

Vaughan GSP

Task 6 | Policy Framework

March 2025



Table of Contents

Introduction.....1

 Summary of Task 4 and 5 Findings.....1

Key Components of Task 4.....1

Key Components of Task 5.....2

GSP Targets3

Vaughan Official Plan Policy Changes.....4

Parkland Acquisition Criteria20

Parkland Funding and Acquisition Actions23

Strategic Actions.....26

Conclusion37

INTRODUCTION

The Greenspace Strategic Plan (GSP) provides an overall framework to help guide decision-making for the planning, acquisition, development and implementation of greenspaces in the City of Vaughan. This is the final report in a series of six and provides policy updates to be included in the Draft Vaughan Official Plan 2025 and actions and recommendations for the City to implement over the timeframe of the GSP.

The following report provides policies recommendations for the Draft Vaughan Official Plan 2025 as it relates to greenspace development and management, as well as short-, medium- and long-term strategic actions for the City to implement with the goals of: improving the effectiveness of addressing greenspace needs and gaps; addressing current challenges such as funding parkland acquisition and development; enhancing internal processes and decision-making consistency and transparency; and seeking partnership opportunities to enhance and coordinate the development of Vaughan's greenspace system.

SUMMARY OF TASK 4 AND 5 FINDINGS

Task 4 and Task 5 respectively looked at the development of a greenspace planning framework and a financial analysis of the current state in Vaughan and future challenges. This task report takes the analysis and discussion of Task 4 and 5 and provides policies and strategic actions to implement the planning framework and address the gaps and challenges facing Vaughan.

KEY COMPONENTS OF TASK 4

A review of Vaughan's parks and open space classifications and classifications found in municipal benchmarking was conducted as part of Task 2. Task 4 recommended the City maintain their existing five park types of:

- Regional Park
- District Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Urban Park
- Public Square

As part of the recommendation, the two types of Neighbourhood Park and Public Square were reduced to one each. In addition to the five types listed above, the GSP recommends a new park Destination Park type be added. A comprehensive description of the park typologies can be found in Task 4.

While reviewing parkland provision targets it was determined that the existing target of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people will be extremely challenging to achieve given the legislative changes and

projected population growth. The GSP suggests the following targets regarding hectares of land per person:

- City-wide: Maintain a city-wide 2 hectares per 1,000 people parkland target and achieve 1.6 hectares per 1,000 people at 2051 city-wide.
- VMC and Primary Centres as illustrated on the draft Schedule 1A Strategic Growth Areas: A minimum target of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people in the VMC and Primary Centres.

In addition, Task 4 reviewed the concepts of off-site parkland dedication and over dedication. Task 4 contains an overview of the analysis.

Finally, Task 4 developed draft decision making criteria to compare specific parcel acquisition opportunities for parkland. The criteria are to help consistently guide staff and Council when identifying comparable lands for new parkland.

KEY COMPONENTS OF TASK 5

In Task 5, a land needs analysis identified potential parkland acquisition funding gaps based on three different parkland target scenarios listed below:

- Maintaining a target of 2.0 hectares of parkland per 1000 people
- The proposed target of 1.6 hectares of parkland per 1000 people
- A more achievable target of 1.4 hectares of parkland per 1000 people

The three scenarios found that maintaining and even lowering the City's parkland provision target will produce significant anticipated funding gaps to keep pace with Vaughan's anticipated population growth. The full analysis can be found in Task 5.

A suggested financial strategy was also included in Task 5 and included the following recommendations:

- Shift budgetary reliance to external and alternative funding sources;
- Coordinate land use and park provision efforts across City departments;
- Use capital funds to bank land in Strategic Growth Areas; and
- Review existing the municipal land registry for surplus and residual parcels.

GSP TARGETS

The Vaughan Official Plan 2010 (VOP 2010) currently references the 2018 Active Together Master Plan for city-wide parkland targets. With the introduction of the GSP, the new Vaughan Official Plan 2025 (VOP 2025) will instead reference the GSP for these targets. This approach of embedding the greenspace targets within the GSP rather than the VOP 2025 itself, provides greater flexibility and ease to amend the targets as necessary without requiring amendments to the Official Plan.

The following greenspace and parkland targets were developed through the GSP process, drawing on technical analysis, best practices, community input, and lessons from past plans. These targets are aspirational yet grounded in practical considerations.

1. Achieve a city-wide target of 1.6 hectares of parkland per 1000 people by the year 2051.

The GSP recommends a city-wide parkland target of 1.6 hectares per 1000 people by 2051. However, the City should continue to maintain a parkland target of 2.0 hectares per 1000 people in the short term as future parks are planned and/or secured for future construction/implementation. As the population continues to increase and with current legislative challenges, a city-wide target of 1.6 hectares per 1000 people is a reasonable target to maintain long term.

2. Adopt a Strategic Growth Area parkland service target for the VMC and Primary Centres of 0.3 hectares per 1000 people.

The VMC and Primary Centres as depicted on the draft Schedule 1A, Strategic Growth Areas, are the highest density growth areas in the City where land values are very high. Achieving Vaughan's city-wide parkland service target will be challenging given the costs and the fragmentation of land in these areas. A parkland service target of 0.3 hectare per 1000 people was determined to be a practical and achievable target to provide a high-quality supply of parkland for residents and employees in these areas.

3. Adopt a greenspace service target to ensure all residents living in an Urban Area are within a 500 metre walk of parkland by 2051.

Creating an equitable and accessible greenspace system is a high priority in the GSP. Ensuring that all residents living in the Urban Area are within a 500 metre walk to a park, equating to a 5 to 10-minute direct walk of a park, improves their ability to reach a park nearby.

4. Maintain a parkland service target that all residents are within 2.5 kilometres of a District Park.

District Parks act as community hubs and provide greater availability for various recreation opportunities. As recommended in the Land Acquisition Strategy 2020, this target remains relevant to ensure relatively easy access for residents to access District Park amenities.

VAUGHAN OFFICIAL PLAN POLICY CHANGES

To implement the GSP, policies have been developed to be incorporated into the VOP 2025. The VOP 2010 references the 2018 ATMP as the guiding document for park types and targets. Updated policies in the VOP 2025 will ensure official plan policies appropriately identify and guide the relationship between parkland and development within the city. No changes are suggested to the Secondary Plans to achieve alignment with the GSP.

The GSP team and the Community Spaces Plan (CSP) team will work together to align the two documents as much as possible prior to the approval of the GSP. Since the ATMP will soon be replaced, no changes are suggested for the ATMP.

Suggestions for new and revised VOP 2025 policies are identified in Table 1 below. Introductory sections under Section 7.3 in the VOP 2010 will also require updating to reflect the changes from the ATMP to the GSP.

Table 1: Vaughan Official Plan 2010 Policy Updates and New Policies

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
Defined terms in Chapter 3.5	<p>Interim Open Space is a temporary public space created to enhance urban areas for a limited time, providing recreational and community benefits until park and recreation facilities are developed.</p> <p>Net Developable Area includes all lands available for development for both private and public uses, including residential and employment uses, private open space and infrastructure (e.g., local and Regional streets and stormwater management ponds). The developable area excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental features and areas identified in policy 3.6.3 unless such areas have been utilized for associated servicing infrastructure. • The Regional Greenlands System and approved local municipal natural heritage systems where development is prohibited; • Key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and any required buffers; • Major infrastructure rights-of-way (i.e., existing 400-series highways and finalized route alignments for extensions or future 400-series highways, utility lines, and rail lines); • Land that is being conveyed to the City for parkland; and • Existing uses (e.g., cemeteries, estate subdivisions). <p>Gross Developable Area includes all lands available for development for both private and public uses including residential and employment uses, private open space and infrastructure (e.g., local and Regional streets and stormwater management ponds).</p>

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
Callout for Chapter of the Parks and Open Space Network in the VOP	<p>Vaughan's parks and open spaces assume many forms located throughout the city and together form Vaughan's Greenspace Network. Parks and open spaces provide key functions such as protecting wildlife habitats and their ecological functions, improving human health and well-being, and supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The city's parks support a variety of active and passive uses. The city's open spaces also support active and passive uses, and predominantly include natural heritage features that serve ecological functions, such as sensitive wetlands, valley lands and forests, the Don and Humber River systems. Open space types also include cemeteries, trails, hydro corridors, privately-owned publicly accessible spaces, and the casually tended landscapes around stormwater management ponds.</p> <p>The City's Greenspace Strategic Plan and subsequent updates will support the City in shaping and guiding the provision of parkland, park typologies, and addresses planning, design, implementation and management of an integrated greenspace network.</p> <p>The City's Community Spaces Plan guides the provision of indoor and outdoor recreation, community centres and library facilities. The Community Spaces Plan assesses current levels of service and makes recommendations on policy, service and community spaces infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>As Vaughan grows and intensifies, more opportunities for a diversity of new parks and recreational spaces will be identified. The City will need to consider the provision of both active and passive recreational uses to serve the community's varied needs. Parkland and open space provision will respond to a number of priorities, encompassing a range of outdoor facilities and amenities that support both structured activities and informal enjoyment of natural and urban environments. Realizing and enhancing the full spectrum of open spaces in Vaughan, whether public or private, active or passive, and formal and informal, is essential in developing a network that plays a role in connecting destinations, encouraging citizens to enjoy a range of outdoor recreational activities.</p>
Definition of Active and Passive	<p>What are active uses?</p> <p>Sports activities and other activities requiring specialized facilities, such as playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, baseball, soccer, cricket, racquet sports, aquatics, bocce, hockey, off-leash dog areas and other similar uses.</p> <p>What are passive uses?</p> <p>Activity characterized by low-intensity outdoor pastimes, using unstructured social and recreation facilities such as seating areas, picnic areas, nature trails and other similar uses.</p>

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
New Policy	<p>Vaughan's Parks and Open Space Network It is a policy of Council:</p> <p>To work in cooperation with York Region, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Province, the Government of Canada, and private landowners to achieve a vibrant, accessible, and interconnected City-wide parks and open space network.</p>
New Policy	That where there is a conflict between the Parks and Open Space Network policies, the policies pertaining to the underlying land use designation in this Plan, or the relevant secondary plan, the more restrictive policies shall apply.
New Policy	To implement the parkland objectives and targets of the Greenspace Strategic Plan , and parkland facilities as outlined in the Vaughan Community Spaces Plan , as amended from time to time.
New Policy	That over the horizon of this Plan, all residents of Vaughan should have access to parkland located within 500 metres, so as to typically be within a five to ten minute walk.
New Policy	That existing parks shall be maintained in public ownership, and that the establishment of new parks shall be prioritized through the parkland dedication policies in subsection 3.5.5 of this Plan prioritizing fee simple land over encumbered lands, stratified lands, Privately Owned Public Spaces, or payment-in-lieu.
7.3.1	<p>Parkland System This plan establishes a hierarchy of City-owned parks that are planned, designed and integrated into the fabric of the city to provide a balanced distribution of park facilities and activities throughout Vaughan.</p> <p>Establishing a parkland hierarchy ensures that a diverse mix of park spaces are provided across the city, depending on the context. The difference in land use goals for Community Areas and Strategic Growth Areas results in a different approach in park size, design, and programming for each area.</p> <p>In Strategic Growth Areas where there may be fewer opportunities for outdoor amenity space due to lower land availability, a parkland system that is diverse, flexible, and strategically connected to the pedestrian network may be best to serve residents. The City and development partners shall work together with innovative and creative approaches to the design of the public space network to achieve parkland provision targets in Strategic Growth Areas.</p> <p>It is the policy of Council:</p>
7.3.1.1.	Delete policy 7.3.1.1., this policy is moved under the Vaughan's Parks and Open Space Network heading.

<p>7.3.1.2.</p>	<p>To support a comprehensive parks system that is equitably distributed throughout the city and is integrated with open space types, both public and private, in accordance with the Greenspace Strategic Plan, with the following park classifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Destination Parks are signature civic spaces that combine significant natural and cultural heritage resources with unique recreational experiences and provide amenities and attractions designed to draw visitors from a broader geographic area. These parks shall serve as major city-wide attractions, offering specialized facilities and flexible spaces for both daily use and large-scale events. Destination Parks shall promote environmental stewardship, protect natural and cultural resources, be used to host educational programs, and provide spaces for physical activity and passive recreation. These parks shall be accessible year-round via multiple transportation modes and include the necessary facilities and amenities to support extended visits, festivals and city-wide events. b. Regional Parks are expansive recreational and natural areas that serve as hubs for sport, recreation, and leisure. These parks are intended to offer planned outdoor and/or indoor premium lit sport facilities for activities that require larger land areas. Regional Parks function as city-wide destinations and shall be capable of accommodating large-scale events and attractions that draw visitors from outside the local area, such as sport tournaments and passive recreation opportunities, such as multi-use trails. Regional Parks are intended to offer a natural escape while remaining accessible and inclusive to people of diverse interests, ages and abilities. c. District Parks serve to provide a wide range of outdoor sports, recreation, and community activity space, extending their reach beyond the immediate neighbourhoods and supporting the diverse needs of the larger communities within which they are located. District Parks are intended to support communities with varying degrees of urban density and foster a sense of community and social connection by providing access to district level amenities and facilities, such as washrooms and large format sports fields. d. Neighbourhood Parks serve as the foundation of our parks and greenspace system in greenfield and low-density neighbourhoods. These parks are intended to support local recreation by providing a balance of active recreational uses and passive recreational uses, promote social gathering and host local community events to foster connections and strengthen community bonds. e. Urban Parks are versatile and multifunctional green spaces that shall be designed to serve high-density communities in Strategic Growth Areas. These parks shall provide intensively programmed outdoor spaces that facilitate diverse year-round recreational activities and community events. Urban Parks shall incorporate flexible programming spaces that accommodate day-to-day active and passive recreation, medium to large-scale community events, sport courts, playground facilities and supporting park amenities. These parks shall be designed and constructed to support intensive use through durable and sustainable materials, include robust
-----------------	--

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
	<p>municipal community amenities and facilities, and ensure long-term functionality and maintainability to meet the unique demands of higher-density neighbourhoods. Urban Parks shall demonstrate commitment to equitable access and inclusive design, year-round activation and programming, environmental sustainability, and community integration.</p> <p>f. Public Squares are programmed social and civic spaces that shall be designed to serve Strategic Growth Areas. These spaces shall incorporate both passive and active facilities to support diverse community needs and ensure year-round activation. Public Squares shall be strategically located in mixed-use, high-traffic areas adjacent to active frontages such as retail, food and beverage establishments, and public facilities to support neighborhood-oriented social opportunities. These spaces shall be situated in areas of high pedestrian activity and maintain clear visibility from adjacent streets. Public Squares shall be designed and constructed with durable and sustainable materials to support intensive use, incorporating robust municipal community amenities and facilities to ensure long-term functionality. These spaces may include public art, varied seating opportunities, canopy trees, active recreational facilities, and a balanced mix of hardscape and softscape areas. Public Squares shall be designed to respond to micro-climatic conditions, providing year-round weather protection, while supporting flexible programming for both daily use and organized events.</p>
New Policy	<p>In the pursuit of fostering community well-being, the City recognizes the importance of innovative approaches to delivering public parks, recreational and community spaces. Two such approaches - Strata Park and Interim Open Space -are methods to increase the availability of these spaces. A Strata Park is not a park type, but rather it shall mean a public park that contains encumbrances through stratified ownership arrangements, where:</p> <p>a. the surface of the park lands, air rights and subgrade area containing all park features, structures and utilities are owned by the City;</p> <p>b. the encumbered portions of the park (whether surface, above-grade, or below-grade) are privately owned and maintained;</p> <p>c. the park shall be publicly accessible at all times in perpetuity;</p> <p>d. the park shall be considered part of the City's parkland system and all parts of the park owned by the City will be City-operated and maintained; and,</p> <p>e. the park shall be given parkland credit for satisfying the parkland dedication requirements for a development or redevelopment in accordance with prevailing City policies and Section 3.5.5 of this Plan.</p>

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
New Policy	<p>That where a strata park is conveyed to the City, in addition to meeting all applicable park design requirements in Section 3.5.4 of this Plan, the following requirements shall be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Design Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. total encumbrances shall not exceed 60% of the total surface area of the park; ii. appropriate soil depth and structural support are provided to ensure long-term viability of park elements, with a minimum depth of 1.8 meters over any structural elements for large-canopy tree growth, while accommodating intended park programming, park-specific stormwater management, and maintaining flexibility for future park redesign needs; iii. ensure all access points to encumbered areas connect directly to public rights-of-way; iv. prohibit utility access points or other technical elements except where required by applicable building and safety codes; v. integrate any required access points, ventilation structures, or other technical elements in a manner that minimizes their visual and functional impact on the park. b. Infrastructure Limitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. no private infrastructure shall be permitted beneath the park including, but not limited to, private stormwater management infrastructure including cisterns, storage tanks, and associated mechanical equipment; private water or wastewater infrastructure; electrical infrastructure including transformer rooms, switchgear, and utility panels, mechanical rooms, telecommunication equipment, loading areas, waste storage, service corridors, commercial storage areas, and any other utilities or infrastructure not directly serving the park's operations and maintenance, with the exception of parking stalls; ii. no private infrastructure shall be permitted within the park except as approved by the City through the strata agreements.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
New Policy	<p>Where a strata park is conveyed to the City, the owner shall enter into agreements satisfactory to the City regarding access, maintenance, lifecycle replacement, and liability. Such agreements shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. maintenance responsibilities and standards for all park elements; b. cost-sharing agreements for shared infrastructure and repairs; c. emergency repair protocols and procedures; d. required inspections and reporting; e. dispute resolution mechanisms; f. insurance and liability requirements; g. restoration requirements for park elements impacted by repairs to encumbered areas; and h. lifecycle replacement schedules for major components.
New Policy	<p>That notwithstanding any policies in this Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the City maintains the right to require additional studies, reports, or agreements as deemed necessary and may establish additional strata park criteria or requirements; b. strata parks shall be developed in accordance with all other applicable policies of this Plan; c. parkland dedication credit shall be calculated net of all encumbrances in accordance with Section 3.5.5 of this Plan.
New Policy	<p>That the City shall pursue opportunities to establish interim open space to provide interim recreational uses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. privately-owned lands identified for future development; b. City-owned lands awaiting permanent development; c. underutilized portions of public rights-of-way; and d. other vacant or underutilized lands deemed suitable by the City.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
New Policy	<p>That Interim open space shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. be secured through agreements, where necessary, between the City and landowner(s), community organizations, or other parties, or through other appropriate mechanisms; b. be ineligible for both parkland credit and development charge reserve funding; c. maintain compliance with all applicable safety standards and regulations; d. provide appropriate liability insurance as determined by the City; e. be designed and constructed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. minimize installation and removal costs; ii. complement the existing parks network; iii. respond to community needs; iv. contain building materials and recreational facilities that can be re-used or re-purposed in future park or open space development; v. support year-round activation where feasible; vi. incorporate appropriate security measures; and vii. not preclude future development in accordance with the underlying land use designation.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
7.3.1.3.	<p>Open Space Typologies</p> <p>It is the policy of Council:</p> <p>To accommodate a variety of open space types, which may be publicly or privately owned, over and above parkland dedication, that provide important benefits to the city, and that are evenly distributed throughout the city in accordance with the Greenspace Strategic Plan, open space types are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Greenways, such as hydro corridors or other linear open spaces which are typically a minimum of 25 metres in width, provide important linkages for pedestrians and cyclists, can improve connections between significant destinations such as other parks and open spaces and community facilities, and may provide seating opportunities or shade within the greenway corridor; b. Natural areas, such as nature reserves and woodlots, located on public lands as well as, through partnerships, on private lands where such activities will not have an adverse impact on significant natural features and ecological functions in accordance with Chapter 3.6 of this Plan. Natural areas can provide opportunities for passive recreation and trails, subject to the policies contained in Chapter 3.6 of this Plan; c. Green infrastructure, such as open stormwater management facilities, in accordance with Chapter 3.10.4, that can provide opportunities for trails and resting areas and improve linkages to other parks and open spaces; d. Cemeteries, that can, where appropriate, provide opportunities for passive recreational uses such as pedestrian and bicycle routes; and e. Privately Owned Public Spaces, which is a type of urban open space that, while owned and maintained by private entities such as corporations or individuals, is open for public use without any fees or barriers.
New Policy	<p>That all Privately Owned Public Spaces shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. be publicly accessible at all times without any fees, physical barriers, or other impediments to public use; b. be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the City of Vaughan's POPS Guidelines and Standards, as amended from time to time; c. be secured through appropriate legal agreements and easements registered on title; and d. be ineligible for funding from the development charge reserve.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
7.3.2	<p>Parks and Open Space Design</p> <p>New parks and open spaces in the city must respond to an increasingly maturing and diverse urban environment and population. The City will continue to provide high quality and diverse parks that provide for the year-round recreational needs of a variety of residents.</p> <p>It is the policy of Council:</p>
7.3.2.1.	That parks and open spaces may include a range of community amenities and park facilities. The types of amenities provided should reflect the catchment area, target population, local needs and the park's functional characteristics, as appropriate to each park type.
7.3.2.2.	To encourage the naturalization of parks, where appropriate, at the City's discretion, to enhance Vaughan's Natural Heritage Network and provide additional opportunities for passive recreation. Park naturalization should not impede park programming required to meet provision targets.
7.3.2.3.	<p>That all parks shall generally be located and oriented to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. centrally located and designed to act as a focal point for the community; b. connected to other parks, open spaces and natural features, where applicable, to create an interconnected network of parks and open spaces uninterrupted by major physical barriers, such as rail lines, arterial and collector streets, and other physical barriers that restrict access; c. accessible by transit, bicycle, on foot, and by car; and d. highly visible with prominent public street frontage (50% of park perimeter) to enhance passive surveillance;

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
7.3.2.4.	<p>To design parks and open spaces to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. accommodate a diverse range of both all-season passive and active recreational activities and be adaptable for various programming needs and users; b. be of sufficient size and dimensions to support their intended recreational functions and programming requirements, including appropriate setbacks to adjacent uses, in a regular geometric configuration that facilitates flexible use of the space; c. reflect the diverse cultures in Vaughan by providing for unique activities and facilities that reflect the needs of the local community; d. accommodate universal accessibility and provide for a range of demographics and all ages and abilities; e. apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles; f. incorporate climate resilient design features to mitigate against extreme weather events; and g. accommodate compatible uses either on-site or adjacent to the site that can increase the activation of parks and open spaces.
7.3.2.6.	<p>Park sizes shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Destination Park: Size will vary b. Regional Park: Greater than 15 hectares c. District Park: Greater than 5 hectares d. Neighbourhood Park: Greater than 0.75 hectares e. Urban Park: Greater than 0.75 hectare f. Public Square: 0.2 to 0.75 hectare

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
7.3.2.7	<p>Where buildings or structures that support the planned function of parks and open spaces are proposed within parks and open spaces, they should be sited and designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. be a positive, attractive, sensitive and integrated element; b. protect, enhance and restore existing vegetation and natural heritage features; c. incorporate public amenities, including public art, and enhance the user experience of these areas; and d. enhance open space linkages, public access, visibility and effective use of the park or open space.
7.3.2.8	<p>Where development is proposed adjacent to parks or open spaces, development will proceed in accordance with the public realm policies in Section 3.3, and it shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. incorporate appropriate setbacks to accommodate building structures, overhangs, maintenance requirements and private access within the development site; b. configure building massing and orientation to optimize access to sunlight in parks throughout the day and seasons; c. be designed and oriented to provide comfortable wind conditions to parks throughout the seasons; d. locate all service areas, including loading zones, waste collection, and utility areas, away from the park; e. be oriented to maximize public access and views to such spaces; f. encourage and support the co-location of community services and facilities to benefit from greenspaces; g. present a primary and active façade to the park or open space; and h. provide for casual overlook thereby increasing the passive surveillance and safety of the park or open space.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
New policy to follow 7.3.2.8	<p>That Privately Owned Public Spaces shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provide recreational functions and features in accordance with the City of Vaughan's POPS Guidelines and Standards, as amended from time to time, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. include both active and passive uses appropriate to the space's size and location; and ii. respond to identified community needs and programming objectives; b. be developed to meet the following base requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be of sufficient size and dimensions to support their intended recreational functions and programming requirements, in a regular geometric configuration that facilitates flexible use of the space; ii. be located entirely outdoors in an unenclosed space at established grade, and not be contained within, above, under, or internal to any building or structure; iii. maintain public street frontage along a minimum of 50 percent of the space's perimeter, exclusive of private driveways; iv. incorporate active ground-floor uses along all building frontages adjacent to the space, with no blank facades, service areas, or other non-active uses permitted along these frontages; c. be encouraged to be constructed and completed in their entirety within a single phase of development, and where part of a multi-phase development, delivered within the early phases to maximize community benefit. <p>That Privately Owned Public Spaces receiving parkland credits shall not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. be used to satisfy amenity area requirements for development; b. be included in site area calculations for density purposes.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
7.3.3	<p>Parkland Dedication</p> <p>While Vaughan currently provides significant parkland resources for all communities, growth and intensification place increased pressure on existing parks and open spaces and accelerate the demand for new ones. Additional parkland will be required to meet future needs to maintain current levels of service and parkland provision. Most parkland is established under the provisions of the <i>Planning Act</i> by prioritizing land assembly and securement through parkland dedication, or where land conveyance is not feasible, payment-in-lieu of parkland dedication. While these tools will continue to be utilized, additional measures for acquiring parkland will be explored to maximize Vaughan's parkland resources.</p> <p>In addition to parkland dedication, open space resources will continue to be required through the development process, but outside of the parkland dedication process. These resources complement Vaughan's parkland, providing additional opportunities for passive recreation, establishing linkages between community resources, and contributing to a healthy natural environment.</p> <p>It is the policy of Council:</p>
7.3.3.1.	<p>To consider the parkland objectives and targets established in the Greenspace Strategic Plan, as amended from time to time, in the application of parkland dedication requirements in the development process. Communities that do not meet the active parkland targets are considered priorities for additional parkland resources.</p>

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
7.3.3.2.	<p>To require the provision of new parkland for all new residential development as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A conveyance, at the rate of 5% of the Net Developable Area, or one hectare of parkland per 600 dwelling units, or a combination of which, is the greatest; or b. Payment-in-lieu of parkland dedication, at the rate of 5% of the value of the Net Developable Area, or one hectare of parkland per 1,000 dwelling units, or a combination, whichever is the greatest. <p>Payment-in-lieu of parkland dedication, or a combination of payment-in-lieu and parkland conveyance, may be considered by the City where such contributions may be more effective in achieving local parkland targets and the objectives of the Greenspace Strategic Plan, such as in Strategic Growth Areas where parcels may be too small to result in an effective parkland dedication.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, such parkland contribution for residential or mixed-use development - whether in the form of parkland conveyance or payment-in-lieu as determined by the City—shall be subject to a cap of (i) 10% of the Gross Developable Area or its value, if the Gross Developable Area is 5 hectares or less; or (ii) 15% of the Gross Developable Area or its value, if the Gross Developable Area is greater than 5 hectares.</p>
7.3.3.3.	To require the dedication of parkland for all new non-residential development at the rate of 2% of the Net Developable Area. Payment-in-lieu of parkland dedication may be considered by the City where such contributions may be more effective in achieving local parkland targets and objectives identified in the Greenspace Strategic Plan.
7.3.3.4.	That parklands classified by the City as Destination Parks, Regional Parks, District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Urban Parks and Public Squares are eligible for parkland dedication credits through the development process. Open space types shall be established through other means.
New Policy	If a proposed park is identified within the limits of a property, the applicable park lands shall be dedicated to the City as a condition of the first residential development approval within the limits of the property and where necessary, be subject to appropriate legal agreements respecting interim use of the land for parking for existing uses, construction access and staging purposes, at a nominal fee to the land owner.
7.3.3.5.	Policy 7.3.3.5 is to be removed. A 50% park frontage policy has been included under 7.3.2.3.
7.3.3.6.	Delete policy 7.3.3.6.

Existing Section/Policy	Suggested Revised and/or New Policy Wording
New policy to follow 7.3.3.4.	That Privately Owned Public Spaces shall receive parkland dedication credit toward satisfying the parkland dedication requirements for a Development or Redevelopment , subject to meeting all requirements established in Sections of this Plan. Spaces that do not meet these requirements shall not be considered Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) .
New policy to follow 7.3.3.4.	The City will seek to prioritize the conveyance of fee simple lands over lands encumbered by public or private underground parking, utility easements, or utility structures located above or below grade. Encumbered or stratified parkland shall meet City standards, policies, and requirements.
7.3.3.7.	That lands containing Core Features of the Natural Heritage Network , or major utilities such as TransCanada Pipeline, Hydro One etc., or rail corridors, including environmental and safety buffers and zones, will not be accepted for the purposes of satisfying parkland dedication requirements.
7.3.3.8.	That parkland conveyed shall be credited net of all encumbrances including, but not limited to, utilities/utility boxes, mail boxes and/or access, servicing easements, private structures and easements and building overhangs.
7.3.3.9.	To maximize the establishment of open space through the development process, by means other than parkland dedication, to complement parkland resources, to provide important linkages, and to contribute to a healthy natural environment.
7.3.3.10.	To consider alternative means for establishing new parkland and parkland improvements, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. land purchases; b. the provisions of Section 37 of the <i>Planning Act</i>; c. land exchanges or swaps, especially where it may prevent private development on or adjacent to an open space that provides significant environmental benefits or is highly valued by the community; d. partnerships and/or joint provision of land; and e. establishment of a non-profit Parks Foundation to promote parkland donation and conservation easements.

PARKLAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA

The City's Land Acquisition Strategy (2020) outlines parcel-specific acquisition evaluation criteria, which also could be used in determining appropriate off-site dedication, with a relative scoring system that prioritizes some criteria over others. The existing criteria have been updated based on feedback from staff and are outlined below. The revised criteria in Table 2 below should be formally adopted and used to determine City land acquisition locations, and potential off-site dedication locations, in conjunction with the priority acquisition area mapping in the GSP to make specific individual parcel acquisition decisions. The criteria differentiate specific parcels from each other, helping identify which parcel may be more desirable in comparison to others. The criteria are not meant to be used to assess development applications, where the decision is should land (including POPS) be taken or payment-in-lieu.

The scoring method is based on the scoring method provided in the City's Land Acquisition Strategy (2020). Once the City is at the stage of determining a specific parcel to acquire, the scoring is to be used to help determine the preferable parcel to acquire based on available options. The acquisition criteria are generally intended for comparing multiple parcels of land. With all things being equal, the parcel with the higher score is the parcel that should be secured. The criteria may also be used to review land acquisition opportunities in isolation of other options. However, if there is only one parcel that adequately meets the goals of parkland acquisition, setting a minimum threshold to be applied to a single acquisition opportunity is not recommended since an area may be so deficient in parkland that acquiring parcel that scores low is better than the alternative. In such cases, the City may use its judgment to determine whether the parcel aligns with strategic priorities and acquisition needs.

Table 2: Parkland Acquisition Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Detail	Score
Suitability for Recreational Use Based on Municipal Service Levels	i. Offer significant opportunity to provide for both active and passive recreational uses that meet multiple municipal service needs outlined in the CSP.	20
	ii. Offer significant opportunity to provide for active or passive recreational use that meets a municipal service level need outlined in the CSP.	10
	iii. Recreational development potential is limited, development will be challenging or complex.	5
Potential for Improvements of Visual & Environmental Implications	i. Offer significant opportunity to augment and protect local area landscape's already high scenic quality. Multiple sightlines for urban visual relief.	15

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Detail	Score
	ii. Offer limited opportunity to augment and protect the local area landscape's already high scenic quality. Sightlines for urban visual relief exist.	10
	iii. Offer the opportunity to augment and protect the local area landscape's greenspace.	5
Geographical/Land Use Consideration	i. Site topography, grading, and servicing support the intended use for parkland acquisition with no encumbrances.	15
	ii. Site topography, grading, and servicing may require more complex infrastructure but does not conflict with applicable conservation priorities.	5
Supports a Healthy Community Environment Through Protection of Green Space and Wildlife Preservation	i. Protects and enhances environmentally significant features. (e.g. Greenbelt Plan lands, Natural Heritage Network (NHN) Lands, Humber River, Black Creek).	20
	ii. Adjacent to environmentally significant features (e.g. Greenbelt Plan lands, NHN Lands, Humber River).	15
	iii. Represents natural restoration and/or tree planting potential and improves green canopy in areas of the city with relatively low tree equity.	5
Supports Population Growth and Sustainable Community Design	i. Land required to serve a Strategic Growth Area with an existing walkable parkland deficit.	20
	ii. Land required to address an existing parkland deficit in a high-priority area.	15
	iii. Land will support city-wide service levels (e.g., Regional & District Parks) or fill trail gaps to connect priority areas with limited service coverage.	10
Integration with Existing Park and Open Space System	i. Protects and expands a continuous primary linkage within a city-wide primary trail system in alignment with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.	20

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Detail	Score
	ii. Protects and provides for a continuous local linkage within a community open space primary trail system in alignment with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.	15
	iii. Provides multiple secondary trail opportunities within the property in alignment with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.	10
	iv. Provides for a single primary trail within the property.	5
City-Wide Distribution of Parks and Recreational Facilities	i. Opportunity to meet a defined local park service level deficiency while enabling significant contribution to the city-wide park system (e.g. Regional Park in NW Vaughan).	20
	ii. Opportunity to meet a defined local park service level deficiency.	15
	iii. Opportunity to enable significant contribution to city-wide park system (e.g. Regional Park in NW Vaughan).	10
	iv. Opportunity to augment existing local park service level provision.	5

PARKLAND FUNDING AND ACQUISITION ACTIONS

Due to legislative changes over the past several years, funding necessary parkland acquisitions to meet parkland targets using the Payment-in-Lieu Parkland Reserve Fund (PIL Fund) is anticipated to become more complex. Therefore, it will be essential for the City to explore potential new guidelines about how the PIL Fund is used and possible alternative sources of revenue for the construction and acquisition of parkland. It is noted the PIL Fund is primarily used for the purchasing of parkland while the Development Charges Fund is used for the construction of parkland. The following parkland funding actions are recommended for incorporation in the GSP.

1. Sponsorships and Donations

Seek Sponsorships and Donations to fund the construction of parkland and acquisition of parkland in the City.

Sponsorships and/or donations to expand and improve the greenspace system can help the City in reducing the financial gap and enhancing its greenspace system in line with its population growth. An example of sponsorship would be providing money for a particular programming component such as an educational walk, another example would be naming rights. A donation could be in the form of money similar to sponsorship or in the form of land. Examples of donations would be providing money without specifying its particular use or bequeathing land after a death. Using the Council-approved Incoming Sponsorship and Donation Policy, parks and greenspaces should be added to the inventory list via a Council report that outlines how the funding may be received and spent, what benefits may be granted from the receipt of such funding, and the creation of funding agreement templates.

2. Grants

Private, Provincial and Federal grants may help to offset capital and operating costs for the construction or redevelopment of parkland.

Grants will become more critical in the future, and more staff resources should be dedicated to working with the Economic Development Department in finding and applying for grants under the Council-approved Grant Funding Policy. Grants may be used for the construction of parkland, recreation facilities, and open spaces. For example, the City has applied to the Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund for both capital improvements and new builds and received funding from Tree Canada and the Canada Community Building Fund at the Federal level.

3. Interdepartmental Collaboration

Look for opportunities to include the acquisition and development of greenspaces with other municipal infrastructure projects.

Sometimes, grants or Provincial and Federal infrastructure funding may be available for non-park-related projects such as transit and housing. The City should explore and monitor the ability to group park acquisition and construction projects with other infrastructure projects within the City where there may be opportunities to group acquisition or

greenspace development into a bigger project and save in the acquisition cost or tendering process due to economies of scale.

Allow residual land from municipal infrastructure projects to be used as parkland if the land is determined as suitable for parkland use.

If there is residual land from municipal infrastructure projects, the priority should be using the land as parkland if Parks planning staff determine the residual land is suitable for parkland. An example is the surplus land purchased for the Black Creek renewal in the VMC should be used for parkland.

4. Payment-in-Lieu

Prioritize the Payment-in-Lieu Parkland Reserve Fund for parkland acquisition rather than parkland construction. Consider developing a formal policy establishing parameters for how the Payment-in-Lieu Parkland Reserve Fund should be spent, i.e. percentage spent on acquisition compared to development.

Legislative changes have made other funding opportunities for acquisition less viable, since payment-in-lieu caps have been put in place. With development charges and community benefit charges better suited to pay for the construction of parks, the City should explore adjusting the priority use of the Payment-in-Lieu Parkland Reserve Fund for parkland acquisition and reviewing the CBC background study and by-law to support park redevelopment or enhancement funding.

5. Property Taxes

Consider leveraging property taxes effectively to fund priority parkland acquisitions that will support the City's multiple strategic priorities.

As other methods of funding shrink, it may become necessary to use property taxes to maintain the service level desired by residents. If multiple City building priorities can be achieved while acquiring parkland, it may be palatable to Council and Vaughan residents and businesses that property taxes are used as a funding source for parkland development and/or acquisition.

6. Policy Development

Develop a formal city-wide land banking policy and guidelines to proactively acquire land that may be used for parkland or may be exchanged for parkland.

Developing a formal land banking policy facilitates the strategic acquisition of land for future parks and greenspaces, safeguarding greenspaces against rising real estate prices and urban density. This proactive approach ensures that parks remain central to urban development, enhancing the city's sustainability and livability. The land banking policy should set out the process of identifying areas of the city where future parkland is required, the temporary use of land that is being banked, and the ability to leverage land within the land bank for explicit park use or used to acquire other lands for park use. It is suggested that a land banking policy be applied across the City and not only for parkland.

Adopt a standalone city-wide over dedication policy using the following guidelines.

The following policies apply to parkland and open space over dedication:

- a. No parkland credit or compensation will be provided for any portion of POPS that is deemed by City staff to be an over dedication. The developer may provide the additional land at no credit to the City or has the option to redesign the site to remove the over dedication at time of development approval.
- b. Any over dedication of publicly owned parkland is deemed to be voluntary. The developer has the option to proceed with over dedication at no credit or redesign the site to remove the over dedication.
- c. Notwithstanding (b) above, the City at its discretion may provide credit for the over dedication of publicly owned parkland where, it is determined by the City the location of the over dedication fulfills a strategic goal of the GSP and would not jeopardize meeting the goals of the GSP in another location.

Allowing for parkland over dedication credits may be a useful tool for the City to meet the goals of the GSP in certain circumstances and therefore a clear policy on parkland over dedication credits provides developers with the choice of voluntarily providing over dedication with no credit or the ability to redesign their development. The policy provides a reasonable approach for both the developer and City to achieve the goals of the GSP.

An alternative would be to have no policy and deal with over dedication credits as it comes up. If there is no policy or at the very least internal guidelines, there is a greater risk of inconsistent decision making.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

In addition to the policies outlined in this report, the following strategic actions provide a framework for enhancing the efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of the greenspace system. These actions align with the goals of the GSP and support the City's long-term vision for parks and open spaces. The actions in Table 3 are categorized into on-going, short-, medium- and long-term actions. On-going actions are meant to be implemented continuously through the work of the City over the timeframe of the GSP. Short-term actions should be implemented over the next five years, medium-term actions should be implemented over the next 6-10 years and long-term actions are likely to be implemented beyond 10 years.

Table 3: Strategic Actions

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
1. Identify parkland priorities in conjunction with the Community Spaces Plan.	On-going	–	Facilities and Parks Delivery Development and Parks Planning	Diverse Greenspace Experiences	Acquisition
2. Establish a cross-corporate steering committee to lead the acquisition of parkland and the implementation of Circuit 51.	Short-term	Staffing, Operating, Capital	Facilities and Parks Delivery Legal Services Development and Parks Planning Real Estate Policy Planning and Special Programs Financial Planning and Development Finance	Greenspace Expansion	Acquisition
3. Explore acquisition and non-acquisition based options if future parkland dedication amounts are not sufficient to maintain the recommended city-wide target. (i.e., interim parks, street parks).	Short-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning Real Estate	Sustainable Funding	Acquisition

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
4. Identify City owned lands with limited development potential that may be suitable for park use and mandate prioritizing residual land from municipal infrastructure projects to be used as parkland if the land is determined to be suitable for parkland use.	On-going	Staffing, Operating, Capital	Facilities and Parks Delivery Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Development and Parks Planning	Greenspace Expansion	Acquisition
5. Explore acquisition and non-acquisition based options if future parkland dedication amounts are not sufficient to maintain the recommended city-wide target. (i.e., interim parks, street parks).	Medium-term	Staffing, Operating, Capital	Development and Parks Planning Facilities and Parks Delivery	Greenspace Expansion	Acquisition
6. Seek to proactively acquire excess school sites as they become available.	On-going	Capital	Development and Parks Planning Facilities and Parks Delivery Real Estate	Greenspace Expansion	Acquisition
7. Develop and maintain one spatial park and asset database that all departments have access to. Determine which business unit will be responsible for stewarding a central parkland and greenspace database.	Short-term	Staffing, Operating	Facilities and Parks Delivery Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management	Equitable Access	Data

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
8. Maintain and use the parkland priority acquisition mapping tool, developed through the Greenspace Strategic Plan, to provide data on a live priority locations list.	Short-term	Staffing, Operating	Facilities and Parks Delivery Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Development and Parks Planning	Equitable Access	Data
9. Present an annual monitoring report to Council indicating how the City is meeting the parkland provision level targets and where priority areas may be identified.	On-going	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning	Equitable Access	Data
10. Develop a Public Use and Park Observation program that monitors park usage to inform facility needs and social impacts of parks.	Short-term	Staffing	Facilities and Parks Delivery Operations and Maintenance	Equitable Access Diverse Greenspace Experiences Adaptable Spaces	Data
11. Examine current staffing levels and consider hiring new roles dedicated to collecting, building, and maintaining a real-time parkland and greenspace database, and develop key measures and indicators to continue to report on evidence-based research and recommendations.	Short-term	Staffing	Facilities and Parks Delivery	Equitable Access Greenspace Expansion	Data

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
12. Prepare a Council-approved Income Sponsorship and Donation Policy that outlines how the funding may be received and spent, what benefits may be granted from the receipt of such funding, and the creation of funding agreement templates and outline how to redirect funds obtained from parkland naming rights, sponsorships, and donations to parkland redevelopment or parkland enhancement.	Short-term	Staffing	Economic Development	Sustainable Funding	Policy
13. Incorporate Greenspace Strategic Plan proposed policies into the Vaughan Official Plan 2025 per Table 1 in this report.	Short-term	–	Policy Planning and Special Programs Facilities and Parks Delivery	Greenspace Expansion Equitable Access Diverse Greenspace Experiences Celebrate Culture Increased Tree Canopy Adaptable Spaces Climate Resilience Sustainable Funding	Policy

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
14. Update the City's Parkland Conveyance and Dedication Payment-in- Lieu By-law to reflect the Planning Act changes, updated policies, and provide clarity on non-creditable lands to include blocks with limited public access and programming such as buffer blocks and linear open space.	Short-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning Policy Planning and Special Programs	Sustainable Funding	Policy
15. Prepare a Park Construction Standards Manual (including standards for new park classifications) to consolidate all existing standards and guidelines and reflect current best practices in park design and update the Developer Build Park Policy (07.02.05) to guide park design and implementation and facilitate developer-built parks.	Short-term	Staffing	Facilities and Parks Delivery	Adaptable Spaces Climate Resilience	Policy

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
16. Develop a city-wide over-dedication and parkland credit transfer policy, to be based on the value of land within a local and defined geographic area (i.e., planning block or secondary plan limits).	Short-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning Facilities and Parks Delivery Policy Planning and Special Programs	Greenspace Expansion	Policy
17. Develop a formal policy that establishes parameters Payment-in-lieu Parkland Reserve Fund expenditures to prioritize parkland acquisition and identifies a cap on funding park parkland redevelopment and enhancements.	Short-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning Financial Planning and Development Finance	Sustainable Funding	Policy
18. Amend the Community Benefits Charges (CBC) By-law to include parkland funding.	Short-term	Staffing	Financial Planning and Development Finance Development and Parks Planning	Sustainable Funding	Policy

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
19. Update the City's Zoning By-law and other necessary by-laws to allow for specific commercial activities in parks that are compatible with and do not interfere with park uses such as food and beverage vendors, and concessions but limits private recreational uses.	Medium-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning	Diverse Greenspace Experiences Celebrate Culture	Policy
20. Review and update the City's Local Service Policy to include additional elements that are part of developer requirements and not eligible for Development Charge.	Medium-term	Staffing	Facilities and Parks Delivery Financial Planning and Development Finance	Sustainable Funding	Policy
21. Update the Greenspace Strategic Plan every five years to review provision levels and update action plans.	Medium-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning	All	Policy

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
22. Review and update existing and future parks operations service levels (staff resourcing, technical expertise, park inspection and maintenance requirements) in light of new park classifications and emerging requirements developed through the GSP (e.g., invasive species, culturally important species, maintenance of urban parks, sustainability best practice etc.)	Short-term	Staffing, Operating	Facilities and Parks Delivery Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations	Adaptable Spaces Climate Resilience	Service Level
23. Align the implementation of actions across City plans that are relevant to greenspaces and advancing Circuit 51 including Urban Forestry Management Plan, Woodland Management Strategy, Green Directions Vaughan, Community Spaces Plan, VMC Parkland Strategy action plans, and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.	Short-term	Staffing	Facilities and Parks Delivery Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operation	Diverse Greenspace Experiences Increased Tree Canopy Adaptable Spaces Climate Resilience Sustainable Funding	Service Level

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
24. Ensure park design and programming promote plant diversity and pollinator species; provides green infrastructure; focuses on incorporating low-impact development features such as bioswales, and rain gardens; supports increasing the urban forest canopy, and contributes to achieving nature-based targets that enhance biodiversity and promote climate resiliency pursuing park certifications for sustainable initiatives such as SITES.	On-going	Staffing, Operating, Capital	Facilities and Parks Delivery	Increased Tree Canopy	Service Level
25. Prioritize multi-use, inclusive, and accessible park designs and adopt flexible approaches to park programming to allow parks to pivot to meet the needs of residents.	Short-term	Staffing, Capital	Facilities and Parks Delivery	Adaptable Spaces Equitable Access	Service Level

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
26. Incorporate Indigenous culture and presence in parks and greenspace design through art, community gardens, native plantings, and historical interpretive signage that are rooted in Indigenous knowledge that commemorate presence in areas with a long history.	On-going	Staffing	Facilities and Parks Delivery	Celebrate Culture	Service Level
27. Build public awareness and understanding of the benefits of the City's greenspace network through outreach and engagement programs that could include events, pop-up, school partnerships, or recreation activities in collaboration with other departments.	Short-term	Staffing	Recreation Services Communication, Marketing and Engagement	Diverse Greenspace Experiences Celebrate Culture	Partnerships
28. Collaborate with identified strategic partners for the acquisition, shared use, and programming of parkland (e.g., Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, school boards, public agencies).	On-going	Staffing, Operating, Capital	Development and Parks Planning Facilities and Parks Delivery	Greenspace Expansion Equitable Access Diverse Greenspace Experiences Celebrate Culture Sustainable Funding	Partnerships

Action	Timing	Resources	Departments	GSP Goal(s)	Theme
29. Establish a funding, acquisition and programming partnership model with community agencies, user groups, and advocacy organizations to creatively find ways to increase park provision, naturalization, stewardship, and programming.	Long-term	Staffing	Development and Parks Planning Financial Planning and Development Finance	Sustainable Funding	Partnerships

CONCLUSION

To summarize, this task report establishes the planning framework necessary to implement the GSP and achieve its vision and goals. The framework delved into the components identified below.

The GSP outlines revised parkland targets that reflect the challenges of maintaining the existing parkland provision ratio. These targets will be included in the GSP to allow for adjustments over time without requiring an amendment in the future to the Vaughan Official Plan 2025. The Vaughan Official Plan 2025 policies will shift the guiding direction from the ATMP to the GSP as the primary greenspace document. The Official Plan policies outline the adjustments to park typologies and include revised and new policies to provide direction regarding parks planning and dedication during the development review process.

The revised acquisition criteria are to be used in conjunction with the greenspace measurement methodology outlined in Task 3 and the decision-making flow diagram outlined in Task 4. Changes to the acquisition criteria better reflect and align with priorities concerning greenspace and should be used when comparing and determining which parcels of land should be acquired.

Given the challenging reality of parkland funding, acquisition funding alternatives will become more important and necessary in the delivery of greenspaces.

To achieve the City's greenspace goals, the City will need to implement strategic actions over the timeframe of this plan. The strategic actions included in this task report comprise short-, medium-, long-term and ongoing actions that will improve and enhance data management and internal processes, create more proactive parkland acquisition opportunities and build and strengthen partnerships towards improving the greenspace system.

Collaboration will be essential to implementing the framework and recommended actions, ensuring the success of the GSP. This includes working closely with City departments, York Region, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), school boards, and other strategic partners to maximize impact and create a more connected, resilient greenspace system.