

# Heritage Vaughan Committee Report

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**DATE:** Wednesday, November 27, 2024

**WARD:** 2

**TITLE:** DOCTORS MCLEAN DISTRICT PARK REDEVELOPMENT  
LOCATED AT 8100 ISLINGTON AVENUE 90% PLANS  
PRESENTATION

**FROM:**

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning, Growth Management and Housing Delivery

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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**Purpose**

To provide information to the Heritage Vaughan Committee regarding the status of the Doctors McLean District Park Redevelopment as the first phase of the Study nears completion.

**Report Highlights**

- Work for the park redevelopment is expected to begin by spring 2025 and be completed by summer 2026.
- Current plans are at 90% complete.
- A full Stage 2 Archaeological Report is expected to be received by early to mid-November 2024.

**Recommendation**

1. THAT the information provided in this report, and Staff's presentation on the 90% plans for Doctor Maclean's Park redevelopment at 8100 Islington Avenue in the Woodbridge Heritage Conservation District, be RECEIVED.

## **Background**

Doctors McLean District Park (8100 Islington Avenue) is a cherished Ward 2 park located next to the Humber River, within the Woodbridge Heritage Conservation District. The City of Vaughan is working to connect a key link in the Humber Trail, closing the gap between Clarence Street and both Islington Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue, through the construction of a new bridge and pathways in the park.

The city is taking this opportunity to enhance other elements of the park, including replacing the playground, adding a splashpad, building a new shade structure and adding educational/interpretive signage. Work is anticipated to begin by spring 2025 and be completed by summer 2026. These improvements are being partially funded by the Province of Ontario.

On November 23, 2023, the city held an Open House at the Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena (5020 Highway 7) in the Community Room, for residents to learn more about the project, provide feedback and speak to the project team. An online public engagement meeting was held in May 2024 for the same purpose.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

N/A

## **Analysis and Options**

A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report was completed by May 30, 2023. The Stage 1 field review, conducted on April 25, 2023, confirmed that approximately 20% of the project area retains archaeological potential. Therefore, it was recommended that a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment be required.

Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment has now been completed, with a letter received from the TRCA in June 2024 (see Attachment 4). A full report is expected to be received in November 2024 and will be added as a Consultant Communication for the meeting date. A new access route is being discussed but needs TRCA agreement and also possible additional Stage 2 AA work, to be determined.

There are three (3) heritage/educational signs that will line the trail, discussing the history of the area and specific geographical location based on the findings of the archeological assessments and consultation with Indigenous communities. The consultants will present the 90% submission plans – the soft submission is expected in November 2024 and will be added as part of the Consultant Communication.

Of the three (3) heritage/educational signs, one will specifically discuss Indigenous history of the area. Consultation with various Indigenous parties, such as the Six Nations of the Grand River, Haudenosaunee and the Mississaugas of the Credit First

Nation began right from the beginning of the project conception. They have taken part in an open house, conceptual design and interpretive panel collaborations. There will be a birch bark canoe component to the play area, which has been entirely designed with Indigenous consultation.

The consultant for the redevelopment will present the up-to-date submission at the Heritage Vaughan Committee meeting on November 27, 2024, and will make that material available at the time of the meeting.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no requirements for new funding associated with this report.

### **Operational Impact**

N/A

### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

There are no broader regional impacts or considerations.

### **Conclusion**

The plans for Doctor McLean District Park redevelopment are at 90% completion. Park redevelopment is expected to begin by spring 2025 and be completed by summer 2026. Parks Infrastructure Planning and Development staff, along with Cultural Heritage staff, will be reviewing the proposed educational heritage signs which will line the pathway and present a history of the subject area and geographical climate.

**For more information**, please contact: Vanessa Lio, Heritage Specialist, ext. 8152.

### **Attachments**

1. Location Map.
2. Doctors McLean Overall Park Plan.
3. Stage 1 AA Report.
4. Stage 2 AA – TRCA Letter.

### **Prepared by**

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