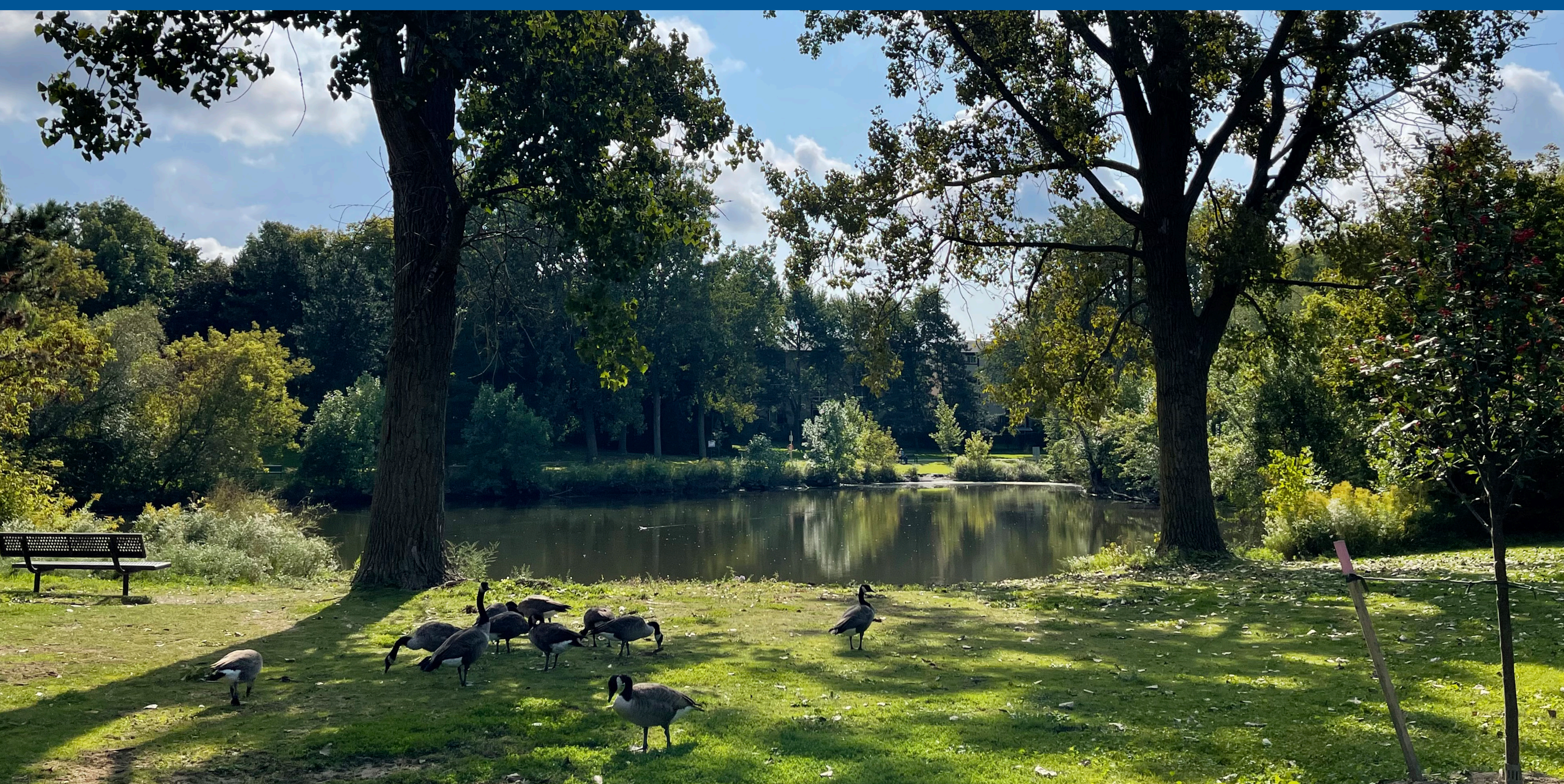


WELCOME TO Vaughan's Greenspace Strategic Plan Open House

Join us to help shape the future of parks and greenspaces in the City of Vaughan.



Learn more about the project here:
www.vaughan.ca/greenspaceplan



We're Creating a Greenspace Strategic Plan for the Future

Why are we creating a Greenspace Strategic Plan?

As Vaughan grows and welcomes new residents into our neighbourhoods, ensuring everyone has access to the benefits of our beautiful greenspace system is more important than ever.

The City of Vaughan is developing a Greenspace Strategic Plan that will provide a framework to guide the way we plan, develop, maintain and invest in parks and greenspaces for the next generation.



What will the Greenspace Strategic Plan achieve?

The Greenspace Strategic Plan will:

- **Identify** current and projected gaps in Vaughan's greenspace network
- **Recommend** greenspace uses, types and requirements for amenities
- **Create** a framework for greenspace maintenance and service levels
- **Identify** partnership opportunities for greenspace development
- **Propose** decision-making guidelines for building new greenspaces



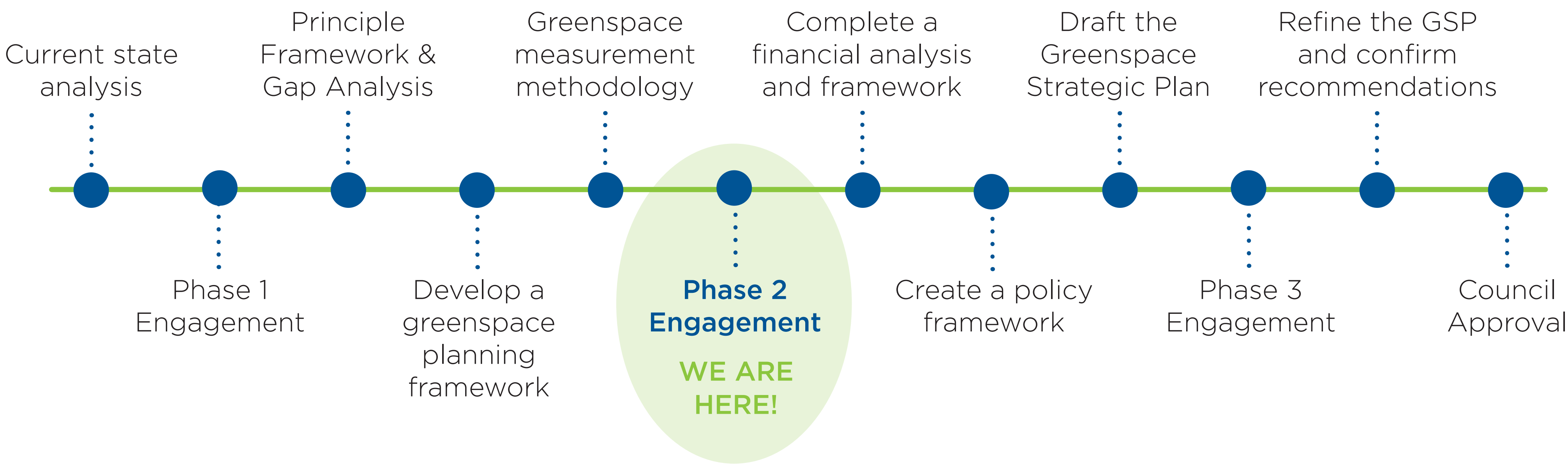
What are “Greenspaces”?

Greenspaces is an umbrella term that captures the full range of spaces that make up Vaughan's exceptional green network, including:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Parks |  Woodlots |
|  Trails |  Active and passive recreation spaces |
|  Natural areas | |



Project Timeline



What We Heard During the First Phase of Engagement

The goal of the first phase of engagement was to understand how residents currently use Vaughan’s parks and greenspaces, the needs and wishes of park visitors, and the barriers people face accessing these spaces.

Phase 1 engagement revealed 5 areas of focus for the Greenspace Strategic Plan:

- Amenities:** Respondents would like to have access to more passive and active recreation amenities.
- Connectivity:** Respondents appreciated Vaughan’s existing walking and biking trails, but would like to see them better connected.
- Expansion:** Respondents wish to see more parks, especially near growth and intensification areas.
- Maintenance:** Respondents hope to see maintenance and operational improvements be prioritized.
- Natural Features:** Respondents value parks for their natural features and trails, and would like to see these features enhanced.

We engaged with residents and greenspace users through a range of methods including:

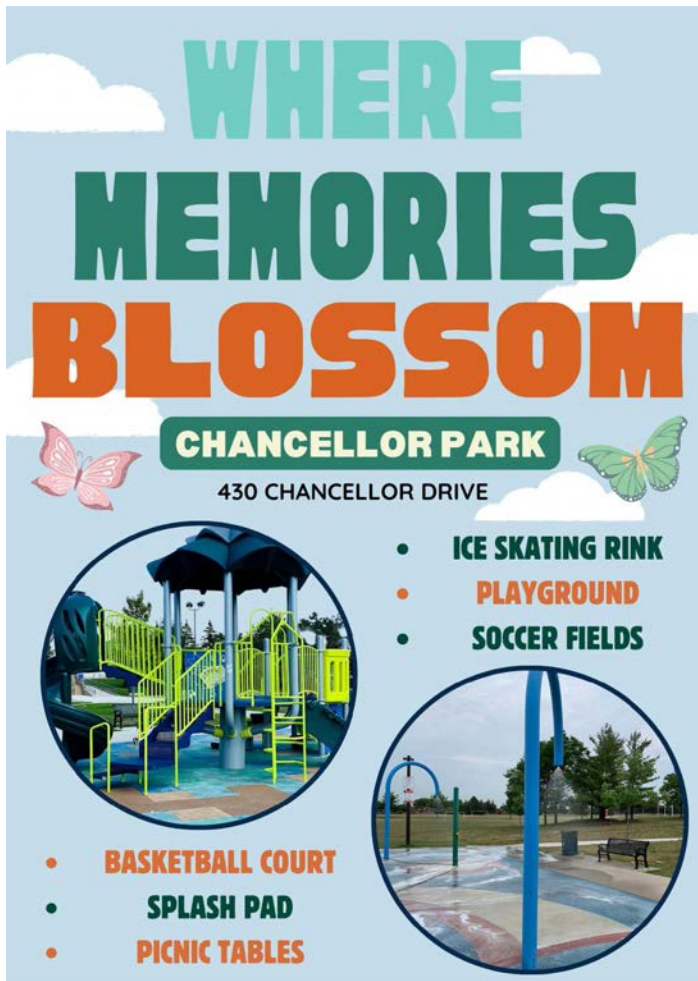
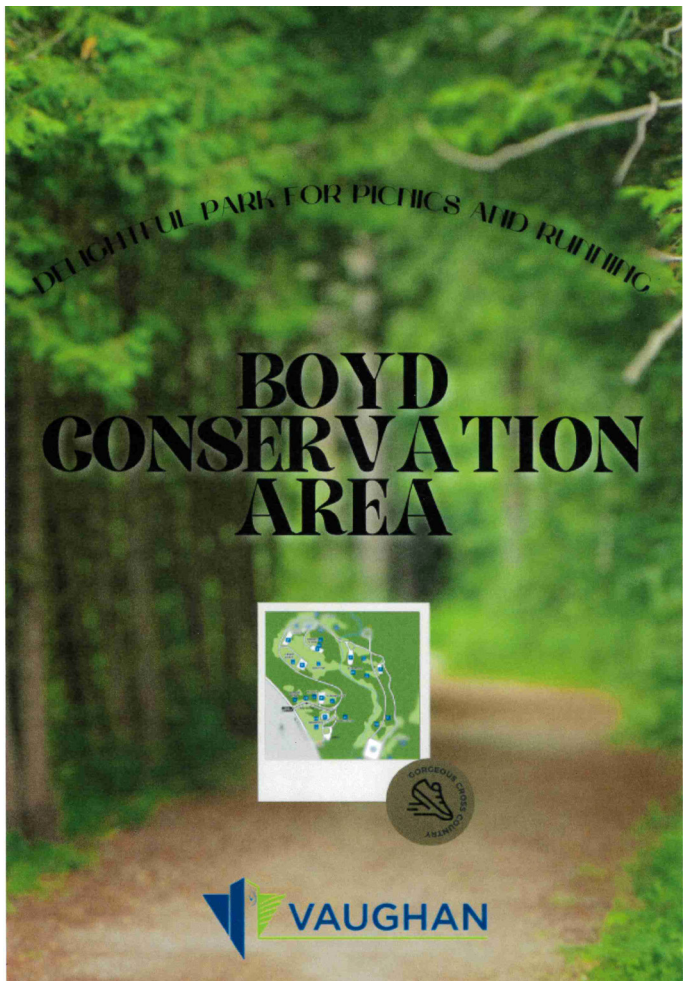
- Pop-up events
- Online public survey
- Community walk through Marita Payne Park
- Interactive mapping activity
- Student park poster and workbook activity

Key insights we heard from Vaughan residents through the online public survey:

- 64%** of survey respondents identified “better trail and pathway connectivity” as a priority.
- 74%** of survey respondents do not feel there are enough parks and greenspaces in Vaughan.
- 52%** of survey respondents feel that the amenities and features in Vaughan’s parks and greenspaces meet their needs.
- 61%** of survey respondents feel that they can get to parks and greenspaces easily.

Read the full Phase 1 What We Heard report:

www.vaughan.ca/greenspaceplan



126 park posters created by students from high schools in Vaughan as a part of Phase 1 public engagement.

Emerging Greenspace Vision and Goals

Emerging Greenspace Vision

Our greenspaces are an essential asset to the City that supports our economic prosperity, the celebration of culture, and the physical and mental health and well-being of our residents. We are responsible for our greenspace system to provide ecological habitats, support climate resilience and function as green infrastructure.

Emerging Greenspace Goals



Sustainable Funding

The acquisition, development, maintenance and lifecycle management is funded to meet the needs of residents.



Greenspace Expansion

Open spaces and parkland continue to be secured to adequately meet the needs of a growing population while maintaining and protecting natural systems.



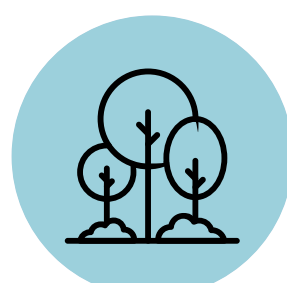
Equitable Access

Greenspaces are distributed based on equitable access to identified community needs.



Diverse Greenspace Experiences

A diversity of greenspace types, amenities and recreational opportunities are provided to meet the needs of a diverse community.



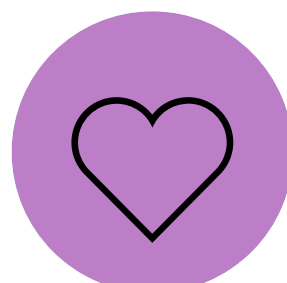
Increased Tree Canopy

Greenspaces contribute to achieving the City's tree canopy goals.



Adaptable, Healthy and Safe Spaces

The function of parks and amenities respond to the changing needs of the community while protecting and improving natural features and systems.



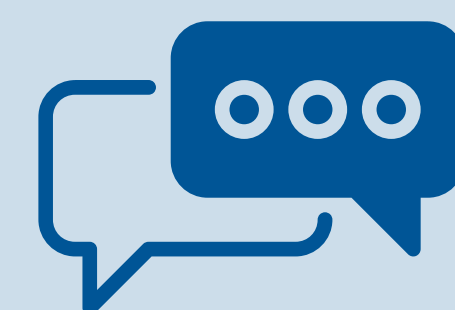
Celebrate Culture

The City's greenspaces play a larger role in celebrating the past, present and future cultural landscape in Vaughan.



Climate Resilience

The City's greenspaces help contribute to our climate resilience goals.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Place dots beside the greenspace goal that you most connect with.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

What do you feel, if anything, is missing from the Emerging Greenspace Vision and Goals? Use sticky-notes to share your thoughts or talk to one of our facilitators.

A large, empty light blue rectangular area intended for participants to write their feedback or use sticky notes.

New Greenspace Experiences

Vaughan is changing, growing and becoming more urban and culturally diverse.

The way people use greenspace is also changing. Today, greenspaces need to serve multiple functions and need infrastructure that is flexible and adaptive; from hosting markets and festivals one day, to large family picnics and pick-up games of soccer the next, while also providing environmental and ecological services.

Our Current Greenspace Typologies

Vaughan’s existing greenspace framework was created in a time when the city was much more uniform and suburban. It classifies greenspaces based on their size and scale from very large regional parks down to small urban squares. This framework no longer suits the diversity of urban environments and uses that are required of greenspaces in our city today.



Regional Parks



District Parks



Neighbourhood Parks



Urban Parks



Public Squares

Defining New Greenspace Typologies

Vaughan needs new small and large greenspace typologies that complement the diverse urban, suburban and natural environments that make up our city. This framework also needs to consider the diversity of uses and functions that parks and greenspaces serve in our community today, such as:



Active play (sports facilities)
Pickleball, cricket, basketball, soccer, baseball, etc.



Passive areas
Sitting, birdwatching, tai chi, informal unprogrammed space, nature trails, etc.



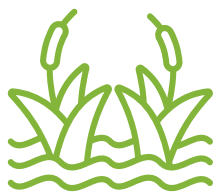
Playgrounds
Swings, slides, climbing structures, etc.



Cultural amenities
Farmer’s markets, community gardens, art installations, etc.



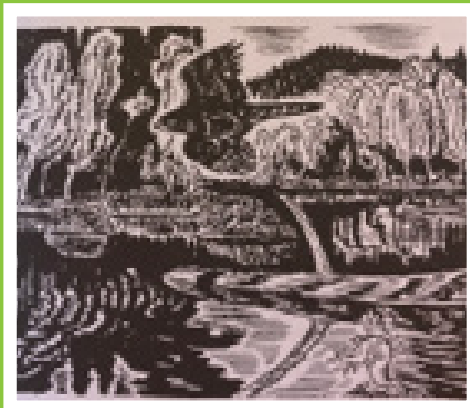
Community social spaces
Event pavilions, picnic areas, outdoor amphitheaters, etc.



Natural Areas
Forested areas, meadows, wetlands, etc.

Vaughan’s Greenspaces Through the Ages

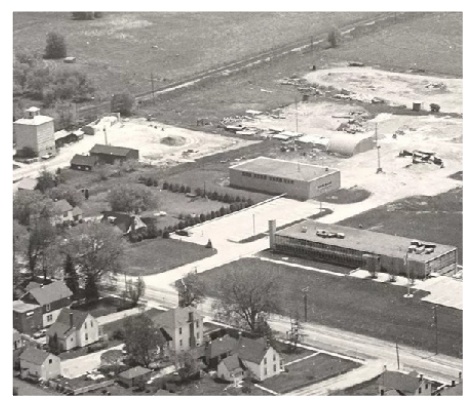
Over more than a century, Vaughan’s greenspaces and our relationship with greenspaces has evolved as the city around us has changed shape.



Time immemorial
First Nations steward and live on these lands



Vaughan in the late 19th and early 20th Century
Agricultural



Early to Mid-20th Century
Industrial



Late 20th Century
Suburban development



Early 21st Century
New urban development

New Greenspace Experiences

Urban Greenspaces

Large Urban Parks



These versatile urban spaces attract visitors from across the city and beyond, offering a wide range of recreational activities. Large urban parks provide amenities for both passive and active parkland use, and can support a broad array of community activities and events, catering to diverse interests and serving as major urban destinations.

Medium Urban Parks



Located within a short walking distance for local residents, these parks offer a mix of passive and active experiences, such as connectivity with trail networks, events and social gatherings. Medium urban parks can enhance everyday experiences, serving the community with a larger variety of features than smaller urban parks.

Small Urban Parks

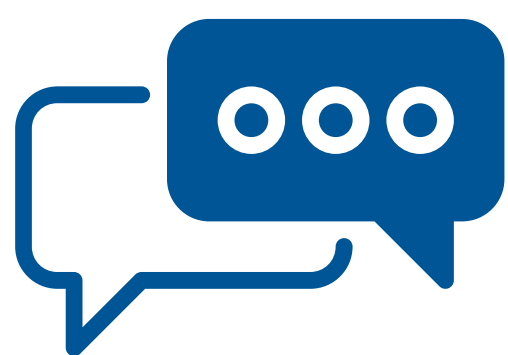


Situated in densely populated areas, these parks serve as vibrant community hubs. Small urban parks are designed to accommodate high levels of use and maximize underutilized spaces for community engagement. Features may support programmed events, contributing to the social fabric of the urban environment.

Large Urban Parks

Medium Urban Parks

Small Urban Parks



HAVE YOUR SAY!

What experiences would you like to see in large, medium and small urban and suburban parks and greenspaces? What experiences are best suited to each type of greenspace? Use the sticky-notes to share your thoughts or talk to one of our facilitators.

Large Urban Parks

.....

Medium Urban Parks

.....

Small Urban Parks

Large Suburban Parks

.....

Medium Suburban Parks

.....

Small Suburban Parks

New Greenspace Experiences

Suburban Greenspaces

Large Suburban Parks



Expansive and multifaceted, these parks attract people from across the region, and are capable of hosting significant cultural and recreational events. Large suburban parks often combine recreation with natural areas and indoor facilities, serving as major regional destinations.

Medium Suburban Parks



These parks serve multiple neighbourhoods and are accessible within walking distance. Medium suburban parks balance active and passive uses, providing larger spaces for a variety of recreational activities, accommodating broader community needs.

Small Suburban Parks



Located within neighbourhoods, these parks provide essential public spaces where larger open areas are not feasible. Small suburban parks are designed to meet the everyday needs of the community.

Securing our Greenspace Network

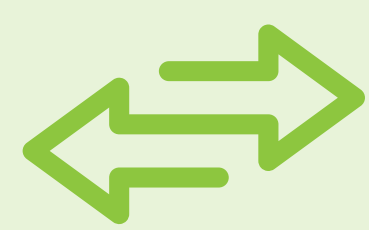
How do we achieve the expansion and enhancement of our greenspace network?

The majority of new parkland is typically secured through development. This occurs in two ways. Land may be transferred from the developer to the City through the development process. This is referred to as **“parkland dedication.”** Alternatively, if transferring land is not feasible, the developer must provide funds that the City will use to purchase parkland elsewhere.

The City prefers to secure new parkland through dedication. However, this becomes more challenging as the city intensifies and there is less land available.

To reach the greenspace targets that will be in the Greenspace Strategic Plan, a variety of tools will be needed for a more sustainable approach.

Ways to secure new parkland



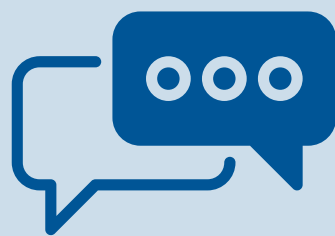
- **Land dedication** through development applications
- **Off-site dedication**
- **Land banking:** proactively purchasing land to be used later
- **Land exchange or swap:** exchanging land with private owners or other levels of government
- **Reallocate surplus municipal lands:** land bought for another purpose becomes a greenspace
- **Easements**



- **Right of first refusal on surplus school sites:** City gets the first opportunity to purchase available land
- **Partnerships with private land holders**
- **POPS** (Privately Owned Public Open Space) **and strata parks**



- **Donations/gifting**
- **Debt/bonds**
- **Park foundations**
- **Municipal purchase of new land**
- **Lease**



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Is there anything else you would like to share about the funding tools being considered?

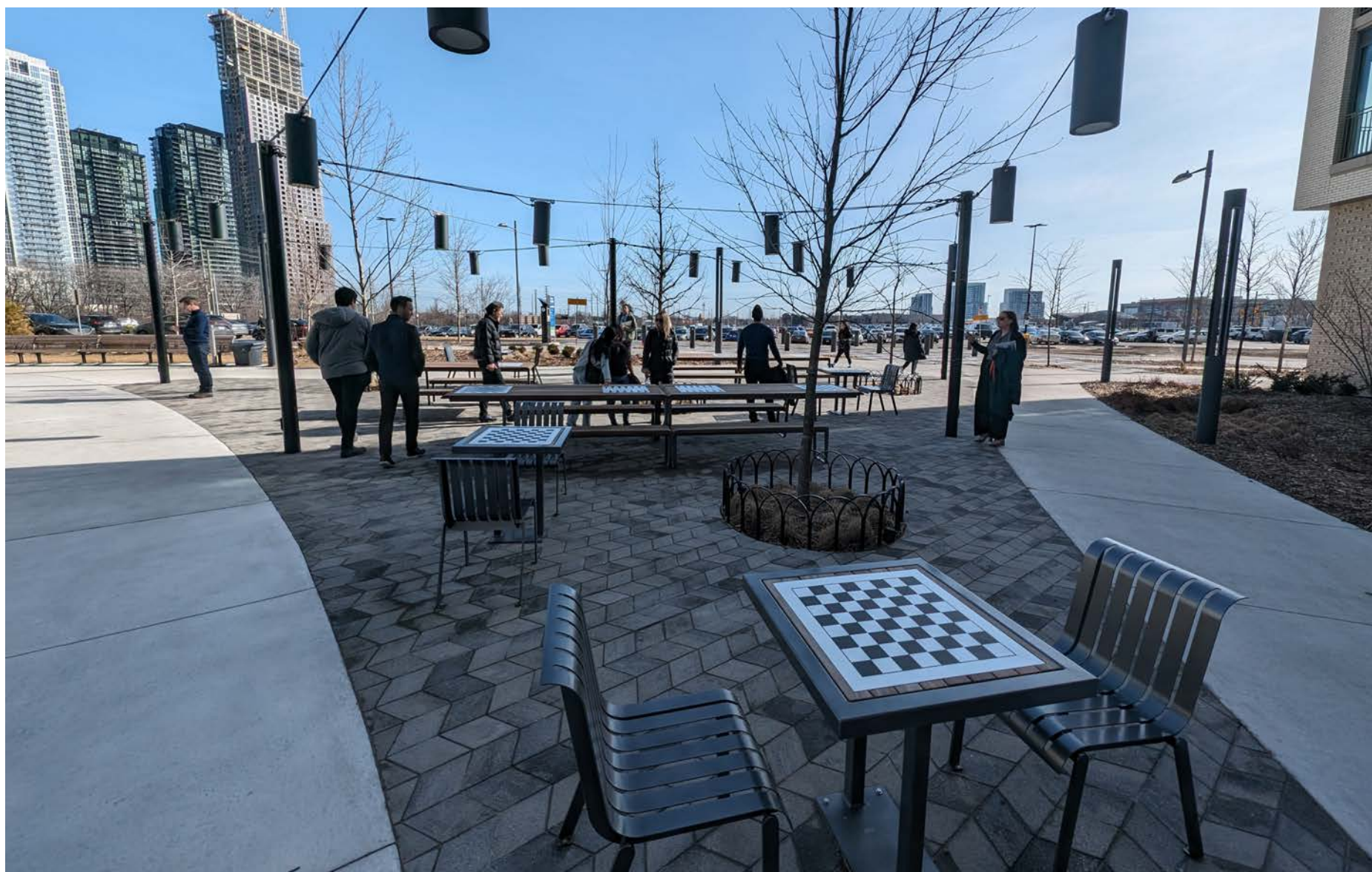
What controls would you like to see placed on the use of the tools listed?

What’s a POPS or strata park?

Privately-Owned Publicly-Accessible Spaces (POPS): owned and maintained by private property owners. Despite being privately owned, they are accessible to the public for use.

The City is undertaking a separate study to develop guidelines for POPS.

Strata Parks: publicly-owned parkland on top of buildings or structures, such as parking garages, storm water management systems, and more.



Setting Criteria for Greenspace Investment

How do we prioritize investments in our greenspaces?

When deciding where to acquire land for greenspace development or how best to direct City resources to enhance existing greenspaces, the City uses the following criteria to guide decision-making.

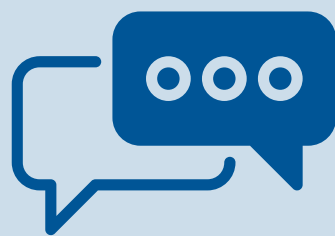
- Which areas of the City have little or no access to greenspaces?

Which areas of the City do not have greenspace within 500m from home?
- Do the City's diverse communities have access to greenspaces?

Is there an opportunity to partner to provide new or enhanced greenspaces?
- Which areas of the City have a growing population?

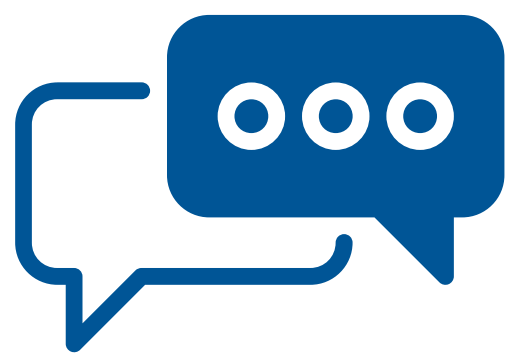
Which areas of the City have a dense population?
- Where is there land available that the City could purchase for greenspace development?

Where is there land available that is suitable for greenspace use?



HAVE YOUR SAY!

What criteria should the City use to direct investment in greenspace?



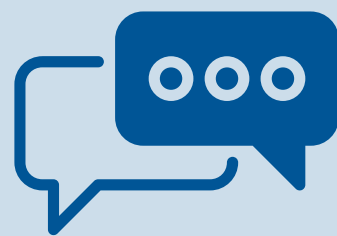
HAVE YOUR SAY!

Use the sticky-notes to share your thoughts about criteria and targets or talk to one of our facilitators.

Criteria

Targets

Setting Targets for Greenspace Provision



HAVE YOUR SAY!

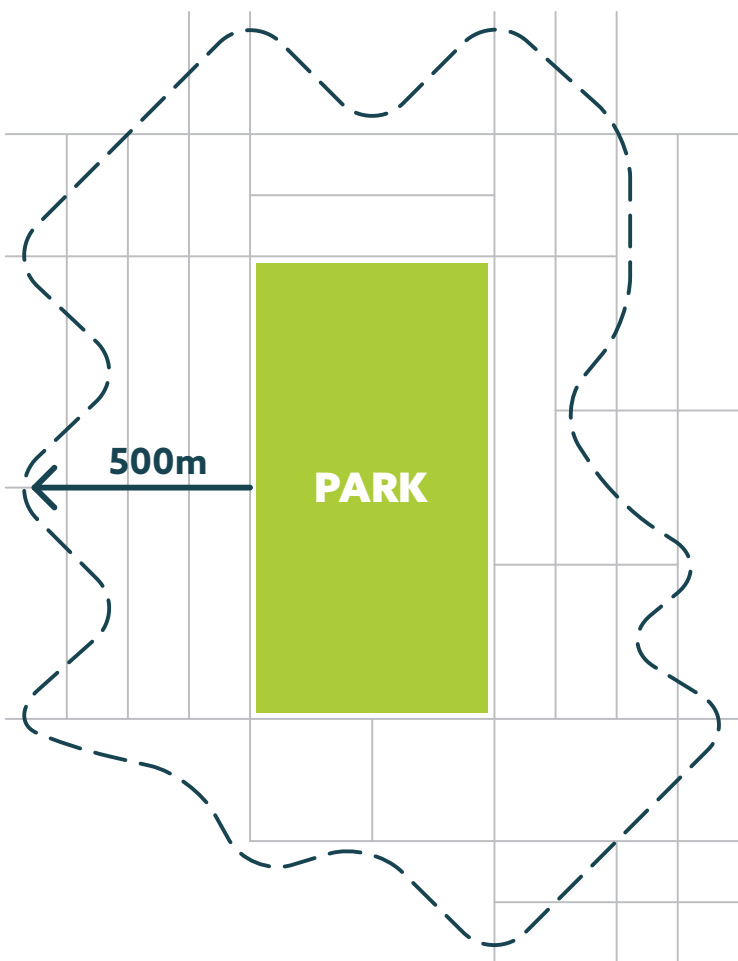
What targets should the City use to ensure everyone has access to greenspace?

How do we ensure all residents have access to greenspace?

The City’s current target for park provision is roughly **2:1000**. This means that Vaughan aspires to ensure that there is a minimum of two hectares of greenspace for every 1000 residents.

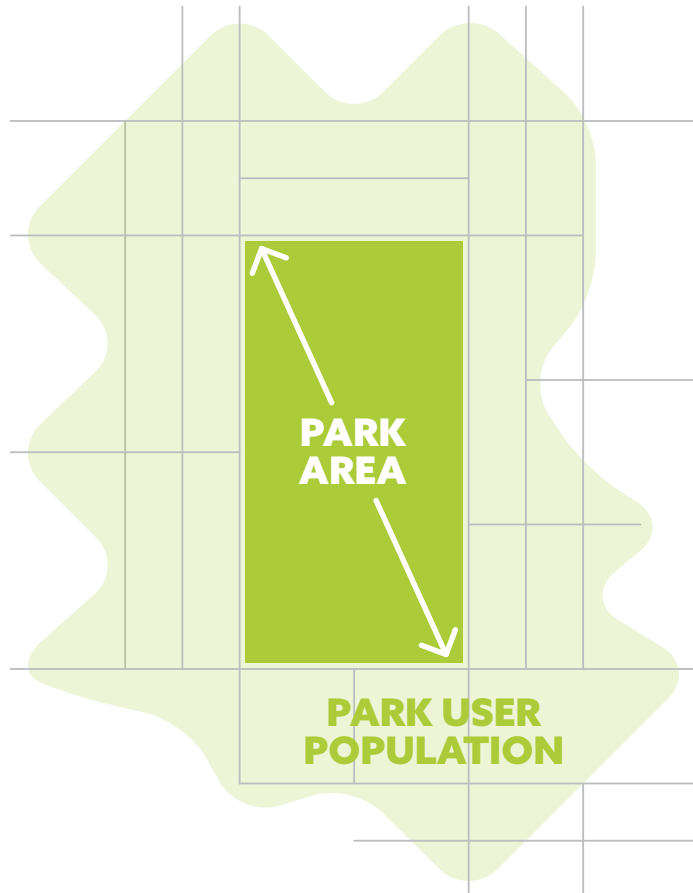
The Greenspace Strategic Plan is looking to adopt more sophisticated and fine-grained targets that consider factors such as residential density, proximity and access to greenspaces, overall connectivity of the network, and more.

Greenspace targets being considered:



Walking Distance

Walking distance to parks



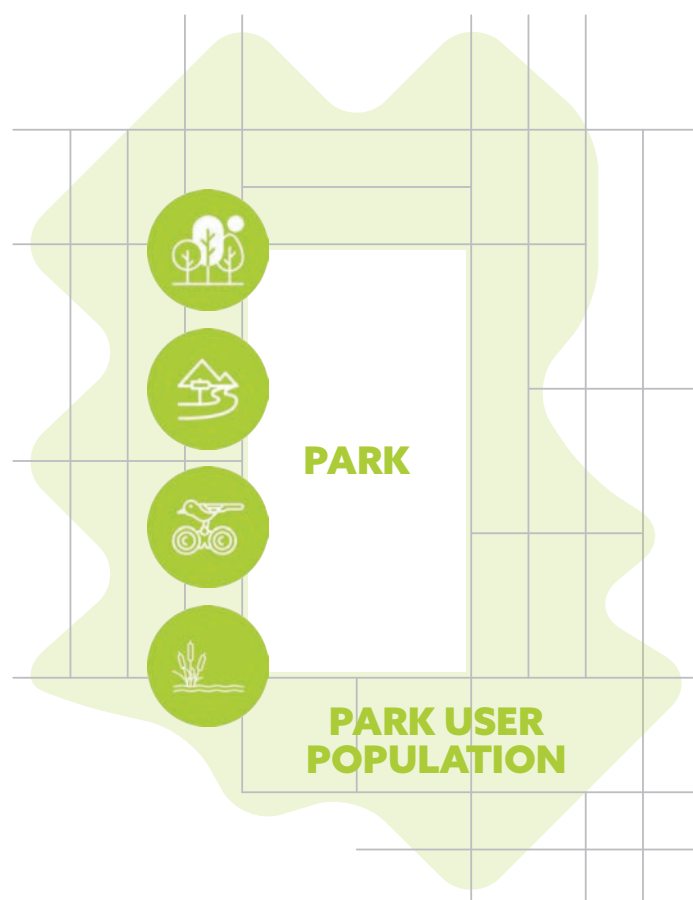
Parkland Area per Person

Access to parks and greenspaces of all types



Active Parkland per Person

Access to active parkland

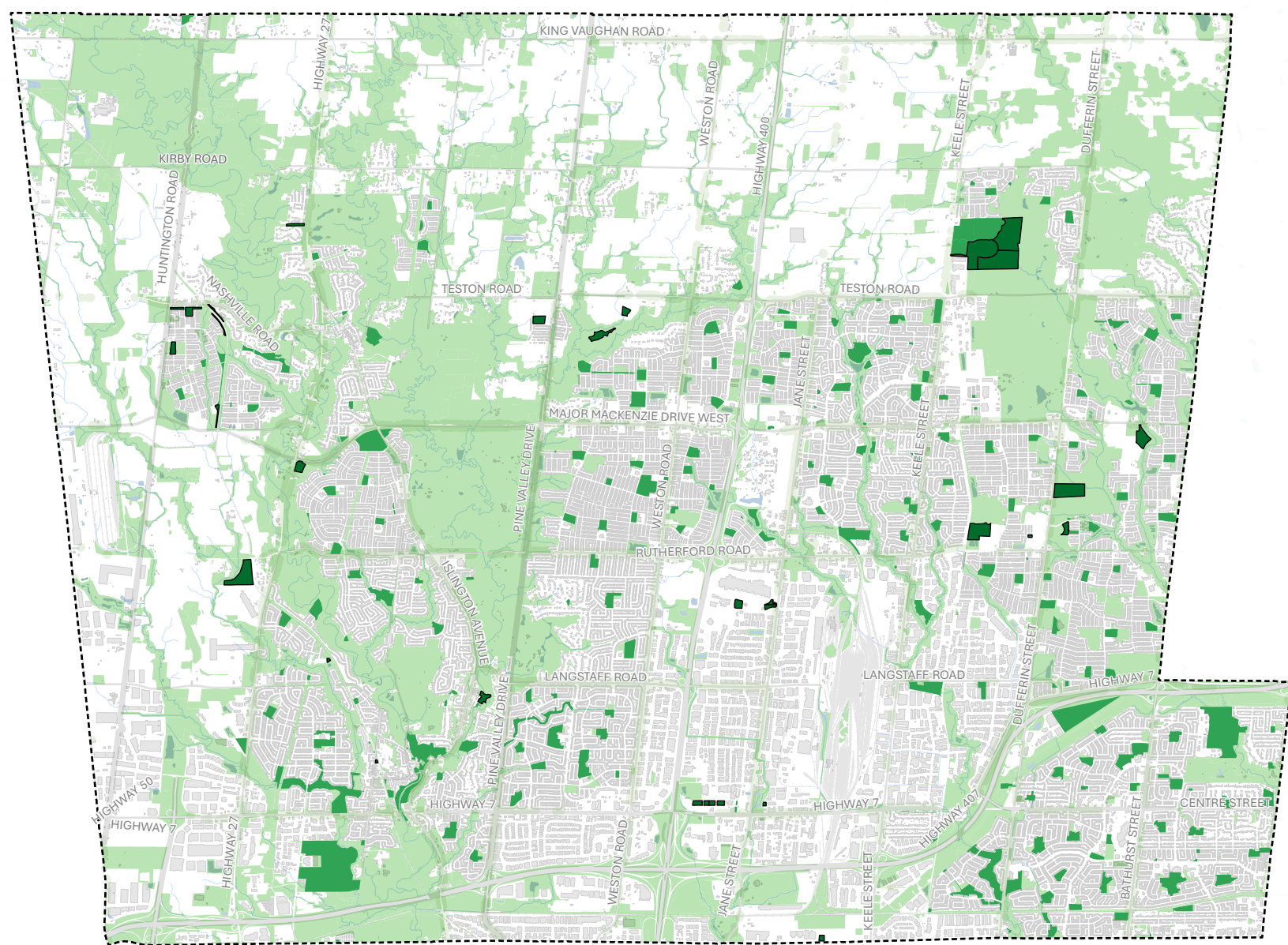


Natural Area per Person

Access to natural areas

Understanding Vaughan's Greenspace Needs

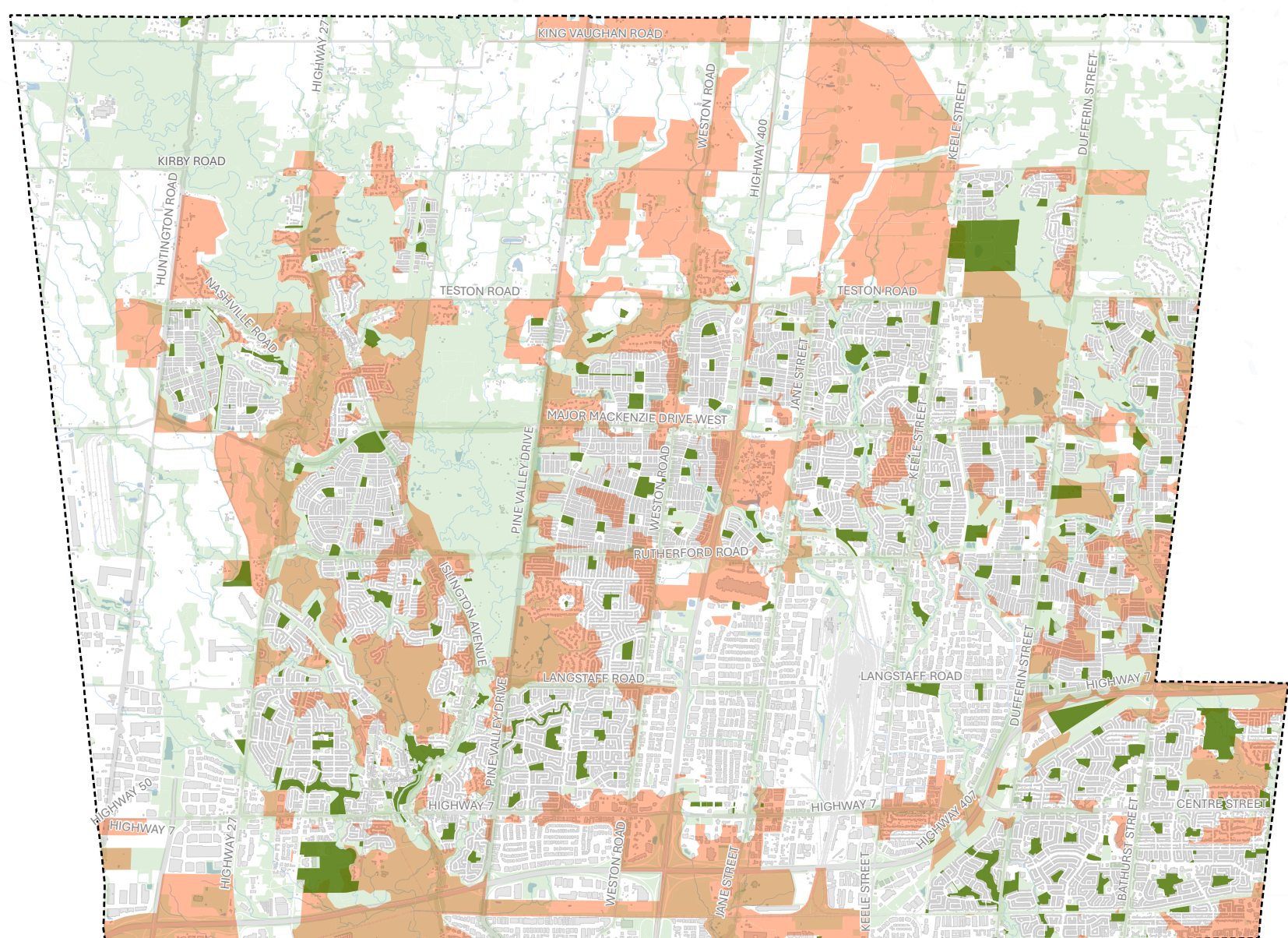
The City is undertaking a detailed analysis of Vaughan's current supply of greenspaces and future needs, which will help to identify areas to prioritize for greenspace development. The maps on this panel answer three big questions:



How much greenspace is currently available to residents?

This map shows the full extent of Vaughan's extensive greenspace network.

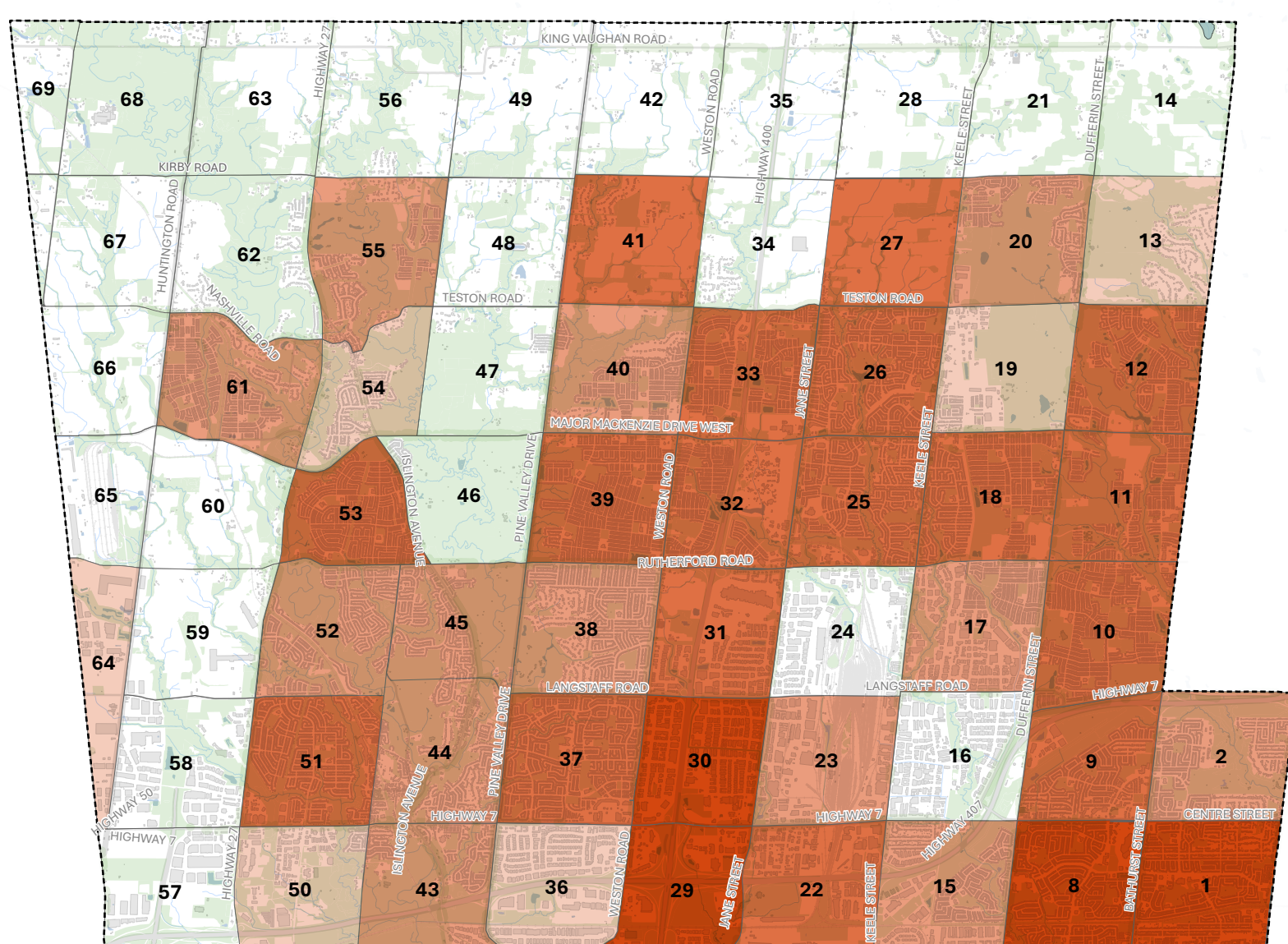
- Existing parks.
- Proposed future parks.
- Greenspaces including natural areas such as ravines, creeks, woodlots, trails, golf courses and farmland.



Where are there gaps in the current greenspace network?

This map shows areas of the City where access to a park or greenspace is further than 500 metres walking distance from a park entrance.

- Existing parks and greenspaces.
- Gaps in the greenspace network.

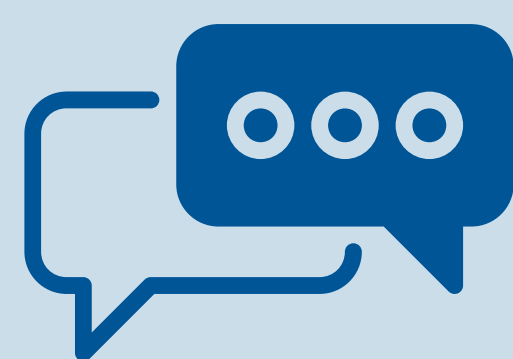


Where are the projected future growth areas in the city?

This map shows areas of the City where population growth is expected to take place in the next 25 years.

- Areas of high, moderate and low future population growth.

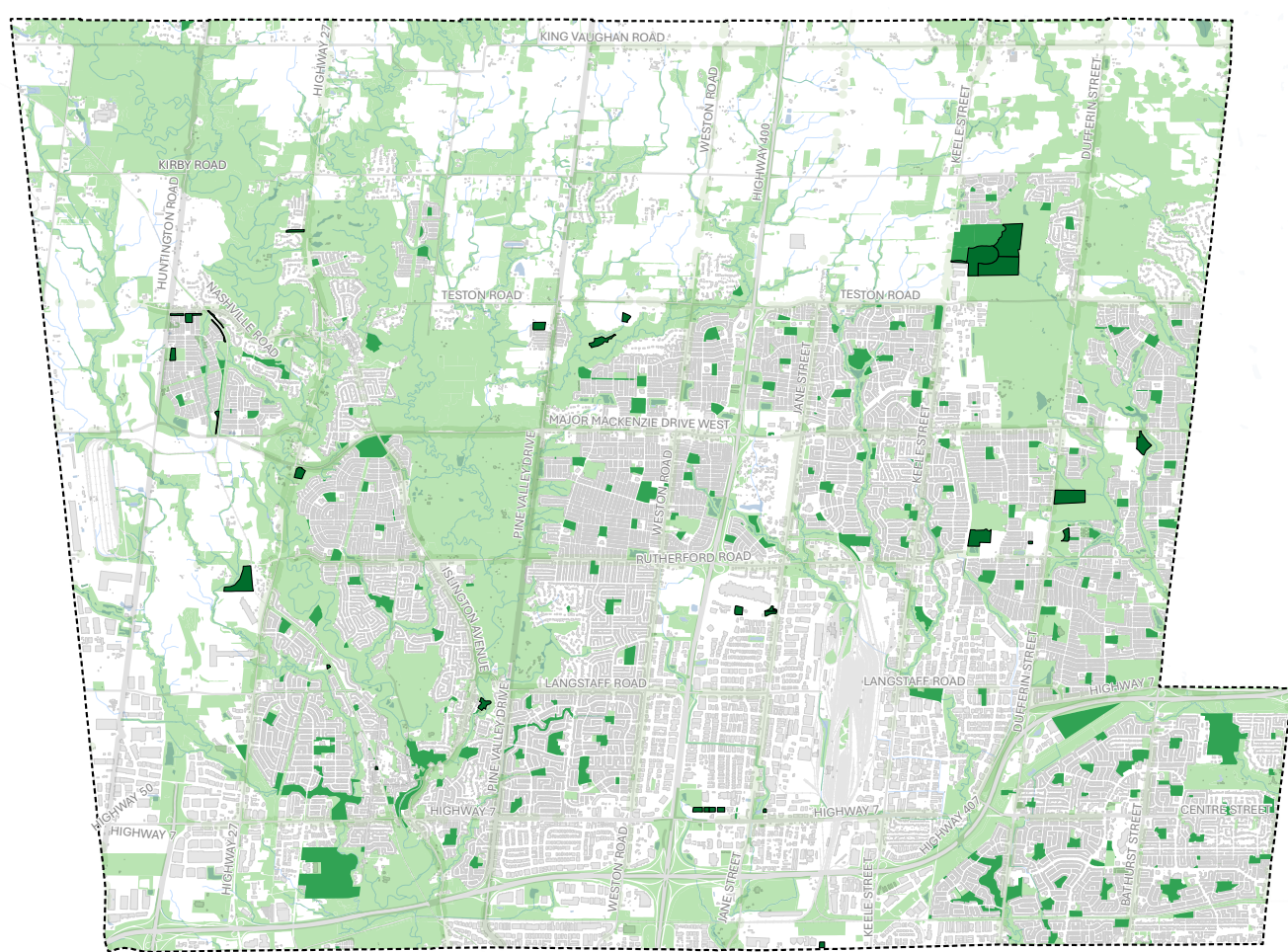
Co-Creating our Future Greenspace Network



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Your ideas are needed to help improve Vaughan’s parks and greenspaces.

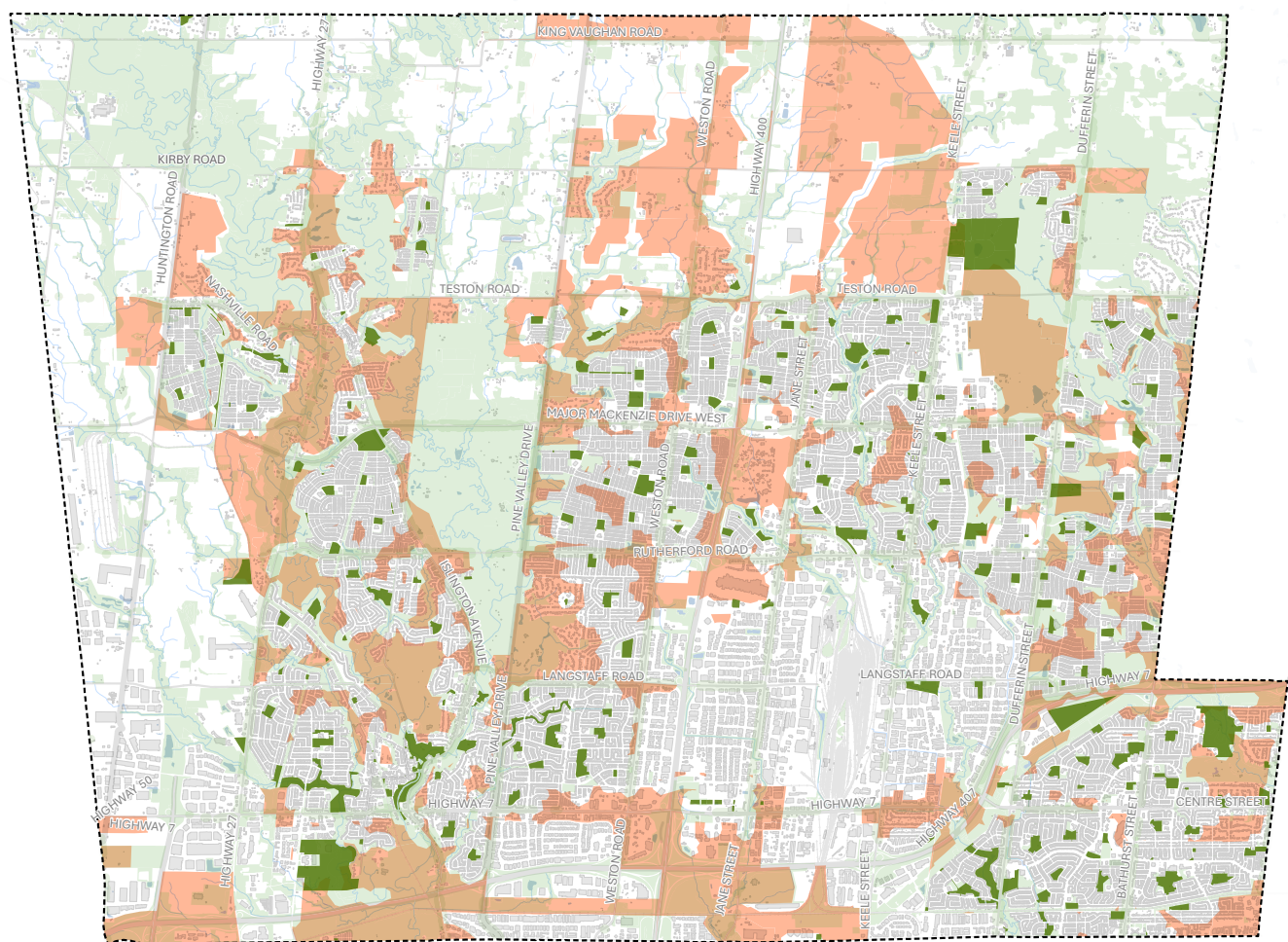
Join us at the table to share your thoughts.



Let’s enhance what’s working.

Questions:

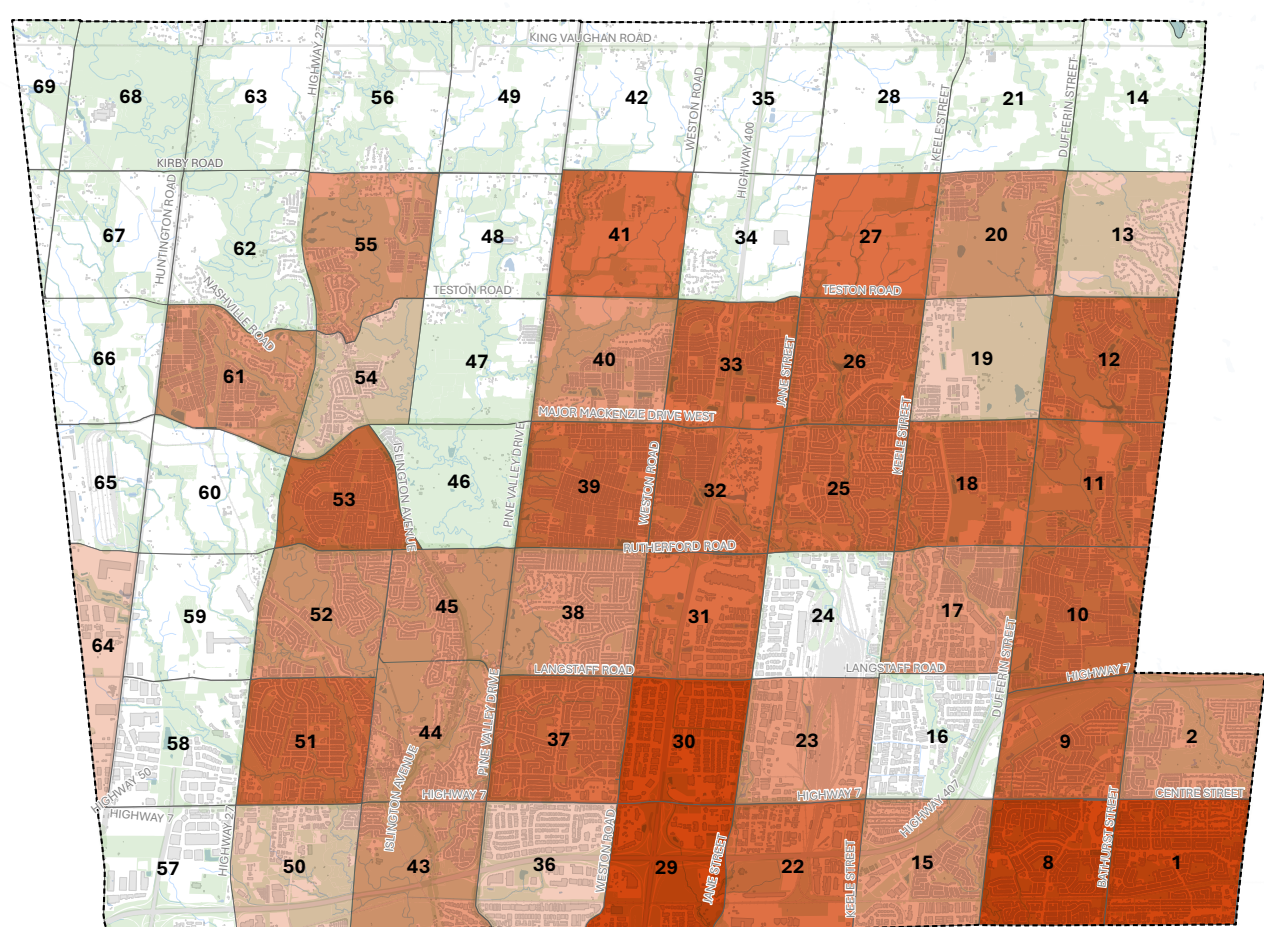
- What do you love about Vaughan’s greenspaces?
- What makes Vaughan’s greenspaces unique and exciting?
- What is the one thing you would do to improve greenspaces in Vaughan?



Let’s fill in the gaps.

Questions:

- What parts of the city should be prioritized for new parks?
- Which park types are needed most and in which areas?
- How can we improve connectivity and equitable access to parks?

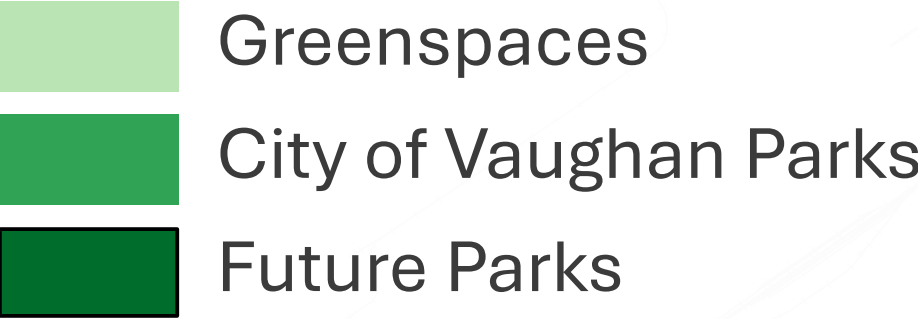
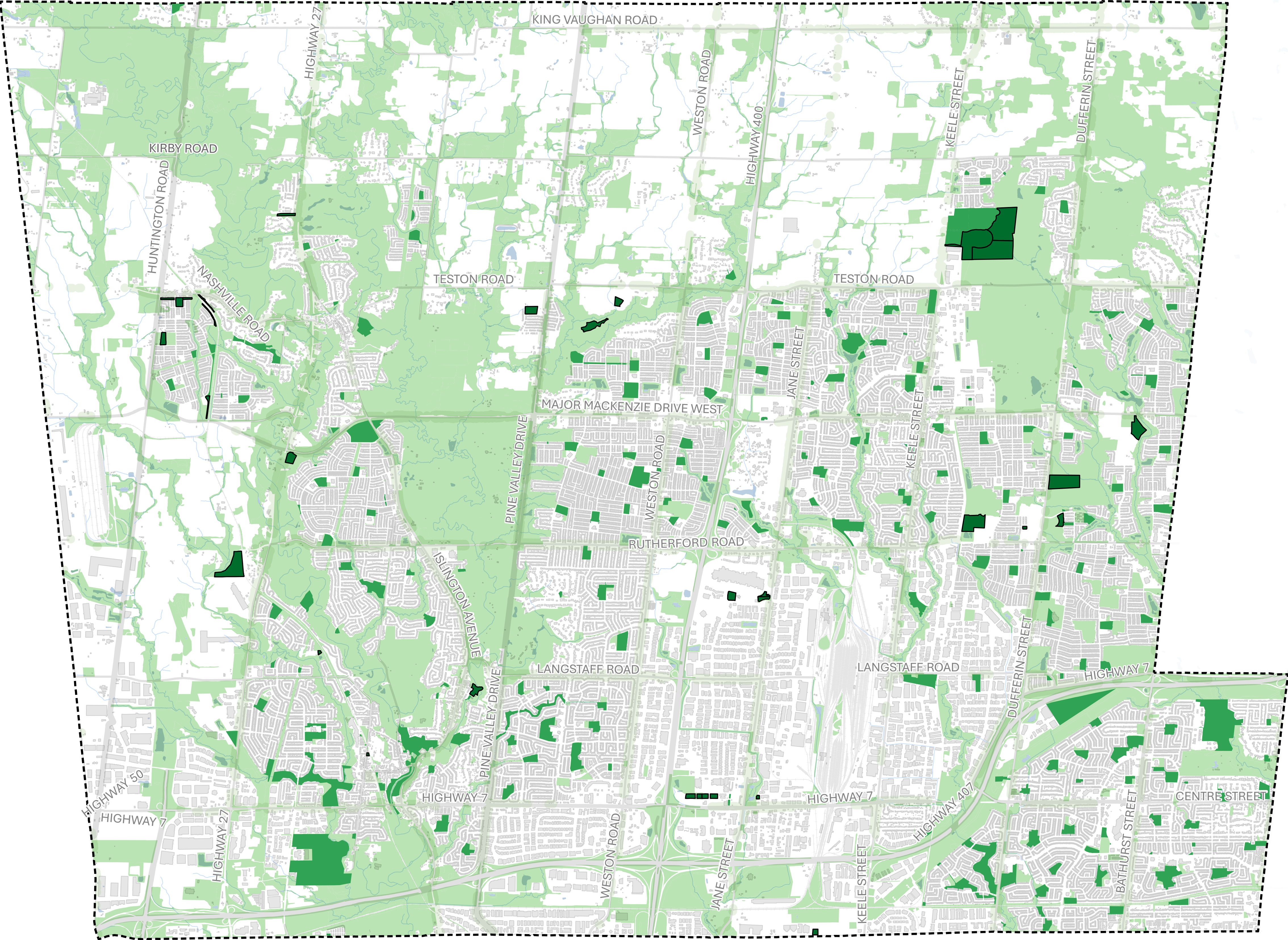


Let’s grow together.

Questions:

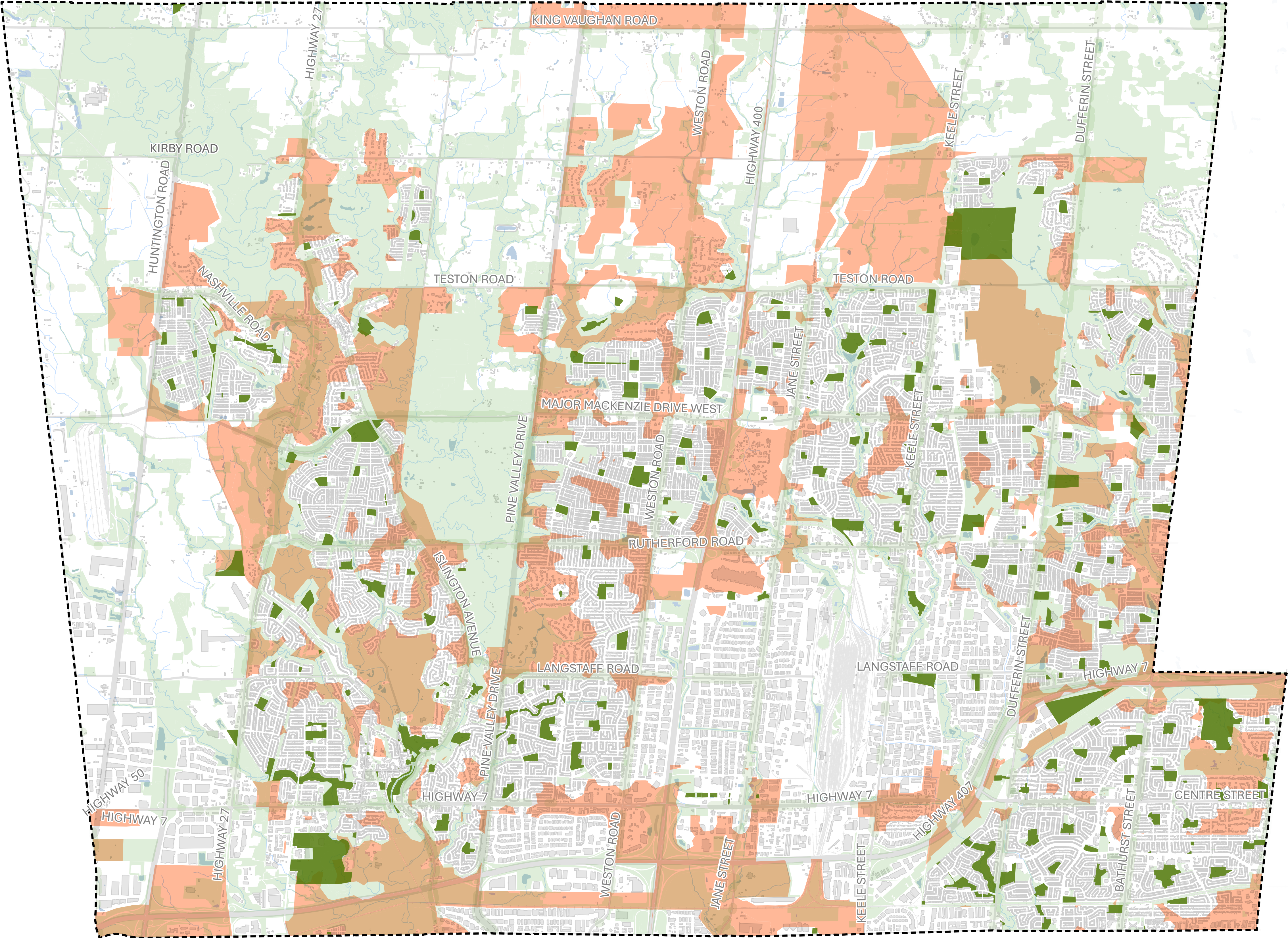
- What changes or trends are you seeing in Vaughan that are influencing how parks are used?
- What greenspace features and amenities are best suited for areas of the city that are growing?
- What types of greenspaces are needed in Vaughan’s more urban and dense neighbourhoods?

Parks and Greenspaces

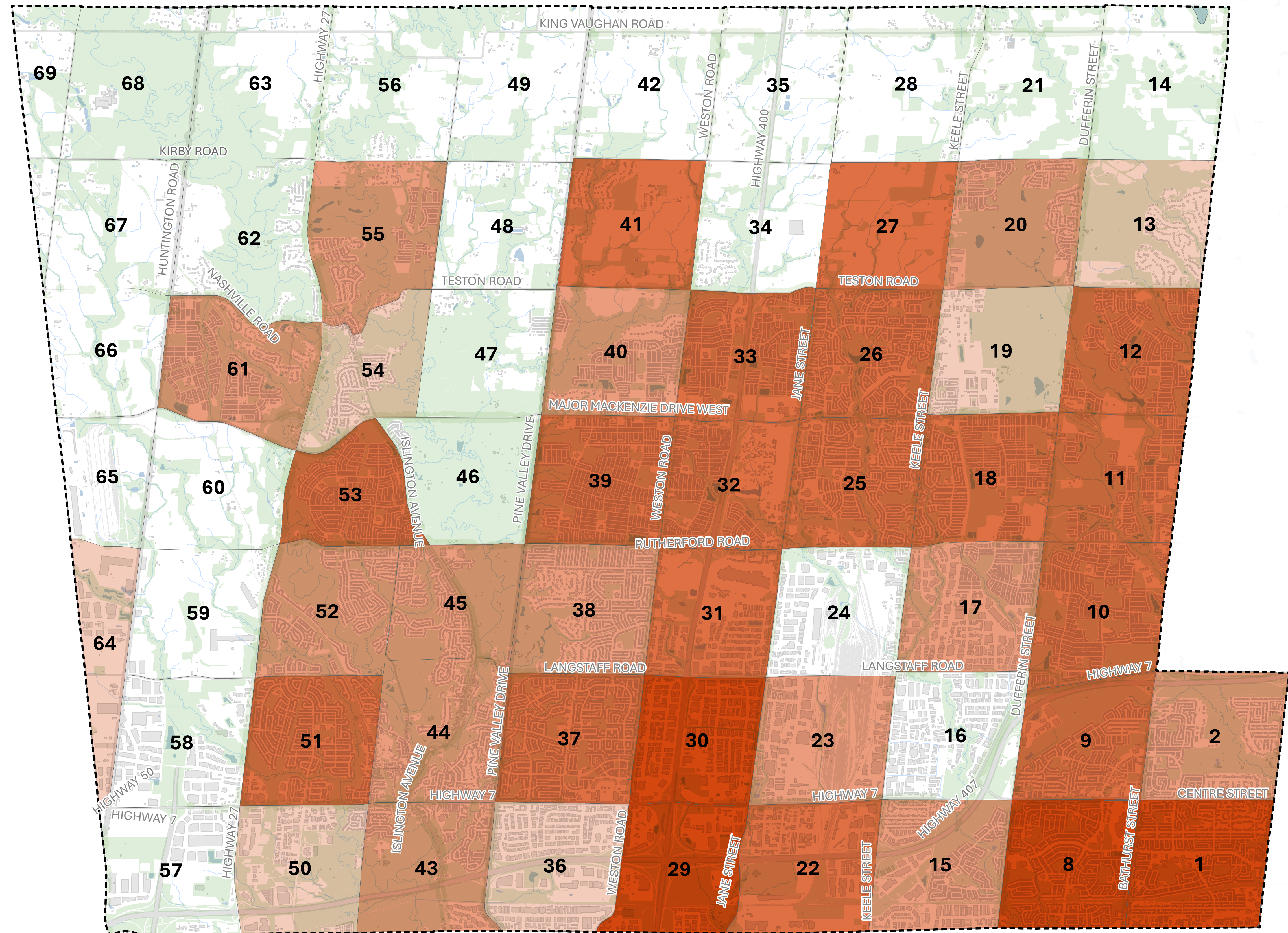


Urban Area outside Park Catchments

- City of Vaughan Parks
- Urban Area outside 500 m park catchments



Vaughan Population Density 2051



Population Density 2051

