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Communication

Age-Friendly Vaughan

Advisory Committee – May 27, 2024

Item No. 1

Vaughan Greenspace Strategic Plan

Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee

May 27, 2024

VAUGHAN CITY HALL

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Introduction

Age Friendly Community Action Plan

Associated action item

Action Item 2

Through parks planning, continue to ensure that park and open space design incorporate spaces and amenities that are accessible and encourage physical activity, wellness, and recreational opportunities for all ages.

Creating a city for all ages: Vaughan Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

April 2022



What is the Greenspace Strategic Plan?

An innovative plan that will shape the way we plan, design, implement and manage greenspaces for the next 30 years

A document that clearly defines and identifies current and projected gaps, needs and provisions of greenspace in Vaughan to help shape publicly accessible spaces that promote the highest quality design in excellence, connectivity, placemaking and responds to the environmental, social, economic and cultural imperatives facing the City.

The GSP will evaluate the current state of city-wide local parks and greenspaces and provide strategies and recommendations to guide future planning, acquisition, design, implementation, enhancement, and management of Vaughan's greenspaces.



Emerging Vision

Our greenspaces are an essential asset to the City that supports our economic prosperity, the celebration of culture, and the physical and mental health and well-being of our residents.

We are responsible for our greenspace system to provide ecological habitats, support climate resilience and function as green infrastructure.



Emerging Goals



Sustainable Funding

The acquisition, development, maintenance and lifecycle management is funded to meet the needs of residents.



Parkland Expansion

Open space and parkland continues to be secured to adequately meet the needs of a growing population while maintaining and protecting natural systems.



Equitable Access

Greenspaces are distributed based on equitable access to identified community needs.



Diverse Greenspace Experiences

A diversity of greenspace types, amenities and recreational opportunities are provided to meet the needs of a diverse community.



Increased Tree Canopy

Greenspaces contribute to achieving the City's tree canopy goals.



Adaptable Spaces

The function of parks and the amenities offered respond to the changing needs of the community.



Celebrate Culture

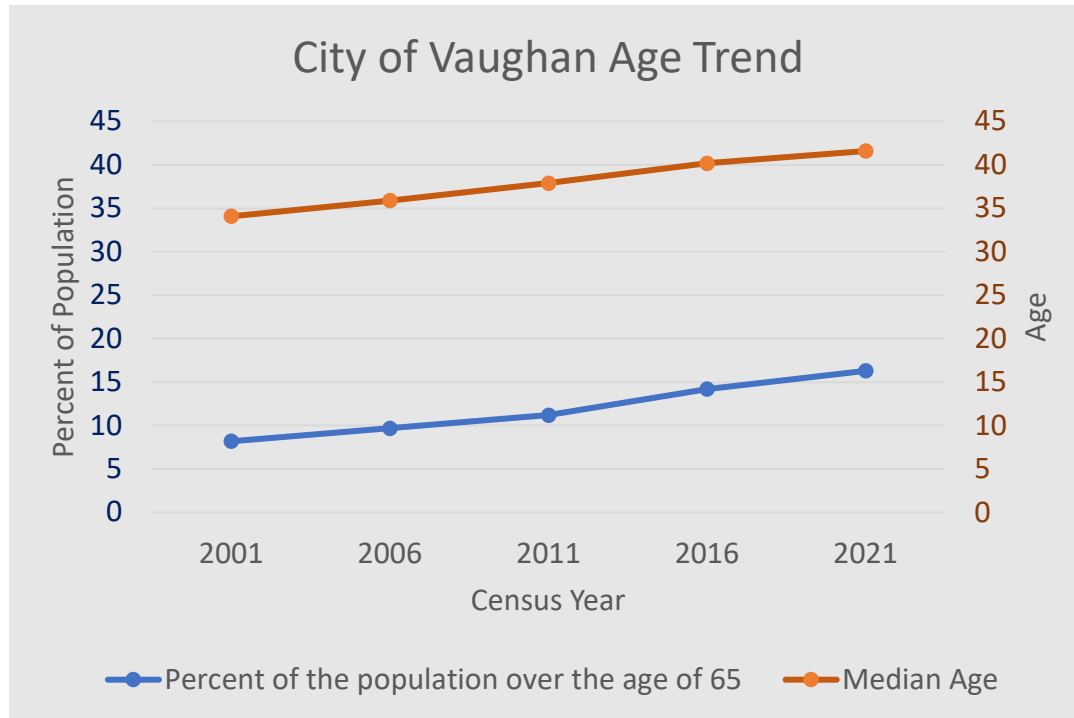
Parks and greenspaces play a larger role in celebrating the past, present and future cultural landscape in Vaughan.



Climate Resilience

The City's greenspaces help contribute to our climate resilience goals.

The Challenges



Rapid growth and increased urban intensification to accommodate an anticipated population of 576,200 by 2051.

Reduced parkland per person over time.



The Opportunities

- Greenspace that contributes to climate resilience
- Parks that provide a sense of community that goes beyond recreational programming
- Leverage existing greenspace network to define Vaughan's uniqueness
- Create a destination park that is of GTA significance
- Improve connectivity in the greenspace system
- Enhanced equitable access



The Resilient City of the Future

Greenspaces can attenuate flooding, clean the air we breathe, sequester carbon, and cool the City during heat waves. These spaces also improve public health by reducing stress, encouraging physical activity, and connecting us with the natural world and our communities.



Our Progress

Systems Approach

The approach will make full use of open spaces as places for passive and active uses, as well as productive, ecological infrastructure that can support in addressing the ecological imperatives of our generation, creating a healthier and more equal society, supporting economic activity, and bringing citizens together.



Living Natural Framework

The Living Natural Framework strives to define how the GSP planning methodology translates to built form that serves all of Vaughan's residents and offers opportunities beyond the City.

The Living Natural Framework adapts and supports human interaction, activity, recreation and experience. The landscape and its natural framework must have a robust carrying capacity that is flexible and adaptable to changes through time.



Living Natural Framework



Phase 1 Engagement

 **260**

Online Map
Comments

 **206**

Online Survey
Responses

 **189**

People at 10 pop
up events

 **1**

Community
Walk

 **17**

City senior staff
and council
interviews

 **1**

Virtual meeting
with stakeholders

 **3**

Workbooks
Completed

 **3**

Stakeholder
Advisory Group
Meetings

Greenspace Typologies

Existing Park Classification:

- Regional
- District
- Neighbourhood
- Urban
- Public Squares

Redefining park classification across the urban spectrum

Large parks in low-
and high-density
areas



Small parks in low-
and high-density
areas



Greenspace Typologies

Destination

- Signature Park

Nature

- Green Corridor
- Eco Park
- Tract

Culture

- Civic Plaza
- Heritage Park

Social

- Neighbourhood Park
- Parkette
- Community Park

Recreation

- Active Recreation Park
- Sports Park

Connective Corridor

- Streetscapes
- Greenways

Age-friendly considerations

- Age friendly pedestrian system
- Outdoor seating
- Signs and wayfinding
- Washrooms
- Places for social interaction



What's Coming

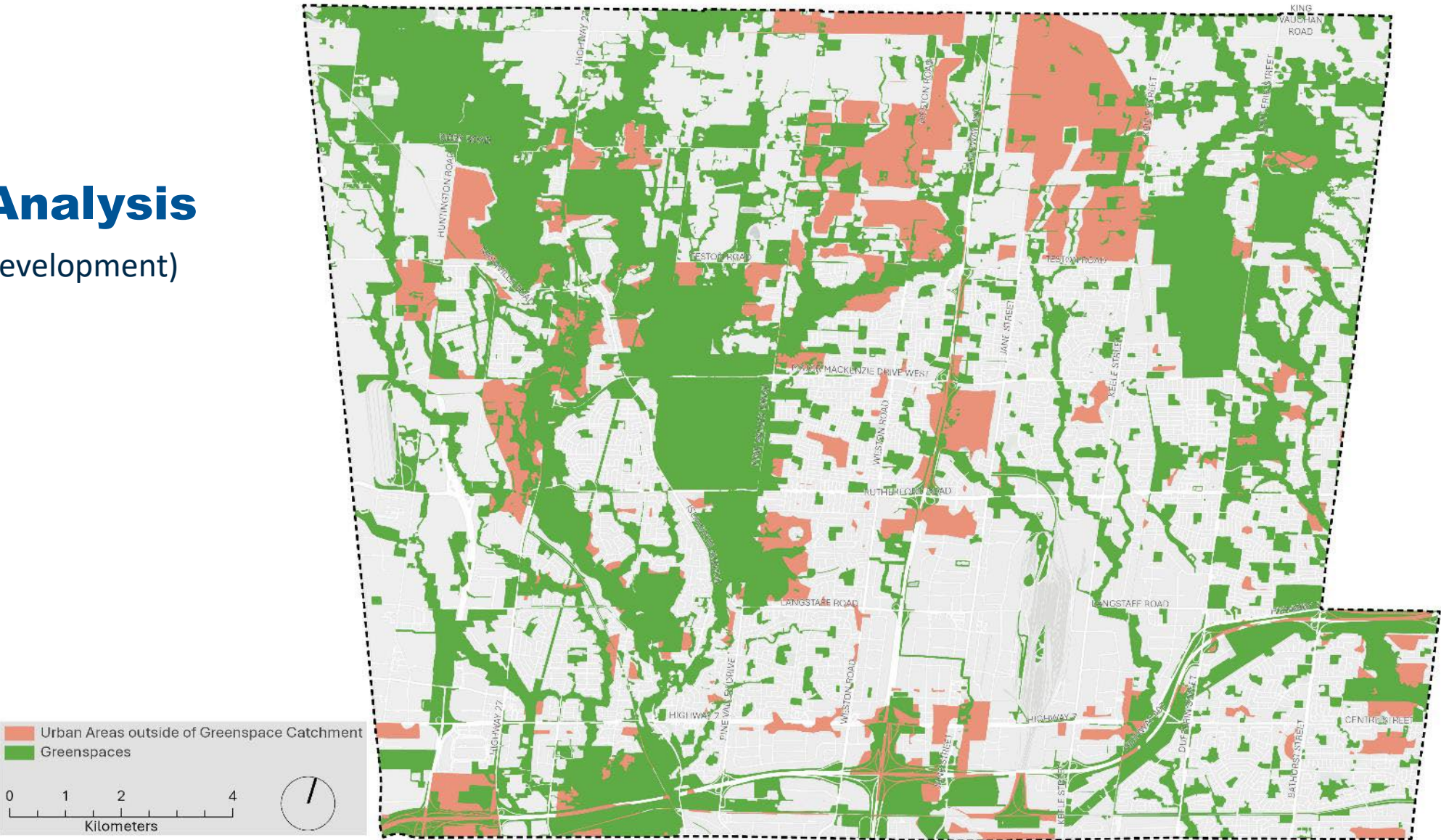
What's to Come

- A recommended park re-classification system
- A system that provides real time data to make decisions
- Funding mechanisms and strategy
- Policies, guidelines, actions, recommendations
- Gap prioritization to inform strategic acquisitions

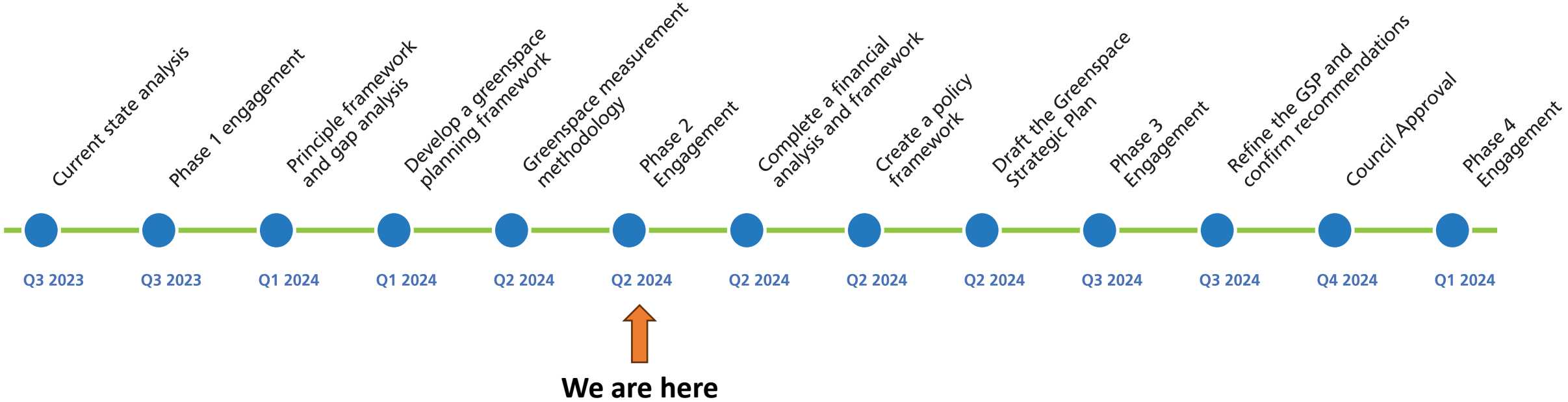


Gap Analysis

(Under development)

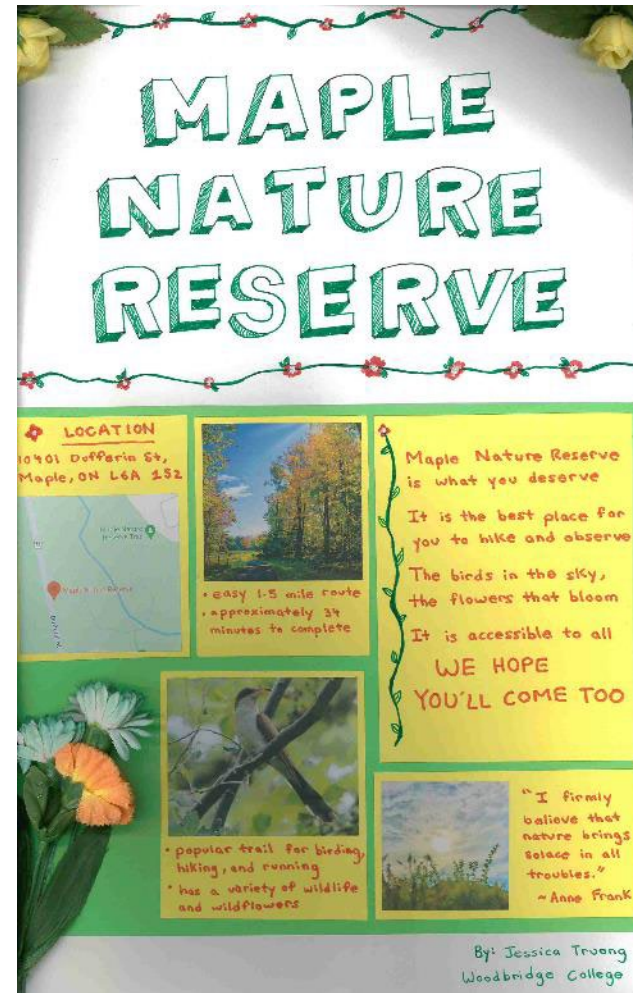


Project Timeline



Committee Feedback

1. What can placemaking look like within greenspaces? What considerations should be factored into making great spaces for individuals in different stages of life?
2. What is the biggest gap in the current greenspace system to make it more age friendly?
3. How would partnerships provide the largest value to the greenspace systems?



Questions & Discussion

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Thank You.

