

November 28, 2023

MGP File: 21-2950

**Mayor and Members of Council**  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive West  
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

via email: [clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:clerks@vaughan.ca)

Dear Mayor Del Duca and Members of Council:

**RE: Walk-On Report to Council November 29, 2023 Meeting: City of Vaughan Response to Provincial Modifications to York Region Official Plan, 2022**

**Site #7, Modification 66: Redesignation of Agricultural to Rural land, Block 62 West, City of Vaughan**

***We are asking the City to retain provincial modification #66 which redesignated 5 ha of Block 62 West Greenbelt lands from Agricultural to Rural within the Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt Plan in the York Region Official Plan.***

The subject lands consist of approximately 5 hectares of Greenbelt along the edges of the Block 62W lands. Once Block 62 West is developed, the remaining 5 hectares of land will no longer be accessible or suitable for agricultural use due to their small size, shape, and location requiring access through a future residential subdivision. The Block 62W lands are currently used for cash crops, and a horse farm. Neither use will be compatible or desirable adjacent to a suburban residential development.

The redesignation of the 5 hectares is consistent with the Greenbelt Plan. The Greenbelt Plan permits and encourages the provision of publicly accessible parkland throughout the document. The Plan's goals for the Urban River Valleys include public parklands and are copied below. Section 3.3 of the Greenbelt Plan is titled Parkland, Open Space and Trails and states: *Maintaining and expanding the supply of publicly accessible parkland, open space and trails is encouraged through strategic planning activities that identify, plan for and protect these resources for current and future generations.*

### **1.2.3 Urban River Valley Goals**

To integrate the Greenbelt into urban areas that were not part of the Greenbelt's initial boundaries, by promoting the following matters within the Urban River Valley designation:

- Protection of natural and open space lands along river valleys in urban areas which will assist in ecologically connecting the rest of the Greenbelt Area to the Great Lakes and other inland lakes;
- Protection of natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions along urban river valleys, including coastal *wetlands*;
- Conservation of *cultural heritage resources*;
- Provision of a gateway to the rural landscape of the Greenbelt; and
- Provision of a range of natural settings on publicly owned lands for recreational, cultural and tourism uses, including parkland, open space land and trails.

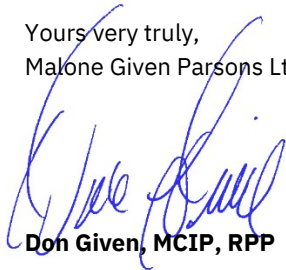


The lands subject to the amendment are above the Humber River Valley. This makes a farm connection between the valley and these lands difficult or impossible. The lands are outside of the valley's protective buffers and within the actively cultivated areas directly adjacent. They do not contain any natural heritage features and will not be of sufficient size or have access for agricultural machinery and uses. Their location makes them a perfect potential addition to public parkland and trails which would overlook the Humber River Valley.

The lands are within the Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt Plan which contains lands within the Agricultural System, Natural System as well as Settlement Areas. The Agricultural System contains lands designated as Rural and Agricultural in lower-tier official plans. A Rural designation within the Greenbelt in the York Official Plan is more fitting for these lands as once Block 62 W is developed, the lands can no longer be used for agriculture. The Rural designation in the Region's Official Plan will permit some of the lands to be used as public parkland and trails whereas an Agricultural designation does not allow for this. The landowner group's interest in the Rural designation is to protect the lands for additions to future public parkland as the uses within the Block are refined through the planning process.

We believe retaining Provincial Amendment # 66 for Site 7 in Vaughan is consistent with the Greenbelt Plan's vision and with the planning objectives of using land wisely and efficiently. We appreciate your consideration of retaining the Rural designation for the Block 62 West lands.

Yours very truly,  
Malone Given Parsons Ltd.



**Don Given, MCIP, RPP**

#### **Lands Subject to Provincial Modification # 66, Vaughan Site 7**



*Subject lands are shown in yellow. Humber River Valley is in the foreground, north is on the right side.*

- c. Haiqing Xu, City of Vaughan  
Block 62 West Landowners Group