

## 5.0 District Policies—Streetscape and Infrastructure

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### 5.1 Overview

The following policies address those components of the District located primarily in the public realm. These features include roads, curbs, municipal services, parking facilities, sidewalks, boulevards, street furniture, pedestrian amenities, lighting, utilities, public signage, vegetation, parkettes, and open space. The proper treatment of these features can enhance the heritage character of the District.

### 5.2 Roads, Curbs, and Municipal Services

The provision of adequate roads, curbs, storm and sanitary sewers, and water supply are essential components for a living Heritage District.

*Policies:*

- a) Road, curb, and servicing improvements will be undertaken in a manner that preserves and enhances the heritage character of the District.
- b) Existing pavement widths should not be increased.
- c) Provision of on-street parking in off-peak hours, which increases the sense of pedestrian safety, is supported.
- d) In general, all aspects of road design that improve pedestrian amenity are supported.
- e) The vision of Vaughan as a walking community and policies of the Pedestrian and Bike Plan are supported by this Plan.

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### 5.3 Sidewalks and Boulevards

The existing sidewalk and boulevard treatment in the District, varies from block to block. Church Street retains a curbless rural profile. In some areas there are grassed boulevards outside of the sidewalk. In other areas the sidewalk is at the curb. The retention and extension of planted boulevards, to the extent it is possible, can help preserve and enhance an informal, village-like atmosphere.

*Policies:*

- a) The absence of sidewalks on Church Street is supported, as it contributes to the village character.
- b) The alignment of the sidewalk on the east side of Keele Street, south of Barrhill Road, which is set inside of the street trees, and curves around them, is supported, as it contributes to an informal village character. Where possible, similar sidewalk alignments are supported.
- c) Sidewalks should be constructed of concrete rather than modern materials that often take on an overly tailored appearance.
- d) Where possible, grassed boulevards and planting near the roadway is encouraged.

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### 5.4 Street Furniture and Pedestrian Amenities

Street furniture and related pedestrian amenities should be part of a co-ordinated design approach, to help define the District as a distinctive and special area.

*Policies:*

- a) Street furniture and related pedestrian amenities such as benches, trash and recycling receptacles, bicycle racks, telephone booths, and newspaper box enclosures will be provided as required, will be consistent through the District, and will conform to the Guidelines in Section 9.6.
- b) Street and other outdoor lighting will be appropriate in light intensity to the function of the street.

### 5.5 Street Lights and Utilities

Street lights and utility wires are necessary in all communities. A distinct street light and absence of overhead wires can be a cohesive element that ties the District together and defines it as a special area. The inappropriate location of items such as transformers, metres and switching stations has a negative impact on the heritage landscape of a community.

*Policies:*

- a) Over time, a consistent street light will be used throughout the District to enhance its identity as a heritage area. The selected street light fixture will reflect the village-like, heritage character of the District.
- b) Street and other outdoor lighting will be appropriate in light intensity to the function of the street.
- c) Any lighting fixtures introduced in parking lots (public or commercial) will reflect the heritage character of the District and be consistent with the design chosen to be used throughout the District.
- d) Utilities such as metres, switching stations and transformers should be located in a manner that they are not readily visible from the street and do not unduly impact the heritage landscape of the District.

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### 5.6 Public Signage

Typical public signage includes directional, regulatory, identity, and public information signs. If properly developed, these signs can promote a coordinated identity supportive of the heritage area.

- a) Regulatory signs should be the same type of sign used elsewhere in the municipality.
- b) A design for Heritage District identification signs should be developed to help promote awareness of the District. The design should have a simple, distinctive shape, and should be mounted with street name signage in the District.
- c) Heritage District entry signs should be designed and installed at the four gateway points. The design, colour, and materials of street name signs, entry signs, and other public information signage will be consistent and complementary to the District character.
- d) A distinctive sidewalk stamp for the District should be developed, to be embossed at intersections when new sidewalk sections are installed.
- e) A village notice board, including a map identifying the heritage conservation district, should be erected as part of the streetscape design near Beaverbrook House.

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### 5.7 Vegetation

The vegetative cover in the public realm of the District significantly contributes to the area's human-scale, village-like character. Street trees, flowers in baskets, shrubs, and vegetation found in the open spaces and along watercourses all contribute to the area's distinctiveness. In addition to their scenic beauty, trees and other vegetation are equally important for controlling the effects of climate by reducing wind velocity, providing shelter from sun, rain, and snow, and creating a moderated microclimate.

- a) Plant material introduced to the public realm should be hardy, urban tolerant in recognition of harsher environmental conditions, but that express form, canopy, leaf and colour characteristics compatible with native, indigenous trees, where possible.
- b) Existing mature trees and other vegetative amenities in the public realm should be retained and preserved except where removal is necessary due to disease or damage, or to ensure public health and safety.
- c) The shaping of street tree canopies for utility wires will be undertaken in a sensitive manner so as not to disfigure the tree. The impact of this process on existing trees may be a factor when burial of utility wires is being considered.
- d) An appraisal of the health of tree cover in the public realm will be undertaken with the result being a replanting policy or plan to replace unhealthy trees and coordinate new plantings.
- e) The placement of new tree-plantings should enhance the streetscape and frame buildings of cultural and heritage value and minimize the screening or blocking of significant features.
- f) Plantings will contribute to screening less attractive sites in the District, including above-ground utilities, where practical from an operation and maintenance perspective.
- g) Guidelines for appropriate vegetation are located in Section 9.7.