

2023 - 2024

Annual Progress Report

Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

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About the action plan

Through the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, the City of Vaughan is taking important steps to create a more age-friendly community, where all residents can be active and engaged members of society at every stage of life. This ten-year action plan sets out a long-term vision, collective goals and inclusive strategies to improve upon the ability of seniors within the city to age at home and live well in their communities. Importantly, by planning for our seniors and more vulnerable populations in mind, we will create a more age-friendly city for all.



Outdoor spaces & public buildings



Upcoming in 2025-2026

Continue to explore opportunities to expand winter snow removal program for seniors.

Ongoing

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.

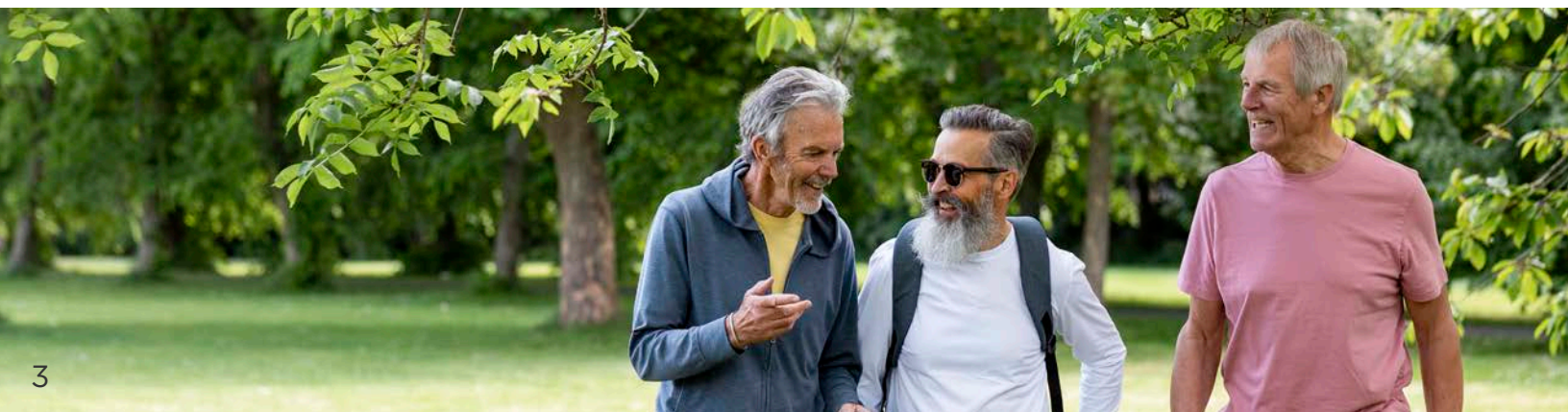
Completed

Continue to make improvements to street lighting, pedestrian crossings and signal times, and overall community safety.

Progressing as Anticipated

Expand opportunities to support the development of community gardens accessible to all ages and abilities.

Identify opportunities to create more walkable neighbourhoods.





Achievements



Low-impact exercise equipment
benefitting all users installed
at Gallanough Park



Multi-generational play
elements and adjacent accessible
seating added to multiple parks



Pickleball lines added to
select tennis courts and new
dedicated pickleball courts
open to the public



Complete Streets Design Guidelines
developed with a focus on
designing for older adults



Enhanced traffic-calming measures
installed through MoveSmart, the
City's Mobility Management Strategy



Community garden revitalization
resulted in the enhancement of
Sugarbush community garden



Picnic tables placed along paths
from Vaughan Grove community
garden to Villa Giardino residence



New technology
to improve sidewalk winter
maintenance and safety introduced

Transportation



Ongoing

Continue efforts to enhance bus stop accessibility, equity, comfort, and safety.

Create greater awareness of transit options across the city.

Completed

Work with community partners to promote, and support opportunities to expand alternative transportation modes.

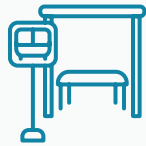
Progressing as Anticipated

Explore opportunities to provide a needs-based transit subsidy.





Achievements



Transportation services

Advocacy for transportation services for older adults made at the regional level



MyRide Travel Training Program

Increased marketing of the free MyRide Travel Training Program



One Fare program

Introduction of the One Fare program connecting multiple transit systems and reducing costs



York Region Transit

Collaboration with York Region Transit to provide ongoing feedback and programming support



Housing



Upcoming in 2025-2026

In support of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy, establish policies, and identify opportunities, to provide a range of housing forms that meet the diverse and changing needs of residents.

Explore opportunities for community partnerships to pilot a Home Share program in Vaughan.

Share information and promote funding options for home adaptation, repair, and modification programs.

Support community partners in efforts to promote and increase in-home supports for seniors and people with disabilities.



Achievement



Enbridge Energy

Supported the promotion of free Enbridge energy upgrades and retrofits



Inclusive
Housing for a
Vibrant
Community

Respect & social inclusion



Ongoing

Work with community partners to increase awareness and share resources to combat ageism and elder abuse.

Work with local seniors' clubs to explore opportunities for integrated programs and activities.

Engage and partner with community organizations to identify and develop programming opportunities that support the diverse needs of residents and older adults.

Progressing as Anticipated

Celebrate the contributions of seniors and youth through a local art exhibition.





Achievements



Building stronger senior communities
with programs addressing
elder abuse



\$25,000 in provincial grant funding
to deliver 6 lunch-and-learn sessions,
4 technology workshops and 150
Nordic walking poles in 2023



Lunch and Learns
340 seniors attended organized
lunch and learns on safety topics



**Introduced promotional bocce
and badminton rental rates**
for local seniors' sports clubs to
encourage healthy active living



**Seniors are an
important stakeholder**
and their needs a key
consideration throughout the
recent User Fee Policy review



First Aid Training
4 free basic first aid trainings for
seniors delivered as a result of
2024 provincial grant funding

Civic participation & employment



Upcoming in 2025-2026

Engage with Older Adult Task Force/Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee as part of City planning initiatives.

Progressing as Anticipated

Expand age-friendly awareness among local businesses.

Completed

Explore and promote City and community volunteer and employment opportunities.



Achievements



9 aquatic leadership courses
funded through provincial grants in
2023 to assist in increasing
employment among seniors



8 presentations
delivered to the Age-Friendly
Vaughan Advisory Committee focused
on the advancement of older adult
priorities in Vaughan



Prioritizing
Health
& Community

Communication and information



Ongoing

Expand digital access and literacy among residents and seniors.

Enhance online presence of community information and services.

Continue efforts to ensure communication and promotional materials create positive and inclusive images celebrating the city's diversity.





Achievements



3 grants valued at \$60,000+
received by Vaughan Public Libraries
(VPL) to expand older adult
programming and services



Wisdom Exchange:
a VPL program fostering
intergenerational connections
between teens and older adults



Kitchen Traditions:
a VPL program that lets older adults
share kitchen traditions with the
community and additional funding
expected to extend the
program into 2025



Wellness Rhythms:
a new VPL drum and percussion
program for older adults



90 older adults participated in
special VPL programming offered
during Senior's Month



Information and services
promoted online and in
other accessible formats



Inclusive promotional materials
produced by the City
celebrates all ages



Age-friendly City materials
consistently shared
across all platforms

Community support & health services



Upcoming in 2025-2026

Explore opportunities to develop a community hub.

Progressing as Anticipated

Develop relationship with the Western York Region Ontario Health Team to further advocate for health services in Vaughan.



Achievements



Multiple stakeholder meetings held to explore the development of a Seniors Community Hub, a priority for 2025



Several City networking meetings with different levels of government held to advocate for older adult services such as transportation, parks and recreation



Cultivating
Growth
at Every Age

Social participation



Ongoing

Continue to explore options to expand recreational program delivery including options for inter-generational programs, programs for people living with dementia, programs that meet the needs of ethno-cultural groups, programs in other languages, and outdoor and virtual programming.

Completed

Explore opportunities for additional training for front-line staff to support seniors.

Work with community organizations to coordinate monthly 'Coffee Connections'.





Achievements



Community profile data sets
for seniors are continually used to help inform programming and deliver relevant and accessible activities



Expanded partnership with Smiles Foundation
resulted in the delivery of 2 older adult dance programs in salsa and line dancing



Daytime Shinny
Launched new older adult supervised daytime shinny hockey



Ice Hockey League
Launched new 50+ ice hockey league



Aquafitness
4 high-quality pre-recorded aquafitness videos filmed and shown on community centre smartboards to meet program demand (funded through provincial New Horizons grant)



AODA Staff Training
All City staff training is delivered in compliance with AODA standards



12 educational Coffee Connections
workshops on 6 different topics relevant to older adults delivered through the provincial Seniors Community Grant program



Major highlight



In 2024, Vaughan was accepted into the World Health Organizations' Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

The mission of the WHO's Network is to stimulate and enable cities and communities around the world to become increasingly age-friendly through international collaboration and knowledge sharing. This global recognition is a testament to the work of Vaughan Council, City staff and the members of the Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee who have been diligently working to improve the lives of older adults in Vaughan.



City of Vaughan

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