

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**  
**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2021**

Item 1, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 18, 2021.

**1. THORNHILL SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PROGRAM**

**The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated May 5, 2021:**

**Recommendations**

1. That Council receive the staff report as a progress update on the Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program.
2. That Council receive the Thornhill SNAP presentation (Attachment 1).

## Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

---

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021

**WARD(S):** 5

**TITLE: THORNHILL SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION  
PROGRAM – PROGRESS UPDATE**

**FROM:**

Jim Harnum, City Manager

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

---

**Purpose**

To update Council on the progress of the City of Vaughan's first Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) in the Thornhill neighbourhood. The extensive community engagement conducted to gain input on how the community envisions their neighbourhood is presented along with the next steps required to complete the Thornhill SNAP Action Plan.

**Report Highlights**

- The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) neighbourhood mapping screening exercise, including planned City capital infrastructure projects, was used to select the Thornhill community as a suitable SNAP neighbourhood.
- Extensive community engagement during the SNAP action planning process was critical to obtain an understanding of the Thornhill neighbourhood, and how the community envisions their neighbourhood in the future.
- Three integrated action areas and four signature projects were identified through the community engagement phase.
- A draft SNAP Action Plan is being developed between the City of Vaughan and TRCA staff with input received from the community and will be presented at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

## **Recommendations**

1. That Council receive the staff report as a progress update on the Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program.
2. That Council receive the Thornhill SNAP presentation (Attachment 1).

## **Background**

### ***The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) aligns with City initiatives***

Council on May 14, 2019, passed a Member's Resolution to support the City's commitment to a SNAP project in partnership with the TRCA. The SNAP includes selecting a neighbourhood with overlapping sustainability and climate change vulnerability priorities and options for urban renewal projects. And then developing sustainability goals, targets, actions and an implementation and monitoring strategy for the neighbourhood. A SNAP project would implement various elements of the City of Vaughan's 2018-2022 Term of Council Strategic Plan by aligning with Green Directions Vaughan, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Active Together Master Plan. It also implements objectives and targets mandated by the Regional Municipality of York (York Region).

The SNAP was developed by the TRCA with the objective to make older neighbourhoods more sustainable and accelerate the implementation of environmental improvements and urban renewal at the neighborhood scale. The success of SNAP is rooted in direct engagement with residents and stakeholders to align municipal priorities with local needs and interests. Engaging residents, businesses, community groups and institutions builds positive partnerships and local capacity for the design and implementation of the project.

SNAP looks at maximizing the impact of infrastructure projects beyond the departmental scope of work and by considering other department's projects. Through departmental collaboration to meet multiple goals and objectives, SNAP adds significant ecological function and social benefits through innovation in design and public engagement.

### ***A neighbourhood screening exercise selected the Thornhill neighbourhood***

The TRCA developed a mapping framework to organize priorities into a comprehensive set of service area themes reflecting sustainable community attributes. Data layers obtained for the framework represent current available data for planned projects and known neighbourhood climate change vulnerabilities across departments and organizations.

The Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood located in Ward 5 (Blocks 1 and 2) is bounded by Bathurst Street and Yonge Street, Steeles Avenue West, and Highway 407 (Attachment 2: Thornhill SNAP Draft Action Plan Map). This neighbourhood was selected for the SNAP project because of its overlapping priorities for needed urban renewal. It is a flood vulnerable area, has the highest energy use and intensity in the City, and has one of the highest water use rates in York Region. It is a high priority area for low impact development for stormwater management and has a high concentration of seniors and areas of concentrated social disadvantage.

In addition, there are multiple planned municipal capital infrastructure projects located within the Thornhill neighbourhood. These capital infrastructure projects are an important aspect of selecting a SNAP neighbourhood, as they can be leveraged to achieve higher environmental, resiliency and social impact within the community. The SNAP takes an integrated approach to overcome urban challenges and addresses a broad range of sustainability objectives with locally tailored solutions. A SNAP Action Plan (the 'Action Plan') is being developed for the Thornhill neighbourhood to improve the local environment, build resiliency to climate change, and encourage positive behaviour changes among residents.

The City and TRCA were successful in obtaining funding up to \$152,100 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to undertake the Thornhill SNAP, matched with funds from the Gallanough stormwater retrofit project (Stormwater Management Improvements in Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area Project Budget, Capital Project EN-1879-12). A single source contract was awarded to TRCA to lead the community engagement, stakeholder consultation and the development of the Action Plan in collaboration with the City of Vaughan.

### ***The SNAP action planning process used a three phased approach***

The Thornhill SNAP action planning process used a phased approach that promoted multi-stakeholder engagement at various stages. Local knowledge and input were integral to revealing important community characteristics, not apparent in the neighbourhood's built form, that contribute to local culture and values. The action planning process was undertaken in three phases outlined below:

#### ***Phase 1 – Scoping issues, stakeholders, and interests***

The objective of Phase 1 was to conduct background research to help the project team generate an understanding of the baseline scientific and socio-economic characteristics of the neighbourhood. The overall SNAP community engagement strategy was also customized during this phase to align with the timing of local planned initiatives and other key milestones.



### *Phase 2 – Defining vision, motivational themes, and action planning concept areas*

The objective of Phase 2 was to develop a neighbourhood vision and identify motivating themes, discover perceived risks, and identify climate change vulnerabilities and assets. This exploration was used to develop integrated action areas and associated design principles, identify potential signature projects, and prepare a draft Action Plan map.

### *Phase 3 – Develop the Action Plan*

In the final phase of the action planning process, the objective is to confirm and finalize the Action Plan, identify relevant climate adaptation strategies, develop preliminary design concepts for each of the signature projects, and identify a number of quick start projects that could be used to build excitement and continue momentum for the SNAP.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

Previous reports considered by City Council regarding the Thornhill SNAP project can be found at the following links:

[Council meeting extract, May 14, 2019](#) – Council passed a Member’s Resolution in support of the Thornhill SNAP.

[Member’s Resolution, June 4, 2019](#) – Council passed a Member’s Resolution to declare a climate emergency and lists actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the Thornhill SNAP.

[Council meeting extract, December 17, 2019](#) – Council adopted Green Directions Vaughan 2019 and includes a specific action to explore a SNAP project in Vaughan.

## **Analysis and Options**

### ***Community input identified motivating themes and integrated action areas***

The Thornhill SNAP is being managed by the City (10 departments) and TRCA (4 divisions) as a highly collaborative approach that brings together municipal objectives with community priorities. This collaboration includes working with local residents, institutions, non-profit organizations, and other local stakeholders such as the Springfarm Ratepayers Association that actively participated throughout the engagement process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of the community engagement was redesigned as virtual workshops and online meetings.

The City and TRCA engaged the Thornhill community through facilitated community engagement events to gain an understanding of the past and present conditions of the

neighbourhood and how the community envisions their neighbourhood in the future. The following engagement techniques and activities were utilized to gather community input:

- “SNAP into Action” survey
- One day co-planning workshop
- Meetings with the local ward Councillor Shefman
- One-on-one meetings with local stakeholders such as the Springfarm Ratepayers Association, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill, Thornhill Heritage Foundation, Windfall Ecology Centre, etc.
- Meetings with representatives from Indigenous Peoples such Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation
- Two virtual open house sessions
- Online Action Plan map engagement
- Three virtual co-design workshops for the signature projects

The Thornhill SNAP Sustainability Framework has been developed to identify overarching core and complementary themes. These themes have contributed to the design of the three integrated action areas that respond to the neighbourhood’s technical issues and vision expressed through public engagement. Each integrated action area identifies design principles, sustainability solutions and actions for integration and implementation into future projects. The three integrated action areas are as follows:

1. Connected People, Places and Ecosystems, which includes an active transportation, trails, green infrastructure, parks and open spaces elements and recommendations for community connections, programming, and greening.
2. Residential Retrofit, which will support programming for homeowners to assist them with the identification and implementation of actions to make single family residential properties more efficient and resilient to extreme climate events.
3. Greening of Institutional, Commercial and Multi-unit Residential sectors, which will encourage community connections, natural heritage improvements, and sustainable and resilient buildings.

### ***Signature projects identified as a result of the data collected***

Four signature projects were selected, based on residents’ preferences and municipal priorities. These signature projects are supported by technical staff from the City and TRCA and align with planned municipal initiatives, while also integrating local community interests. These projects will demonstrate how traditional capital infrastructure projects can be re-imagined to maximize sustainability and resiliency

objectives along with addressing strategic targets set by the City, York Region and TRCA.

The proposed four signature projects are identified as follows:

**1. Gallanough Park Redevelopment**

Gallanough Park is located at 21 Springfield Way and is connected to several important community institutions including the Gallanough Resource Centre, the John Arnold Historic House, and Thornhill Public School. A planned capital infrastructure project to retrofit the stormwater management facility in the park and park improvements have been budgeted. This presents an opportunity to integrate community interests to redevelop the park infrastructure and amenities, while improving the ecological integrity.

**2. York Hill Park Redevelopment**

York Hill District Park is located at 330 York Hill Boulevard and is connected to Garnet A. Williams Community Centre and adjacent to two elementary schools. The Garnet A. Williams Community Centre is being retrofitted to improve both interior and exterior features of the site. This work will tie into the redevelopment plan that is being developed for the overall park including recreational improvements and nature-based education areas.

**3. Complete Streets Project**

The Complete Streets Project has been proposed to leverage active transportation improvements recommended in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan for Atkinson Avenue, Hilda Avenue and Centre Street. This project focuses on creating safe, inviting, and vibrant streets and streetscapes through active transportation techniques, while also helping to manage stormwater sustainably and improve the urban forest.

**4. Thornhill Home Retrofit Program**

Vaughan's City-wide home energy retrofit program will be launched in the Thornhill neighbourhood, pending confirmation of details of the funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The home retrofit program will use the local improvement charges financing tool to extend financing to homeowners that complete eligible retrofits, and the homeowners then pay back the loan on their property tax bill. A proposed initial launch of the retrofit program will provide owners of detached dwellings with educational tools and support to improve energy efficiency in their homes. Other opportunities such as eco-landscaping, flood prevention measures and water efficiency will also be explored with the

homeowners as part of the SNAP collaboration. As part of the design of the retrofit program launch, the City will partner with the TRCA to provide local marketing of the retrofit program in the Thornhill neighbourhood.

Attachment 2: Thornhill SNAP Draft Action Plan Map provides an illustration of the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood with the conceptual signature projects. As these signature projects align with planned municipal initiatives and capital infrastructure projects, they are intended to be innovative projects that will serve to demonstrate how multiple benefits and diverse, community-wide objectives can be achieved.

Attachment 3: Thornhill SNAP Signature Projects - Community Engagement Summaries provides summaries of the community feedback received during the virtual workshops that were completed for the Gallanough Park, York Hill Park, and Complete Streets signature projects. The community input received during these workshops will be used to develop the signature project concept designs. The community will have an opportunity to review the draft signature projects and provide comments that will be integrated into the final Action Plan. The Thornhill Home Retrofit Program is also being developed as a fourth signature project at this time.

### ***Information collected will be used to develop the Action Plan***

The Action Plan will present a series of climate adaptation strategies that have been developed to address the unique character, resources, and climate change vulnerabilities of the Thornhill neighbourhood. The Action Plan will also reflect the culmination of technical analyses, robust community, and stakeholder engagement, and planned capital infrastructure projects. When implemented, the proposed actions, projects and programs will help achieve the vision for the community. The Action Plan will address any comments received from Council and community engagement input received for the proposed signature projects. The final Action Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in the fall of 2021.

### **Financial Impact**

This report will have no incremental impact to the current 2021 approved operating or capital budgets. The City has identified existing budgets and has attained grants to support the development of the Action Plan. The larger capital infrastructure project budgets are not included in this summary. Any incremental capital infrastructure projects/budgets as a result of this program will be brought forward through the annual budget approval process. To date, the following funding has been received/committed to facilitate the SNAP project:

- A grant of up to \$152,100 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund

- A grant of \$25,000 through a TRCA application for the Transition 2050 funding stream for FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program. This funding has been provided directly to TRCA.
- A grant of \$10,000 from Enbridge for the Residential Retrofit Program design
- A budget of \$124,000 from the Stormwater Management Improvements in Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area Project Budget (Capital Project EN-1879-12) was allocated for engagement for the Thornhill SNAP
- The City has committed to 3 years of funding at \$25,000 per annum for demonstration projects under Capital Project PL-9575-20

Fundraising will be needed to fund the implementation of additional SNAP project components that are not included in the existing scope and budgets for each of the individual capital infrastructure projects such as the additional tree plantings, trail development and recreational amenities (e.g. benches, shade structures). Fundraising will be explored in collaboration with TRCA, property owners and other external stakeholders. The SNAP Team will also work with the City's Municipal Partnership Office in the Economic and Cultural Development department on the fundraising initiatives.

Staff will continue to apply for funding opportunities for specific components as they arise as the SNAP project can be put forth for consideration when prioritizing projects across the City. For example, Clark Avenue improvements received over \$2M from the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program and the York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program. This project can leverage the prioritization of the Complete Streets project.

In addition, City staff are exploring various grant opportunities to implement the quick start projects, such as tree and pollinator plantings. City staff have applied to the TD Friends of the Environment Fund for a \$5,000 grant for a pollinator planting and education signage. A decision is expected in the summer of 2021.

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

The TRCA's SNAP is a collaborative, neighbourhood-based approach for advancing urban renewal and climate change action in older urban areas. TRCA has nine other SNAP neighbourhoods in the municipalities of Toronto, Markham, Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon, and Richmond Hill, in varying stages of completion. Through the implementation of the SNAP project, the City of Vaughan is meeting various York Region objectives for instance the canopy targets outlined in the York Region Forest Management Plan and projected road improvement identified in the York Region Road Improvements (10 year plan).

The TRCA is also working to identify opportunities for expanding successful solutions from the SNAP neighbourhoods to other communities. The neighbourhood mapping screening exercise completed in Vaughan identified other neighbourhoods in the City that have overlapping priorities and may be suitable for future SNAP projects including neighbourhoods in Maple and Woodbridge. The SNAP and action planning process that has been successfully used in the Thornhill SNAP can be translated to these other neighbourhoods to build an overall sustainable and resilient City.

## **Conclusion**

The City, in partnership with the TRCA, engaged the Thornhill community through extensive community consultation activities to gather input on how they envision their future neighbourhood. As a result of the extensive input received, the integrated project ideas were created and include design principles, sustainability solutions and actions for implementation. Four signature projects were also identified to be designed by City and TRCA staff with input received by the community. The information and input gathered throughout the action planning process will be used to develop the finalized Action Plan.

**For more information**, please contact: Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner, ext. 8104

## **Attachments**

1. Thornhill SNAP Presentation
2. Thornhill SNAP Draft Action Plan Map
3. Thornhill SNAP Signature Projects Community Engagement Summaries

## **Prepared by**

Monica Choy, Sustainability Coordinator, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8941

Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8104

Tony Iacobelli, Manager of Environmental Sustainability, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability ext. 8630

**Approved by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mauro Peverini".

Mauro Peverini,  
Chief Planning Official

**Reviewed by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Harnum".

Jim Harnum, City Manager

# Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program

City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole (Working Session)

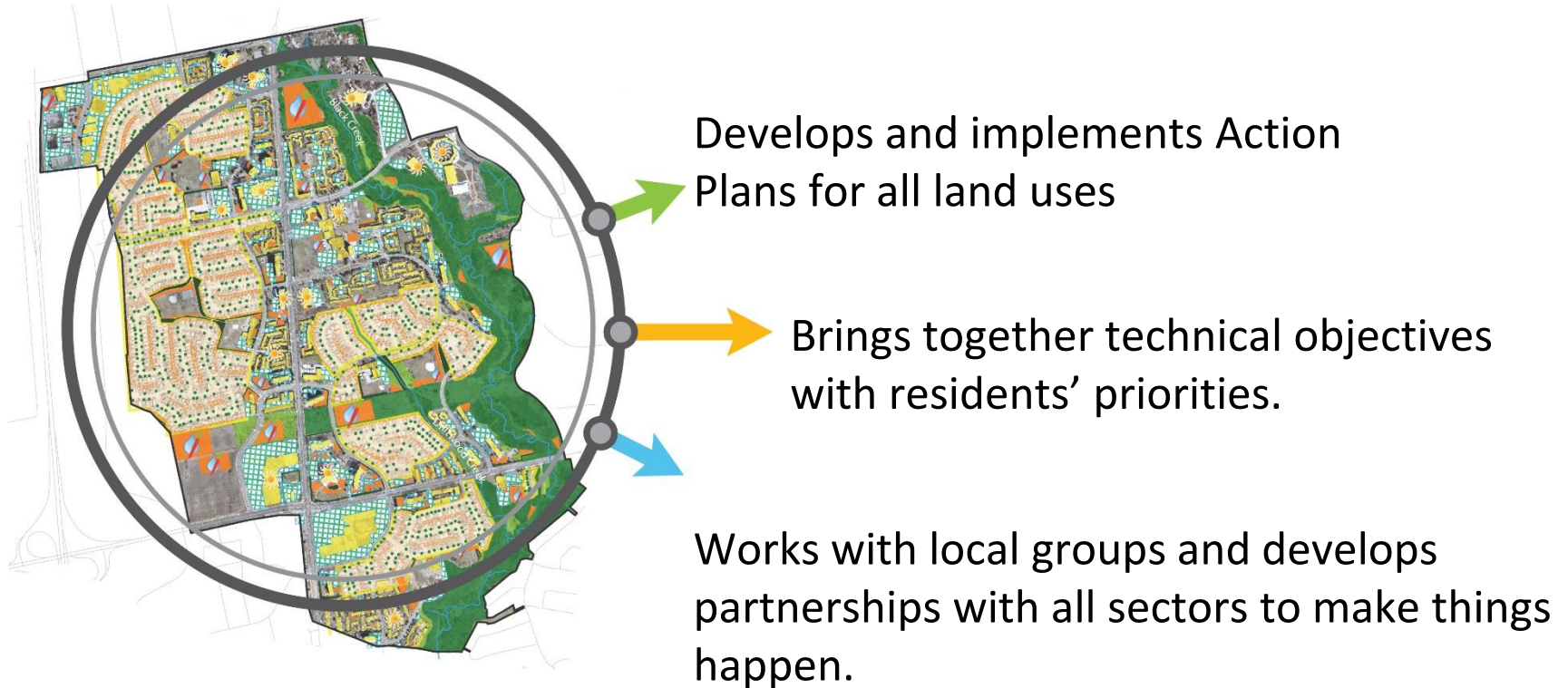
May 5, 2021





# Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)

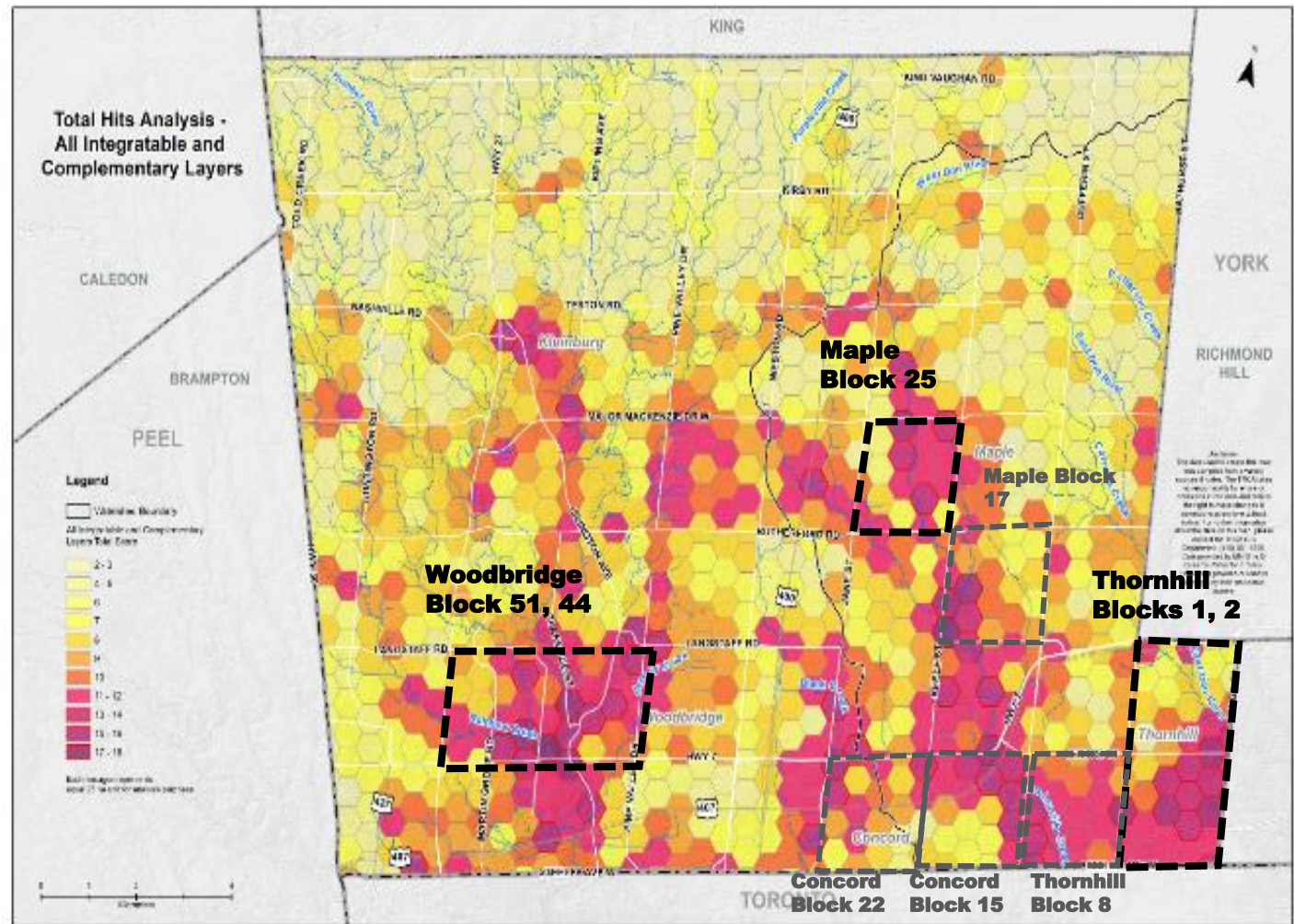
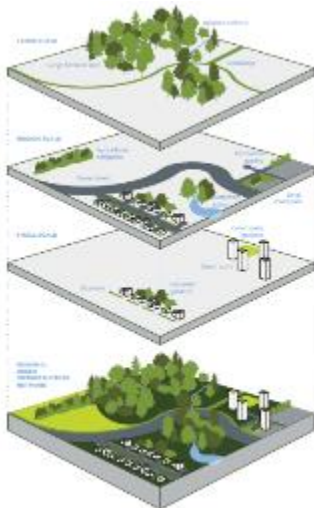
A neighbourhood-based solution for sustainable urban renewal and climate action



# Neighbourhood Selection Process

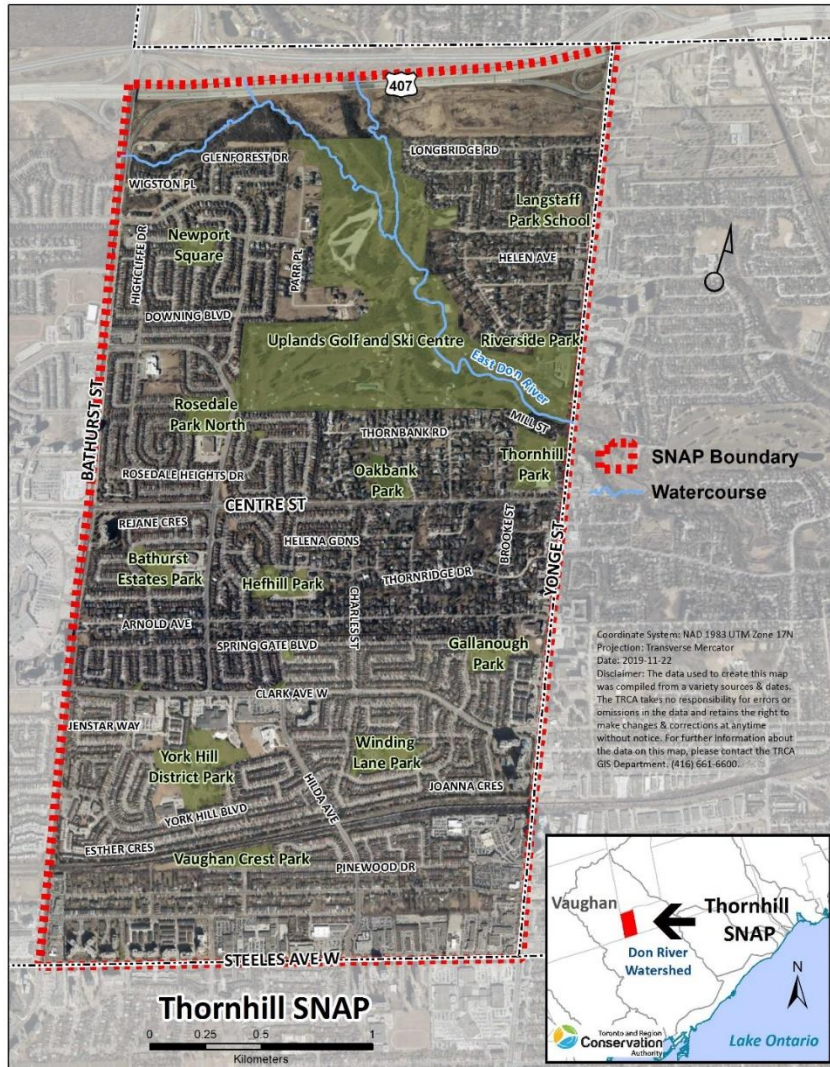


## 25 ha Hexagonal Units





# Thornhill Neighbourhood



## Key Priorities:

- Flood vulnerable area
- High priority for low impact development for stormwater mgmt.
- Highest energy use in Vaughan
- One of highest water use in York Region
- Urban heat stress
- Areas of concentrated disadvantage (South)

## Planned Capital Projects

- Gallanough Park and Area SWM Improvements EA
- Gallanough & York Hill Park Redevelopment
- Garnet A. W CC Retrofit
- Road Improvements (Clark Ave., Centre St., Atkinson Av., Hilda Av.)
- York Region South York Greenway Project
- Vaughan Super Trail Project

# Thornhill SNAP Sustainability Framework



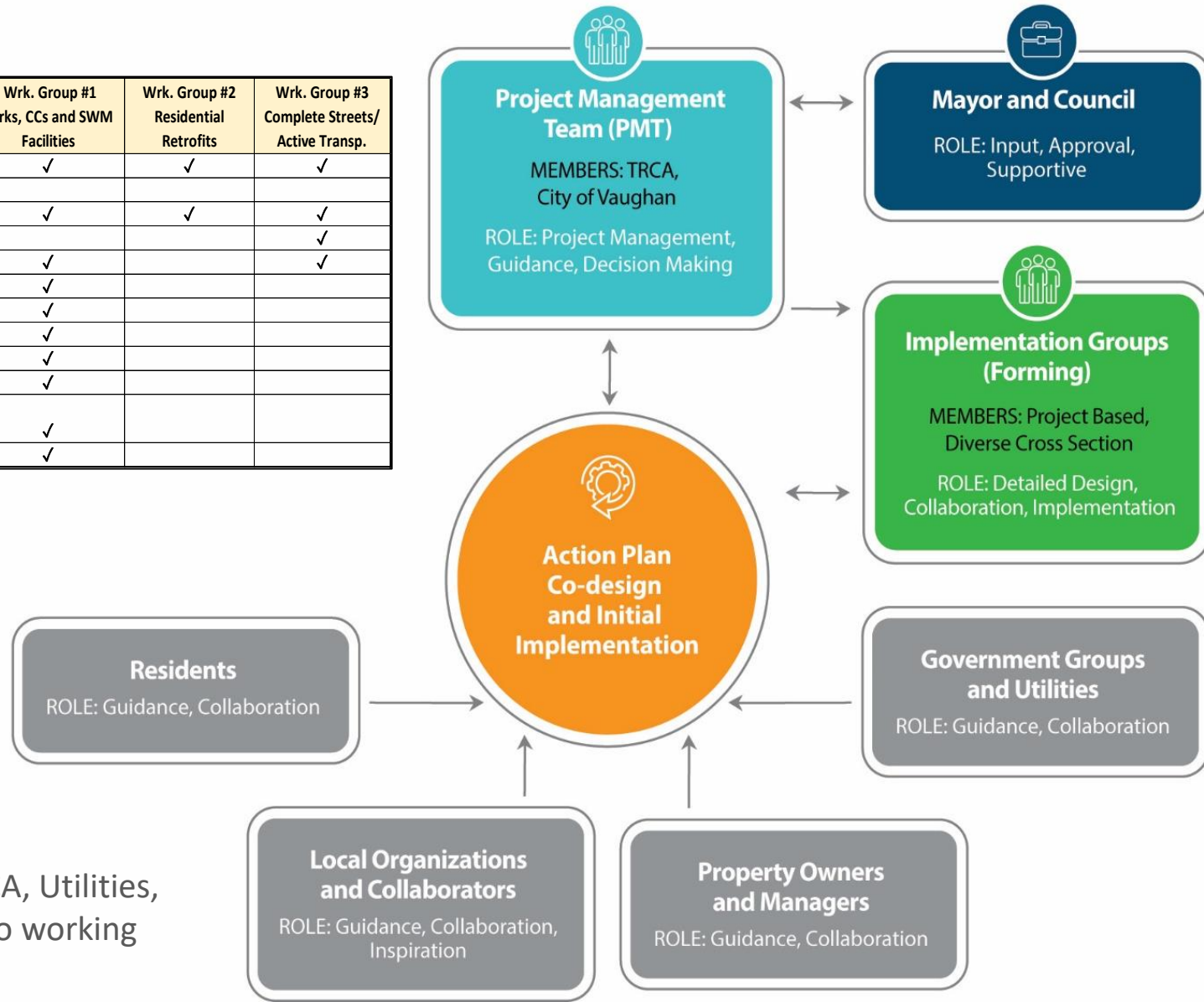
# SNAP Action Planning Process





# SNAP Governance Structure – Action Planning

Members	Core PMT	PMT	Wrk. Group #1 Parks, CCs and SWM Facilities	Wrk. Group #2 Residential Retrofits	Wrk. Group #3 Complete Streets/ Active Transp.
TRCA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
City of Vaughan Departments					
Policy Planning and Env. Sust.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infr. Planning and Corp. Asset Mgmt.		✓			✓
Infrastructure Delivery		✓	✓		✓
Parks Infr. Planning and Devlpt.		✓	✓		
Facility Management		✓	✓		
Parks, Forestry and Hort. Oper.		✓	✓		
Environmental Services		✓	✓		
Devlpt. Planning (Cultural Heritage)		✓	✓		
Fire and Rescue Service (Emergency Planning)			✓		
Recreation Services			✓		



## Note:

External guests (York, PCA, Utilities, etc.) have been invited to working group sessions.

# Community Engagement Activities

- One-on-one meetings (9 local stakeholders)
- Survey mailed to every household (103 responses)
- Indigenous Peoples meetings (3 First Nations)
- Co-Planning workshop (70 attendees)
- 2 Virtual Open House sessions (30 attendees)
- 3 Virtual Signature Projects workshops (132 attendees)
- Site visits with local organizations
- Volunteer capacity building meetings
- E-mail exchange with residents
- Website, Newsletters, List-serve





# Integrated Action Areas - Design Principles

## 1. Connected Places, People and Ecosystems



- **Connect** greenspace, institutions and destinations through trails & wayfinding
- **Improve walkability and bike ability**
- **Improve accessibility** for all and **places to sit**
- Provide more trees and **connected habitat**
- Add **more shade** to parks and open spaces
- Create **unique destinations**
- Incorporate **multi-age, multi-season recreation**
- Incorporate **art, history and culture**
- Make public spaces **safer**
- Encourage **contact with nature**
- Encourage **community connections**



# Integrated Action Areas - Design Principles



## 2. Residential Retrofits

- Address **multiple sustainability and resiliency objectives** (GHG, Water, Trees, Flood, etc.)
  - Customize to **local building stock**
  - address **Thornhill residents' priorities** and main obstacles
  - **Cross-promote** through other neighbourhood initiatives
  - **Customize marketing** and incentives
- Pilot for Local Improvement Charges Financing

# Integrated Action Areas - Design Principles



## 3. Greening and Humanization of Institutional & Commercial Properties and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURB)

- **Create sustainable and resilient buildings**
- **Contribute to natural heritage**
- **Connect to active transportation**
- **Make fully accessible for all user abilities**
- **Encourage community connections**
- **Encourage environmental education**
- **Integrate celebration of arts, culture, history**
- **Consider use as emergency centres for extreme climate events**
- **Consider offering local food options**
- **Prioritize safety**



# Thornhill SNAP Action Plan Map

## Connected Places, People & Ecosystems

Series of initiatives, including an **Active Transportation Plan** for improved pedestrian and cycling options, a **Green Infrastructure Plan** to add more trees and habitat across the neighbourhood and improve stormwater management, as well as initiatives related to the **Revitalization of Parks and Open Spaces** as interesting destinations with diverse amenities that respond to current community priorities. Inclusion of educational and cultural programming and events to encourage community connections.

## Residential Retrofits

Provision of supports and programming for homeowners to assist them with identification and implementation of actions to make their homes and their properties more efficient and more resilient to extreme climate events.

## Greening and Humanization of Commercial and Institutional (CI) Properties and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)

Focus on creating more sustainable and resilient buildings, parking lots and outdoor spaces associated with MUR, institutional and commercial properties within the community. Development of spaces within these properties that celebrate culture and history and that allow the community to gather and connect.

## PUBLIC REALM SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Innovative projects that will demonstrate how multiple co-benefits and diverse, neighbourhood-wide objectives can be achieved on the site.



In collaboration with City of Vaughan



For further information about this Action Plan, please visit [trca.ca/snap-thornhill](https://trca.ca/snap-thornhill)

# Next Steps

- Integrate feedback from City of Vaughan Council
- Present the draft of the Action Plan report to the community
- Bring final Action Plan report back to Council in Fall 2021
- Move forward on quick start projects
- Develop detailed designs for Signature Projects including the Thornhill Home Retrofit Program
- Continue fundraising to match capital funding for implementation

# Thank you!





## THORNHILL SNAP NEIGHBOURHOOD

Sustainable Neighbourhood  
Action Program

## Connected Places, People &amp; Ecosystems

Series of initiatives, including an **Active Transportation Plan** for improved pedestrian and cycling options, a **Green Infrastructure Plan** to add more trees and habitat across the neighbourhood and improve stormwater management, as well as initiatives related to the **Revitalization of Parks and Open Spaces** as interesting destinations with diverse amenities that respond to current community priorities. Inclusion of educational and cultural programming and events to encourage community connections.

## Residential Retrofits

Provision of supports and programming for homeowners to assist them with identification and implementation of actions to make their homes and their properties more efficient and more resilient to extreme climate events.

## Greening and Humanization of Commercial and Institutional (CI) Properties and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)

Focus on creating more sustainable and resilient buildings, parking lots and outdoor spaces associated with MUR, institutional and commercial properties within the community. Development of spaces within these properties that celebrate culture and history and that allow the community to gather and connect.

## PUBLIC REALM SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Innovative projects that will demonstrate how multiple co-benefits and diverse, neighbourhood-wide objectives can be achieved on the site.





# Thornhill SNAP Signature Projects Engagement Summaries



## Contents

SNAP Project Design Principles - Connected People, Places and Ecosystems: .....	3
Gallanough Park Engagement Summary .....	4
York Hill Park Engagement Summary .....	7
Complete Streets Engagement Summary .....	10

## SNAP Project Design Principles - Connected People, Places and Ecosystems:

- **Connect:** greenspace, institutions and destinations, elderly & youth, MUR & SFH, North & South, nature in public and private land
- **Increase** tree canopy, shade cover and places to sit
- **Improve** walkability and bikeability
- **Incorporate** multi-age, multi-season opportunities, art installations and cultural events
- **Encourage** contact with nature and environmental learning, community building and community participation
- **Prioritize** safety
- **Celebrate** historical heritage



*SNAP Sustainability Framework*

# Gallanough Park Engagement Summary

**Date:** Wednesday July 29, 2020

**Attendees:** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff, City of Vaughan staff, residents and stakeholders of the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood.

**Purpose:** To bring the community and partners together to co-develop a shared vision for Gallanough Park within the neighbourhood.

## Objectives:

- Provide an update on the progress of Thornhill SNAP, highlight feedback received related to the signature project (Gallanough Park) and a high-level update on City plans related to cycling facilities and other improvements.
- To inspire participants with precedent images and project overviews of other innovative street projects (locally and from around the world).
- To brainstorm ideas or solutions that could be implemented in Gallanough Park to help us achieve the project design principles.
- Discuss ideas/thoughts related to potential innovative implementation partners

## Outcomes

Outcomes from this workshop will be integrated into the broader action planning process to create the Thornhill SNAP. The following summarizes the overarching trends and comments received during the breakout group brainstorms and chat logs.

## General Suggestions and Comments

- Features chosen to be implemented should focus on a few key areas/spaces as it is a small park.
- Residents are looking for a more traditional, family-oriented park for local events and activities.
- There is a need for the park to be promoted/showcased more broadly in the community (people don't know about it and it is currently underutilized).
- Washroom facilities are a high priority.

## Trails

A common theme throughout the discussion included creating trails that are interesting for pedestrians and that travel throughout the park, not just around the park. Specific suggestions included:

- Aligning seating and shade along the trails, take advantage of existing areas under the trees for more seating, existing gazebo not big enough, use permeable pavers/asphalt for trails.
- Extending trails through/along the edge of the forest area to create trail loop around the park.
- Extending trails through open area to expand existing trail network.
- Connect trail out to Yonge with trail on the north side of soccer courts.

## Playground / Activity Features

There were many suggestions for features that could be added to the park, however, the overall trend in responses suggest that a more naturalized play area with climbing

features and a variety of activities/textures to challenge kids physically, would be beneficial. Specific suggestions included:

- Keeping swings or provide a similar type that doesn't limit ability to go high.
- Incorporating spaces that will be attractive to teens and something active for adults/seniors to do.
- Multiple play areas for different-aged kids, could be on different levels with zipline or slide to connect them, keep in close proximity so parents with more than one child can see all play areas, look for alternatives to sand for the base.
- Need more play equipment to accommodate number of children who are often in the park.
- Enhancing winter activities, such as sledding, that currently occur in the park. Existing low area should be maintained at bottom of toboggan hill.

### **Programming Ideas**

Discussions regarding programming in the park revealed that many residents would like small, community-oriented programs to occur. The park is too small for large events and there is an issue with parking and washroom access in the area. Specific suggestions included:

- Incorporating the historic Arnold House, Indigenous heritage and potential Spring Farm history into programming.
- Partnering with the Gallanough Resource Center and better utilizing the outdoor amphitheater for small events (music, guest lecturers, readings and incorporating Indigenous perspectives; add more natural levels/seating to grass area of amphitheater to improve safety because so steep). Also look to utilize existing patio space better (outdoor games tables, pergola for shade, etc., reinstate entrance to Resource Centre at this location).

### **Additional Comments from Participants**

- Maximizing opportunities to add seating/shade, native plants/pollinator gardens, permeable surfaces, safety features, wildlife features (bees, birds, bats).
- More trees in southeast corner to provide visual barrier.
- Incorporating amenities/features for dog walkers that use the park.
- Incorporating art (possibly incorporate interactive art piece that relates to the preferred stormwater feature).

### **Information on related City Projects**

Stormwater management improvements at Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area:

For more information and how to get in touch with the project manager, please visit the [Gallanough Project Webpage](#) or visit [vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca) and search "Gallanough Park and Surrounding Area".

Questions or comments can also be directed to: [Gallanough@resilientconsulting.ca](mailto:Gallanough@resilientconsulting.ca).

Off-Leash Dog Area Strategy:

For more information please visit [vaughan.ca/DogPark](http://vaughan.ca/DogPark). Questions or comments can also be directed to: [michael.habib@vaughan.ca](mailto:michael.habib@vaughan.ca).

### **Questions and Answers from Workshop**

1. Could the high energy consumption in this neighbourhood relate to the Sabbath mode appliances that are left on - crock pots, hot plates, water urns?

High energy use in the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood is being explored. Through the Residential Retrofit Program, the SNAP team will gain a better understanding of when and how residents are using electricity.

**2. Are there any First Nations community members who are living in this SNAP area?**

The SNAP team is unaware of any First Nations members living in the SNAP neighbourhood, however the team is having separate meetings with First Nations to gather their input into the project.

**3. Are there any bats left in Vaughan/Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood?**

In terms of bats specifically at Gallanough Park, TRCA staff indicated that it would be unlikely that they would have a maternity roost in the park, but they may be there feeding during the night. They prefer to be closer to forest and water sources (wetlands, rivers, lakes). The Toronto Zoo bat conservation program is a good resource for anyone interested in learning about bats in Ontario: <http://www.torontozoo.com/bats>

# York Hill Park Engagement Summary

**Date:** Wednesday September 2, 2020

**Attendees:** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff, City of Vaughan (COV) staff, residents and stakeholders of the Thornhill SNAP neighbourhood.

**Purpose:** To bring the community and partners together to co-develop a shared vision for York Hill District Park in the neighbourhood.

## Objectives:

- Provide an update on the progress of Thornhill SNAP, highlight feedback received to date related to the signature project (York Hill Park) and provide a high-level update on City plans related to planned renovations at Garnet A Williams Community Centre.
- To inspire participants with precedent images and project overviews of other innovative projects (locally and from around the world). Guest presentation on Edithvale Park, Schollen and Company.
- To brainstorm ideas or solutions that could be implemented in York Hill Park to help us achieve the SNAP design principles.
- Discuss ideas/thoughts related to potential innovative implementation partners

## Outcomes

Outcomes from this workshop will be integrated into the broader action planning process to create the Thornhill SNAP. The following summarizes the overarching trends and comments received during the breakout group brainstorms and chat logs.

Themes that emerged from the discussions:

### 1. Access and Connectivity

- Improve connections to surrounding facilities and increase awareness of access points into park (e.g. more wayfinding throughout park and signage at entrance locations from surrounding residential subdivisions).
- Access from Clark Ave is through community centre parking lot, wouldn't know the park is there unless familiar with area – plant more trees or make trail from Clark Ave into the park, include local art or sculptures and signage along the way.
- Improve connection and entrance on the East side.

### 2. Multi-age and Physical activities

- Encourage physical activities for different age groups with programmed use in the park.
- Accessible and multi-use playgrounds integrated together for all ages (i.e. playing card tables for seniors) and ability for caregivers/parents to supervise multi ages at once in playground area.
- Washrooms or access to publicly available facilities nearby would be important for creating an age-friendly park.

### 3. Incorporate a Focal Feature

- Interest in a fire pit or pizza oven.
- Different elevations for variety and landscaping.
- Group seating with shade, tranquil space for those without kids.

- Add water feature in the amphitheater – different from splash pad, as an activity for older kids.
  - Create opportunities for emerging artists and talent in Thornhill. Using amphitheater or another space to honour and showcase the arts.
- 4. Multi-use Pathways**
- Expand existing pathways to be multi-use (i.e. pedestrians, bikes, strollers). One side for cyclists and one side for pedestrians – increase safety because currently there is some conflict between different user groups.
  - Provide walking continuity or zones of use. Extend pathways into loop.
- 5. Increase Educational Function**
- Plant more gardens or trees with indicators so that school groups and kids can use in learning; nature class in the park.
  - Incorporate historical facts and self-guided tours.
  - Highlight First Nations where the park resides.
  - Add education about SWM near any water features.
- 6. Local and Fresh Food**
- Community gardens can provide educational opportunity for nutrition programming, can tie into outdoor firepit. Also partner with vendor from Farmers markets.
  - More accessible markets that offer fresh produce on a regular basis.
  - Planting fruit trees in the park.
  - Farmers market by the parking lot.
- 7. Innovative Partners**
- York Region Food Network (manage community garden behind Firehall 7-1).
  - Joint gardening project for a native garden, could be tended by the York Hill ES and the Catholic School, together.
  - DANI (Developing and Nurturing Independence) located nearby. They have a greenhouse that could perhaps be of use in a gardening partnership.
  - Youth groups.
  - Organized groups such as schools and parent-teacher groups.
  - Unorganized groups – create some sort of partnership so that these groups can use the space without paying for permit.

## Information on related City Projects

Garnet A Williams Community Centre Major Renovation:

For more information and how to get in touch with the project manager, please visit the [project web page](http://vaughan.ca/GAWCC) (vaughan.ca/GAWCC).

Questions or comments can also be directed to: Tiffany Szeto, Project Manager – [tiffany.szeto@vaughan.ca](mailto:tiffany.szeto@vaughan.ca)

## Questions and Answers from Workshop

### 1. What budget was available for the Edithvale Park?

Approximately \$4million in total, but that would likely be closer to an \$8million project today.

### 2. What are the opportunities for winter activities in the park?

Our area does not have reliable snow coverage, so hard to incorporate show-shoeing or cross-country skiing. It is also difficult to maintain dedicated pathways for cross-country

ski trails because of multi-users in the park who use trails for other purposes. Introducing topography of any sort creates unofficial “tobogganing hills” without naming them as such – this presents an opportunity for kid activities in the winter. In addition, having a place to warm up is beneficial to draw people to park (seeing a shift to natural gas fireplaces, reduced hazards of real firepit and a reliable source of heat). Thinking of our microclimate, any mitigations/barriers towards wind is also beneficial. *Please note this response was provided by Mark Schollen, Schollen and Company, based on his experience in park planning.*

**3. Is there work being made to address stormwater management/flooding issues?**

Yes, the City is looking into how to best address the flooding in the park.

**4. What is meant by “District Park”?**

A District park is typically 5 hectares in size and larger than Neighbourhood parks. They support a variety of recreational and athletic interests with amenities, such as sports fields and courts, large skateboard parks, outdoor skating facilities, field houses, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas and water play facilities. District parks are co-located with Community Centres, where possible.



# Complete Streets Engagement Summary

**Date:** Wednesday July 22, 2020

**Attendees:** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff, City of Vaughan staff, residents and stakeholders of the Thornhill SNAP community.

**Purpose:** To bring the community and partners together to co-develop a shared vision for complete streets within the neighbourhood.

## Objectives:

- Provide an update on the progress of Thornhill SNAP, highlight feedback received related to the signature streets (Atkinson, Hilda and Centre) and a high-level update on City plans related to cycling facilities and other improvements.
- To inspire participants with precedent images and project overviews of other innovative street projects (locally and from around the world).
- To gain a better understanding of how the community feels about the streets now, what's working and what's not and to gain an understanding of participant priorities for the future.
- Discuss ideas/thoughts related to potential innovative implementation partners.

## Outcomes

Outcomes from this workshop will be integrated into the broader action planning process to create the Thornhill SNAP Action Plan. The following summarizes the overarching trends and comments received at the workshop.

## General Suggestions

- Consider all ages and abilities when improving the local streetscapes.
- Add art and colour to the community and create streets that are “explorable” as destinations.
- Reviving or develop new programming to optimize existing destinations along these streets including Oakbank Pond Park, McDonald House and the Heritage Conservation District.
- Consider maintenance of any infrastructure before implementation to ensure an appropriate level of service is possible.

## Pedestrians

Safety and wayfinding were the two main themes that were discussed during the pedestrian section of the brainstorm. Specific suggestions included:

- Redesigning some of the intersections in the neighbourhood to allow for drivers to see pedestrians better and reduce pedestrian-vehicle collisions.
- Developing educational programming for all user types (cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers).
- Integrating considerations for the visually impaired through signage and sidewalk/infrastructure design elements.
- Incorporating wayfinding and informational signage in public spaces to showcase natural and cultural stories of the area and to encourage people to explore the neighbourhood.
- Providing more shade and seating for pedestrians.

## Cyclists

A large part of the discussion around cyclists was coordinating transit routes with cycling routes and making transit stops and buses more user/bike friendly. Specific suggestions included:

- Installing better wayfinding signs and signage on how to use the bike racks at the front of buses.
- Increasing the rest stops along routes and providing areas for cyclists to lock up bikes.
- Providing and enforcing education for all users regarding rules for road, new cycling facilities and sidewalks.

## Drivers

A short discussion on drivers revealed that traffic calming measures may be useful at some locations. Several intersections were identified where improvements would be helpful. Specific suggestions included:

- Installing roundabouts to help with traffic flow and reduce idling, and the roundabout could be an opportunity to introduce art, plantings, colour into the streetscape.
- Investigating the location of existing signage on streets, as they are sometimes hard to see for drivers
- Providing education regarding rules of road.

## Transit Users

Similar to the above discussions, signage and wayfinding was brought up as an obstacle to transit users. Signs should clearly identify transit information and more wayfinding signage would help users identify nearby amenities and/or other transit routes. Other specific suggestions included:

- Adding shade structures, benches, emergency features and shelters near bus stops.
- Increasing the frequency of buses to provide more options to riders.
- Investigating the coordination of fares for different transit systems

## Information on related City Projects

For more information about the Clark Avenue Project and how to get in touch with the project manager, please visit <https://vaughan.ca/clarkave>.

Questions or comments can also be directed to: [john.thompson@vaughan.ca](mailto:john.thompson@vaughan.ca)

General walking and cycling questions and those related to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan can be directed to: [IPCAM@vaughan.ca](mailto:IPCAM@vaughan.ca)

## Questions and Answers from Workshop

Below are questions that were received in the chat box during the workshop.

- 1. What is the maintenance plan for Clark Ave cycling facilities i.e. snow removal?**  
Once the cycling facilities along Clark Avenue are installed, the City's Transportation and Fleet Management Services department takes over maintenance. The cycling facilities will be maintained in the winter.
- 2. Do any off-leash dog areas exist in Vaughan?**  
There is one off-leash dog park in Vaughan, located at Concord/Thornhill Regional Park (299 Racco Pkwy). In response to interest identified by the community, Vaughan started a Local Off-Leash Dog Areas Strategy to define a process for developing local off-leash dog areas. For more information, please visit [vaughan.ca/DogPark](https://vaughan.ca/DogPark).

Questions or comments can also be directed to: [michael.habib@vaughan.ca](mailto:michael.habib@vaughan.ca)

**3. Are there any cycling repair shops along the SNAP boundary?**

The known bicycle repair shops in Vaughan are the following:

- Bike Medic - <https://www.facebook.com/BIKEMEDICVAUGHAN/> (Bathurst St and Highway 7)
- Giant Vaughan - <http://www.giantvaughan.com/ca> (Keele St and Highway 7)
- Cyclepath - <http://www.cyclepathbikes.com/> (Weston Rd and Highway 7)

SNAP offers the opportunity to explore innovative solutions along cycling facilities, such as public bicycle repair stations/stands.

**4. How else can I get involved with the SNAP project other than attending these meetings?**

If you are interested in volunteering with the Thornhill SNAP and/or getting involved with SNAP implementation, please email [patricia.lewis@trca.ca](mailto:patricia.lewis@trca.ca).