

The City is undertaking the VMC Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan to guide the timely development of parks and open spaces in the VMC and create a world class public realm.

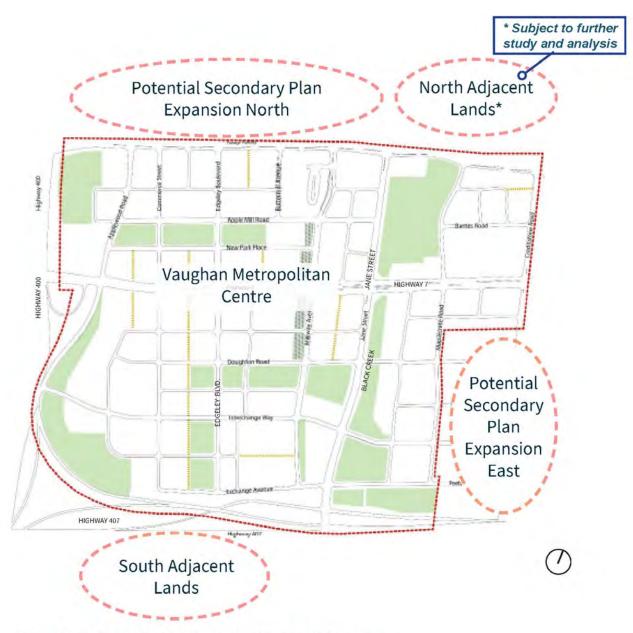


Goals

Progress

- Goals 1 and 2 are complete
 - Extensive background work complete
- Goal 3 is nearing completion
 - Currently making final refinements to Master Plan
- Goal 4 is in progress
 - Advancing Implementation Stage





Study Area

Secondary Plan and Adjacent

Main Study Area

Area defined in the VMC Secondary Plan

Adjacent Lands

- 4-5km Radius of Influence
- North* & South Adjacent Lands are Areas of Focus

Potential Secondary Plan Expansion

- Potential Secondary Plan Expansion East
- Potential Secondary Plan Expansion North



^{*} Subject to further study and analysis



ASSESSMENT

2 PLANNING

3 IMPLEMENTATION

TASKS

Parkland Provision Analysis & Benchmarking

Facilities Provision Analysis

Current Parks Qualitative Analysis

5km Parks Inventory

Tree Canopy Analysis

CONSULTATION

Online Survey

VMC Subcommittee

DELIVERABLE

Assessment Report

TASKS

Design Strategies

Additional Parkland Options

Parks & Open Space Planning

Circulation Planning

CONSULTATION

Focus Groups

VMC Subcommittee

DRP

DELIVERABLE

Draft Master Plan

TASKS

Final Master Plan

Design Recommendations

Phasing

Costing

CONSULTATION

Online Comment Period

VMC Subcommittee

DELIVERABLE

Final Master Plan and Implementation Report

Process

Progress

- Extensive background work complete
- Making final refinements to Master Plan
- Advancing implementation plan including costing
- Advancing signage and wayfinding strategy





Assessment Report - Key Findings

Park & Facilities Provision

- Success of the VMC is making active parkland an urgent and critical need
- If development trends continue, active parkland provision, both at 2031 and at full build-out, will fall far short of the Secondary Plan minimum and may place the VMC at a disadvantage versus other GTA Growth Centres
- 25 hectares of additional active parkland in or convenient to VMC are required to site necessary facilities
- VMC's outdoor recreational facilities need to reflect unique urban lifestyle and demographic



"When it comes to the transformation underway in the VMC, what has you most excited?

live entertainment

retail shops

accessibility

tre transformation

growth

new urban parks

green space

locally grown markets

connectivity place to exercise outside competing downtown toronto outdoor patios 는 the plan

Engagement

Consultation Has Shaped the Master Plan

- Collecting feedback from the community is vital
- Through collaboration with residents and stakeholders, the City is committed to developing a Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan that is innovative, accessible, sustainable and safe, and fosters connectivity, physical activity, health and wellness for all citizens



VMC PARKS AND WAYFINDING MASTER PLAN



The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) is Vaughan's emerging downtown. The City of Vaughan is undertaking the VMC Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan to guide the timely development of parks and open spaces in the VMC and create a world class public realm. It includes the creation of a signage strategy to make it easier to navigate Vaughan's new downtown. The study presents a rare opportunity to think boldly about the city, the way people understand and move through it, and the role of parks and open space in modern urban life.

Collecting feedback from the community is vital to the success of this plan. Through collaboration with residents and stakeholders, the City is committed to developing a Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan that is innovative, accessible, sustainable and safe, and fosters connectivity, physical activity, health and wellness for all citizens.

A survey was available from Oct. 16 to Nov. 30 for citizens to share their thoughts on potential park and open space amenities and desires for wayfinding systems. The survey is now closed; thank you to those who participated. Results and findings from the survey will be posted to this webpage so check back often for updates and future opportunities for engagement.



Engagement

Virtual Connections

- Consultation methods continue to focus on virtual connections
- Engagements have utilized the City's
 Have Your Say page to generate online feedback
- Virtual focus groups have generated valuable feedback





Engagement

Pre-Consultation Interviews

• 14 stakeholders were interviewed to identify opportunities for engagement, understand potential audiences, and design a plan that is tailored to the present-day context

Initial Survey

- 448 responses received as of November 4, 2020:
 - 75% live in Vaughan, 45% live in the VMC and 9% are interested in living in the VMC
 - 66% of respondents use parks and open spaces one to three times per week, including 31% who use parks daily

Landowner Meetings

- An update was provided to VMC landowners on February 4 and February 10, 2021:
 - This was a joint presentation with the VMC Secondary Plan Update, the VMC Transportation Master Plan Update, and the VMC Functional Servicing Strategy Report



Engagement

Community Session

- Over **60 residents** of the **Expo** condominiums attended a **virtual presentation** and **discussion** on March 23, 2021:
 - Residents stressed the **need for park facilities**, including basketball and tennis courts
 - They also stressed that dogs, and dog facilities, are an issue that needs to be resolved and provided for

Focus Groups

- 23 residents participated in two 90-minute virtual focus groups on May 4 and May 6, 2021:
 - Participants were generally **excited** about the creation of **a high-density**, **convenient**, **walkable** downtown
 - They were roughly split between prioritizing park facilities versus green space

Have Your Say 1

- **178 visitors** viewed a **virtual presentation** on the study's **Have Your Say** page between May and June, 2021:
 - Comments supported park facilities including cricket pitches, outdoor pools, tennis courts, and bike paths vaugh
 - They also expressed a desire for green and cultural spaces, including performances

DOWNTOWN

Engagement

Technical Advisory Committee

Multiple City departments participated in six scoped TAC meetings on July 28 and August 10, 2021

Vaughan Design Review Panel

- The study was presented to the **Design Review Panel** on September 30, 2021:
 - The panel was very supportive of the study and noted it represents an excellent opportunity to successfully support the VMC vision of building a complete community
 - They noted the master plan should propose a **flexible phasing strategy** that can **adapt to future growth trends** while continuing to provide support to the current and future updates of other policy documents

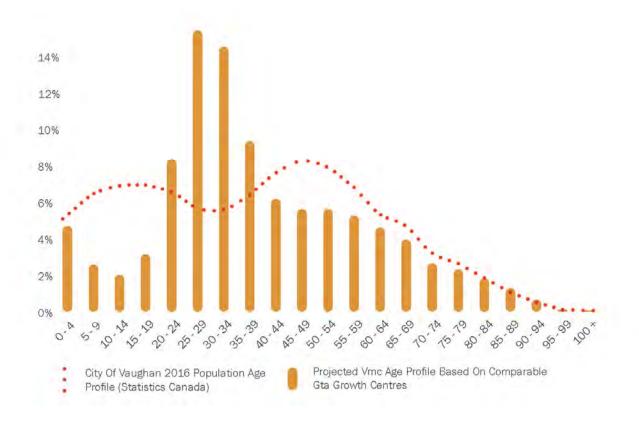
Have Your Say 2

- 145 visitors viewed a virtual presentation on the study's Have Your Say page between November and December, 2021:
 - Comments stressed the need for parkland as soon as possible
 - They also expressed a desire for green spaces, including pollinator and community gardens



When asked what was most important when considering where to live, 72% of initial survey respondents said parks and open spaces.

It is important to assess how the VMC may differ from the rest of Vaughan in order to determine the required park facilities



Demographics

To Anticipate Facility Needs

- The VMC is unique to Vaughan facilities need to reflect its demographics
- VMC housing types have a high % of oneand two-bedroom units, over 90% of units in buildings over five storeys
- The study reviewed the demographics of eight high-density centres in GTA
- Compared to Vaughan as a whole, VMC will have:
 - Less children
 - More young adults
 - Less middle-aged adults
 - More recent immigrants





Population

Projected Population Scenarios

- The VMC is projected to outgrow original population estimates
- If development trends continue, the VMC is on track to be one of the most densely populated areas in North America
- There is a need for a parks master plan that can support this population, should the trend continue



Environmental Open Space Black Creek Greenway Urban Parks Neighbourhood Parks Proposed Developments **Public Squares** Total Parks & Open Space (Hectares) Neighbourhood Parks Black Creek Greenway **Public Squares** Environmental Open Space 34.8ha Total Parks & Open Space

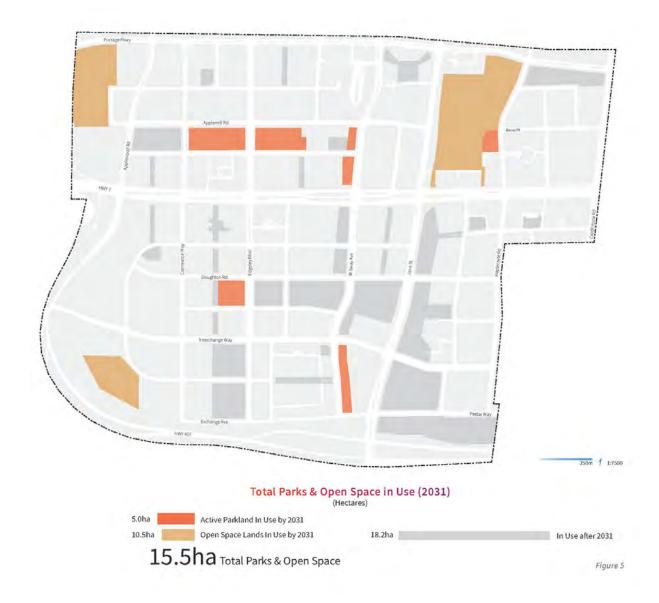
Provision

Meeting Parkland Needs

- Current provision across Vaughan is 1.86 hectares/1000, including city-wide facilities
- The VMC Secondary Plan proposes a minimum of 20.0 Ha of active parkland, or 0.40 Ha per 1000 residents (assuming a population of 50,000)
- Existing plans show 17.6 Ha of active parkland, or 0.15 Ha per 1000 residents, based on the current trend to a population of 128,000
- Based on anticipated demographics, 30.6 Ha of parkland is required to meet facility demand, but current plans contain only 5.4 Ha of undesigned space to accommodate facilties



17.6ha Active Parkland



Park Provision

Open in 2031

- Only 5.0 hectares of active parkland is projected to be available for the 63,000 VMC residents expected by 2031, or about 20% of SP minimum*
- 10.5 hectares of Environmental Open Space open in 2031, but cannot support typical active park facilities
- If current development trends continue, and no additional active parkland is opened, current park provision is unlikely to support 2031 VMC population















Principles

Balance Parks in the VMC

- Plan with a compact, balanced, and meaningful parks and open space network within the VMC boundary
- Outdoor facilities should reflect the unique needs and demographics of a dense urban population
- Parks and open space in or adjacent to the VMC should be programmed according to a hierarchy that recognizes the frequency and importance of use to ensure that facilities are appropriately located









Principles

Implement Parks Outside the VMC and Strengthen Connectivity

- Facilitate the planning and design of parks outside the VMC boundary that include sports facilities with large footprints
- Parks and open space within and adjacent to the VMC must be conveniently and safely accessible from any part of the VMC – roads should not function as barriers to a connected VMC
- Create a safe, convenient circulation system – the optimization of parkland requires safe, convenient access – including south to an extension of the Vaughan Super Trail to provide VMC residents with access to many kilometers of trails, parks, and open space





Master Plan

Typologies

1 URBAN & NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Land that allows for the full range of typical park uses.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL OPEN SPACE

Land used for environmental purposes, especially stormwater management, that can also support trails and passive recreation.

3 PUBLIC SQUARES

Plazas or promenades that are predominantly paved for urban uses.

4 POPS & MEWS

Privately-owned and maintained land open to the public that supplements parks and squares.

5 SCHOOL YARDS

Land owned by school boards that may contain facilities available for public use.



Urban Parks





Neighbourhood Parks

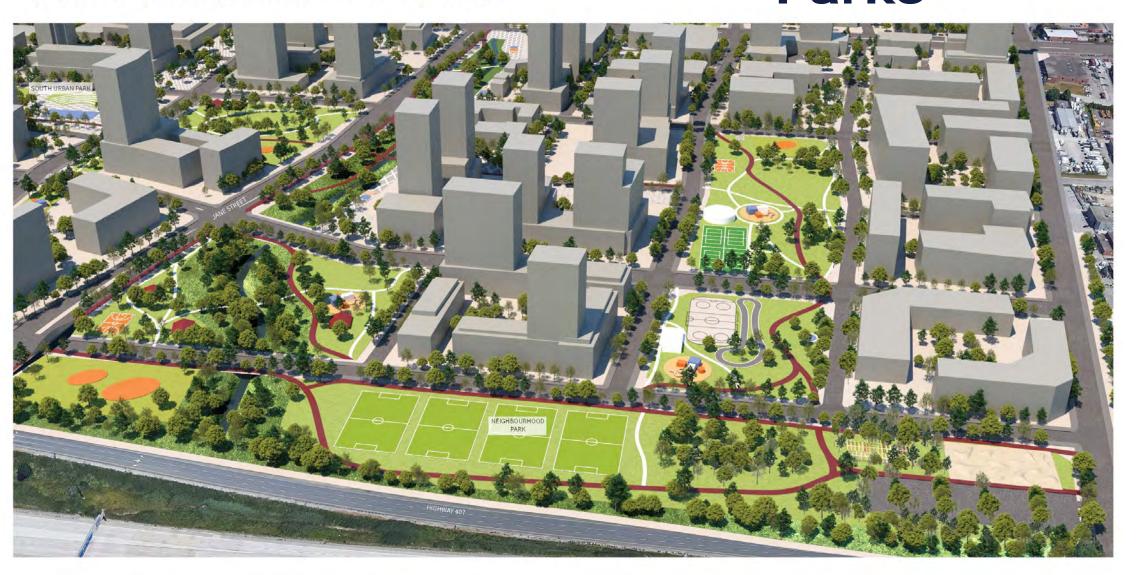
Neighbourhood Parks typically provide:

- Facilities: playgrounds, splash pads, sports fields and courts, dog runs, gathering and event areas, community gardens.
- Green Features: lawns, trees, and naturalized areas.
- Required facilities in VMC may exceed available space in Neighbourhood Parks, requiring prioritization between facilities and green features.



Neighbourhood Parks

Open Space & Built Form are Diagrammatic and do not Represent Final Designs





Parks & Open Spaces - VMC

Parks

- Urban Parks:
 - Proposed designs for large Urban Parks generally responding well to planning goals
- Neighborhood Parks:
 - SP calls for three Neighborhood Parks, none of which are designed
 - Total area of 4.4 hectares will not accommodate required facilities
 - If current development trends continue, additional 25 hectares required in or near VMC



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It is crucial to understand how the VMC relates to other parks and open spaces found within 5km, and to identify possible park locations outside the VMC, should they be necessary to meet required service levels.



Nearby Parks

Key Characteristics

- Required to meet facility needs
- Connected to VMC
- Many obstacles to overcome, including land acquisition and current and future land uses
- Vast majority of survey respondents cite
 convenient access by walking or cycling as more
 important factors than the size of a nearby park
 and the number of facilities it provides





South of VMC

South of VMC:

- Lands could provide enough active parkland to locate several large sports and recreation facilities.
- Some of the lands south of VMC may become unavailable if a bus rapid transit project, planned for beyond 2040, moves forward.
- Park design in Black Creek Pioneer Village North Lands based on meetings with TRCA.



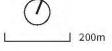
North of VMC



North of VMC:

- Lands could provide enough active parkland to locate several large sports and recreation facilities.
- The majority of lands north of VMC, particularly in Park 2, are currently occupied by active industrial uses.
- Lands are easily accessible by walking or cycling and present an opportunity to extend the park space along Black Creek





North of VMC

Open Space & Built Form are Diagrammatic and do not Represent Final Designs



EOS

NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL

SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMEN OPEN SPACE ★ VMC STATION

HIGHWAY 407

Key Characteristics

 Clear majority of survey respondents indicated that environmental open spaces should provide trails and lookouts rather than bridges and decks at water level



Edgeley Pond and Park

200m

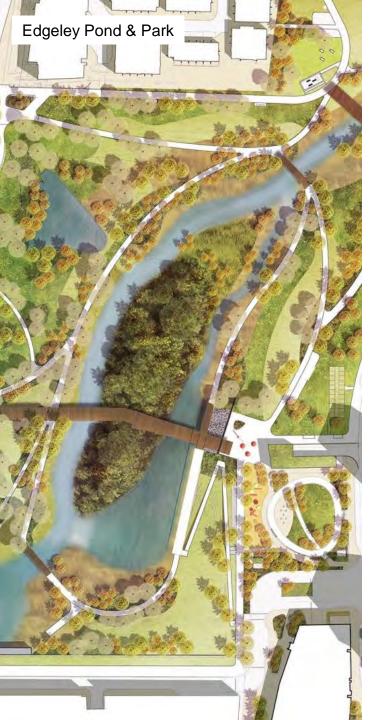


Black Creek Revitalization Area - Concept

EOS

Open Space & Built Form are Diagrammatic and do not Represent Final Designs







Parks & Open Spaces - VMC

Environmental Open Space

- Edgeley Pond and Park:
 - Successful in reflecting planning goals for Black Creek
 - Continue approach south of Highway 7
- West EOS Areas:
 - Some challenges with storm ponds and highways
 - Further thought required to optimize



Public Squares



200m



Millway Promenade - North Of Highway 7



Millway Promenade South - Original Concept

★ VMC STATION HIGHWAY 407 200m

POPS and Mews

Key Roles:

- POPS and Mews support, but do not replace, active parkland
- Provide connections between parks and open space
- Support more urban activities and programs than would be possible in active parkland







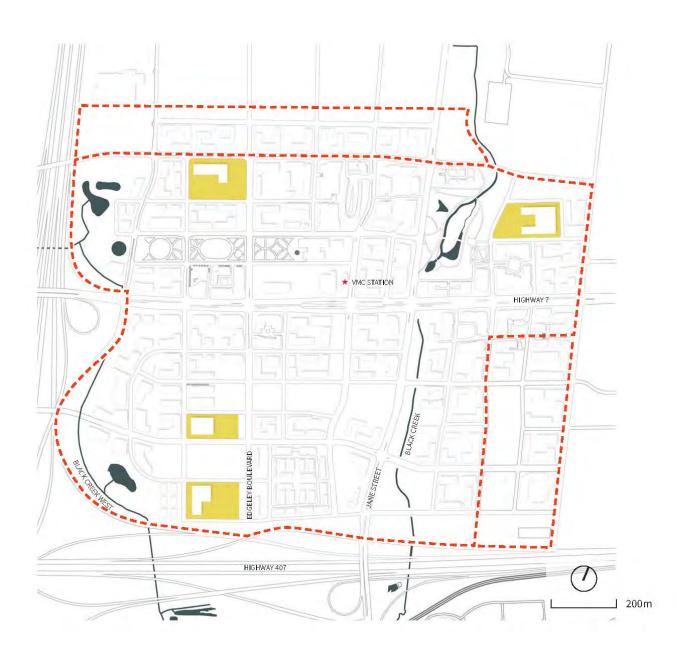


Parks & Open Spaces - VMC

Public Squares, POPS & Mews

- Transit Square responds well to planning vision
- Proposed POPS and Mews will be excellent additions to public realm
- Locations of future spaces should be outward-focused to maximize integration in urban fabric
- POPS and Mews do not provide full range of uses and benefits of parks –they add to, but do not replace the need for active parkland





School Yards

Key Roles:

- School yards play a critical role in supplementing active park land
- Create space for sports and recreational facilities in urban areas where they would otherwise not be possible



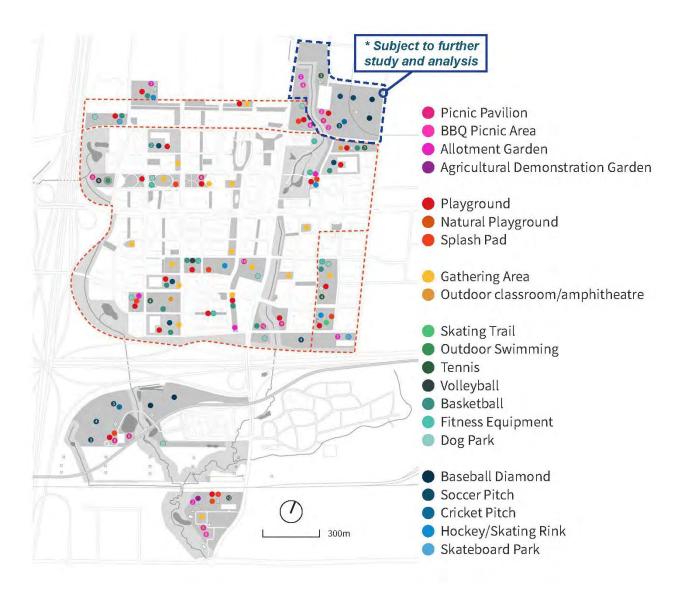


Park Facilities

Type, Number & Parkland Area

- The Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) reflects typical Vaughan, not VMC
- Facility provision rates of ATMP applied to full build-out population of 128,000*
- Rates then adjusted for anticipated demographic differences in VMC
- Identified facilities required given the lack of access to private outdoor space
- Calculated total active parkland required to accommodate facilities (31 hectares) and shortfall based on current active parkland (25 hectares)





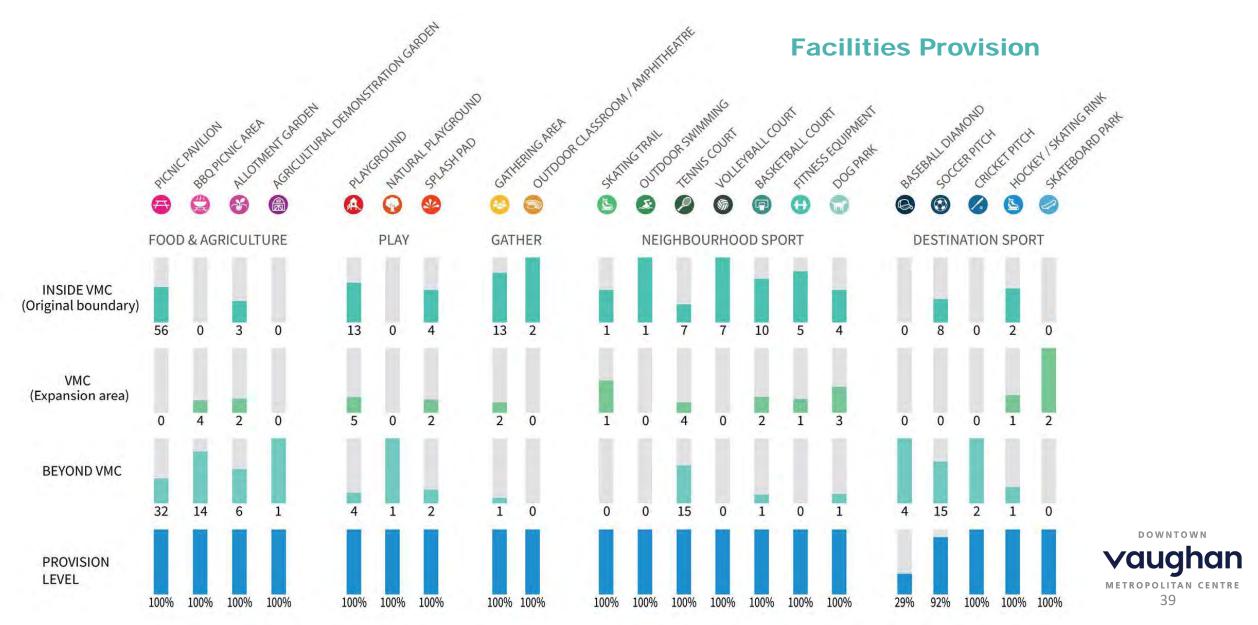
Facilities

Facilities Provision

- Facility provision is based on anticipated demographics identified in the Assessment Phase and described above
- Facilities are distributed throughout the VMC, and beyond, based on land requirements, ease of access, and anticipated frequency of use
- A majority of gathering spaces and neighbourhood focused facilities are within the VMC boundary
- To approach provision level requirements for all facilities, distribution to potential expansion areas and adjacent lands is required



Facilities





Circulation

Circulation Characteristics

- Connectivity is key
- Cycling facilities create a strong, connected grid
- Multi-use paths connect green spaces and parks
- Mews create unique, pedestrian oriented urban spaces
- Trails move people through parks





Circulation

The LOOP(s)

- Expand on concepts developed in existing planning documents
- Connect parks and open spaces and provide needed recreational opportunities
- Link to important connection south to Vaughan Super Trail / South York Greenway and parks and green space beyond the VMC

Connecting VMC with Two Loops

- An Urban LOOP, a 4-km path which features the two Urban Parks and Millway Avenue Promenade.
- An Open Space LOOP, a 6-km path which connects all of the VMC's Environmental Open Space.
- - Bridge
 - Tunnel
- Underpass



65% of survey respondents are willing to walk for at least 15 minutes to a park.

55% of survey respondents are willing to drive or take transit for at least 15 minutes to use a larger sports field or court.



Circulation

Crossing 407

- The Jane Street bridge is not designed for pedestrians or cyclists
- Options for crossing the 407 include:
 - A typical bike lane and sidewalk beside the road on the bridge
 - A completely separated pedestrian and cycle crossing on the bridge
 - A culvert under the 407 at the south end of the Black Creek channel



HIGHWAY 407 * YORK * UNIVERSITY * WEST **Major Routes** Existing Vaughan Supertrail

Circulation

Connections Beyond the VMC

Connections Beyond VMC

Proposed Vaughan Supertrail

- · Connection across or under HWY 407 is critical
- Provides access to Black Creek Pioneer Village North Lands
- Connects VMC to the proposed Vaughan Super Trail, which will link VMC to the broader natural heritage system





Master Plan

- DEVELOPMENT TRENDS SUGGEST

 THE VMC WILL BECOME ONE
 OF THE MOST DENSE AREAS IN
 NORTH AMERICA.
- 2 IT IS CRITICAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PARKLAND IN OR NEAR THE VMC.
- PROVIDING REQUIRED
 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
 DEMANDS CAREFUL PLANNING.
- 4 SPACE SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 407 IS IMPORTANT.
- 5 DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES MUST CONTINUE TO REFLECT PLANNING GOALS.







* Subject to further study and analysis LANDS* AUGHAN METROPOLITAN CENTRE BEECHWOOD CEMETERY HIGHWAY 40 SOUTH AD JACEN

Potentials

Potential for Active Parkland

- Potential total active parkland inside the VMC: 18.3 hectares
- Potential total active parkland outside the VMC: 61.2 hectares
- Potential total active parkland: 0.6 hectares/1000
- Likely to make VMC a leader among GTA Growth Centres
- These scenarios, which can be implemented over time in a measured response to development, will provide the City with options for service level delivery, and ultimately create a diverse, multi-functional, and seamlessly interconnected parks and open space network.





Potentials

Potential for Facilities

- 72% of provided 'urban facilities' dog parks, community gardens, picnic areas, gathering spaces – located inside the VMC boundary
- Potential of 118% of required smaller sports and recreation facilities – pleasure skating, basketball, tennis, volleyball, adult fitness – with 73% of facilities within the VMC boundary
- 91% of required larger sports and recreation facilities – soccer, baseball, softball, hockey – with 21% of facilities within the VMC boundary

A preliminary framework for recommendations is being developed, focused on: phasing, acquisition, costing, operations and maintenance, park governance, and Community Benefit Charges

1 City-Led

- Municipal Parks Department Led
- No Additional Policies/Structures Req'd.
- Dependent on City Operations Budget

2 Specialized Unit

- Specialized Unit in Parks Department
- Provides Specialized Care & Programming
- Dependent on City Operations Budget

3 Multiple Parties / Partners

- Municipality + External Partner(s)
- Broader Community Reach/Engagement
- Partner Groups can Bring in Funding
- May Involve Competing Interests

4 Hybrid

- Municipality + One NGO
- Single Partner Brings Clarity & Funding
- City Typically Funds Operations & Maintenance

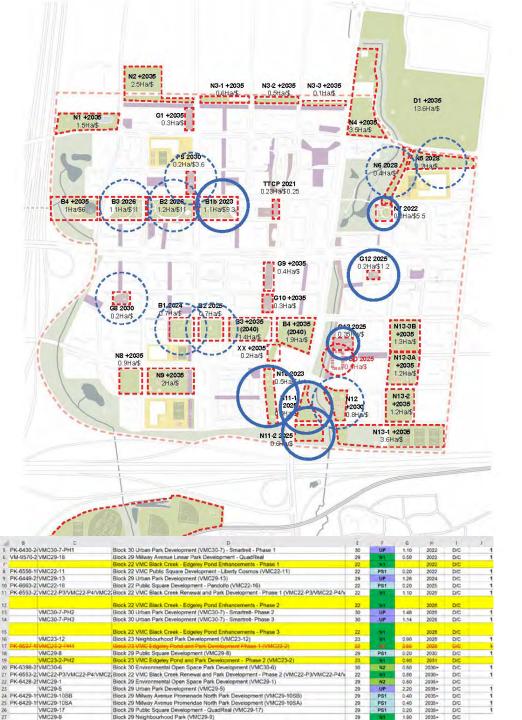
5 Independent Entity

- NGO or Arms Length Government Entity
- Partner Largely Assumes All Park Operations
- Maintains Coherent Identity & Funding
- Risk of Feeling Private
- Requires Oversight (ex. Board of Directors)

Governance

Framework

- VMC Parks Governance Decision-making Framework prepared by Park People
- To guide and define conversations about relevant and best-serving park governance models (but not meant as a prescriptive tool)
- Intended to assist the City in determining which models can best serve each individual park planned for the VMC



Coordination

DC Background Study Update and Community Benefit Charges Study

 The study is providing information about VMC park typology, timing, and facilities to capture existing and future requirements

Parkland Dedication Guideline

 The study is providing input into park typologies, provision rates, and other elements to contribute to a holistic overview of requirements for intensification areas





Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan - Next Steps

Finalize Master Plan

• Final modifications to master plan, development of recommendations, and draft of master plan document

Advance Signage

Develop contract documents and RFP

Finalize Implementation Plan

Refine schedule and complete costing

The City is committed to ensuring that the downtown continues to develop as a complete and balanced community with high-density mixed uses that are transit supportive and pedestrian friendly, with a vibrant sense of place, a high-quality public realm and environmentally sustainable design approaches.

