

# Background

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## **Proposed: Canada Soccer National Training Centre at North Maple Regional Park:**

- The City of Vaughan is developing North Maple Regional Park into a signature destination offering outstanding sports, recreational and cultural opportunities.
- Canada Soccer is the governing body for soccer in Canada and currently does not have a dedicated elite level soccer training facilities to support its programs and athletes.
- Canada Soccer has been exploring opportunities with potential partners for a National Training Centre which will support their mission to Develop, Grow and Govern soccer in Canada.
- The City of Vaughan and Canada Soccer are partnering to explore the feasibility of a phased approach to a National Training Centre that could include an outdoor field and stadium, an indoor training facility, administrative offices and supporting facilities.
- The City of Vaughan and Canada Soccer's vision is to create a high-performance facility that combines iconic architecture with world class functionality that can also serve as a recreational hub for the City of Vaughan.
- Currently the City of Vaughan is undertaking grading, servicing and environmental restoration at North Maple Regional Park to prepare for possible future facilities, such as the National Training Centre.
- The Project Components will incorporate key natural heritage system components, sustainability considerations, accessibility, and design principles that align with the NMRP vision
- The National Training Centre would provide high-performance training space for Canada Soccer's National Teams and local Community Sports Programs.
- The City of Vaughan will retain ownership of all lands.
- The final Project ownership and partnership structure will ensure that all Project Components will be recognized as a Municipal Capital Facility.
- The City of Vaughan and Canada Soccer would enter into a long-term agreement for any Exclusive Use Project Components at the successful conclusion of the feasibility study.
- The City of Vaughan and Canada Soccer would explore additional partnership and lease opportunities with 3rd parties.

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- The City of Vaughan and Canada Soccer would jointly develop a funding strategy and detailed partnership agreement for approval by Vaughan City Council and Canada Soccer's Board of Directors prior to initiating detailed design and construction of the project.

## **General North Maple Regional Park Key Messages:**

- North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) started as a plan to develop 80 hectares (200 acres) into a signature park and a world-class recreation and culture destination. In 2018 Council expanded the park vision to 364-hectares (900 acres) by adding the former Keele Valley Landfill, Vaughan Township Landfill and wooded valley lands to the plan.
- The NMRP vision is the City's most ambitious parkland development. The vision will take many years to implement and it will be designed and constructed in several stages over the coming years.
- Engagement is ongoing with sport, culture, and community organizations to determine the facilities, partnerships, programs, and events which could be developed in future phases to make NMRP a world-class destination.
- In 2018, 80 hectares (197 acres) of parkland was opened to the public with the following facilities:
  - two FIFA-certified artificial turf soccer fields with built-in spectator seating
  - a park pavilion, which includes a terrace, washrooms, changerooms and water fountains (open 2019)
  - picnic areas with shade shelters and seating
  - a toboggan hill
  - an asphalt parking area with room for 200 vehicles
  - variety of walking and hiking trails
- In 2020 a [Concept Plan](#) was created, identifying potential recreation facilities possible for the next 130 acre (53ha) stage of park development. The plan aligns with the Active Together Master Plan and the City's strategic plan for parks, recreation, and libraries. Many more park programs and facilities are possible at NMRP as future phases of the park are implemented and additional lands are made ready for public use. Community engagement for the design of facilities shown in the Concept Plan is expected to commence in 2023.

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- In spring of 2022, construction began on the next stage of park development which is preparing 52 hectares (130 acres) of the park for future development of new recreational facilities. The site preparation is being guided by the 2020 Concept plan and the scope of work includes:
  - site grading and stormwater management
  - installation of underground services (water, storm, sanitary, electrical, gas and telecom)
  - reconstruction and extension of the current park roadway, in addition to creating a second park access from Keele Street
  - environmental restoration, enhancement, and connection of the existing pond, wetland, and habitat areas
- Advancing the plans for NMRP is a 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan priority and supports the Active Together Master Plan which guides improvements to the City's recreation facilities and programs.

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**ABOUT VAUGHAN:** The City of Vaughan is one of Canada's fastest growing cities with a population of more than 341,600. Incorporated in 1991, Vaughan includes the communities of Concord, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill and Woodbridge. This culturally diverse municipality is located in the heart of York Region and the Greater Toronto Area.

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