanno Bulfon, Sonoma Heights, Chancellor, Merino Centennial Centre, Vellore Village, and Dufferin Clark Community Centres.

When asked to rate satisfaction with recreational opportunities for various age groups, dissatisfaction was greatest amongst older adults age 60 years and over. Furthermore, when asked about additional spending for recreation facilities, 73% of households supported additional spending for older adult/seniors’ centres, ranking fourth out of 23 different facility types. These findings imply that residents are expecting more from Vaughan’s older adult services.

Presently, adults age 60 and over constitute 16% of the City’s population; by the years 2021 and 2031 this proportion is forecasted to increase to 20% and 26%, respectively, reflecting the aging trend that is occurring in Vaughan. In total, the population of Vaughan residents age 60 and over is expected to increase by nearly 59,400 people by 2031, representing an increase of 126% from 2011 levels and accounting for nearly one-half of the City’s anticipated growth during this period. As such, demand for services oriented to this age group can be expected to increase considerably, particularly in the Woodbridge and Thornhill areas, which currently contain much of the City’s older populations.

Given the considerable growth forecasted for Vaughan’s older adult population, greater attention to the personal and social health and wellbeing of this age group will be required. To help achieve this goal, the City and its various departments should pursue “age-friendly” status. Age-friendly communities design their policies, services, and infrastructure to help people of all ages – particularly older adults – to be active in their community. More information on this initiative can be found through the World Health Organization’s “Global Age-Friendly Cities Project” and the Public Health Agency of Canada’s “Pan-Canadian Age-Friendly Communities Milestones”.

Today’s older adults are remaining active longer in life than past generations (both work and play), as well as continuing to work later in life, which has caused a shift in the type and intensity of recreation activities pursued by the different age cohorts within this population. The Baby Boomers (the leading edge of which is now 67 years old), as a group, are more active and fit than those that came before them. This will continue to be of interest as they age, and is expected to result in an increase in drop-in activities, as well as usage of aquatic and fitness centres (which are currently well attended by older adults in Vaughan). Programs and workshops that allow for participation in learning and intellectual activities are also of increasing interest to the new generation of older adults. However, there will also still be older adults that are interested in traditional pursuits (e.g., cards, teas, bingo, etc.), which will require the continued provision of a broad range of opportunities. There is considerable segmentation of the older adult market that it is not only based on age, but also physical, mental and social abilities, income, and culture.

Municipalities are now beginning to recognize the challenges associated with meeting the needs of the “new senior” while also balancing opportunities for the more elderly and other age groups. From a general programming standpoint, the City of Vaughan should continue to evolve its services to include

more active living, fitness, educational, and arts-based opportunities for older adults. Recently, the City has flagged its older adult programs for further review through its program review initiative; this process may lead to changes in the scope of programs and/or how they are delivered. As the outcome of the program review may have potential implications on space requirements, this is a process worth monitoring.

Another matter that is closely related to the City’s review of older adult program is its fee model. Currently, older adult clubs are not charged rent for their space, while many age 60+ programs and memberships offered by the City are done so at a reduced rate. With an aging population, this will place a greater burden on the City’s financial resources over time, creating challenges in meeting cost recovery rates elsewhere. Furthermore, several studies also indicate that this age group has higher disposable incomes than previous generations. Although it is recognized that there will continue to be a segment of the population at all ages that will not be able to afford program or membership fees, the City offers a financial assistance program to address affordability. Nevertheless, the City may wish to examine the long-term sustainability of the current older adult pricing model (for recreation programs, memberships, and clubs), with a view toward improving cost recover levels over time.

Given the considerable growth in the older adult population, additional space and programming for older adults will undoubtedly be required to adequately serve the needs of this market. With changes to the older adult market, there are increasing demands not only for daytime programming, but also evening and weekend, which are typically preferred times for youth and families. As a result, multi-use spaces that are capable of accommodating a variety of needs – depending on the time of day, week, or season – are required. The inclusion of flexible spaces oriented to older adult programming (but not necessarily dedicated) should be considered in the design of all new major community centres and neighbourhood hubs.

Given this direction, no new stand-alone older adult facilities are recommended. Furthermore, the City should conduct reviews of its stand-alone / storefront older adult centres (particularly those that are suffering from declining membership and utilization) to determine long-term options for their maintenance, renewal, or divestment.

Age-specific Activity Spaces (Youth, Older Adults)	Recommendations
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

8.5 Fitness Centres / Active Living Spaces

Fitness Centres / Active Living Spaces			Inventory
Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2008	2013	2013	Recommended Target
4	6	1 : 51,867	1:50,000
<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> since the 2008 ATMP, a fitness centre was constructed as part of the North Thornhill Community Centre (2010) and a fitness centre was added to Vellore Village Community Centre (2013) 			

The City provides fitness centres at six of its community centres and is viewed as a leader in the municipal fitness sector across the province. In addition, six squash courts and one racquetball court are offered between three facilities. The City presently offers a range of fitness opportunities including aerobics, cycling “spin” classes, weight training, etc. for youth, adults and seniors alike. Existing municipal fitness centres in Vaughan appear to be generally profitable and are able to offer a high level of quality to their users.

There are several private sector fitness clubs in the City as well, many of which are newly formed. Competition with the private sector is increasing as more clubs open; however, the City tries to offer a differentiated product through its rate system, support services, and facility design (many of which benefit from aquatic facilities).

Nearly 5,000 residents are members of the City’s fitness centres (excluding Vellore Village, which opened in early 2013). Membership is highest at Al Palladini, Garnet A. Williams, and Maple Community Centres (membership is lower at North Thornhill and Fr. Ermanno Bulfon fitness centres). Although it is a small snapshot (2011-12), it would appear that senior memberships to City fitness centres are on the rise; seniors now represent over 25% of all members.

For the purposes of this plan, fitness centres are defined as equipment-based training clubs that includes amenities such as treadmills, free-weights, and other exercise machines, as well as multi-use studio rooms. A provision target of **one municipal fitness centre per 50,000 residents is suggested** (note: the 2008 ATMP did not establish a population-based target). This is largely a guideline, however, as the decision to provide fitness centres may be impacted by other providers. Therefore, new fitness centres should be confirmed through a business planning process that includes a market assessment. Municipal fitness centres should only be provided in community centres with gymnasiums and, ideally, indoor pools.

Table 12: Forecasted Demand for Municipal Fitness Centres, 2013-2031

	2013	2021	2031
Total Population	311,200	360,380	416,573
<i>Provision Target</i>	<i>1 municipal fitness centre per 50,000 residents</i>		
Required Fitness Centres	6.2	7.2	8.3
Existing Fitness Centres	6		
Surplus (Deficit)	(0.2)	(1.2)	(2.3)

With six municipal fitness centres at present, two additional municipal fitness centres will be required (for a total of 8) by 2031. Pending confirmation through future business plans, equipment-based fitness centres are recommended for the major community centres proposed for Block 41 and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. All new community centres (including the one proposed for Block 11) should have one or more multi-use fitness studios with rubber flooring, mirrors, and storage at all to enable a variety of active programming.

Given the heightened interest in active living and wellness (as identified and promoted in the City's Physical Activity Strategy), the City should continue to expand its focus, over time, on such programs that facilitate health and wellness benefits associated with physically active lifestyles. The public engagement program yielded several suggestions for more fitness programs (such as yoga and zumba), as well as WiFi at fitness centres. However, some of the City's fitness centres are lacking sufficient studio / multi-use activity rooms to accommodate the growing demand for these programs and options for modest expansions or reconfigurations should be explored.

Fitness Centres / Active Living Spaces	Recommendations
33.	Include an equipment-based fitness centre as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017/18.
34.	Include an equipment-based fitness centre as part of the major community centre proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre around the year 2021.
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.
36.	Continue to develop innovative and engaging fitness and active living programming that responds to the needs of the growing and evolving population.

8.6 Gymnasiums

Gymnasiums		Inventory	
Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2008	2013	2013	Recommended Target
9	9	1 : 34,578	1:30,000
<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new gymnasium was part of North Thornhill Community Centre, which opened in 2010 • the Patricia Kemp Community Centre (gymnasium) was recently leased to a local group and has been removed from the public inventory • the City also permits several school board gymnasiums, including three that are attached to the Vellore Village Community Centre 			

With the exception of Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena, all of the City's major community centres contain one or more gymnasiums. Additionally, several school gymnasiums are permitted under a joint-use agreement with local school boards, including three that are attached to the Vellore Village Community Centre. Facilitating reliable access to school gymnasiums through joint use agreements should continue to be a priority for the City.

Gymnasium sports continue to exhibit high levels of demand, especially for sports such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc. There was modest demand expressed for gymnasiums through the household survey and the public meetings yielded requests for open (drop-in) family gym times in the evenings.

The 2008 ATMP established a provision target of one municipal gymnasium per 35,000 residents. Given the substantial demand and flexibility for these types of spaces, it is recommended that the target be altered to one municipal gymnasium per 30,000 population.

Table 13: Forecasted Demand for Municipal Gymnasiums, 2013-2021

	2013	2021	2031
Total Population	311,200	360,380	416,573
Provision Target	1 municipal gymnasium per 30,000 residents		
Required Gymnasiums (municipal)	10.4	12.0	13.9
Existing Gymnasiums (municipal)	9		
Surplus (Deficit)	(1.4)	(3.0)	(3.9)

Notes: The three gyms at Vellore Village C.C. are not included in the supply, but are permitted through the Recreation and Culture Department.

The preceding table illustrates that there is current an unmet demand for one additional gymnasium, growing to three by 2021, and four by 2031. To meet these needs, gymnasiums are proposed for each of the City's three future major community centres (Block 11, Block 41, and VMC), as well as a fourth location to be determined. Consideration may be given to developing gymnasiums as part of the proposed neighbourhood hubs (e.g., Kleinburg, Block 27/North Maple, Vaughan Mills, etc.). All new

gymnasiums should be co-located with other recreational facilities so as to emphasize convenience and the benefits associated with multi-use facilities. Furthermore, divisible gymnasiums allow a greater range of uses and increase opportunities for community access and programming.

Gymnasiums	Recommendations
37.	Include a gymnasium as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 11 in 2015/16.
38.	Include a gymnasium as part of the major community centre proposed for Block 41 in 2017/18.
39.	Include a gymnasium as part of the major community centre proposed for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre around the year 2021.
40.	Consider designing gymnasiums as part of proposed neighbourhood hubs (e.g., Kleinburg, Block 27/North Maple, Vaughan Mills, etc.).
41.	Continue to seek and facilitate reliable access to school board gymnasiums through joint use agreements.

8.7 Indoor Bocce

Indoor Bocce		Inventory	
Municipal Supply		Provision Levels	
2008	2013	2013	Recommended Target
17	17	1 : 18,306	n/a

The City offers a total of seventeen indoor bocce courts at four community centres: Dufferin Clark, Fr. Ermanno Bulfon, Chancellor, and Maple. Vaughan also provides outdoor bocce courts at over twenty locations throughout the City.

Bocce is a sport that is especially popular among older men in the Italian community. Most clubs have modestly-sized memberships that are aging. As the baby boomer generation ages, there may be some opportunities for growth in the sport if it can better establish itself with the next generation of older adults. However, there is sufficient capacity within the current inventory of indoor courts to accommodate any foreseeable participation gains.

Given its limited market (10% of households contain at least one member that has participated in indoor and/or outdoor bocce in the past 12 months), low public support (only 21% of households supported additional funding for bocce courts), and questionable long-term viability, a provision target is not recommended for bocce courts. No additional indoor bocce courts are recommended at this time. Monitoring of usage and membership trends at existing facilities is recommended.

Indoor Bocce	Recommendations
42. No additional indoor bocce courts are recommended at this time. Monitoring of usage and membership trends at existing facilities is recommended.	

8.8 Other Indoor Recreational Spaces (Turf, Tennis, etc.)

Some leisure and sport interests appeal to a narrow margin of the population. Although it is recognized that these pursuits are worthwhile and beneficial, there are limitations on the ability and/or responsibility of the City of Vaughan to supply such groups with the requested facilities. Rather, it is typical for most specialized facilities to be established through community-led partnerships, with or without municipal participation.

The ATMP's engagement program has yielded a number of requests from local organizations for recreation facilities that would represent a new level of provision for the City, including **curling, indoor tennis, indoor soccer, and indoor cricket**. While it is possible that the participants in these specialized recreation activities may have unmet facility requirements, this demand is often representative of a relatively small group of residents and/or is a product that is typically delivered by the private or non-profit sectors. The provision of City-funded facilities, however, should consider a number of factors, including the overall impact (public benefits and persons affected), one-time and ongoing costs, risks, and alignment with the municipal mandate.

For guidance on municipal role definition, the City should reference the seven questions from the Council-approved Program Review framework:

1. Is the program still in the public interest?
2. Does this service fit with the public's priorities?
3. Is the delivery of the program a legitimate and necessary role of the City?
4. Should the program be realigned with other levels of government?
5. Should it be delivered in partnership with the private or voluntary sector?
6. Is the program affordable given our financial situation?
7. Can the program be redesigned for efficiency?

Vaughan should remain open to discussions with new and emerging recreation interests and evaluate capital proposals through the aforementioned framework, with consideration to the City's 10 year capital forecast and the City's capacity to participate in such projects. To assist in its evaluation, the City may require unsolicited proposals to be accompanied by business plans (completed to the City's satisfaction) that detail the proposal, market needs, operating and capital costs, financial capacities, sustainability measures, evidence of community benefits, and a risk assessment. Low risk participation in projects that address unmet demands, make use of underutilized resources, promote physical activity, encourage public access, and support other municipal objectives will generally rank ahead of more risky proposals.

Other Indoor Recreational Spaces

Recommendations

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.
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.