

**CITY OF VAUGHAN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION)
AGENDA**

This is an Electronic Meeting. The Council Chamber will not be open to the public. Public comments can be submitted by email to clerks@vaughan.ca. If you wish to speak to an item listed on the Agenda, please pre-register by contacting Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281 or clerks@vaughan.ca by noon on the last business day before the meeting.

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Council Chamber

2nd Floor, Vaughan City Hall

2141 Major Mackenzie Drive

Vaughan, Ontario

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1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA	
2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	
3. COMMUNICATIONS	
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5. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION INCLUDING MEMBERS RESOLUTION(S)	
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6. ADOPTION OF ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION
7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION
8. CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY / AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS
9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS
10. NEW BUSINESS
11. ADJOURNMENT

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AND VIDEO BROADCAST

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Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, May 5, 2021

WARD(S): 5

**TITLE: THORNHILL SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION
PROGRAM – PROGRESS UPDATE**

FROM:

Jim Harnum, City Manager

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To update Council on the progress of the City of Vaughan's first Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) in the Thornhill neighbourhood. The extensive community engagement conducted to gain input on how the community envisions their neighbourhood is presented along with the next steps required to complete the Thornhill SNAP Action Plan.

Report Highlights

- The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) neighbourhood mapping screening exercise, including planned City capital infrastructure projects, was used to select the Thornhill community as a suitable SNAP neighbourhood.
- Extensive community engagement during the SNAP action planning process was critical to obtain an understanding of the Thornhill neighbourhood, and how the community envisions their neighbourhood in the future.
- Three integrated action areas and four signature projects were identified through the community engagement phase.
- A draft SNAP Action Plan is being developed between the City of Vaughan and TRCA staff with input received from the community and will be presented at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Recommendations

1. That Council receive the staff report as a progress update on the Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program.
2. That Council receive the Thornhill SNAP presentation (Attachment 1).

Background

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) aligns with City initiatives

Council on May 14, 2019, passed a Member's Resolution to support the City's commitment to a SNAP project in partnership with the TRCA. The SNAP includes selecting a neighbourhood with overlapping sustainability and climate change vulnerability priorities and options for urban renewal projects. And then developing sustainability goals, targets, actions and an implementation and monitoring strategy for the neighbourhood. A SNAP project would implement various elements of the City of Vaughan's 2018-2022 Term of Council Strategic Plan by aligning with Green Directions Vaughan, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Active Together Master Plan. It also implements objectives and targets mandated by the Regional Municipality of York (York Region).

The SNAP was developed by the TRCA with the objective to make older neighbourhoods more sustainable and accelerate the implementation of environmental improvements and urban renewal at the neighborhood scale. The success of SNAP is rooted in direct engagement with residents and stakeholders to align municipal priorities with local needs and interests. Engaging residents, businesses, community groups and institutions builds positive partnerships and local capacity for the design and implementation of the project.

SNAP looks at maximizing the impact of infrastructure projects beyond the departmental scope of work and by considering other department's projects. Through departmental collaboration to meet multiple goals and objectives, SNAP adds significant ecological function and social benefits through innovation in design and public engagement.

A neighbourhood screening exercise selected the Thornhill neighbourhood

The TRCA developed a mapping framework to organize priorities into a comprehensive set of service area themes reflecting sustainable community attributes. Data layers obtained for the framework represent current available data for planned projects and known neighbourhood climate change vulnerabilities across departments and organizations.

The Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood located in Ward 5 (Blocks 1 and 2) is bounded by Bathurst Street and Yonge Street, Steeles Avenue West, and Highway 407 (Attachment 2: Thornhill SNAP Draft Action Plan Map). This neighbourhood was selected for the SNAP project because of its overlapping priorities for needed urban renewal. It is a flood vulnerable area, has the highest energy use and intensity in the City, and has one of the highest water use rates in York Region. It is a high priority area for low impact development for stormwater management and has a high concentration of seniors and areas of concentrated social disadvantage.

In addition, there are multiple planned municipal capital infrastructure projects located within the Thornhill neighbourhood. These capital infrastructure projects are an important aspect of selecting a SNAP neighbourhood, as they can be leveraged to achieve higher environmental, resiliency and social impact within the community. The SNAP takes an integrated approach to overcome urban challenges and addresses a broad range of sustainability objectives with locally tailored solutions. A SNAP Action Plan (the 'Action Plan') is being developed for the Thornhill neighbourhood to improve the local environment, build resiliency to climate change, and encourage positive behaviour changes among residents.

The City and TRCA were successful in obtaining funding up to \$152,100 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to undertake the Thornhill SNAP, matched with funds from the Gallanough stormwater retrofit project (Stormwater Management Improvements in Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area Project Budget, Capital Project EN-1879-12). A single source contract was awarded to TRCA to lead the community engagement, stakeholder consultation and the development of the Action Plan in collaboration with the City of Vaughan.

The SNAP action planning process used a three phased approach

The Thornhill SNAP action planning process used a phased approach that promoted multi-stakeholder engagement at various stages. Local knowledge and input were integral to revealing important community characteristics, not apparent in the neighbourhood's built form, that contribute to local culture and values. The action planning process was undertaken in three phases outlined below:

Phase 1 – Scoping issues, stakeholders, and interests

The objective of Phase 1 was to conduct background research to help the project team generate an understanding of the baseline scientific and socio-economic characteristics of the neighbourhood. The overall SNAP community engagement strategy was also customized during this phase to align with the timing of local planned initiatives and other key milestones.

Phase 2 – Defining vision, motivational themes, and action planning concept areas

The objective of Phase 2 was to develop a neighbourhood vision and identify motivating themes, discover perceived risks, and identify climate change vulnerabilities and assets. This exploration was used to develop integrated action areas and associated design principles, identify potential signature projects, and prepare a draft Action Plan map.

Phase 3 – Develop the Action Plan

In the final phase of the action planning process, the objective is to confirm and finalize the Action Plan, identify relevant climate adaptation strategies, develop preliminary design concepts for each of the signature projects, and identify a number of quick start projects that could be used to build excitement and continue momentum for the SNAP.

Previous Reports/Authority

Previous reports considered by City Council regarding the Thornhill SNAP project can be found at the following links:

[Council meeting extract, May 14, 2019](#) – Council passed a Member’s Resolution in support of the Thornhill SNAP.

[Member’s Resolution, June 4, 2019](#) – Council passed a Member’s Resolution to declare a climate emergency and lists actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the Thornhill SNAP.

[Council meeting extract, December 17, 2019](#) – Council adopted Green Directions Vaughan 2019 and includes a specific action to explore a SNAP project in Vaughan.

Analysis and Options

Community input identified motivating themes and integrated action areas

The Thornhill SNAP is being managed by the City (10 departments) and TRCA (4 divisions) as a highly collaborative approach that brings together municipal objectives with community priorities. This collaboration includes working with local residents, institutions, non-profit organizations, and other local stakeholders such as the Springfarm Ratepayers Association that actively participated throughout the engagement process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of the community engagement was redesigned as virtual workshops and online meetings.

The City and TRCA engaged the Thornhill community through facilitated community engagement events to gain an understanding of the past and present conditions of the

neighbourhood and how the community envisions their neighbourhood in the future. The following engagement techniques and activities were utilized to gather community input:

- “SNAP into Action” survey
- One day co-planning workshop
- Meetings with the local ward Councillor Shefman
- One-on-one meetings with local stakeholders such as the Springfarm Ratepayers Association, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill, Thornhill Heritage Foundation, Windfall Ecology Centre, etc.
- Meetings with representatives from Indigenous Peoples such Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation
- Two virtual open house sessions
- Online Action Plan map engagement
- Three virtual co-design workshops for the signature projects

The Thornhill SNAP Sustainability Framework has been developed to identify overarching core and complementary themes. These themes have contributed to the design of the three integrated action areas that respond to the neighbourhood’s technical issues and vision expressed through public engagement. Each integrated action area identifies design principles, sustainability solutions and actions for integration and implementation into future projects. The three integrated action areas are as follows:

1. Connected People, Places and Ecosystems, which includes an active transportation, trails, green infrastructure, parks and open spaces elements and recommendations for community connections, programming, and greening.
2. Residential Retrofit, which will support programming for homeowners to assist them with the identification and implementation of actions to make single family residential properties more efficient and resilient to extreme climate events.
3. Greening of Institutional, Commercial and Multi-unit Residential sectors, which will encourage community connections, natural heritage improvements, and sustainable and resilient buildings.

Signature projects identified as a result of the data collected

Four signature projects were selected, based on residents’ preferences and municipal priorities. These signature projects are supported by technical staff from the City and TRCA and align with planned municipal initiatives, while also integrating local community interests. These projects will demonstrate how traditional capital infrastructure projects can be re-imagined to maximize sustainability and resiliency

objectives along with addressing strategic targets set by the City, York Region and TRCA.

The proposed four signature projects are identified as follows:

1. Gallanough Park Redevelopment

Gallanough Park is located at 21 Springfield Way and is connected to several important community institutions including the Gallanough Resource Centre, the John Arnold Historic House, and Thornhill Public School. A planned capital infrastructure project to retrofit the stormwater management facility in the park and park improvements have been budgeted. This presents an opportunity to integrate community interests to redevelop the park infrastructure and amenities, while improving the ecological integrity.

2. York Hill Park Redevelopment

York Hill District Park is located at 330 York Hill Boulevard and is connected to Garnet A. Williams Community Centre and adjacent to two elementary schools. The Garnet A. Williams Community Centre is being retrofitted to improve both interior and exterior features of the site. This work will tie into the redevelopment plan that is being developed for the overall park including recreational improvements and nature-based education areas.

3. Complete Streets Project

The Complete Streets Project has been proposed to leverage active transportation improvements recommended in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan for Atkinson Avenue, Hilda Avenue and Centre Street. This project focuses on creating safe, inviting, and vibrant streets and streetscapes through active transportation techniques, while also helping to manage stormwater sustainably and improve the urban forest.

4. Thornhill Home Retrofit Program

Vaughan's City-wide home energy retrofit program will be launched in the Thornhill neighbourhood, pending confirmation of details of the funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The home retrofit program will use the local improvement charges financing tool to extend financing to homeowners that complete eligible retrofits, and the homeowners then pay back the loan on their property tax bill. A proposed initial launch of the retrofit program will provide owners of detached dwellings with educational tools and support to improve energy efficiency in their homes. Other opportunities such as eco-landscaping, flood prevention measures and water efficiency will also be explored with the

homeowners as part of the SNAP collaboration. As part of the design of the retrofit program launch, the City will partner with the TRCA to provide local marketing of the retrofit program in the Thornhill neighbourhood.

Attachment 2: Thornhill SNAP Draft Action Plan Map provides an illustration of the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood with the conceptual signature projects. As these signature projects align with planned municipal initiatives and capital infrastructure projects, they are intended to be innovative projects that will serve to demonstrate how multiple benefits and diverse, community-wide objectives can be achieved.

Attachment 3: Thornhill SNAP Signature Projects - Community Engagement Summaries provides summaries of the community feedback received during the virtual workshops that were completed for the Gallanough Park, York Hill Park, and Complete Streets signature projects. The community input received during these workshops will be used to develop the signature project concept designs. The community will have an opportunity to review the draft signature projects and provide comments that will be integrated into the final Action Plan. The Thornhill Home Retrofit Program is also being developed as a fourth signature project at this time.

Information collected will be used to develop the Action Plan

The Action Plan will present a series of climate adaptation strategies that have been developed to address the unique character, resources, and climate change vulnerabilities of the Thornhill neighbourhood. The Action Plan will also reflect the culmination of technical analyses, robust community, and stakeholder engagement, and planned capital infrastructure projects. When implemented, the proposed actions, projects and programs will help achieve the vision for the community. The Action Plan will address any comments received from Council and community engagement input received for the proposed signature projects. The final Action Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in the fall of 2021.

Financial Impact

This report will have no incremental impact to the current 2021 approved operating or capital budgets. The City has identified existing budgets and has attained grants to support the development of the Action Plan. The larger capital infrastructure project budgets are not included in this summary. Any incremental capital infrastructure projects/budgets as a result of this program will be brought forward through the annual budget approval process. To date, the following funding has been received/committed to facilitate the SNAP project:

- A grant of up to \$152,100 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund

- A grant of \$25,000 through a TRCA application for the Transition 2050 funding stream for FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program. This funding has been provided directly to TRCA.
- A grant of \$10,000 from Enbridge for the Residential Retrofit Program design
- A budget of \$124,000 from the Stormwater Management Improvements in Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area Project Budget (Capital Project EN-1879-12) was allocated for engagement for the Thornhill SNAP
- The City has committed to 3 years of funding at \$25,000 per annum for demonstration projects under Capital Project PL-9575-20

Fundraising will be needed to fund the implementation of additional SNAP project components that are not included in the existing scope and budgets for each of the individual capital infrastructure projects such as the additional tree plantings, trail development and recreational amenities (e.g. benches, shade structures). Fundraising will be explored in collaboration with TRCA, property owners and other external stakeholders. The SNAP Team will also work with the City's Municipal Partnership Office in the Economic and Cultural Development department on the fundraising initiatives.

Staff will continue to apply for funding opportunities for specific components as they arise as the SNAP project can be put forth for consideration when prioritizing projects across the City. For example, Clark Avenue improvements received over \$2M from the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program and the York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program. This project can leverage the prioritization of the Complete Streets project.

In addition, City staff are exploring various grant opportunities to implement the quick start projects, such as tree and pollinator plantings. City staff have applied to the TD Friends of the Environment Fund for a \$5,000 grant for a pollinator planting and education signage. A decision is expected in the summer of 2021.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The TRCA's SNAP is a collaborative, neighbourhood-based approach for advancing urban renewal and climate change action in older urban areas. TRCA has nine other SNAP neighbourhoods in the municipalities of Toronto, Markham, Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon, and Richmond Hill, in varying stages of completion. Through the implementation of the SNAP project, the City of Vaughan is meeting various York Region objectives for instance the canopy targets outlined in the York Region Forest Management Plan and projected road improvement identified in the York Region Road Improvements (10 year plan).

The TRCA is also working to identify opportunities for expanding successful solutions from the SNAP neighbourhoods to other communities. The neighbourhood mapping screening exercise completed in Vaughan identified other neighbourhoods in the City that have overlapping priorities and may be suitable for future SNAP projects including neighbourhoods in Maple and Woodbridge. The SNAP and action planning process that has been successfully used in the Thornhill SNAP can be translated to these other neighbourhoods to build an overall sustainable and resilient City.

Conclusion

The City, in partnership with the TRCA, engaged the Thornhill community through extensive community consultation activities to gather input on how they envision their future neighbourhood. As a result of the extensive input received, the integrated project ideas were created and include design principles, sustainability solutions and actions for implementation. Four signature projects were also identified to be designed by City and TRCA staff with input received by the community. The information and input gathered throughout the action planning process will be used to develop the finalized Action Plan.

For more information, please contact: Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner, ext. 8104

Attachments

1. Thornhill SNAP Presentation
2. Thornhill SNAP Draft Action Plan Map
3. Thornhill SNAP Signature Projects Community Engagement Summaries

Prepared by

Monica Choy, Sustainability Coordinator, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8941

Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8104

Tony Iacobelli, Manager of Environmental Sustainability, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability ext. 8630

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mauro Peverini".

Mauro Peverini,
Chief Planning Official

Reviewed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Harnum".

Jim Harnum, City Manager

Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program

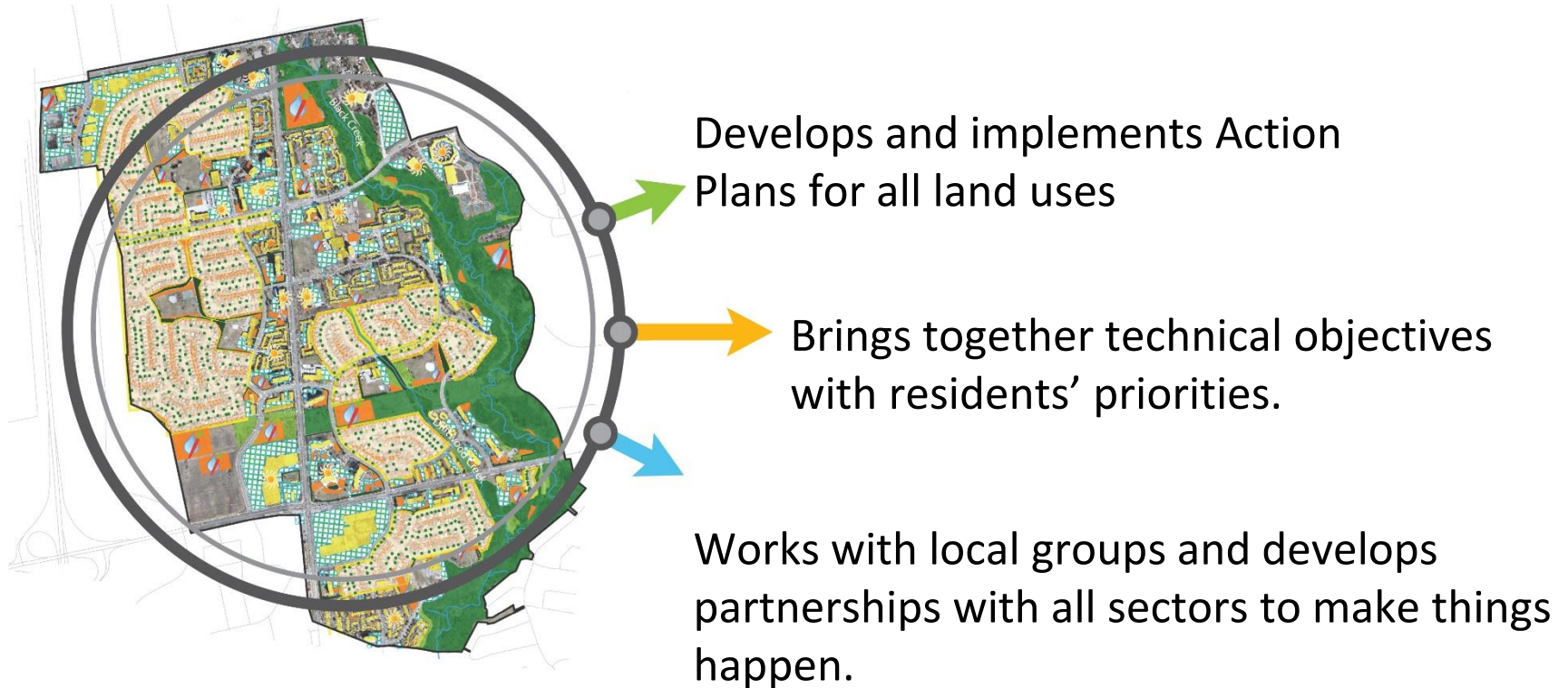
City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole (Working Session)

May 5, 2021



Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)

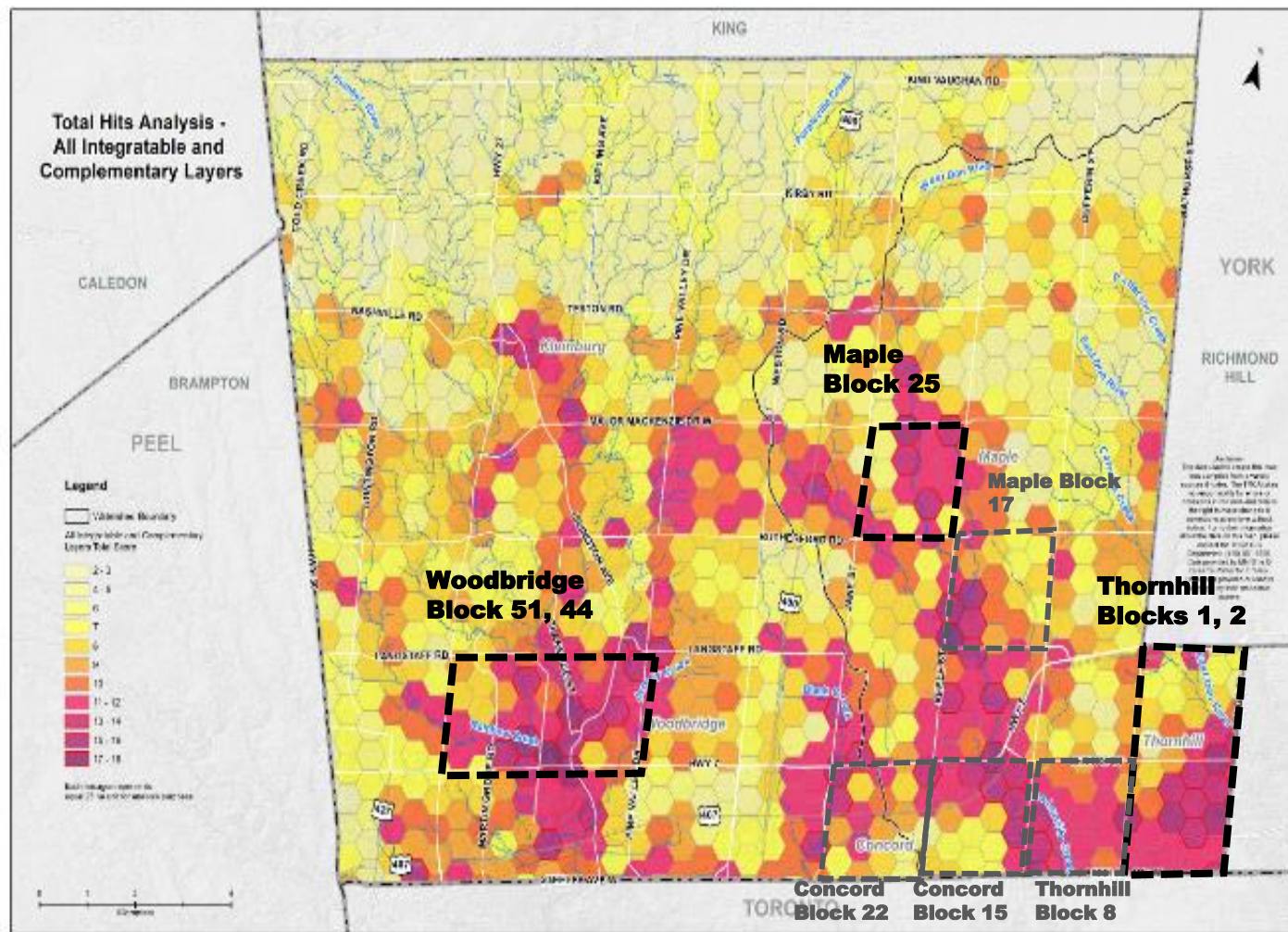
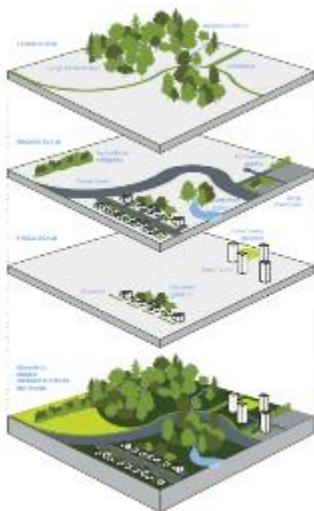
A neighbourhood-based solution for sustainable urban renewal and climate action



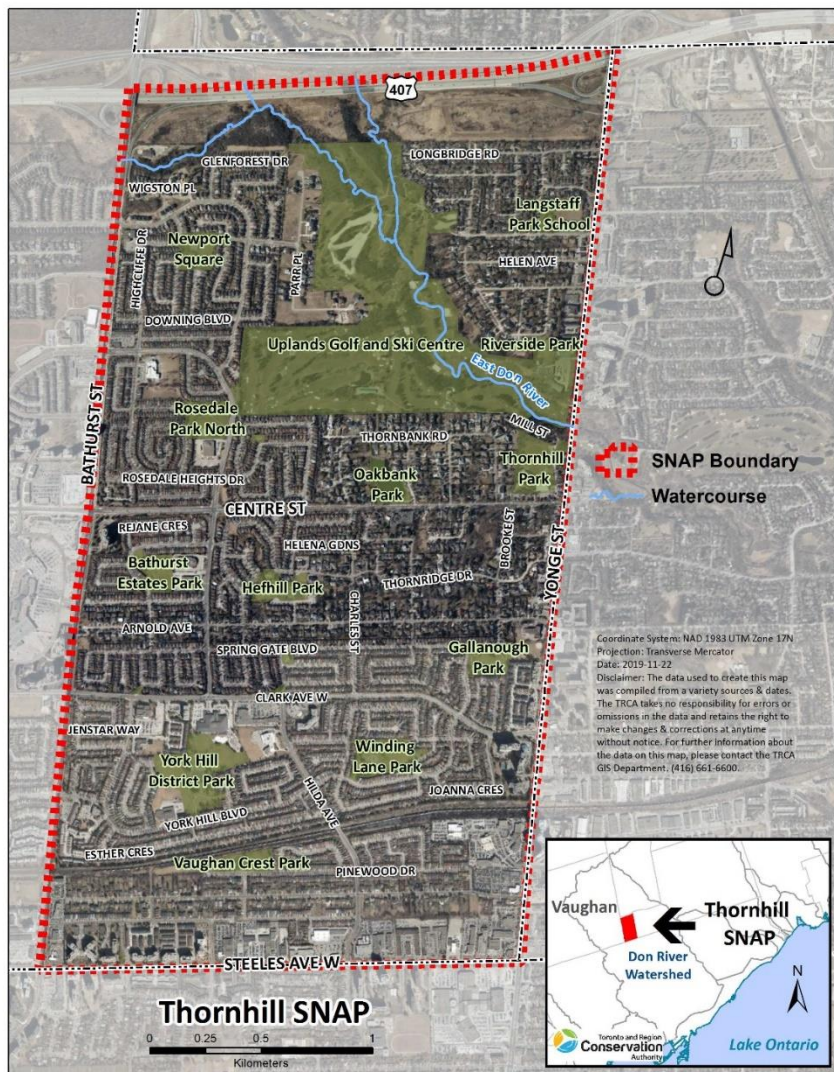
Neighbourhood Selection Process



25 ha Hexagonal Units



Thornhill Neighbourhood



Key Priorities:

- Flood vulnerable area
- High priority for low impact development for stormwater mgmt.
- Highest energy use in Vaughan
- One of highest water use in York Region
- Urban heat stress
- Areas of concentrated disadvantage (South)

Planned Capital Projects

- Gallanough Park and Area SWM Improvements EA
- Gallanough & York Hill Park Redevelopment
- Garnet A. W CC Retrofit
- Road Improvements (Clark Ave., Centre St., Atkinson Av., Hilda Av.)
- York Region South York Greenway Project
- Vaughan Super Trail Project

Thornhill SNAP Sustainability Framework

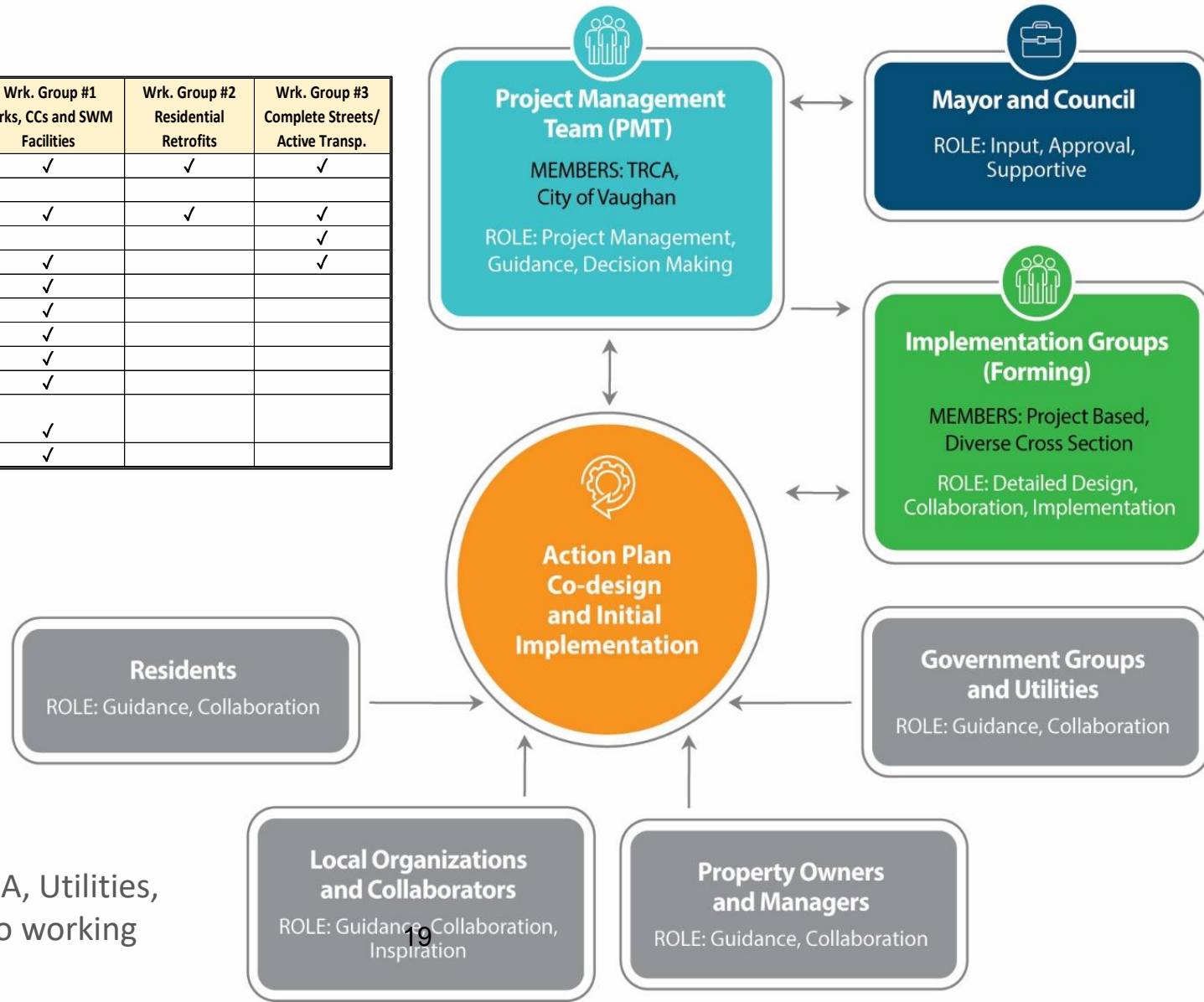


SNAP Action Planning Process



SNAP Governance Structure – Action Planning

Members	Core PMT	PMT	Wrk. Group #1 Parks, CCs and SWM Facilities	Wrk. Group #2 Residential Retrofits	Wrk. Group #3 Complete Streets/ Active Transp.
TRCA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
City of Vaughan Departments					
Policy Planning and Env. Sust.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infr. Planning and Corp. Asset Mgmt.		✓			✓
Infrastructure Delivery		✓	✓		✓
Parks Infr. Planning and Devlpt.		✓	✓		
Facility Management		✓	✓		
Parks, Forestry and Hort. Oper.		✓	✓		
Environmental Services		✓	✓		
Devlpt. Planning (Cultural Heritage)		✓	✓		
Fire and Rescue Service (Emergency Planning)			✓		
Recreation Services			✓		



Note:

External guests (York, PCA, Utilities, etc.) have been invited to working group sessions.

Community Engagement Activities

- One-on-one meetings (9 local stakeholders)
- Survey mailed to every household (103 responses)
- Indigenous Peoples meetings (3 First Nations)
- Co-Planning workshop (70 attendees)
- 2 Virtual Open House sessions (30 attendees)
- 3 Virtual Signature Projects workshops (132 attendees)
- Site visits with local organizations
- Volunteer capacity building meetings
- E-mail exchange with residents
- Website, Newsletters, List-serve



Integrated Action Areas - Design Principles

1. Connected Places, People and Ecosystems



- **Connect** greenspace, institutions and destinations through trails & wayfinding
- **Improve walkability and bike ability**
- **Improve accessibility** for all and **places to sit**
- Provide more trees and **connected habitat**
- Add **more shade** to parks and open spaces
- Create **unique destinations**
- Incorporate **multi-age, multi-season recreation**
- Incorporate **art, history and culture**
- Make public spaces **safer**
- Encourage **contact with nature**
- Encourage **community connections**



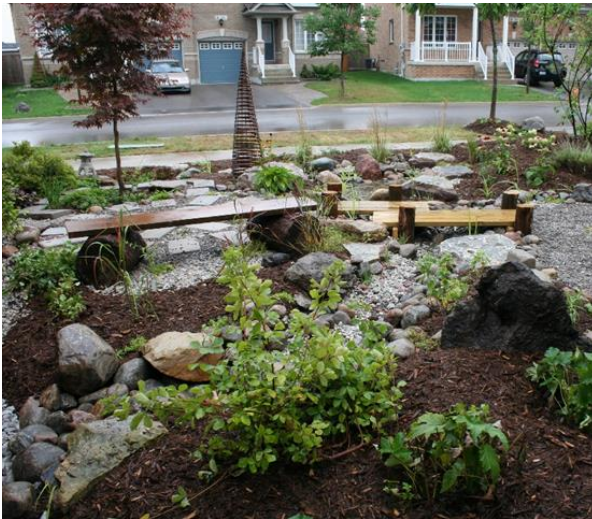
Integrated Action Areas - Design Principles



2. Residential Retrofits

- Address **multiple sustainability and resiliency objectives** (GHG, Water, Trees, Flood, etc.)
 - Customize to **local building stock**
 - address **Thornhill residents' priorities** and main obstacles
 - **Cross-promote** through other neighbourhood initiatives
 - **Customize marketing** and incentives
- Pilot for Local Improvement Charges Financing

Integrated Action Areas - Design Principles



3. Greening and Humanization of Institutional & Commercial Properties and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURB)

- **Create sustainable and resilient buildings**
- **Contribute to natural heritage**
- **Connect to active transportation**
- **Make fully accessible for all user abilities**
- **Encourage community connections**
- **Encourage environmental education**
- **Integrate celebration of arts, culture, history**
- **Consider use as emergency centres for extreme climate events**
- **Consider offering local food options**
- **Prioritize safety**

Thornhill SNAP Action Plan Map

Connected Places, People & Ecosystems

Series of initiatives, including an **Active Transportation Plan** for improved pedestrian and cycling options, a **Green Infrastructure Plan** to add more trees and habitat across the neighbourhood and improve stormwater management, as well as initiatives related to the **Revitalization of Parks and Open Spaces** as interesting destinations with diverse amenities that respond to current community priorities. Inclusion of educational and cultural programming and events to encourage community connections.

Residential Retrofits

Provision of supports and programming for homeowners to assist them with identification and implementation of actions to make their homes and their properties more efficient and more resilient to extreme climate events.

Greening and Humanization of Commercial and Institutional (CI) Properties and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)

Focus on creating more sustainable and resilient buildings, parking lots and outdoor spaces associated with MUR, institutional and commercial properties within the community. Development of spaces within these properties that celebrate culture and history and that allow the community to gather and connect.

PUBLIC REALM SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Innovative projects that will demonstrate how multiple co-benefits and diverse, neighbourhood-wide objectives can be achieved on the site.



Next Steps

- Integrate feedback from City of Vaughan Council
- Present the draft of the Action Plan report to the community
- Bring final Action Plan report back to Council in Fall 2021
- Move forward on quick start projects
- Develop detailed designs for Signature Projects including the Thornhill Home Retrofit Program
- Continue fundraising to match capital funding for implementation

Thank you!



THORNHILL SNAP NEIGHBOURHOOD

Sustainable Neighbourhood
Action Program

Connected Places, People & Ecosystems

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PUBLIC REALM SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Innovative projects that will demonstrate how multiple co-benefits and diverse, neighbourhood-wide objectives can be achieved on the site.



* This map represents proposed actions and projects based on community and stakeholder feedback. Feasibility of implementation and exact locations may vary and are subject to further analysis and refinement.

EXISTING/PROPOSED FEATURES

-  Water Course
-  Existing Trails/Pathways
-  Existing Cycling Routes
-  Proposed Cycling Routes
-  Proposed Subway Stations
-  Proposed 407 Transitway
-  Proposed Vaughan Super Trail
-  Railway
-  Multi-unit Residential Buildings

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

-  Community Gathering Destination
-  Improved Walkability & Accessibility
-  Programming
-  Playground Improvements
-  Multi-season Recreation
-  Safety Considerations
-  Art, History, & Cultural Celebration
-  Seating
-  Shade
-  Traffic Improvements (calming, reduction)
-  Stormwater & Drainage Management
-  Green Parking Lots & EV Charging
-  Resilient/Sustainable Buildings
-  Trees, Flowers, Habitat, Ecolandscaping



Thornhill SNAP Signature Projects Engagement Summaries

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SNAP Project Design Principles - Connected People, Places and Ecosystems:

- **Connect:** greenspace, institutions and destinations, elderly & youth, MUR & SFH, North & South, nature in public and private land
- **Increase** tree canopy, shade cover and places to sit
- **Improve** walkability and bikeability
- **Incorporate** multi-age, multi-season opportunities, art installations and cultural events
- **Encourage** contact with nature and environmental learning, community building and community participation
- **Prioritize** safety
- **Celebrate** historical heritage



SNAP Sustainability Framework

Gallanough Park Engagement Summary

Date: Wednesday July 29, 2020

Attendees: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff, City of Vaughan staff, residents and stakeholders of the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood.

Purpose: To bring the community and partners together to co-develop a shared vision for Gallanough Park within the neighbourhood.

Objectives:

- Provide an update on the progress of Thornhill SNAP, highlight feedback received related to the signature project (Gallanough Park) and a high-level update on City plans related to cycling facilities and other improvements.
- To inspire participants with precedent images and project overviews of other innovative street projects (locally and from around the world).
- To brainstorm ideas or solutions that could be implemented in Gallanough Park to help us achieve the project design principles.
- Discuss ideas/thoughts related to potential innovative implementation partners

Outcomes

Outcomes from this workshop will be integrated into the broader action planning process to create the Thornhill SNAP. The following summarizes the overarching trends and comments received during the breakout group brainstorms and chat logs.

General Suggestions and Comments

- Features chosen to be implemented should focus on a few key areas/spaces as it is a small park.
- Residents are looking for a more traditional, family-oriented park for local events and activities.
- There is a need for the park to be promoted/showcased more broadly in the community (people don't know about it and it is currently underutilized).
- Washroom facilities are a high priority.

Trails

A common theme throughout the discussion included creating trails that are interesting for pedestrians and that travel throughout the park, not just around the park. Specific suggestions included:

- Aligning seating and shade along the trails, take advantage of existing areas under the trees for more seating, existing gazebo not big enough, use permeable pavers/asphalt for trails.
- Extending trails through/along the edge of the forest area to create trail loop around the park.
- Extending trails through open area to expand existing trail network.
- Connect trail out to Yonge with trail on the north side of soccer courts.

Playground / Activity Features

There were many suggestions for features that could be added to the park, however, the overall trend in responses suggest that a more naturalized play area with climbing

features and a variety of activities/textures to challenge kids physically, would be beneficial. Specific suggestions included:

- Keeping swings or provide a similar type that doesn't limit ability to go high.
- Incorporating spaces that will be attractive to teens and something active for adults/seniors to do.
- Multiple play areas for different-aged kids, could be on different levels with zipline or slide to connect them, keep in close proximity so parents with more than one child can see all play areas, look for alternatives to sand for the base.
- Need more play equipment to accommodate number of children who are often in the park.
- Enhancing winter activities, such as sledding, that currently occur in the park. Existing low area should be maintained at bottom of toboggan hill.

Programming Ideas

Discussions regarding programming in the park revealed that many residents would like small, community-oriented programs to occur. The park is too small for large events and there is an issue with parking and washroom access in the area. Specific suggestions included:

- Incorporating the historic Arnold House, Indigenous heritage and potential Spring Farm history into programming.
- Partnering with the Gallanough Resource Center and better utilizing the outdoor amphitheater for small events (music, guest lecturers, readings and incorporating Indigenous perspectives; add more natural levels/seating to grass area of amphitheater to improve safety because so steep). Also look to utilize existing patio space better (outdoor games tables, pergola for shade, etc., reinstate entrance to Resource Centre at this location).

Additional Comments from Participants

- Maximizing opportunities to add seating/shade, native plants/pollinator gardens, permeable surfaces, safety features, wildlife features (bees, birds, bats).
- More trees in southeast corner to provide visual barrier.
- Incorporating amenities/features for dog walkers that use the park.
- Incorporating art (possibly incorporate interactive art piece that relates to the preferred stormwater feature).

Information on related City Projects

Stormwater management improvements at Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area:

For more information and how to get in touch with the project manager, please visit the [Gallanough Project Webpage](#) or visit vaughan.ca and search "Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area".

Questions or comments can also be directed to: Gallanough@resilientconsulting.ca.

Off-Leash Dog Area Strategy:

For more information please visit vaughan.ca/DogPark. Questions or comments can also be directed to: michael.habib@vaughan.ca.

Questions and Answers from Workshop

1. Could the high energy consumption in this neighbourhood relate to the Sabbath mode appliances that are left on - crock pots, hot plates, water urns?

High energy use in the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood is being explored. Through the Residential Retrofit Program, the SNAP team will gain a better understanding of when and how residents are using electricity.

2. Are there any First Nations community members who are living in this SNAP area?

The SNAP team is unaware of any First Nations members living in the SNAP neighbourhood, however the team is having separate meetings with First Nations to gather their input into the project.

3. Are there any bats left in Vaughan/Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood?

In terms of bats specifically at Gallanough Park, TRCA staff indicated that it would be unlikely that they would have a maternity roost in the park, but they may be there feeding during the night. They prefer to be closer to forest and water sources (wetlands, rivers, lakes). The Toronto Zoo bat conservation program is a good resource for anyone interested in learning about bats in Ontario: <http://www.torontozoo.com/bats>

York Hill Park Engagement Summary

Date: Wednesday September 2, 2020

Attendees: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff, City of Vaughan (COV) staff, residents and stakeholders of the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood.

Purpose: To bring the community and partners together to co-develop a shared vision for York Hill District Park in the neighbourhood.

Objectives:

- Provide an update on the progress of Thornhill SNAP, highlight feedback received to date related to the signature project (York Hill Park) and provide a high-level update on City plans related to planned renovations at Garnet A Williams Community Centre.
- To inspire participants with precedent images and project overviews of other innovative projects (locally and from around the world). Guest presentation on Edithvale Park, Schollen and Company.
- To brainstorm ideas or solutions that could be implemented in York Hill Park to help us achieve the SNAP design principles.
- Discuss ideas/thoughts related to potential innovative implementation partners

Outcomes

Outcomes from this workshop will be integrated into the broader action planning process to create the Thornhill SNAP. The following summarizes the overarching trends and comments received during the breakout group brainstorms and chat logs.

Themes that emerged from the discussions:

1. Access and Connectivity

- Improve connections to surrounding facilities and increase awareness of access points into park (e.g. more wayfinding throughout park and signage at entrance locations from surrounding residential subdivisions).
- Access from Clark Ave is through community centre parking lot, wouldn't know the park is there unless familiar with area – plant more trees or make trail from Clark Ave into the park, include local art or sculptures and signage along the way.
- Improve connection and entrance on the East side.

2. Multi-age and Physical activities

- Encourage physical activities for different age groups with programmed use in the park.
- Accessible and multi-use playgrounds integrated together for all ages (i.e. playing card tables for seniors) and ability for caregivers/parents to supervise multi ages at once in playground area.
- Washrooms or access to publicly available facilities nearby would be important for creating an age-friendly park.

3. Incorporate a Focal Feature

- Interest in a fire pit or pizza oven.
- Different elevations for variety and landscaping.
- Group seating with shade, tranquil space for those without kids.

- Add water feature in the amphitheater – different from splash pad, as an activity for older kids.
 - Create opportunities for emerging artists and talent in Thornhill. Using amphitheater or another space to honour and showcase the arts.
- 4. Multi-use Pathways**
- Expand existing pathways to be multi-use (i.e. pedestrians, bikes, strollers). One side for cyclists and one side for pedestrians – increase safety because currently there is some conflict between different user groups.
 - Provide walking continuity or zones of use. Extend pathways into loop.
- 5. Increase Educational Function**
- Plant more gardens or trees with indicators so that school groups and kids can use in learning; nature class in the park.
 - Incorporate historical facts and self-guided tours.
 - Highlight First Nations where the park resides.
 - Add education about SWM near any water features.
- 6. Local and Fresh Food**
- Community gardens can provide educational opportunity for nutrition programming, can tie into outdoor firepit. Also partner with vendor from Farmers markets.
 - More accessible markets that offer fresh produce on a regular basis.
 - Planting fruit trees in the park.
 - Farmers market by the parking lot.
- 7. Innovative Partners**
- York Region Food Network (manage community garden behind Firehall 7-1).
 - Joint gardening project for a native garden, could be tended by the York Hill ES and the Catholic School, together.
 - DANI (Developing and Nurturing Independence) located nearby. They have a greenhouse that could perhaps be of use in a gardening partnership.
 - Youth groups.
 - Organized groups such as schools and parent-teacher groups.
 - Unorganized groups – create some sort of partnership so that these groups can use the space without paying for permit.

Information on related City Projects

Garnet A Williams Community Centre Major Renovation:

For more information and how to get in touch with the project manager, please visit the [project web page](http://vaughan.ca/GAWCC) (vaughan.ca/GAWCC).

Questions or comments can also be directed to: Tiffany Szeto, Project Manager – tiffany.szeto@vaughan.ca

Questions and Answers from Workshop

1. What budget was available for the Edithvale Park?

Approximately \$4million in total, but that would likely be closer to an \$8million project today.

2. What are the opportunities for winter activities in the park?

Our area does not have reliable snow coverage, so hard to incorporate show-shoeing or cross-country skiing. It is also difficult to maintain dedicated pathways for cross-country

ski trails because of multi-users in the park who use trails for other purposes. Introducing topography of any sort creates unofficial “tobogganing hills” without naming them as such – this presents an opportunity for kid activities in the winter. In addition, having a place to warm up is beneficial to draw people to park (seeing a shift to natural gas fireplaces, reduced hazards of real firepit and a reliable source of heat). Thinking of our microclimate, any mitigations/barriers towards wind is also beneficial. *Please note this response was provided by Mark Schollen, Schollen and Company, based on his experience in park planning.*

3. Is there work being made to address stormwater management/flooding issues?

Yes, the City is looking into how to best address the flooding in the park.

4. What is meant by “District Park”?

A District park is typically 5 hectares in size and larger than Neighbourhood parks. They support a variety of recreational and athletic interests with amenities, such as sports fields and courts, large skateboard parks, outdoor skating facilities, field houses, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas and water play facilities. District parks are co-located with Community Centres, where possible.

Complete Streets Engagement Summary

Date: Wednesday July 22, 2020

Attendees: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff, City of Vaughan staff, residents and stakeholders of the Thornhill SNAP community.

Purpose: To bring the community and partners together to co-develop a shared vision for complete streets within the neighbourhood.

Objectives:

- Provide an update on the progress of Thornhill SNAP, highlight feedback received related to the signature streets (Atkinson, Hilda and Centre) and a high-level update on City plans related to cycling facilities and other improvements.
- To inspire participants with precedent images and project overviews of other innovative street projects (locally and from around the world).
- To gain a better understanding of how the community feels about the streets now, what's working and what's not and to gain an understanding of participant priorities for the future.
- Discuss ideas/thoughts related to potential innovative implementation partners.

Outcomes

Outcomes from this workshop will be integrated into the broader action planning process to create the Thornhill SNAP Action Plan. The following summarizes the overarching trends and comments received at the workshop.

General Suggestions

- Consider all ages and abilities when improving the local streetscapes.
- Add art and colour to the community and create streets that are “explorable” as destinations.
- Reviving or develop new programming to optimize existing destinations along these streets including Oakbank Pond Park, McDonald House and the Heritage Conservation District.
- Consider maintenance of any infrastructure before implementation to ensure an appropriate level of service is possible.

Pedestrians

Safety and wayfinding were the two main themes that were discussed during the pedestrian section of the brainstorm. Specific suggestions included:

- Redesigning some of the intersections in the neighbourhood to allow for drivers to see pedestrians better and reduce pedestrian-vehicle collisions.
- Developing educational programming for all user types (cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers).
- Integrating considerations for the visually impaired through signage and sidewalk/infrastructure design elements.
- Incorporating wayfinding and informational signage in public spaces to showcase natural and cultural stories of the area and to encourage people to explore the neighbourhood.
- Providing more shade and seating for pedestrians.

Cyclists

A large part of the discussion around cyclists was coordinating transit routes with cycling routes and making transit stops and buses more user/bike friendly. Specific suggestions included:

- Installing better wayfinding signs and signage on how to use the bike racks at the front of buses.
- Increasing the rest stops along routes and providing areas for cyclists to lock up bikes.
- Providing and enforcing education for all users regarding rules for road, new cycling facilities and sidewalks.

Drivers

A short discussion on drivers revealed that traffic calming measures may be useful at some locations. Several intersections were identified where improvements would be helpful. Specific suggestions included:

- Installing roundabouts to help with traffic flow and reduce idling, and the roundabout could be an opportunity to introduce art, plantings, colour into the streetscape.
- Investigating the location of existing signage on streets, as they are sometimes hard to see for drivers
- Providing education regarding rules of road.

Transit Users

Similar to the above discussions, signage and wayfinding was brought up as an obstacle to transit users. Signs should clearly identify transit information and more wayfinding signage would help users identify nearby amenities and/or other transit routes. Other specific suggestions included:

- Adding shade structures, benches, emergency features and shelters near bus stops.
- Increasing the frequency of buses to provide more options to riders.
- Investigating the coordination of fares for different transit systems

Information on related City Projects

For more information about the Clark Avenue Project and how to get in touch with the project manager, please visit <https://vaughan.ca/clarkave>.

Questions or comments can also be directed to: john.thompson@vaughan.ca

General walking and cycling questions and those related to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan can be directed to: IPCAM@vaughan.ca

Questions and Answers from Workshop

Below are questions that were received in the chat box during the workshop.

- 1. What is the maintenance plan for Clark Ave cycling facilities i.e. snow removal?**
Once the cycling facilities along Clark Avenue are installed, the City's Transportation and Fleet Management Services department takes over maintenance. The cycling facilities will be maintained in the winter.
- 2. Do any off-leash dog areas exist in Vaughan?**
There is one off-leash dog park in Vaughan, located at Concord/Thornhill Regional Park (299 Racco Pkwy). In response to interest identified by the community, Vaughan started a Local Off-Leash Dog Areas Strategy to define a process for developing local off-leash dog areas. For more information, please visit vaughan.ca/DogPark.

Questions or comments can also be directed to: michael.habib@vaughan.ca

3. Are there any cycling repair shops along the SNAP boundary?

The known bicycle repair shops in Vaughan are the following:

- Bike Medic - <https://www.facebook.com/BIKEMEDICVAUGHAN/> (Bathurst St and Highway 7)
- Giant Vaughan - <http://www.giantvaughan.com/ca> (Keele St and Highway 7)
- Cyclepath - <http://www.cyclepathbikes.com/> (Weston Rd and Highway 7)

SNAP offers the opportunity to explore innovative solutions along cycling facilities, such as public bicycle repair stations/stands.

4. How else can I get involved with the SNAP project other than attending these meetings?

If you are interested in volunteering with the Thornhill SNAP and/or getting involved with SNAP implementation, please email patricia.lewis@trca.ca.

Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, May 05, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2020 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW INTERIM REPORT

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide Council with an interim report on the 2020 Ward Boundary Review, including the preliminary ward boundary options prepared by the consultant team and the results of the initial round of stakeholder consultation. Council will be able to provide feedback and direction prior to receiving the final recommendations for a decision at the Committee of the Whole meeting in June.

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan has retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., ICA Associates and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review.
- By 2030, the City of Vaughan is expected to grow by approximately 68,900 people, to a total population of 408,900, an increase of roughly 20%.
- 915 people engaged with the online survey, 3,000 unique individuals visited the Ward Boundary Review webpage, and approximately 4,750 liked, shared or commented on the project across multiple social media platforms.

Recommendations

1. That Council provide direction on the preferred ward boundary configuration as presented by the consultant team.

Background

At its meeting of May 27, 2020, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) that staff be directed to undertake a Ward Boundary Review. Council received the presentation from the City Clerk, on the subject of Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, and determined that a review should take place but that its focus should be on a ward boundary review, and not a council composition review that would consider changes to the size, composition or organization of Council.

The City of Vaughan retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to serve as the consultant team for the purposes of conducting a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Direction for Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, CW\(WS\) May 27, 2020](#)

Analysis and Options

The first phase of the 2020 Ward Boundary Review involved a series of stakeholder consultations with the Mayor and Members of Council, municipal staff and engagements with area school boards. The consultant team also conducted a public consultation, with a discussion paper made available on the project webpage, an online survey and a series of four virtual public open houses to capture feedback on the existing ward boundaries and the guiding principles of the review. The public participation in the first phase of public engagement is outlined in Table 1.

4,764	Social media engagements and interactions
3,434	Unique visits to the Ward Boundary Review webpage
585	People answered some of the key questions in the survey
375	People left thoughtful explanations to some of their survey responses
31	People attended one of the four virtual public open houses

Table 1. Phase One Public Engagement Stats

The consultant team evaluated the existing ward boundaries according to the five core principles:

1. Representation by Population;

2. Consideration of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods;
3. Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends;
4. Consideration of Physical Features and Natural Boundaries; and
5. Effective Representation.

Based on this detailed analysis, the consultant team prepared the three preliminary options, identified in their report at Attachment 1. The preliminary options developed by the consultant team have been socialized with the public through a second round of public consultation, undertaken in March 2021, including a new online survey, four virtual public open houses, and interactive mapping tools and presentations available on the project webpage.

The final report and recommendations of the consultant team will be presented to Council for a final decision at Committee of the Whole (2) on June 8, 2021. These final recommendations will reflect the feedback received during the second round of public consultation and a final review of population growth data.

Financial Impact

There is no financial implication associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no regional impacts associated with this report. School boards were engaged by the consultant team as part of the stakeholder consultation process.

Conclusion

The preliminary options prepared by the consultant team and identified in Attachment 1, reflect the results of a detailed analysis of demographic and geographic data on the City of Vaughan, along with stakeholder interviews, public open houses and an online survey. Socialization of the proposed options commenced in March, with a second round of public open houses and a new online survey to capture feedback on the preliminary ward boundary options. Feedback from the second round of stakeholder consultation and engagement will form the basis of the final recommendations by the consultant team, who will present their findings at Committee of the Whole (2) in June, at which time Council will be asked to confirm their decision to adopt one of the recommended options, or to maintain the status quo.

For more information, please contact: Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, ext. 8241

Attachments

1. 2020 Ward Boundary Review - Preliminary Options Report, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in association with: ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer, March 24, 2021

Prepared by

Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, ext. 8241
Todd Coles, City Clerk, ext. 8281

Approved by



Wendy Law
Deputy City Manager
Administrative Services & City Solicitor

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum
City Manager



2020/2021 Ward Boundary Review

City of Vaughan

Preliminary Options Report

March, 2021

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.
905-272-3600
info@watsonecon.ca

In association with: ICA Associates
Dr. Robert J. Williams
Dr. Zachary Spicer

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1. Background

The City of Vaughan has retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer, hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review (W.B.R.).

The primary purpose of the study is to prepare Vaughan Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative. This report provides a set of alternative ward boundary designs that have been created based upon preliminary research and the first round of public consultation with the residents of Vaughan.

This review is premised on the democratic expectation that municipal representation in Vaughan would be effective, equitable, and an accurate reflection of the contemporary distribution of communities and people across the City.

2. Study Objective

The project has a number of key objectives:

- Develop a clear understanding of the present ward system, including its origins and operations as a system of representation;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the present ward system on the basis of guiding principles adopted for the study;
- Develop and conduct an appropriate consultation process in accordance with Vaughan's public engagement practices during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health emergency to ensure community support for the review and its outcome;
- Prepare population projections for the development and evaluation of alternative electoral structures for the 2022, 2026, and 2030 municipal elections; and
- Deliver a report that will set out recommended alternative ward boundaries to ensure effective and equitable electoral arrangements for Vaughan, based on the principles identified.

In December 2020, the Consultant Team prepared a Discussion Paper that set out:



- The parameters and purpose for the review;
- The basic electoral arrangements in Vaughan;
- Council's legislative authority to modify electoral arrangements in the City; and
- An initial assessment of the City's current ward boundary system.¹

The Discussion Paper also provided a set of guiding principles that will inform the study and the work of the Consultant Team:

- Representation by Population;
- Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends;
- Consideration of Physical and Natural Boundaries;
- Consideration of Communities of Interest; and
- Effective Representation.

Each principle is described in detail in the Discussion Paper.

The purpose of this Preliminary Options Report is to provide:

- A summary of the work completed to date;
- A summary of the information received from the public engagement sessions and tools, such as the survey and website; and
- A series of preliminary ward boundary options for consideration.

3. Project Structure and Timeline

Council adopted the terms of reference for the W.B.R. in May 2020. Work completed to date includes:

- Research and data compilation;
- Interviews with councillors, the Mayor, municipal staff, and engagement with school board staff; and
- Public consultation on the existing ward structure.

¹ https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/city_government/boundary_review/General%20Documents/Vaughan%202020%20Ward%20Boundary%20Review%20Discussion%20Paper_Accessible.pdf



Interviews with staff and Council, and meetings with the Clerk's office and other staff concerning this study, were conducted virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With regard to engagement of school board staff, each of the boards operating in Vaughan were made aware of the W.B.R. and were informed that the Consultant Team was available for questions/interviews. One board enquired further and was provided with information regarding the possible implications of any possible ward boundary changes. Following public health guidelines on gatherings, the Consultant Team also conducted the initial round of public consultation (four sessions) electronically.

4. Existing Population and Forecast Growth in the City of Vaughan

As previously discussed, a basic premise of representative democracy in Canada is the notion that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. Accordingly, a detailed population estimate for the City of Vaughan, including its constituent wards and communities, was prepared to allow evaluation of the existing ward structure and subsequent alternatives in terms of representation by population in the current year (2021).

The City of Vaughan is forecast to experience significant population growth over the next decade and beyond. For this reason, it is important that this study assess representation by population for both existing and future year populations. In accordance with the study terms of reference, the analysis considered representation of population over the next three municipal elections through to 2030. A population and housing forecast for the City for the 2021 to 2030 period was determined, and the results of this analysis are discussed below.

4.1 Existing Population and Structure

As mentioned, this study needs to look at the existing as well as future population distribution. An early 2021 population estimate was derived by utilizing the 2016 Census and a review of building permit activity from 2016 through 2020, with an assumed six-month lag from issuance to occupancy. Vaughan's estimated 2021



population is 340,000 and includes the net Census undercount.² The City's 2021 total population is presented by existing ward structure in Table 4-1. As shown, Ward 1, which covers the entirety of north Vaughan, has the highest population of all the wards at 77,420, while Ward 2 on the west side of Vaughan has the smallest population at 56,200, for a difference of 21,220 between the smallest and largest wards.

Table 4-1: 2021 Population by Ward

Ward	2021 Total Population
Existing Wards	
Ward 1	77,420
Ward 2	56,200
Ward 3	69,910
Ward 4	67,850
Ward 5	68,660
City-wide	340,000
Ward Average	68,010

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.
Note: Numbers have been rounded

4.2 Forecast Population Growth, 2021 to 2030

The City of Vaughan was the fastest-growing municipality in Canada between 1996 and 2006 with its population increasing by approximately 80% during this time period, having grown by over 430% from 1991 to 2016. This rapid growth is anticipated to continue across the City and ward boundaries should consider and accommodate Vaughan's projected growth and population shifts to maintain a general equilibrium in representation by population over a three-election cycle (2022, 2026, and 2030). This principle's significance was reinforced by the community through the Phase 1 survey responses, as approximately 33% of survey respondents prioritized equal

² The net Census undercount is an adjustment to the population to account for the net number of persons who are missed (i.e. over-coverage less under-coverage) during enumeration and is estimated at approximately 3.0%.



representation by population and an additional 31% prioritized future population trends when designing wards.

In accordance with the City's Official Plan, Vaughan's population is expected to increase to 416,600 by 2031. The Consultant Team has prepared City population growth metrics for the 2021 to 2030 period, guided by regional growth targets and policy objectives, along with a comprehensive review of opportunities to accommodate future residential growth through plans of subdivision (registered unbuilt, draft approved and proposed), site plan applications, and intensification potential (in particular the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre – the V.M.C.). Anticipated population growth over the 2021 to 2030 period was identified on a sub-geographic unit (S.G.U.) level.

By 2030, Vaughan's population is anticipated to grow by approximately 68,900, bringing the total population (including undercount) to approximately 408,900, an increase of approximately 20%, as shown in Table 4-2. A significant amount of the City's growth is anticipated to occur within the V.M.C., a quadrant of developments north of Highway 407 along Highway 7. The V.M.C is anticipated to grow from approximately 7,000 people to over 23,000 by 2030 through a large number of high-density buildings, some of which have already started development. In addition to the V.M.C., additional intensification is expected within the built-up area (B.U.A.), but a majority of the growth outside the V.M.C is anticipated in north Vaughan in its designated greenfield areas (D.G.A.), north of Major Mackenzie Drive – 55% of the City's population growth is anticipated within the D.G.A.



Table 4-2: Population Growth, 2021 to 2030

Ward	2021 Total Population	2030 Total Population	2021-2030 Change
Existing Wards			
Ward 1	77,420	110,300	32,880
Ward 2	56,200	61,570	5,370
Ward 3	69,910	77,860	7,950
Ward 4	67,850	88,220	20,370
Ward 5	68,660	70,950	2,290
City-wide	340,000	408,900	68,900
Ward Average	68,010	81,780	13,770

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

5. Public Consultation

The first phase of the W.B.R. incorporated a public engagement component that was delivered virtually and designed to:

- Inform residents of Vaughan about the reasons for the W.B.R. and the key factors that were considered in the review; and
- Engage the residents in a manner that provides valuable input to the evaluation of the existing ward structure and development of alternative ward boundaries.

Following public health guidelines put in place following the COVID-19 outbreak, four virtual public consultation sessions were conducted throughout January 2021 – one session on both January 12 and 13, and two sessions on January 14. The Consultant Team's presentation and other information about the review, including the audio recording of the Virtual Public Open Houses, are available on the City's website:

https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/city_government/boundary_review/Pages/default.aspx

Through the public consultation sessions, a survey, and the project website's online comment/feedback form, participants were invited to provide their input/opinions with respect to the following:



- Existing Ward Structure – Strengths and weaknesses of the current ward structure.
- Guiding Principles – Which guiding principles should be given the greatest priority in the development of ward boundaries?

The feedback and comments collected through the public consultation process are reflected in the analysis presented below and have helped inform the preliminary set of ward options. While public input from consultation provides valuable insight into the review, it is not relied on exclusively. The Consultant Team utilized the public input in conjunction with its professional expertise and experience in W.B.R.s, along with best practices, to develop the preliminary options presented herein.

6. What We Heard

In December 2020, the City of Vaughan created a project web page for all documents and information about the W.B.R. All communications could direct people to that page using social media and other outreach. People could visit the site, read some context, download a background report and, most importantly, were urged to complete a survey. The City also prepared a whiteboard-style explainer video describing the overall process of the W.B.R.

As a result of the City's outreach and communications activities, traffic to the project web page was surprisingly high and informative:

- 67 social media posts on three platforms and press releases stimulated thousands of engagements/interactions (4,764) and wide reach (estimated at 178,594);
- Over 3,434 people visited the website;
- 585 people answered some of the key questions in the survey;
- 375 people left thoughtful explanations of some of their choices; and
- 31 people attended the online town hall meetings.

Input from the survey itself confirmed what research was beginning to indicate; the detailed summary is in Appendix B.

- The majority of survey respondents thought having five local councillors elected from five wards was adequate to their needs.



- Most people felt that the current wards adequately represent them, but satisfaction varied from ward to ward, from 42% satisfied in Ward 4 and a high of 59% in Ward 5.
- Many people identified the large size and population of Ward 1 as an issue to be looked into, yet quite a few also saw the issues of the north as similar.
- Most importantly for the next phase of the project, people prioritized population parity both now (32.5%) and in the future (31.3%) as the most important guiding principles, yet almost a quarter of respondents (22.7%) thought that communities of interest should be the top priority. Future population parity was the clear second choice for most people. The geographic features principle was prioritized by the fewest number of people.

Written responses also revealed some out-of-scope issues to acknowledge for future discussions.

- People have a lot of concerns about the continued rapid growth and urbanization of the City and these concerns were triggered by the discussion of ward boundaries. They are worried about planning, traffic, infrastructure, and the changing identity of the City.
- There were frequent mentions of the confusion between the roles of local councillors and regional councillors who are elected at-large, this despite the contexts set on the project page and survey.

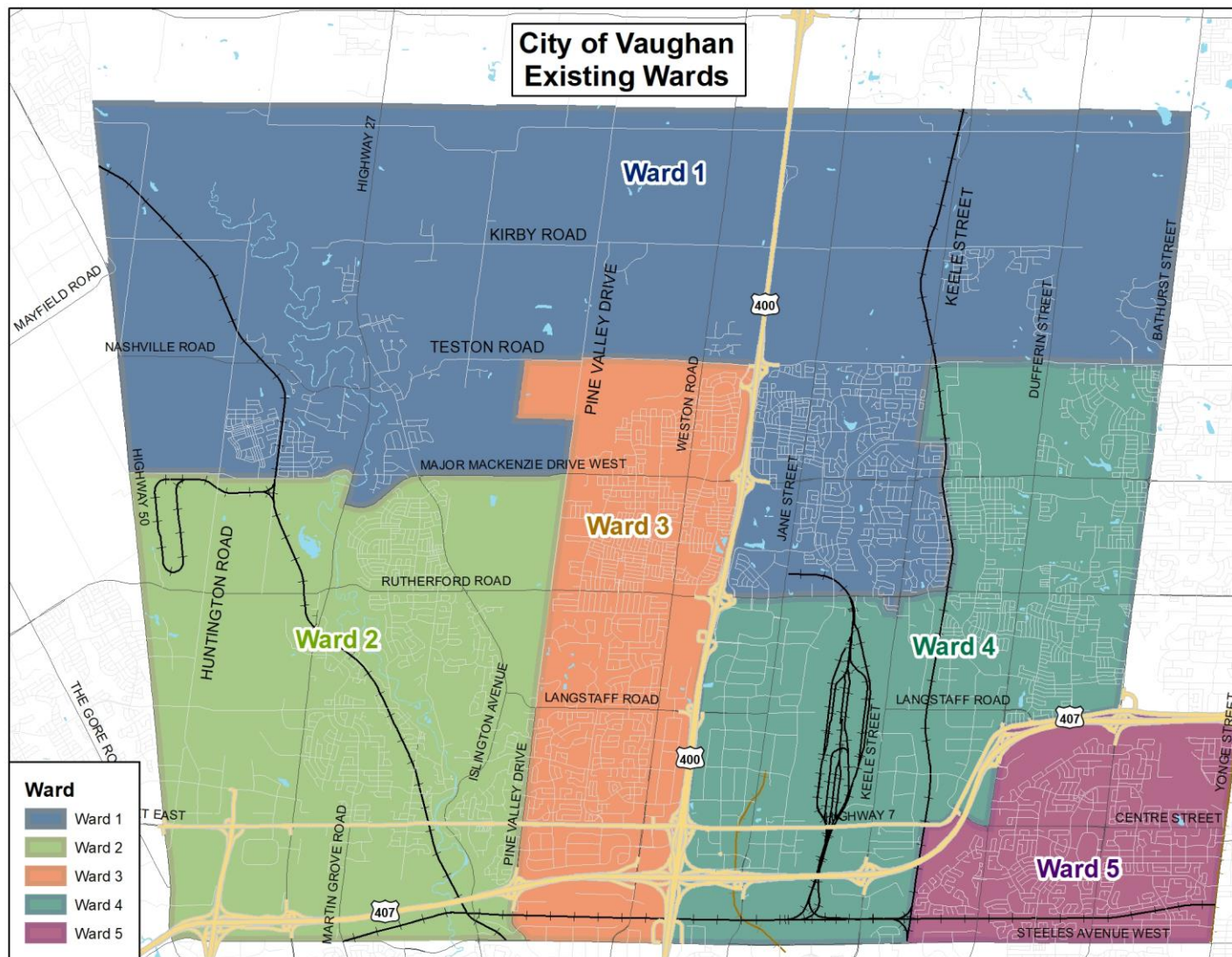
7. Evaluation of Existing Ward Structure

The survey conducted as part of the initial phase of public consultation also asked respondents to assess the current wards in terms of their strengths and weaknesses. These responses can be used to add depth to the preliminary evaluation of the existing ward structure included in the Discussion Paper that addressed the wards in terms of the guiding principles. For reference, the current wards are presented in Figure 7-1, below.

The Discussion Paper is available on the City of Vaughan's website. In it is a detailed preliminary evaluation of the current ward structure. This section revisits that evaluation, integrating information received during consultation.



Figure 7-1: Existing Ward Structure





7.1 Representation by Population

One of the basic premises of representative democracy in Canada is the belief that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. This is the concept of representation by population (“rep by pop”) or “one person, one vote” – where the vote of any one person carries roughly the same weight as that of any other person. In some places (such as parts of the United States) this principle of voter parity is enforced rigorously – almost to the exclusion of any other factor – so that there is almost no variation in the population of electoral units within a particular jurisdiction.

In the Carter decision,³ however, the majority of the Supreme Court understood that Canadian electoral law has never been driven by the need to achieve “full parity” in the population of electoral divisions. The Court concluded that some degree of variation from parity (“relative parity”) may be justified and, at times, even necessary “on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation.”

Since there are variations in the densities and character of communities and neighbourhoods across Vaughan, the guiding principles make clear that some flexibility in applying the principle of representation by population is acceptable. That is, the concept of “equitable” (that is, fair) representation – not necessarily “equal” representation – is legitimate, although the closer the population of the wards is to parity, the more the entire design can be assessed as successful.

As a working premise, a range of variation of 25% above or below the optimal ward population will be considered acceptable. This is a rather generous range of tolerance from parity, but in the absence of any guidance in the *Municipal Act, 2001* or provincial regulations, it is based on long-standing parameters for the federal redistribution process. The goal in any case will be to reduce the range of variation among the wards as much as possible.

Moreover, in our opinion, developing wards within a narrower range of population variation would make the achievement of the other recognized guiding principles difficult to achieve successfully.

³ Reference re: Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Saskatchewan) [1991] 2 S.C.R.



The degree of parity in each ward will be determined through the calculation of what will be called an “optimal” ward in Vaughan, a figure computed by dividing the number of wards by the total population of the City. The population of a ward will be considered “optimal” when it falls within 5% above or below that number. Note that as the overall population changes, the optimal size of a ward will also change.

An example of optimal sizes for Vaughan’s five-ward system for the 2021 and 2030 populations is shown below in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1: Optimal Range for a Five-Ward System

Symbol	Description	Variance	2021 Population Range	2030 Population Range
OR+	Outside Range - High	25%	85,013	102,225
O+	Above Optimal	5%	71,411	85,869
O	Optimal Population Range	-	68,010	81,780
O-	Below Optimal	-5%	64,611	77,691
OR-	Outside Range - Low	-25%	51,008	61,335

Based upon the figure calculated for the City’s overall 2021 population (340,400) and a five-ward system, the optimal population would be 68,010. In 2031, the City’s forecast population is 408,900 and the optimal ward population would be 68,010.



Table 7-2: Estimated Population by Existing Ward, 2021

Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range
Existing Wards			
Ward 1	77,420	1.14	O+
Ward 2	56,200	0.83	O-
Ward 3	69,910	1.03	O
Ward 4	67,850	1.00	O
Ward 5	68,660	1.01	O
City-wide	340,000		
Optimal Population	68,010		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Population data suggests that three of the present wards are in the optimal range of variance and the other two wards are within the acceptable range of variation, one above and one below. Based upon the empirical evidence and the observations of many survey respondents, the present wards successfully adhere to the representation by population principle.

7.2 Consideration of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods

Care should be taken to ensure communities of interest remain intact during the design of ward boundaries. Such communities represent social and economic groups that may have deep historical roots, but they can also be social, economic, or religious in nature, depending on the history and composition of the municipality in question.

This principle addresses two perspectives: what is divided by ward boundaries and what is joined together? The first priority is that communities ought not to be divided internally; as a rule, lines are drawn around communities, not through them. Secondly,



as far as possible wards should be cohesive units composed of areas with common interests related to representation, not just contrived arithmetical divisions of the City.

Wards should have a “natural” feel to those that live within them, meaning that they should have established internal communication and transportation linkages and boundaries should be drawn taking existing connections into consideration. This is done to avoid creating wards that combine communities with dissimilar interests and no obvious patterns of interaction.

Vaughan has traditionally five identifiable communities of interest of varying sizes: Concord, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill, and Woodbridge, with other recognizable neighbourhoods (such as Vellore) emerging as complete communities. Once the area reaches maturity, the V.M.C. could rightfully be considered a community of interest as well.

At present, most ward boundaries respect these communities within Vaughan, but since there is some uncertainty about the actual extent of communities such as Concord, Thornhill, and Maple, some boundaries could be viewed as artificially dividing those communities. Kleinburg and Maple are both within the same ward (Ward 1) despite being distinct communities and physically separated in the ward both by distance and Highway 400. Woodbridge is a sizable community and is now spread over parts of two of the present wards.

It would be difficult to say that the current ward system respects all identifiable communities of interest in the individual wards, either by keeping them intact or by combining them in plausible groupings.

7.3 Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends

As noted in the Discussion Paper, the current population within Vaughan’s ward system is reasonably well-balanced; however, as demonstrated above in the growth forecasts, Vaughan will grow substantially over the next decade. This growth also promises to be uneven in nature, with significant population growth expected in certain parts of the City, such as the V.M.C. and parts of the current Ward 1.

This principle is directed towards maintaining a balance through subsequent municipal elections. It is generally not practical to change electoral boundaries for every election;



hence, the wards designed in 2021 will seek to accommodate anticipated changes in the size and distribution of the population and electors over the next three elections in 2022, 2026, and 2030.

As in the previous population principle, the goal is to design a system that will comprise wards that are generally in equilibrium to one another as growth takes place. The concept of an optimal ward size (with an associated range of variation) will be used to assess the success of the individual wards and the overall configuration making use of a population and housing forecast for Vaughan and its neighbourhoods for the 2021 to 2030 period.

Table 7-3: Existing Wards' 2030 Population Distribution

Ward	2030 Total Population	2030 Population variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	110,300	1.35	OR+
Ward 2	61,570	0.75	O-
Ward 3	77,860	0.95	O
Ward 4	88,220	1.08	O+
Ward 5	70,950	0.87	O-
City-wide	408,900		
Optimal Population	81,780		

These forecasts show that three of the wards are at or acceptably close to optimal, but the distribution of population between two of the wards is unacceptable since one is almost outside the bottom of the range of variation and the other is well above the range. Based upon the empirical evidence and the observations of many survey respondents, the present wards are unlikely to ensure that the representation by population principle can be sustained over the next decade.

7.4 Consideration of Physical Features and Natural Boundaries

Ward boundaries should be easily recognizable and take advantage of natural and built geographic features such as arterial roads and railway lines. Often these features



already tend to separate communities within the City, which usually explains their historical use as boundary lines between existing wards.

The most visible physical boundary within Vaughan is Highway 400, which crosses the entire municipality in a north-south alignment. As a result, the communities on the west (e.g. Woodbridge, Kleinburg) and east (Maple, Concord, Thornhill) would seem to have little routine interaction with each other. The highway limits patterns of commerce and socialization within the City and serves as a plausible ward boundary south of Teston Road. North of Teston Road, however, one of the wards crosses that highway. There is also a slight anomaly in the case of the boundary of Wards 4 and 5 where those wards cross Highway 407.

For the most part, ward boundaries in Vaughan meet this principle but the way these 400-series highways are used is problematic.

7.5 Effective Representation

As stated in the Discussion Paper, the guiding principles are subject to the overarching principle of “effective representation,” meaning that, to extent possible, each resident should have comparable access to an elected representative and each councillor should speak on behalf of an equal number of residents. Deviations from population parity can be justified if they contribute to more effective representation.

Effective representation is not based on the performance of incumbent councillors. It is, rather, a concept that is premised on serving the on-going relationship between residents and elected officials – not just on the way the resident is “counted” on election day, although that is an important component of a fair system of representation. The expectation should be that the wards support the capacity of councillors to represent their constituents, rather than hinder councillors performing those responsibilities. Are the individual wards plausible and coherent units of representation? Are they drawn in such a way that representatives can readily play the role expected of them? Do they provide equitable (that is, fair) access to councillors for all residents of the municipality?

The combination of accelerating population imbalances, the mix of neighbourhoods and communities within the wards, and the population disparity between Ward 1 and the other wards all suggest that the present wards in Vaughan fall short of providing effective representation.



In our Discussion Paper we provided an initial evaluation of the current ward system. The current system failed in some regards to meet the ward boundary principles and, therefore, cannot be said to serve the residents of the City well now and into the future. We have since taken the feedback received through our various engagement activities and again, for the most part, members of the public have confirmed many of our initial perceptions.

Figure 7-2: Present Vaughan Ward Configuration Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Somewhat Successful	All wards are within the acceptable range of variation, although the difference between the largest and smallest is 16,880 people.
Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods	No	Current ward boundaries do not comfortably contain single, identifiable communities of interest.
Current and Future Population Trends	Largely Unsuccessful	Preliminary analysis would suggest that four wards are in the optimal range (i.e. 25% variation), but only one is optimal (i.e. 5% variation). Ward 1 is well above the acceptable range resulting in a large disparity between Ward 1 and Ward 2 (2030 difference of almost 50,000).
Physical Features as Natural Boundaries	Somewhat Successful	Most markers used as boundaries of the wards are straightforward, although Highway 400 bisects Ward 1.
Effective Representation	Largely Unsuccessful	Accelerating population imbalances, the mix of communities within the wards and the extreme range of population disparity hinder effective representation.



8. Alternative Ward Boundary Options

The evaluation of the current ward system in Vaughan suggests that there are identifiable shortcomings when evaluated against the guiding principles for this review. Council could still choose to retain the status quo by turning down all recommended options for an alternative ward configuration. That decision, however, could result in a petition submitted under section 223 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The analysis presented here suggests that it could be difficult for the City to defend the existing ward system before LPAT, especially in addressing future growth.

If Council decides to change the ward boundary system, what would alternatives look like? The Consultant Team has prepared preliminary options for consideration at this stage of the W.B.R. Keeping the identifiable communities of interest intact, creating wards with roughly equal populations, and providing for effective representation throughout Vaughan poses a challenge, given the large geography and uneven population distribution across the City. As outline above in detail in Table 7-1, Table 8-1 below is a represents the symbols and colours used when evaluating the population distribution for both 2021 and 2030 populations by ward.

Table 8-1: Optimal Range

Symbol	Description	Variance
OR+	Outside Range - High	25%
O+	Above Optimal	5%
O	Optimal Population Range	-
O-	Below Optimal	-5%
OR-	Outside Range - Low	-25%

Preliminary Option 1:

This first option can be considered a “minimal change” option since it preserves the main features of the existing wards, although only Ward 2 is completely unchanged. In this option, Ward 1 remains the largest ward by area across the northern part of the



City, but is actually increased in size by taking in a small area from Ward 3 west of Pine Valley Drive and a more extensive area from the present Ward 4 by “swapping” neighbourhoods on either side of Major Mackenzie Drive East. The boundary of the proposed Ward 5 extends north of Highway 407 and east of Dufferin Street to include neighbourhoods that strongly identify with Thornhill.

The overall 2021 population distribution is very similar to the present wards but would reduce the gap between the largest and smallest wards by 2031.



Figure 8-1: Preliminary Option 1

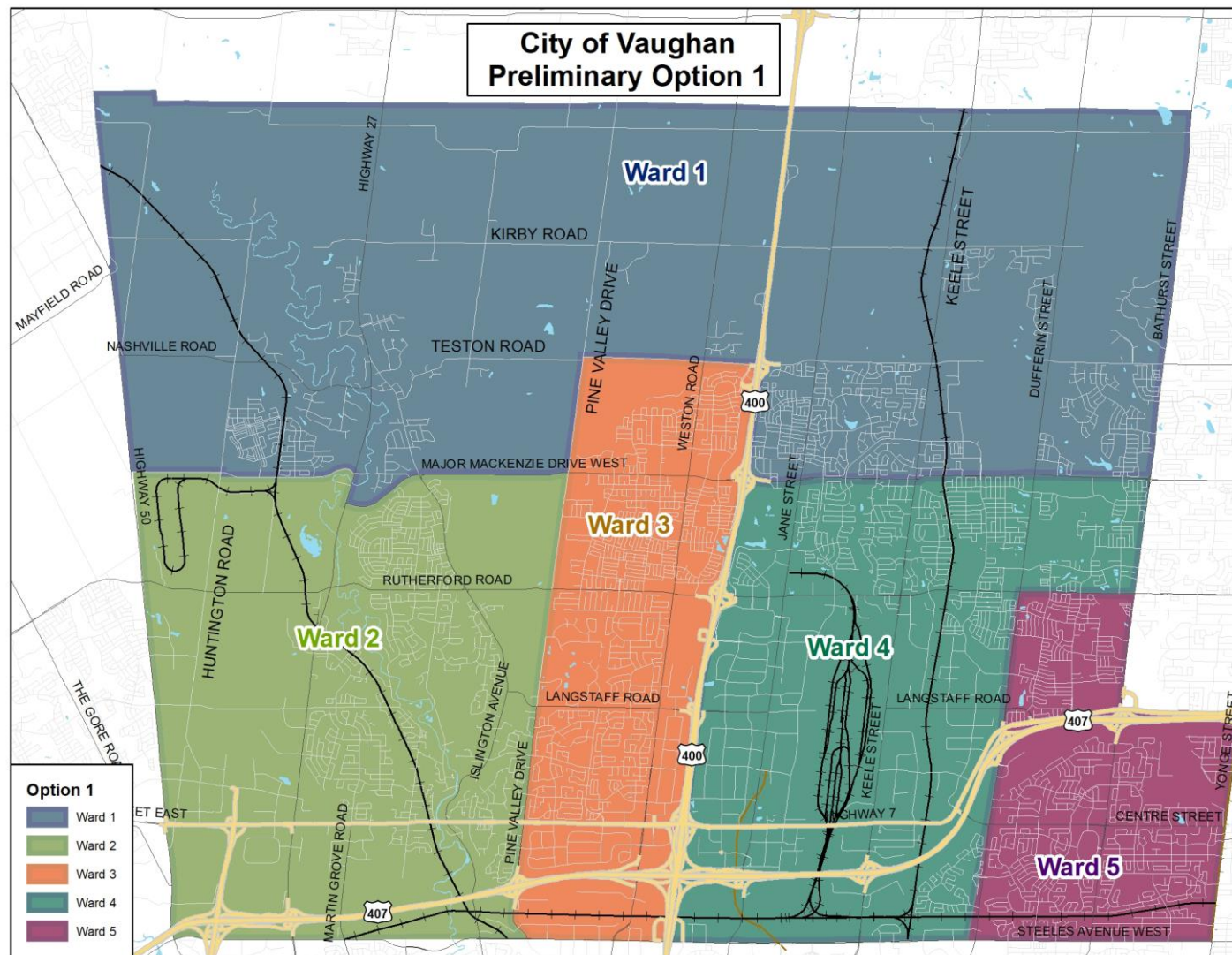




Table 8-2: Preliminary Option 1 – Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
Preliminary Option 1						
Ward 1	65,470	0.96	O	101,250	1.24	O+
Ward 2	56,200	0.83	O-	61,570	0.75	O-
Ward 3	69,740	1.03	O	75,160	0.92	O-
Ward 4	67,340	0.99	O	87,130	1.07	O+
Ward 5	81,280	1.20	O+	83,770	1.02	O
City-wide	340,000			408,900		
Ward Average	68,010			81,780		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded

Figure 8-2: Preliminary Option 1 Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Somewhat Successful	All wards are within the acceptable range of variation, although the difference between the largest and smallest is 16,880 people.
Protection of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods	Somewhat Successful	Ward 1 still includes communities remote from one another, but other wards are more coherent than at present.
Current and Future Population Trends	Largely successful	Two wards are narrowly within the acceptable range of variation; one ward is at optimal size.
Physical Features as Natural Boundaries	Yes	Clean and recognizable features serve as boundaries.
Effective Representation	Largely successful	Uneven population distribution and the mix of communities within one ward hinder effective representation.



Preliminary Option 2:

Preliminary Option 2 provides a way to align the wards in a manner that achieves the representation by population principle for both the 2022 municipal election and the two subsequent elections. In this option all five wards are modified, although the proposed change to Ward 5 only involves moving a small non-residential area west of Dufferin Street and north of Highway 7 into Ward 5 to use Highway 407 as the boundary. The major realignments would divide the present Ward 1 into two wards at Highway 400, one centred on Kleinburg and the other on Maple, and the present Ward 2 would be extended eastwards from Pine Valley Drive to Highway 400 (excluding the Vellore neighbourhood north of Rutherford Road. In this option, Major Mackenzie Drive and Rutherford Road serve as the boundary between the proposed Wards 1 and 2 to the west of Highway 400 and between the proposed Wards 3 and 4 east of Highway 400 combined (respectively) with Pine Valley Drive and Dufferin Street.

Preliminary Option 2 is successful at meeting all the guiding principles being considered in this W.B.R.



Figure 8-3: Preliminary Option 2

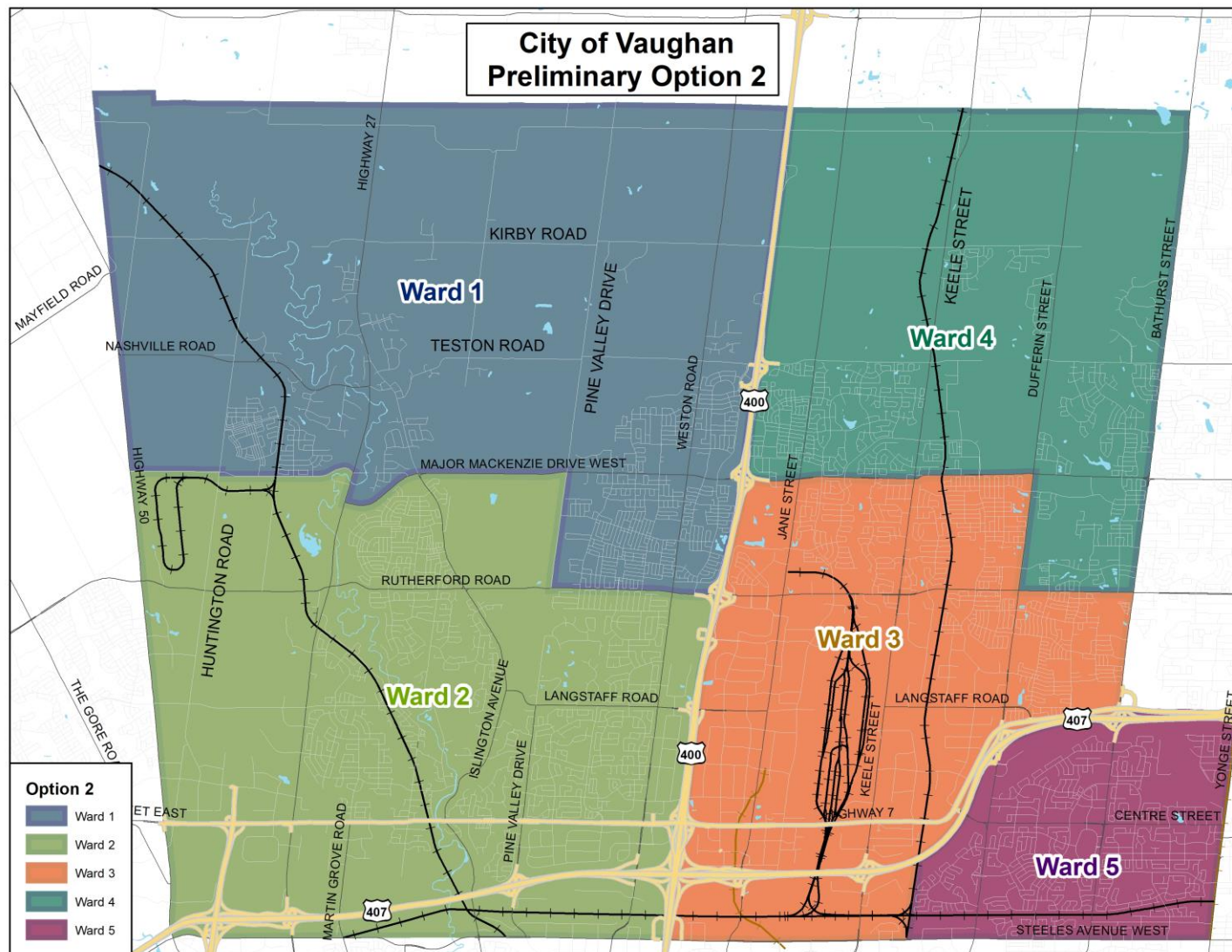




Table 8-3: Preliminary Option 2 – Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
Preliminary Option 2						
Ward 1	62,140	0.91	O-	91,590	1.12	O+
Ward 2	80,340	1.18	O+	86,670	1.06	O+
Ward 3	69,480	1.02	O	89,070	1.09	O+
Ward 4	59,410	0.87	O-	70,620	0.86	O-
Ward 5	68,660	1.01	O	70,950	0.87	O-
City-wide	340,000			408,900		
Ward Average	68,010			81,780		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded

Figure 8-4: Preliminary Option 2 Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Yes	Two wards are optimal; others are well within the acceptable range.
Protection of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods	Largely successful	Overall plausible groupings of neighbourhoods; some ambiguity about the extent of the Thornhill and Maple communities.
Current and Future Population Trends	Yes	All wards are well within the acceptable range, distribution well balanced.
Physical Features as Natural Boundaries	Yes	All boundaries are clear and recognizable.
Effective Representation	Yes	Principles contributing to effective representation are met.



Preliminary Option 3:

The difference between Preliminary Options 2 and 3 is the proposed realignment of the Vellore community, for these purposes considered to be the area bounded by Highway 400, Major Mackenzie Drive West, Pine Valley Drive and Rutherford Road. In Preliminary Option 2, the area was included in the proposed Ward 1 along with Kleinberg and surrounding areas west of Highway 400, whereas in this Preliminary Option it is aligned with the proposed Ward 2 and Woodbridge. All other features of Preliminary Option 2 are retained in Preliminary Option 3.

The net impact of this change creates a population imbalance between the two wards west of Highway 400 in 2021 that was not found in Preliminary Option 2, which is largely corrected by 2030. The crucial question for this Preliminary Option is whether it is more appropriate to align Vellore with Kleinburg or with Woodbridge. If the latter is considered more suitable, it would mean a deliberate decision on the part of Council to place greater emphasis on the community of interest principle than achieving the population principle in the short term.

Preliminary Option 3 successfully meets most of the guiding principles being considered in this W.B.R. and the exception (representation by population) may strengthen the achievement of another crucial principle (protection of communities of interest).



Figure 8-5: Preliminary Option 3

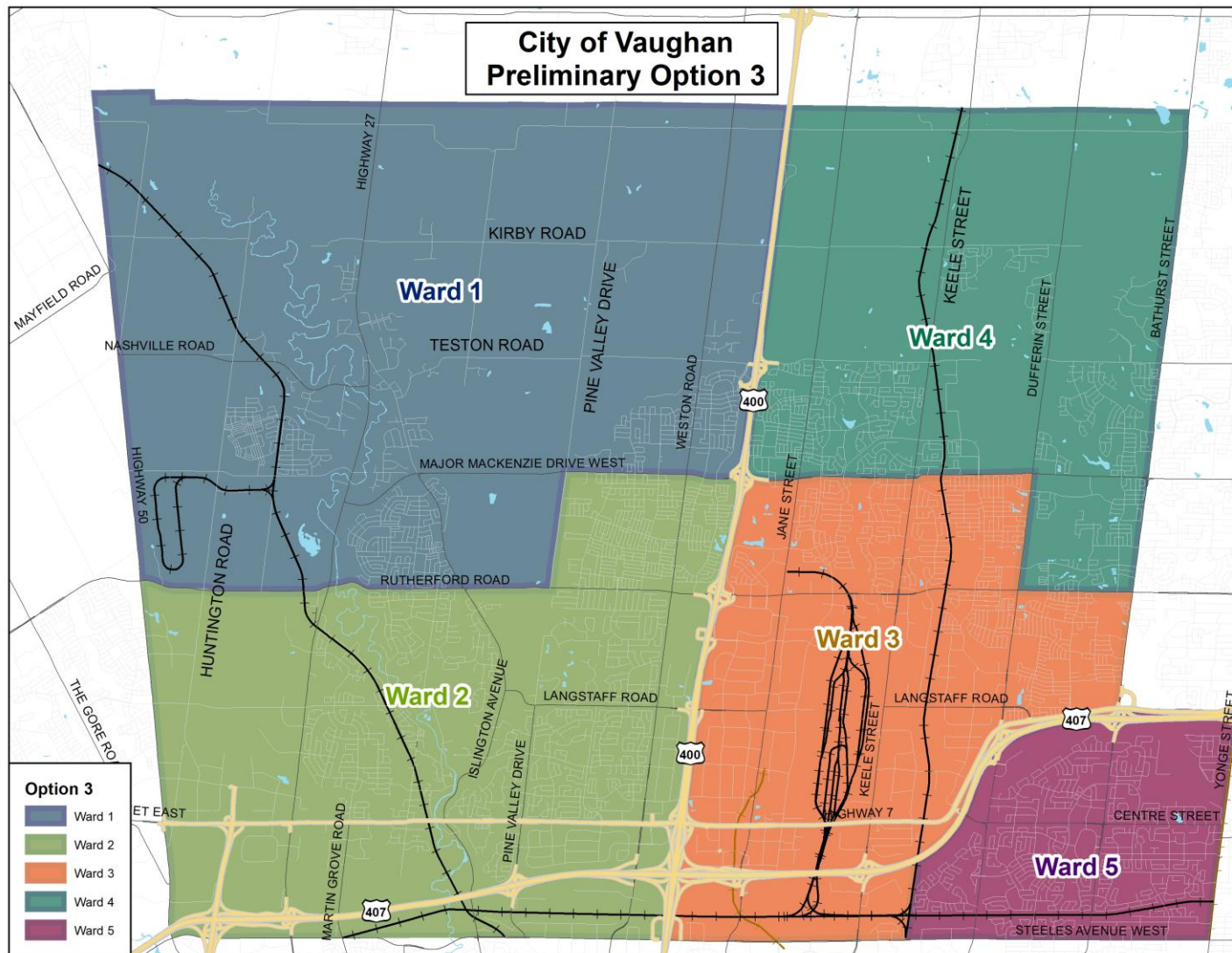




Table 8-4: Preliminary Option 3 – Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
Preliminary Option 3						
Ward 1	47,180	0.69	OR-	76,430	0.93	O-
Ward 2	95,300	1.40	OR+	101,830	1.25	O+
Ward 3	69,480	1.02	O	89,070	1.09	O+
Ward 4	59,410	0.87	O-	70,620	0.86	O-
Ward 5	68,660	1.01	O	70,950	0.87	O-
City-wide	340,000			408,900		
Ward Average	68,010			81,780		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded

Figure 8-6: Preliminary Option 3 Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely successful	Three wards are within the acceptable range of variation (including two at optimal); significant imbalance between Wards 1 and 2.
Protection of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods	Largely successful	Overall plausible groupings of neighbourhoods; some ambiguity about the extent of the Thornhill and Maple communities.
Current and Future Population Trends	Largely successful	All wards are within the acceptable range but distribution becomes more unbalanced.
Physical Features as Natural Boundaries	Yes	All boundaries are clear and recognizable.
Effective Representation	Yes	Principles contributing to effective representation are generally met.



8.1 Evaluation Summary

In the Discussion Paper and earlier in this paper we have established that the current ward boundary system in Vaughan does not provide for effective representation. The Consultant Team, therefore, recommends that changes would better accommodate growth within the City and protect communities of interest.

The three options provided in this report provide a spectrum of potential alternatives. Recognizing the strengths of the existing system, the first option provides minimal changes but allows for better accommodation of growth towards the 2030 election cycle. Options 2 and 3, however, provide more extensive re-designs of the wards. Below, we provide an evaluation of the options. Options 2 and 3 better provide for effective representation. While Option 1 builds from the current strengths of the ward boundary map, it does have significant disparities between certain wards. Options 2 and 3 better account for these population disparities, with Option 2 better aligning population now and in the future. Options 2 and 3 also better protect communities of interest.

Figure 8-7: Preliminary Options – Evaluation Summary

Preliminary Option	Representation by Population	Protection of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods	Current and Future Population Trends	Physical Features as Natural Boundaries	Effective Representation
1	Somewhat Successful	Somewhat Successful	Largely successful	Yes	Largely successful
2	Yes	Largely successful	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Largely successful	Largely successful	Largely successful	Yes	Yes

Levels of evaluation for how the Guiding Principles are met

Yes	Largely successful	Somewhat Successful	No
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Higher Rating Lower Rating



8.2 Further Considerations

The options presented herein are preliminary; they reflect the application of the core principles for this review to the distribution of population and communities within Vaughan.

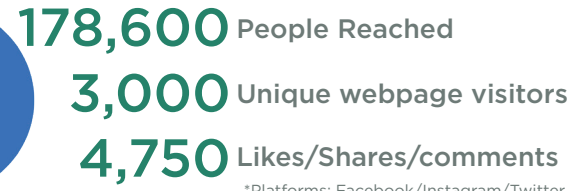
Designing an electoral system that will deliver effective representation to such a diverse and growing community requires some accommodation: designs that put an emphasis on representation by population today can hinder fair representation for residents who will locate in growing parts of the City in the coming decade. Designs that place a priority on grouping selected urban neighbourhoods can result in the over- or under-representation of those same communities around the Council table. Grouping several distinctive communities in the same ward may systematically reduce the voice of minorities, whether they be geographic, economic, or social.

The purpose of this report is to stimulate discussions in Vaughan and encourage residents to consider their preferred ward boundary configurations for the City. The options included are deliberately called “preliminary” since much of the next phase of this review involves gathering the perspectives of residents on these alternatives.



Appendix A

Public Engagement Snap Shot





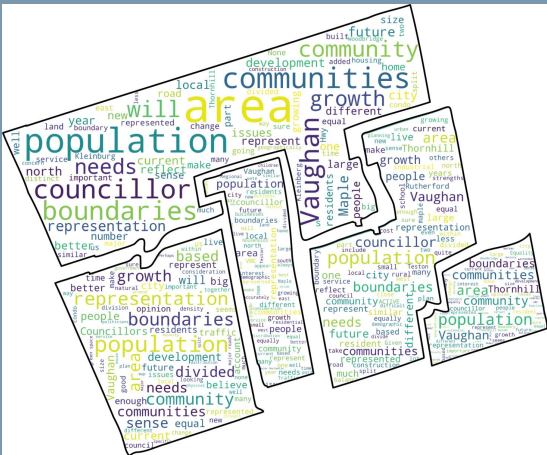
Appendix B

Public Engagement



WBR Phase 1 Consultation Results Summary *What we heard...*

City of Vaughan
FEBRUARY 2021

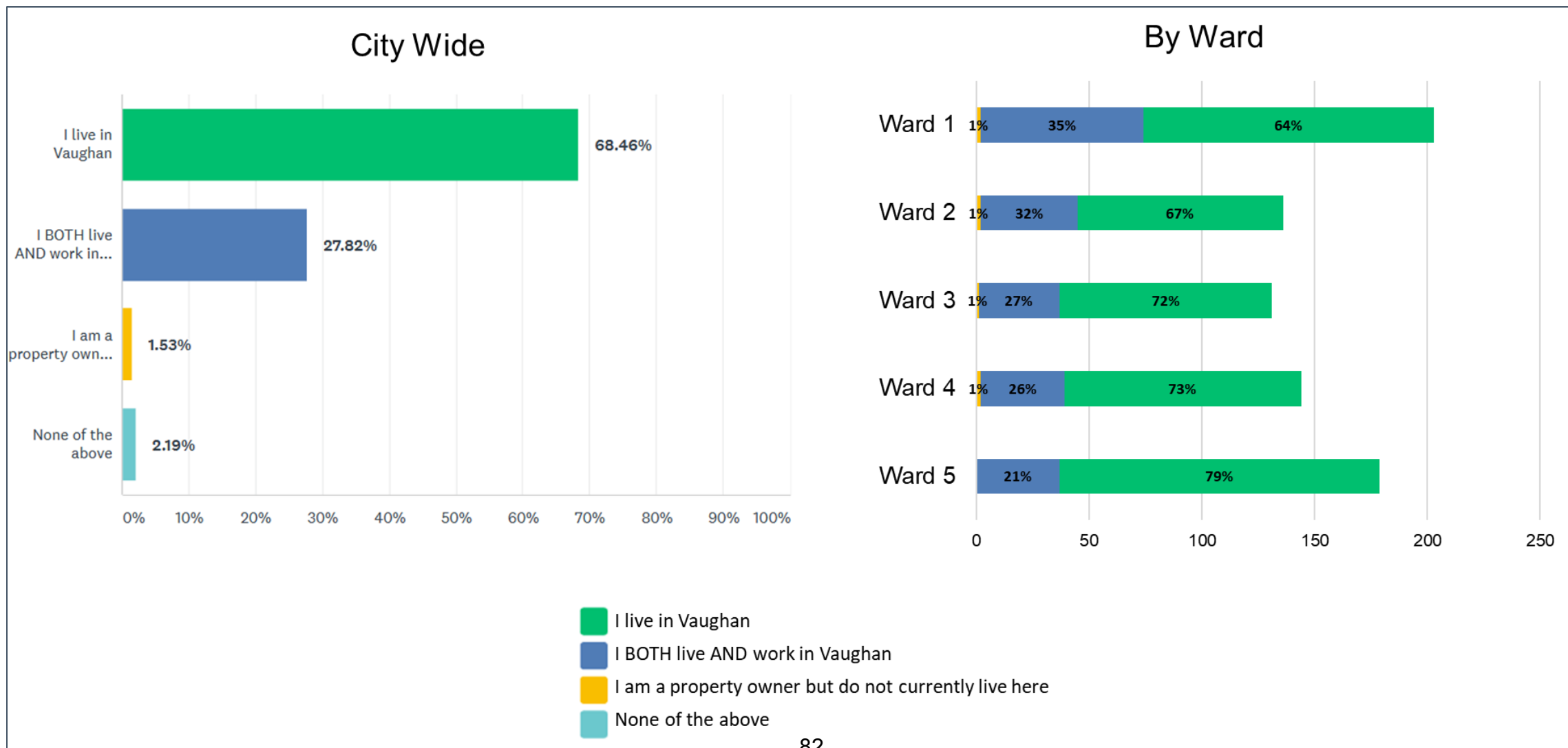


Which of the following best describes you?

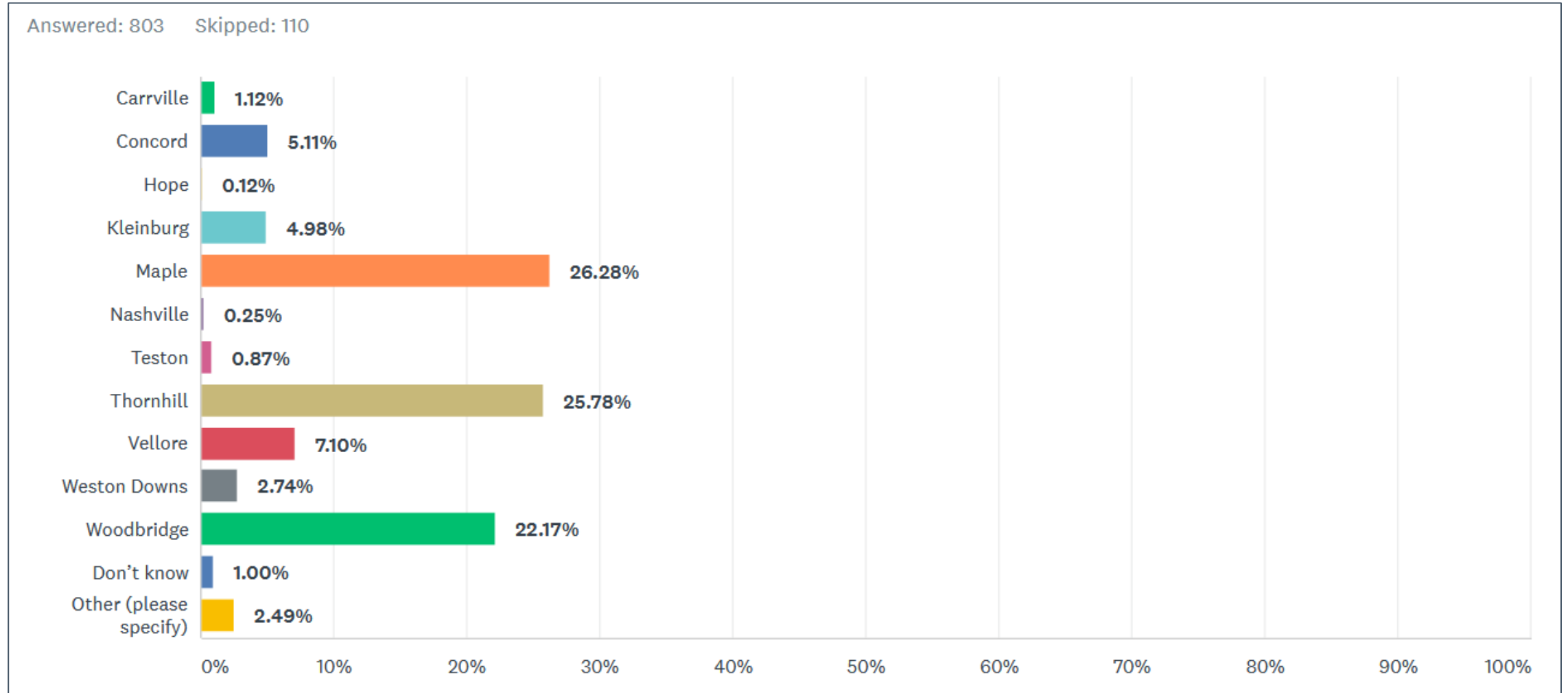


- Almost all survey respondents were from Vaughan.
- There was a good cross-section of responses from the different wards, yet somewhat more responses from Wards 1 and 5 than from Wards 2, 3, and 4.
- Over 900 people clicked on the survey, almost 800 started to answer a question or two, and most importantly...
 - 585 followed through to answer the key questions; and
 - 375 of those people left thoughtful written explanations for their choices. This level of involvement in a ward boundary review is considered to be very high.
- The four virtual town hall events attracted 31 people who generated dozens of questions that were answered right away.

Which of the following best describes you?

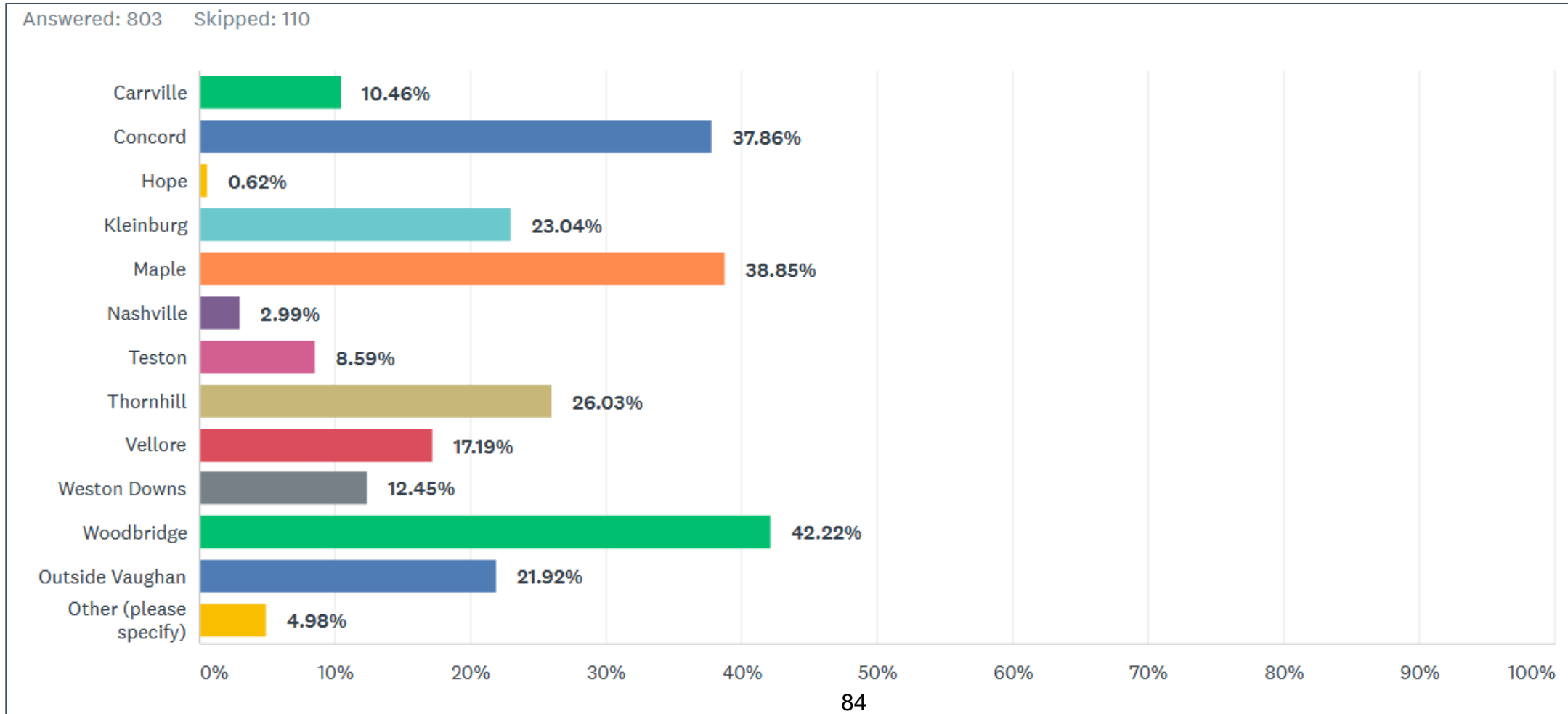


In which main community within the ward do you reside?

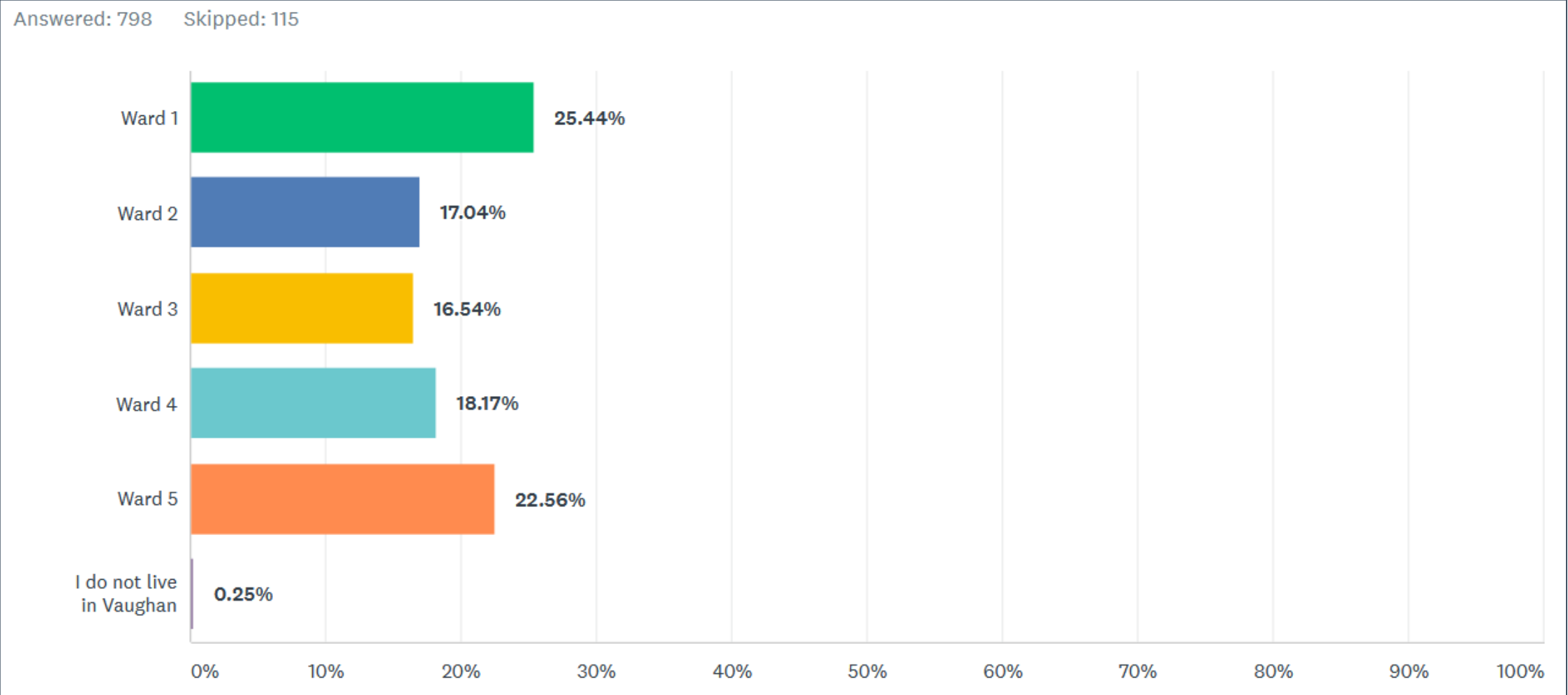


Please select up to three additional communities in Vaughan to which you feel you are connected?

(e.g. for shopping, work, school, etc.)



In which ward do you live? Use the map below to help you if you're not sure.

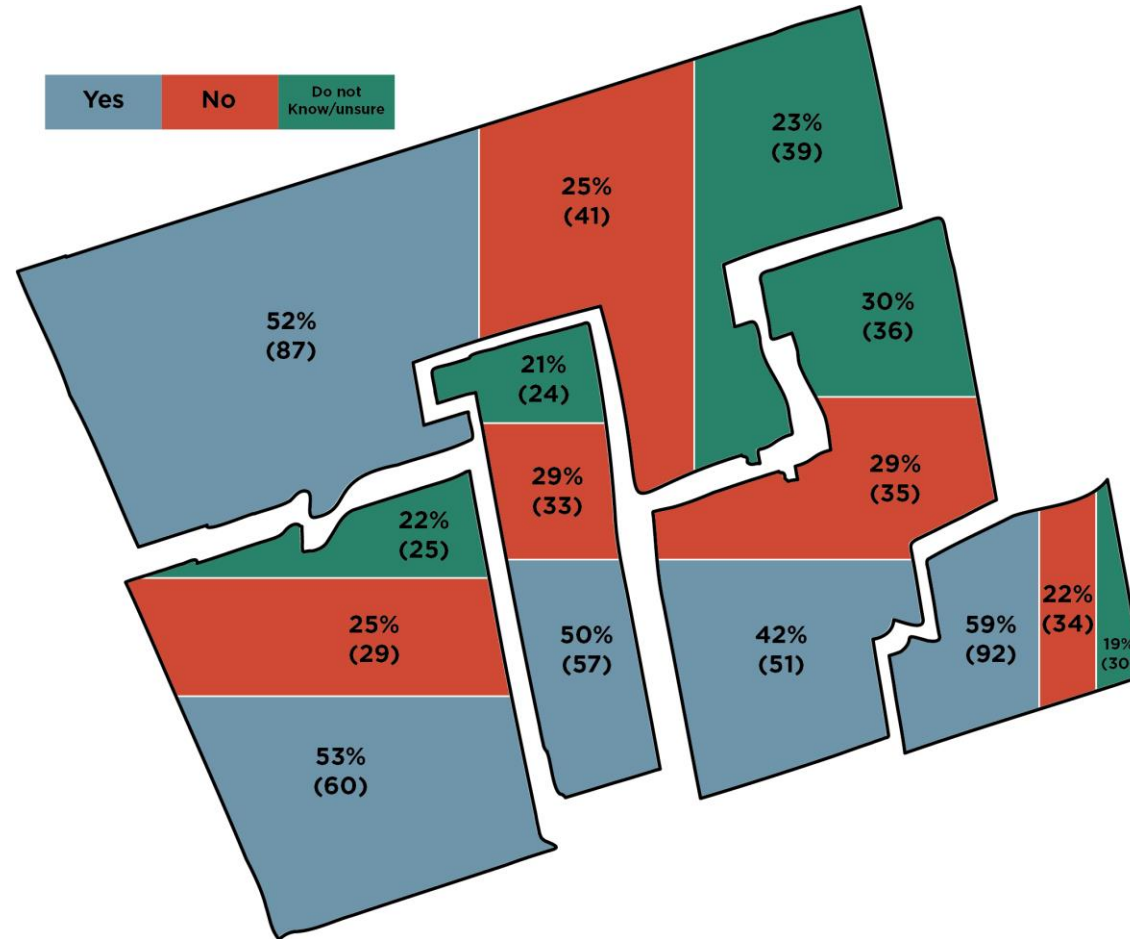


Do you feel the current ward boundaries accurately represent you?

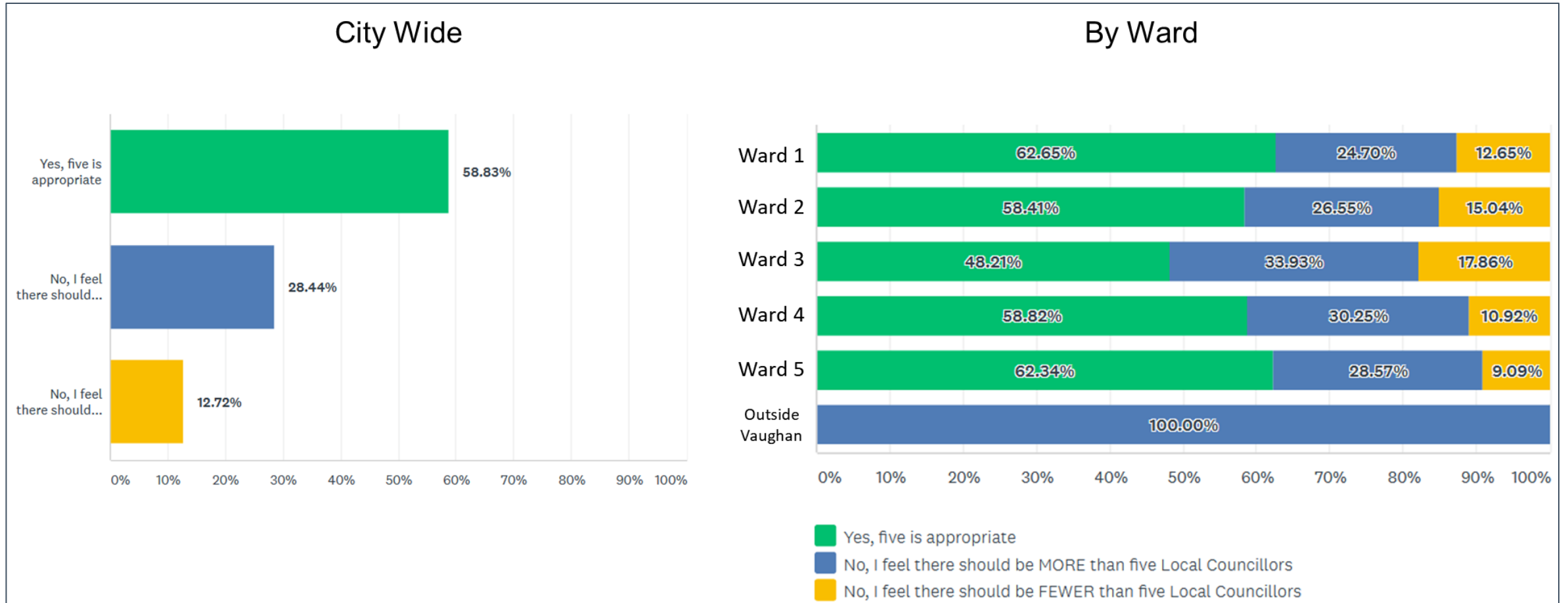


- While people are relatively satisfied with how well represented they are, many had more to say about what works and what does not work. For example:
 - Ward 1 is very large and needs some re-thinking.
 - Urbanization and population growth might make the wards go out of balance. The current wards do not take future growth into account.
 - Highways (in particular the 400) need to be taken into consideration.
 - "Pockets of communities that really do not associate."
 - Large wards are hard to represent.
 - It is not clear how the old wards were created. The boundaries could make more sense.
 - General confusion and frustration with the role of Regional Councillors, though this is out of the scope for this review.
 - A substantial minority would like to look at the question of how many councillors are needed to represent the growing population.
 - Satisfaction is often linked to the responsiveness of individual councillors, not the boundaries themselves...also out of the scope for the review, but important to hear.

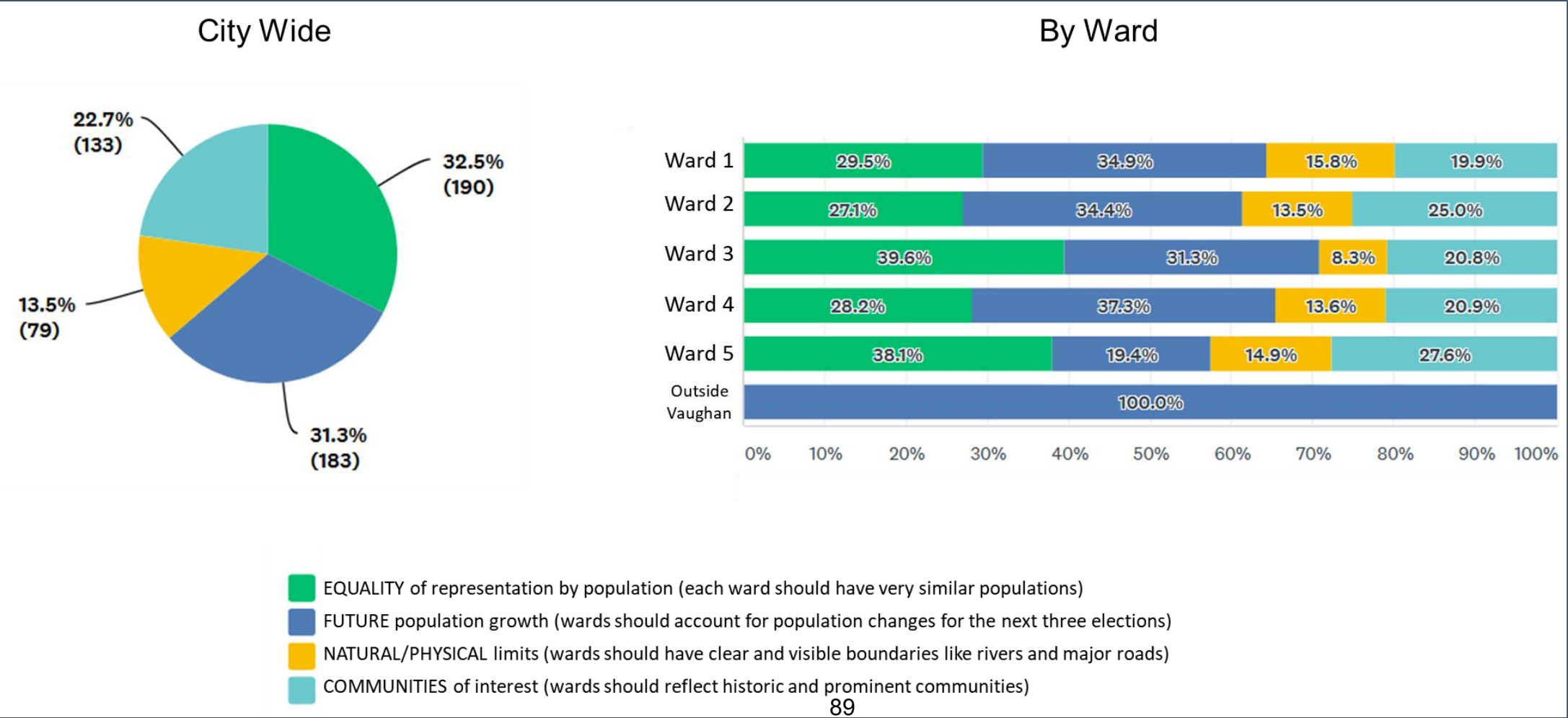
Do you feel the current ward boundaries accurately represent you?



Does the City have the right number of Local Councillors? (not including the Mayor and three Regional Councillors)



Which principle do you believe should be given the highest priority as the Consultant Team assesses the ward boundaries in Vaughan? The others would still be considered but given less emphasis.



Which principle do you believe should be given the highest priority as the Consultant Team assesses the ward boundaries in Vaughan? The others would still be considered but given less emphasis.



- Of the 585 who answered this question, almost half took the time to explain their answers.
- Equality and fairness are clearly high values among respondents. Several people argued that focusing on getting the numbers balanced might have a unifying effect, because the wards would reduce the emphasis on differences among neighbourhoods, in ethnicity, class, and income levels. Residents have connections across the City and emphasizing differences can cause unnecessary "rifts." Mostly, the arguments in favour of equality have to do with a councillor's ability to represent people and help their constituents in a timely manner.
- The surprisingly large percentage of people who prioritized future growth were clear that Vaughan is still growing and they want to see good planning. There is a lot of concern/awareness of issues around traffic, new developments, and infrastructure demands.
- Over 25% of respondents prioritized communities of interest for ward boundaries, citing concerns that councillors "represent my values," and maintaining and preserving historic characteristics, and focusing on policy issues that matter the most to people. It is important to residents that communities not "get lost with population growth," or at least they should not get split up.
- Among the small group of respondents who prioritized physical and natural boundaries, a concern for the environment bubbled up, as did the importance of clear boundaries because they support a sense of identity.

What We Heard

