

Centre Street

Bathurst Street

# Promenade Centre

## Public Realm Framework and Urban Design Guidelines

June 2024

N



# Table of Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction and Background</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>Parks and Open Space Network</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>Urban Elements</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>Infill Development</b>	<b>185</b>
1.1	Overview	2	6.1	Green Parks	38	10.1	Cultural Placemaking	131	14.1	Future Infill Opportunities	186
1.2	Role of the Guidelines	2	6.2	Streets as Places	57	10.2	Public Art	132			
1.3	How to Use this Document	3	6.3	Topography and Grading Approach	59	10.3	Lighting	134	<b>15.0</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>190</b>
			6.4	Pet-friendly Areas	61	10.4	Signage and Wayfinding	136	15.1	Opportunities and Priorities	191
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Site Context and Conditions</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>Interface with the Public Realm</b>	<b>63</b>	10.5	Street Furniture	138	15.2	Partners and Stakeholders	193
2.1	The History of Promenade Centre	6	7.1	The Promenade Approach	64	10.6	Public Realm Palette	141	15.3	Implementation Strategy	195
2.2	Existing Site Conditions	8	7.2	Streetwalls and Setbacks	64	10.7	Shared Mobility Hubs	144	15.4	Interim Development	198
2.3	Planning Context	14	7.3	Grade-Related Uses	68	10.8	Fencing, Screening, and Enclosure	146	15.5	Temporary Elements	200
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Vision and Guiding Principles</b>	<b>18</b>	7.4	Publicly Accessible Interiors	86	10.9	Play Spaces and Outdoor Fitness Stations	147	15.6	Implementation Tools	204
3.1	Public Realm Vision	19				10.10	Underground Parking Egress Structures and Ventilation Shafts	148			
3.2	Public Realm Principles	20	<b>8.0</b>	<b>Streets and Connections</b>	<b>88</b>						
			8.1	Multi-Modal Transportation Network	89	<b>11.0</b>	<b>Built Form Principles</b>	<b>150</b>			
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Precincts</b>	<b>23</b>	8.2	The Three Promenades	90	<b>12.0</b>	<b>Site Organization</b>	<b>154</b>			
4.1	Transit Hub Precinct	25	8.3	The Sidewalk Zone	91	12.1	Site Access	155			
4.2	Central Square Precinct	26	8.4	Complete Streets	93	12.2	Building Placement	157			
4.3	Centre Street Corridor Precinct	26	8.5	Streetscapes	98	12.3	At-grade Outdoor Space	159			
4.4	Neighbourhood Precinct	27	8.6	Shared Use Paths	110						
4.5	Community Hub Precinct	27	8.7	On-Street Parking	119	<b>13.0</b>	<b>Building Design</b>	<b>160</b>			
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Public Realm Framework</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>Green and Blue Network</b>	<b>121</b>	13.1	Building Base	161			
5.1	Strategic Framework	29	9.1	Integrated Stormwater Management	122	13.2	Scale, Massing and Transitions	167			
5.2	Green and Blue Networks	30	9.2	Biodiversity and Plant Selection	125	13.3	Building Uses	171			
5.3	Parks and Open Space Network	31	9.3	Tree Canopy	128	13.4	Architectural Diversity	178			
5.4	Streets and Connections	32				13.5	Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness	180			
5.5	The Three Promenades	33									
5.6	Building Frontages	34									





An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vaughan, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings, roads, and green spaces. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the upper right, there is a block of white text. In the lower left, there is a large white section header. Below the header, there is a table of contents with three items, each consisting of a sub-number, a title, and a page number.

Promenade Centre represents an opportunity to achieve excellence in city building. This opportunity has emerged by an evolving use of the area, the prospect of redevelopment, and a Secondary Plan which has been recently adopted by the City of Vaughan after extensive consultation with the residents and stakeholders.

# 1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1	Overview	2
1.2	Role of the Guidelines	2
1.3	How to Use this Document	3



### 1.1 Overview

In September 2022, the Vaughan Council adopted the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan (the “Secondary Plan”), supported by background studies and an engagement process. The long term plan guides the transformation of the area, which is identified as “Primary Centre” in the City of Vaughan Official Plan.

The Promenade Centre Public Framework and Urban Design Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) have been prepared to advance the policies contained within the Secondary Plan, and both should be considered together. Along with the Secondary Plan, the Guidelines will ensure the transformation of the area as a welcoming, transit-oriented, sustainable, and complete community. It will serve as a clear guide for developers while establishing a framework for the public realm that will support high quality streets and open spaces for existing and future residents.

Where directions between the Guidelines and other policies conflict, whichever sets the higher minimum requirements and/or standard shall prevail.

### Role of the Guidelines

The role of the Guidelines is to reinforce and augment the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan policies and the City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines. The Guidelines provide directions and guide the City of Vaughan’s review of development applications, as it relates to the Public Realm and Urban Design within the Promenade Centre area.

### 1.2 How to Use this Document

The Guidelines contain three parts and a total of ten sections:

#### Part A: Introduction and Background

##### 1.0 Introduction

Provides an overview of the Guidelines, their role, and how to use the document.

##### 2.0 Site Context and Conditions

Provides an overview of the history of the Promenade Centre as well as the existing conditions of the area.

#### Part B: Public Realm Framework

##### 3.0 Vision and Guiding Principles

Outlines the Vision and Guiding Principles of the Promenade Centre.

##### 4.0 Precincts

Outlines the five Land Use Precincts identified in the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan.

##### 5.0 Public Realm Framework

Describes the organizing design strategies that will ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to design and development within Promenade Centre.

#### Part C: Guidelines

##### 6.0 Parks and Open Spaces

Guidelines for Parks and Open Spaces.

##### 7.0 Interface with the Public Realm

Describes the Green Approach within Promenade Centre, including setbacks, street walls, at-grade uses, at-grade vehicle access and loading, microclimate, and how different spaces should complement each other.

##### 8.0 Streets and Connections

Guidelines outline the approach for streets, paths, and cycling connections that ensure efficient, safe, and comfortable movement throughout Promenade Centre for all transport modes.

##### 9.0 Green and Blue Systems/Site Sustainability

Guidelines describe strategies for increasing biodiversity and tree canopy and integrating stormwater management into new developments.

##### 10.0 Urban Elements

Guidelines on public art, lighting, signage and wayfinding, street furniture, and including cultural and context references within public spaces.

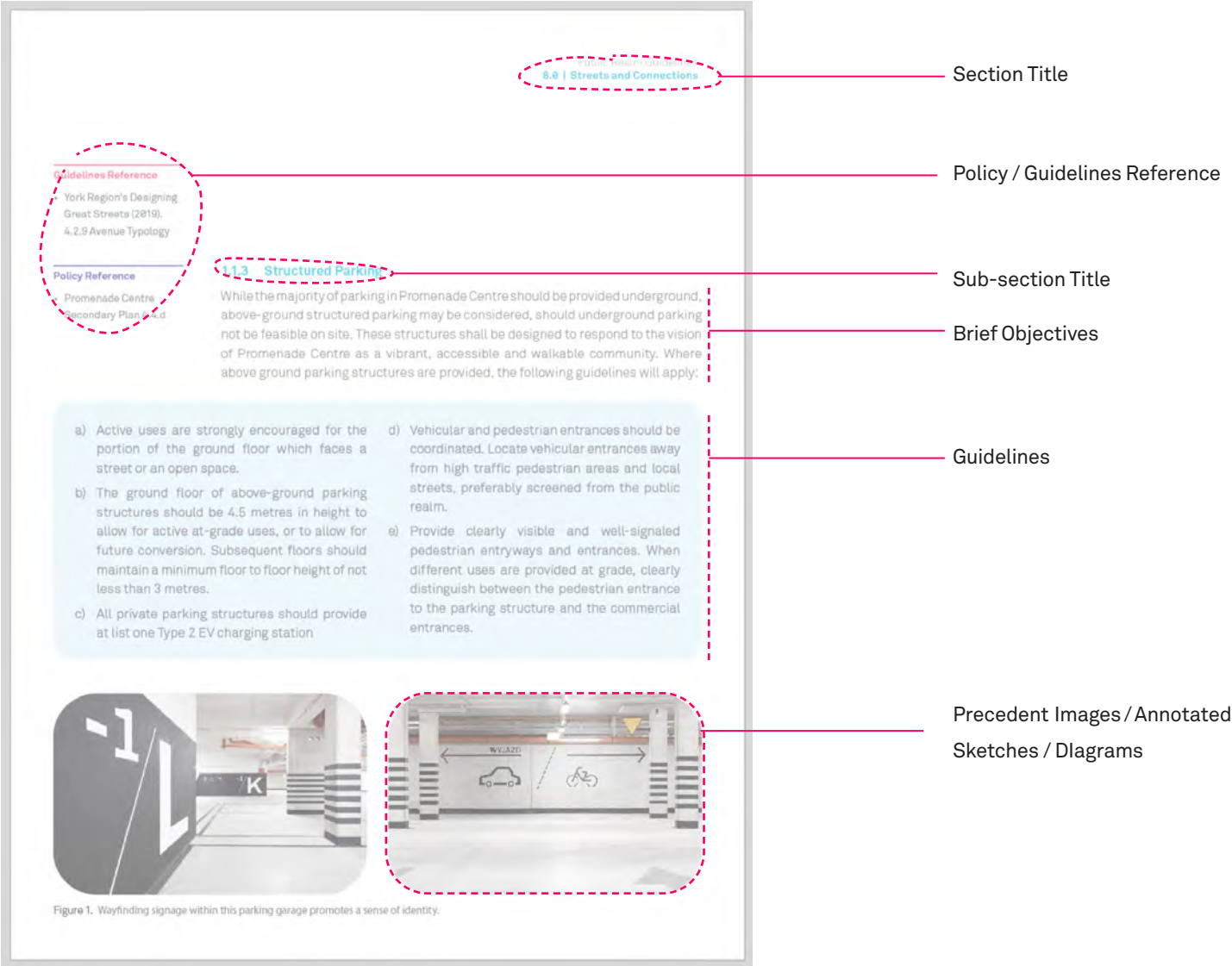



Figure 1. How to use these guidelines





The main feature of Promenade Centre today is Promenade Mall, a 2-storey structure that includes retail and commercial activities and serves as a community hub for nearby residents.

## 2.0 Site Context and Conditions

- |     |                                 |    |
|-----|---------------------------------|----|
| 2.1 | The History of Promenade Centre | 6  |
| 2.2 | Existing Site Conditions        | 8  |
| 2.3 | Planning Context                | 14 |





Figure 2. Historic photograph of interior Promenade Mall

### 2.1 The History of Promenade Centre

The Promenade Centre area is situated within the traditional territories of many Indigenous peoples including the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee, and is under Treaty with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Aerial photographs from the 1970s show the Promenade Centre as agricultural lands with minimal residential and industrial development, primarily concentrated along Centre Street. Residential subdivisions began to permeate the block to the south of the Promenade Mall site in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Further residential subdivisions followed throughout the 1980s, filling in the block surrounding the mall site.

The Promenade Mall opened in 1986, becoming York Region's fourth indoor shopping mall. The mall was developed by the Cadillac Fairview Corporation. The structure was constructed with a reinforced concrete structural frame to reduce the construction period. It is the only major shopping mall built entirely of reinforced concrete in Canada.

Upon opening, the Mall was touted as York Region's premier mall which drew many local retailers to lease space. It remains an important retail and social space for the surrounding community and functions as a year-round space of recreation for walkers.



Figure 3. Aerial photograph of Promenade Centre in 1987



Figure 4. Historic photograph of the Promenade clock tower



Figure 5. Historic photograph of the exterior of Promenade Mall





Figure 6. Axonometric view of Promenade Centre with annotated existing key areas

2.2 Existing Site Conditions

The main feature of Promenade Centre today is Promenade Mall, a 2-storey structure that includes retail and commercial activities and serves as a community hub for nearby residents. Much of the area is taken up by surface parking lots, surrounding the mall and other commercial buildings. Near the corner of Centre Street and Bathurst Street, single-storey commercial buildings provide shops and food services, and are typically oriented inward, toward the parking area, rather than toward the streets. To the southeast, along Bathurst Street and Clark Avenue West, is an existing residential development comprising of three towers that are 16-storeys in height, surrounded by private surface parking, amenity areas, and large mature trees. To the northwest there is another existing residential development, comprised of three towers of 16 to 19 storeys in height, surrounded by private garden areas, amenity spaces, and surface parking. Other residential developments, including mid-rise towers and 3-storey townhouses, are located at the northwest corner of the site, oriented toward Centre Street and New Westminster Drive.

The southwest quadrant of the area, northeast of the intersection of New Westminster Drive and Clark Avenue, contains public facilities such as St. Elizabeth Catholic High School and fields, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and Woodlot and the Bathurst Clark Resource Library at the intersection between Clark Avenue and South Promenade.

2.2.1 Surrounding Context and Opportunities

The Promenade Centre is surrounded by a range of uses, including single detached dwellings, retail and commercial stores and community services and amenities, such as parks and schools.

The Promenade Centre Area is bounded by Centre Street to the north, Bathurst Street to the east, Clark Avenue to the South and New Westminster Drive to the west.

Centre Street is an intensification corridor that runs east-west and contains a range of uses, including commercial plazas, residential properties often back lotted towards the street, and some office and institutional buildings. North of Centre Street, Disera drive has a main street character with commercial properties fronting both of the street sides.

Bathurst Street is a major arterial road that connects north-south through the city and contains a mix of uses, including residential and commercial properties.

The areas east, south and west of Promenade Centre have a predominantly residential character with detached houses on crescents and cul-de-sacs.

Promenade Centre is in close proximity to a well-established active transportation network and benefits from access to local and regional public transit and a robust road network.

There is an opportunity to leverage the existing transportation infrastructure including the Transit Terminal served by York Region Transit (YRT) and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) in the northwest quadrant of the area. The site area is also in proximity

to a Viva bus rapid transit corridor on Bathurst Street and Centre Street which includes two Viva stations, one located on Centre Street and one on Bathurst Street. In addition, there are separated pedestrian and cycling facilities along Centre Street, Bathurst Street and Clark Avenue, and planned facilities on the remainder of Bathurst Street and New Westminster Drive, connecting residents and visitors to and from the site.

Promenade Centre is well connected to parks and public amenities, with public parks located 500 meters or less from its boundaries in all directions.

Just north of Promenade Centre, on the opposite side of Centre Street, is a low-rise commercial area and an emerging development area containing mid- and high-rise mixed use buildings, ranging in height from approximately 15 to 28 storeys. This area continues to evolve with more high-density development planned in the future.

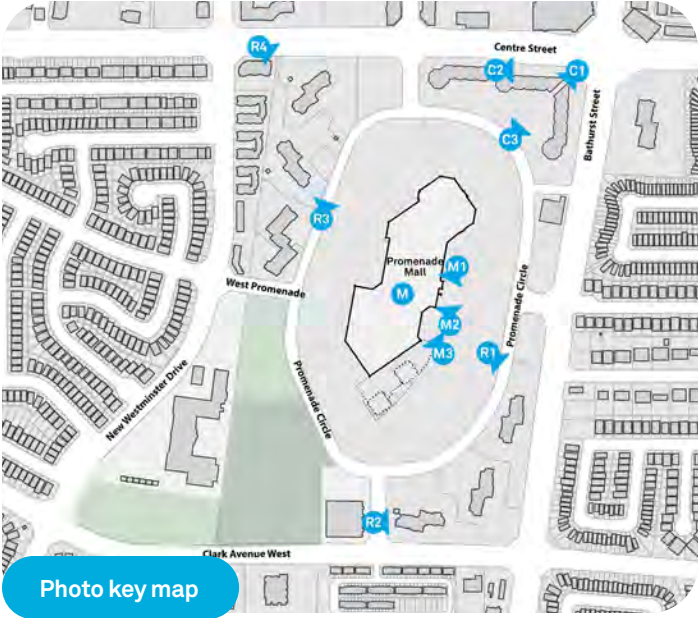
Promenade Centre is identified as a place for growth and will evolve over time as a distinct urban centre, while maintaining and enhancing its role as a place for people to gather, socialize, shop, work, learn and live.

The existing and planned context around the centre provides a strong basis for the creation of an expanded open space network and to build upon a “High Street” concept, which will be a retail focused main street that features high quality streetscaping components, and active uses at the ground floors.

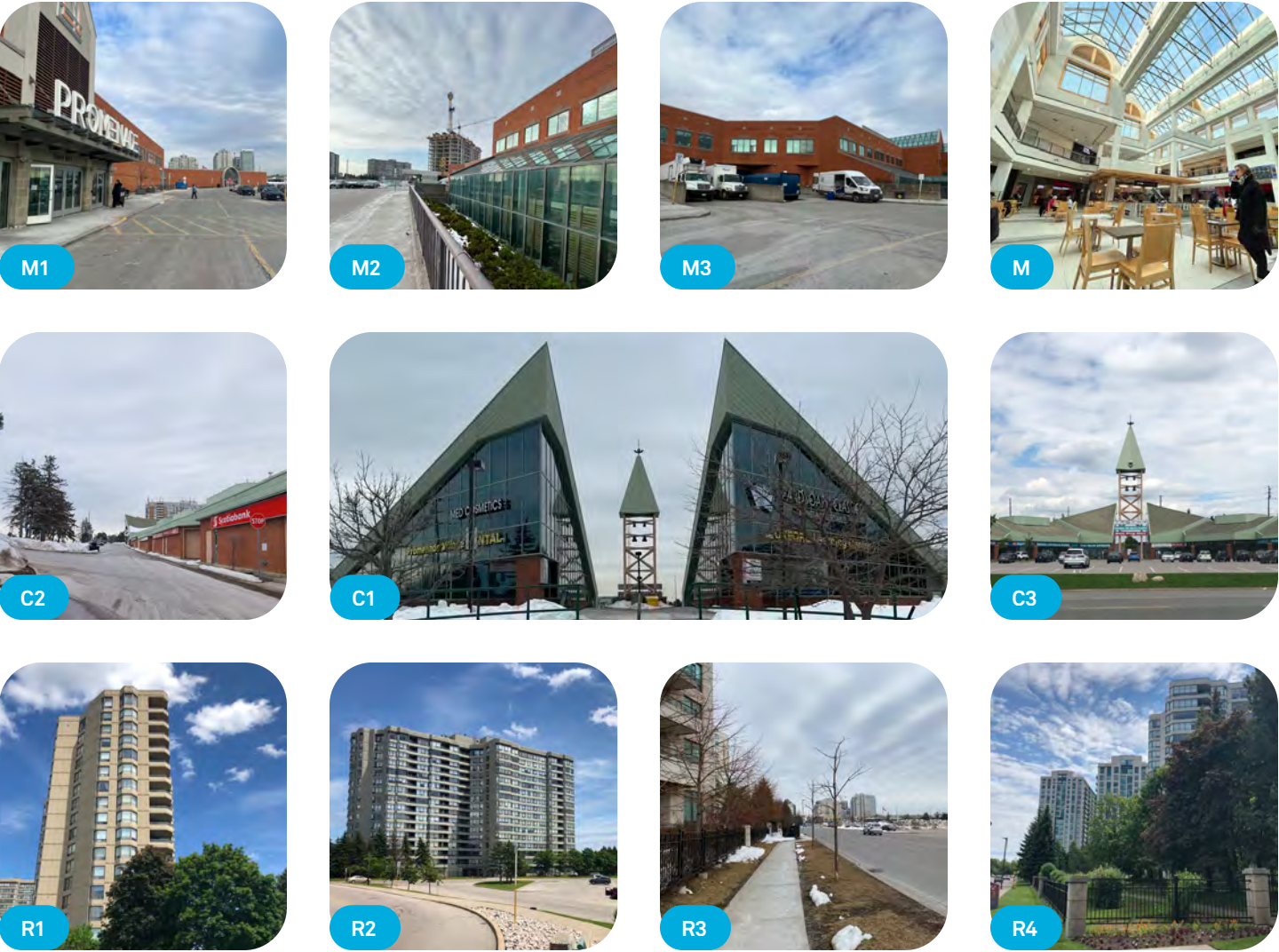




Figure 7. The Promenade Centre Site with annotated existing key areas

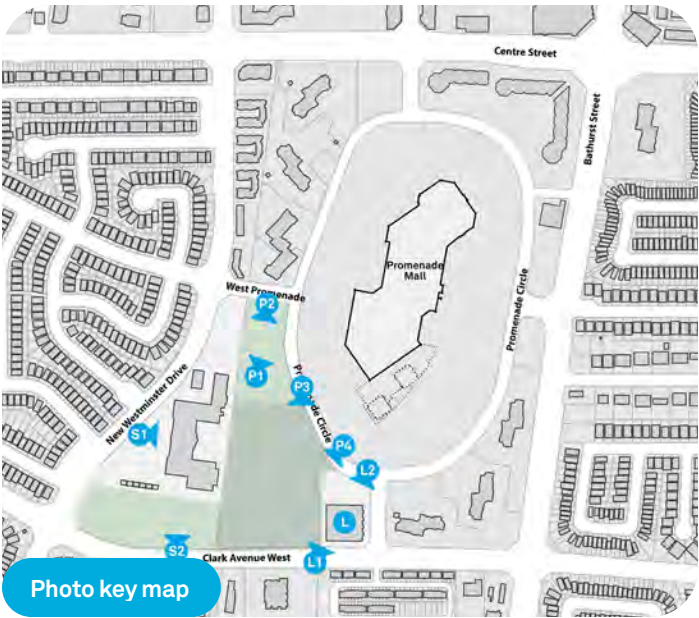


Existing Commercial and Residential Buildings

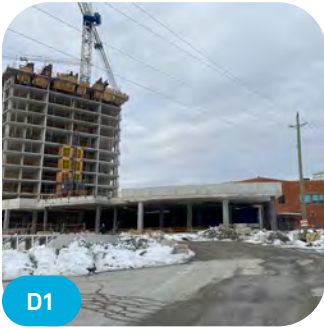
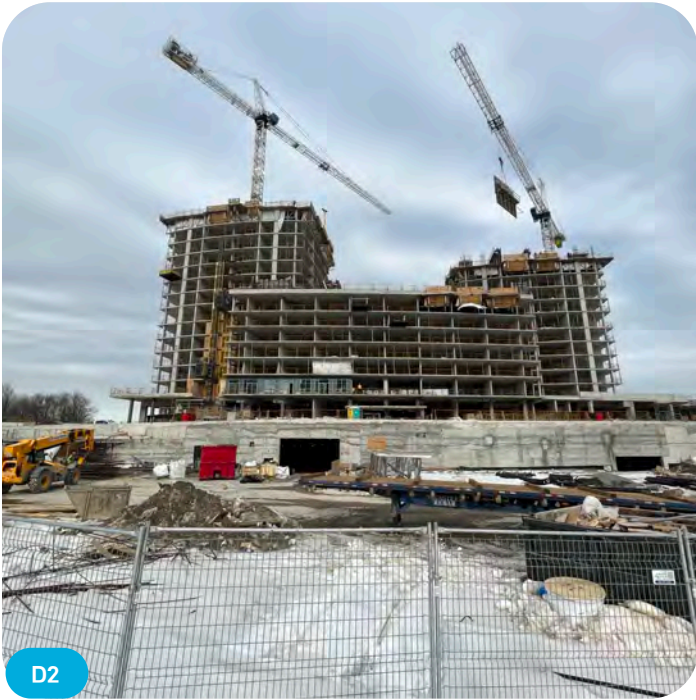
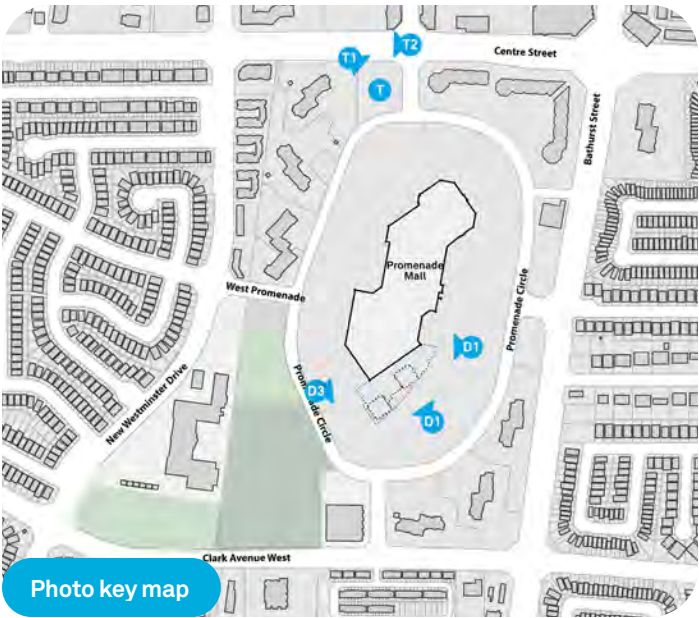




Existing Community Buildings and Parks



Existing Transit Terminal and Development Activity





2.3 Planning Context

The Promenade Centre Secondary Plan is a long-term plan that will facilitate the transformation of the Promenade Mall area into a truly mixed-use and complete community. The redevelopment will maintain the Promenade Mall’s role as an important place for people to gather, socialize, shop, work, learn and live, while also advancing the investments in rapid transit infrastructure along Centre Street. The Centre will be planned for pedestrians, cyclists, micro users, transit users and motorists, providing a network of complete streets and ease of access to high quality local and rapid transit services. Along with the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan (2022), the Promenade Centre Public Realm Framework and Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) will guide the transformation of the area to ensure that it develops as a welcoming, transit-oriented, sustainable, and complete community.

The Guidelines apply to the same area as the Secondary Plan, which includes the area bound by Centre Street to the north, Bathurst Street to the east, Clark Avenue West to the south, and New Westminster Drive to the west.

In addition to the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan (2022), the Guidelines build upon other City policy and directions, including the City of Vaughan Official Plan (2010), the City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines (2018), and City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual and Financial Strategy (2014). The Guidelines have also drawn from York Region’s Designing Great Streets Guidelines (2019).

A high level summary of the identified plans and guidelines follows.

Schedule D  
HEIGHT, DENSITY, & USE  
PARAMETERS

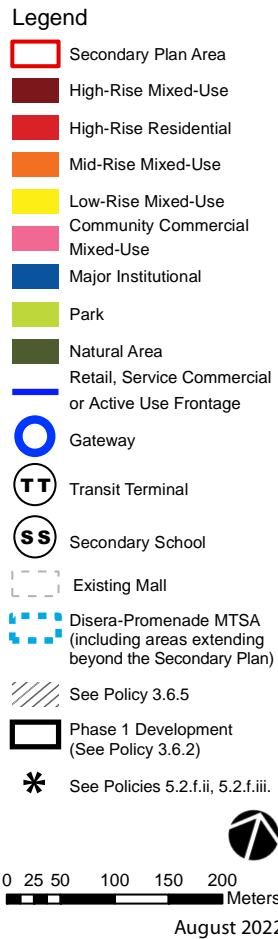


Figure 8. Promenade Centre SP\_Schedule D

Promenade Centre Secondary Plan (2022)

The Promenade Centre Secondary Plan (PCSP) provides a framework and policy direction for the future intensification and build-out of the area with a focus on mixed-use development, based on its status as a Primary Centre within the City’s Urban Structure and location within PMTSA 57 Disera-Promenade BRT Station. The Plan supports the continued evolution of the area as a Primary Centre and complete community, which is transit-supportive, vibrant, inclusive, healthy, sustainable and diverse. This includes the retention of the existing Promenade

Mall, while enhancing its role as a regional shopping destination. Policies outlined in the plan are designed to ensure this area evolves as a complete community, characterized by high quality development that is compatible with surrounding land uses and is transit supportive.

The Secondary Plan establishes the Vision and Guiding Principles and the related policy framework. Policies within the Plan are provided with respect to community structure and design, transportation



and mobility, parks and open spaces, natural areas, community facilities, services and sustainable design, and implementation and interpretation including the phasing of development.

**City of Vaughan Official Plan (2010; Office Consolidation 2020)**

The Official Plan is part of an overall Growth Management Strategy, initiated by Council, that will shape the future of the City and guide its continued transformation into a vibrant, beautiful and sustainable place. The Official Plan establishes the direction for the City’s growth and planning through policies focusing on land use, the environment, transportation, and urban design.

**Vaughan City Wide Urban Design Guidelines (2018)**

The Vaughan City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines provide comprehensive and contemporary design guidance that represents the City’s current approach to urban design. The City-Wide Vaughan Urban Design Guidelines contain design objectives and performance standards for buildings, landscapes, and site design.

The Guidelines focus on site and building design to support a more sustainable, human scaled, and integrated city. The City-Wide Guidelines were developed to be consistent with the City of Vaughan Official Plan (2010) and to be used as a tool for

evaluating development. The City-Wide Guidelines contain key principles intended to guide development in the city and contain design priorities that provide direction to performance standards.

**Centre Street Urban Design Guidelines (2013)**

The Centre Street Urban Design Guidelines provide guidance on the design of public realm elements and new development on Centre Street, from Bathurst Street in the east to Highway 407 and Highway 7 in the west. The Guidelines envision Centre Street as a “main street” with high quality streetscape, improved connectivity, transit-supportive built form, and sensitive transitions to surrounding low-rise residential neighbourhoods. In addition, the Guidelines provide an urban design framework that identifies existing elements including streets, parks and open spaces, public transit and major buildings, civic elements, urban character areas, open spaces and connections.

**York Region Official Plan (2022)**

The 2022 York Region Official Plan provides policies for economic, environmental and community planning decisions that will be integrated into Local Municipal Official Plans. The Plan focuses on sustainability, protection of the natural environment, economic growth, and success, while working to meet the needs of and deliver important human services to residents.

**The City of Vaughan Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (2020)**

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) provides policy direction pertaining to the pedestrian and cycling networks in the City of Vaughan. It is intended to assist the City in becoming a more walkable and bikeable community.

**Vaughan City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual and Financial Strategy (2014)**

The Vaughan City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual and Financial Strategy (VCSM) is an integrated design and financial framework to manage the design, construction, maintenance, costing, and funding for new streetscapes within emerging Intensification Areas and Established Heritage Conservation Districts in the City of Vaughan.

The VCSM provides a design framework and guidelines for streetscapes, including a classification of street types, zones, their components, and how these may relate to one another. The framework ensures basic compatibility and functionality of the streetscape but is also flexible enough to allow for creativity, unique approaches, and incremental construction.

**Other Policies, Plans, and Guidelines**

- Integrated Urban Water Master Plan (Ongoing),
- Vaughan Complete Street Guidelines (Ongoing),
- Vaughan Inclusive Design Standard (2020),
- Green Directions Vaughan (2019),
- Active Together Master Plan (2018),
- Vaughan City Wide Public Art Program (2016),
- Municipal Energy Plan (2016),
- Vaughan Transportation Plan (2023),
- York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Planning and Design Guidelines (2018), and
- York Region Designing Great Street (2019).



“Promenade Centre is identified as a place for growth and will evolve over time as a distinct urban centre. Promenade Centre will maintain and enhance its role as an important place for people to gather, socialize, shop, work, learn and live”

# 3.0 Vision and Guiding Principles

3.1	Public Realm Vision	19
3.2	Public Realm Principles	20

## 3.1 Public Realm Vision

“Promenade Centre is identified as a place for growth and will evolve over time as a distinct urban centre. Promenade Centre will maintain and enhance its role as an important place for people to gather, socialize, shop, work, learn and live. The Centre will be planned for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and motorists, providing a network of complete streets and ease of access to high quality local and rapid transit services. These streets, in concert with a network of parks, indoor and outdoor open spaces and gathering places, will be vibrant, safe and accessible for the needs of a multi-generational community. New development within Promenade Centre will be sustainable and provide for a mix of retail, entertainment, community and office uses, as well as a variety of housing types. The evolution of Promenade Centre will respect the surrounding neighbourhoods.”

- Vision Statement, Promenade Centre Secondary Plan

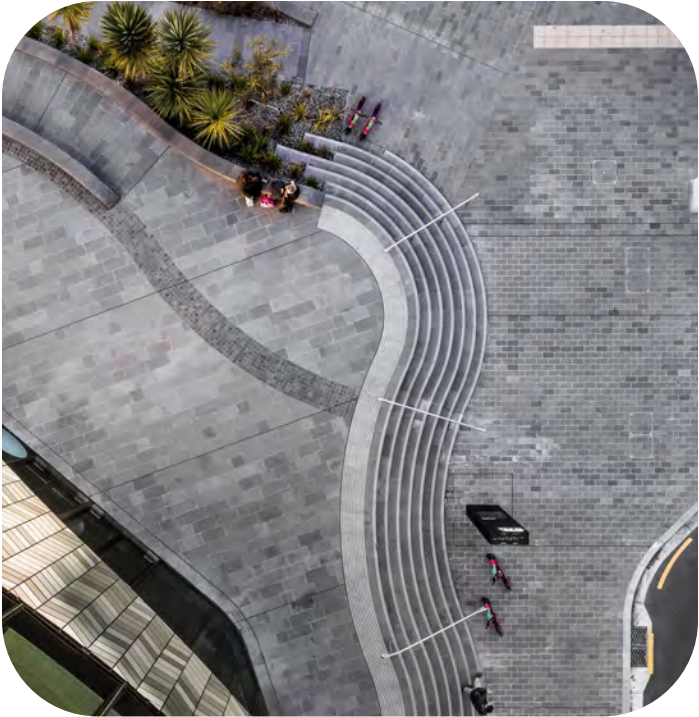


Figure 9. Artist rendering depicting Oakridge Mall redevelopment in Vancouver.



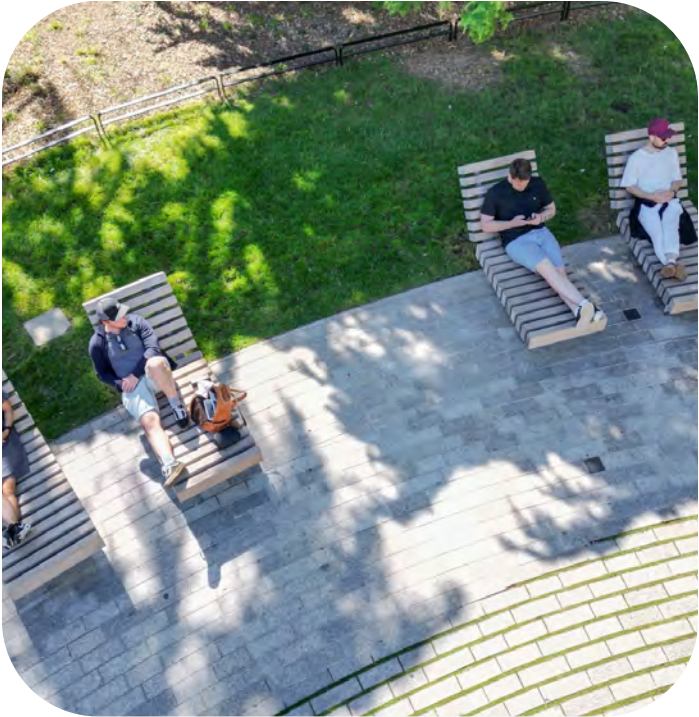
### 3.2 Public Realm Principles

The Public Realm Principles build upon the Guiding Principles in the Secondary Plan—Complete Community, Multi-Modal, Places to Gather, Multi-Generational Housing, Context Sensitive, and Sustainable and Healthy—to guide the development of public spaces in a way that is people-first, focusing on safety, comfort, liveability, and sustainability for all residents, employees, and visitors to Promenade Centre.



#### 1 High Quality Open Spaces and Connections

Promenade Centre will have a distinct look and feel from its surroundings that promotes the new neighbourhood as a walkable, bikeable, sustainable, and complete community. Mature trees and high-quality, varied landscaping will be located throughout, giving Promenade Centre a green and lush urban character that highlights sustainable initiatives. Materials, furnishings, and other public realm elements will be high-quality and durable, and plantings and landscape features will be designed to ensure they grow to maturity and thrive into the long term. The area will uphold the highest standards of universal design and establish a public realm language to create seamless transitions between public and private spaces.



#### 2 A Safe and Comfortable Public Realm

Pedestrian comfort and safety will be a priority in Promenade Centre. Safe and legible streets, weather protection, rest areas, personal safety, aesthetic quality, and universal design are all elements that contribute to an individual's comfort and positive perception of public spaces. Promenade Centre will have a clear street hierarchy with the right streetscape conditions to reinforce pedestrian-first spaces. Ample greenery and good microclimate conditions built into the design of streets and buildings will provide calm and comfortable places to gather and rest at all times of day and during all seasons of the year.



#### 3 A Complementary Indoor-Outdoor Interface

The indoor and outdoor ground floor of all of Promenade Centre should create a gradient of public realm spaces. Allowing private uses to spill out and occupy the public realm and creating transparency of the built form at grade will create active and lively public spaces, whereas vegetation and screening can create quiet and private spaces. Moving through the area on foot or bike will be quick and enjoyable, with separated paths that pass through parks, plazas, publicly-accessible interiors, and pedestrianized streets.





#### **4 Diverse Places, Big and Small**

Promenade Centre will include a variety of open space types, from forested parks and green community spaces to civic plazas and active streets. Public spaces will welcome people regardless of age, ability, or their social or economic background, incorporating playful elements, public art, and opportunities for fitness, social gatherings, or quiet reflection. Promenade Centre will be a place for all residents, workers, shoppers, schoolchildren, commuters, and everyone who visits from the surrounding neighbourhoods and beyond.

#### **5 Healthy People, Healthy Land**

Sustainability and climate change adaptation will not just be a requirement for development in Promenade Centre, but a characterizing feature that will encourage education, stewardship, and connection with the land and its flora and fauna. Pedestrian and bicycle amenities will support healthy lifestyles and encourage sustainable transportation. Streetscapes and open spaces will incorporate biodiverse plantings and stormwater management features, and allow for flexibility as the needs of the area and its residents change over time. Promenade Centre strives to be a socially sustainable neighbourhood where people can meet and gather, where residents can age in place, where neighbours can meet, and where families can grow.



The Secondary Plan sets out five Land Use Precincts which form a structure for land use, density, heights, and other directions and policies within the area. While each Precinct allows for a mix of uses and forms, they each have a distinct character that together contribute to the Vision and Guiding Principles as set out in the Secondary Plan.

## 4.0 Precincts

4.1	Transit Hub Precinct	25
4.2	Central Square Precinct	26
4.3	Centre Street Corridor Precinct	26
4.4	Neighbourhood Precinct	27
4.5	Community Hub Precinct	27



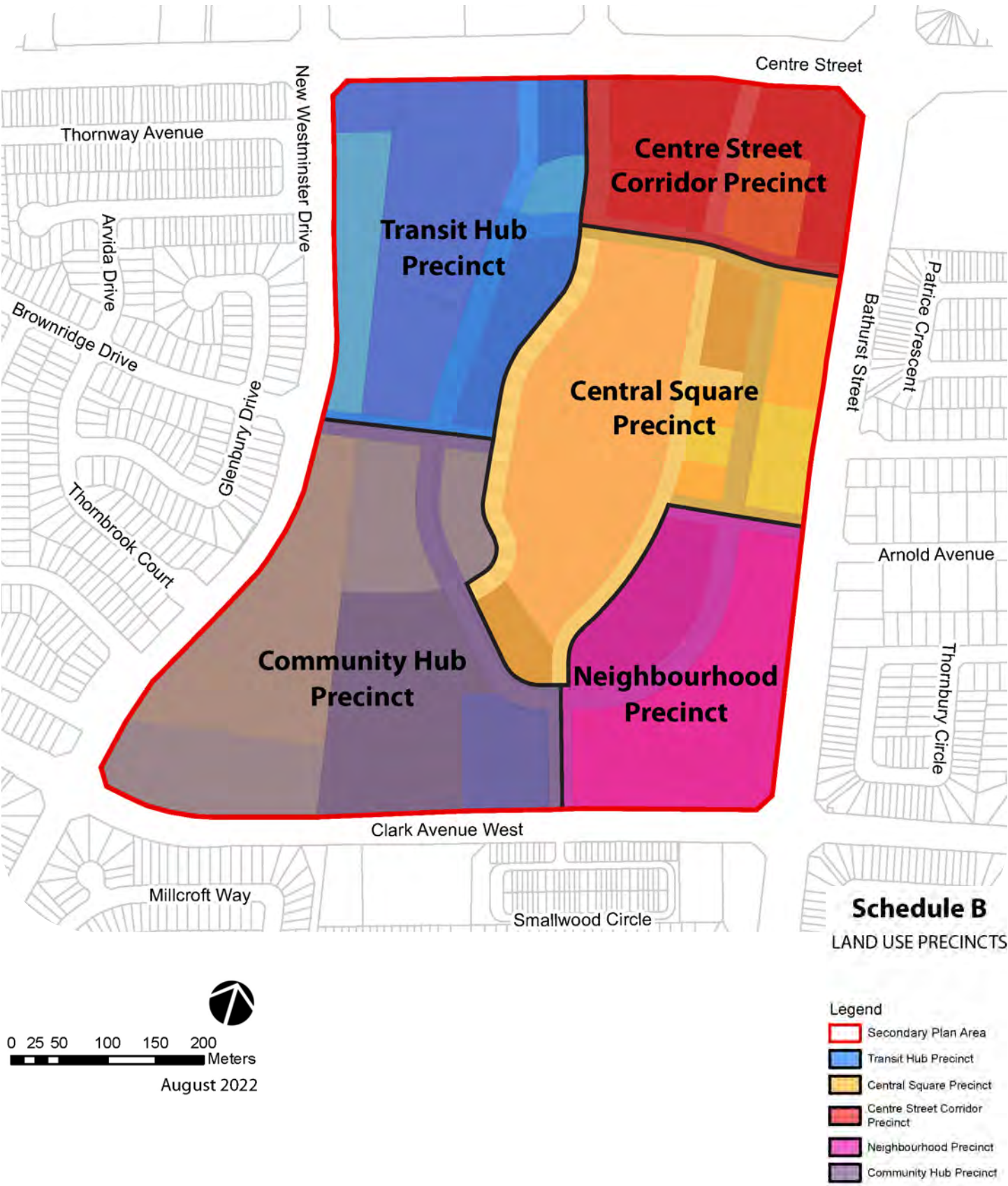


Figure 10. Five Land Use Precincts as defined by the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan



#### 4.1 Transit Hub Precinct

The Transit Hub Precinct is anchored by a new Transit Terminal that will replace the existing street-level terminal. New development will acknowledge the established Major Station Transit Area (MTSA), and while all of Promenade Centre will be developed with Transit-Oriented Development principles, The Transit Hub Precinct will have some of the highest heights and densities within the area, containing uses that are appropriate to their proximity to transit, and that are accessible and functional for all residents and visitors. The northern portion of Promenade Circle will be rectified to an east-west connection between Bathurst Street and the Transit Terminal. This will unlock lands for a new Transit Plaza south of the existing Terminal, that will act as a gateway to the area.

The existing residential buildings to the northwest will remain, contributing to a varied public realm and built form for the precinct. Providing good connections, through active transportation and shared use pathways, new neighbourhood amenities, and a friendly public realm interface will improve walkability for these existing community stewards, critical to the sustainability and success of Promenade Centre into the future. To realize the housing potential of the MTSA while preserving the existing housing, infill opportunities may be explored within the tower sites.





#### 4.2 Central Square Precinct

The Central Square Precinct will be the heart of Promenade Centre, with indoor and outdoor gathering spaces and pedestrian-oriented streets to support a vibrant public life. The existing Promenade Mall will be the anchor for the Central Square Precinct, and the surrounding public realm and streets will be designed to support this important social community amenity. The precinct extends to Bathurst Street including park and plaza spaces that can accommodate larger special events or ceremonies, and which signify a major gateway to Promenade Centre.

High Street (Upper Mall Way), located immediately east of the existing mall, will be the central active destination street for both the Central Square Precinct and Promenade Centre as a whole. The street will be designed and detailed to a human scale, with wide sidewalks, high quality landscaping, and architectural variety. Low Street, located immediately west of the existing mall, will encourage more neighbourhood uses, allowing a safe balance of pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle movements.



#### 4.3 Centre Street Corridor Precinct

The Centre Street Corridor Precinct will provide a dense mixed-use community along the north edge of the Subject Site, responding to the Regional Rapid Transit Corridor that runs along Centre Street. Centre Street is the point of highest elevation in the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, and therefore access along this edge will form prominent gateways that allow for views through and toward the heart of the area. The public realm will feature elements such as public art that draw people inward, utilizing the grade change to create unique moments. A large green park will form a green space and community area for residents, visitors, and workers, allowing for sweeping views throughout the site.



#### 4.4 Neighbourhood Precinct

The Neighbourhood Precinct includes an established residential high-rise community that interfaces with existing townhouse and single-detached neighbourhoods to the east and south. The residential-primary function of this precinct is to be maintained, but strengthened with good walking and cycling connections and enhanced greening.

Similarly to the established neighbourhoods in the Transit Hub Precinct, the residents here are existing stewards and users of the mall, and providing locally-serving neighbourhood amenities especially for older adults in the short term will strengthen Promenade Centre in the long-term. Infill opportunities may also be contemplated for this precinct, and public realm enhancements and street crossings will integrate the existing community with the future developments.



#### 4.5 Community Hub Precinct

The Community Hub Precinct is an established place for the surrounding neighbourhood, with a library, a school, and large green spaces. This precinct will continue to evolve to respond to a growing population, with additional amenities in Pierre Elliot Trudeau Park. A conceptual extension of Pierre Elliot Trudeau Park will be located across Promenade Circle with unique streetscape paving to unite the two spaces. New pedestrian and cycling connections will create access through and beyond the site, and ensure safe enjoyment of the wooded area.



# 5.0 Public Realm Framework

5.1	Strategic Framework	29
5.2	Green and Blue Networks	30
5.3	Parks and Open Space Network	31
5.4	Streets and Connections	32
5.5	The Three Promenades	33
5.6	Building Frontages	34

## 5.1 Strategic Framework

The Public Realm Framework sets out high-level design directions and strategic priorities for all of Promenade Centre to ensure a holistic, site-wide approach that implements the Promenade Centre Vision and Guiding Principles. Any new improvements to the public realm or new development should align with the overall strategies in the Framework. Considering these directions for all future improvements to the site will ensure a strong and cohesive identity for Promenade Centre, and contribute to a complete community in which all residents, employees, and visitors will feel accommodated and welcomed.



Figure 11. Promenade Centre Strategic Framework



5.2 Green and Blue Networks

The site features a significant grade change, generally from the northeast corner to the southwest. This provides an opportunity to identify the natural drainage systems and processes, and can be taken advantage of with LID features in the streetscape and within parks throughout Promenade Centre. All streets will feature street trees and landscaping, and an enhanced green street with wider green setbacks will form a Green Promenade loop through the site. The existing Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park (PET) and woodlot are a unique natural amenity in Vaughan and will be preserved and enhanced.

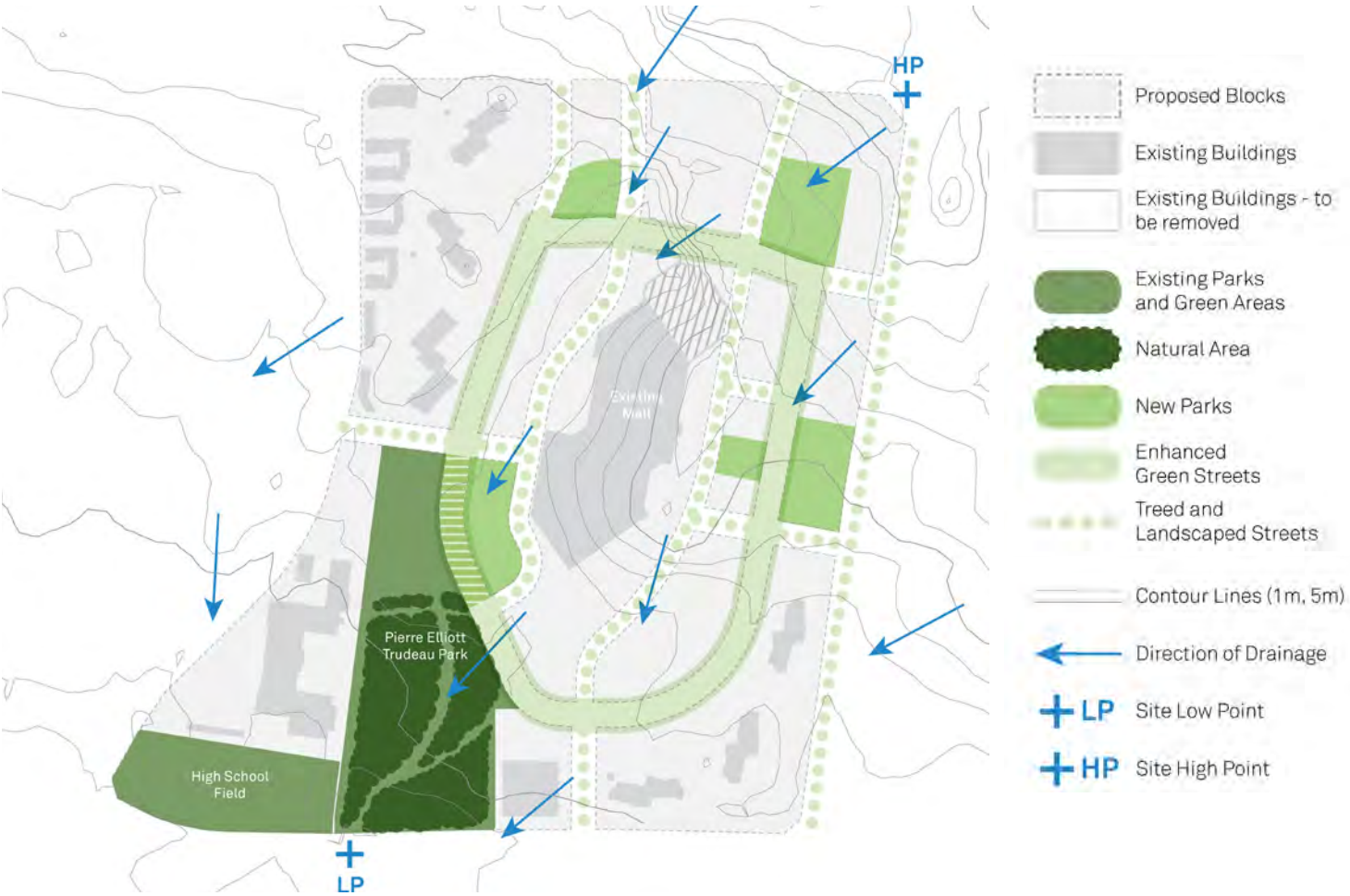


Figure 12. Green and Blue Networks

5.3 Parks and Open Space Network

The network of Parks and Open Spaces within Promenade Centre will offer different experiences for all types of users. New green neighbourhood parks, civic plazas, and the naturalized woodlot area will offer many different recreational and social opportunities. Additional publicly-accessible spaces will be woven throughout the area, on streets, at gateways, and along Shared Use Paths. Mid-block connections through new development will include new publicly-accessible spaces with a quieter and more private feel. Each space will be unique, responding to the conditions of its immediate context.



Figure 13. Parks and Open Spaces



### 5.4 Streets and Connections

Promenade Centre will be divided into a number of smaller blocks to improve permeability for those walking or biking within and across the site. Streets will be safe and comfortable places for people of all ages and abilities walking, biking, using micromobility or taking transit while ensuring those that must drive can get to where they need to go. Shared Mobility Hubs (including bike parking and car share facilities) will be located throughout the site to encourage non-vehicular transport options. An equally important element of the multi-modal network, Shared Use Paths will create an off-street pedestrian and cycling network for a greater level of permeability.

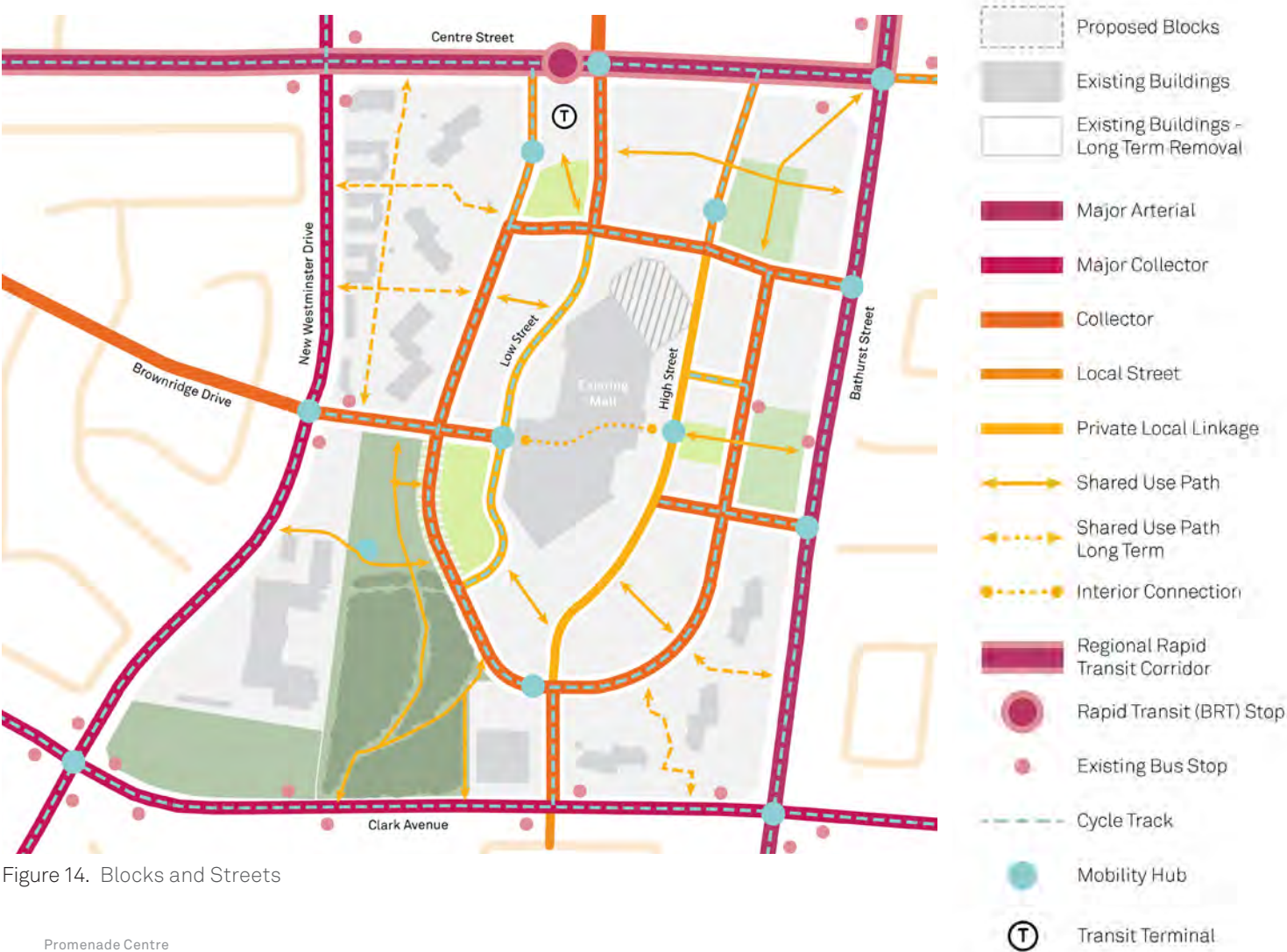


Figure 14. Blocks and Streets

### 5.5 The Three Promenades

The Three Promenades create different ways to experience Promenade Centre. The Central Promenade creates a continuous route along the area's most active and vibrant streets, including High Street. The Green Street Promenade follows quieter, green streets with enhanced landscaping. Lastly, the Outer Promenade forms a 2-kilometre recreational trail, linking neighbourhoods and parks.



Figure 15. The Three Promenades



## 5.6 Building Frontages


Building frontages define the physical edges of the public realm, and have a key role in determining the feel of outdoor spaces. Frontages should feature a varying degree of transparency and permeability to create a seamless transition from public to private.

Primary Frontages will be active, pedestrian-focused places with a high degree of animation and transparency. Secondary Frontages will be more neighbourhood-oriented, while containing some active at-grade uses. Tertiary Frontages will support the main residential- and service-oriented functions within Promenade Centre.



Figure 16. Building Frontages





Located throughout the public realm, plazas and parks are the anchors of the community, connecting homes, businesses, and schools through a series of green streets and shared-use pathways.

## 6.0 Parks and Open Space Network

6.1	Green Parks	38
6.2	Streets as Places	57
6.3	Topography and Grading Approach	59
6.4	Pet-friendly Areas	61



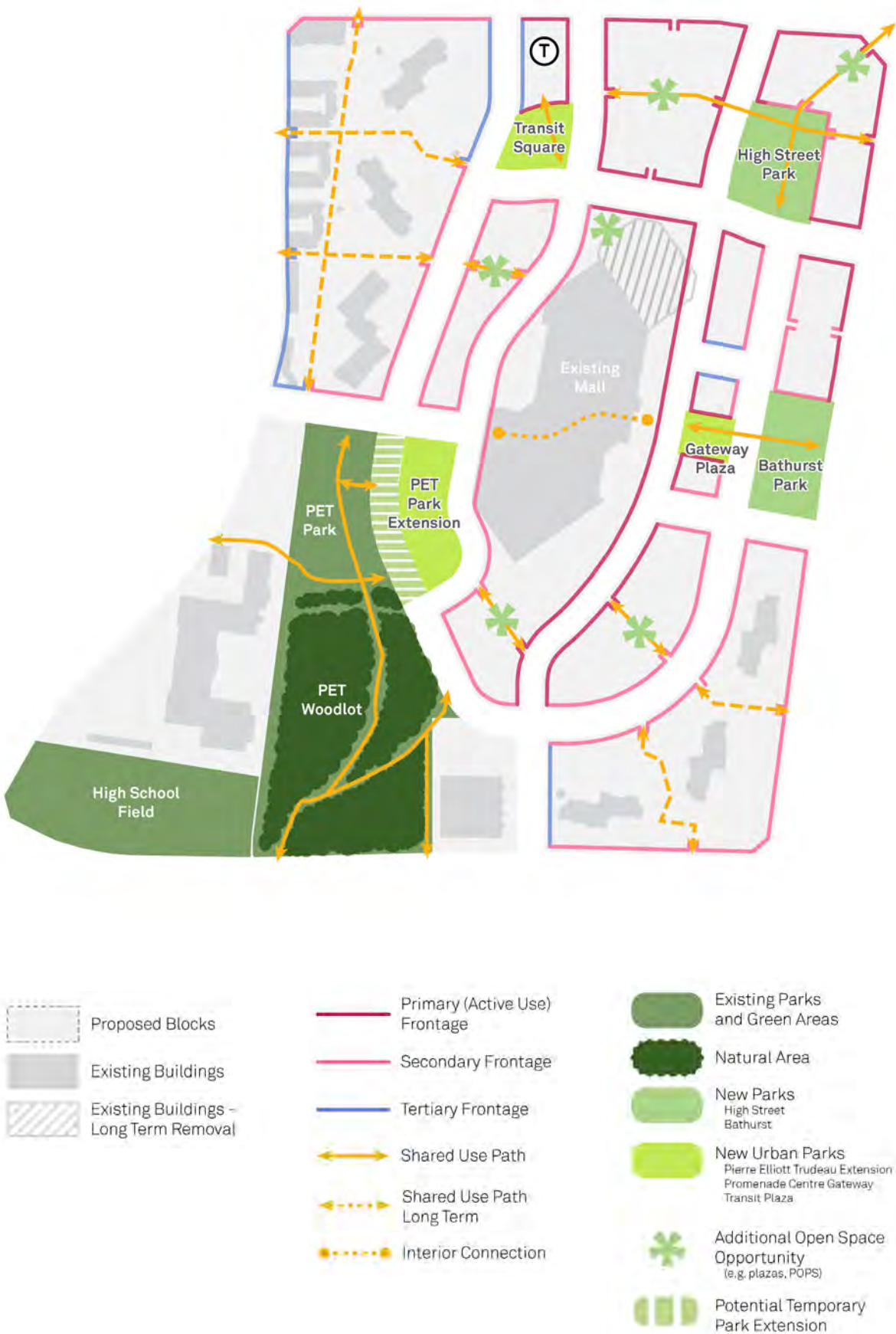


Figure 17. Parks and Open Space Network.

The parks and open spaces identified within Promenade Centre provide green spaces that respond to and support the surrounding context and development. The inclusion of public squares and gateways characterize distinct entry points that invite visitors in to explore. Street trees, plantings, wide pedestrian realm will animate every corner of the Centre, making streets feel like places.

Through a system of green streets, connected parks, open spaces and the overall public realm, Promenade Centre embodies a sense of ownership, unique character, and sustainable solutions within the urban context.

Vaughan's Official Plan identifies four parkland classifications: regional, district, neighbourhood, and public square, though through the Active Together Master Plan (2018) ("ATMP"), an additional parkland classification of 'urban park' was added to align with Vaughan's evolving parks system.

- **Neighbourhood Parks** are the social and recreational focal points of a neighbourhood and meet the needs of the local community, and in some instances, accommodate City-wide facilities. Where possible, Neighbourhood Parks should be coordinated with school sites to maximize efficiencies and shared use.
- **Urban Parks** are highly programmed outdoor spaces that support the social and cultural fabric of Intensification Areas. Urban Parks are destinations for day-to-day use and special events.
- **Public Squares** are social and civic spaces in Intensification Areas, preferably adjacent to shops, cafes, restaurants, institutions and public streets that are part of daily life in a city. Public Squares may offer smaller scale, neighbourhood-oriented social opportunities, or accommodate larger City-wide entertainment and cultural events, depending on their size and location.

Promenade Centre includes three neighbourhood parks, one urban park and two public squares. Though parks and open spaces are identified within the Promenade Public Realm Plan, each space will undergo consultation and review with stakeholders, City Staff and the public, where the final programming and designs are subject to change.

By providing a variety of spaces, each park is part of a larger, integrated system, offering a diverse range of amenities, functions and types of usage depending on the park's characteristics and within their specific contexts.

- Policy Reference**
- Active Together Master Plan (2018)
  - Promenade Centre Secondary Plan 6.0 Parks and Open Spaces
  - Vaughan Official Plan 7.3.2 Parks and Open Space Design





6.1 Green Parks

Through the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, neighbourhoods, urban parks, and plazas have been established to create a holistic and diverse green approach. While supporting green infrastructure, native plants and large canopy trees, these parks will include a variety of programming elements to support healthy and active lifestyles for people of all ages and ability levels. The parks will be connected through a system of linked sidewalks, cycle tracks, and shared-use pathways to encourage safe and accessible movement within Promenade Centre.

Programming, final designs and park names are subject to change and will be determined through additional consultation and design review . The open spaces will align with existing plans, policies and guidelines that govern within the City of Vaughan; however, where possible, special consideration should be given to the context and unique character of Promenade Centre as a precedent for green parks and sustainable design within the urban realm.



6.1.1 Neighbourhood Parks

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Woodlot

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park is home to a large shade structure, water feature, sculpture, and deciduous trees. Sod covers most of the site with some planted gardens surrounding the structure. Seating and lighting elements are scattered along the existing path within the park.

With its key location and size, this park holds the potential to be a signature neighbourhood park within Promenade Centre. This dedicated park space is likely to be one of the two parks within the site boundary that will not be located above an underground parking facility. Drainage will be captured on site through a combination of grey and green infrastructure and managed on site. Increased stormwater management and on-site water infiltration will be assets to the park, limiting the need for grey infrastructure wherever possible. Additional geotechnical work, as well as drainage and slope investigations, should be more thoroughly reviewed to maximize the site’s existing hydrological patterns and to limit any impacts on surrounding sites. Where feasible, a permavoid system should be implemented to encourage capturing, storing and reusing the site’s stormwater.

Increased biodiversity through drought-tolerant, native species will also be a key design feature of the park, encouraging bees, butterflies, and birds to forage for food and providing necessary refuge from the surrounding urban context. While



Figure 18. Existing central fountain at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park.



providing habitats, these biodiverse and attractive gardens will also provide four season visual interest for the local residents and visitors. Special care should be given to preserve and protect existing commemorative trees throughout the redesign process.

This park will be a backyard playground and retreat for many residents in the neighbourhood. A long linear connection runs through the woodlot, connecting to additional parkland along Clark Avenue. Adjacent to a catholic high school, this park can be used as additional gathering space for the students and faculty. This site will draw people into Promenade Centre from all directions and will provide a variety of amenities and green space. Programming and design of the park will be coordinated with Pierre Elliott Trudeau extension park.

Some design elements may include:

- Basketball, multi-sport courts, pickleball or tennis;
- Local dog off-leash park;
- Educational opportunities and interpretive panels;
- Adult fitness equipment;
- Large open gathering spaces to host events, markets or exhibits; and
- Site furnishings including lighting, seating, bicycle parking, etc.



Figure 19. Increase biodiversity through drought-tolerant, native species will be a key design feature of the park.



Figure 20. Enhancement of Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park will include amenities for different age groups.

### High Street Park

High Street Park is located at the north end of High Street, the primary active and pedestrian-focused street within Promenade Centre. High Street Park will build on the character of the streetscape design, with a focus on creating a vibrant public park and acting as the anchor at the north end of the street.

As a key anchor, emphasis should be placed on designing unique features for this park to create a sense of arrival with signature paving patterns and ample greenery, seating, and public art.

Similarly to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Park, incorporating biodiverse, drought-tolerant and native plantings within the site is encouraged and will enhance the ecological value of Promenade Centre.

The neighbourhood park may include:

- Junior and Senior Play elements;
- Site furnishings including lighting, seating, bicycle parking, etc;
- Skate zone; and,
- Open space for events or gatherings.



Figure 21. A mix of hardscape and softscape will characterize the park.



Figure 22. Event gathering will be a feature of High Street Park.



### Bathurst Park

Bathurst Park is a signature gateway into Promenade Centre with prominent access from Bathurst Street into the heart of High Street. This is a significant park that will activate the community within Promenade Centre and draw in the surrounding community. As this is the other park that will likely not be located on underground parking, Bathurst Park will contribute to the storm water management and water infiltration of the area and will provide mature tree canopies and vegetation. Animating the space through interactive design elements, lighting, public art and connected pathways will ensure this park is vibrant and highly valued.

Striking a balance between providing a buffer from busy Bathurst Street and creating an open and animated space for activity, pop-up exhibits and gatherings will be an important aspect for success of this park. Bathurst Park will be unified with Promenade Circle, drawing in design elements from the streetscape where the street itself will be an extension of the park. Ample seating and shade tree will encourage people to spend time in the park. Bathurst Park may support:

- Basketball or multi-sport courts;
- Gathering space;
- Outdoor fitness;
- Junior and senior playgrounds;
- Adult play like chess tables and ping pong tables; and,
- Site furnishings including lighting, seating, bicycle parking, etc.



Figure 23. Bathurst Park will include junior and senior playground



Figure 24. Bathurst Park will draw in people from the surrounding community.

### 6.1.2 Urban Parks

#### Pierre Elliot Trudeau Park Extension

A new urban park has been identified adjacent to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Park, allowing the opportunity to connect to the existing parkland through the use of unique paving patterns and materiality. Future road closures between the parks can be facilitated for events, festivals or additional public space.

Introduced in 2018 through the ATMP, urban parks are more intensely used with a focus on providing a local gathering space for informal play and socialization.

Utilizing the adjacent park amenities, this additional parkland can include unique naturalized play and water features, creating a destination for kids within the community.

By unifying the paving materiality, plant palettes, site furnishings and lighting between these two park spaces, the design will form a cohesive narrative through their respective design intent and amenities to create a unified public park.



Figure 25. Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park Extension can include unique features that complement the existing park.



Figure 26. Temporary road closure of Promenade Circle will provide opportunities for temporary programming that connects the two parks. (Street Labs)



- a) Promote a high level of design that reinforces the significance of parks as playgrounds, socializing spaces and gateways to Promenade Centre.
- b) Design elements should include unique paving patterns to denote public spaces, incorporate biodiverse planting, showcase public art, and accommodate play spaces for all ages and ability levels (i.e. basketball or multi-sport courts, junior and senior playgrounds, etc.).
- c) Design parks that encourage physical activity, wellness, and informal use to promote all forms of play and activity.
- d) As highly visible civic spaces, the use of high-quality and durable materials is important. Materiality should be relatively low maintenance and robust.
- e) Parks should locate elements to visually animate and enhance the park.

- a) Parks should meet or exceed AODA and CSA standards to ensure they are safe, accessible and accommodate all ability levels.
- b) Include a mix of active and passive uses, including opportunities for flexible programming to host markets and pop-ups, provide spaces to gather, and allow for areas to include movable seating.
- c) Special consideration should be given to each site's microclimate and capitalize on the site's sun, wind, shade, and temperature patterns to create a comfortable environment.
- d) Provide a minimum 30m<sup>3</sup> of soil volume per tree to support mature tree growth to achieve York Region's urban tree canopy goal for the City (coverage of 25-35%).
- e) Incorporate low maintenance plants that contribute to biodiversity and create habitats and food sources for native wildlife and provide visual interest.
- f) Emphasis should be placed on creating animated spaces that are usable year-round in all weather conditions.
- g) Permeable surfaces should be maximized to absorb stormwater and encourage natural infiltration. Where feasible, closed-loop irrigation systems should capture and reuse rainwater on site to restrict water from overflowing into surrounding systems.
- h) Public art should be incorporated within all parks that promote seasonal interest and feature local artists.
- i) Ensure Indigenous place-making is considered and integrated into park design, public art, and programming within the park to celebrate the rich history and culture of local Indigenous communities.

Guidelines Reference

- City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines Performance Standard 6.2.5 Urban Squares

Policy Reference

- Vaughan Official Plan 7.3.2 Parks and Open Space Design

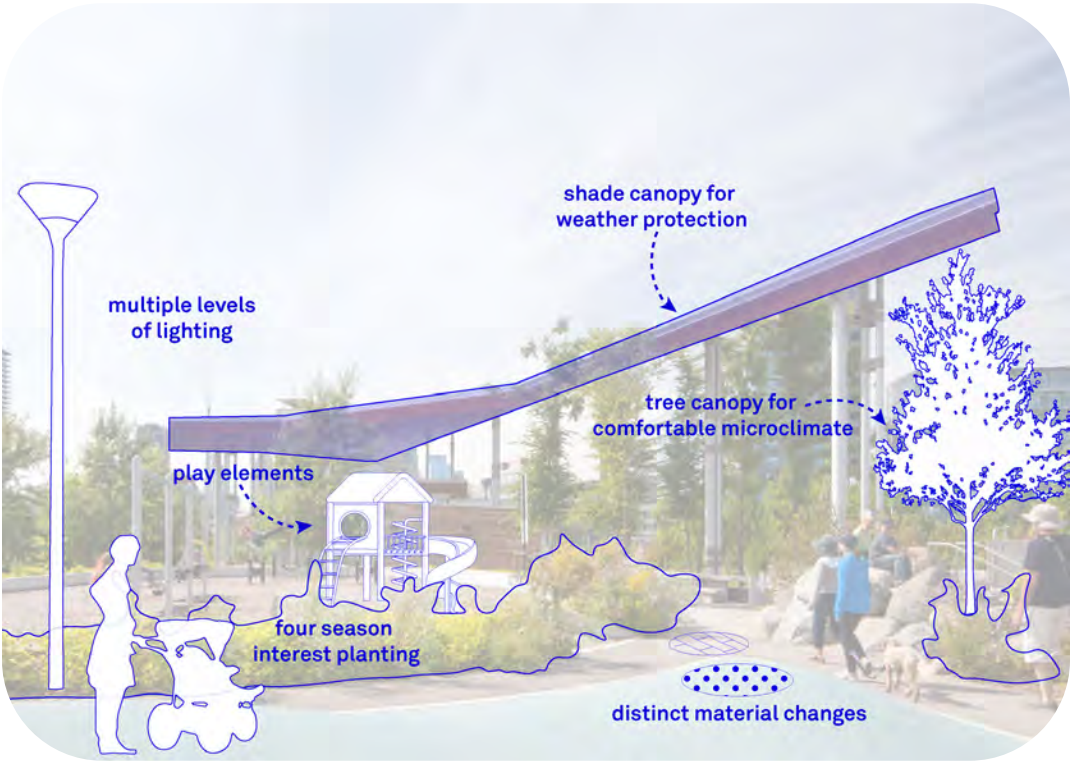


Figure 27. Green Parks



Figure 28. Ensure Indigenous place-making is considered and integrated into park design.



6.1.3 Public Squares

Two public squares are proposed within Promenade Centre; a plaza located adjacent to the Transit Hub in the north, and another located along High Street, across from the neighbourhood park. Both public squares will serve as active spaces, where people will gather, sit, and observe their surroundings. While the spaces will be predominantly paved, it's important that tree canopy is provided wherever possible to encourage shade in the warmer months to reduce heat island effects. Sufficient soil is important in the success of overall tree health and within the surrounding hard surfaces, and soil cells should be incorporated to improve soil conditions and overall health of the trees where feasible.

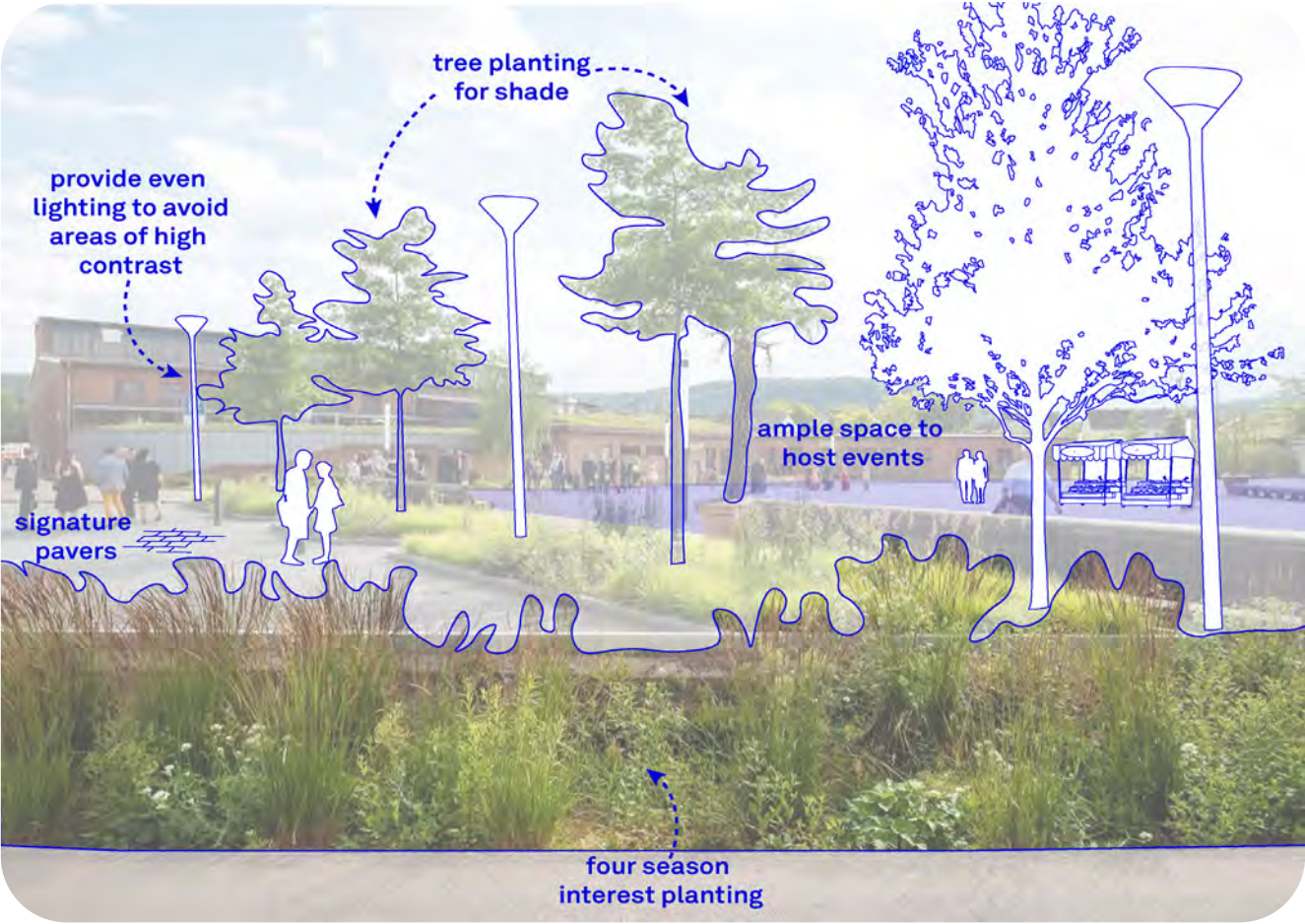


Figure 29. Public Square

Transit Plaza

The Transit Plaza is located directly south of the Transit Terminal and will see a high volume of pedestrians and cyclists passing through on a daily basis. Special consideration should be given to tailored design solutions and the selection of high quality durable materials of the plaza to ensure its long term success. It's likely that a high percentage of the site will be sitting on slab and covered in hardscape materials, as such, raised planters should be designed to accommodate ample soil that supports a variety of plant material wherever possible.

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) design principles should be a prime focus within the transit plaza, including additional lighting, emergency call poles, and clear sight lines. While there will be many people travelling through this space, it is important to consider those waiting for departures, connections, or pick-ups. Comfortable and accessible seating should be located within the plaza and should be integrated into the raised planters.



Figure 30. Raised planters should be employed to accommodate ample soil that supports a variety of plant materials.



Figure 31. Comfortable and accessible seating integrated into raised planters



### Promenade Centre Gateway Plaza

The Gateway Plaza is located in a prominent location within Promenade Centre—along High Street across from the neighbourhood park. This plaza will serve a different function than the transit plaza, with less focus on a transitional, active space and more opportunity for rest and relaxation.

The design of this space should mimic the material palette of High Street Park, including signature paving patterns, planting beds, seating and public art. A raised pedestrian crosswalk should link these two spaces through a unique paving pattern to signify a safe mid-block connection and a unified space. The gateway plaza will create a comfortable microclimate and provide spill out space from High Street and the park with ample opportunities for pop up coffee shops, temporary art installations or seasonal markets. The design of the Gateway Plaza will allow for adaptability of the space, varied programming and flow of pedestrian movement.



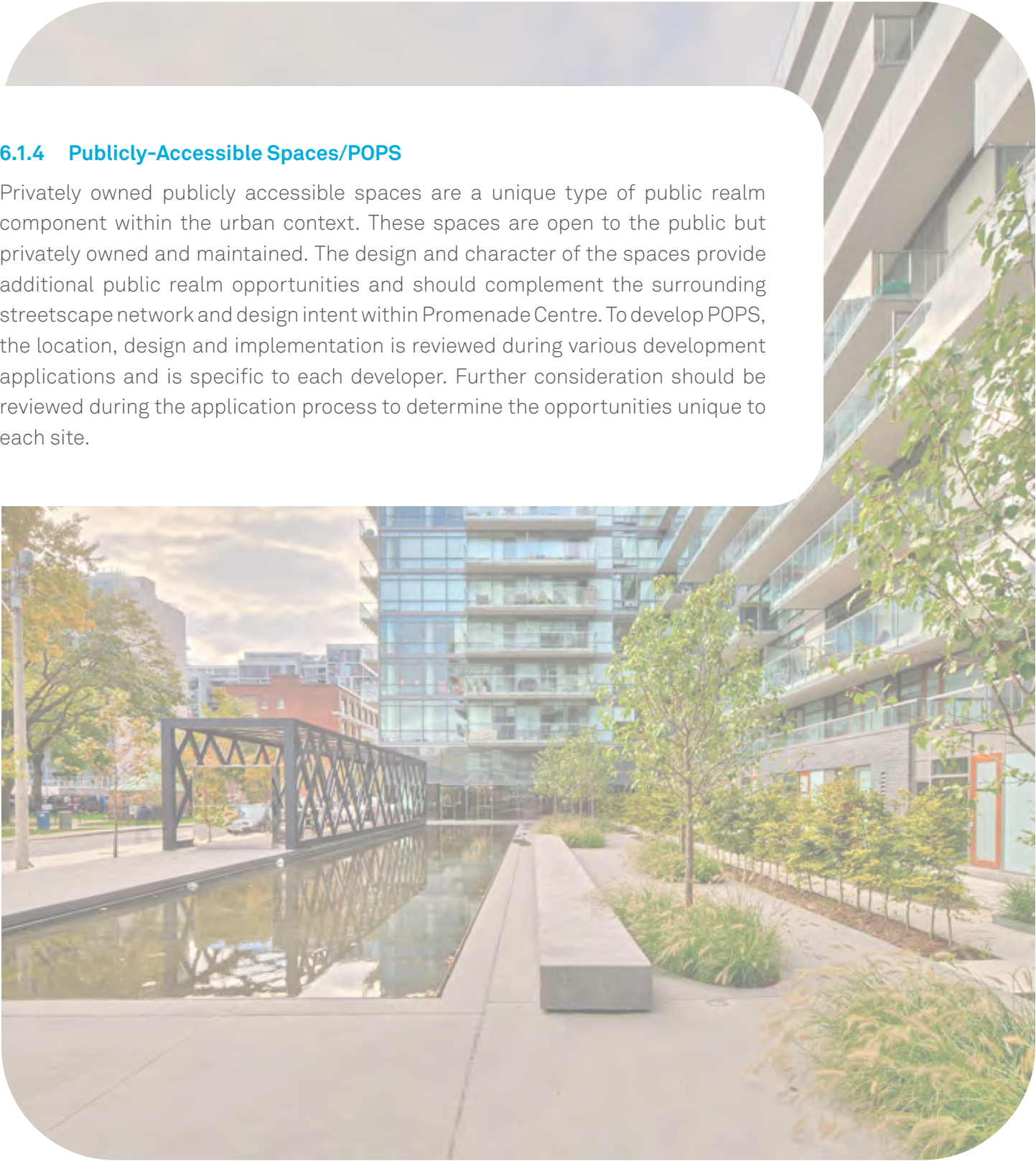
Figure 32. Signature paving patterns will signify the prominence of the Gateway Plaza

- a) Provide wayfinding signage, ample public seating, bicycle parking, and lighting to demarcate the major pedestrian and cyclist or active transportation entrances to the plaza.
- b) Materiality should be relatively low maintenance and robust in order to withstand high-pedestrian traffic within the square.
- c) Special consideration should be given to each site's microclimate and capitalize on the site's sun, wind, shade, and temperature patterns to create a comfortable environment.
- d) Incorporate low maintenance native plants that contribute to biodiversity and create habitats and food sources for local insects and wildlife.
- e) Incorporate public art for visual interest and a form of wayfinding, location marker and gateway.
- f) Emphasis should be placed on creating animated spaces that are usable year-round in all weather conditions.
- g) Incorporate universal design standards to support users of all ages and ability levels.
- h) Utilize CPTED design standards to maximize opportunities for natural surveillance and establish a sense of ownership.



Figure 33. Balance of softscape and hardscape should be used to improve the microclimate.





6.1.4 Publicly-Accessible Spaces/POPS

Privately owned publicly accessible spaces are a unique type of public realm component within the urban context. These spaces are open to the public but privately owned and maintained. The design and character of the spaces provide additional public realm opportunities and should complement the surrounding streetscape network and design intent within Promenade Centre. To develop POPS, the location, design and implementation is reviewed during various development applications and is specific to each developer. Further consideration should be reviewed during the application process to determine the opportunities unique to each site.

6.1.5 Mid-Block Connections and Shared-Use Paths

As per the Vaughan City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual, mid-block connections and shared-use paths focus on the pedestrian experience, limiting access for vehicles. Special consideration should be given to the sense of scale within the street. There will be certain requirements within the right of way (safety, access, fire route, etc.). However, all efforts should be made to design the streetscape at a pedestrian-scale. General information on shared-use paths within the City of Vaughan can be found City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines Performance Standard No. 5.2.11 and in Section 8.7 of these guidelines.

By giving street space over to plants and trees, the design will naturally slow vehicles. Vehicular lanes should be reduced to the City’s minimum to slow speeds and minimize unsafe interactions with other users.

At the start of all shared-use paths, special treatments within the roadway should alert drivers that they are entering a pedestrian area. Some treatment elements may include signage, plants, raised crossings, and curb bump-outs.

Throughout the entire streetscape network, midblock active transportation crossings are to be implemented to allow for safe, accessible crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. All mid-block active transportation crossings should be designed in compliance with the City’s Engineering Standards and Criteria including but not limited to AODA treatments and cross-ride pavement markings. Depending on the street hierarchy, the design of active transportation mid-block crossings may also include raised crossings, median refuge islands, and/or pedestrian activated signals and cyclist detection.

- Guidelines Reference

  - City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines Performance Standard No. 6.2.8 Privately Owned Publicly-Accessible Spaces (POPS)
- Policy Reference

  - Promenade Centre Secondary Plan 5.2.e
  - Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule E
  - Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Figures 4 and 5



- a) Promenade Centre to have defining character elements that are unique to this context, factoring in distinct paving patterns, design elements and site furnishings.
- b) Mid-block connections and shared-use paths to provide landscaped buffers on each side that provide vegetated screening from the adjacent buildings and uses.
- c) Mid-block connections and shared-use paths should connect to the larger system of trails and sidewalks and should include signage or provide other cues that it is a public connection.
- d) All signage and access points to be barrier free and visible from the sidewalk.
- e) Vehicular connections that act as mid-block connections should be designed to appear public in character and must include a pedestrian sidewalk or trail and landscape.
- f) Mid-block connections and shared-use paths should be located centrally in blocks that are longer than 200 metres in length.



Figure 34. Mid-block connections

6.1.6 Gateway Plazas/Corner Plazas

Gateway and corner plazas occur at key nodes and see high volumes of use. These gateways often mark a transitional space from one character area to another and symbolize a sense of arrival. Corner plazas are key focal points of a streetscape, often animated by adjacent ground floor amenities and spill out, with distinct intersection treatments within the streetscape conditions. Wayfinding at these locations will enhance the identification and gateway to Promenade Centre. An integrated strategy of public art installations as creative markers, plantings, seating, and pedestrian-scaled lighting will guide visitors into the site and provide a sense of place rather than feel transitional.



Figure 35. Corner plazas are animated spaces that support the flow of people and include distinct surface treatment.



- a) POPS should be designed to seamlessly transition from public to private space without significant changes in material, grade, or visual barriers that may imply that the space is private.
- b) Orient and design POPS to create a comfortable micro-climate. South-facing plazas are encouraged as they maximize the space's exposure to direct sunlight.
- c) Incorporate LID and green infrastructure into POPS wherever possible to capture, detain, infiltrate and clean stormwater.
- d) Gateways and corner plazas have prominent and direct access to adjacent streets, parks or other public spaces. Key considerations should be taken to their visual and physical entry points.
- e) Locations of gateways and plazas should align with proposed ground floor uses within Promenade Centre and connect through a series of pathway typologies and mid-block crossings.
- f) Interior and exterior adjacent uses should animate the space and provide overflow in use.
- g) Palette to be cohesive to the overall Promenade Centre design intent with unique elements that provide defining character through paving patterns, seating, lighting, trees and public art.



Figure 36. Entry points should be designed for their prominent location and visual access.



Figure 37. POPS should provide seamless transition from private to public space.



Figure 38. Corner Plazas

Guidelines Reference

- City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines Performance Standard No. 6.2.4 Internalized Courtyards



6.1.7 Interior Public Courtyards

Interior public courtyards provide access to the outdoors through shared-use pathways, private amenities or ground floor commercial spaces. Careful consideration of these courtyards should review sufficient soil volume for any plantings, types of microclimates, shade/sun availability and types of access within the design process to provide meaningful spaces. Depending on the neighbouring uses within the interior spaces, programming may include flexible seating, open space for gatherings, or other passive amenities.

- a) Where possible, sun and shadow studies should be performed to design appropriate plant materials and programming.

b) Planting areas should be supported by sufficient soil volume.

c) CPTED standards and guidelines should be followed to ensure clear sightlines within the enclosed space.
- d) Courtyards should be connected to active shared-use paths, providing a connected public realm.

e) Ensure that courtyards are designed to feel like publicly usable space by providing sufficient glazing, pathways, connection and signage.



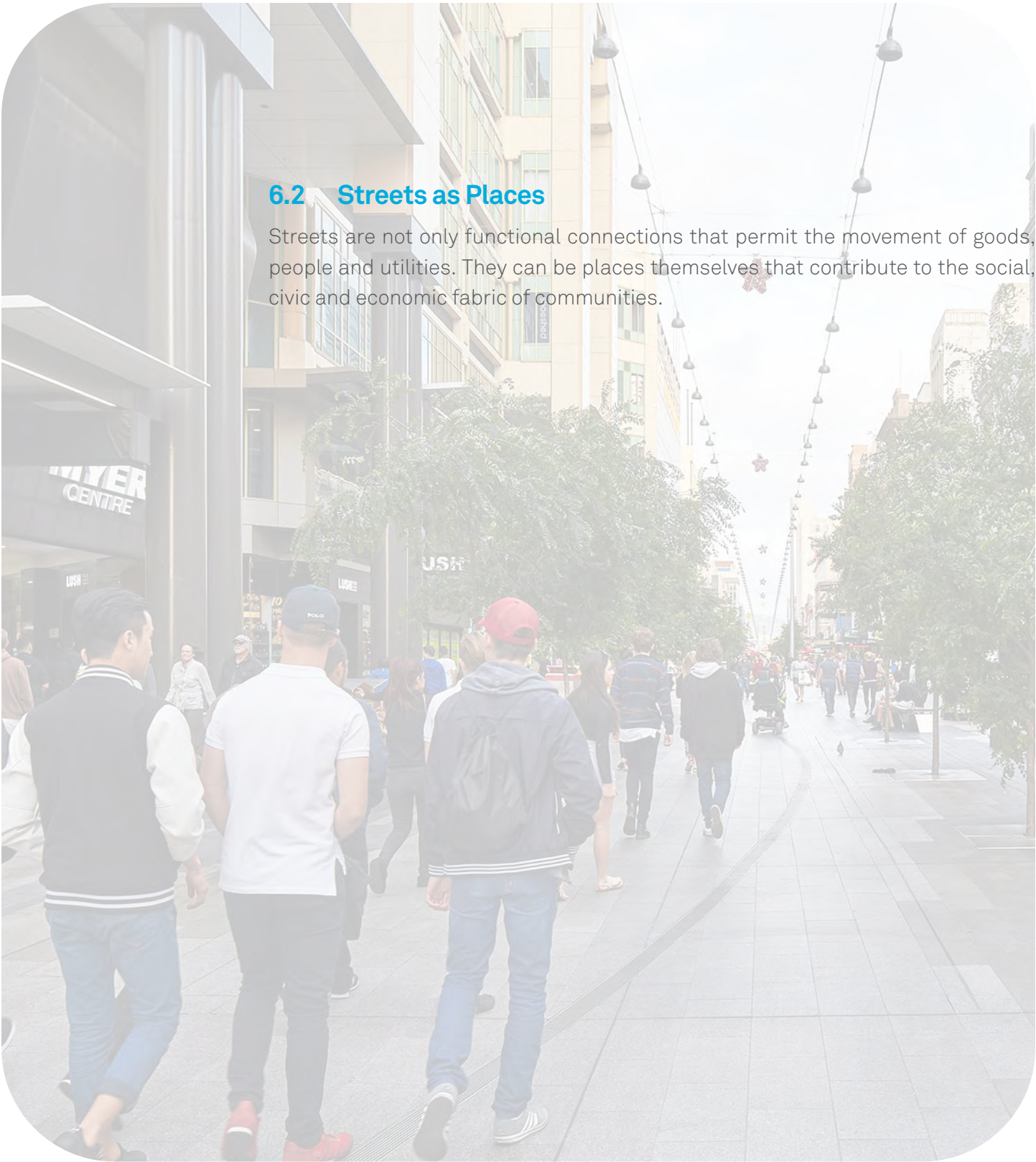
Figure 39. Courtyards should be connected to shared-use paths.



Figure 40. Courtyards should be designed to feel like publicly usable space.

6.2 Streets as Places

Streets are not only functional connections that permit the movement of goods, people and utilities. They can be places themselves that contribute to the social, civic and economic fabric of communities.





Guidelines Reference

- York Region's Designing Great Streets (2019)

• Green Streets are an important component of creating Complete Streets. Refer to Section 8.1, Complete Streets, for more guidelines.

- For guidelines on Sidewalk Zones, see Section 8.0, Streets and Connections.
- For guidelines on placemaking and cultural inclusion, furnishings, paving language, material palettes and other urban elements that may be located within the Sidewalk Zone, refer to Section 10.0, Urban Elements. For guidelines on planting palettes, refer to Section 9.2, Biodiversity and Plant Selection.

6.2.1 Green Streets

Green Streets focus on the holistic feel of the public realm and contribute to the overall sense of place. The streetscapes themselves are destinations and contribute to the lifestyle and wellbeing of those within Promenade Centre.

The design of the streetscape traditionally focuses on the ease and movement of vehicles, however by designing roadways to accommodate other modes of transportation, places of rest and reflection, buffers with biodiverse plantings and stormwater management solutions, we can create intentional spaces that contribute to the open space network. The quality and success of the streetscape relies heavily on the attention given to the design, chosen materials, details and maintenance. A successful urban streetscape encourages a wide variety of social and fun placemaking activities, where the most exciting and bustling streets are those that are full of people taking part in all forms of activities.

The overarching objective of green streets is to provide sustainable design choices that are woven throughout the entire right of way, extending into the green approach and adjacent buildings. Through ecological enhancements and supporting sustainable modes of transportation, the streetscape becomes a destination where pedestrians and cyclists look forward to spending time and where they feel comfortable and safe.

6.2.2 The Sidewalk Zone

The Sidewalk Zone is where activity happens in the street, where people can be found reading a newspaper, sipping a coffee with friends, or walking to work. The Amenity Zone and the Frontage Zone are two distinct areas within the Sidewalk Zone where time is slowed, and as such, the design should be thoughtful and intentional. Trees, plantings, site furnishings, bicycling parking, waste receptacles, lighting and LID features are typically located in the Amenity Zone, where active uses within buildings, such as café seating, market tables, and signage can spill outward into the public realm. The Sidewalk Zone should be comfortable, welcoming, and universally accessible to accommodate all users.

General elements should draw from the uniform language of furnishings, plantings, and material palettes for Promenade Centre, providing consistency that helps to define the type and character of the street. Unique cultural and context references and opportunities for Placemaking within the street should be embedded within the design.

6.3 Topography and Grading Approach

The grading variation and topography change of the Promenade Centre is a defining character of the site. The current condition includes retaining walls and significant slopes to address the grade variation across the site.

Within the landscape and streetscape design, it is critical that accessibility, water flow and materiality are considered to ensure safe and sustainable stormwater solutions. Streetscapes should be designed to accommodate overland flow and slow water run-off in areas of significant grade change. Where necessary, traditional grey infrastructure should be provided to support water management.

Though grading is often difficult to control as it follows the path of the street, pathways and sidewalks should adhere to AODA standards for a maximum of 5% for running and cross slopes and be made of a firm, stable and slip resistant material. Where the sidewalk grade exceeds 5%, it is important to include a level stopping space and rest area equipped with seating.



Figure 41. Grade changes can be an opportunity for creative solutions that encourage sociality.



Additional vegetation and planted areas can soften a blank wall along the existing building however façade treatment and materiality should be considered for new developments where there is a change in exterior elevation.

- a) Integrate grading and topography changes as a holistic approach to the design of the streetscape. Determine safe, accessible pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.
- b) Provide vegetation and planted buffers to limit exposed blank walls through transition areas.
- c) Building interface and facade treatments to factor in the exterior slope changes (i.e. glazing, access, etc.).
- d) Conform to AODA design guidelines where feasible. Where standards cannot be met, consider alternate routes for accessible pathways and sidewalks.

- e) Materiality of pavers should be slip resistant.
- f) Review water run-off and stormwater management practices to alleviate overflow into storm systems. Planted buffers and rain gardens can assist in slowing down the movement of water along streets.
- g) Gateways and corner plazas have prominent and direct access to adjacent streets, parks or other public spaces. Key considerations should be taken to their visual and physical entry points.
- h) Location of gateways and plazas should align with proposed ground floor uses within Promenade Centre and connected through a series of pathway typologies and mid-block crossings.



Figure 42. Integrate landscape elements into grade changes approach.



Figure 43. Avoid blank retaining walls by providing usable space integrated in the design of building bases and streets.

### 6.4 Pet-friendly Areas

The implementation of pet-friendly areas presents both benefits and challenges. These parks and spaces have the opportunity to foster community and encourage healthy activity and social well-being. By providing areas for dogs to run off-leash, they will reduce unsanctioned off-leash activity within the public realm and cause less disturbances to sensitive sites and public parks. Off-leash and pet-relief areas often conflict with other park uses and can cause significant wear and tear on parks. The management of dog waste is a concern for those with and without dogs.

According to the City of Vaughan Parkland Classification System, off-leash dog areas are only able to be accommodated within a District Park (which are 5 or more hectares in size), and there are no District Parks identified in the Promenade Centre.

Though no off-leash area is identified within the park system, it is certain that there will be numerous dogs living within Promenade Centre. For a successful public realm and park spaces, it is critical that dogs and supporting amenities are considered in the parks and open space design. Determining adequate sizing and amenities should be reviewed on a case-by-case scenario in tandem with other park design, amenities and proximity to adjacent buildings and trails. It is recommended that a local analysis is done to create an effective strategy that guides the design and implementation of both dog off-leash areas and dog-relief areas.

A comprehensive approach to providing pet amenities within the open spaces, both public and private, of the Promenade Centre will contribute to the larger system and satisfy the needs of the community. Proper design of these areas can mitigate damage from pets and discourage use where required. Robust materials to consider include permeable pavers instead of plantings in areas of high use and pet traffic, dog-friendly artificial turf instead of gravel, mulch or other loose surface materials, streetscape planting beds that are designed to withstand urine and include non-toxic planting species, and providing baggy and waste container stations in high traffic areas and within park spaces.



- a) Provide space and amenities to make pet-relief areas appealing to use and universally accessible.
- b) Design pet-relief areas to be durable with suitable surfacing to not harm dog's paws or provide an unpleasant aesthetic for pedestrians.
- c) Pet-relief areas should minimize environmental impacts on the landscape.
- d) Pet-relief areas should be located adjacent to compatible land and park uses, and shielded from those that are less compatible.
- e) Pet-relief areas should have clear boundaries and signage noting setback distances.
- f) Where pet-relief areas are implemented, a off-leash dog area stewardship program with local volunteers should be established to act as a liaison between park users and the City.
- g) As high use public areas, ensure capital budget is available to maintain and support pet-relief areas (e.g. topping up materials, gate repairs, garbage clearing, irrigation, etc.).
- h) Support a dog waste program and promote initiatives to effectively manage dog waste.
- i) Encourage new development to support pet-friendly amenities (i.e. pet-relief areas, dog runs, pet wash stations, etc.) within proposed building footprint to alleviate stress on the local parks and streetscapes.



Figure 44. Clear boundaries and signage should be provided.



Figure 45. Pet-relief areas should be appealing to use and universally accessible.





Promenade Centre will be vibrant, safe and accessible for the needs of a multi-generational community. To achieve streets and open spaces that are attractive and comfortable, new buildings will prioritize a human-scaled, accessible, comfortable, and safe pedestrian environment. This document addresses the public realm as it interfaces with the ground floor and first few floors of new developments.

## 7.0 Interface with the Public Realm

7.1	The Promenade Approach	64
7.2	Streetwalls and Setbacks	64
7.3	Grade-Related Uses	68
7.4	Active Uses	69
7.5	Residential Uses	71
7.6	Publicly Accessible Interiors	86
7.7	Microclimate	88



Guidelines Reference

- CWUDG: 6.1.1 The Green Approach
- CWUDG: 5.3.1 Buildings on Intensification Corridors

7.1 The Promenade Approach

An attractive and vibrant street provides interesting and varied spaces to support diverse activities and invites people to pause and enjoy the streetscape. The Promenade Green Approach will guide the establishment of street walls and setbacks along the streets and open spaces of the Secondary Plan. A variable setback is required for the ground floor of new buildings, in order to establish pockets of expanded public realm for ground floor spill out spaces or high-quality landscaped areas that provide seating and shading.

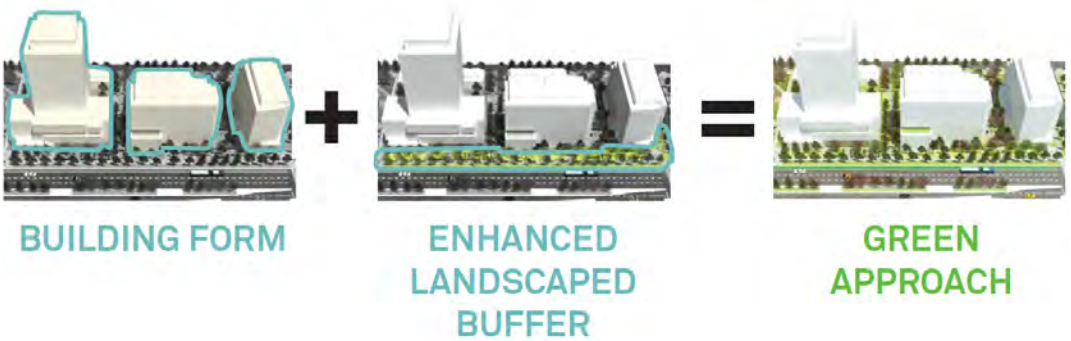


Figure 46. Vaughan City Wide Urban Design Guidelines: Elements of the Green Approach

7.2 Streetwalls and Setbacks

The streetwall is the portion of a building base that directly fronts onto the public realm. The height of the streetwall can have a defining impact on the public realm and greatly influence the pedestrian experience of the street. A lower streetwall typically creates a greater feeling of openness for pedestrians at street level. A defined building streetwall is visually broken up (through materials or articulations) into smaller, human-scaled components than the rest of the building, and features building setbacks for levels above.

Streetwall heights and building setbacks should contribute to a fine-grained, varied, and visually interesting street that permits sunlight penetration and sky views.

General

- a) New buildings will be generally set back between 3 and 5 metres from the front property line or the front edge of the development block. Where an active use is at grade, reduced setbacks will be permitted.
- b) New buildings should provide a minimum 1 meter setback free of any projection along public right of ways.
- c) Typical streetwall heights for new buildings should be a minimum of 3 storeys and a maximum of 6 storeys.
- d) Where a portion of a building that contains an active use is set back less than 3 metres from the property line, the maximum height of that portion will be 3 storeys or 11 metres, whichever is less.
- e) Upper storeys can project from the building face through cantilevering within the Promenade Approach setback. The cantilevering portion of the buildings should maintain a minimum 3 metres setback from the property line or block edge.



Figure 47. Promenade Green Approach on Primary Frontages



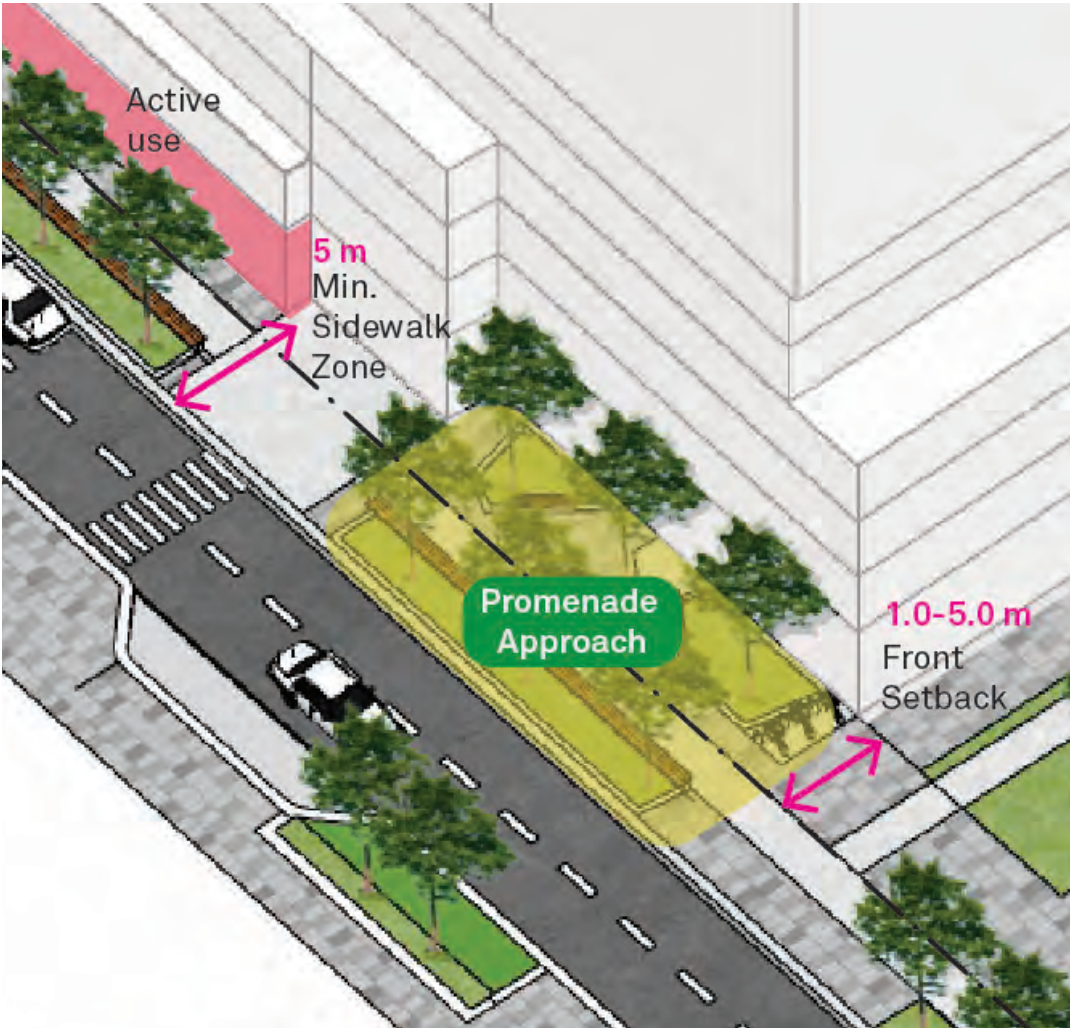


Figure 48. Promenade Green Approach on Primary Frontages

On High Street and Along Primary Frontages:

A streetwall of a minimum of 3 storeys and a maximum of 5 storeys should be maintained. Buildings will generally have a setback of 3 to 5 metres.

A minimum of 25% of the frontage should be set back 5 metres and a maximum of 30% of the building frontage may be set back 1 metre when the ground floor contains active uses.

**On High Street and Along Primary Frontages**

- f) A minimum of 25% of the building frontage should set back 5 metres from the front property line or the front edge of the development block .
- g) A maximum of 30% of the building frontage may be set back 1 metre when the ground floor of the building contains active uses.

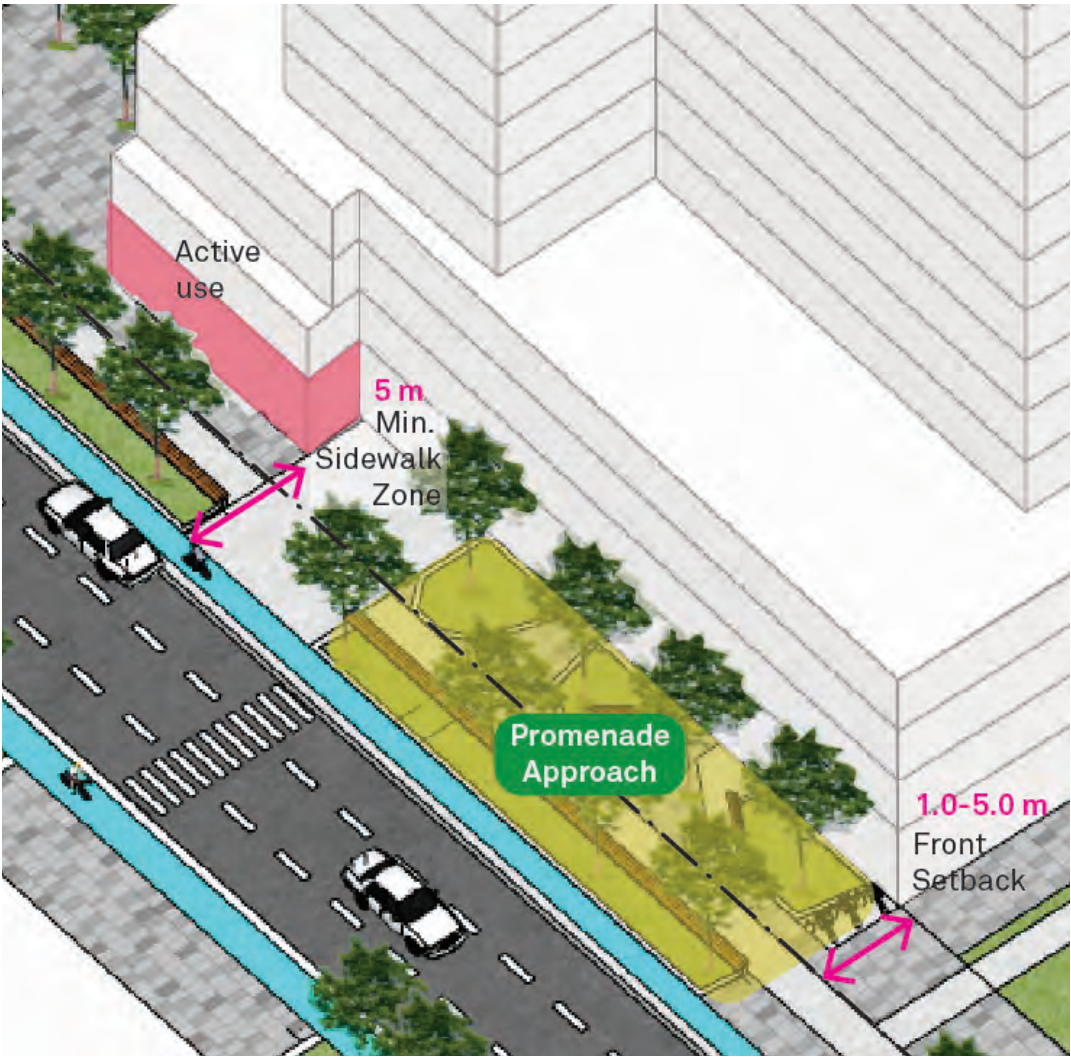


Figure 49. Promenade Green Approach on Secondary Frontages

**Along Secondary Frontages**

- h) A minimum of 50% of the building frontage should be set back 5 metres from the front property line or the front edge of the development block.
- i) A maximum of 50% of the building frontage can be set back 1 metre where the ground floor of the building contains active uses.

On Collectors and Along Secondary Frontages:

A streetwall of a minimum of 3 storeys and a maximum of 6 storeys should be maintained. Buildings will generally have a setback of 3 to 5 metres.

A minimum of 50% of the frontage should be set back 5 metres and a maximum of 50% of the building frontage may be set back 1 metre when the ground floor contains active uses.



### 7.3 Grade-Related Uses

#### Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre  
Secondary Plan: 4.4(d)

To animate the public realm along the edges of streets and open spaces, active uses should be provided at the ground floor of new buildings. Active uses provide a dynamic and vibrant environment and contribute to public safety by establishing a visual connection between interior and exterior spaces. Active uses should seek to go beyond retail, and may include community uses, health care, esthetics, gyms, or daycares.



Figure 50. Different uses can activate the ground floor.



Figure 51. Active uses establish a strong relationship with the public realm.

- a) The height of the ground floor of new buildings shall be a minimum of 4.5 metres, regardless of its use, to properly accommodate different kinds of uses and to plan for potential future retrofits.
- b) Utility Cabinets should not be located in prominent locations and primary frontages in the public realm. They should be visually screened using attractive materials that fit in with the character of the surrounding public realm or should feature public art or informational signage and wayfinding with vinyl wrapping.

#### 7.3.1 Active Uses

On active frontages, the ground floor should provide generous glazing surfaces to establish a visual connection between the interior and exterior. This will also contribute to safety, interest and overall lighting on streets and open spaces.

When an active use is provided at the ground floor, the following priorities should be considered in the interface between the building and the public realm:

- a) On Primary Frontages, the following types of active use are encouraged:
  - Retail and commercial uses;
  - Daily convenience retail (grocery and hardware, drug store, market, dry cleaner, banks, medical and dental clinic, esthetics, etc);
  - Cafés and restaurants (including patios in the frontage zone);
  - Community amenities (daycare, meeting, co-working and exhibition spaces, fitness, etc);
  - Offices; and
  - Live-work units and residential lobbies.
- b) On Secondary Frontages the following types of active use are encouraged:
  - Live-work units, other ground-oriented residential units, residential lobbies;
  - At-grade private amenity space; and
  - Limited convenience retail.



Figure 53. Residential Units Entrances



Figure 52. Live-Work Units





Figure 54. Cafe Patios framed by plantings provide a sense of privacy and enhance the streetscape.



Figure 55. Spill-out spaces activate the public realm providing interest and animation.

- c) Where a portion of the building does not provide an active frontage, expansion of the public realm through the Promenade Green Approach should be employed to provide space that can support casual active use.
- d) Ensure a clear distinction between the different public uses and the main entrance to the building. When patios and other spill out spaces are present, they should be clearly identified through their design.
- e) The use of natural elements such as planters, flower pots and green screens to indicate the spill-out zones or patios is encouraged.
- f) Accessibility should be considered when designing active uses. Refer to Section 7.4 for guidelines on publicly accessible interiors.
- g) Exterior spaces should also be accessible. Provide ramps when necessary and enough space to comfortably accommodate wheelchairs.
- h) The provision of patios and spill-out spaces should not interfere with the public right-of-way. When using movable elements to provide shade and protection from wind, ensure that these do not encroach into the pedestrian clearways.
- i) Appropriate lighting should be provided during closure time. Where limited outdoor lighting is provided, consider shop windows and glazed areas that are lit for extended hours.
- j) Follow CPTED principles when designing space for active use.

### 7.3.2 Residential Uses

Residential use in the form of ground-oriented units can contribute to a more welcoming and attractive public realm. Where residential use is provided at the ground floor, ground oriented units with direct access from the sidewalk should be provided.



Figure 56. Residential uses should include transitional space with design measures to enable privacy



Policy Reference

- City of Vaughan Bird Safe Design Standards (2022)
- City of Vaughan Fences Bylaw (2020)

- a) Provide a clear and unobstructed entrance path to each unit. The unobstructed pathway should be a minimum of 1.5 metres.
- b) Provide clarity in the distinction between private residential entries, common residential lobby entries, and entries for other uses within the building.
- c) When residential units are located at the ground floor, a minimum of 4.5 metres setback is required.
- d) Landscaped front yards should be provided. Trees will be supported by sufficient soil volume to allow for healthy tree canopy growth. Additional low-level plantings and storm water management elements should also be provided.
- e) Provide an appropriate balance of visual connection and privacy between ground-floor residential units and the public realm. To ensure privacy, screening elements such as low walls, plantings and fences can be employed for a maximum height of 1.2 metres.
- f) Choice of materials should prioritize high-quality, low maintenance, durability, and aesthetics.
- g) Provide lighting that ensures well-lit adjacent sidewalks without impacting the comfort of residents.
- h) Site lighting should comply with the City of Vaughan's Bird-Safe Design Standards (2022).



Figure 58. Additional Ground Oriented Units Precedent



Figure 57. Residential Lobbies



Figure 59. Photo of existing residential properties at Promenade Centre

7.3.3 Existing Residential Uses

Promenade Centre contains established residential properties that will be reinforced and enhanced through the implementation of the Secondary Plan. Opportunities for enhancement will look at strengthening connectivity and improving existing green areas. If potential for infill is identified in any of these properties, the new development shall align with these guidelines. Please refer to Part D: Urban Design and Built Form Guidelines within this document.



### 7.3.4 Common Residential Amenities

While at-grade gathering spaces should typically be publicly-accessible, where outdoor amenity spaces are located at grade, measures should be taken to ensure some activation is provided within the public realm and that the transition between spaces are attractive. It is important to strike a balance of privacy and safety (for example, where children's activity areas are located) and interest when designing the interface between the public realm and private amenity spaces so that blank, inactive edges are avoided.

- a) Ensure a clear distinction between the public realm and the private amenity area by use of visual or physical barriers. The use of natural elements such as planters, flower pots and green screens is encouraged.
- b) Additional noise separation through the use of vegetated barriers is encouraged to allow residents to hold events and make noise without undue impact on the public realm. Conversely, public realm gatherings should not create undue noise impacts on adjacent private amenity areas.
- c) Provide access points to residential amenity areas from the public realm. Amenity areas may be vertically separated from the adjacent public realm as long as universally accessible access is provided.
- d) Consider using low fences or natural barriers at this interface to create a more neighbourly relationship between residents and passers-by, where appropriate.
- e) Where space permits, a vegetated buffer of 1 metre should be provided between the public realm and the private amenity area. Public furnishings and other urban elements should be located within or adjacent to this buffer.



Figure 60. Residential amenity spaces should be programmed for all ages

### 7.3.5 Existing Commercial Uses: Promenade Mall

Promenade Mall will be retained and will represent a core element of the identity of Promenade Centre, contributing to building a vibrant and attractive place.

The Mall contains a variety of commercial and service uses. As a region-serving mall, it attracts customers from the broader area, but it is also used by local people especially during winter and summer months as a comfortable and walkable hub.

As Promenade Centre becomes a mixed-use walkable community, the mall should evolve from an inward-oriented-only structure to a more open and outward-looking building that can contribute to great streets and open spaces.

The interface between the Mall and the public realm should respond to the new conditions at its edges by providing active uses that front the public sidewalks and establish a visual connection with transparent facades.

- a) Expansions of the mall that address the street are encouraged, where possible. Spill out spaces that will activate the street are also encouraged.
- b) When expansions are not feasible, or where they are not yet implemented, the blank wall condition should be minimized with the use of landscape, lighting, and the provision of amenities such as seating, plantings, canopies, bike parking or bike repair stations. Temporary measures to minimize the blank wall effect should be used in the interim period. Please refer to Section 15.

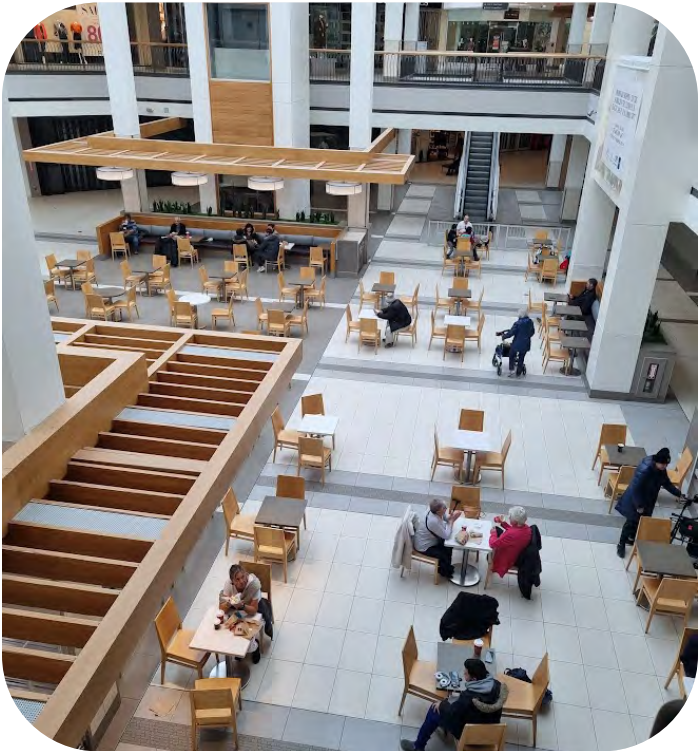


Figure 61. Promenade Mall is used by locals as a comfortable and walkable hub



- c) Loading areas and service accesses are necessary for the function of the mall. Their impact on the interface between the mall and the public realm should be minimized with the use of screening, paving and landscape. Please refer to section 10.7 for additional guidelines.

d) Loading areas should be fully internalized in the building envelope. Space designated for garbage collection and storage should comply with the requirements set by the City. Refer to the City of Vaughan Waste Collection Design Standard for more detail.

e) The space between the street and the face
- of the mall should also be treated as public space. Landscaped areas should be provided, including trees. Seating areas should also be provided, as appropriate. Bike parking areas, inter-modal stations or Outdoor Fitness Stations should be considered where the available space permits it.

f) In the interim periods, a temporary solution for the activation of left over spaces not otherwise identified should be put in place. Public art, movable urban furniture and temporary landscape elements should be employed. Please refer to section 15 for more detail.

7.3.6 Other Existing Commercial Uses

Promenade Centre contains established commercial uses at the corner of Bathurst Street and Centre Street. Although it is expected that these properties will be redeveloped in the future, they are located at a key gateway to Promenade Centre and should feature safe and accessible connections to their surroundings at all stages of development.

- a) Surrounding development must retain accessible entry to existing commercial units at all times, including accessible vehicle access and parking.

b) New development areas should provide good pedestrian connections to existing commercial uses.
- c) Any grading changes surrounding existing commercial uses shall not impede on the visibility or access (including universally accessible entry) to existing commercial uses.

d) Bike parking should be provided in the public realm within or near existing commercial uses where bicycle parking is not yet provided.



Figure 62. Creative public realm interventions can benefit commercial uses and promote activity and safety



Figure 63. Commercial uses framing a densely planted public square



7.3.7 Community and Institutional Uses

Bathurst Clark Resource Library and St. Elizabeth Catholic Library and St. Elizabeth Catholic School are existing buildings whose public function will be recognized, reinforced and enhanced through the implementation of Promenade Centre Secondary Plan.

Opportunities for institutional uses in new development as part of a multi-use building are encouraged. When a multi-use building contains a public use, this should be located at ground floor and first few floors of the building.

The Promenade Centre Transit Terminal will be developed into a transit hub, serving the community and providing the necessary transit infrastructure to support the upcoming development. It is expected that development will be integrated with the Transit Terminal to contribute in building a walkable community while achieving the mix of uses and density goals of the Secondary Plan.

The following guidelines pertain the interface between a public use portion of a building and the public realm:



Figure 64. Public use in a mixed use building

Transitions

- a) The space fronting a public building or a public use hosted in a portion of a building should be designed as an extension of the public use. Consider using public art, murals and other elements that hint to the use of the building.
- b) Larger transition areas between the entrance to the building and the street should provide space for amenities and landscape.
- c) Comfort and convenience should be provided with seating areas, softscape, native plantings and trees.

- d) Canopies and architectural elements that offer protection for the weather should be also designed to be prominent and identify the public use.
- e) The areas fronting a public use will be completely accessible and safe. Follow CPTED principles.
- f) Access points that lead to public use will be clearly signaled and defined. Excellence in design will characterize these elements.
- g) The use of canopies and other architectural element is encouraged to identify the entrance of public buildings.
- h) Entrances should use glazed surfaces and double height volumes to ensure the visibility of public building entrances.
- i) Integrate lighting into architecture and provide well lit spaces at the entrance throughout the day.
- j) Prioritize signage and wayfinding at entrances leading to public uses.

Entrances



Figure 65. Entrance to a Community Building with significant glazing and bicycle parking to promote active transportation



7.3.8 Surface Parking

Promenade Centre will evolve from a car-oriented area where surface parking spaces define the streetscape to a densely built and pedestrian-oriented area, where walking and cycling will be safe, comfortable, and encouraged.

To reduce the presence of surface parking, underground parking structures shall be provided within new developments. The majority of parking spaces, including residential, commercial and service parking should be provided underground. Limited at-grade parking may be permitted to provide accessible short term parking, pick-up and drop-off areas, and loading and servicing, where appropriate.

During the interim period, existing surface parking areas may be maintained. Measures should be taken to reduce the visual impact of any surface parking areas. They should provide safe and direct pedestrian connections and incorporate greenery and LID features,

- a) Surface parking should be located at the rear or side of the building to limit visual impacts to the public realm.
- b) Provide accessibility through ramped curb cuts and limit the length of travel to an accessible entrance.
- c) Provide clear signage and wayfinding for temporary parking locations.
- d) Provide accessible AODA parking at the closest point to an accessible entrance.
- e) Where possible, coordinate driveway, parking and drop-off areas between buildings. Shared driveways are encouraged.
- f) Avoid large surface parking lots by breaking the parking into smaller lots.
- g) Accessible parking should be located in close proximity to an accessible entrance.
- h) Accessible pedestrian paths with a minimum width of 2.1 metres should be provided. These will be accompanied by landscape and trees. Pedestrian and cycling crossings should be prioritized and clearly signaled.
- i) Provide space for sheltered bicycle parking and car-share vehicles. Provide parking spaces that can be equipped with electric vehicle charging stations.
- j) Provide appropriate lighting at pedestrian level. Well-lit spaces contribute to safety and security. Parking should be designed with reference to CPTED principles.

- k) Provide landscaped areas and trees. Landscaped areas contribute to minimizing the visual impact of surface parking. Integrate storm water management and LID design features to help mitigate the impact of surface parking on water run-off volume and pollution. Provide a minimum ratio of 1 tree for every 5 parking spaces. Trees should have sufficient Soil Volume for their growth. Refer to Section 9 for more details.
- l) Explore the possibility of using permeable paving to contribute to the storm water management plan. Ensure proper maintenance is provided for these kinds of surfaces.
- m) Consider topography when designing the parking to facilitate the integration of grading and storm water management elements.
- n) Buffer the parking to adjacent uses by providing landscaped strips and screening frames when applicable.
- o) When surface parking is located near public buildings, opportunities for activating the space with temporary events related to the use of the building should be explored.

Please refer to City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standard for more details about accessible parking.

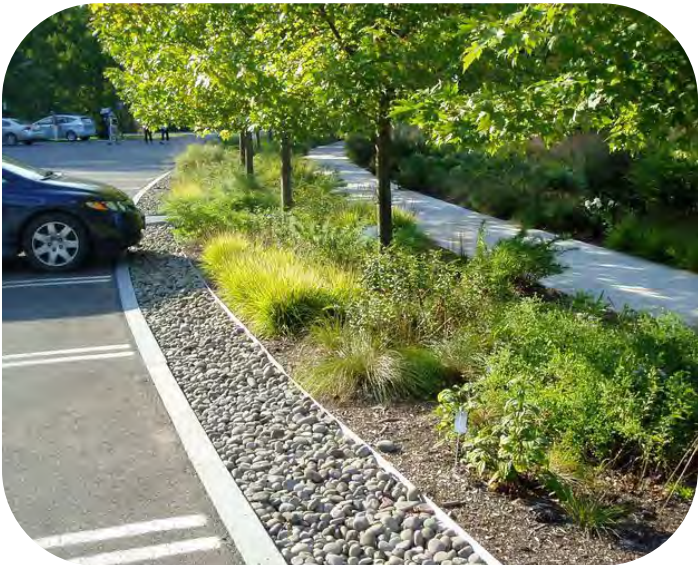


Figure 66. Green parking lots have clear pedestrian paths with generous landscaped areas and trees. This biofiltration strip filters stormwater run off in stages to benefit the adjacent plantings



Figure 67. Rain gardens should contain hardy plantings that can withstand drought and flood conditions



Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre  
Secondary Plan 4.4.d

7.3.9 Structured Parking

While the majority of parking in Promenade Centre should be provided underground, above-ground structured parking may be considered, should underground parking not be feasible on site. These structures shall be designed to respond to the vision of Promenade Centre as a vibrant, accessible and walkable community. Where above ground parking structures are provided, the following guidelines will apply:

- a) Active uses are strongly encouraged for the portion of the ground floor which faces a street or an open space.
- b) The ground floor of above-ground parking structures should be 4.5 metres in height to allow for active at-grade uses, or to allow for future conversion. Subsequent floors should maintain a minimum floor to floor height of not less than 3 metres.
- c) All private parking structures should provide at list one Type 2 EV charging station
- d) Vehicular and pedestrian entrances should be coordinated. Locate vehicular entrances away from high traffic pedestrian areas and local streets, preferably screened from the public realm.
- e) Provide clearly visible and well-signaled pedestrian entryways and entrances. When different uses are provided at grade, clearly distinguish between the pedestrian entrance to the parking structure and the commercial entrances.

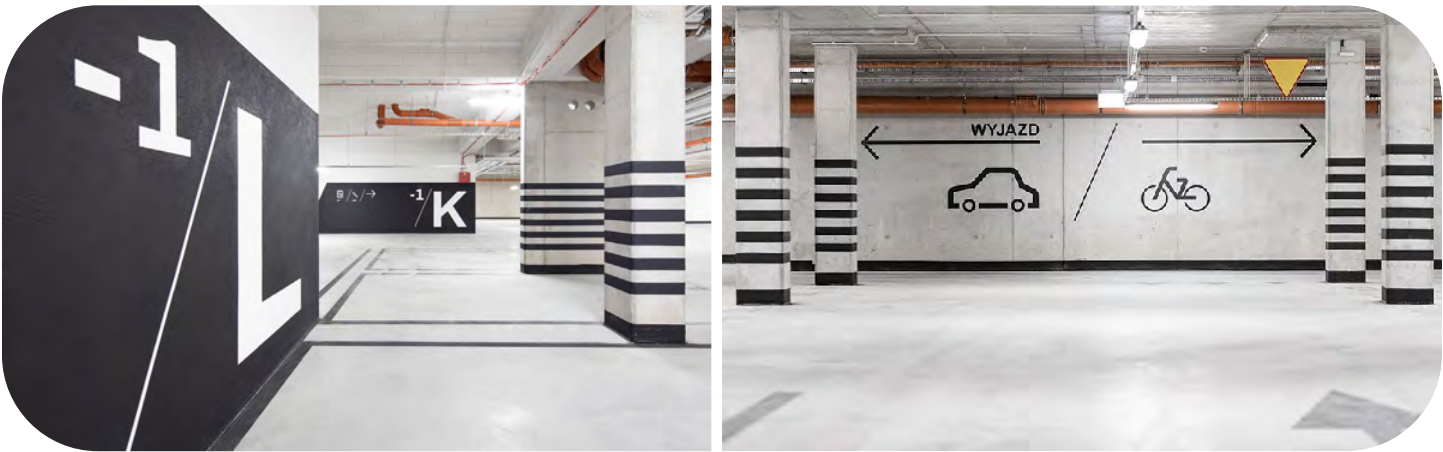


Figure 68. Wayfinding signage within this parking garage promotes a sense of identity.

- f) Vehicular entrances should provide a minimum 1.5-metre-wide accessible clearway for pedestrian movement.
- g) At the entrances and throughout the structure, provide well-scaled and clear wayfinding for both cars and pedestrians. Wayfinding elements can be an opportunity to provide attractive spaces that are also easy to navigate. Integration of signage with building elements can be a successful strategy to lend interest to these structures.
- h) On ground floors where active uses cannot be provided and on the exterior walls of upper floors, solutions that provide architectural interest and an attractive façade should be provided. Elements such as living walls, patterned surfaces, or art panels should be employed.
- i) Pedestrian entrances should be fully accessible and lead to accessible pedestrian paths. Ensure adequate lighting levels and design the structure with reference to CPTED principles.
- j) Indoor bike parking should be provided at the ground floor, or one level below or above ground. When indoor bike parking is not located at grade, bike channels or bike ramps should be provided for safety and ease of access.



Figure 69. DOTS art project activates a parking structure facade



Figure 70. Drop off areas should be designed to provide a comfortable experience for pedestrians



7.3.10 Vehicular Access, Drop-off, Servicing, and Loading

A comfortable and enjoyable public realm prioritizes pedestrian and cyclist movement over car presence. To ensure that access and functionality of “back of house” spaces do not impact the pedestrian experience and the public realm, the following guidelines are provided:

- a) Loading areas are encouraged to be located underground where possible. Vehicular access to loading areas and structured parking should be provided from a local street or a lane.

b) Reducing the number of curb cuts on the public sidewalks by consolidating vehicular access points for servicing, loading, and parking.

c) Locating vehicular and service access away from high pedestrian traffic zones when possible.

d) Appropriate manoeuvring space will be provided to ensure that waste collection vehicles do not encroach into the sidewalk zone during operations.

e) To minimize visual impact of loading and servicing areas on the public realm, landscaping, fencing and other screening features should be employed. These elements should be designed with high quality materials and integrated into the building and site design. Please refer to section 10.7 for additional guidelines.

f) Locate and design drop-off areas to minimize disruption of the public realm. Provide drop off
- areas from a side street, an interior driveway or a secondary frontage and away from high traffic pedestrian areas. Where feasible, consolidate them with other vehicular access points. Secondary entrances to the Lobby should be served by pick-up and drop-off in order to minimize their impact on the street scape. Refer to Section 12 for more details

g) Where vehicular access is necessary, the look and feel of these areas should be considered. Visual cues such as a change in materiality, pavement markings or curb treatment should be used to create seamless transitions between the public realm and vehicular space, while also providing clarity and minimizing conflict with pedestrian activity.

h) Areas dedicated to servicing and loading should provide a sidewalk with a clearway width of 1.5 metres minimum. At least one accessible entrance should be located in proximity of designated drop off areas. The path leading from the designated drop off area to the entrance to the building should be accessible, with the provision of ramped curb cuts if necessary.

7.3.11 Park Edges

Public parks will be the heart of public life for Promenade Centre and it is essential that buildings address them appropriately depending on their uses. When bounding a public park additional consideration is needed for the interface between a building and the park.

Guidelines Reference

- CWUDG: 4.3.8 Development Adjacent to Parkland

- a) Buildings should face the park. Primary and secondary frontages should be oriented towards the park. Provide architectural interest and glazing to frame the park edges with an attractive façade and to build visual connections, when appropriate.

b) Where active uses at grade are adjacent a park, the frontage must address and express presence along the park edge.

c) Ensure a clear transition between public and semi-private areas. This can be achieved by employing low walls and low plantings.

d) Building setbacks along a park edge must be a minimum of 3 metres to allow for a sufficient noise and privacy buffer. Vegetated planting and screening should be considered. Increasing the setback along park edges is encouraged through locating outdoor amenity
- spaces or pet-friendly areas along this interface.

e) Where ground-oriented residential units are present along and facing a park edge, the minimum setback will be 4.5 metres.

f) Pedestrian paths or sidewalks should be provided in the development block. Direct connections to the park or open space from the development are strongly encouraged.

g) The pedestrian path should be a minimum of 2.1 metres.

h) Servicing access blocks should be coordinated with the city when more than one building entrance is provided along the park frontage.

i) Any building loading, servicing, or underground vehicle access functions should not be located along a park edge.



## 7.4 Publicly Accessible Interiors

Common areas include commercial lobbies, entrances and foyers, which are publicly accessible interiors that contribute to the definition of a comfortable and accessible public realm. In appropriate locations, the public use of interior space at the ground floor can improve connectivity and provide all-season options for pedestrian movement through the site.

Promenade Mall offers a system of private halls and plazas that are accessible from the public and are especially used during the hot and cold seasons.

To ensure that the publicly accessible interiors are safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for all, the following guidelines should be followed:

- a) Publicly-accessible interiors should be designed with universal design principles and will accommodate people of all abilities, including those with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments. This includes the provision of accessible entrances, publicly accessible elevators where relevant, and appropriate wayfinding. Provision of monitoring systems and appropriate lighting levels also contributes to a safe and comfortable space.
- b) Publicly-accessible interiors should be visually appealing and engaging. To provide visitors with a comfortable and convenient experience, seating areas, accessible restrooms, water fountains, and other amenities should be provided. Publicly-accessible interiors should also be designed with occupant comfort in mind, taking into account factors such as temperature, ventilation, and acoustics.



Figure 75. Publicly-accessible interiors should be inviting and legible from the street

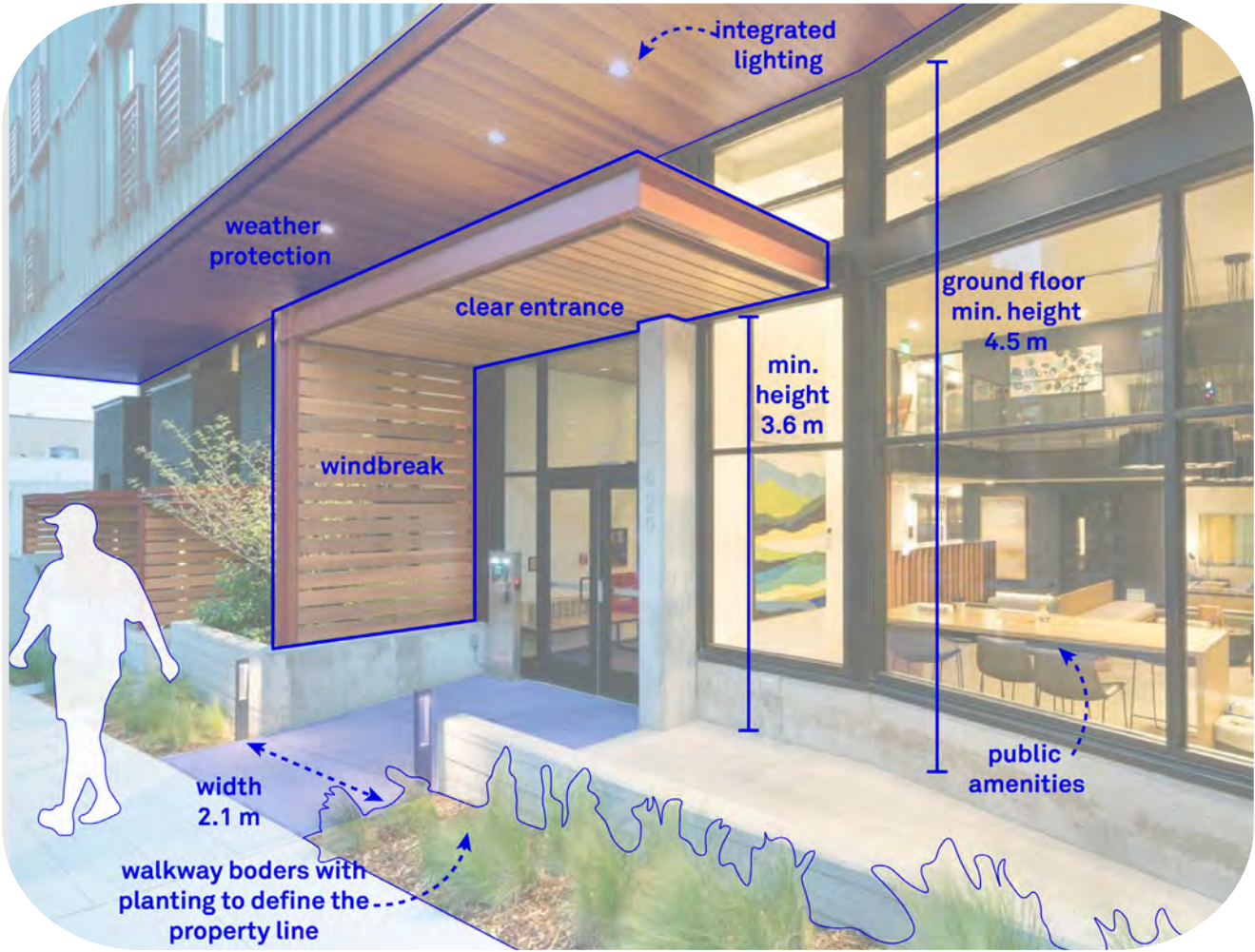


Figure 77. Thresholds should provide microclimate protections

- c) The integration of vegetation and interior landscape elements is encouraged in publicly-accessible interiors. Energy efficient building systems and the use of carbon neutral solutions should also be considered when designing or retrofitting publicly-accessible interiors.
- d) Common entrances should be well defined, visible and located at the same level as the pedestrian clearway or provide accessible unobstructed entry paths. Entrances will be fully accessible in compliance with the City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards.

Areas between the public street and the entrance to the building are considered a buffer between public and private and should be designed following CPTED principles and with consideration of the uses of the building. Canopies, awnings or architectural elements that protect from the weather should be provided at entrances. Trees, landscaped areas and bike parking should also be provided to establish a welcoming and convenient zone at the threshold of a building.



Promenade Centre will fully support multi-modal transportation, with universally accessible public spaces, off-street Shared Use Paths, and new cycling facilities on every public street. The new Transit Terminal and proximity to the Disera-Promenade BRT Station give visitors and residents good opportunities to arrive by public transit.

## 8.0 Streets and Connections

8.1	Multi-Modal Transportation Network	91
8.2	The Three Promenades	92
8.3	The Sidewalk Zone	93
8.4	Complete Streets	95
8.5	Streetscapes	100
8.6	Shared Use Paths	112
8.7	On-Street Parking	121

### 8.1 Multi-Modal Transportation Network

Promenade Centre will fully support multi-modal transportation, with universally accessible public spaces, off-street Shared Use Paths, and new cycling facilities on every public street. The Transit Terminal and proximity to the Disera-Promenade BRT Station allow for good opportunities to arrive by public transit.

Promenade Centre will be a complete community and will include residences, workplaces, and destinations, and have commercial and public amenities to satisfy all users' daily needs within walking distance. People will be encouraged to walk, cycle, and take public transit where pathways are efficient, comfortable, and interesting; All streets and connections will be designed with the pedestrian experience in mind.

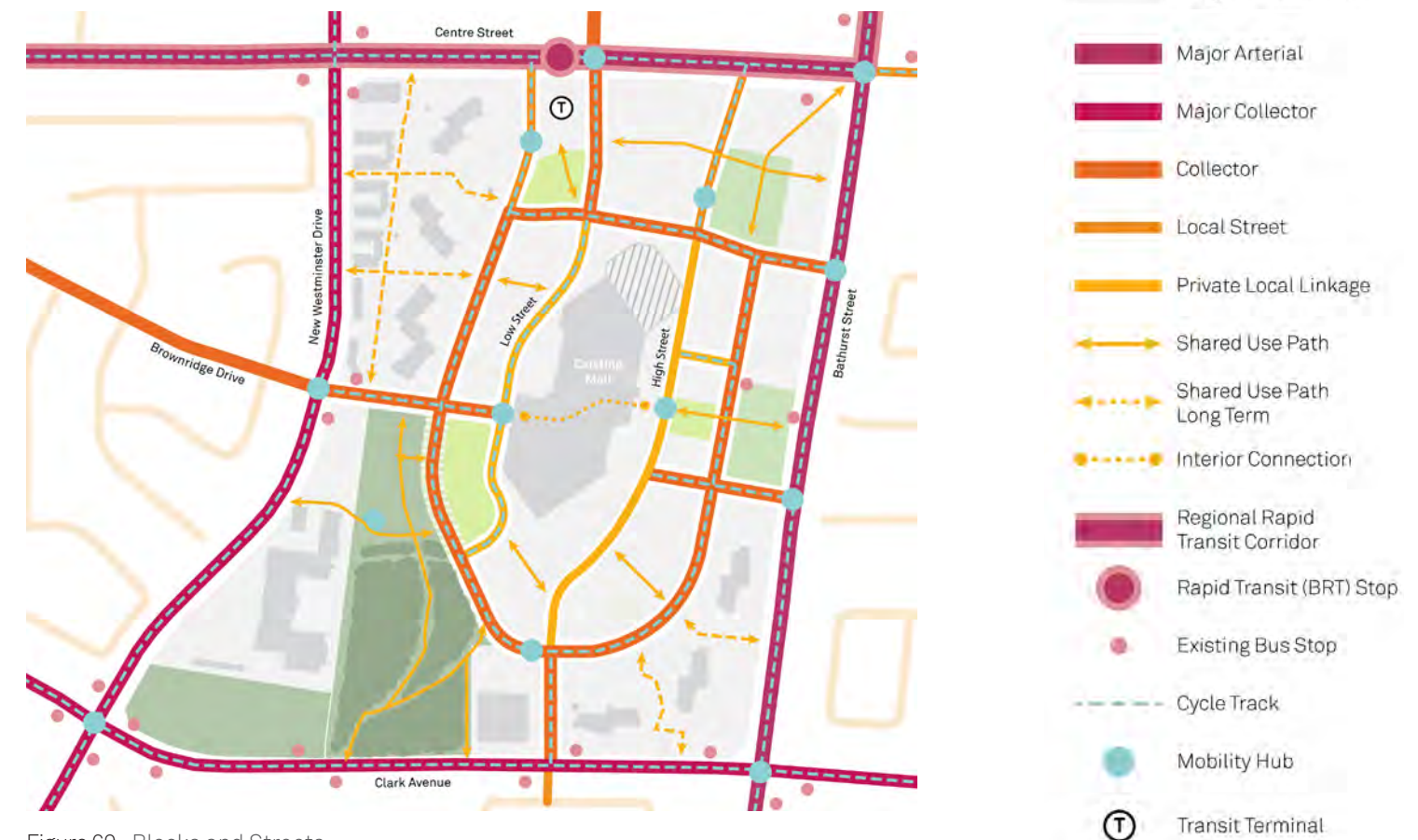


Figure 69. Blocks and Streets

#### Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, 5.2
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule E



### 8.2 The Three Promenades

Within Promenade Centre, streets and paths are not just a means to get from one place to another — they are a part of the public realm, and the connective tissue that brings all of the parks, plazas, homes, shops, and workplaces all together. Streets are essential spaces where informal everyday activities of public life take place.

Within the larger street network, three “Promenades” will create ways to experience Promenade Centre from different perspectives:

#### The Central Promenade:

The Central Promenade links High Street and Low Street, creating a continuous route along the area’s most active and vibrant streets. The streets will contain enhanced sidewalk zones and transparent, active ground floor uses that focus on the pedestrian scale.

#### The Green Street Promenade:

The Green Street Promenade follows a loop of quieter, green streets with wide pedestrian walkways, enhanced landscaping, and large-canopy street trees.

#### The Wellness Promenade:

The Wellness Promenade forms a recreational loop throughout Promenade Centre, linking neighbourhoods and parks. The 2km+ circuit will utilize the Shared Use Path network, and will include fitness equipment and playful elements for children.

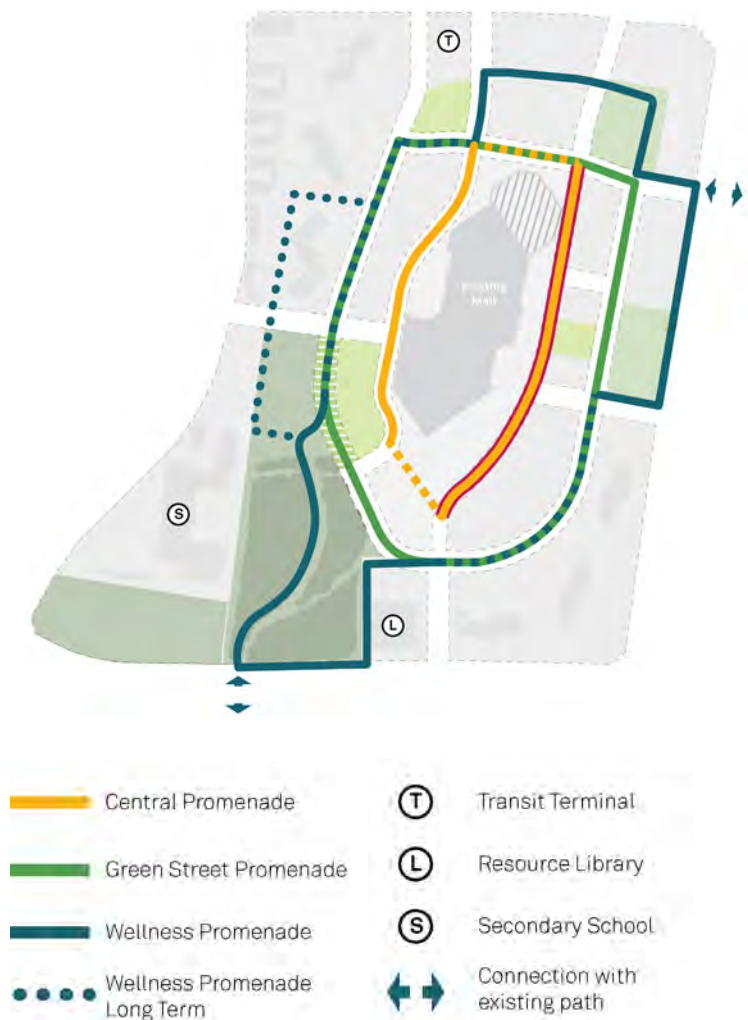


Figure 70. The Three Promenades

### 8.3 The Sidewalk Zone

The City of Vaughan defines the pedestrian realm within a street’s right-of-way as the Pedestrian Boulevard. Where a private setback exists, an additional strip (the Frontage Zone) is located between the property line and the building face. To ensure a seamless transition between the public and private realms, all areas must be considered together when designing the streetscape. The term Sidewalk Zone refers to all components of the pedestrian realm between the roadway and the building face, which consist of:

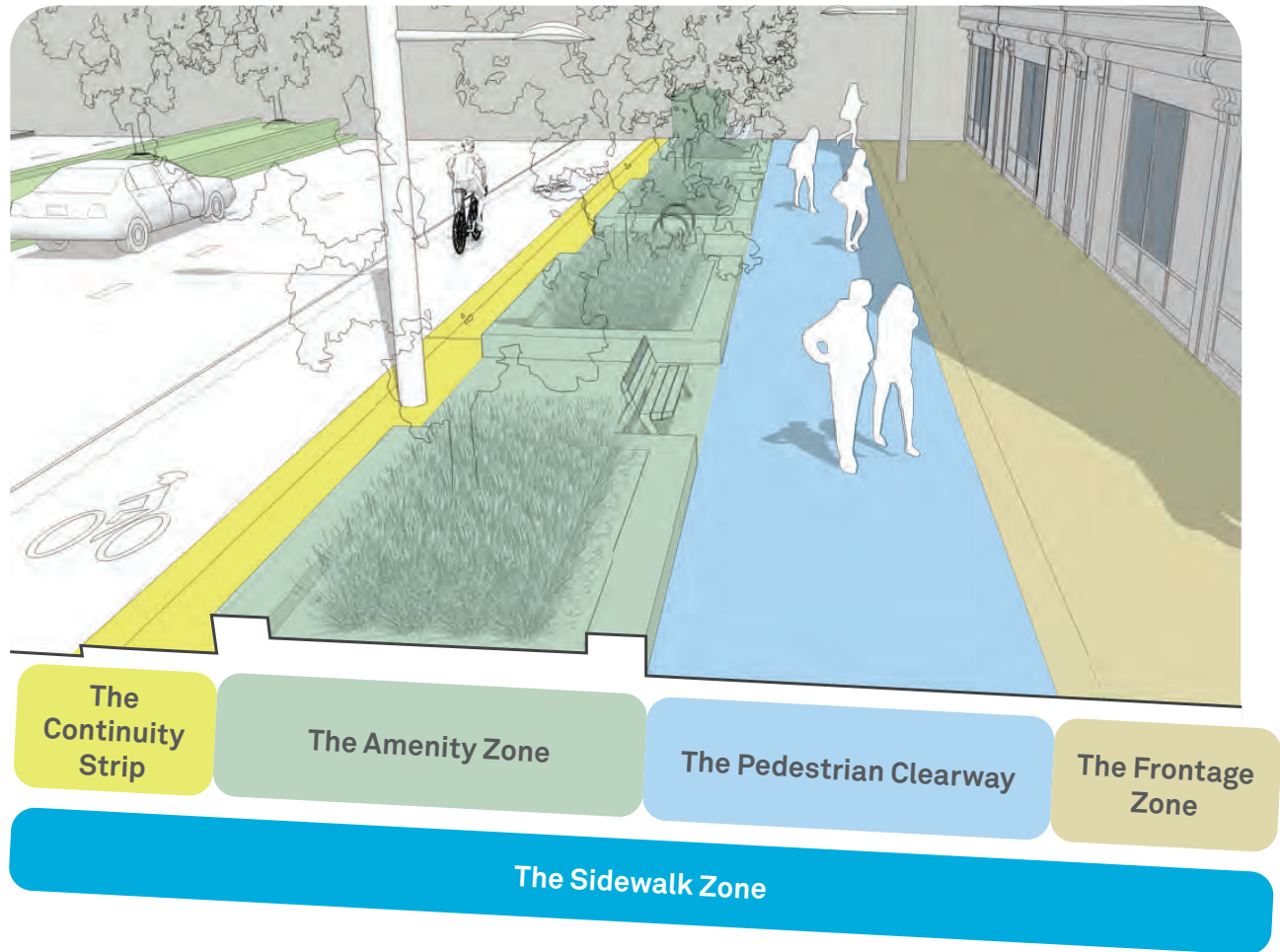


Figure 71. Components of the Streetscape (VCSIM Streetscape Zones, p. 43-47)



**The Continuity Strip:**

Located between the Amenity Zone and the vehicular roadway or cycle lane. It provides safety clearance for vehicles opening their doors toward the sidewalk. They can be hardscaped or softscaped. Utility poles, signage, and light poles can be located here, and it also provides a location for snow storage.

**The Amenity Zone:**

The Amenity Zone is critical in determining the character of the streetscape. Typically located between the Continuity Strip and the Pedestrian Clearway Zone. The appearance of the Amenity Zone can vary greatly, with a combination of hardscaped or softscaped surfaces. Trees, plantings, and LID features are typically located here, as well as street furnishings, bicycle parking, waste receptacles, and lighting. It acts as a further buffer between the Pedestrian Clearway Zone and the roadway, are places to gather and meet within the street. There may be one or more amenity zones within the Sidewalk Zone if the width of the streetscape allows.

• In these guidelines, the word “sidewalk” is used to refer to the Sidewalk Zone and all of its components. The space within a sidewalk specifically dedicated for pedestrian travel is referred to as a “pedestrian clearway” or the “Pedestrian Clearway Zone”

**The Pedestrian Clearway Zone:**

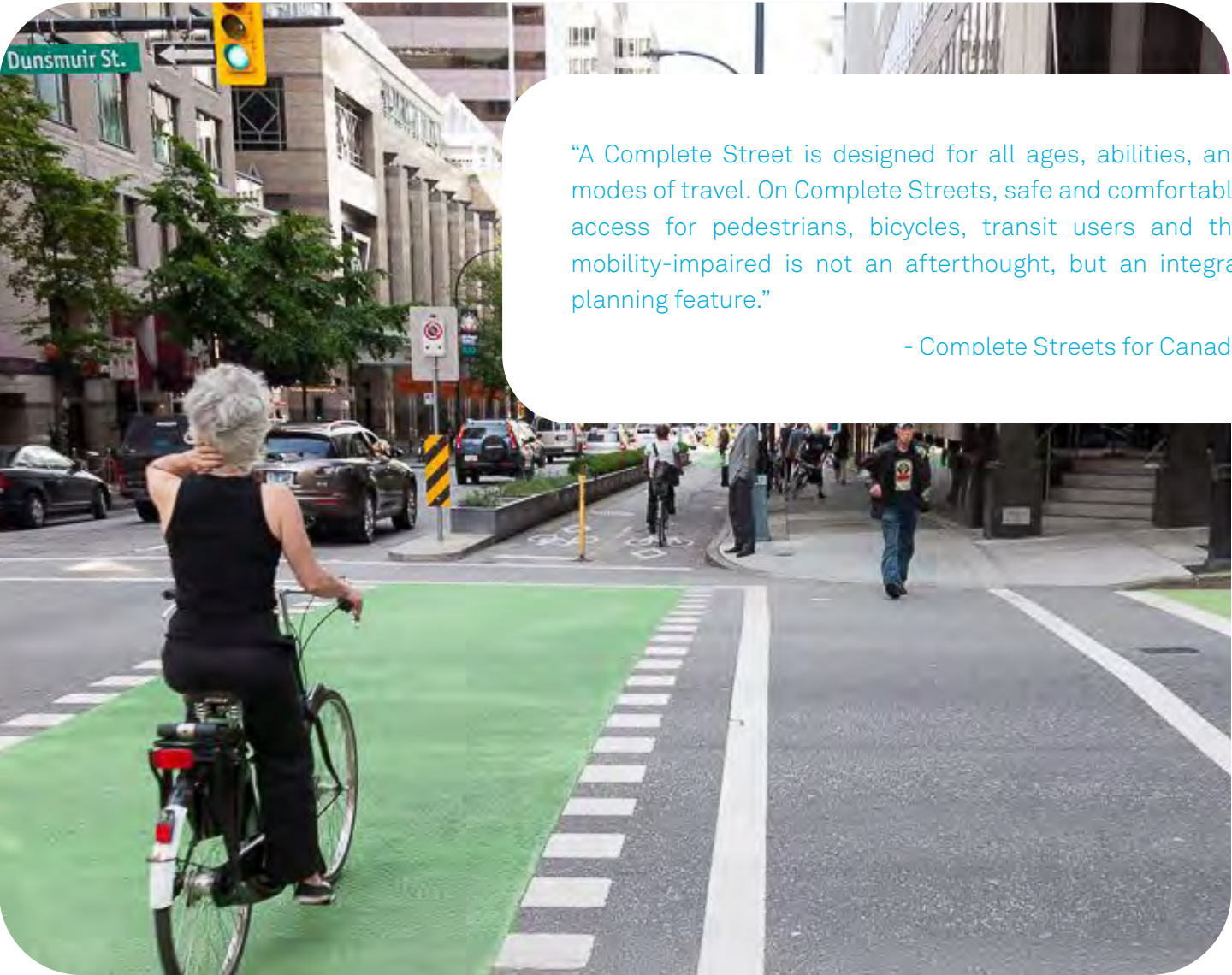
Typically located between the Amenity Zone and the Frontage Zone, but can be located between two Amenity Zones. It provides an unobstructed path of travel for pedestrians to move along the street and is made up of hard paving materials. The path should be free of obstacles and furnishings, and may vary in width based on the expectation of pedestrian traffic in the area, the adjacent land uses, and the street classification.

**The Frontage Zone:**

Located between the Pedestrian Clearway Zone and the edge of the adjacent building or other land use. The Frontage Zone provides a transition between the public realm and private realm, and is highly variable based on the adjacent uses, either inviting people in, or providing a privacy buffer. They can include hardscape surfaces to allow pedestrians to move to and through the building frontage, with furnishings, signage, or other activities spilling out into the public realm; they can also be landscaped, providing a vegetative buffer between the public and private uses. It can greatly vary in width based on the nature of the street and the adjacent land uses. The Frontage Zone is typically located within the private setback, but may partially be located in the right-of-way, as long as it does not obstruct the Pedestrian Clearway Zone.

**8.4 Complete Streets**

Complete Streets serve as more than just connections, they are places within themselves. They have the right dimensions and amenities to support social gathering, passive enjoyment, and commercial activity, while ensuring safe and comfortable pedestrian and cyclist movement, balanced with efficient vehicle movements and public transit access.





**General**

- a) Streets of all classifications within the Promenade Centre Study Area should comply with Complete Streets Principles as outlined in this section.
- b) All streets must include facilities that comply with AODA and Vaughan Inclusive Spaces Guidelines

**Pedestrian Facilities and Safety**

- c) Pedestrian Clearway Zones should be 2.1 m.
- d) Any street furnishings, plantings, or other urban elements must be placed in a way that does not obstruct the pedestrian clearway.

A minimum of 3.0 metres of headroom must be provided on all pathways. Trees and other vegetation lining pathways must be maintained to this standard.

- e) Pedestrian clearways will have adequate separation from vehicle traffic through a combination of cycling lanes, Continuity Strips and/or Amenity Zones
- f) Street crossings should be safe, visible, and well-marked, and placed at frequent intervals. Mid-block crossings and prominent intersections should be raised to the level of the sidewalk.



Figure 72. A complete street includes comfortable facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

**Cycling Facilities and Safety**

- g) Physically separated Cycle Tracks or Multi-Use Trails should be located on all new streets. Other kinds of cycling facilities may be considered where traffic speed and volumes permit.
- h) Where the roadway is shared between cyclists and vehicles, the speed limit of the roadway should not exceed 40km/h
- i) Streets and intersections should be designed to prioritize safe and efficient movement of bicycles. Some measures include: bicycle-priority and/or phased traffic signals, two-stage turn boxes, speed bumps and corner wedges, median refuge islands, and appropriate signage indicating bicycle priority and yield signals for vehicles.
- j) Ample public bicycle parking should be located in prominent, visible, and convenient locations within the public realm.



Figure 73. Example of bike friendly facility in the streetscape



Public Transit Access

- k) Ensure safe and direct access for pedestrians and cyclists to move to and from the Disera-Promenade BRT stop on Centre Street, the Transit Hub, and other transit stops on surrounding streets.
- l) New or relocated transit stops should be located in visible locations in proximity to public spaces, the pedestrian and cycling network, and Mobility Hubs
- m) Transit stops should provide places to sit and protection from the elements.
- n) Transit stops must be fully accessible. Where visual information is displayed, text-to-speech functions and other accessibility features should be provided.
- o) Consider providing digital displays in conjunction with high-volume bus stops that include real-time next bus information and live updates on any delays.
- p) Consider bus-priority lanes where heavy vehicle traffic is expected.



Figure 74. Comfortable and attractive transit shelters can encourage people to use public transit.



Figure 75. Proper growing conditions will ensure healthy vegetation and mature trees on the streets.



Figure 76. Street amenities and street furniture design should encourage socialization or exercise.

Streets as Places/Green Streets

- q) Complete streets are themselves destinations within the overall network of public spaces, and should be designed and dimensioned with the immediate context and level of activity in mind.
- r) Provide places within streets for gathering, socialization, relaxing, and exercise.
- s) Sunlight should be maintained as much as possible on sidewalks of active streets.
- t) The design of streets and buildings as they interface with the street should provide for good microclimate conditions and comfort in all seasons and times of day.
- u) Create wider Frontage Zones in areas where higher pedestrian activity and active ground floor uses are expected.
- v) Street design should support an active commercial district and provide value to the neighbourhood.
- w) Streets should incorporate a biodiverse palette of trees, plantings, and opportunities to integrate LID stormwater management infrastructure into their design.
- x) Proper growing conditions should be provided to ensure healthy vegetation and mature growth of trees, grasses, and understory plantings.
- y) All streets should include a Continuity Strip zone and/or Amenity Zone between the pedestrian clearway and the roadway or cycle track.
- z) CPTED principles should be incorporated into the design of all streets, including consideration on lighting, views and sightlines, overlook and passive surveillance, and points of escape.



## 8.5 Streetscapes

### 8.5.1 Centre Street

Centre Street is expected to experience substantial growth, due in part to the Highway 7 West Rapidway, and also envisioned in The York Regional Official Plan and the Vaughan Official Plan. It has been designated a Primary Intensification Corridor and includes dedicated Bus Rapid Transit lanes. In November 2013, the City of Vaughan adopted the Centre Street Urban Design Guidelines, which sets out a direction for intensification along this corridor.

There is a significant grade change from the Centre Street sidewalk into the site, and special attention must be paid to new building entrances along Centre Street and the public realm treatment of streets leading into Promenade Centre. The grade change allows for unique building and public realm opportunities, but they must be implemented in a way that ensures safe and accessible conditions for all users.

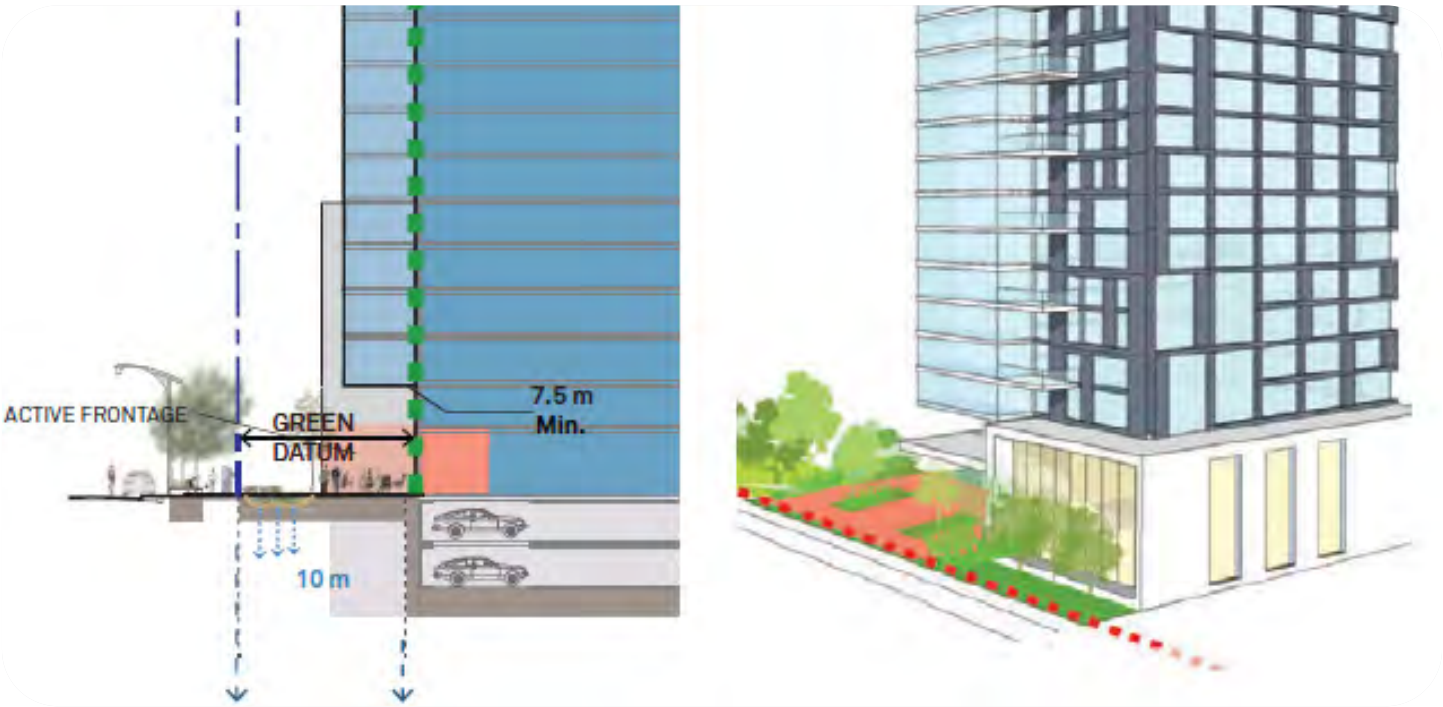


Figure 77. Vaughan City-Wide Guidelines the Green Approach along corridors

- a) Properties along Centre Street should apply the Avenue Streetscape Guidelines as shown in the Centre Street Urban Design Guidelines
- b) Properties along Centre Street should apply the Green Approach on Intensification Corridors as presented in the City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines (CWUD).
- c) Where commercial or retail uses or shared residential entrances are present at grade, the building setback should be a minimum of 3.5 metres (CWUD).
- d) Where ground-oriented units are present at grade, the building setback should be a minimum of 7 metres (CWUD).
- e) Where a grade change is present, residential entries may be vertically separated from the level of the sidewalk. Access from the sidewalk should be provided. Maximum vertical separation is 1.2 metres to reduce the amount of stairs and area taken up by stairs.
- f) If a grade change from the sidewalk requires the entrance to be non-accessible, an alternate primary accessible entrance to the unit must be provided.
- g) Residential entries located on Centre Street must be adequately screened to mitigate privacy impacts from the public realm. The use of a vegetative buffer is encouraged to provide noise mitigation from traffic on Centre Street.
- h) Non-residential entries and residential lobbies located on Centre Street must be accessible from the sidewalk.



Guidelines Reference

- York Region's Designing Great Streets (2019). 4.2.9 Avenue Typology
- York Region Construction Design Guidelines And Standards

8.5.2 Bathurst Street

Bathurst Street is designated a Regional Major Arterial Road accommodating between five to eight vehicle lanes along the east side of Promenade Centre. It currently contains no active uses along the street, with the backyards of single-detached homes oriented toward the street on the east side.

Bathurst Park and the Promenade Centre Gateway Plaza will connect the mall with Bathurst Street, creating a gateway to the site from the east. As Promenade Centre develops, new buildings should be oriented toward Bathurst Street, to further invite people inward and integrate Promenade Centre within its context.

- a) Properties on Bathurst Street must have a minimum front property line setback of 7 metres.
- b) Properties along Bathurst Street should apply the Green Approach on Intensification Corridors as presented in the City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines (CWUD).
- c) Where commercial or retail uses or shared residential entrances are present at grade, the building setback should be a minimum of 3.5 metres (CWUD).
- d) Where ground-oriented units are present at grade, the building setback should be a minimum of 7 metres (CWUD).
- e) Where a grade change is present, residential entries may be vertically separated from the level of the sidewalk. Access from the sidewalk should be provided. Maximum vertical separation is 1.5 metres to reduce the amount of stairs and area taken up by stairs.
- f) If a grade change from the sidewalk requires the entrance to be non-accessible, an alternate primary accessible entrance to the unit must be provided.
- g) Residential entries located on Bathurst Street must be adequately screened to mitigate privacy impacts from the public realm. The use of a vegetative buffer is encouraged to provide noise mitigation from traffic on Bathurst Street.
- h) Non-residential entries and residential lobbies located on Bathurst Street must be accessible from the sidewalk.

8.5.3 Collectors

As defined in the Vaughan Citywide Streetscape Implementation Manual, Collectors are “medium-sized municipal streets that connect the arterial street network to the local street network. Collectors are characterized by a balance of vehicular and cycling movement and pedestrian activity”

Collectors in Promenade Centre form the primary loop drive of green streets within the site, and gateway streets accessed from Centre Street, Bathurst Street, Clark Avenue West and New Westminster Drive. These streets should allow for a relatively higher volume of vehicle traffic and bus routes through the area. Wide buffers and cycle tracks separate the pedestrian realm from the roadway, with large-canopy street trees and ample opportunities for greening and LID features in the streetscape.

- a) Collector Streets form the main vehicle transportation network through Promenade Centre, connecting the off site arterial street network to Local Streets within the site, or to visitors’ destinations in Promenade Centre.
- b) Collector Streets will include multi-modal elements generally as depicted in Figure 87. Including:
  - Sidewalks on both side of the street
  - Cycle tracks on both side of the street
  - 2 opposing travel lanes
  - A centre turn lane
- c) Collector Streets should typically have a minimum right-of-way width of 24.5 metres at mid-block sections.
- d) Parking should not be provided on Collectors. Exceptions may be made for accessible parking or lay-bys for pick-up, drop-off, and short-term loading where other opportunities do not exist.



Figure 78. Typical Collector Streetscape (Figure 8.6 VCSIM)



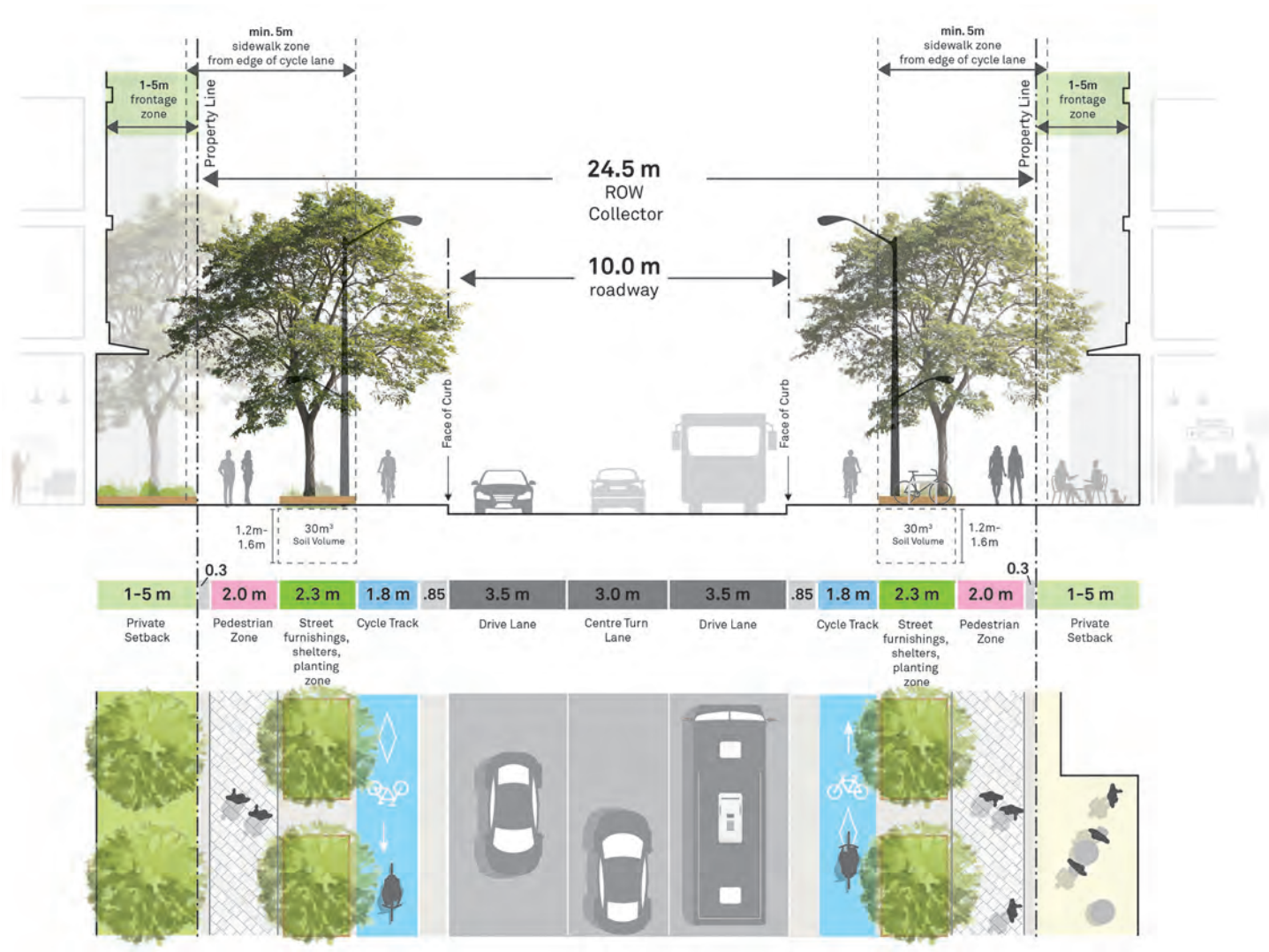


Figure 79. Collector Street typical section (Promenade Centre Secondary Plan)

### 8.5.4 Local Streets

The Vaughan Citywide Streetscape Implementation Manual defines Local Streets as “smaller-scale municipal streets with an emphasis on neighborhood activities and connections. Their intimate scale and slower speed is a comfortable and safe place for pedestrians, cyclists and slow vehicle traffic.”

#### Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, 5.2
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule E

- a) Local Streets will provide connections between Collector Streets and visitors’ destinations in Promenade Centre.
- b) Local Streets will include multi-modal elements generally as depicted in Figure 18 including:
  - Sidewalks on both side of the street
  - Cycle tracks on both side of the street
  - 2 opposing travel lanes
- c) Local Streets should typically have a minimum right-of-way width of 20 metres at mid-block sections.
- d) Where on-street parking is to be provided on one side of a Local Street, the right-of-way should be a minimum of 22 metres at mid-block sections.
- e) Vehicular access to parking structures or to buildings for loading, servicing, and parking should typically be located from Local Streets.



Figure 80. Typical local streetscape (Figure 6.6, VCSIM)



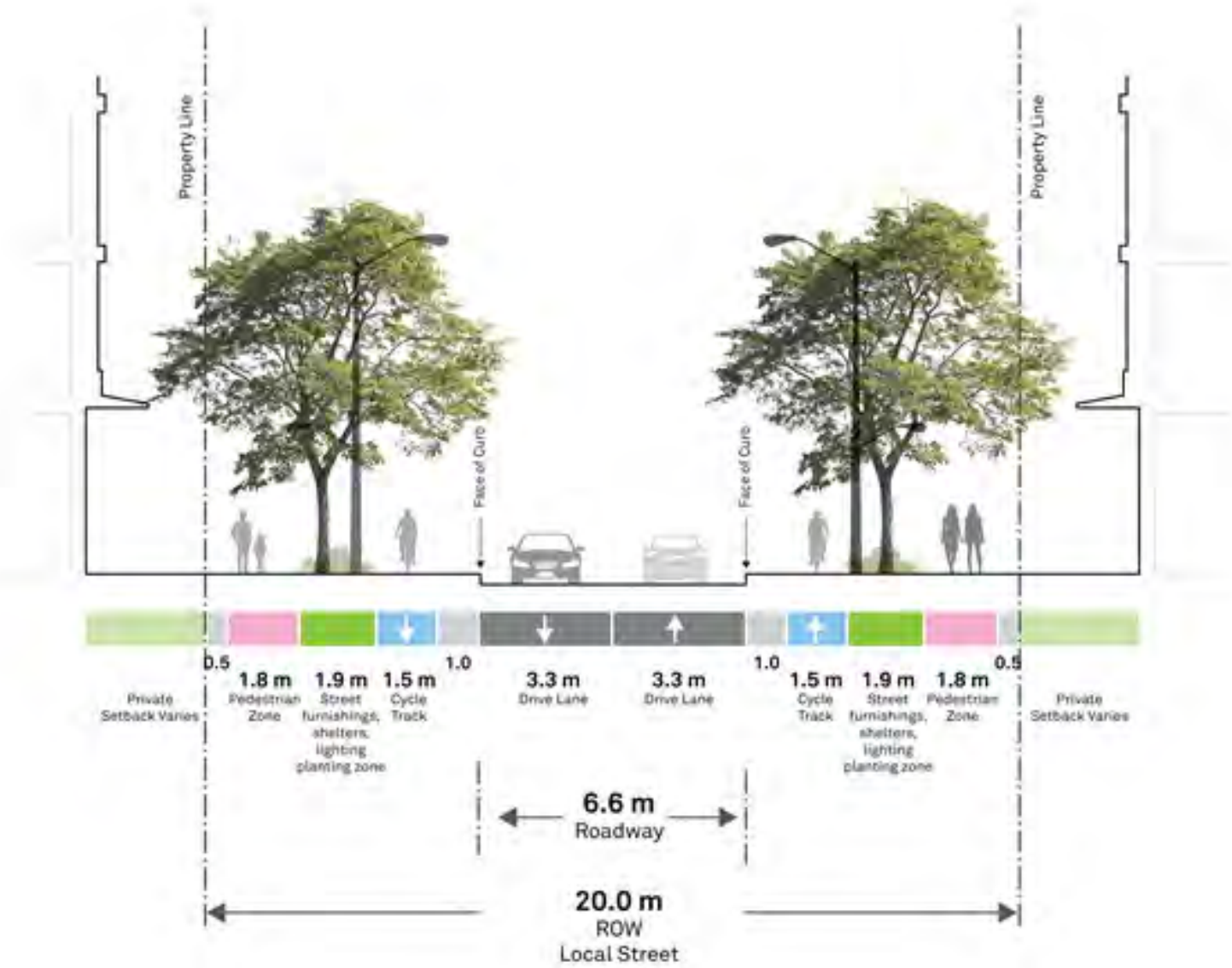


Figure 81. Local Street typical section (Promenade Centre Secondary Plan)

### 8.5.5 High Street (Private Local Linkage)

High Street will be Promenade Centre’s most active and vibrant street, and, in conjunction with Low Street, it will constitute the Central Promenade. Active uses will animate the streetscape through Frontage Zone activities and a highly transparent ground floor. Signature paving will define the streetscape, and the Amenity Zone will contain plenty of areas for gathering and resting.

- Policy Reference**
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, 5.2
  - Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule E

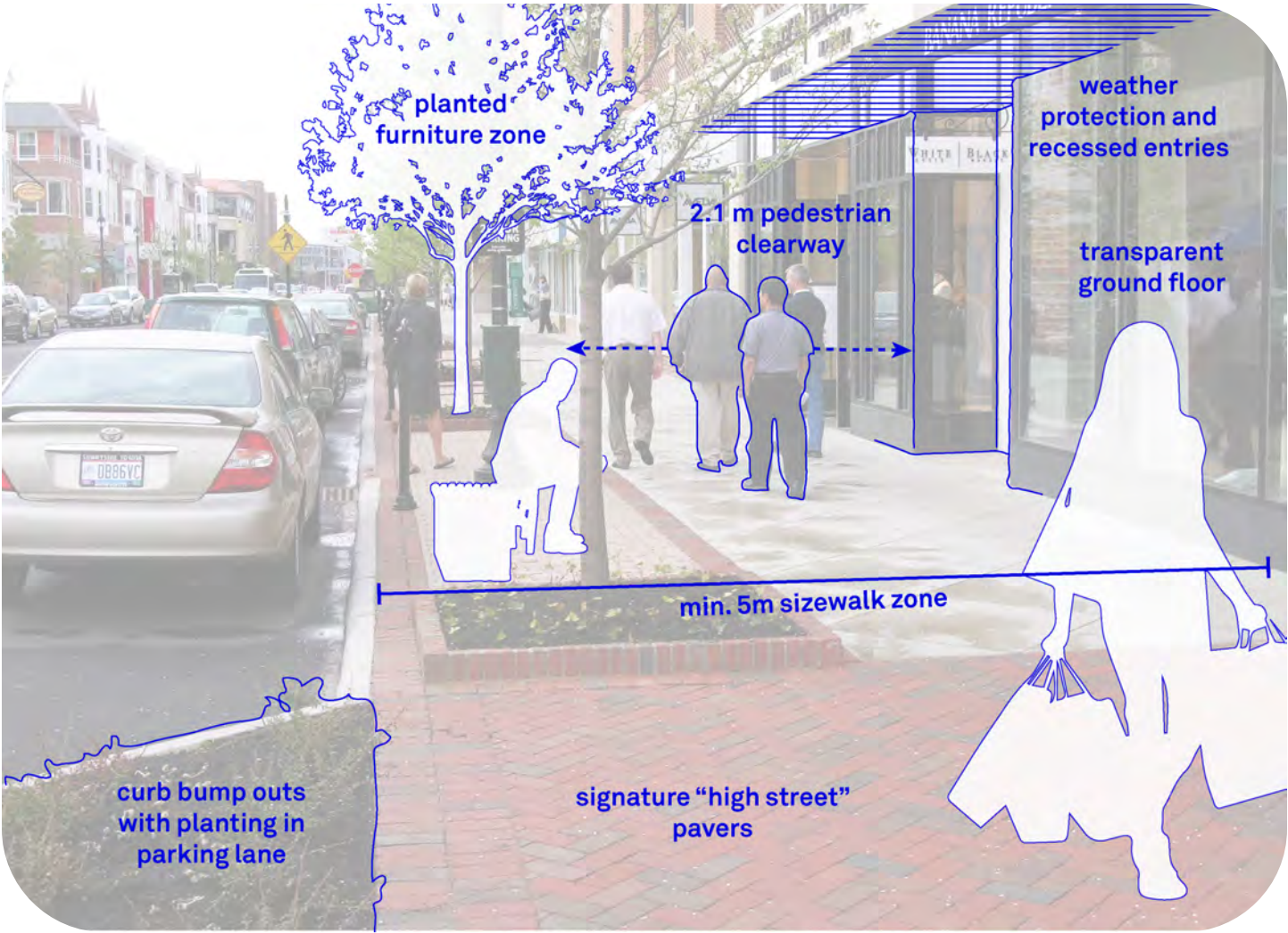


Figure 82. High Street and Low Street Sidewalk Zone elements



- a) High Street will include multi-modal elements generally as depicted in Figure 20 including:
- Sidewalk Zones on both side of the street
- b) High Street will be the primary active street within Promenade Centre. It will be pedestrian-priority, with wide sidewalks and an active and vibrant public realm.
- c) High Street will include multi-modal elements generally as depicted in Figure 21 including:
- Sidewalk Zones on both side of the street
  - 2 opposing travel lanes.
  - Cycling facilities (Sharrow Lanes)
- d) High Street will be a slow street, allowing for bicycles and cars to share the roadway. The roadway will be designed to encourage slow vehicle movement and comfort for pedestrians and cyclists. Consider:
- Raised pedestrian crosswalks that are flush with the sidewalk
  - Curb bump outs to narrow the roadway featuring furnishings, public art, and/or plantings.
  - Minimized turning radii
- e) The sidewalk zone and other public realm areas abutting High Street should incorporate signature paving patterns and materials. Signature paving should be considered for the roadway surface.
- f) High Street should allow for high permeability from the street to shared use paths, publicly-accessible interiors, and/or active uses at grade.
- g) Publicly-accessible interiors and active uses at grade should incorporate a high degree of transparency and interest between private space and public realm, including the use of floor-to-ceiling windows, engaging window displays, entryway treatments, and activity in the Frontage Zone.
- h) Buildings abutting High Street should have engaging storefront displays that encourage views into the interior from the public realm. A high proportion of transparent materials should be used.
- i) Buildings abutting High Street should incorporate awnings and other weather-protective elements into the façade. Awnings should project no less than 1.5 metres from the building face.
- j) The height of the streetwall along High Street will be of a lower, pedestrian scale than in other areas of Promenade Centre, ranging from 3 to 5 storeys.

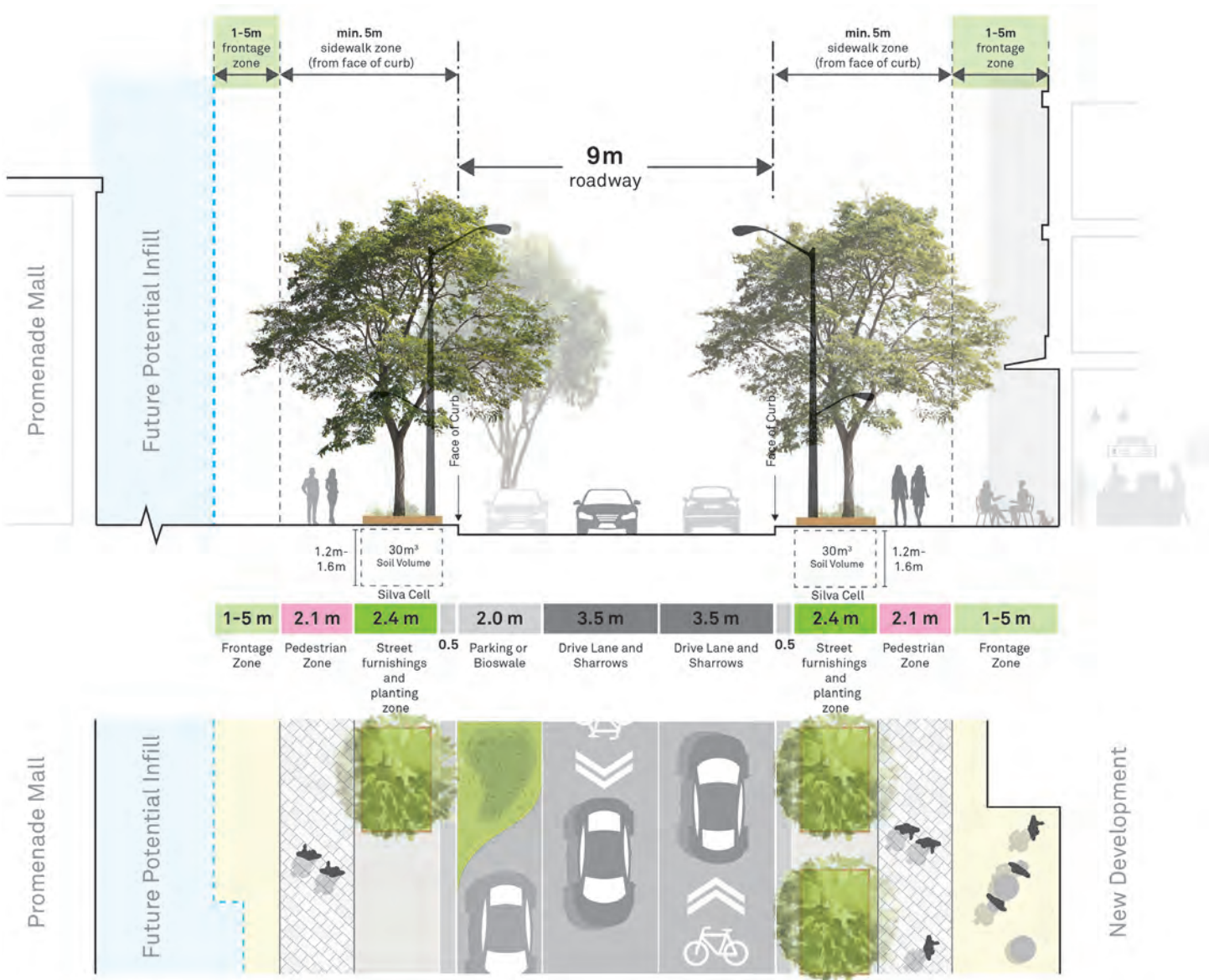


Figure 83. High Street typical section



8.5.6 Low Street (Private Local Linkage)\*

Low Street is the secondary pedestrian-primary active street in Promenade Centre, completing the Central Promenade with High Street. Active uses at grade will animate the public realm, but to a lower degree than on High Street. Low Street is expected to accommodate a higher degree of vehicle activity and loading functions.

- Policy Reference**
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, 5.2
  - Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule E

- a) Low Street will be the secondary active street Promenade Centre. It will be pedestrian-priority, with wide sidewalks and an active and vibrant public realm.
- b) Low Street will include multi-modal elements generally as depicted in Figure 22 including:
  - Sidewalk Zones on both side of the street
  - 2 opposing travel lanes.
  - A parking lane with landscaped curb bump outs
  - Cycle lanes
- c) Bi-directional cycling facilities may be provided on one or both sides of the street. Further transportation studies will need to evaluate the ideal configuration of the cycling facilities on Low Street with respect to the need to maintain loading functions.
- d) Low Street will be designed to encourage slow vehicle movement and comfort for non-vehicle road users, including:
  - Raised pedestrian crosswalks that are flush with the sidewalk
  - Curb bump outs to narrow the roadway featuring furnishings, public art, and/or plantings.
  - Minimized turning radii
- e) Dimensions for street elements should generally be as shown in Figure 93.
- f) The sidewalk zone and other public realm areas abutting High Street should incorporate signature paving patterns and materials. Signature paving should be considered for the roadway surface.
- g) Low Street should allow for high permeability from the street to shared use paths, publicly-accessible interiors, and/or active uses at grade.

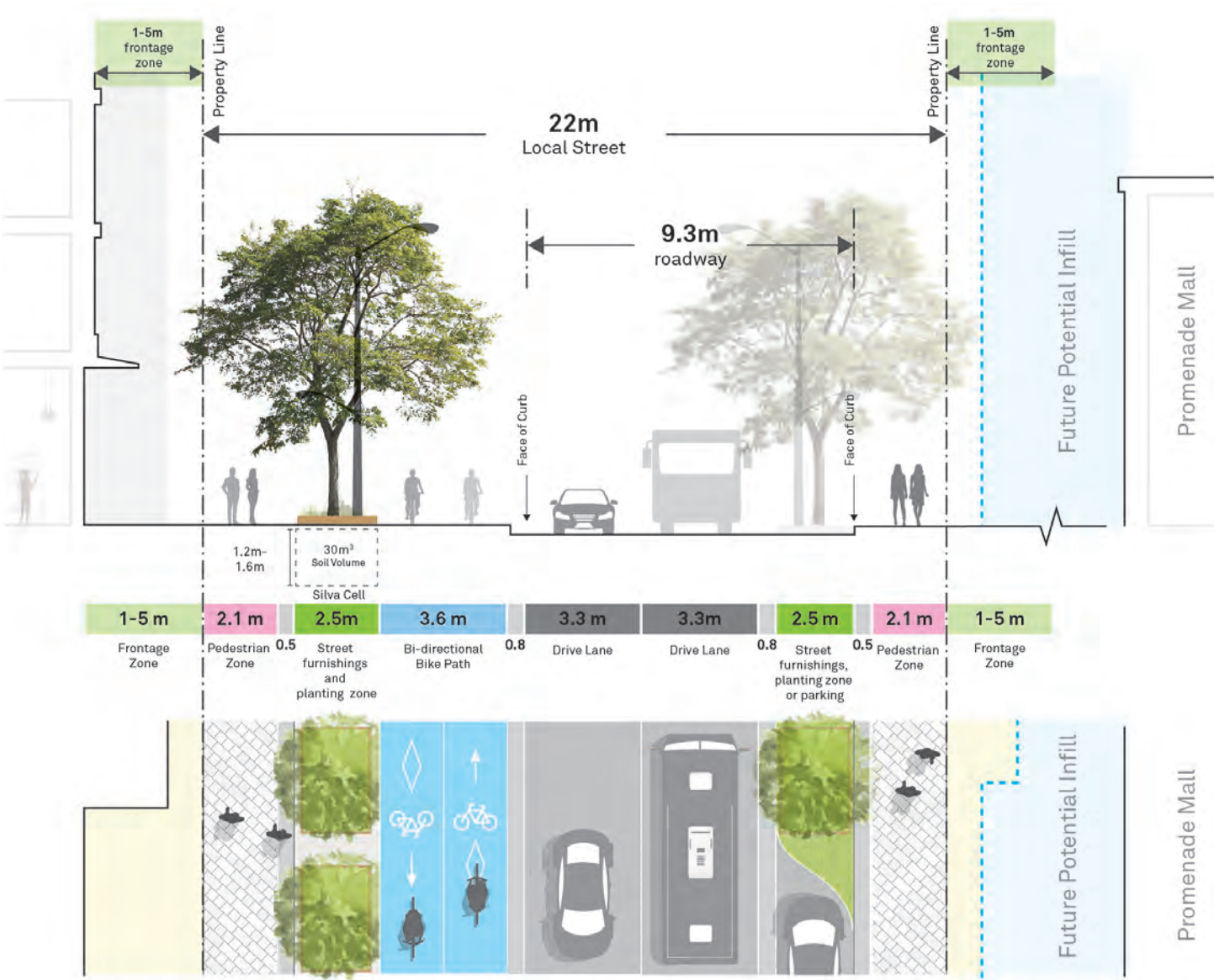


Figure 84. Low Street typical interim section

- h) Publicly-accessible interiors and active uses at grade should incorporate a high degree of transparency and interest between private space and public realm, including the use of floor-to-ceiling windows, engaging window displays, engaging signage and lighting, entryway treatments, and activity in the Frontage Zone.
- i) Buildings abutting Low Street should incorporate awnings and other weather-protective elements into the façade. Awnings should project no less than 1.5 metres from the building face.
- j) The height of the streetwall along Low Street will be of a lower, pedestrian scale than in other areas of Promenade Centre, ranging from 3 to 5 storeys.



### 8.6 Shared Use Paths

Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, 5.2
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule E

The Shared Use Path network provides pedestrian- and cyclist-primary movement throughout the site. Shared Use Paths provide publicly-accessible, direct, safe, and efficient movements throughout the area, connecting to key destinations and public transit connections. Limited vehicle access may be permitted on Shared Use Paths, subject to the guidelines below.

The Promenade Centre Secondary Plan sets out the required elements for Shared Use Paths and high-level illustrative sections. Evolving from this policy, these Guidelines recommend three Shared Use Path typologies, based on different activities and adjacent uses. These connections will be well integrated into and influenced by into their immediate surroundings, therefore, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The ultimate design and layout of Shared Use Paths will be determined through the development process to the satisfaction of the City.

General

- a) Shared Use Paths will include pedestrian and cycling paths, and urban elements, including lighting, that are designed and scaled for pedestrian and cyclist movement.

b) The Shared Use Path network should connect the surrounding transit system, including the Transit Terminal and the Disera-Promenade BRT stop on Centre Street.

c) The Shared Use Path network should connect to key destinations and open spaces as well as neighbourhood areas.
- d) Shared Use Paths will create publicly-accessible mid-block connections, leading to Publicly-Accessible Spaces in the interior of blocks.

e) Where Shared Use Paths intersect with streets within and surrounding Promenade Centre, safe and direct mid-block crossings should be provided.

f) Where Shared Use Paths create a mid-block connection or otherwise pass between two buildings, the minimum separation distance between buildings will be 15 metres.

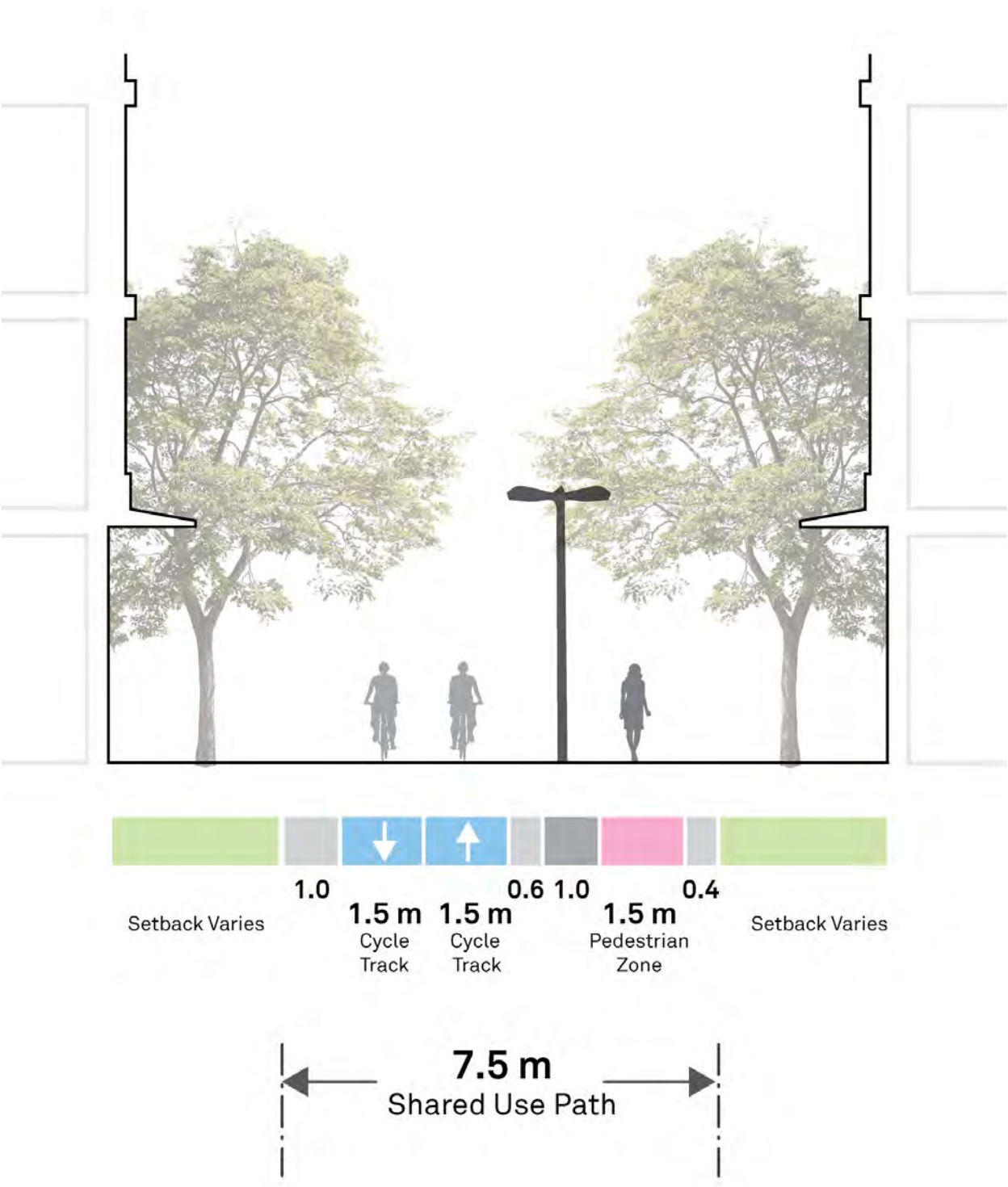


Figure 85. Shared Use Path (Promenade Centre Secondary Plan), for illustrative purposes.



8.6.1 Mews

The Vaughan Citywide Streetscape Implementation Manual (“VCSIM”) defines Mews as “small-scale streets that may be pedestrian and cycling only, or pedestrian and cycling-oriented streets that accommodate vehicular laneway functions. In the second option, mews can be designed to balance the servicing and parking access functions of a laneway with active building frontage and generous pedestrian space. Mews contribute to fine-grain connectivity for a greater versatility of movement.”

Mews are pedestrian-primary spaces that allow limited local access for vehicles within a shared street. While mews will serve as mid-block through-connections for pedestrians and cyclists, vehicles may need to access the interior of block to provide loading functions for retail and commercial units, access to underground parking, accessible parking spaces, and pick-up/drop-off spaces that cannot be provided on the street. Path dimensions, furnishings, materials, and overall look and feel will signal to drivers that this is a place to drive slowly and carefully, and to expect other users on the street. They may feature a non-linear roadway to further slow vehicles and to create a unique public space.

Mews will allow for shared use of the roadway for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, and should favour a curbless roadway design.

- a) Mews will allow for shared use of the roadway for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, and should provide a curbless roadway design.



Figure 87. A mews can act as a shared space to accommodate active and vehicular transportation options

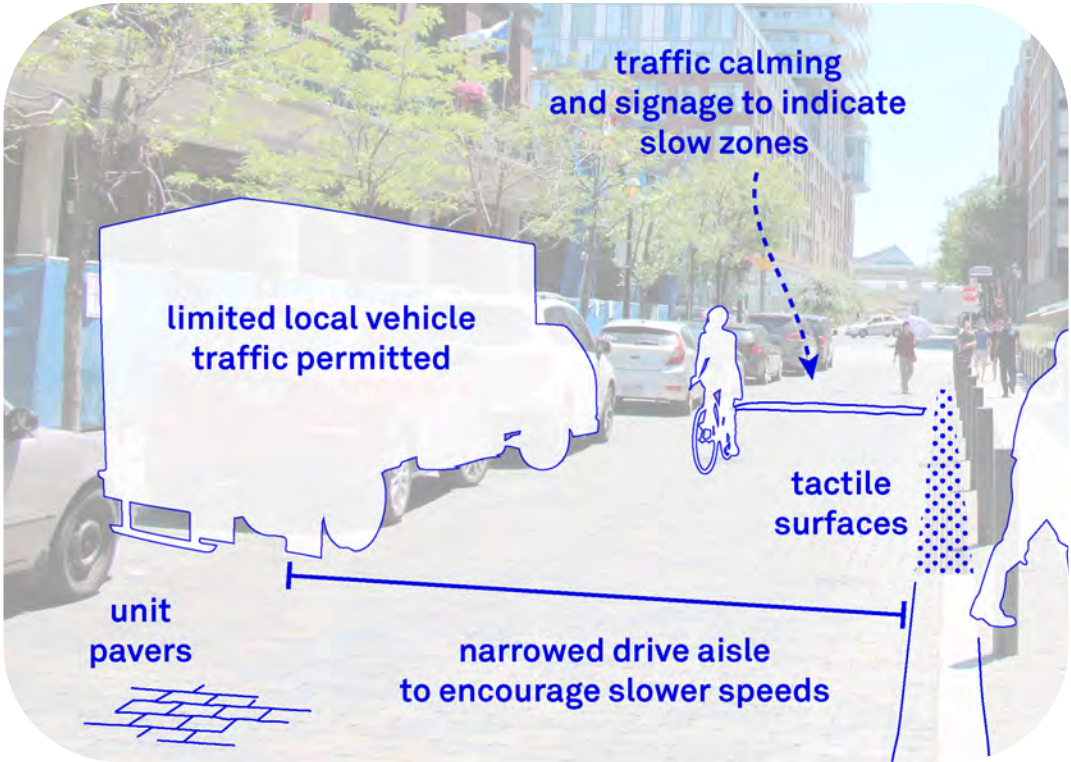


Figure 88. Mews elements diagram

- b) Tactile surfaces, bollards, and/or contrasting paving materials should be considered where potential vehicle conflicts are anticipated or where the roadway is not otherwise visually clear.
- c) Mews should be paved with unit pavers or poured concrete that differentiate the space from other (asphalt) roadways.
- d) Mews will be designed to favour comfort and safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the roadway and encourage slow vehicle movement. Traffic calming measures should be integrated into the design of the roadway, including:
- Narrowed roadways and lanes
  - Speed bumps
  - Landscaping, furniture, and other urban elements within the roadway
  - Minimized turning radii
  - Signage should be employed as a last measure only in conjunction with other traffic calming measures.
- e) The speed limit in Mews shall not exceed 30km/h
- f) The roadway width within Mews should typically be 4 metres.
- g) One-way vehicle traffic through Mews is encouraged, to reduce the use of the path as a cut-through for traffic.



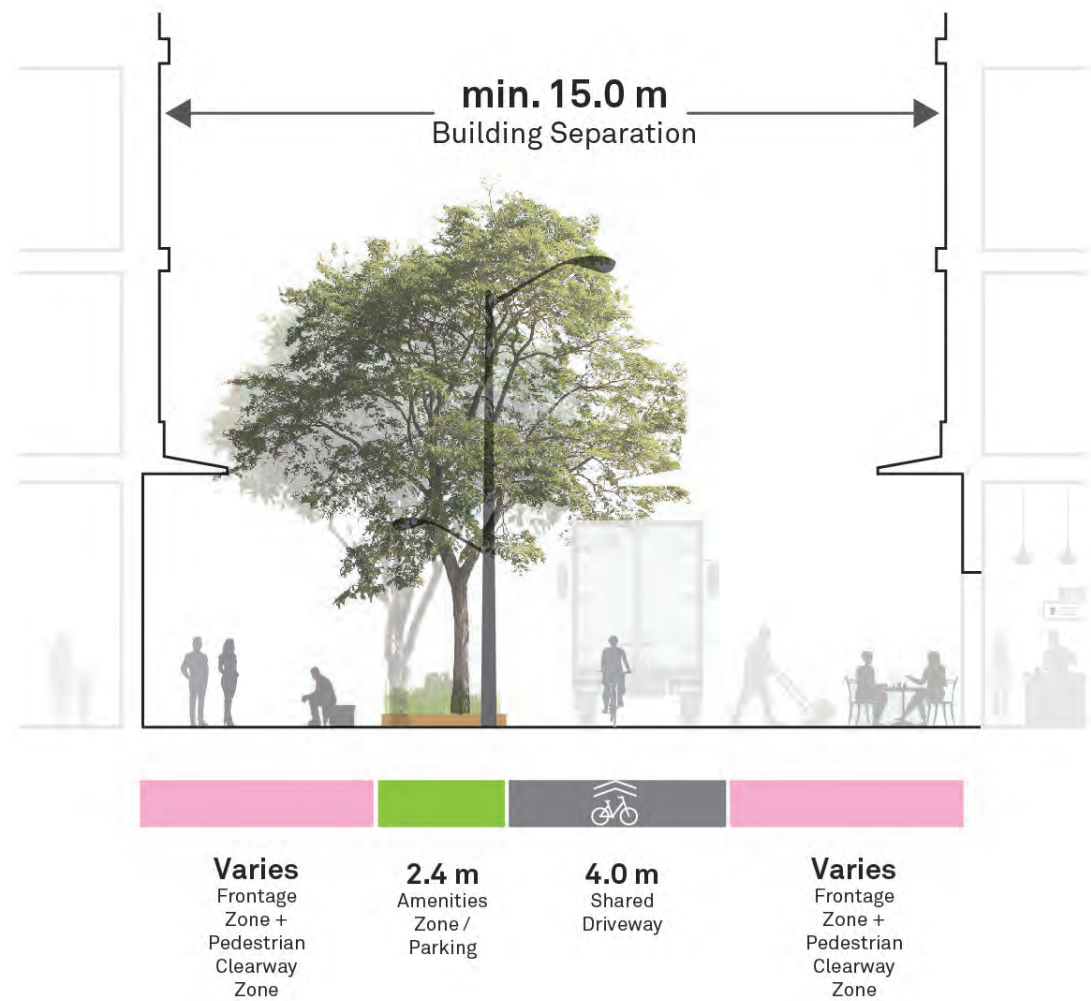


Figure 89. Mews Section

- h) Parking should not be provided in Mews. Exceptions may be made for accessible parking or lay-bys for pick-up, drop-off, and short-term loading where other opportunities do not exist.
- i) Mews should contain some active uses at grade to justify the need for vehicle circulation. Where active uses at grade cannot be provided, Mews should be activated with public art, gathering places, feature landscaping, playful

structures and furnishings, and other elements that will contribute to a safe and active public realm.

- j) Building uses at grade and upper floors adjacent to mews should provide interaction with the street and passive surveillance, including building entries, operable windows, balconies, and upper floor terraces. Blank walls adjacent mews are discouraged.

### 8.6.2 Neighbourhood Paths

Neighbourhood Paths are mid-block connections that allow pedestrian and cycling movements completely separated from vehicle traffic. These paths are important for last-mile bike journeys and to provide a safe and direct walking network throughout Promenade Centre. Neighbourhood Paths will provide intuitive, direct connections that may break the street grid, connecting to parks, POPS, gateways, and other publicly accessible places. Paths will be able to accommodate vehicles for emergency access and limited servicing only.

- a) Neighbourhood Paths will permit shared use by pedestrians and cyclists.
- b) No local vehicle access is permitted in Neighbourhood Paths. Emergency vehicles and limited service vehicles will be permitted.
- c) Neighbourhood paths should be paved with unit pavers or poured concrete that differentiate the space from other (asphalt) roadways.
- d) Where Neighbourhood Paths travel through a development block, they should connect to interior publicly-accessible private spaces or other outdoor private spaces.

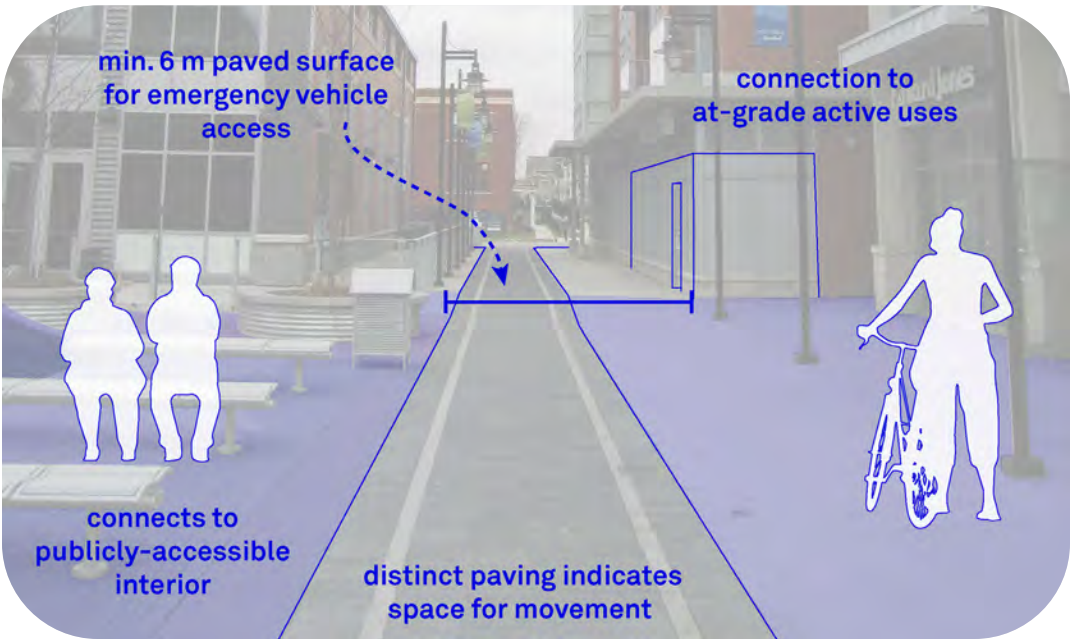


Figure 90. Neighbourhood Path elements diagram



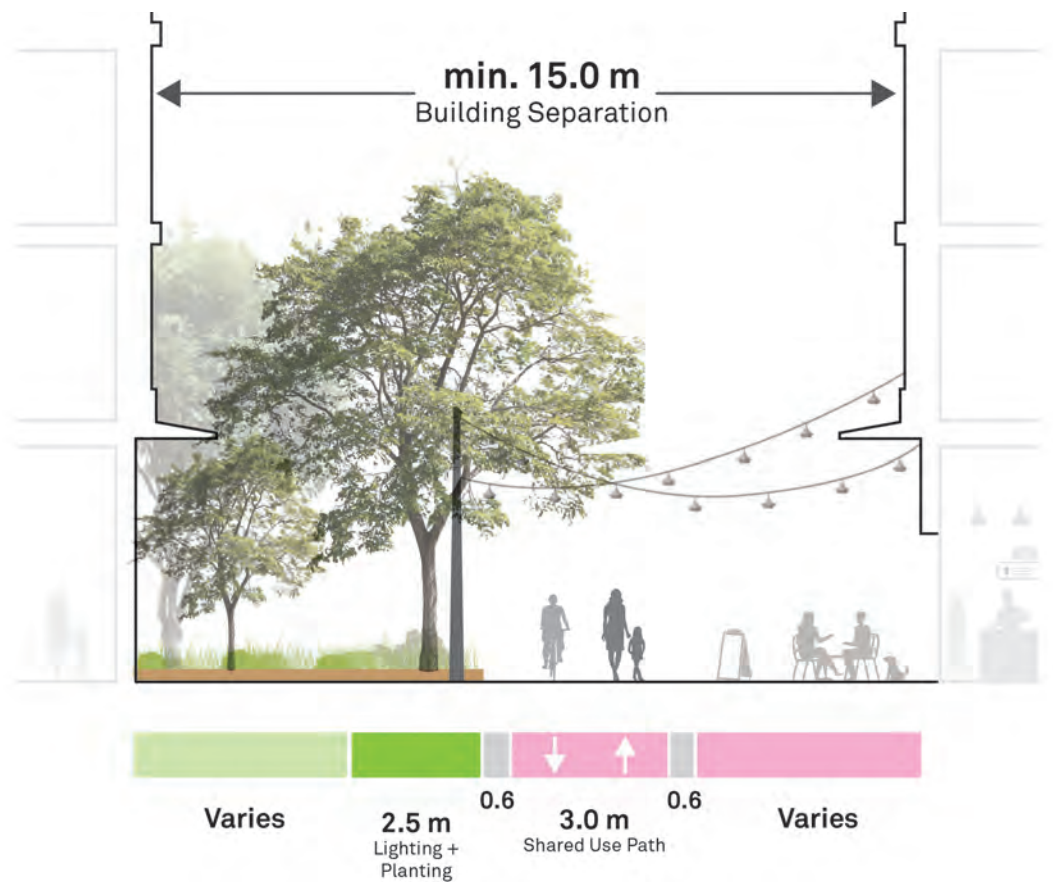


Figure 91. Neighbourhood Path Section

- e) Where Neighbourhood Paths travel through or along gathering spaces, the designated travel clearway should be differentiated from surrounding space through a material or colour change with acceptable visual contrast. Tactile surfaces may be required where high volumes are expected.
- f) Neighbourhood Paths will be designed to favour comfort and safety for pedestrians slow cyclist movement. Signage should be employed as a last measure only in conjunction with other traffic calming measures.
- g) Neighbourhood paths may include some active uses at grade as long as loading and servicing can be provided without impeding on the roadway.
- h) Neighbourhood Paths should include pedestrian-scale lighting and other urban elements.
- i) Neighbourhood Paths should be activated with public art, gathering places, feature landscaping, playful structures and furnishings, and other elements that will contribute to a safe and active public realm.
- j) Building uses at grade and upper floors adjacent to neighbourhood paths should provide interaction with the street and passive surveillance, including building entries, operable windows, balconies, and upper floor terraces. Blank walls adjacent neighbourhood paths are discouraged.

### 8.6.3 Naturalized Trails

Naturalized Trails provide a recreational function for pedestrians, featuring ample trees and greening in naturalized settings. Naturalized Trails should be pedestrian-oriented and scaled.

Naturalized Trails will typically be located in the Pierre Elliot Trudeau woodlot in the Community Hub, but may also be used in existing residential areas where significant trees and landscaping are present, or in new green park spaces.

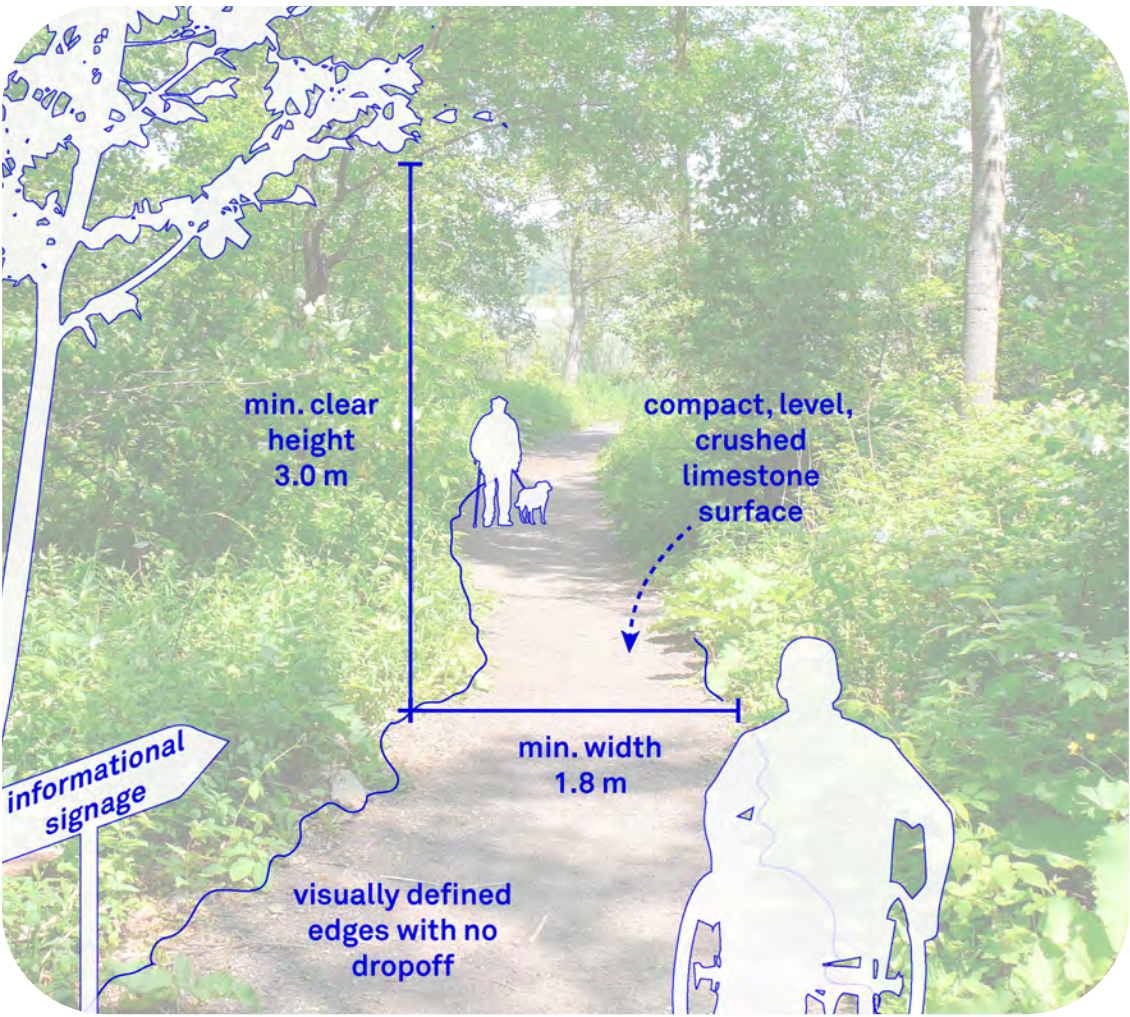


Figure 92. Naturalized Trail elements



- a) Naturalized Trails should provide signage at designated trail access points with information such as trail length and access point locations.
- b) Trail widths should ideally be a minimum of 1.8–3.0 metres, depending on trail conditions. A width of 2.1 is ideal to accommodate accessibility for all users.
- c) Ensure trail surfaces are firm, stable, level, and well-draining. Crushed limestone aggregate is preferred.
- d) Provide pedestrian-level lighting where feasible. If no lighting is provided, this should be indicated on trail signage.
- e) Four-season maintenance of Naturalized Trails should be provided. Where not feasible, information on seasonal maintenance should be provided on trail signage.
- f) Ample waste receptacles should be provided to encourage responsible disposal of pet waste. Pet waste bag dispensers should be encouraged.
- g) The design of waste receptacles should feature an accessible, self-closing lid to discourage wildlife activity.

## 8.7 On-Street Parking

### 8.7.1 Vehicle Parking

- a) Access to parking lots, parking structures, underground parking, or other dedicated parking facilities should be located as close as possible to points of entry to Promenade Centre to reduce the amount of time vehicles spend circulating through the site.
- b) Access to parking lots, parking structures, underground parking, or other dedicated parking facilities should be located off of Local Streets.
- c) On-street parking is permitted on all Local Streets with a minimum right-of-way width of 22 metres, on High Street, and on Low Street.
- d) Parking is generally not permitted on Collector Streets, Local Streets with a right-of-way width of less than 22 metres, or Shared Use Paths.
- e) Accessible parking spaces should be provided in proximity to primary destinations and building entries.
- f) An accessible path of travel must be provided within parking areas, using contrasting materials and/or lighting as needed to ensure visibility and safety for both vehicles and pedestrians.
- g) Smart parking solutions should be sought, including smart payment options, and digital displays or apps to indicate parking availability throughout Promenade Centre.



Figure 93. On street parking is permitted on local street.



### 8.7.2 Bicycle Parking

- a) Ample bicycle parking should be located throughout the site in highly visible and convenient locations.
- b) Enhanced bicycle parking and other bicycle amenities will be provided at Mobility Hubs throughout Promenade Centre, which may include sheltered parking. Bike lockers and repair stations. Refer to Section 10.6 Intermodal Station (Mobility Hubs)
- c) Where bicycle parking is provided on streets, it may be located in the Amenity Street and/or in the Frontage Zone.
- d) Minimum bicycle parking requirements will be established for developments, with a mix of short-term and secured long term spaces for residents, employees, and visitors.

#### Policy Reference

- City of Vaughan Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan



Figure 94. Enhanced bicycle parking and other bicycle amenities will be provided at Mobility Hubs.



A child is riding a bicycle away from the camera on a paved path. The path is lined with trees and a street lamp. In the background, there are power lines and a building. The entire image has a blue tint.

Within Promenade Centre, a focus on green infrastructure, planting and biodiversity will not only have a positive impact on the environment, but provide a meaningful and comfortable public realm experience for pedestrians and cyclists.

## 9.0 Green and Blue Network

9.1	Integrated Stormwater Management	124
9.2	Biodiversity and Plant Selection	127
9.3	Tree Canopy	130



Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre  
Secondary Plan 8.2 and 9.2

Guidelines Reference

- Vaughan City-  
Wide Streetscape  
Implementation Manual 6  
Planting
- City-Wide Urban Design  
Guidelines 6.1.1 The Green  
Approach
- Integrated Urban Water  
Plan

## 9.1 Integrated Stormwater Management

Integrating stormwater infrastructure provides a wide range of advantages within the streetscape. Green infrastructure and low impact development (“LID”) creates a thriving, pedestrian-friendly street that offers a naturalized buffer, reduces impervious surfacing, increases tree canopy, mitigates heat island effect and slows traffic. These integrated systems extend beyond the streetscape, providing additional support for nearby park lands, contributing to a holistic approach to water overflow, biodiversity, and urban cooling.

Green infrastructure captures and infiltrates water before it enters the traditional piping drainage system. It provides a natural relief on the built environment, improves street aesthetics, and delivers benefits to the community.

Given the grade changes across Promenade Centre, it is important to consider the surrounding context and work with the natural drainage patterns of the site. Promenade Mall and the surrounding roadways provide a unique opportunity to retrofit aging infrastructure to allow for as many LID design strategies as possible. Considering not only vehicular routes, but also parkland, cycle track and pedestrian pathways that can support enhanced vegetation, stormwater captivation and well-designed rest stops for the community are essential.

As much of the site will be encumbered by underground structures, it’s important to consider how drainage, infiltration and flooding may occur and what impacts this may have on the streetscapes and dedicated open spaces. The infrastructure will need to strike a balance between green solutions and traditional drainage infrastructure to ensure water drainage and infiltration rates are maximized to restrict potential flooding and overflow concerns.

With new utility mains, structures, and services located along the street, it is beneficial to review how traditional utilities can be integrated with LID systems for a sustainable approach to streetscape design.

Within the right-of-way and where feasible, bioretention areas including rain gardens, swales, permeable paving, tree pits and supporting soil volume to slow down and clean stormwater runoff, reducing the demand for grey infrastructure is encouraged. Incorporating green solutions will have a positive impact on the environment, but will also provide a positive public realm experience for pedestrians and cyclists.

In support of Vaughan’s existing guidelines on the management of stormwater quality and quantity, Promenade Centre should incorporate low impact development, infiltration basins, bioswales and permeable surfaces as efficiently as possible.

- a) Include green infrastructure and stormwater management as part of the overall streetscape and public realm design. Depending on the surrounding context, swales, rain gardens, bioretention and infiltration basins may be provided.
- b) Prior to the implementation of LID systems, analyze existing conditions of the site (including soil types and infiltration rates, topography, existing utilities and services, roadway alignment, etc.) to ensure maximum success.
- c) Provide sufficient soil volume, make up and sub-base for all proposed vegetation to ensure soil is aerated and non-compacted for successful growth and longevity of plant material.
- d) Ensure green infrastructure is maintained to monitor and allow for proper water drainage.
- e) Green infrastructure should not be placed in conflict with public utilities, services or access points. If soil cells are installed, allow for bridging to accommodate utility infrastructure to ensure access is provided where necessary.



Figure 85. Soil cell technology can promote healthy tree growth.



Figure 86. Low-level planting beds ensure more surface water retention and air circulation for street trees.



- f) Where possible, encourage low impact development solutions as the initial approach to stormwater management. Where necessary, incorporate a mix of traditional piping to ensure peak flow control, erosion control, water quality treatment and water balance to provide the minimum stormwater management targets.
- g) Select plants that can withstand urban elements (salt spray, drought, dog urine, etc.) to ensure healthy and thriving vegetation.

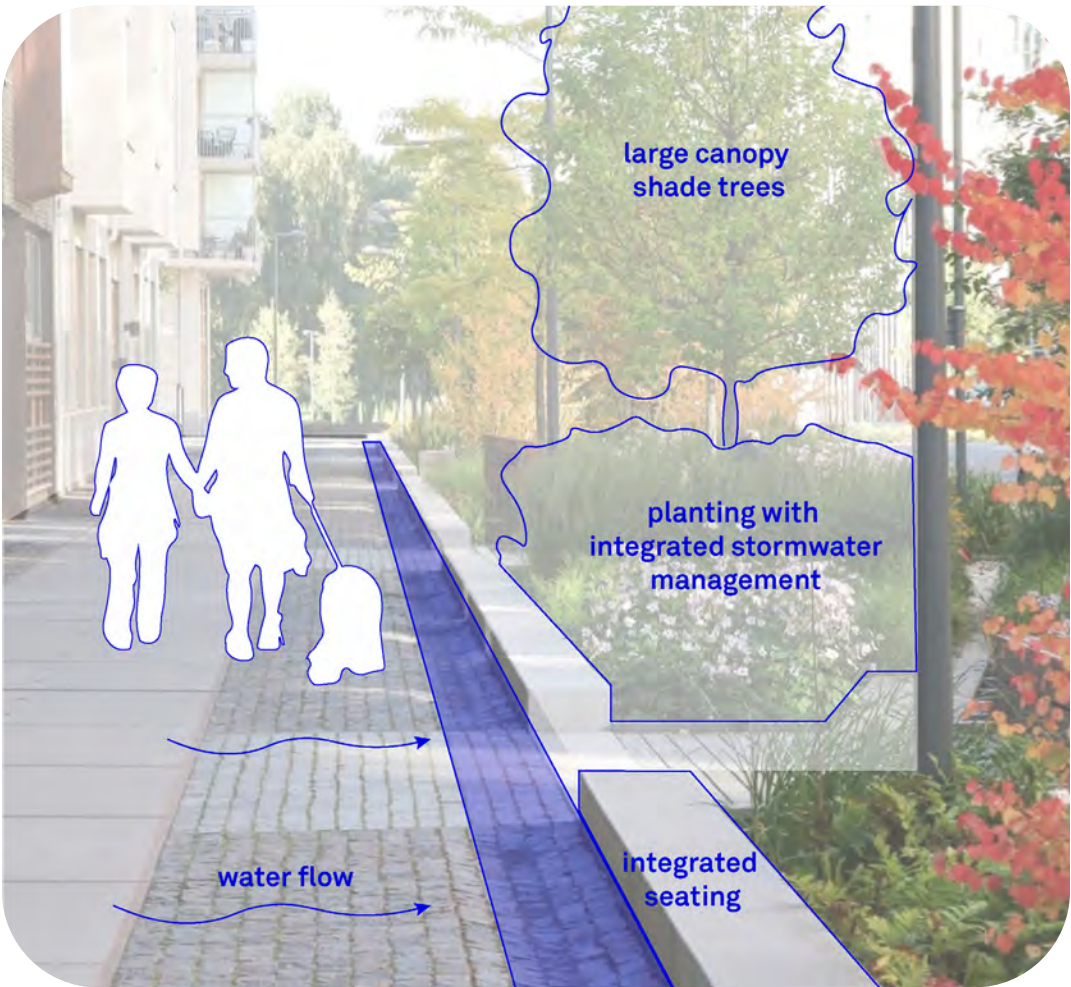


Figure 87. Stormwater management within the roadway contributed to overland flow and provide a natural aesthetic that's visually appealing to the streetscape

## 9.2 Biodiversity and Plant Selection

The value of green, vegetated streets goes beyond providing water flow management and aesthetic value to the streetscape. A variety of native plantings should be chosen to allow for increased nectar and pollen, seed and fruit for birds, nesting materials and protection for small fauna and insects.

Using native plants will also reduce replacement and maintenance costs by ensuring the plant material is resilient to drought and can sustain the local landscape and climate conditions.

A biodiverse planting zone provides a highly attractive visual amenity within the streetscape while also shielding pedestrians from other roadway users. Planting design, along streets and circulation routes, supports safe movement of humans and animals between spaces.

Planting within a streetscape includes a more technical and complex design process to ensure longevity. Streetscapes are a highly disturbed landscape that can be hostile to plant growth and performance. A variety of factors impact the growth and success of the plants, including the soils that have been altered from nearby runoff (roadway pollutants, salt, etc.), soil compaction and permeability, lack of sufficient soil volumes, low maintenance practices and resource efforts, construction within the roadway, and constraints of utilities, servicing, and necessary infrastructure.

Planting plays a large part in forming the character of a streetscape. Street trees are one of the most utilized streetscape planting elements and provide a number of ecosystem service functions, providing shade, shelter, and oxygen.

Parkland within Promenade Centre should look to supporting a wide variety of vegetation and planted areas. Increasing tree canopy, diverse native plant selection and minimal sod will encourage its ecological success. Though many municipalities prefer the use of sod for its ease in maintenance, sodded lawns should be avoided as they provide minimal ecological benefits.

With the existing Promenade Centre being predominately asphalt, every effort should be made to design a space for increased biodiversity through vegetated streetscapes, increased tree planting and large, green anchoring parkland spaces to increase native plantings within the site's boundaries and eliminate the fragmented landscape.

### Guidelines Reference

- Vaughan City- Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual 6 Design Strategy
- City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines 6.1.1 The Green Approach





Figure 88. The use of native species and pollinator gardens is encouraged.



Figure 89. Plants provide visual interest and direct the flow of pedestrian traffic through open spaces.

- a) Prioritize the use of species that are low maintenance, hardy, native, provide value to the overall ecological function for the landscape and offer seasonal interest to the community.

b) When planting numerous trees within a park space, provide ample native and pollinator understorey planting to support ecological function.

c) Plants provide a visual interest, showcasing a variety of colour and textures. Develop planting plants that can be used to signify gateways, markers or visual components within the landscape.

d) Planting as buffers for wind, visual screening and privacy are recommended where applicable.

e) In following the City’s standard guidelines, provide appropriate tree spacing and a
- minimum of 30m³ of high-quality soil per tree. The use of soil cells is encouraged within urban conditions and hardscapes to meet the minimum soil volume. See additional information on tree planting in [Section 9.3](#).

f) All new tree planting is to reviewed and avoid existing and proposed underground utility locations and servicing.

g) Lawn areas within park spaces should use drought tolerant native plants that reduce operational demands of mowing and irrigation.

h) Provide tree variety to avoid monocultures.

i) For street plantings, select trees, shrubs and ground covers in accordance with the City’s approved species list (including salt and drought tolerant).

j) Tree pits and planting details designed in accordance with City of Vaughan standards.

Planting Palette

Street Trees	Bioretention Perennials
Sugar Maple (Acer sacchharum)*	Common Yarrow (Achillea Millefolium)* M
Ohio Buckeye (Aesulus glabra)*	Canada Anemone (Anemone canadensis)* M
Skyline Honeylocust (Gleditsia triocanthos ‘Skycole’)	Wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)* M
White Oak (Quercus alba)*	Dusseldorf Pride Sea Thrift (Armeria maritima ‘Dusseldorf Pride’) S
Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra)*	White Sagebrush (Artemisia ludoviciana)* M
Tuplip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)*	Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa)* M
Richmond Linden (Tilia americana ‘Redmond’)	Eastern Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) * M
Pioneer Elm (Ulmus x ‘Pioneer’)	Blanket Flower (Gaillardia aristata)* M
Northern Catalpa (Catalpa speciosa)	Prairie Smoke (Geum triflorum)* M
Hackberry (Celtis Occidentalis)*	Wild Bergamot Bee Balm (Monarda fistulosa)* M
	Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)* M
Bioretention Shrubs	Bioretention Grasses
Shrubby St. Johns-wort (Hypericum kalmianum) M	Pennsylvania sedge (Carex Pensylvanica)* S
Creeping Juniper (Juniperus horizontalis) * S	Poverty oat grass (Danthonia spicata) M
Shrubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla fruticosa)* M	Tufted Hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa)* M

\*Native  
S = Short (0.0 - 0.3m)  
M = Medium height (0.3 - 1.0m)



Policy Reference

- York Region Forest Management Plan

Guidelines Reference

- Vaughan City- Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual 6 Planting
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Design Guidelines Technical Volume 2, Terms of Reference for Trees

9.3 Tree Canopy

Street trees and other plant material play an important role in creating resilient communities. Environmentally, street trees provide cooler, cleaner air, reduce heat island effect, and capture stormwater runoff and pollutants. In addition, increasing vegetation and specifically canopy trees within the public realm assist with overall road safety. A row of trees provides clear differentiation of pedestrian zones by creating a visual buffer that keeps drivers focused on the roadway.

Street trees also add character and sense of place to the streetscape, encouraging users to walk or cycle along the roadway while providing visual interest and supporting the health of bird and bee species. The installation of shade trees helps to shield pedestrians and cyclists from the sun and provides some shelter from wind along the corridor.

It's critical that street trees receive sufficient uncompacted and irrigated soil to ensure long-term viability and successful growth. Long term growth in constrained soil trenches and soil pits have significantly reduced the overall health and maturity of urban trees. Incorporating trees early on in the design process for Promenade Centre will directly relate to the success and vitality of the street trees.

By providing guidelines and public realm solutions in the early stages of the design, the City of Vaughan is able to ensure that proper measures are taken for providing

green infrastructure within the right-of-way while planning for the future growth, development, and infrastructure in the surrounding areas.

Efforts should be made to increase overall tree planting within Promenade Centre for a more connected tree canopy. The canopy within the site is extremely fragmented, however through streetscape tree planting and increasing trees within the parks and plazas, Promenade Centre will see environmental, social, and economical success.

- a) Provide a minimum 30m<sup>3</sup> of soil volume to support mature tree growth to achieve York Region's urban tree canopy goal for the City (coverage of 25-35%). Soil to be aerated, uncompacted and irrigated to ensure long-term success and viability.
- b) Select tree and plant species for Vaughan's Hardiness Zone and consider specific context conditions (microclimate, salt, traffic volume, etc.).
- c) Overall tree health in open spaces should be monitored by a certified arborist to ensure the long-term sustainability of the trees and their canopy.
- d) Trees should be spaced 8 to 10 metres apart to ensure large, healthy and mature growth. Small trees may be spaced at 6 to 10 metres.
- e) Integrate street tree planting with the planning of existing and proposed utilities. Identify tree planting locations early in the design phase and coordinate their location with the placement and alignment of underground and overhead utilities.
- f) Use permeable surface treatment of sidewalks where possible to increase water and oxygen for intake by tree roots.
- g) Within roadway conditions, provide raised planting beds for additional soil volume and protection. Raised planters provide increased soil volume and provide shaded street seating for pedestrians.
- h) Consult with Vaughan Forestry and Parks Departments to review proposed planting plans and ensure conformance with current City policies and standards. Tree planting should follow the Vaughan Citywide Streetscape Implementation Manual Section 6 for information on streetscape planting details where applicable.
- i) Provide maintenance manuals for care of plants to the City for successful plant growth and ongoing visual aesthetic.



Figure 92. A healthy tree canopy can complement pedestrian and cycling pathways and frame seating.



Figure 93. Trees should be planted in the public and private portions of a boulevard to frame the public realm.



As key factors that contribute to defining the public realm, urban elements in Promenade Centre will embed sustainability, inclusive design and cultural representation.

# 10.0 Urban Elements

10.1	Cultural Placemaking	133
10.2	Public Art	134
10.3	Lighting	136
10.4	Signage and Wayfinding	138
10.5	Street Furniture	140
10.6	Public Realm Palette	143
10.7	Shared Mobility Hubs	146
10.8	Fencing, Screening, and Enclosure	148
10.9	Play Spaces and Outdoor Fitness Stations	149
10.10	Underground Parking Egress Structures and Ventilation Shafts	150

## 10.1 Cultural Placemaking

The City of Vaughan is one of Canada’s fastest growing cities and is home to nearly 341,000 people. The City is located on Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and traces its roots back to the historic settler communities of Concord, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill, and Woodbridge. The diverse population speaks more than 105 languages and has cultural roots spanning the globe.

Cultural placemaking is a community-based approach to urban design that creates vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable places. The urban elements of Promenade Centre should reflect the unique culture, history, and identity of Vaughan. These efforts may also include ephemeral activations, such as cultural festivals, public performances, and storytelling events to reinforce Promenade Centre’s role as a dynamic social hub and activity centre.

- Policy Reference:**
- Vaughan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026

- a) Consider cultural placemaking in the design and selection of urban elements within Promenade Centre.
- b) Incorporate cultural storytelling and traditions into artwork and street furniture.
- c) Engage with Indigenous communities and Vaughan’s cross-cultural communities on artworks or unique design elements and their locations throughout Promenade Centre.



Figure 91. The Cultural Markers, at Humber College (Indigenous Design Studio, Brook McIlroy)



## 10.2 Public Art

**Guideline Reference:**

- VCSIM 5.2.14 Public Art

**Policy Reference:**

- Vaughan City-Wide Public Art Program 2016

Vaughan has a thriving art scene and is home to vibrant, international-scale institutions including the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. The City has a public art program to establish an overall vision and framework for public art in Vaughan.

Promenade Centre has the opportunity to showcase the city's thriving local artists through the inclusion of public art.

Art in exterior public spaces has the power to support placemaking, create a sense of belonging and provide interest and activation for the public realm. Public art in Promenade Centre will be context based and culturally specific to enhance the unique history of the community while facilitating an understanding of the natural elements of the site and the holistic vision of the plan.

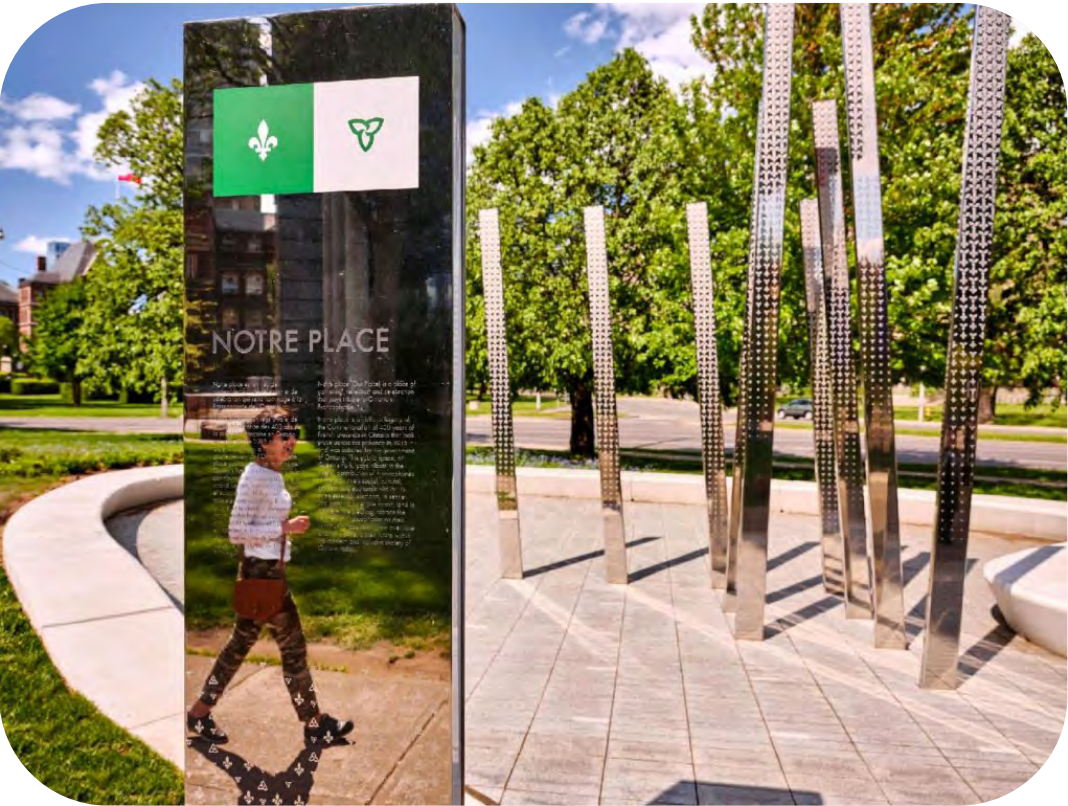


Figure 92. Public art can reinforce and celebrate the diverse cultural identities of the community

- Locate public art in spaces that are visible and publicly accessible within new development blocks.
- Public art pieces should be scaled to correspond appropriately with their location to ensure visibility. Art pieces should be publicly accessible 24 hours a day.
- Durable and low maintenance materials should be used to promote the longevity of each public art piece.
- Public art should be integrated with its context and should complement building and landscape design or be integrated within them. Interactive elements or multifunctional

pieces that are part of site furnishing are encouraged.

- Multifunctional pieces that are part of site furnishing are encouraged.
- Public art in Promenade Centre should be reflective of the community's past, present, and future aspirations.
- The involvement of local artists and community through competitions and consultations should be considered.

Refer to the City Wide Public Art Program for guidance regarding the process of providing Public Art.



Figure 93. Temporary art can activate spaces and draw community members, turning underutilized spaces into a destination



Figure 94. Interactive art can include audio content and should be tactile



### 10.3 Lighting

Development in Promenade Centre will be sustainable and respect the existing ecologies of the site. When planning for lighting, the impact of light pollution should be considered, along with energy, maintenance, safety, comfort and aesthetics.

- a) Lighting should be provided for both the roadway and sidewalk zone. Consolidate different heights and directions of lighting into one element. Lighting in pedestrian and cycling areas should be properly scaled.
- b) Appropriate levels of lighting for safety and comfort should be provided. Consider photometric calculations that take into account the ambient lighting from adjacent buildings and commercial activities.
- c) Energy efficiency, reduction of glare effect and provision of appropriate levels of light should be considered when designing and locating lighting elements.
- d) The use of lighting poles for other relevant functions such as signage, banners, canopies, and solar energy harvesting should be considered.
- e) Integration of lighting in building facades or building elements where appropriate is encouraged to reduce cluttering at the streetscape. Canopies, transit stops, seating, and other furniture elements can incorporate lighting elements.
- f) Lighting should be easy to service and maintain.
- g) Exterior lighting should conform with the City of Vaughan's Bird-Safe Design Guidelines.
- h) Lighting should be Dark Sky Compliant and should meet the standards set by the City of Vaughan's LED Streetlight Retrofit Program.
- i) At-grade active uses should dim interior storefront lighting in the evening to ensure safe streets at night while minimizing light pollution.
- j) Use lighting as a playful design feature or in combination with public art to animate blank walls.
- k) A colour temperature of 3000K to 4000K and a minimum Colour Rendering Index (CRI) of 85 is recommended. Higher colour temperatures increase visibility, however they are not recommended as they contribute to light pollution. Colour temperature should be appropriate for its context

**Policy Reference:**

- Vaughan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026

**Guideline Reference:**

- VCSIM Section 6 Illumination Elements
- City of Vaughan's Bird Safe Design Standards
- CWUDG 5.2.15 Site Lighting

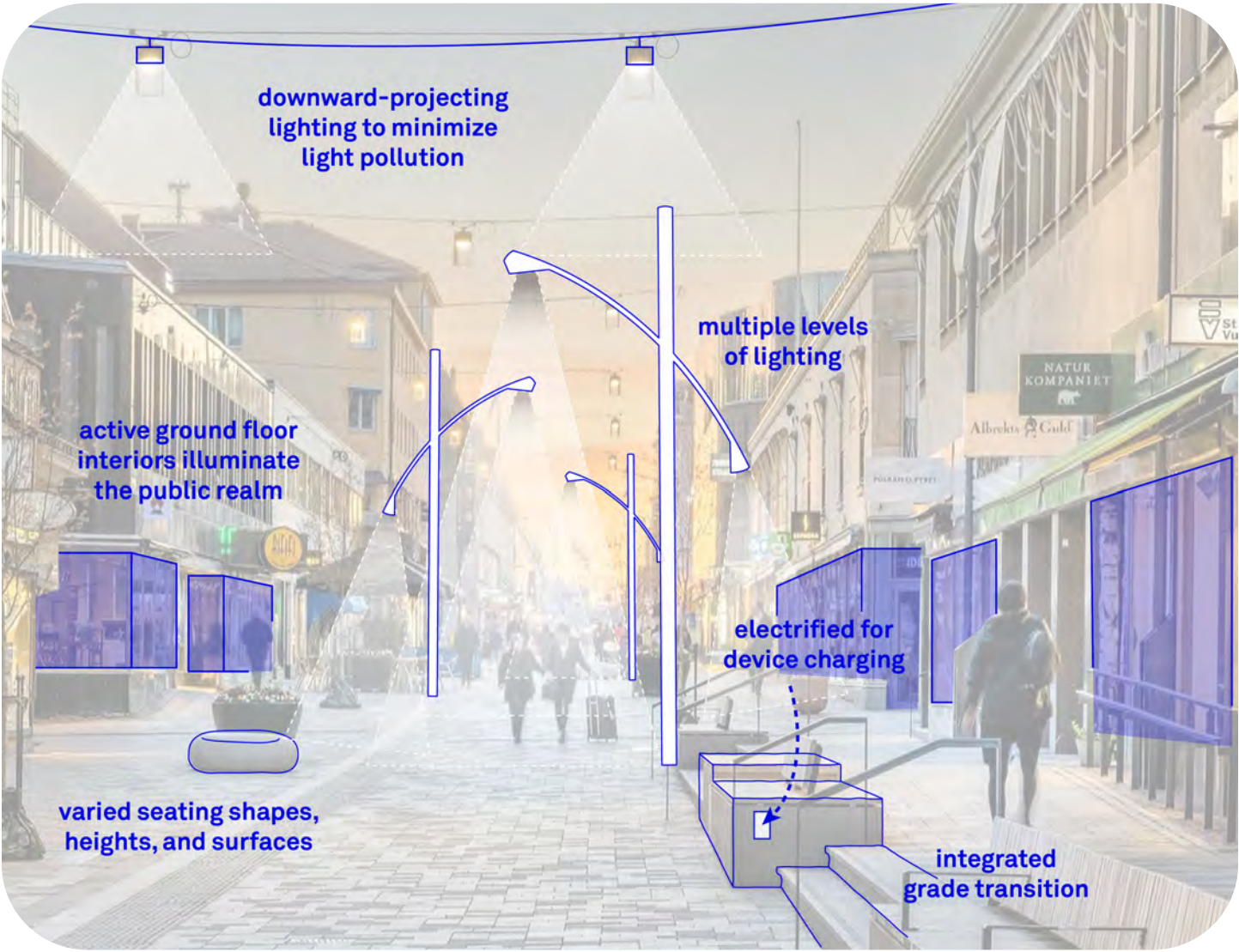


Figure 95. When planning for lighting, the impact of light pollution should be considered, along with energy, maintenance, safety, comfort and aesthetics.



Guideline Reference:

- CWUDG 5.3.11 Building Signage
- City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards 5.8 Signage and Wayfinding

### 10.4 Signage and Wayfinding

Signage and wayfinding are instrumental to comfortably navigate the public realm. Additionally, site signage and wayfinding have the potential to support placemaking and provide educational content.

The vision for Promenade Centre recognizes the role of natural heritage to create a sense of place and to anchor the identity of the community to its context. Interpretive signage will be provided to support the public understanding of the natural context of Promenade Centre and communicate the green concepts implemented through the Secondary Plan.

#### General

- a) Signage and wayfinding elements should be coordinated to reduce the number of elements on the site.
- b) Wayfinding should be designed for the pedestrian level. Ensure that signage is visible and well lit.
- c) The dimensions, colours, and fonts of the sign should be carefully considered for legibility, accessibility and visibility. Signs should be designed with reference to the AODA/IDS guidelines.
- d) Signage design should be coordinated throughout the Promenade Centre. A design which is recognizable and precinct-specific is encouraged.
- e) Prioritize simplicity and integrate signage into buildings whenever possible. The integration of signage into other street elements is also encouraged.

- f) Art and cultural elements that reference local history and the different precincts should be integrated into signage.

#### Interpretive Signage

- g) Interpretive signage should be located in proximity to natural heritage features, where applicable.
- h) Interpretive signage should be clearly visible from the public realm.
- i) Where appropriate, interpretive signage should be co-located with furnishings including accessible seating to enhance placemaking opportunities.
- j) The design of interpretive signage should be cohesive and coordinated throughout Promenade Centre.



Figure 96. Interpretive signage should be clearly visible from the public realm



Figure 97. Wayfinding signage should be cohesive throughout Promenade Centre



**Guideline Reference:**

- CWUDG 5.2.12 Pedestrian and Cycling Connections and Street Furnishings

## 10.5 Street Furniture

The streets of Promenade Centre will be attractive, accessible and safe for all. These Guidelines provide directions on how to achieve a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment through the provision of well-designed, accessible and multi-functional street furniture.

Elements specific to each precinct should be integrated into the design of street furniture. Coordinating the design of the street elements gives opportunity for cultural and context specific reference.

Multi-use elements respond to different functions and reduce clutter contributing to a legible and more enjoyable public realm. The choice of materials for street elements in Promenade should prioritize sustainability, with a focus on materials life cycle and their environmental impact. Durability and low-maintenance elements and materials are strongly preferred.

### Seating

- Seating will be accessible and designed with materials that are durable, easy to maintain and can withstand the climate.
- Avoid using dark colours for public seatings to limit surface heat gain and ensure comfort during summer months. Metal seating surfaces should be treated to avoid overheating and/or frost.
- Consider comfort and design for seating elements with users of all ages and abilities in mind.
- Locate seating in the furniture zone, close to or integrated with natural elements like trees and low-level vegetation. If shading from the trees is not possible, consider other solutions

such as stand-alone canopies that can be integrated with lighting and solar energy harvesting systems.

### Waste Management

- Waste receptacles should not impact the streetscape and should not occlude the pedestrian clearway.
- Position waste bins in convenient locations, close to areas of activities, bike racks and seating elements and in well-lit areas.
- Waste receptacles should provide separate containers for recycling.
- Integrating waste bins with planters and lighting can help reduce streetscape cluttering.

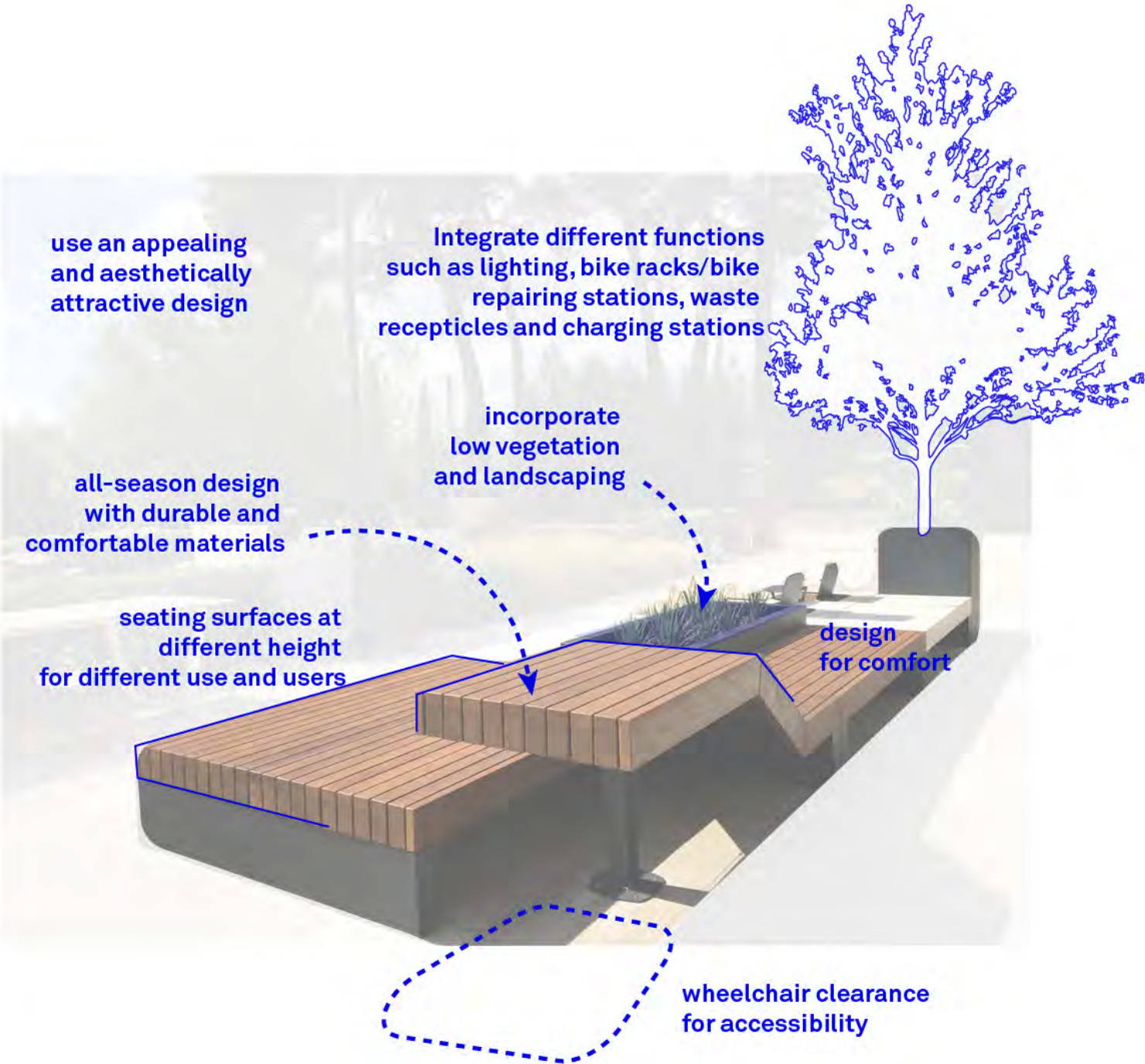


Figure 98. Furniture is encouraged to integrate multiple functions and should be designed with durable materials



Parking Meters

- i) Parking meters should be clearly visible and located with convenience and accessibility in mind. Use digital technologies for parking meters and reduce the number of elements along the sidewalk.
- j) Use clear signage and integrate lighting in the meter or ensure that they are always visible and well lit.

Bike Racks

- k) Bike racks should be located in close proximity to forecourts or entryways, and close to transit stations. The location of bike racks should be informed by CPTED principles.
- l) Provide sufficient clearance for easy access to the racks.
- m) Provide sufficient lighting to the areas where bike racks are located.
- n) If several racks are consolidated, consider locating racks in sheltered zones or provide elements like canopies to offer weather protection. Ensure sheltered zones are highly visible with significant glazing to ensure overlook.
- o) The integration of bike repair stations and drinking fountains in dense bike racks areas is encouraged.
- p) To reduce street clutter, co-location of bike racks with other street furniture like planters, seating, bins and lighting is encouraged.

Drinking Fountains

- q) Locate drinking fountains close to seating areas or “outdoor fitness stations” or bike racks for user convenience.
- r) Provide fountains that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Provide clear zone for wheelchair accessibility to the fountain.
- s) Co-locate drinking fountains with other street furniture such as benches, planters and lighting.
- t) Ensure fountains are visible and use clear signage for user convenience.
- u) Integrate a water bottle refilling station into drinking fountains where possible.
- v) Use drinking fountains as an opportunity for educational content that refers the role of water strategies in supporting sustainability and resilience.

Hydro Poles and above-ground utilities

- w) Consider the number and sizing of necessary utility elements during the initial stages of design.
- x) Coordinate their location to avoid negative impact on the streetscape.
- y) Consider different strategies to minimize their presence , including art based initiatives that contemplate a multi-functionality for these elements.

10.6 Public Realm Palette

10.6.1 Surfacing Materials

The public realm material palette for Promenade Centre includes surfacing that is robust, elegant and simple within the pedestrian walkways and surrounding streetscape. Through unique patterns and distinctive use that may apply in certain applications or key destinations, the palette provides the overall theme for Promenade Centre. It’s critical that the materiality chosen strikes a balance between durability, simplicity and beauty that ensures longevity and aesthetic appearance within the public realm.

The paving selected within the public realm should consist of unique materials, patterns, and level of finish. There will be one consistent theme woven throughout Promenade Centre to provide a consistent design language between spaces, however special patterning will assist in defining unique character areas. The paving materials should reflect streetscape applications to ensure the chosen product applicable to their usage.

Solar reflective Index (SRI) is a measure of a surface’s ability to reflect solar heat. Selecting materials that provide a high SRI value will reduce urban heat island effect and high albedo materials should be used wherever hardscaping is proposed. High albedo materials include light coloured asphalt, concrete and select unit pavers.

While unit pavers provide unique design, character and sense of place, they require additional upkeep and maintenance. Where unit pavers are proposed within vehicular routes, special consideration should be given to the direction of the pavers, including a stable, concrete base to ensure no heaving or shifting. Additionally, install proper drainage and ensure the paver is grooved and interlocking. Focal points such as urban squares, gateways and plazas should use feature paving.

Poured in place concrete with unique saw-cut joints can provide visual interest while keeping with standard maintenance and City standards. In addition, stamped asphalt and specified coloured coatings can be applied to asphalt and concrete for applications that are unsuitable for unit pavers, but require distinct character.

Guideline Reference:

- IDS 3.3 Exterior Paths of Travel



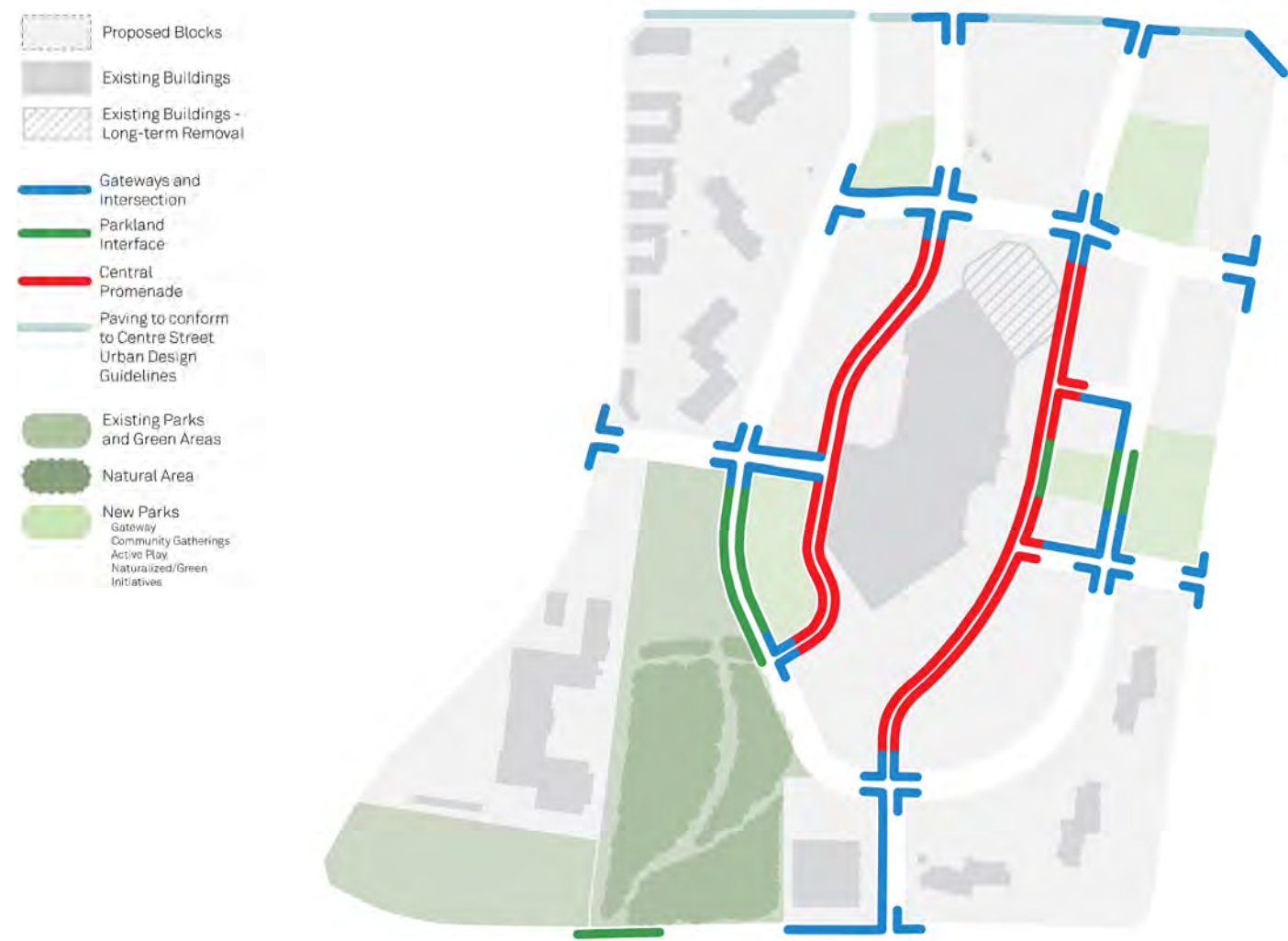


Figure 99. The illustration shows potential locations for unique pavings and distinctive patterns in Promenade Centre at key points and along critical frontages. Where no paving style is shown, paving should align with the City of Vaughan's typical streetscape paving standards.

- a) Colour, pattern and type of paver should be uniform across Promenade Centre to establish consistent character and provide ease of replacement and maintenance.
- b) Using the materials palette, paving materials should vary to accent certain areas within Promenade Centre (i.e. building entrances, plazas, mid-block crossings, mews and transit zones).
- c) Paving materials should be high quality, hard surfaced, even, stable, durable, slip-resistant and easy to maintain.
- d) Detailing of paving materials and sub-bases should consider multiple freeze-thaw cycles.
- e) Within the roadway, unit pavers should be overlaid on a solid concrete base to avoid uneven heaving.
- f) All paved surfaced to comply with AODA standards and policies.
- g) Utilize distinctive feature paving through the use of alternative patterns, markings or

materials to minimize the conflict between vehicles and pedestrians and to enhance the visibility of pedestrian crossings.

- h) Porous paving and pavers should be considered when designing large, paved areas to encourage natural water infiltration.
- i) Accent paving to denote Amenity Zone.
- j) Where unit pavers are installed, ensure patterns align with edges of tree grates, planting beds and entrances along the streetscape.
- k) Use unit pavers with a minimum SRI value of 29 to reduce ambient surface temperature and reduce overall heat island effect.
- l) Paving materials should clearly define the pedestrian zone and indicate pedestrian priority.
- m) Wayfinding, lighting and imprinted art can be embedded in the paving surfaces to enhance the character of the streetscape.



Policy Reference:

- Promenade Centre  
Secondary Plan, 4.4c, 5.2,  
5.4.c, 11.7.6, Schedule E

Guideline Reference:

- CWUDG 5.2.12 Pedestrian  
and Cycling Connections  
and Street Furnishings

## 10.7 Shared Mobility Hubs

Promenade Centre Secondary Plan Schedule E identifies general locations for different multi-modal hubs that will provide sustainable and active mobility options.

- a) Shared Mobility Hubs should be located in close proximity to or integrated with a transit station and the main entrances of publicly accessible interiors.
- b) Space for future implementation of shared mobility programs from the City of Vaughan should be provided. At least two of the following should be provided at each hub:
  - Enhanced bike station, including sheltered bike parking, bike lockers and bike repair stations. The enhanced bike station can be incorporated in new development with clear access from the public sidewalk.
  - Car-share parking spots. Through the TDM plan, an appropriate number of car share designated spaces will be provided and distributed in convenient located throughout Promenade Centre at Shared Mobility Hubs.
  - Shared micro-mobility stations based to accommodate electric scooters, e-bikes, and other micromobility options. Multi-modal electric charging stations should also be co-located.
  - Where possible, Shared Mobility Hubs should be located and designed to accommodate for a future bike share station.
  - c) Amenities such as seating and water fountains should be provided at each mobility hub.
  - d) Accessibility and safety should be prioritized. Provide a minimum of 1.8 metres between rows of bikes and a minimum of 2 meters between bike racks and buildings.
  - e) Shared mobility hubs should have capability for charging electric vehicles and micromobility options. Providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate a future hookup may also be accepted.

- f) Where co-located with, or in close proximity to, a major transit stop, consider providing digital signage with real-time transit updates, including next-bus timetables and information on changes to service.
- g) Shared Mobility Hubs will be well-lit spaces. Efficient lighting and solar energy solutions should be employed to lower operational costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- h) Provide shelter through canopies and integrate softscaping and trees to enhance comfort and offer a pleasant experience.
- i) Durable and low maintenance materials should be used. A maintenance plan for Shared Mobility Hubs should be developed.
- j) A Travel Demand Management Plan, in addition to typical development application requirements, shall outline a comprehensive strategy that incorporates opportunities for siting and implementing Shared Mobility Hubs as part of development.



Figure 100. This bicycle shelter incorporates a green roof structure



Guideline Reference:

- City of Vaughan Fences Bylaw
- IDS 3.3 Exterior Paths of Travel
- CWUDG n. 5.2.10 Screening, fencing and Low Walls

10.8 Fencing, Screening, and Enclosure

To create safe, accessible, and visually appealing public realm, fencing and screening solutions must be considered.

Screening and fencing should effectively separate private and public functions without impacting pedestrian and cyclist mobility and safety.

- a) Screening and separation should not impact the movement or access of pedestrians and cyclists.
- b) Do not create dead ends or dark corners with the placement of screens to ensure security.
- c) Choose easy to maintain materials that can withstand the elements and age well with time.
- d) Design the screening elements with visual interest at the pedestrian scale. Integrate other functions, like signage, lighting or art. Avoid a completely solid opaque surface as a screening element.
- e) Height, location and materials of fences should be carefully considered and be appropriate for the site. Refer to the City Fence By-law for guidance.
- f) Low walls and screens can also effectively be employed to reduce noise and wind effects.

- g) The use of natural solutions such as landscaped areas and living walls is encouraged. Where living walls are provided, maintenance plans should ensure their upkeep.



Figure 101. Historic photos integrated in screening

10.9 Play Spaces and Outdoor Fitness Stations

Promenade Centre will feature public space that encourage and support an active, outdoor life and contribute to the health and wellness of residents and visitors of all ages. In addition to fitness centres within developments and playgrounds in parks, active elements that encourage fun and fitness should be located throughout Promenade Centre within the public realm. They will be small-scale, inviting, and user-friendly.

Guideline Reference:

- Refer to Section 5.4 for more details on the Outer Promenade

- a) Play spaces and outdoor fitness stations will be located in open spaces, POPS, and along the Shared Use Path network.
- b) These elements will be safe and include options that are accessible for users of all abilities. They will be clustered with other urban elements and will have appropriate lighting levels to encourage the safe use of outdoor fitness stations.
- c) Special attention to user experience will be provided. Clear and easy-to-use equipment will be coupled with multifunctional and adjustable features.
- d) Where located along the Shared Use Path network, play spaces and outdoor fitness equipment must not impede on the pedestrian clearway.
- e) The design of these elements will be attractive and visible. It will be clear that these elements have a special function.
- f) Appropriate signage will be provided. Educational content will also be integrated in the signage.
- g) Play spaces and outdoor fitness equipment may require low-impact surfacing where located adjacent to hard surface materials.
- h) Play spaces and outdoor fitness equipment should be the defining feature of the 2 km recreational loop trail that makes up the Outer Promenade. Elements should be highly visible and thematically tied together with similar colours, signage, and branding.



Figure 102. Outdoor fitness stations should be attractive and promote active lifestyles for all ages



### 10.10 Underground Parking Egress Structures and Ventilation Shafts

Pedestrian Access to and emergency exits from an underground parking should be provided within the development block, ideally integrated into a building. During the interim phase of development and in a scenario where it is not possible to locate access/egress within a development block, the following guidelines apply:

- a) The design and location of these elements must be coordinated with the design of the open space above.
- b) Standalone emergency exit stairs volumes are strongly discouraged on POPS space.
- c) Egress Structures should not occupy a prominent location at open space entrances and gateways.
- d) Egress Structures should be coupled with passive program areas. There is an opportunity to use these as structures for canopies that provide shading and weather protection to small urban amenity areas equipped with seating, bike racks and other street furniture elements.
- e) Where standalone structures are unavoidable, they must integrate other public realm elements or public amenities, including, but not limited to:
  - Shade structures and canopies
  - Seating/picnic areas
  - Shared Mobility Hubs (see Section 7.9)
  - Public washrooms
- f) When these elements are located on a park or a plaza space they should complement the overall public space design.
- g) These volumes should be bright and well-lit in both their interiors and exteriors. Integrate lighting and landscape into these elements to minimize or enhance their presence, as appropriate.
- h) Where a blank portion of the volume is unavoidable, consider treating these elements as a “canvas” for public art or for interpretive signage.
- i) Sustainable solutions such as green roofs and solar systems should be employed. Egress Structures should not interfere with wayfinding, but rather act as support for additional signage when needed.
- j) Air shafts should be designed as an urban element integrated with its context. Amenities such as seating and greening should be incorporated whenever possible.



Figure 103. Air vents as landscape objects



Figure 104. A simple expansion of the roof can provide shade and weather protection to support small amenity areas



# 11.0 Built Form Principles

The Built Form Principles for Promenade Centre build upon the Guiding Principles and Community Design policies in the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan and ensure a built form that supports a well-scaled environment, appropriate transitions and attractive streetscapes.



## 1 Strong Building Base to Frame Streets and Open Spaces

Building bases contribute to desirable and walkable streets by providing a feeling of enclosure and facilitating activity at the pedestrian level.

Buildings within Promenade Centre will have building bases that define street edges and open spaces, responding appropriately to their surroundings. Podiums and building bases will utilize design elements such as building heights and stepbacks, façade articulations, entryways, and transparency to prioritize fine-grained, human-scaled environments that feel safe and comfortable.

- Policy Reference**
- PCSP: 2.1 Promenade Centre Vision and Guiding Principles
  - PCSP: 4.0 Community Design





## 2 Consider All Block Edges and Interiors

The redevelopment of Promenade Centre will involve creating new streets and development blocks. Well-designed building edges and streetwalls will help to define development blocks while allowing for porosity through mid-block connections and open spaces at ground-level. Although many development blocks will consist of several land uses and separate buildings, each block will be considered holistically. Outward-facing block edges will express building use through the character of building frontage types, and block interiors will accommodate a range of publicly-accessible and private functions. Service areas and vehicular uses will be clearly delineated and located to minimize impacts on the public realm. Where vehicular and pedestrian/cyclist spaces coexist, they will be harmonized, prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist movement over car presence.



## 3 Create a Mixed-Use and Livable Built Form

The scale of buildings is critical in defining quality of urban spaces. Massing and building transitions will intensify urban uses while creating a livable environment that considers contextual conditions, sun exposure, privacy, sky views, and wind impacts. The Promenade Centre Secondary Plan envisions a dense and vibrant mixed-use community that will include diverse housing types and tenures to support aging in place.



## 4 Promote Diverse and High Quality Architecture

Diverse and high quality architecture that accommodates mixed uses and diverse housing options is tantamount to creating urban places where people want to live, work, and visit. Promenade Centre will be a complete community comprised of context-sensitive development to provide a positive presence along streets and parks. Buildings will be designed with future uses in mind, allowing the flexibility needed for building uses and occupants to change over time, and the use of high-quality materials and architectural interest will ensure that future generations of Promenade residents will continue to feel pride in their neighbourhood.



## 5 Showcase Sustainability and Climate Responsive Design

Sustainable systems will be a visible feature within Promenade Centre. The design of development blocks and buildings will support active lifestyles that promote walking and cycling, create desirable microclimate conditions (including maintaining sun access and mitigating wind), allow for sustainable management of stormwater, and have plenty of trees and plantings that enhance the health and wellbeing of all visitors and residents of Promenade centre, human and non-human alike.

Building siting, orientation, massing, and design will maximize site efficiency and minimize energy consumption. Promenade Centre will exemplify best practices in sustainable development, contributing to a transit-oriented, green, and resilient City of Vaughan.



The design of the entire block will be considered holistically, with key public spaces and routes, building massing and siting, vehicle movement and service access, and ample green spaces that ensure comfortable and safe experiences in both the public and private realms.

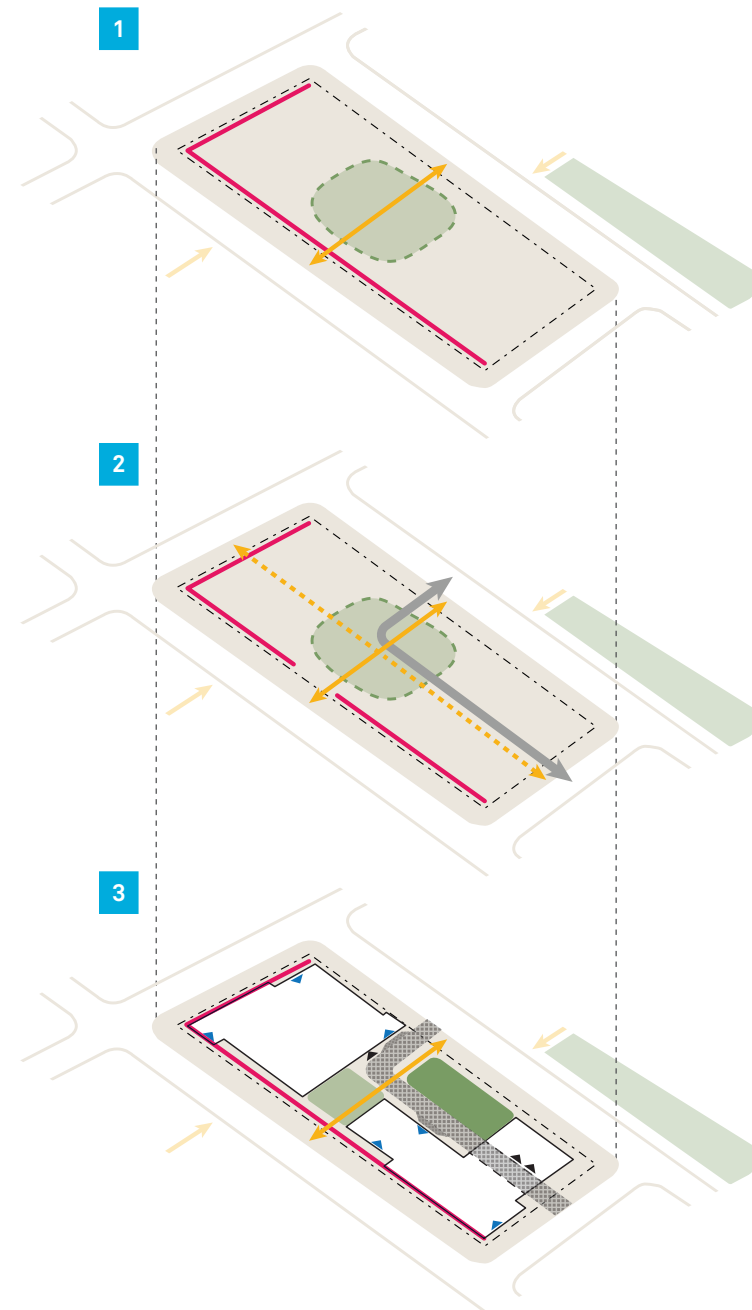
Site organization and design should respond to site topography, street types, service and vehicle access, landscaped areas, and shared amenities.

## 12.0 Site Organization

12.1	Site Access	157
12.2	Building Placement	159
12.3	At-grade Outdoor Space	161

Site organization and design will be driven first-and-foremost by the public realm experience by responding to:

1. Parks, open spaces, shared use paths, frontages, and street character within and surrounding the site;
2. Site permeability and access; and
3. Building location and orientation.



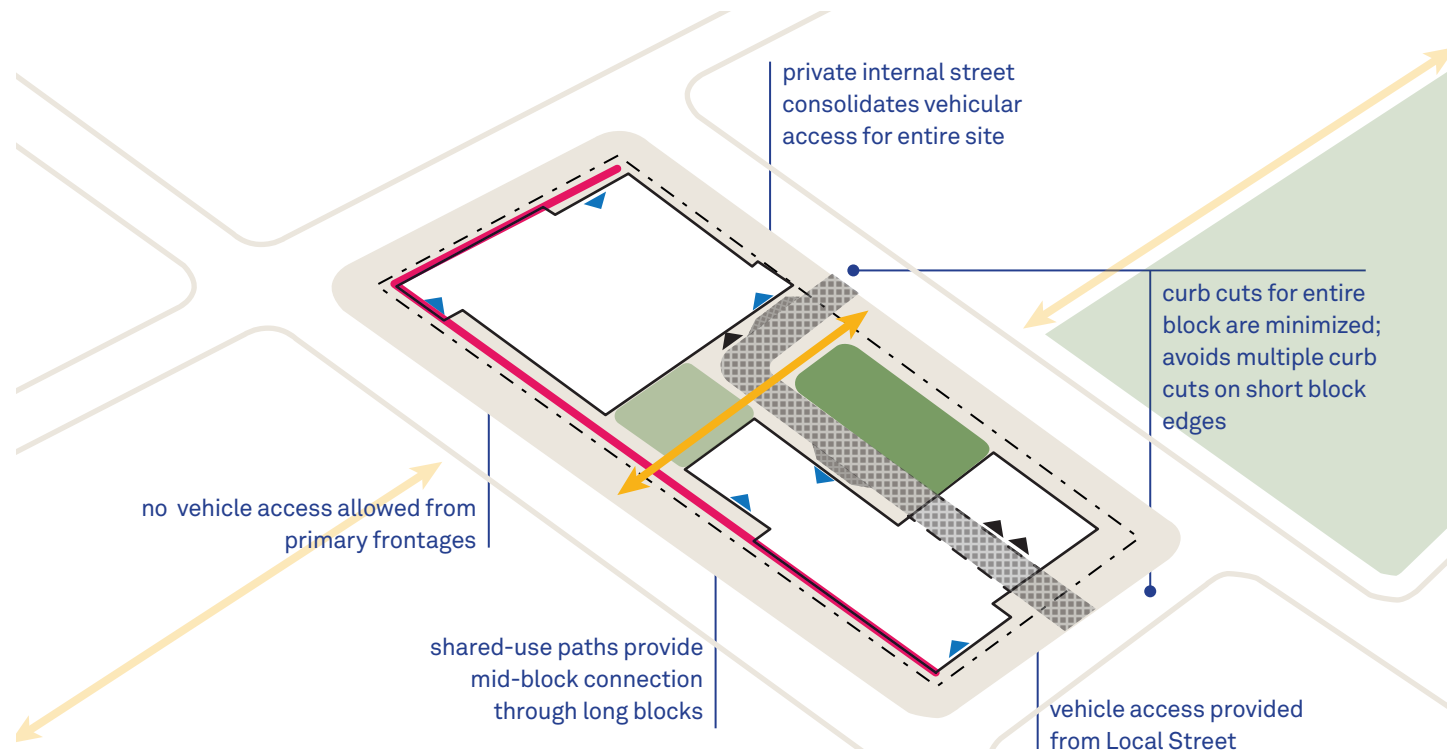
### 12.1 Site Access

The Promenade Centre Secondary Plan identifies a new pattern of streets and blocks that are sized to provide a fine-grained environment (see Schedules C and D). Location of vehicle and pedestrian access to the block should avoid points of conflict, multiple curb cuts, discontinuity in the streetwall, and visibility of back-of-house service functions. This section should be read in conjunction with CPTED principles, the Ontario Building Code, and AODA.

- a) Vehicle access points should be consolidated and the number of curb cuts minimized. Avoid creating multiple curb cuts along block frontages.
- b) Vehicular site access should be from a Local Street wherever possible. No vehicular access to sites shall be provided from a Primary Frontage.
- c) Direct vehicular access to back-of-house, service areas, and underground levels may not be provided from a Collector Street or from a Primary Frontage.
- d) The use of private internal streets is encouraged to provide pick-up/drop-off areas in proximity to building entrances, and vehicular access to back-of-house, service areas, and underground levels away from the public street.



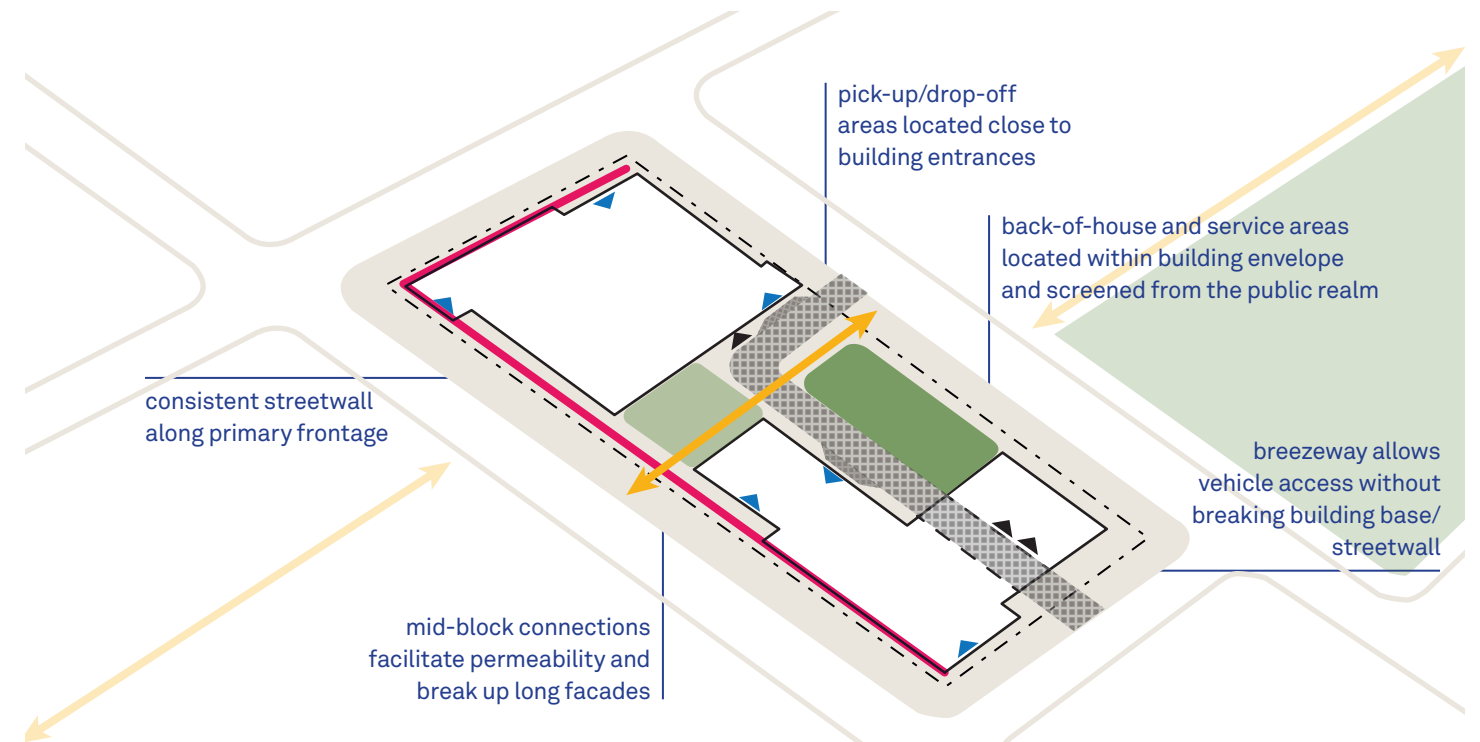
- e) Private internal streets will be mixed-use spaces. Their design should signify pedestrian and cyclist priority, and should have accessible walkways and adequate lighting. Vehicle impacts on other inner-block spaces should be minimized through site organization and layout. Design of private internal streets should generally follow the guidelines for Mews and Neighbourhood Paths, as described in Sections 8.6.1 Mews and 8.6.2 Neighbourhood Paths.
- f) Private internal streets should minimize hardscaped areas and unnecessary curb cuts by serving multiple buildings within a block. Space-intensive vehicle-oriented spaces, such as dedicated turnarounds should be avoided.
- g) Where access to a private internal street is located along short block edges, consider using breezeways to avoid breaks in the building base.
- h) Breezeways should be at least two storeys in height and 7.5 metres in width.



## 12.2 Building Placement

Site access and circulation should be coordinated with building placement, orientation, massing, and articulation to achieve a consistent and comprehensive design. Building frontages should address streets in relation to their adjacent land use, street type, and/or street frontage.

- a) Buildings should express a generally consistent streetwall along primary frontages.
- b) The interior of the block should be clearly defined through the architecture and placement of buildings with a defined character.
- c) Building orientation and massing must consider shadow and wind impacts on public spaces, including parks, plazas, other open spaces, and public sidewalks.
- d) Buildings should be oriented to facilitate a sense of arrival or a visual focus when located





Document Reference

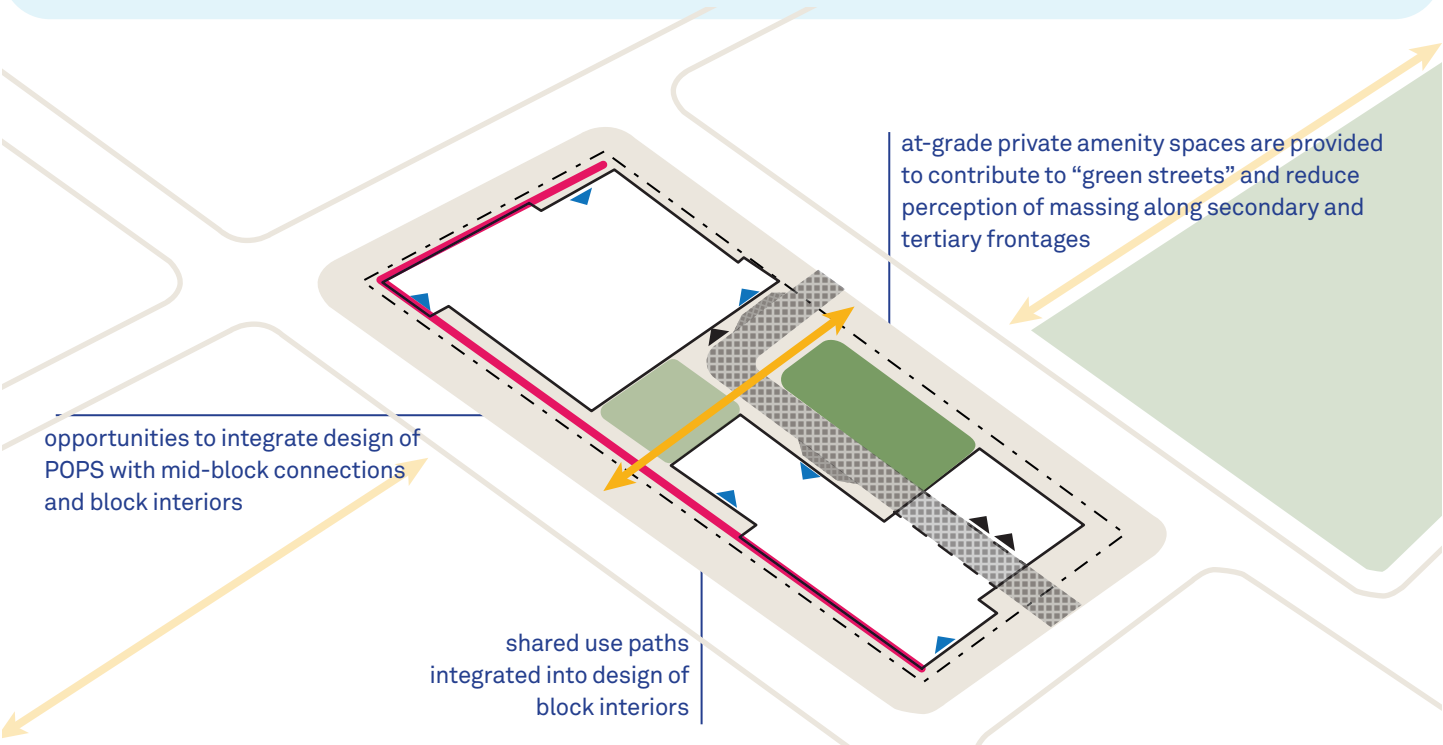
- City of Vaughan  
Comprehensive Zoning By-law 4.3.3 Outdoor Amenity Requirements
- Vaughan Citywide Urban Design Guidelines 6.2 Common Amenity Spaces

at gateways, key view termini, or along view corridors.

- e) Building orientation and articulation should be designed to mitigate shadow and wind impacts to maximize passive sustainable design.
- f) Buildings should enclose sensitive spaces within block interiors (e.g. children's play areas) by providing visual connection through pedestrian passageways and active uses within buildings wherever feasible.
- g) Mid-block connections and breezeways should have transparency and active uses on at least one side to promote passive

surveillance.

- h) Breezeways should be designed to avoid adverse wind effects
- i) Ground-oriented residential units located at the block interior should be visually and physically connected to outdoor amenities and other landscaped areas when possible.
- j) Resolve challenging grade changes through landscape design that maximizes accessibility, wayfinding, and safety. Where retaining walls and/or ramps are necessary they should be designed to integrate with the building and landscape design.



### 12.3 At-grade Outdoor Space

Publicly-accessible, semi-private, and private amenity spaces located in the interior of the site contribute to the comfort and wellbeing of residents and should be carefully considered at the block design stage. These quiet and domestic spaces should provide softscape and trees, providing a common backyard for residents.

- a) A minimum of **15%** of the block surface should be softscape.
- b) Ground-oriented units should provide a minimum **60%** of softscape within the front yards.
- c) Shadow impacts should be considered when locating and designing outdoor amenity spaces. Rooftop amenity spaces should be considered for better sun exposure.
- d) An increase in the maximum percentage permitted for outdoor amenity space located on rooftops may be granted if it is demonstrated that more rooftop spaces would result in higher quality amenity spaces for residents. Demonstration through shadow studies, consultation with residents, and/or other analyses may be required.
- e) At-grade outdoor amenity spaces should have a minimum length-to-width ratio of 4:1 metres to ensure maximum usability and flexibility of spaces.
- f) Incorporate large shade trees in at-grade outdoor amenity spaces as they may not be feasible on terrace or rooftop outdoor amenity spaces. At-grade amenity spaces should have

- g) a good balance of shaded, protected, and sunny areas. Trees and vegetation should be combined to minimize heat island effects.
- g) Where spaces for vehicular movement and temporary visitor parking are co-located with outdoor amenity spaces, they should be well-differentiated. Additional fencing and/or screening may be required where at-grade amenity spaces include children's play spaces or pet areas. For more information, refer to [Section 10.8 Fencing, Screening, and Enclosure](#).
- h) Building bases that abut at-grade outdoor amenity spaces should complement these spaces through coordinated design and placement of windows, entrances, lighting, and facade treatments.
- i) Mid-block connections and block interiors located in the Central Square, Centre Street, and Community Hub Precincts should include a higher degree of design and amenity to support car-free pedestrian accessibility.
- j) For more information on outdoor amenity spaces, refer to [Section 13.3.4 Common Amenities](#).



Buildings will be designed to support a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable Promenade Centre by prioritizing quality at the building base, integrated climate responsiveness, and pedestrian safety and comfort.

New buildings will promote architectural excellence and the vision of the Secondary Plan by framing streets and open spaces with well-scaled building bases and articulated frontages that contribute to pedestrian comfort and provide engaging facades.

# 13.0 Building Design

13.1	Building Base	164
13.2	Scale, Massing and Transitions	170
13.3	Building Uses	174
13.4	Architectural Diversity	181
13.5	Climate Responsiveness	184

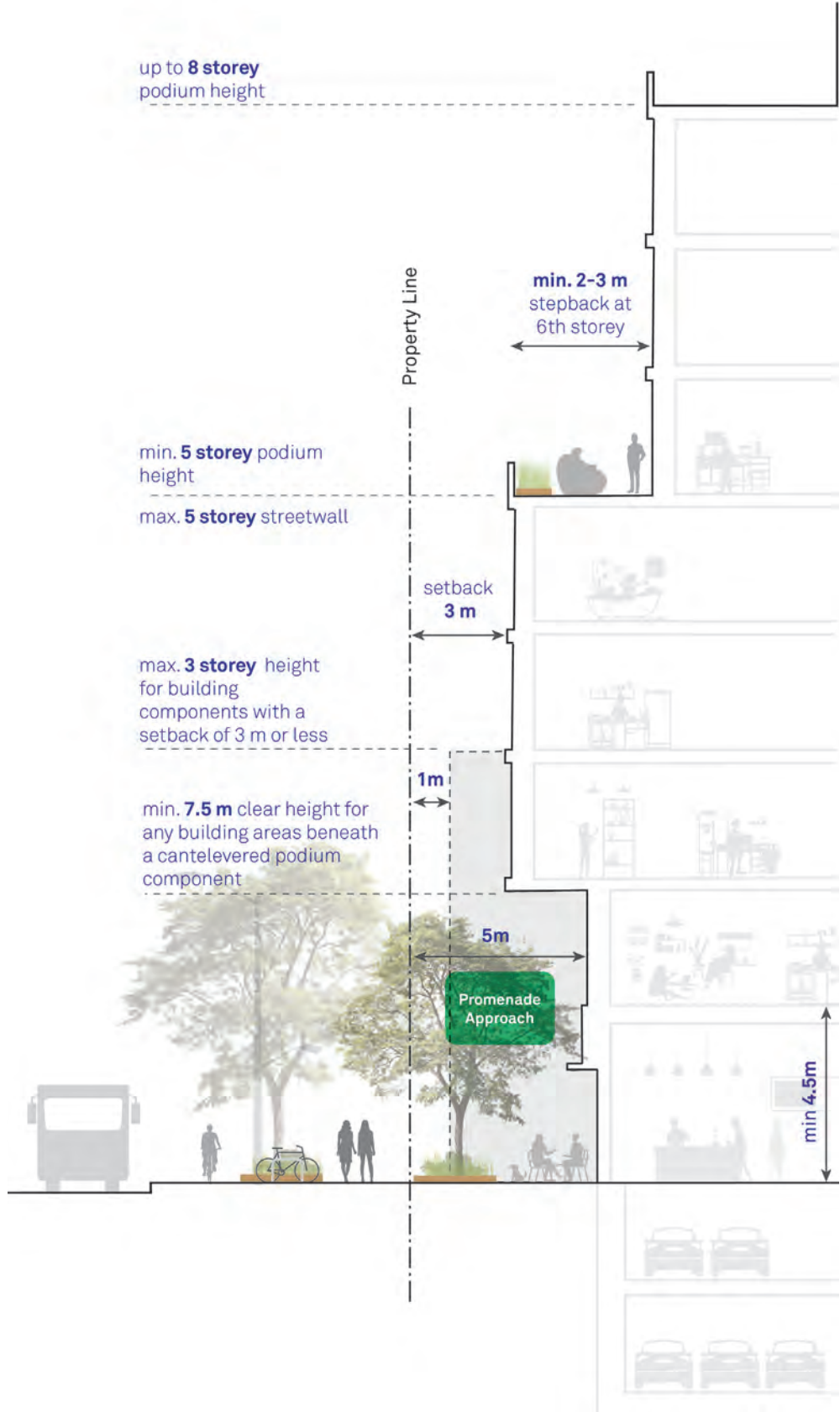
## 13.1 Building Base

The relationship between the building base and the public realm affects the pedestrian experience in terms of both comfort and safety. A well-defined building facing the street with active uses at grade and architectural interest on the first few floors promotes streets as vital public places, including retail spaces that help support the local economy.

### 13.1.1 Setbacks and Streetwalls

- a) A general building setback of **3 metres** along all frontages should be maintained.
- b) The building setback should be a minimum of **4.5 metres** where residential uses are present at grade. Refer to Section 7.3.2 Residential Uses.
- c) Along primary frontages, the building setback may be reduced to **1 metre** where the building contains active uses.
- d) A general streetwall of **3 to 5 storeys** should be maintained. To promote a human scale and maximize sun exposure and sky views along the streets, a **2- to 3-metre** stepback above the 5th storey is required.
- e) Buildings should have a curb-to-building face distance not exceeding **9 metres** along primary frontages
- f) Maintain a minimum **1-metre** setback from any portion of a building or projection.
- g) At upper storeys, cantilevered building elements will be permitted to project within the Promenade Approach setback. Cantilevered building elements must maintain a minimum clear height of **7.5 metres** above grade. This projection allowance may be employed for no more than **80%** of the building frontage.
- h) Building bases along primary frontages should generally express a continuous streetwall for at least **80%** of the building frontage.
- i) Buildings longer than **60 metres** should include architectural design to help sub-divide the building length.
- j) For further details on setbacks and stepbacks for building bases, refer to Section 7.1 A Promenade Specific Approach, Section 7.2 Streetwalls and Setbacks, and Section 7.3 Grade-Related Uses.





• Refer to [Section 7](#) for additional guidelines on building's interface with the public realm.

Figure 105. Building Base

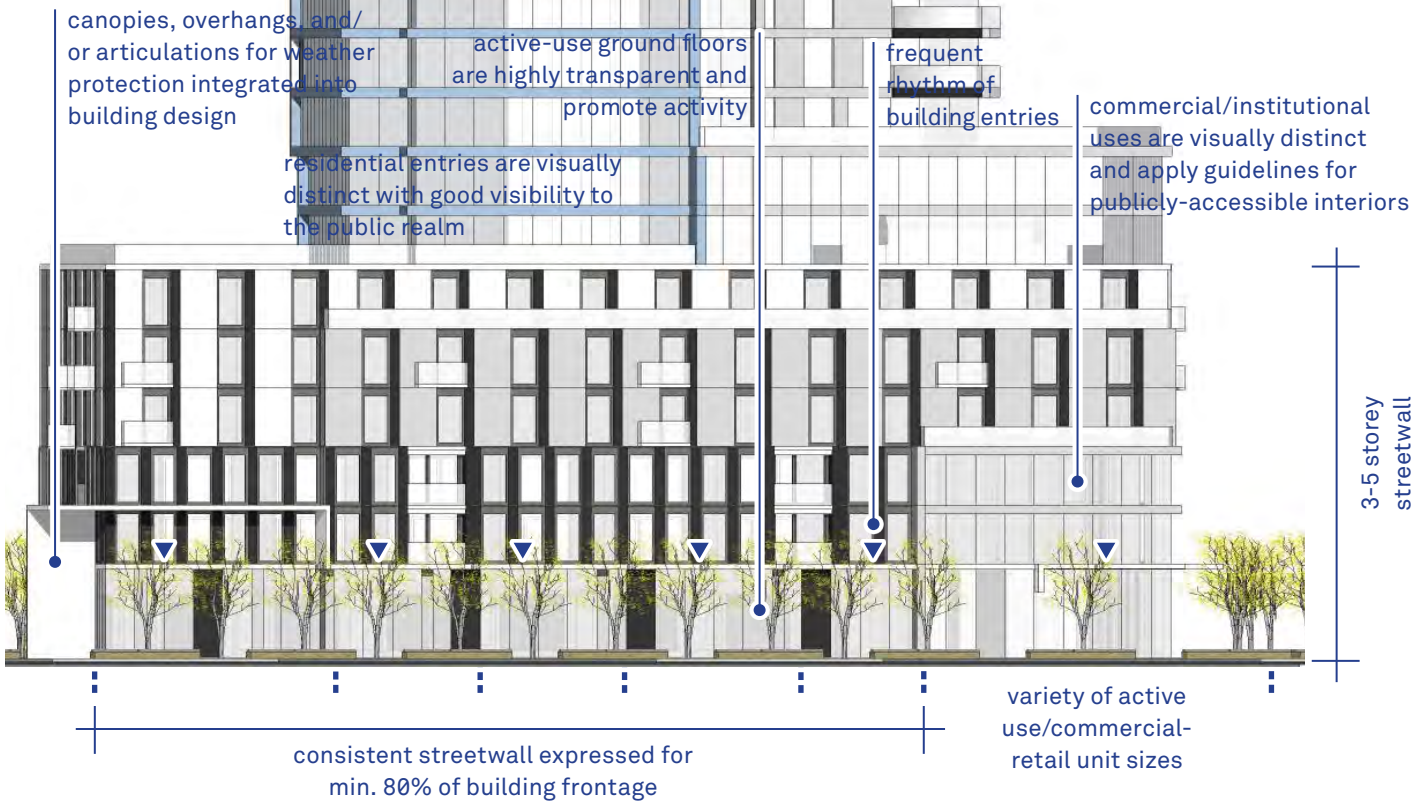


Figure 106. Design guidelines for building bases and the ground floor.

### 13.1.2 Centre Street and Bathurst Street

- a) Properties along Centre Street should apply the [Avenue Streetscape Guidelines](#) as shown in the [Centre Street Urban Design Guidelines](#).
- b) Properties along Centre Street should apply the [Green Approach on Intensification Corridors](#) as presented in the [City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines](#).
- c) Properties on Bathurst Street should have a minimum front property line setback of **7 metres**.
- d) Properties along Bathurst Street should apply the [Green Approach on Intensification Corridors](#) as presented in the [City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines](#).

### 13.1.3 Ground Floor Design

- e) All building entrances (except for private entries of ground-oriented residential units) should be barrier-free, include a **2.1-metre** clear path of travel to the front door, and have appropriate lighting and signage.
- f) Exterior ramps and stairs should be considered holistically with the design of the building, public realm, and landscape design.
- g) Provide weather protection through canopies, awnings, recesses, and/or vestibules at residential entries and other building entry points. Consider providing seating at entrances in proximity to pick-up/drop-off points. Elements that mitigate rain and wind



Guidelines Reference

- City of Vaughan Waste Collection Design Standards

should be an integral part of the architectural approach.

- h) At-grade commercial uses should offer a variety of CRU sizes. Buildings along High Street and Low Street should provide a regular, frequent rhythm of fine-grain building expression including building entries to encourage visual variety (see Figure 125).
- i) Active frontages at grade should be transparent and engaging, allowing passers-by to easily identify storefronts and see activity and/or merchandise inside.
- j) Frontages accommodating active uses should utilize increased setbacks via the Promenade Approach to allow for functions to spill out into the public realm. Refer to [Section 7.3 At-Grade Uses](#) for more details.
- k) Residential entries to mixed-use buildings may be provided along active frontages, and should be architecturally differentiated from other uses.
- l) A coordinated approach should be developed for signage and wayfinding for each building or block. Signage strategies should vary across Promenade Centre, responding to the character of each Precinct.

- m) Access to at-grade residential lobbies may be provided on multiple street frontages. Providing a secondary entrance from the block interior connected to pick-up/drop-off spaces on private internal streets is strongly encouraged. For more information on private internal streets, refer to [Section 12.1 Site Access](#).
- n) Lobbies should have good visibility to exterior pick-up/drop-off areas and/or shared mobility hubs with appropriate indoor and outdoor lighting. Where possible, lobbies should provide transparency to allow for through-views to interior block spaces.
- o) Lobbies and indoor amenity spaces should include seating and other furnishings designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities with ample space for strollers and mobility devices, and should have direct visual connection to pick-up/drop-off areas.
- p) Ground-oriented residential units not located along street edges should have direct access to a front yard with a minimum depth of **3 metres**. Refer to [Section 7.3.2 Residential Uses](#) for more information.

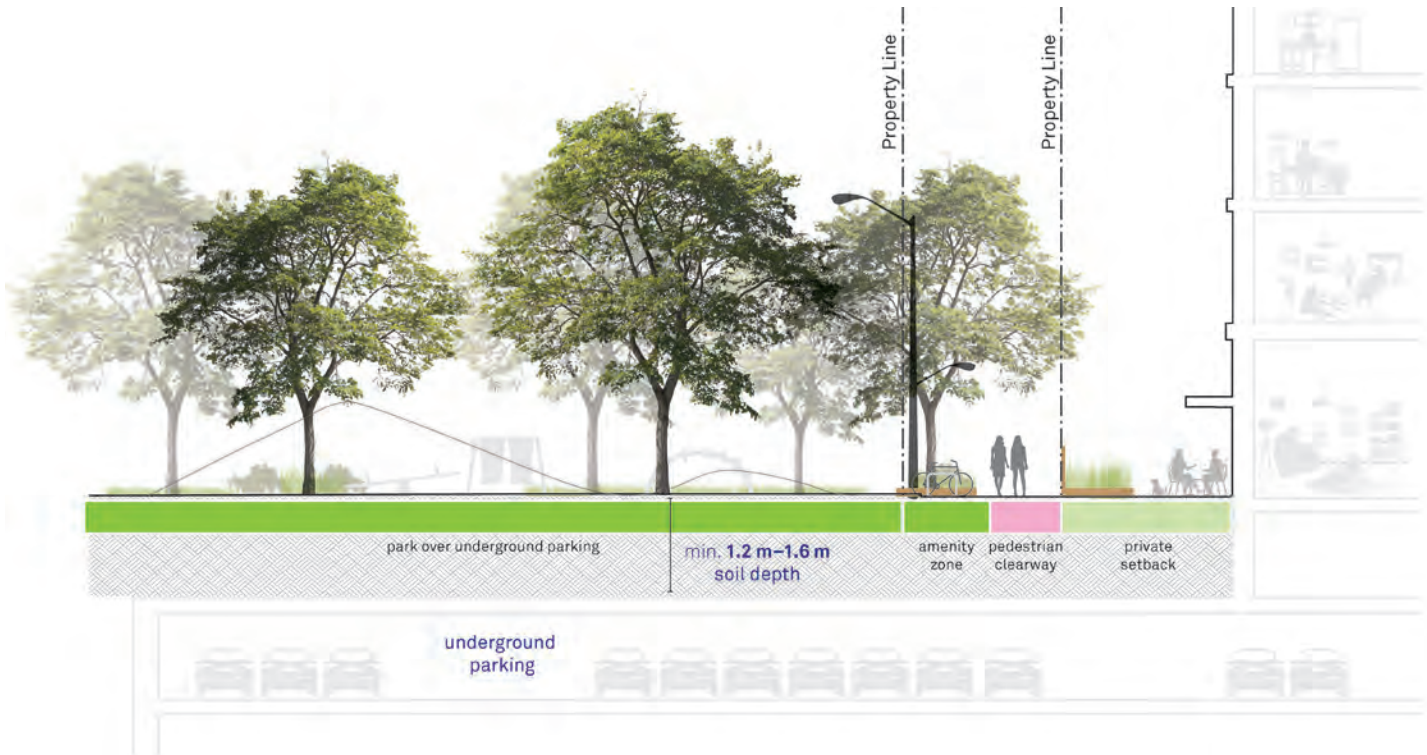


Figure 107. 2023-06-12 Promenade Sections\_Park 5m setback\_2.jpg

13.1.4 Back of House (BOH), Service Areas, and Underground Levels

- a) Loading, service, waste pickup, underground vehicle access, and service storage spaces should be consolidated in BOH space internalized in the building envelope.
- b) Access points to BOH areas and external access to at-grade utility rooms should be integrated into the facade design or screened, preferably with vegetation, to minimize visual, noise, and air quality impacts on public or private outdoor spaces. Refer to [Section 10.7 Fencing, Screening, and Enclosure](#) for more information.
- c) The design of BOH, Service Areas, and Underground Vehicle Access areas should be appropriately lit and follow CPTED principles. Refer to [Section 7.3.9 Vehicular Access](#),

[Drop-off, Servicing and Loading](#) for more information.

- d) Dimensions and vertical clearance for BOH and service areas should align with the [City of Vaughan Waste Collection Design Standards](#).
- e) Short term bike parking should be located at ground level. Short term bike lockers should be incorporated within the building volume and be accessible from the street, or from the vestibule of the residential entrance.
- f) Clear access to underground bicycle parking areas should be provided to promote safety. Access separated from the underground vehicle ramp should be provided, for example through bike-friendly elevators or dedicated ramps and/or bicycle stairways.
- g) Long-term bicycle parking should be located



Policy Reference

- [City of Vaughan Comprehensive Zoning By-Law](#)

at grade or within the first two underground levels. Long-term bicycle parking areas should be physically and visually enclosed, for instance, with a bike room. Adequate security and surveillance measures should be taken to further secure bike storage.

- h) Long-term bicycle parking areas should be equipped with bicycle service areas including, but not limited to, bike stands, pumps, maintenance equipment, and wash stations.
- i) Any mechanical volume, exhaust vent, utility cabinet, or accessory buildings related to the underground parking or service areas should be located within the building away from primary frontages and from entrances, and should be and architecturally integrated into the building. Refer to [Section 10.10 Underground Parking Egress Structures and Ventilation Shafts](#) for more information.
- j) EV charging spaces and EV-ready parking spaces should be provided. EV charging spots and car share parking should be located on the first levels of underground parking in proximity to the entrance/exit.

- k) Wayfinding solutions for underground levels that enhance legibility and orientation should be employed, for instance, through the use of bright colours and large painted surfaces.
- l) Where underground levels are located below at-grade outdoor amenity spaces, parks, POPS, frontage zones, or other areas of the public realm, ensure between **1.2 and 1.6 metres** of soil depth is provided for landscaped areas to allow for the growth of mature tree canopies (see Figure 126). Refer to [Section 9.3 Tree Canopy](#) for further information.
- m) Where underground levels are located below public or publicly-accessible open spaces, a strategy for maintenance, operations, and irrigation should be coordinated with the City.

Policy Reference

- [Promenade Centre Secondary Plan 4.2.e](#)

13.2 Scale, Massing and Transitions

To achieve an attractive community and interesting skyline, and ensure appropriate transitions to the surrounding contexts, Promenade Centre will feature a mix of buildings with varying heights, envelopes, and architectural designs. Building form and massing — in addition to orientation and placement — also play an important role in defining street edges and open spaces and contribute to the vitality and liveliness of the public realm. The articulation of buildings through varied setbacks, stepbacks and forms will ensure that the perceived mass of taller buildings will be reduced, while maximizing access to sunlight and sky views.

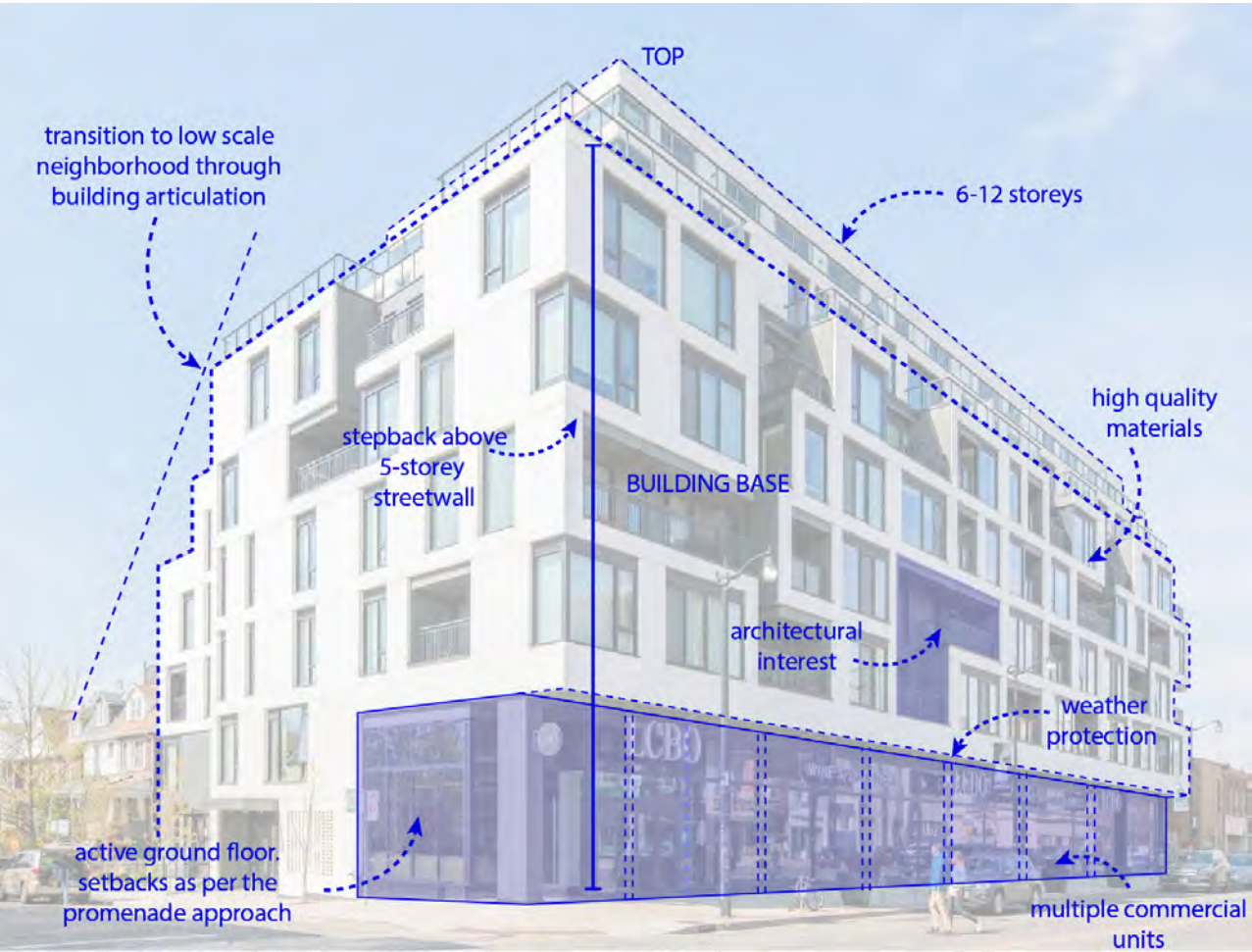


Figure 108. Midrise Buildings



13.2.1 Mid-rise Buildings

- a) Mid-rise buildings are **between 6 and 12 storeys** in height (see City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines Performance Standard 5.3.3).
- b) The base of mid-rise buildings should be designed following the guidelines for building bases (see Section 13.1), the Promenade Approach (see Section 7.1), and the interface with the public realm (see Section 7.0).
- c) Mid-rise buildings in Promenade Centre should generally maintain a **3- to 5-storey**

streetwall. A **2- to 3-metre** stepback shall be provided for all levels above the 5th storey.

- d) Additional stepbacks may be required to ensure adequate transitions to the surrounding context, favourable conditions at the street level, and maintenance of solar access and sky views from the public realm. Refer to Section 13.5 Climate Responsiveness.
- e) When abutting low rise residential areas, mid-rise buildings should articulate a transition in height and massing through setbacks and stepbacks.

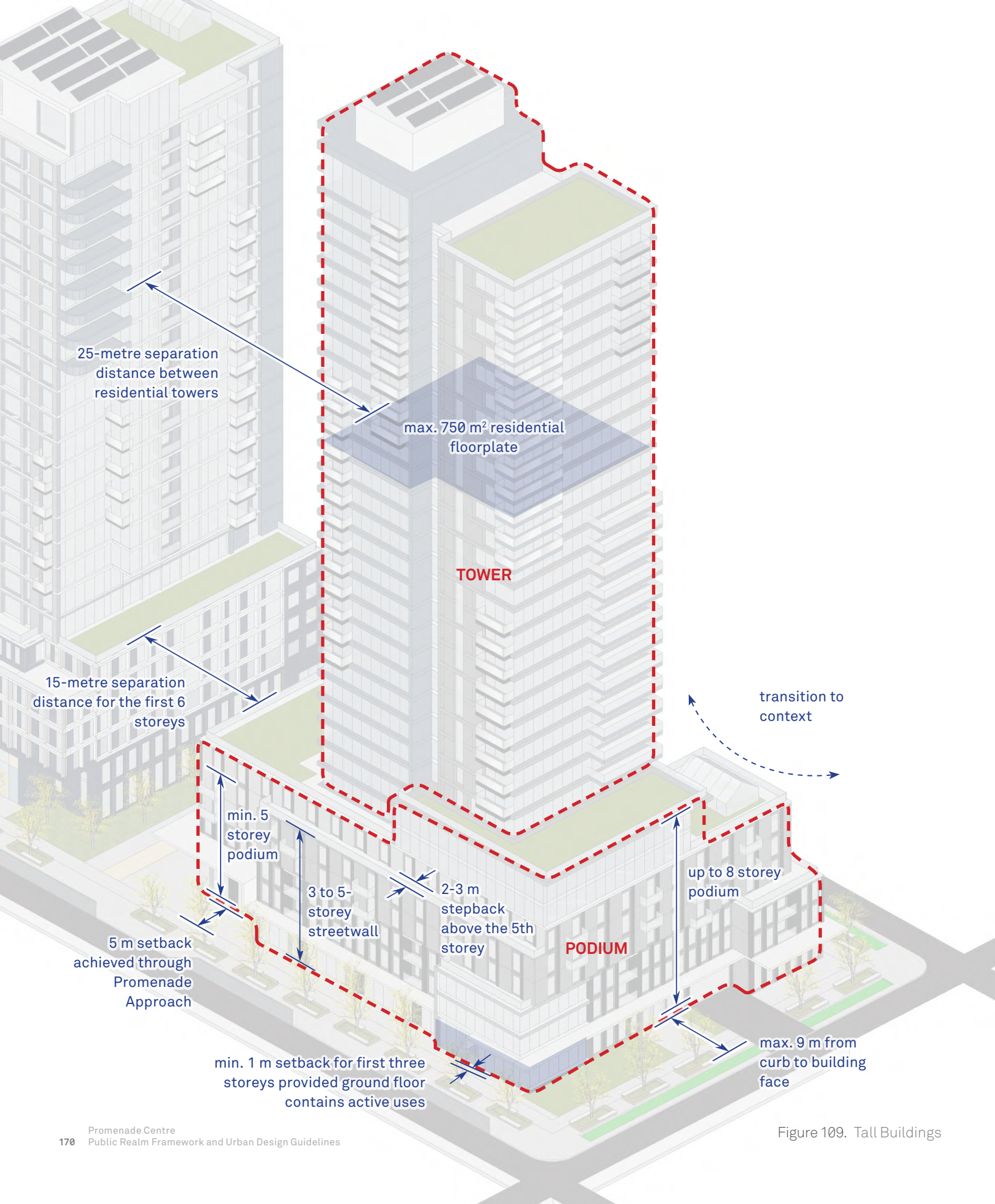
13.2.2 Tall Buildings

- a) Tall buildings are more than **12 storeys** in height.
- b) Tall buildings have a defined base (podium), and tower portion. The podium of tall buildings will follow the guidelines related to building bases (see Section 13.1), the Promenade Approach (see Section 7.1), and the interface with the public realm (see Section 7.0).
- c) Tall buildings should typically have a podium element which expresses a **3- to 5-storey** streetwall (or approx. **17 metres**) in height. A **2- to 3-metre** stepback shall be provided for all levels above the 5th storey.
- d) The height of building podiums shall be no less than **5 storeys**. In order to achieve a variation of built form and height, the height of podiums can be up to **8 storeys**, provided the massing at the sixth storey and above are set back and sculpted to mitigate any impacts on the public realm, and to achieve appropriate transitions to the surrounding built form.
- e) Additional stepbacks may be required to ensure adequate transitions to the surrounding context, favourable conditions at the street level, and maintenance of solar access and sky views from the public realm.

Refer to Section 13.5 Climate Responsiveness.

- f) Tower portions of tall buildings will have a maximum floor plate of **750 square metres**. Larger floorplates may be permitted for office towers.
- g) A minimum separation distance of **25 metres** will be maintained between residential towers, or between a residential tower and any other tower. When a block is developed in phases, a site plan should demonstrate that the minimum separation distances will be maintained.
- h) Tower portions of tall buildings will be set back a minimum of **5 metres** from the property line or block edge facing a street.
- i) Massing of the tower should be broken up through architectural moves and articulations to minimize the perceived massing and impacts on the public realm (for example, orienting rectangular-shaped towers in the north-south direction to reduce shadow impacts).
- j) A clear distinction between the podium and the tower portion of the building should be achieved through the use of stepbacks or reveals.





### 13.3 Building Uses

Promenade Centre will include a mix of uses that will include residential, office, commercial, institutional, and community uses that will support a vibrant, complete community. The Secondary Plan identifies the uses and densities for each block of Promenade.

#### Mixed-Uses

Mixed-use buildings are strongly encouraged in nearly all Precincts within Promenade Centre (except the Community Hub Precinct and established developments located in the Transit Hub and Neighbourhoods Precincts). Active uses at grade will facilitate a vibrant public realm supporting the vision for the area (Refer to [Section 7.3 Grade-Related Uses](#) for more information on how different at-grade uses interface with the public realm) while providing valuable housing and employment uses on upper storeys. In Promenade Centre, there are four land use designations for mixed use buildings: High-Rise Mixed Use, Mid-Rise Mixed Use, Low-Rise Mixed Use, and Community Commercial Mixed Use. The Mixed-use designation can also include Transit Terminal use, reflecting the potential for the existing transit terminal to be replaced by future High-Rise Mixed Use development, provided they integrate the terminal without impacting its functionality.

Mixed-use land use designations and policies are described in the following sections of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan:

- [3.2 High-Rise Mixed Use](#)
- [3.3 Mid-Rise Mixed Use](#)

- [3.5 Low-Rise Mixed Use](#)
- [3.6 Community Commercial Mixed Use](#)
- [3.8 Transit Terminal](#)

#### Residential Uses

Residential Uses are permitted in areas designated High-Rise Residential which reflects existing high-rise residential buildings in the Neighbourhood and Transit Hub Precincts and the recognition that these uses should persist in these areas. Additional residential buildings are permitted in Low-Rise Mixed-Use designated areas in the Transit Hub and Community Hub precincts.

Generally, new low-rise residential buildings are not supported in Promenade Centre; however, ground-oriented units at the base of tall or mid-rise buildings, or low-rise infill development, may be permitted in order to support more housing options. Refer to [Section 14.0 Infill Development](#) for more details.

Residential land use designations and policies are described in the following sections of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan:

- [3.4 High-Rise Residential](#)
- [3.5 Low-Rise Mixed Use](#)

#### Policy Reference

- [Promenade Centre Secondary Plan Schedule C Land Use Plan and Schedule D Height, Density, & Use Parameters](#)
- [Promenade Centre Secondary Plan 3.0 Community Structure](#)

Figure 109. Tall Buildings



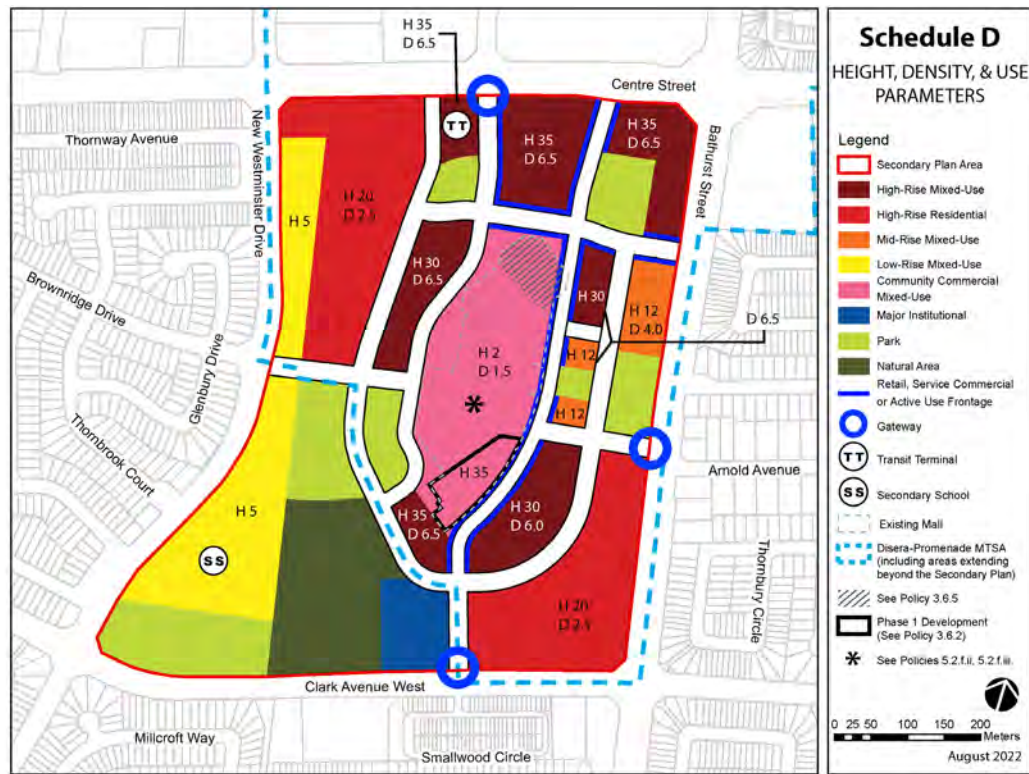


Figure 110. Schedule D: Height, Density, & Use Parameters, Promenade Centre Secondary Plan

### Community Commercial Uses

The Community Commercial Mixed-Use designation recognizes Promenade Mall in the Central Square Precinct as the main focus of the area, and supports the retention of this use. In addition to superficial improvements to the mall frontages, new low-rise commercial infill, subject to an Official Plan Amendment, to increase transparency and activity around the mall, and to establish a streetwall by bringing the edge of the mall to the new street. Refer to [Section 14.0 Infill Development](#) for more details.

Community Commercial Mixed-use land use designations and policies are described in the following sections of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan:

- [3.6 Community Commercial Mixed-Use](#)

### Community and Institutional Uses

The Major Institutional land use designation recognizes the existing Bathurst Clark Resource

Library located in the Community Hub Precinct. The library may be expanded or redeveloped to offer new programs that serves the community at a local and city scale.

Additional public and private institutional buildings may be located in Low-Rise Mixed Use designated areas (recognizing the existing St. Elizabeth Catholic High School, also in the Community Hub Precinct). New Mixed-Use designated areas may also include community or institutional uses, where they are encouraged to be co-located within mixed-use buildings.

Community and Institutional land use designations and policies are described in the following sections of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan:

- [3.2 High-Rise Mixed Use](#); [3.3 Mid-Rise Mixed Use](#); and [3.5 Low-Rise Mixed Use](#)
- [3.7 Major Institutional](#)
- [4.6 Institutional Buildings](#)

### Policy Reference

- [City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards](#)

### 13.3.1 Mixed-use and Residential Buildings

- Mixed-use buildings and residential buildings should be designed to allow for future adaptation to other uses, residential unit layouts and types.
- Office uses in particular should consider how floorplates could be converted to residential uses in the future, including ensuring floorplate depths that will allow for flexible unit layouts and sunlight penetration. Provision of balconies and terraces for office buildings should be considered.
- Solutions that provide built-in flexibility such as live-work units are encouraged. Live-work units are an appropriate active use for the ground floor of buildings, where it is required.
- Office use and commercial use that is located at the upper floors of the building should be served by dedicated elevators and stairs. While not publicly-accessible, ground-floor lobbies should be transparent and active, employing guidelines presented in [Section 7.4 Publicly-Accessible Interiors](#).
- New Community and Institutional Uses are strongly encouraged to be located and integrated within mixed-use buildings.
- Community and Institutional Uses must be designed according to universal design principles and must contain accessible vertical circulation where they are located on multiple or upper floors.
- Where Community Uses, Institutional Uses, anchor commercial units, or other uses that typically have large floorplates are located at the ground floor, they should provide an active frontage, a clearly defined dedicated entrance, and apply the guidelines for Publicly-Accessible Interiors (refer to [Section 7.4](#)). Consider locating large floorplate uses at the second floor of a building to avoid any long, inactivated facades at grade.
- It is strongly encouraged to locate primary or secondary entrances to Community or Institutional Uses (including the Transit Terminal) on Open Spaces, POPS, Gateway Plazas, or other prominent outdoor public spaces. Refer to [Section 7.3.7 Community and Institutional Uses](#) for more details.
- Mixed-Use buildings developed with the integrated Transit Terminal will have clearly differentiated entrances with access to the Transit Terminal in prominent and convenient locations. Signature signage design and passive wayfinding should be employed.
- Commercial/retail spaces should accompany the Transit Terminal use and should be located in convenient, accessible, and highly-visible locations, including any potential waiting areas.
- Consider creating multiple entrances to commercial/retail spaces from both the building exterior and from publicly-accessible interiors, particularly with retail spaces associated with the Transit Terminal.



13.3.2 Residential Units

- a) Residential units should be designed to allow for flexibility in their layout over time to account for change in housing tenure and to encourage aging-in-place.
- b) A minimum of 25% residential units should be universally accessible. Consider designing units that are not universally accessible in a way that they can be made accessible with minimal renovation and cost.
- c) Residential developments should include a minimum of 10% of 3-bedroom units. Larger and family-sized units should be clustered together to promote interaction between families and children, and should, where feasible, be located at the lower storeys for convenient access to the outdoors.
- d) Ground-oriented units integrated into building bases should be accessible from grade level, preferably facing the street. These units should be designed as 2-storey individual units with a minimum of 2 bedrooms to contribute to increased housing diversity in Promenade Centre.
- e) Double-storey units on the upper and top floors of buildings should be considered to provide a variety of unit sizes, provide access to rooftop community amenity spaces, and to contribute to varied building articulation.

- f) Where a development contains multiple connected buildings, unit types should be generally evenly distributed between buildings to promote equity and diversity of tenants within buildings.
- g) Consider locating storage lockers on the same level and close to residential units, especially with larger, family-sized units, to allow for easy access to items such as strollers and recreational equipment.
- h) Privatized access to building rooftops is strongly discouraged.

13.3.3 Common Amenities

- a) Common indoor amenities should be designed to accommodate aging-in-place and include spaces, furnishings, and fixtures that serve residents of all ages and abilities, for example, play spaces for children and dedicated spaces for teens, co-working and co-studying spaces, fitness-focused areas, shared kitchens and multi-purpose spaces for gatherings and activities. Consider including multi-purpose areas that allow for a range of activities; for example, dedicated “messy” amenity areas for DIY, workshops with basic repair equipment, and/or creative/maker rooms.

- b) Where a development consists of multiple buildings, indoor and outdoor amenity spaces shall be provided in both buildings; However, a portion of amenity spaces may be pooled into one area, should it be proven to the satisfaction of the City, that a larger contiguous amenity space can offer opportunities that would not be feasible for a single building (e.g. a pool, workshop areas). All buildings in the development should have access to all amenity spaces.
- c) Children’s amenity spaces should be connected to other types of amenity programming to encourage multigenerational interaction.
- d) Areas dedicated to children should be appropriate to the percentage of family-sized units in the building.
- e) Indoor amenities should be located on different floors throughout the building. Indoor amenity spaces may be located on the ground floor of a building as long as they are not located on primary frontages and do not result in blank exterior facades.
- f) Collaborative uses such as cooperative daycares that promote good neighboring and multigenerational integration should be explored.

- g) To better plan for inclusive and equitable common amenity spaces, involvement of current and future residents should be explored whenever possible. Consider consulting with residents occupying early phases of development on amenity space provisions for future stages of development.
- h) Indoor amenities should be directly connected to outdoor amenity spaces located at grade or on terraces and rooftops. Generous glazing to create visual connections should be provided.
- i) Provide common washrooms with amenity spaces that are universally accessible, considerate of users who are children or elderly, and include changing tables. Gender-inclusive washrooms are strongly encouraged.
- j) Bicycle service areas associated with long-term bicycle parking are strongly encouraged. They should include bike stands, pumps, maintenance equipment, and/or wash stations.
- k) In buildings with mixed uses, include end-of-trip change and shower facilities located close to long-term bicycle storage associated with non-residential uses. Such facilities should include: personal lockers, washrooms with showers, changing areas.



Policy Reference

- City of Vaughan Zoning By Law 6.5.6 Minimum Change and Shower Facilities

- l) Include pet-friendly facilities such as pet wash stations (potentially co-located with bike wash stations), pet-relief areas, and dog runs in the indoor and outdoor amenity programming. Consider the location of pet-friendly areas so that they encourage interaction between pet owners, while being distinct and providing sufficient separation from other amenity areas. Refer to [Section 6.4 Pet-Friendly Areas](#) for more information.
- m) Each residential unit should have access to private outdoor space in the form of balconies, terraces or private yards. They should be sized to allow for practical use and appropriate for the size of the associated unit.
- n) Common circulation spaces and residential lobbies should be designed for universal accessibility and safety. Intuitive wayfinding through colour coding and accessible signage is encouraged.
- o) Consider casual seating areas in corridors, especially at elevators and on floors where family-sized units are clustered together. Where feasible, include windows at key areas within corridors.
- p) The number of elevators in a building should support the movement of residents during peak hours.

- q) Consider using auto-dimming or auto-off motion-detecting lighting for common areas to minimize energy use.

13.3.4 Outdoor Amenities

- a) Locate outdoor amenity areas where they can be passively surveilled by residential units (i.e. a building courtyard surrounded by residential units, or terraces that can be viewed from upper floors). Consider noise impacts when locating residential units in proximity to common amenity areas
- b) Outdoor amenity spaces should have a minimum depth of **10 metres** to accommodate flexibility and practicality of use.
- c) Outdoor amenity spaces should include active and passive programming areas.
- d) Outdoor amenity areas should have a good balance of shaded, wind protected, and sunny areas. Trees and vegetation should be included to promote shade and minimize the heat island effect.
- e) Consider including features that enhance neighbourhood biodiversity into amenity spaces, including pollinator gardens or bird/insect habitats within outdoor amenity spaces.



Figure 111. Rooftop amenities directly connected to indoor amenities

- f) Play spaces dedicated to children should include playground equipment, landscape elements, and naturalized spaces that allow for learning and discovery.
- g) Plots for common-use vegetable gardens may also be integrated into outdoor amenity areas with sufficient access to sunlight, protection from wind, and access for pollinators. Consider providing raised planters at varying heights and wheelchair-accessible planters to allow them to be used by people of all ages and abilities.
- h) Consider providing indoor amenity spaces equipped with a common kitchen and dining spaces in proximity to outdoor common-use gardens.
- i) Screening associated with amenity areas should be attractive and incorporate naturalized elements and vegetation. Refer to [Section 10.8 Fencing, Screening, and Enclosure](#) for more information.
- j) For more information on at-grade common amenity areas, refer to [Section 12.3](#).

13.3.5 Rooftop Amenities

- k) Rooftop Amenities should be directly connected with indoor amenity spaces that complement them.
- l) Rooftop amenity space may only count for 50% of the required outdoor amenity space.
- m) An assessment of pedestrian level wind conditions should be done ahead of programming and design of rooftop amenity spaces.
- n) Consider noise impact and privacy in relation to residential units and the mechanical penthouse.
- o) Protection from winds through panels and vegetation should be provided. Shading elements should also be provided.
- p) Provide durable plantings suitable for rooftop conditions.
- q) Provide a minimum **1.5-metre** raised buffer space within the parapet, to promote safety at the roof edge.



### 13.4 Architectural Diversity

#### Policy Reference

- City of Vaughan  
Comprehensive Zoning By  
Law

Buildings in Promenade Centre will be welcoming and attractive, establishing a positive presence at the edges of streets and open spaces. Richness of architectural languages and articulation of building elements will contribute to creating a sense of place which existing and future residents can feel part of.

Buildings should have articulation that shows clear design intention. Composition of a portion of buildings should be appropriate for the scale of the building and should consider the perception at the pedestrian level as well as its visibility.

- a) Incorporate passive wayfinding through building massing and surface treatments highlighting focal points such as building entrances, mid-block connections, and consider building corner treatments.
- b) Include building weather protection elements through cantilevering of upper floors, canopies, or other building extensions.
- c) Colonnades are discouraged along primary frontages in order to maximize usable sidewalk space for pedestrian circulation and landscaping.
- d) Where ground-oriented residential units are provided at the base of tall and mid-rise buildings, porches and decks can be provided and encroach into the setback a maximum of 1.5 metres.
- e) Provide wherever feasible a 0-step entrance between the sidewalk and the building. Stairs and ramps should be provided in a manner that prioritize accessibility and safety.
- f) Ramps and stairs should not create leftover spaces that cannot be used or are unsafe.
- g) Consider as part of the building design, a variety of balcony types, such as Juliette balconies, inset balconies, protruding balconies and terraces.
- h) Inset, protruding balconies and terraces should have a minimum depth of 1.5 metres.
- i) Consider microclimate such as sun exposure and wind conditions when designing balconies.
- j) The mechanical penthouse should be integrated into the overall building design to reduce the visual impact of mechanical equipment through the use of architectural screening materials and/or step backs.



Figure 112. Facades should include high quality material and design



Figure 113. Building should be articulated to provide intuitive wayfinding



Figure 114. Weather protection at entrance through building articulation

#### Facades

- a) High quality design materials should be consistently used for facades fronting onto streets and public spaces.
- b) Vents and other mechanical equipment should be integrated in the façade design or screened.
- c) A balance of glazed and solid surfaces should be used in accordance with energy performance standards and responding to solar orientation.
- d) Glazed areas associated with indoor active uses should be used at the base of the buildings to establish a visual connection with the street.
- e) Glazed surfaces, including glass balconies, should be treated with bird-friendly design for the first 16 metres of the building height.
- f) Façades fronting on open spaces should have windows, terraces, and balconies to provide visual connection and passive surveillance.



Policy Reference

- City of Vaughan Comprehensive Zoning By-Law (01-2021)
- Green Directions Vaughan
- Vaughan Sustainability Metrics Program

### 13.5 Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness

Sustainable design will be more than a performance requirement in Promenade Centre — sustainability will be a feature of the overall public realm and built form design. Development will be intrinsically sustainable for its proximity to transit and to a robust network of active transportation facilities. New buildings should strive for excellence in sustainable design, considering both passive and active measures.

#### 13.5.1 Microclimate and Pedestrian Comfort

- a) Consider solar exposure, prevailing winds, and shadow impacts on the public realm to guide the organization of sites and the placement, orientation, height, and massing of buildings.
- b) Include passive design measures to improve microclimate conditions within the overall building design.
- c) Integrated overall building design should incorporate architectural elements that ensure a comfortable microclimate at grade during all seasons (e.g. building articulations, recesses and projections, canopies, and overhangs).
- d) In addition to landscaping at-grade, consider greening building roofs and walls, and incorporating rainwater retention and/or capture into buildings. Such blue/green measures can improve sound absorption, provide cooling and insulation, mitigate glare and the urban heat island effect, contribute to better air quality, increase site-wide biodiversity, and provide passive shading.
- e) Consider winter snow and ice build-up on the building elements and how increased building envelope performance can affect them.
- f) Wind Studies and Sun/Shadow Studies accompanying development applications should consider the entire development block.
- g) To provide comfortable microclimate conditions at the pedestrian level, elements of wind mitigation should be employed in the design of the base of the building. Windbreaks such as screens or walls should be employed in the design of forecourts and entryways to the buildings. This can be achieved through consideration of wind patterns for the placement of landscape or seating. The provision of mature growth trees should be included in the microclimate strategy of the building.

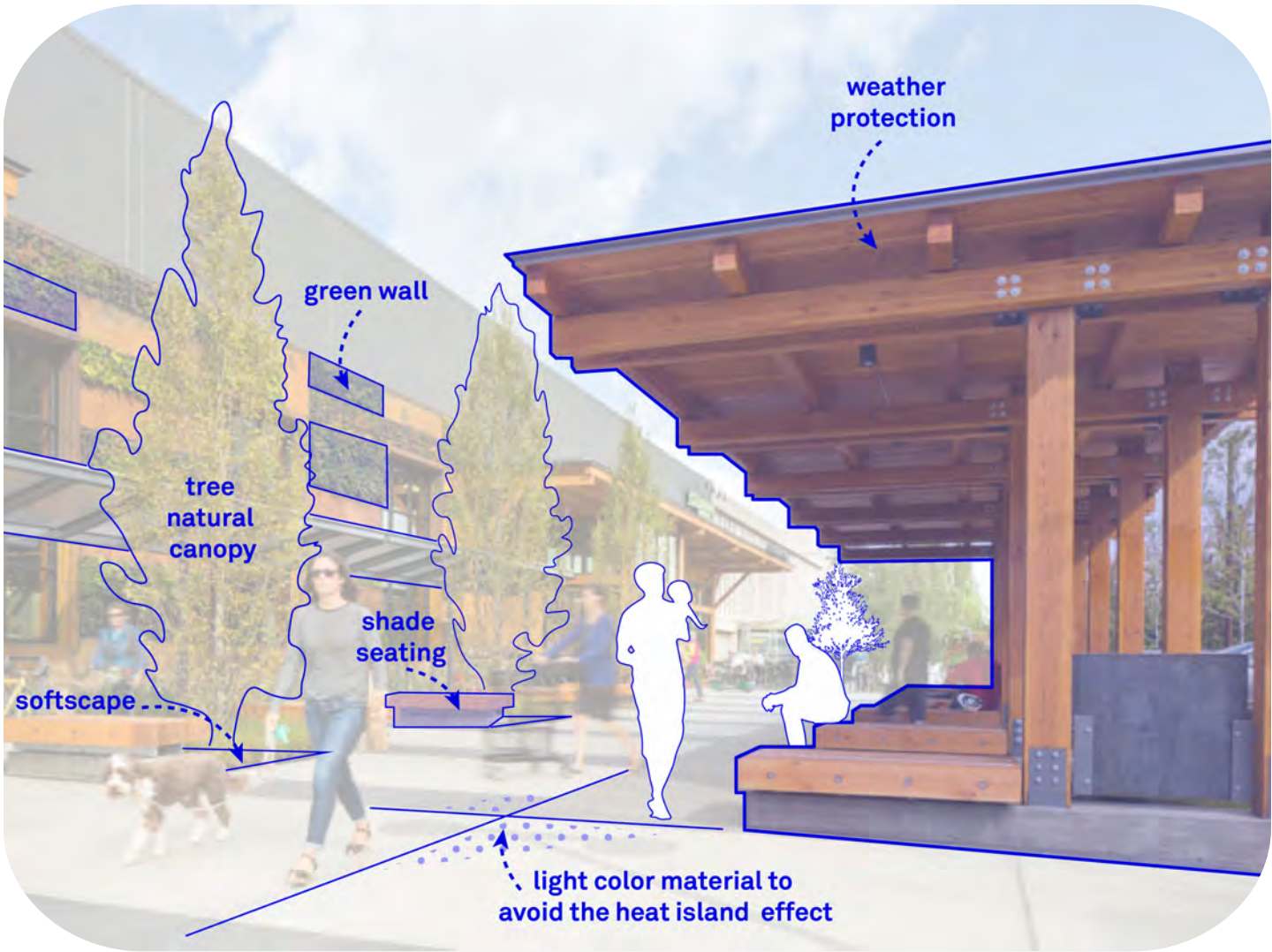


Figure 115. Weather protective canopy structures can enhance the public realm while plantings and softscaping can slow wind speeds and create more comfortable spaces

- h) The location and design of windbreak walls should be coordinated and complement the overall building and landscape design. Wind break panels can be designed as attractive and engaging urban elements. Explore the potential for educational content, which is context-based and culturally-specific.
- i) Building surface materials should be selected for their durability in all seasons.
- j) Landscape elements should be employed to mitigate heat and wind conditions. Integration of green walls in building design and use of water can improve the microclimate during warm weather periods. Deciduous trees provide shade during summer and provide sun access during winter. Evergreen trees can effectively function as wind breaks, especially in winter.



Policy Reference

- Green Direction Vaughan
- Vaughan Sustainability Metrics Program

Guidelines Reference

- Bird Safe Design Standard
- Vaughan Sustainability Metrics Guidebook
- Vaughan Sustainability Assessment Tool

13.5.2 Building Sustainability

- a) Building design should facilitate the reduction of waste and support collection of recycling and organics. A waste collection system with three separated lines should be provided. Convenient indoor access should be provided with enough space for the storage of three separated bins.
- b) Systems to improve water conservation should be employed, including rainwater re-use systems.
- c) All buildings should be photovoltaic-ready. Provide monitoring and management of energy consumption at the unit level.
- d) Consider implementing a district energy system within Promenade Centre in coordination with the City. At the block level, energy generation and storage infrastructure that can be shared between buildings should be provided.
- e) Building envelopes should provide a high level of energy performance. The use of green building rating systems is encouraged. Refer to City of Vaughan Sustainability Metrics Program.
- f) To reduce GHG emissions and mitigate their effects, ideally at least 80% of the available roof area should be vegetated (green roof). The remaining 20% should have a high solar reflective index (white roof). Storm water retention integrated in the roof system (blue roof) is encouraged.
- g) Consider using mass timber over concrete as a structural material.
- h) Consider the use of recycled materials to reduce waste, as well as local procurement and material sourcing.

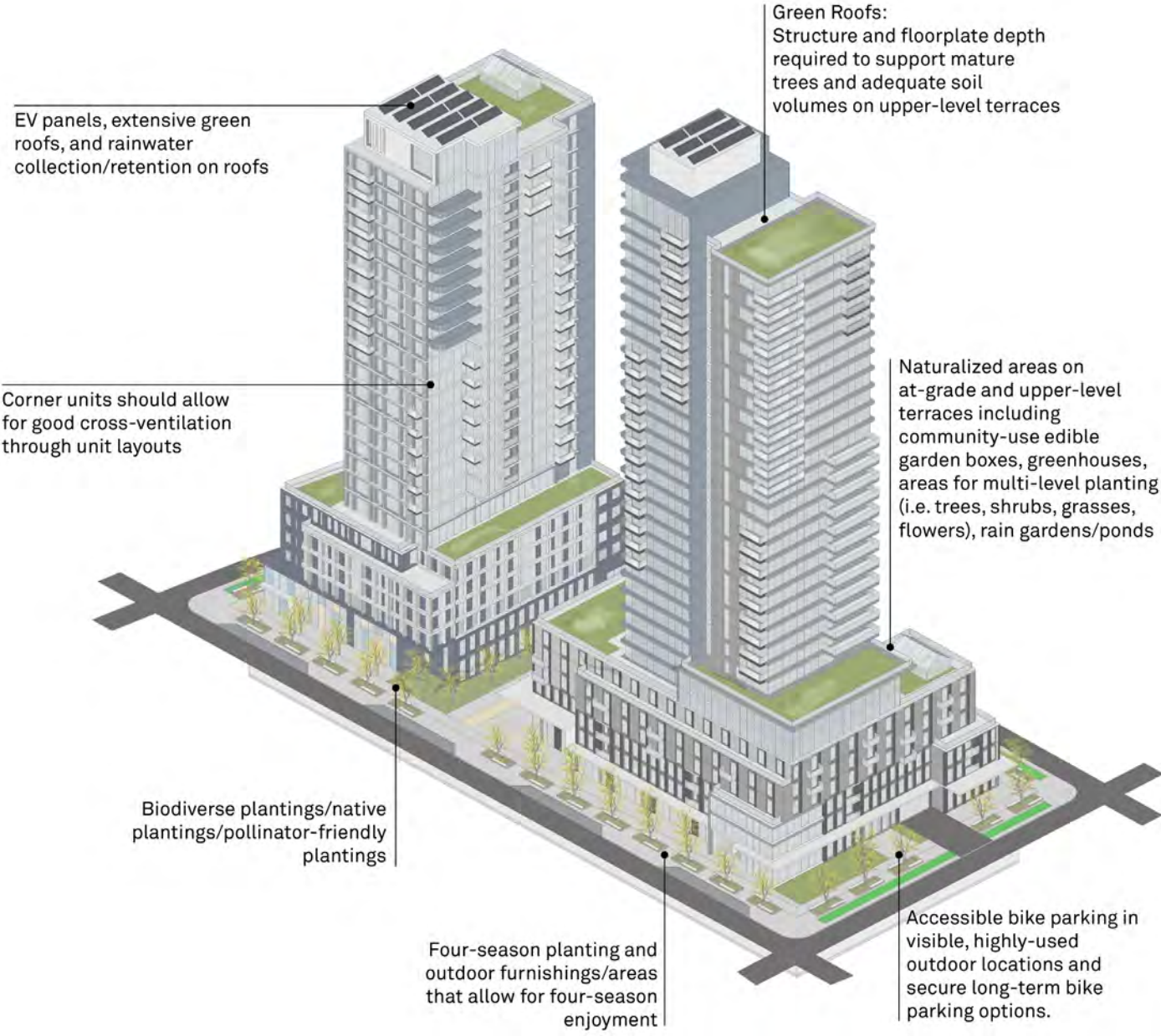


Figure 118. Sustainability at the building scale.



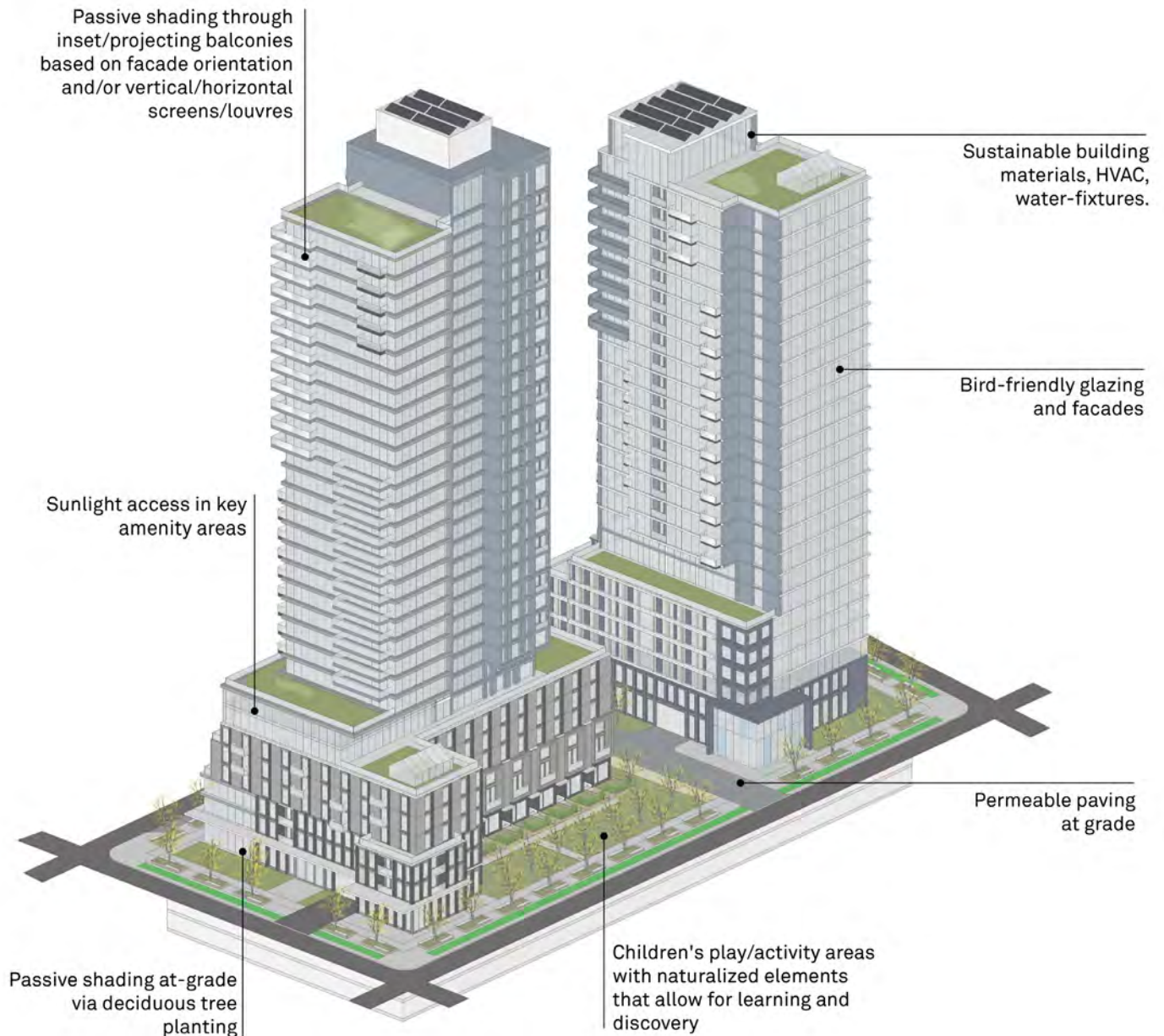


Figure 119. Sustainability at the building scale (continued)



Densification through compatible infill on the existing residential sites in Promenade will provide opportunities for enhanced amenities and connectivity.

## 14.0 Infill Development

### 14.1 Future Infill Opportunities

187



### 14.1 Future Infill Opportunities

Underutilized sites within Promenade Centre may present opportunities for new mixed-use, commercial, and residential infill development. Potential opportunities are identified in lands designated as High-Rise Residential and Community Commercial, as illustrated in Figure 137.

- a) Wherever possible, seek to preserve, retrofit, or repurpose existing buildings when developing sites with existing built structures.
- b) New infill buildings should address the street with defined streetwalls that include appropriate setbacks, stepbacks, and transitions. For more information, refer to:
  - [Section 7.1 Promenade Approach;](#)
  - [Section 7.2 Streetwalls and Setbacks;](#)
  - [Section 7.3 At-Grade Uses;](#)
  - [Section 13.1 Building Base](#)
- c) New infill buildings should contain uses and conditions appropriate to their frontage character (see Figure 16).
- d) When existing buildings are retained, consider undertaking improvements to their envelope performance and interior layouts to decrease the carbon footprint of existing buildings, and ensure a good mix of housing and/or commercial retail unit types and sizes are offered. Other sustainable features are encouraged, such as green roofs, rooftop energy generation, and stormwater retention. Creating opportunities to provide access to currently inaccessible rooftops is also encouraged.
- e) Surface parking can be reduced through the provision of underground parking spaces, sufficient access to non-vehicular transportation modes, or in the case of non-residential development, other structured or temporary surface parking options in proximity to the development. Coordination with the City's Transportation department will be required.
- f) Strive to achieve a 100% retention of trees with a diameter of 20 cm or more on infill sites. A plan will be put in place to replace any lost trees in accordance with the City of Vaughan's Tree Protection Protocol. Where possible, mature "signature" trees should be incorporated into the outdoor space design and/or public space design.



Figure 115. Infill development opportunities exist on lands designated High-Rise Residential and Community Commercial.

#### 14.1.1 Residential and Mixed-Use Infill on High-Rise Residential Sites

Existing developments in High-Rise Residential designated areas at the northwest and southeast of Promenade Centre are generally a slab tower form surrounded by surface parking and outdoor amenity areas and often many mature trees. Buildings are typically located centrally to the block with perimeter fencing.

As Promenade Centre develops into a mixed-use and complete community, potential infill development in these areas, subject to an Official Plan Amendment process, may add housing density in close proximity to transit and regional corridors. New buildings will address the block edges, contributing to well-scaled and neighbourhood-appropriate streetscapes and new mid-block connections, as well as provide more privacy in the block interiors for existing residents as more people move into the area.



Infill at these locations will be of primarily residential use, adding new housing choices in forms that transition to and compliment the existing surrounding built form context. At-grade commercial opportunities may be explored at key locations near gateways and high-traffic areas to provide neighbourhood convenience retail.

- a) Proposed infill development should provide a site plan that shows integration of publicly-accessible connections to increase neighbourhood permeability, provide off-street routes for pedestrians and/or cyclists, and create new safe crossings from neighbourhood areas toward Promenade Mall, community amenities, parks, and other public destinations. Refer to [Section 8.6 Shared Use Paths](#).
- b) Infill development should seek to improve the relationship between development and the street edge by providing appropriate setbacks (see [14.1.b](#)) and reducing instances of perimeter fencing, wherever possible.
- c) Infill development at key locations near gateways and high traffic areas should consider including space for convenience retail uses, which should have a close relationship with the street edge and should generally comply with guidelines for at-grade commercial uses, as outlined in [Section 13.1 Building Base](#), including providing a minimum ground floor height of 4.5 metres.
- d) The interface between infill development and existing buildings should provide a consolidated and improved entrance and circulation experience. Areas for socializing in outdoor spaces or shared lobbies should be provided to foster neighbourliness and interaction between existing and new residents.
- e) At-grade outdoor amenities should be located to provide good access for both existing and new buildings, and should consider direct access to new Shared Use Paths.

### 14.1.2 Commercial and Mixed-Use Infill on Community Commercial Sites

The existing Promenade Mall is a typical inward-facing shopping centre. In the short term, new development around the existing Mall edges built along the new High and Low Streets will provide a revitalized perception of the Mall with transparent facades, active uses and spill-out spaces in the public realm.

The City and landowners will work together to ensure that incremental infill along the mall edge is sequenced with the delivery of new streets and pedestrian connections. A plan for offsetting or replacing lost surface parking should be put in place.

The northern portion of the existing mall is planned to be removed in the long term, freeing up a new development area that can accommodate High-Rise Mixed-Use development, permitted under [policy 3.6.5 of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan](#).

- Policy Reference**
- Promenade Centre  
Secondary Plan, policy 3.6.5

- a) New development should not interfere with ongoing mall operations. A strategy for providing service and loading functions should be undertaken at early stages of development to identify locations that will have minimal impact on the public realm. Underground loading and service functions should be planned.
  - b) New infill development surrounding Promenade Mall should ensure that mall entrances are easily accessible and visible.
  - c) Consider creating gathering areas around entrances to the mall, including plazas and activated laneways.
  - d) Commercial infill development should provide an active edge for the mall that reinforces the main street pedestrian-scaled character along High Street and Low Street.
- Entrances to the mall should be distinct from other uses. Refer to [Section 7.4 Publicly Accessible Interiors](#) for more details on the nature of these frontages.



The redevelopment of Promenade Centre is expected to take place over many years, and through several phases of development. All residents, workers, and visitors to Promenade Centre will be able to enjoy a safe, comfortable, and attractive Promenade Centre, with the amenities and public spaces to ensure a complete and walkable community, no matter what stage of development the neighbourhood is in.

# 15.0 Implementation

15.1 Opportunities and Priorities	191
15.2 Partners and Stakeholders	193
15.3 Implementation Strategy	195
15.4 Interim Development	198
15.5 Temporary Elements	200
15.6 Implementation Tools	204

## 15.1 Opportunities and Priorities

The vision for Promenade Centre will be implemented over many phases of development. The intent of these guidelines is to ensure that the public be able to enjoy a safe and comfortable environment that seeks to achieve the vision for Promenade Centre before all elements are delivered and during ongoing construction. It is important to acknowledge that Promenade Mall is an existing neighbourhood destination and there are current residents who live and move through this area. No matter what stage of development Promenade Centre is in, all residents and visitors should feel welcomed and should benefit from new amenities, open spaces, and retail opportunities.

This may involve:

- Ensuring that public and private uses under development are delivered in the right sequence to allow existing and the first new residents to benefit;
- Providing temporary installations to enliven underutilized or in-transition spaces to screen and beautify under-construction areas; and,
- Due to the creation of new blocks and streets, development of a phasing plan that ensures all “leftover” portions of land are accounted for and activated appropriately, and integrated into the holistic site design over time.

For further information, refer to the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Section 11.0 Implementation and Interpretation.

### Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Section 11.0
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Schedule F

- a) Community amenities, institutional uses, open spaces, anchor retail functions, and common amenity spaces should be delivered in the earliest phases of development to ensure that new residents are served by essential neighbourhood functions.

b) Introduce green as much as possible in early phases and plant trees as soon as possible
- to allow vegetation to acclimatize, become established, and reach maturity as soon as possible.

c) Where providing permanent plantings is not feasible, include robust planters that can support trees and quality plantings. Temporary planters should be able to be relocated to other sites, and a plan to permanently locate



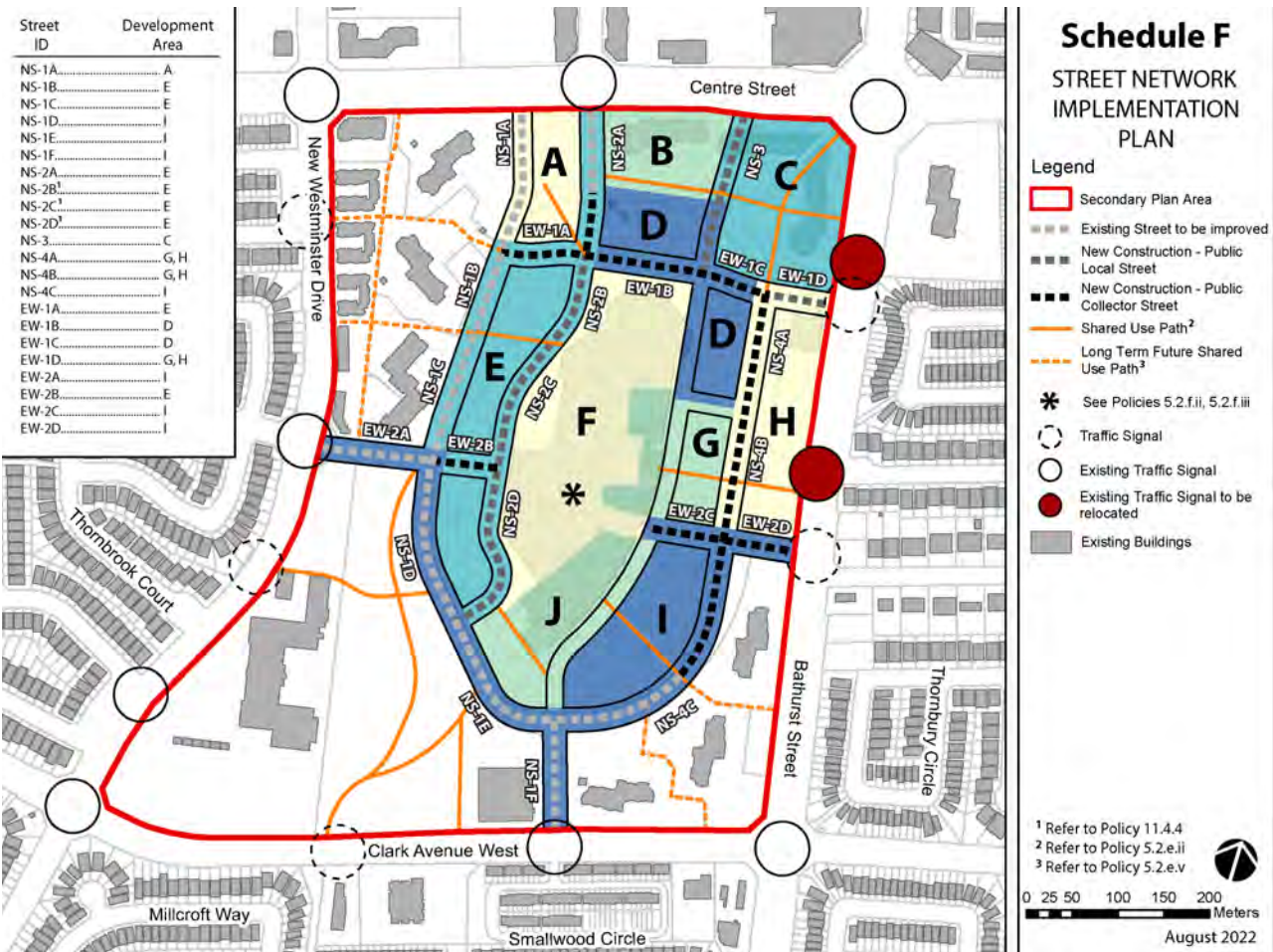


Figure 116. Schedule F: Street Network Implementation Plan, Promenade Centre Secondary Plan

## 15.2 Partners and Stakeholders

### York Region (and York Region Transit)

The City of Vaughan operates under a two-tier municipal structure along with York Region to provide municipal services within Vaughan. In general, the City of Vaughan is responsible for administering the development application process, municipal by-law enforcement, maintenance of local roads, municipal waste collection, parks, and many community and cultural services; York Region is generally responsible for public health, many social services including family and housing services, water and wastewater services, public transportation (via York Region Transit and Viva), and maintenance of regional roads.

Application of the Promenade Centre Public Realm and Urban Design Guidelines will involve close coordination between the City of Vaughan and York Region on several components of implementation. Key items for coordination include:

- Development along Regional Roads (Centre and Bathurst Streets), including new streetscapes, intersections, and public realm integration. Operations and maintenance for any public realm elements along these Regional Roads.
- Securing and protecting land required to deliver water and wastewater services.
- Securing and protecting land required to deliver transit services, including new routes and transit stops as well as a redeveloped Transit Terminal. This may include planning for temporary routes and stops during implementation.
- Integration of Shared Mobility Hubs into new or relocated transit stops, wherever feasible.

### Landowners and Developers

Many of the new public streets, connections, parks, and open spaces within Promenade Centre will need to be secured through development process. As development timing is beyond the City's control, close coordination will be required with landowners and developers to ensure that the required lands are conveyed at a time and in a sequence that ensures that makes delivery of streets, services, and amenities possible. Key items for coordination include:

- Conveyance of land for through development process through the plan of subdivision, rezoning and site plan approval processes.
- Operating and maintenance agreements should be sought to ensure that the quality of the public realm upkeep is maintained at a consistent standard and in a manner that is seamless from the perspective of the public. Should maintenance of a privately-owned public space be handled by a third party, the agreement should allow for coordination between City public reporting services to enable and coordination between the City and the third party operator, should a member of the public report a maintenance issue on privately-owned, publicly-accessible lands.

the plantings on site should be in place. A maintenance plan should be developed to ensure that any vegetation in temporary planters are well-cared-for.

- d) The existing surface parking that will potentially remain during the interim period of development should be improved with greening and enhanced pedestrian paths.
- e) Use “tactical” operations in collaboration with the public. The use of surface paint can support activation of underutilized space. Turf materials that can provide a temporary feeling of green and help identify programmable

spaces.

- f) Involve residents in implementation wherever practical. Participation can be an effective placemaking tool that will reinforce a sense of belonging in the initial phases of implementation.
- g) Establish cyclical revisions. The temporary nature of in-between operations and elements calls for periodic revisits to the plan that will ensure the quality of the public spaces will be maintained over potentially longer than planned periods of time.



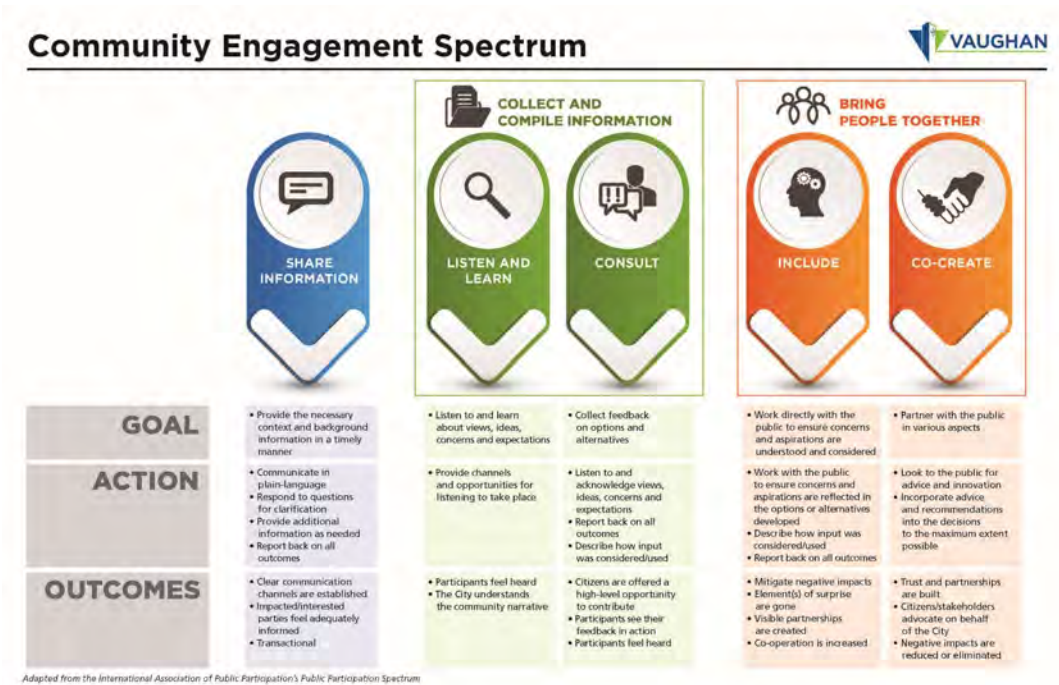


Figure 117. The Community Engagement Spectrum, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Policy, City of Vaughan

15.3 Implementation Strategy

Implementation of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan will require a high degree of coordination between the City of Vaughan and many other stakeholders. The timing of incremental development within Promenade Centre is beyond the City's control, along with many of the mechanisms that allow the City to secure lands for the delivery of new streets, parks, and other public amenities.

The City of Vaughan will need to ensure that the appropriate services and infrastructure is provided in order to support development growth. Schedule F of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan outlines how the delivery of the street network plan will be incrementally delivered along with development. Further, all development applications within Promenade Centre will require a Development Concept Report, which will address development phasing, and will ensure subsequent development phases only occur once previous phases are substantially complete.

The following table outlines the recommended priority actions to be taken by the City of Vaughan, and/or its partners and stakeholders (refer to [Section 15.2 Partners and Stakeholders](#)) to implement the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan.

- Immediate Priorities: immediate actions to be taken that are not directly influenced by development timing.
- Ongoing Priorities: actions dependent on development timing that will occur incrementally through individual development processes.

Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, policies 11.4.1, 11.7.5
- Vaughan Official Plan, policy 10.1.1.7

The Public

Ongoing consultation with the public will be required for new parks, community amenities, and developments, as they are delivered. As Promenade Centre is an important existing destination for many people in the immediate neighbourhood and beyond, it is strongly recommended that additional opportunities for public input be sought, in addition to the required public consultation activities.

Meaningfully involving the public in the design and programming of public spaces will help to create a strong community among existing and new users of the site. A greater degree of public involvement is also known to build a sense of stewardship, where users become invested in the ongoing programming and upkeep of their communities. Key items for coordination include:

- Engaging with the public on design of public spaces and elements wherever possible. A particular focus should be given to seeking local input on the design and selection of public art and cultural placemaking elements to ensure that the community feels reflected in their spaces. Empower community, particularly youth and families, through co-creation processes wherever possible.
- Engaging with the public on the design and implementation of temporary and/or interim improvements as much as possible. Opportunities for co-creation are strongly recommended.
- Ongoing engagement with the public during public information and engagement activities as required by the Planning Act.



Action	Purpose	Responsibility
Immediate Priorities		
Shared use path network	Improve pedestrian accessibility and walkability throughout the site by securing and establishing publicly-accessible shared use paths.	City of Vaughan, Developers/ Landowners (where applicable)
New cycling facilities along Bathurst Street	Provide a new cycle track and associated road widening along Bathurst Street in accordance with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan	York Region
Transit Terminal	Establish a new development-integrated Transit Terminal to replace the existing surface facility located at the southwest corner of Centre Street and North Promenade.	City of Vaughan, York Region Transit, Developers/ Landowners
New intersections and traffic lights along Centre and Bathurst Streets	Provide new and upgraded intersections, which may include new or relocated traffic signals, along Centre and Bathurst Streets. To be delivered in coordination with new streets and utilities.	City of Vaughan, York Region
New intersections and traffic lights along New Westminster Drive and Clark Avenue West	Provide new and upgraded intersections, which may include new or relocated traffic signals, along New Westminster Drive and Clark Avenue West. To be delivered in coordination with new streets and utilities.	City of Vaughan
Privately Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS) Standards and Guidelines	Develop a city-wide strategy for the planning, design, and implementation of privately owned, publicly spaces to inform future POPS within Promenade Centre.	City of Vaughan
Planning for new parks	Undertake further planning for new parks including determination of programming.	City of Vaughan
Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and Woodlot improvements	Undertake improvements to Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and Woodlot, including delivering shared use paths and new and improved park facilities.	City of Vaughan
Shared Mobility Hubs	Establish shared mobility hubs in accordance with Schedule E of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan. Location and design of Shared Mobility Hubs located on privately-owned lands will be determined through the development application process and delivered incrementally in coordination with development. Where a Shared Mobility Hub is designed to accommodate a transit stop, coordination with York Region Transit will be required.	City of Vaughan, Developers/ Landowners, York Region (where located along Regional Roads and where transit stops may be integrated)
Promenade Centre Public Art Strategy	Establish a strategy for the selection, location, and funding of public art within Promenade Centre, in collaboration with the public. In some cases, Public art may be delivered incrementally in coordination with development.  <i>Note: At least one opportunity within Promenade Centre has been identified as part of the City's ARTonBOXES program. Other opportunities to implement this program should be explored.</i>	City of Vaughan
Operations and Maintenance Strategy for lands adjacent Regional Roads	Ensure a coordinated approach to operations and maintenance of the public realm along Centre and Bathurst Streets.	City of Vaughan, York Region
Planning for new and/or re-aligned public transit routes	Ensure coordination with York Region Transit on any existing and future transit routes that travel through Promenade Centre to establish new routes, stop locations and/or temporary detours. Coordinate on the design and placement of new or relocated transit stops to implement Shared Mobility Hubs.	City of Vaughan, York Region

Action	Purpose	Responsibility
Ongoing Priorities		
New streets, connections, and cycling facilities on local roads	Secure land for and deliver new streets and connections, including associated cycling facilities in alignment with the Street Network Implementation Plan (Schedule F, Promenade Centre Secondary Plan). To be delivered incrementally in coordination with development.	City of Vaughan, Developers/ Landowners, York Region (where intersecting with Regional Roads)
Gateway improvements to North, West, East and South Promenade, and other connecting streets	Deliver streetscape improvements to new and/or renewed streets connecting Centre Street, Bathurst Street, Clark Avenue West, and New Westminster Drive, including gateway elements at locations identified in <u>Section 5.1 Strategic Framework</u> .	
New subsurface utilities	Confirm demand for additional water, wastewater, and sanitary services, and electric and telecommunications infrastructure through the development application process, and unsure adequate delivery of utilities. To be delivered incrementally in coordination with new streets and connections.	City of Vaughan, York Region
Operations and Maintenance Strategies for Private Streets and POPS	Develop an agreement to ensure a coordinated approach to operations and maintenance for all publicly-accessible spaces, both privately- and publicly-owned. Where operations and maintenance are covered by a private entity, ensure a strategy for ongoing coordination to ensure that any works are carried out in a way that poses no additional undue impact to the public.	City of Vaughan, Developers/ Landowners, York Region (where private streets intersect with or POPS are located along Regional Roads)
Planning and delivery of new Parks	Secure land for, and deliver (including design and consultation) new parkland. To be delivered incrementally in coordination with development.	City of Vaughan, Developers/ Landowners



### 15.4 Interim Development

Interim development refers to measures taken to improve quality of public life and liveability for current and early residents either during construction or between development phases. This may include improvements to existing spaces and infrastructure, temporary installations, or moveable elements. The intent of these guidelines is to ensure cohesion between in-construction or temporary development conditions and the public realm as well as to create excitement about future developments among Promenade Centre’s current and future community.



Figure 118. Temporary murals are encouraged to limit blank wall conditions



Figure 119. Construction hoarding can provide an opportunity to enliven space and share information through public art and signage.

#### 15.4.1 During Construction

- a) An operations plan should be developed to identify and mitigate any potential impacts to the area during construction. The plan should include solutions for accessible pedestrian and vehicle circulation around the site, safety and CPTED considerations, air quality, noise, and vibration mitigation, aesthetic improvements, temporary programming, and other factors, to the satisfaction of the City.
- b) Construction should not impact operations access regarding Promenade Mall or any existing residential areas. Potential disruption to pedestrian circulation, safety and accessibility should be identified prior to construction, with particular attention to access for existing residents to transit and essential neighbourhood services, and a plan put in place to maintain safe and accessible access.
- c) The interface between construction areas and the public realm should be appropriately screened and any potential hazards mitigated. Hoarding materials should be durable and animated with public art, educational signage, and wayfinding information. Consider incorporating peep holes in hoarding to allow passers-by to view the progress of development.
- d) Measures to mitigate noise, vibration, and air quality impacts during construction should be put in place. Providing trees and other vegetative screening in temporary planters is strongly encouraged to create a noise buffer and to improve air quality surrounding construction sites.
- e) Appropriate lighting and signage should be provided. If regular pedestrian circulation needs to be rerouted, highly visible and accessible pathways will be provided.

#### 15.4.2 Between Development Phases

- a) An interim period plan should be provided to understand the implications of interim conditions. The acceptable use and status of in-between areas should be demonstrated through this plan.
- b) Blank walls deriving from grade changes or uncompleted development should be activated through the use of temporary solutions such as art installation or lighting to provide visual interest and esthetic appeal.
- c) Use of temporary landscaped elements or natural solutions like living walls is encouraged. Refer to [Section 15.3 Temporary Elements](#) for more details.
- d) Particular attention should be given during the interim period to resolve accessibility issues due to temporary topographic conditions. If underground parking temporarily acts as an interface with the street, guidelines for interface with parking structures should be applied.
- e) If a portion of the building is underutilized, temporary uses should be planned to provide an active interface and a more vibrant public realm. Pop-up shops and art exhibitions or installations are opportunities to engage residents while providing safety and convenience. Temporary public elements such as seating or planters should be employed to improve the thresholds of the building.



### 15.5 Temporary Elements

Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre  
Secondary Plan, policy  
11.1.2

Opportunities to reduce the impact of development and enhance sustainability should be explored during ongoing implementation of the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan. These temporary elements should activate underutilized and transitional spaces, and promote sustainability.

It is highly recommended that temporary elements and uses be utilized to the greatest extent possible in order to provide a safe, welcoming, and high-quality public realm experience to residents and visitors. As Promenade Centre incrementally develops, temporary elements can be a strong tool to mitigate impacts due to construction, improve the public realm experience between development phases, and improve the overall perception of Promenade Centre before the site is fully built-out.

Temporary Use By-laws, permitted via the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, provide a great opportunity to test out creative, innovative, and interactive elements and programming. The City of Vaughan should facilitate the creative use of these spaces by any developers. While the public realm should remain open and accessible to all users without needing to engage in commercial activity, allowing for some revenue-generating temporary uses will provide additional incentive to landowners to positively transform underutilized sites.



Figure 120. Partnerships with local organizations can help developers transform and activate otherwise underutilized spaces on a temporary basis (Source: WexPOPS, implemented by PlazaPOPS. Photo: Triple Point Media)

Temporary elements can also be used as “pilots” to gather information about the types of spaces that are most valuable to the community. Measures should be taken to permanentize installations that are popular among the Promenade Centre community, or were developed through a community co-creation process.

Temporary elements should strive to abide by guidelines in [Section 10.0 Urban Elements](#).

- a) When using elements that are temporary, their life cycle and how they can be repurposed or reused should be considered. Reusing temporarily elements in other parts of Promenade Centre is strongly encouraged.
- b) Strive to make elements multi-use, for example, integrating benches with lighting and planters.
- c) Temporary elements should incorporate universal design.
- d) Explore opportunities to engage locals with the planning, design, construction and management of temporary elements. Elements that can be modified by users to increase engagement and activity are encouraged.
- e) Consider including educational elements for all ages through the implementation of temporary installations, for example through signage, programming, “adoption” programs, or other strategies.
- f) Temporary elements should be low maintenance and able to withstand the weather. Murals and other temporary art installations should utilize weather-resistant paints and utilize anti-graffiti coatings. When choosing materials, consider their life cycle, including durability, environmental impact, maintenance and recyclability. Recycled and reused materials are strongly encouraged.
- g) Temporary planter boxes should be located with consideration to water access, sun exposure, and protection from winds. Planter boxes should be able to protect plantings from fluctuating temperatures throughout the year.
- h) Locate visually interesting temporary elements at the termini of view corridors, gateways, and prominent locations to improve the perception of in-construction and/or “leftover” spaces and draw people into the site.
- i) Integrate appropriate lighting and other CPTED strategies into temporary sites and activations to ensure they are safe places at all times of day and night.
- j) Engage local artists and community with competitions in the selection of themes and locations for temporary murals.
- k) Art should reflect Vaughan’s diverse cultures and backgrounds, including Indigenous artists. See [Section 10.1 Cultural Placemaking](#).
- l) Temporary artworks should be reincorporated into permanent development, where possible.
- m) Wherever possible, temporary plantings should find a permanent home on the site.
- n) Provide a range of planter sizes and designs. The planters should be designed to be used by people in an accessible and safe way while discouraging interference with the growing trees and plants.



Temporary Elements Examples and Case Studies

Interactive and Movable Furnishing

Modular and movable tables, chairs, benches, loungers, and other urban furnishings can be a cost-effective way to invite people and activity into spaces that may otherwise lack programming. When located in proximity to food and beverage services, they become a natural communal outdoor dining space; when located near site gateways and nodes or transit stops, they can provide comfortable places to gather or wait.

Using movable furniture is also a good universal design solution, by allowing people to tailor their environment to their needs: they can choose to sit in the sun or the shade, in a large gathering circle or in quiet solitude, or make room around a table for strollers or a mobility device.



Figure 122. Portions of this sculptural fence at LentSpace in Manhattan can enclose or open up the site to provide varying degrees of access and security. The partitions have a bench on one side and a wall panel for exhibitions on the other, allowing the space to accommodate many type of uses and interactions (Photo: Imcc lentSPACE, Chris Hamby, Flickr).

Community Gardens and Tree Nurseries

Sites where development is not anticipated until the long-term are good candidates for temporary community gardens or tree nurseries. They change over time and under the hands of the nearby community. Watching — and contributing to — the growth of these spaces brings meaning for residents.

Edible landscapes and community gardens create opportunities for cultural exchange, education, and community building through teamwork and sharing.

Trees for streets and landscaping can be acquired younger and more cost-effectively, by creating on-site tree nurseries. Residents will be able to watch trees grow and eventually move to their permanent location on the site. “Adopt a tree” programs can build strong connections between people and their natural environments.



Figure 121. The Davie Village Community Garden in Vancouver was created as a temporary public use of private land on the site of a former gas station that required soil remediation prior to redevelopment. The garden has become a green oasis in the middle of the downtown and a community hub for garden members and the wider neighbourhood, hosting events such as the dinner pictured above (Photo: Dining in the Davie Community Garden, Geoff Peters, Flickr).

Art Installations and Murals

Large-scale artworks are an excellent way to add vibrancy and activation to interim or underutilized spaces. Artworks can be permanent or temporary, as murals, installations and sculptures, videos and light projections, ground-surface paintings, illustrated construction hoarding, and much more.

There are many opportunities to incorporate cultural celebration and community-building with artwork by engaging local artists and encouraging co-creation by residents of all ages.

Art that is interactive or can change over time through viewer involvement is strongly encouraged. Residents that see themselves reflected in their environments are more likely to feel a sense of pride and become natural stewards of their neighbourhoods.



Figure 123. The backdrop of the Walmer Legacy Space in Toronto features a large-scale triptych created by Métis artist Dani Kastelein. The space is a place for dialogue surrounding Indigenous histories and the journey of reconciliation, temporarily located on the site of a future development. The space includes an urban crate farm containing medicinal plants and educational signage about their usage and significance in Indigenous communities. The artwork will find a permanent home on the site upon its redevelopment.

Seasonal Programming

Multi-use areas can be used for a variety of active programming opportunities, such as “block parties” in the warmer months, winter holiday markets in the colder months, and farmers and artisan fairs, outdoor movie nights, and festivals all throughout the year. These spaces can range in size and can contain movable furnishings and artworks as passive improvements when there are no ongoing events.

Hosting vibrant events establishes an area as a destination, pulling people in from well beyond the neighbourhood to spend their time where they may not otherwise visit. A full and exciting calendar of activities will inspire them to return again to explore the ever-changing shops, services, and public spaces as the area develops.



Figure 124. RendezViews is a large outdoor gathering space in the middle of downtown Toronto. The parking lot-turned-urban patio features an eye-catching mural and brightly painted picnic benches create an exciting, casual atmosphere. A large screen and stage provides opportunities to take in sporting events and performances. The City of Toronto has long-term plans to redevelop the site as a new urban park, but the current installations ensure no potential is lost in the interim.



Policy Reference

- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Section 11.0
- The Planning Act, Sections 34, 37
- Comprehensive Zoning By-law 001-2021
- Community Benefits Charge Strategy
- Community Benefits Charge By-law 201-2022

15.6 Implementation Tools

There are many implementation tools and funding mechanisms to help shape the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan area while securing funding for the projects described in this document. Refer to the Promenade Centre Secondary Plan, Section 11.0 Implementation and Interpretation for further information on implementation tools.

Section 34 of the Planning Act

Section 34 of the Planning Act allows local municipalities to pass zoning bylaws to regulate land development. The Promenade Centre Secondary Plan will be implemented by way of an amendment to the City of Vaughan Comprehensive Zoning By-law. As zoning by-law amendments are pursued for the Promenade Centre lands, temporary uses may be enacted for a given timeframe if they are consistent with the general intent of the Official Plan, are compatible with adjacent land-uses, are temporary in nature and can be easily terminated when the temporary zoning by-law expires, sufficient servicing and transportation capacity is available, and long-term viability of the lands are permitted.

Section 37 of the Planning Act

Section 37 of the Planning Act gives municipalities the authority to adopt a community benefits charge by-law and collect such charges to pay for the capital costs of services and facilities that are required to serve the development or redevelopment of lands. City council passed a Community Benefits Charge Strategy and associated by-law 201-2022 on June 21, 2022. The by-law allows for the collection of community benefits charges for proposed developments that are five or more storeys in height and with ten or more residential units at a rate of 4% of the value of the lands proposed for development. The City of Vaughan’s Community Benefits Charge Strategy identifies public art and culture, community facilities and amenities, parking, and civic administration/studies as priority service categories for funding.

Section 41 of the Planning Act

Section 41 of the Planning Act empowers municipalities to approve development applications at the site plan level. This includes components such as building siting and site design, circulation and access and lighting. The appearance of the public realm is not subject to site plan control, except to the extent that the appearance impacts matters of health, safety, accessibility, sustainable design, or the projection of adjoining lands.

Section 42 of the Planning Act

Section 42 of the Planning Act allows municipalities to pass a parkland dedication by-law to secure land or cash-in-lieu of parkland as part of the development approval process. The City of Vaughan has developed Parkland Dedication Guidelines and has approved Parkland Dedication by-law 168-2022 as of June 28, 2022. The Parkland Dedication By-law is a key tool in developing the open space network in the Promenade Area. Privately Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS) may be eligible for parkland dedication subject to the City’s upcoming POPS Design Standards and Guidelines Study.

Development Charges Act

The Development Charges Act empowers municipalities to pass a Development Charges By-law in order to collect fees from new development to fund growth-related infrastructure appropriately. The City of Vaughan adopted a City-Wide Development Charges By-law 109-2022 effective June 1, 2023. Services included in the City-wide development charges include: development-related studies, community services, public works including roads and active transportation infrastructure. Development is also subject to York Region’s Development Charges By-law (2022-31) and Education Development Charges By-law (2016-02).

Policy Reference

- The Planning Act, Sections 41, 42
- City of Vaughan Parkland Dedicated Guidelines
- Parkland Dedication By-law 168-2022
- Development Charges Act
- City-wide Development Charges By-law 109-2022
- York Region Development Charges By-law 2022-31
- Education Development Charges By-law 2016-02



Policy Reference

- The Planning Act, Section 28
- Promenade Centre Secondary Plan policy 11.8
- Vaughan Official Plan, policies 10.1.2.14 and 10.1.2.15

York Region Grants and Funding

York Region provides the Pedestrian and Cycling Partnership Program (PCPP) and the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) to assist local municipalities in the development of infrastructure projects. The PCPP supports projects reducing single occupancy vehicle use by enhancing connectivity to major transportation infrastructure and improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure more broadly. The MSPP aims to promote attractive streetscapes and pedestrian-friendly designs, and projects must connect with major transportation infrastructure.

Federal and Provincial Grants and Funding

The federal and provincial governments offer funding programs to assist municipalities with the implementation of sustainable infrastructure projects. Funding streams include (but are not limited to) the Green Municipal Fund, the Active Transportation Fund, and the Canada Community-Building Fund. The Green Municipal Fund provides project funding for pilot projects in the form of grants for planning, studies and pilot projects and loans for capital projects. It is a program of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and it supports projects for greening, active transportation, and park development. The Active Transportation Fund supports Canada’s National Active Transportation Strategy and invests in projects that build new pathways, bike lanes, trails and pedestrian bridges. The Canada Community-Building Fund is provincially managed to support local infrastructure projects such as public transit, community energy systems, local roads and bridges, brownfield redevelopment, culture, tourism, sport and recreation.

Community Improvement Plan Designation

The City of Vaughan may identify Promenade Centre as a Community Improvement Project Area under Section 28 of the Planning Act, and, per Promenade Centre Secondary Plan policy 11.8, may further be designated by the by-law as a Community Improvement Project Area for which a detailed Community Improvement Plan will be prepared in accordance with Vaughan Official Plan policies 10.1.2.14 to 10.1.2.16. Community Improvement Plans enable the City to provide grants to commercial and industrial property owners and tenants to enhance building facades, improve interior and exterior spaces. A Community Improvement Plan has been implemented in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre to incentivize the development of office space in the growing downtown core.





New Westminster Drive

Clark Avenue