

# Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program

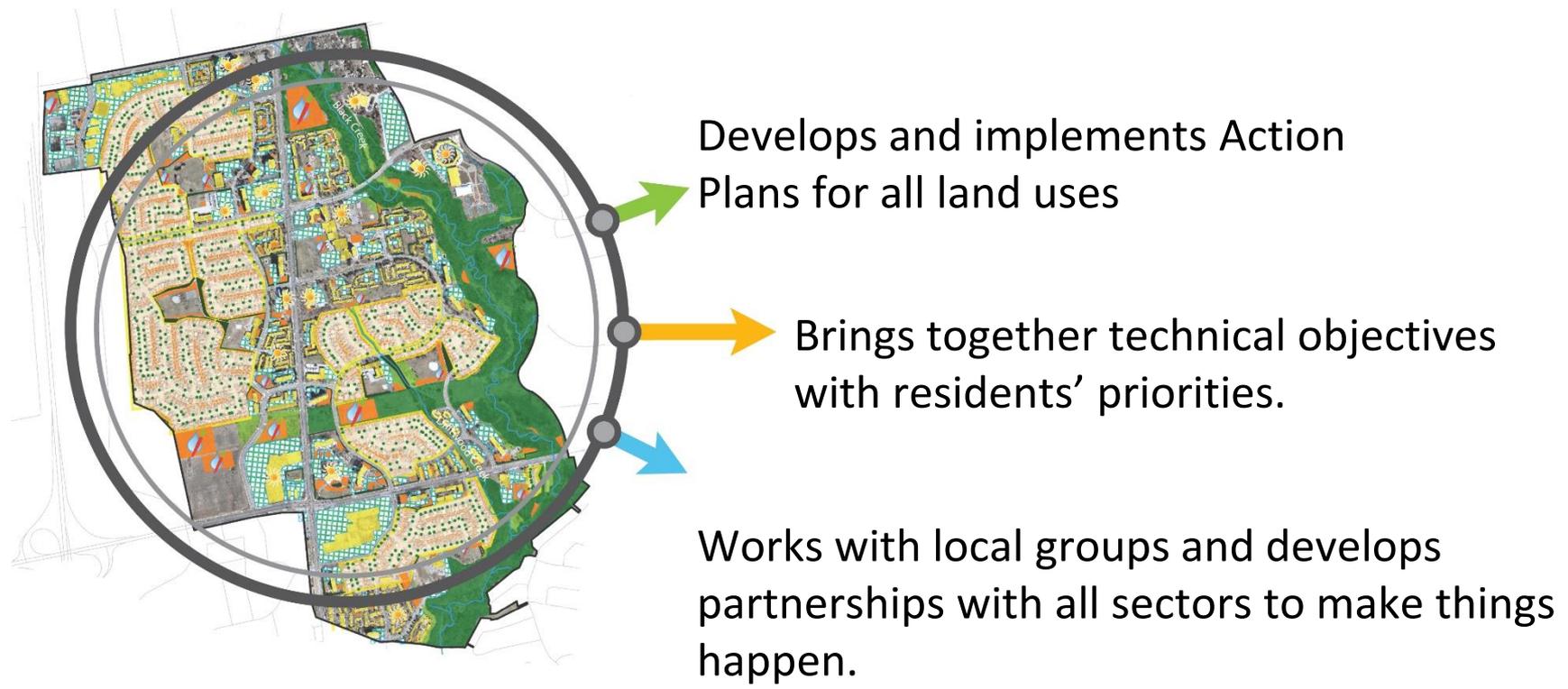
City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole (Working Session)

May 5, 2021

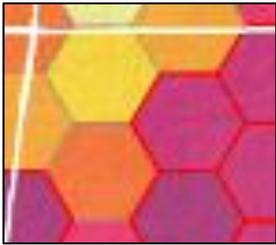


# Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)

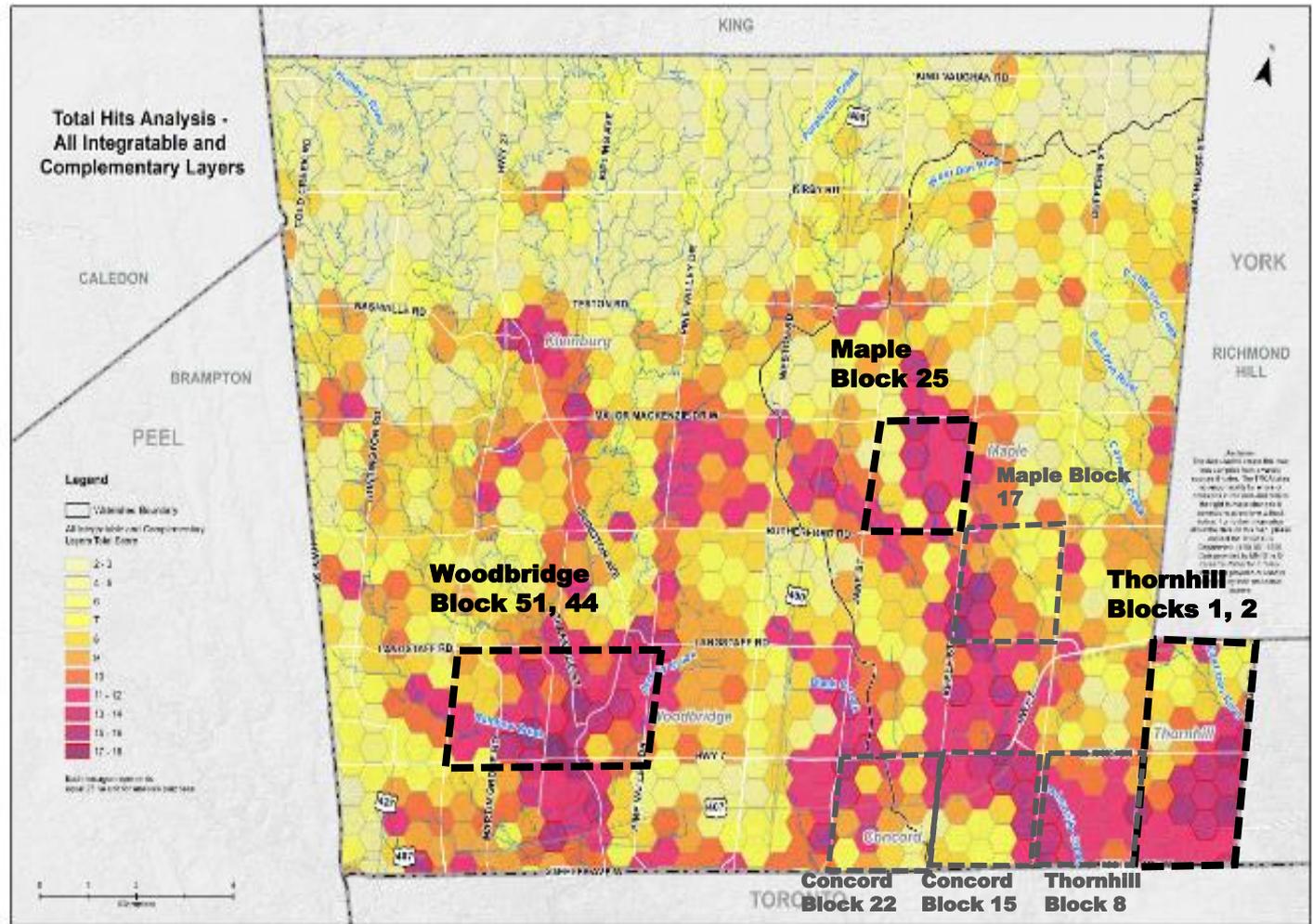
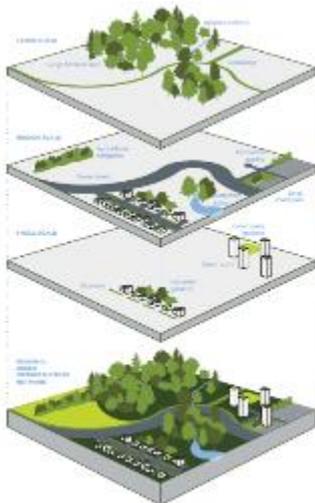
A neighbourhood-based solution for sustainable urban renewal and climate action



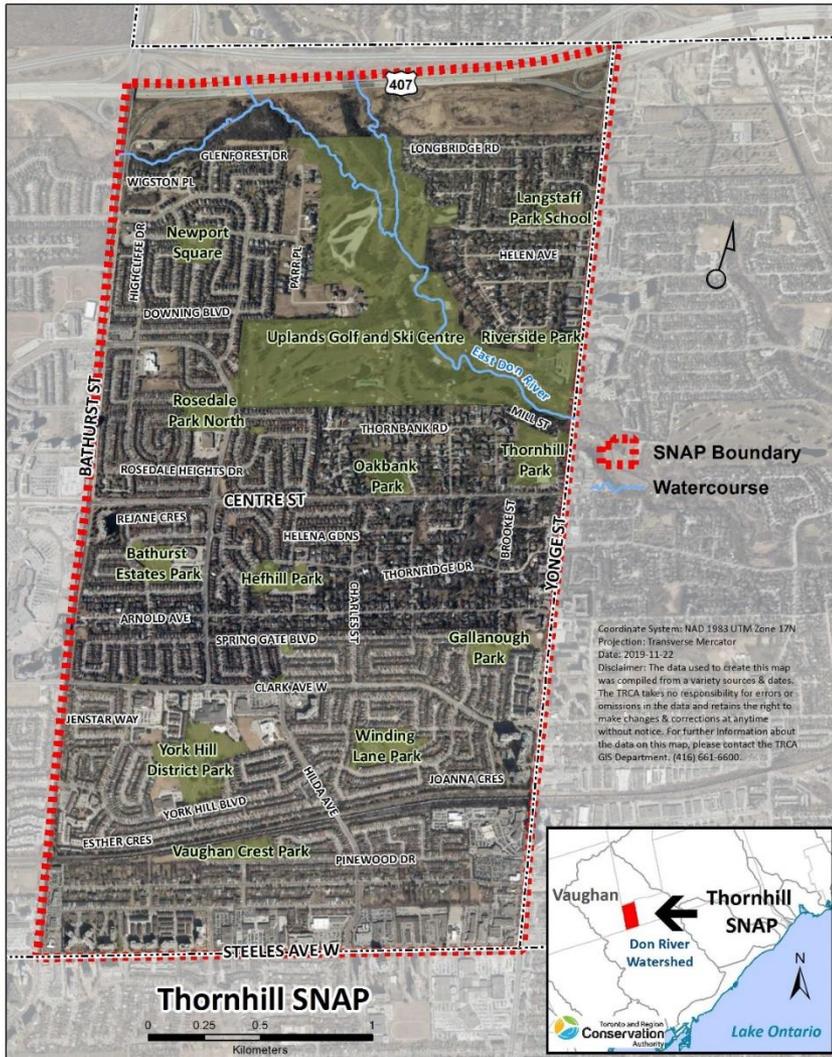
# Neighbourhood Selection Process



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)

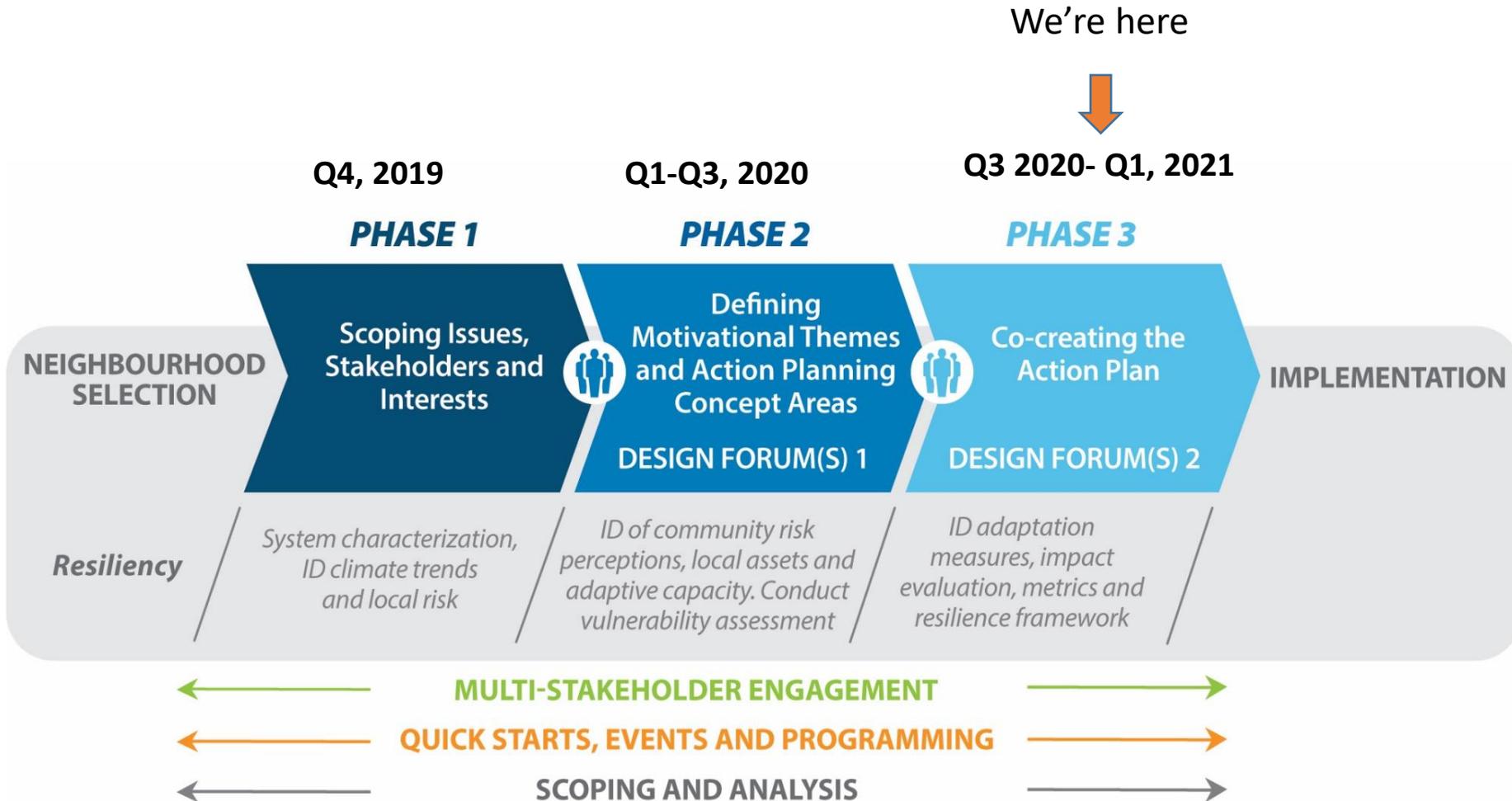
## Planned Capital Projects

- 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

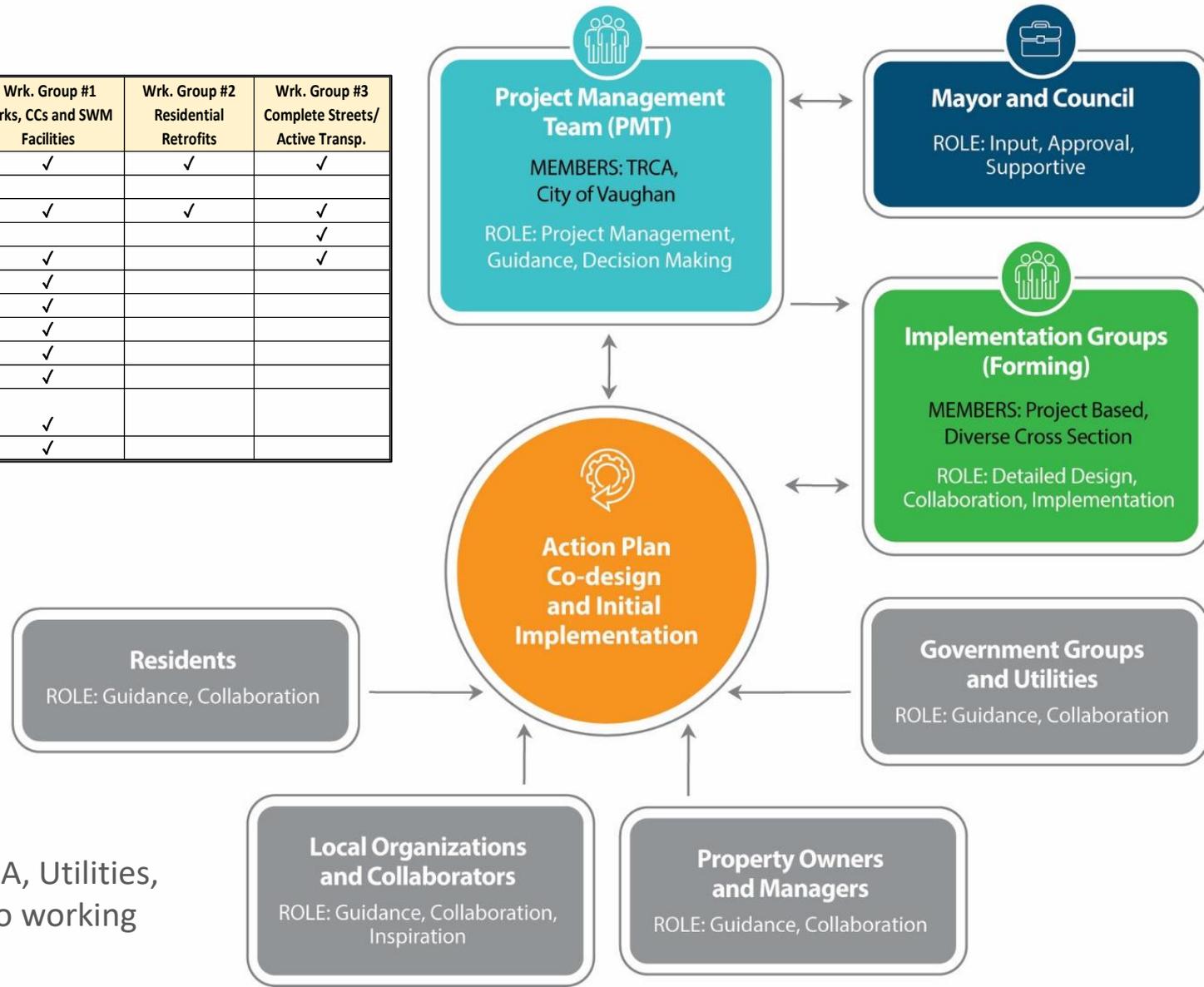


# SNAP Action Planning Process



# 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>City of Vaughan Departments</b>					
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



# What we Heard

More Nature, and  
Env. Education

Opportunities for  
Community  
Connections

Revitalized,  
Unique Parks

Celebration of  
Historical  
Heritage

Green Buildings &  
Supports for  
Home Retrofits

Accessibility for  
Seniors and Users  
w/ Special Needs

Improved Bike  
and Pedestrian  
Experience

More Arts and  
Culture

# 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

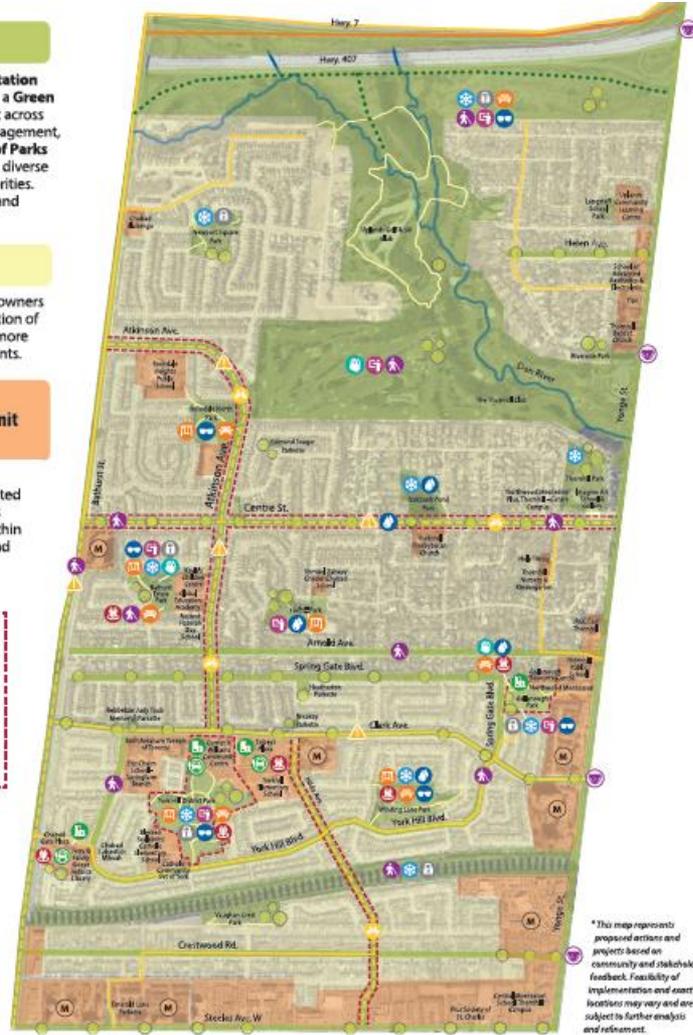
Provision of supports and programming for homeowners to assist them with identification and implementation of actions to make their homes and their properties more efficient and more resilient to extreme climate events.

## 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.



EXISTING/PROPOSED FEATURES	
	Water Course
	Existing Trail/Pathways
	Existing Cycling Routes
	Proposed Cycling Routes
	Proposed Subway Stations
	Proposed 407 Transitway
	Proposed Vaughan Street Trail
	Railway
	Multi-Unit Residential Buildings

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS			
	Community Gathering Destination		Seating
	Improved Accessibility & Accessibility		Shade
	Programming		Traffic Improvements (calming, reduction)
	Playground Improvements		Stormwater & Drainage Management
	Multi-season Recreation		Green Parking Lots & EV Charging
	Safety Considerations		Resilient/Sustainable Buildings
	Art, History, & Cultural Celebration		Trees, Flowers, Habitat, Ecobehaviour

\*This map represents proposed actions and projects based on community and stakeholder feedback. Feasibility of implementation and exact locations may vary and are subject to further analysis and refinement.

# 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!

