

COMMUNICATION

Distributed October 3, 2011

	Report No.	Item No.	Committee
C1. Presentation "Active together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries Physical Activity Strategy", dated October 3, 2011.	6	1	Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee

Please note there may be further Communications.

Item 1
Oct. Oct. 3, 2011
CJ

Active TOGETHER

Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries
Physical Activity Strategy



Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee

October 3, 2011

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- To present a summary of the "Active Together" Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries (2008);
- To provide an update on the Master Plan's status;
- To answer any questions and address any comments.



MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

- The Master Plan is a strategy for meeting the current and future parks, recreation, culture and library facility and service needs of Vaughan in order to enhance the overall quality of life of its residents – socially, physically, and culturally;
- Approved in principle by City of Vaughan Council in October, 2008;
- Monitored annually and updated every 5 years.



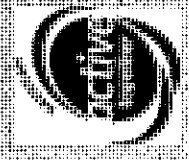
WHY “ACTIVE TOGETHER” MATTERS

Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries are the “Quality of Life Maker”. Benefits include:

- **Physical** – improves personal and community health and wellness
- **Intellectual** – fosters lifelong learning and personal achievement
- **Social** – builds community identity, social cohesion, and understanding; reduces anti-social behaviours; strengthens families
- **Environmental** – protects open spaces and offers alternative transportation choices
- **Economic** – attracts and retains residents, industry, and investment

KEY INPUTS

- Needs were identified based on:
 - public input;
 - demographics;
 - recreation trends;
 - existing studies (e.g., previous OP, OPAs, DCs, etc.);
 - current service levels;
 - capacity of facilities and usage rates;
 - best practices in other communities;
 - geographic distribution;
 - "Waikātoan-specific" provision standards



EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION

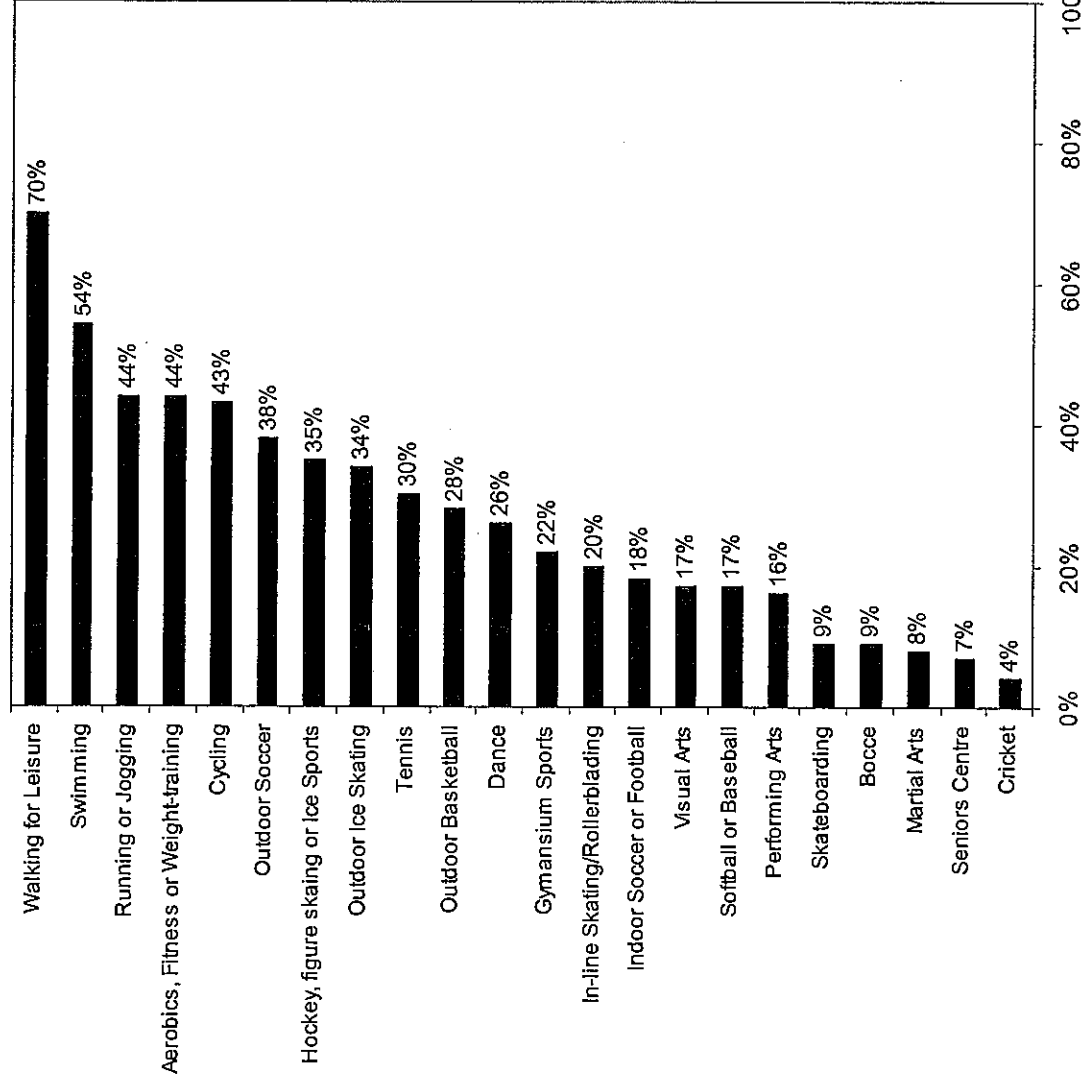
- Web site - www.vaughan.ca;
- Posters, Brochures, Leisure Guide;
- Random household telephone survey (statistically significant);
- Surveys & interviews with community groups and sports associations;
- Workshops:
 - Community (2)
 - Arts/Culture/Heritage
 - Seniors Association (SAVI)
 - Mayor and members of Council
 - Front-line Staff and Senior Management
 - Library Board
 - Committees and staff (City & Region)
- Public Open House;
- Presentations to Committee of the Whole (May 27 & Sept. 23, 2008).

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The *top activities* that Vaughan respondents participate in are:

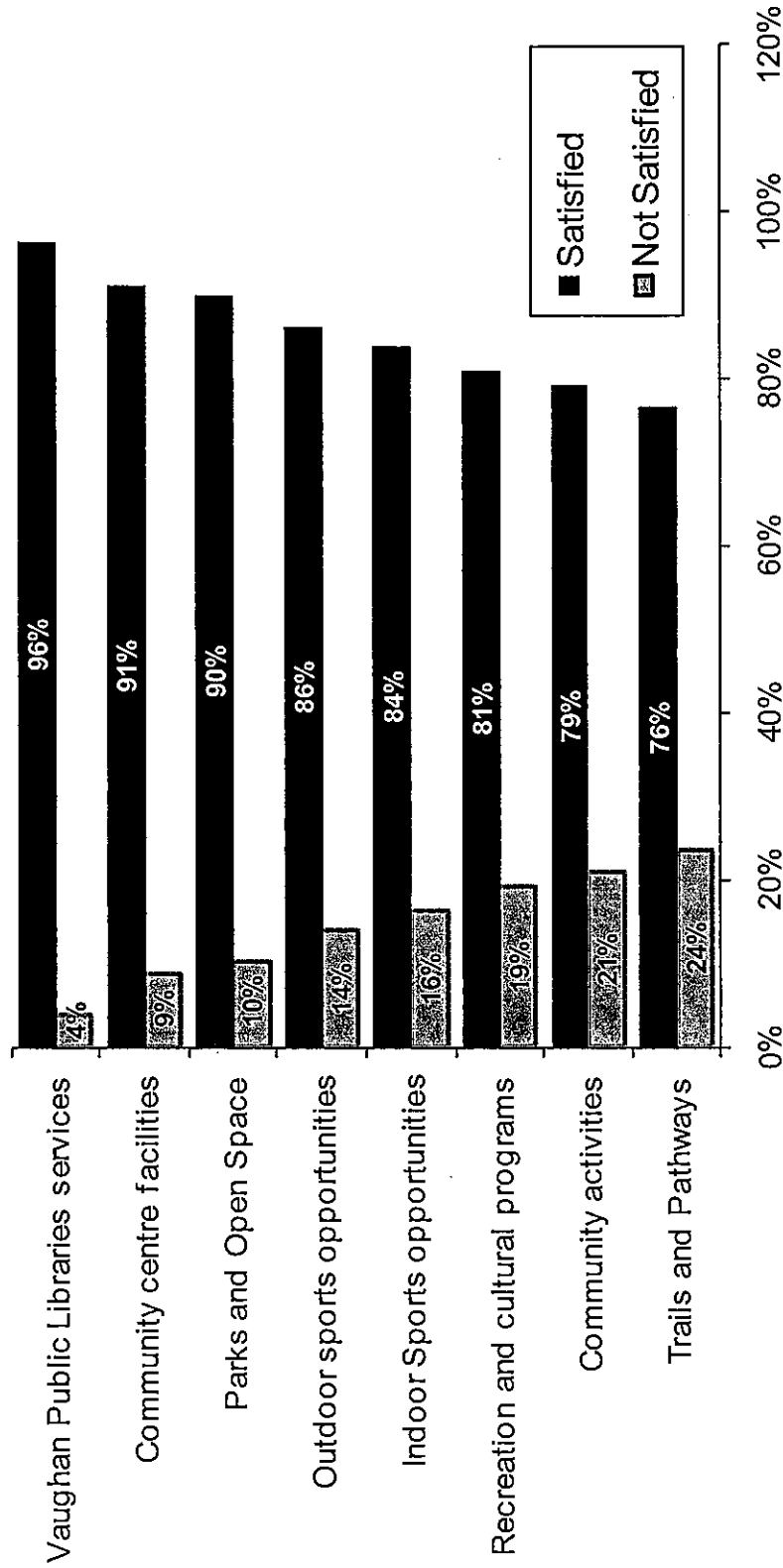
- ✓ Walking
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Running or jogging
- ✓ Fitness
- ✓ Aerobics / weights
- ✓ Cycling

Percentage of Households who Participate in Recreation & Leisure Activities ("yes" response)



HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Level of Satisfaction with Variety and Quality of Local Opportunities



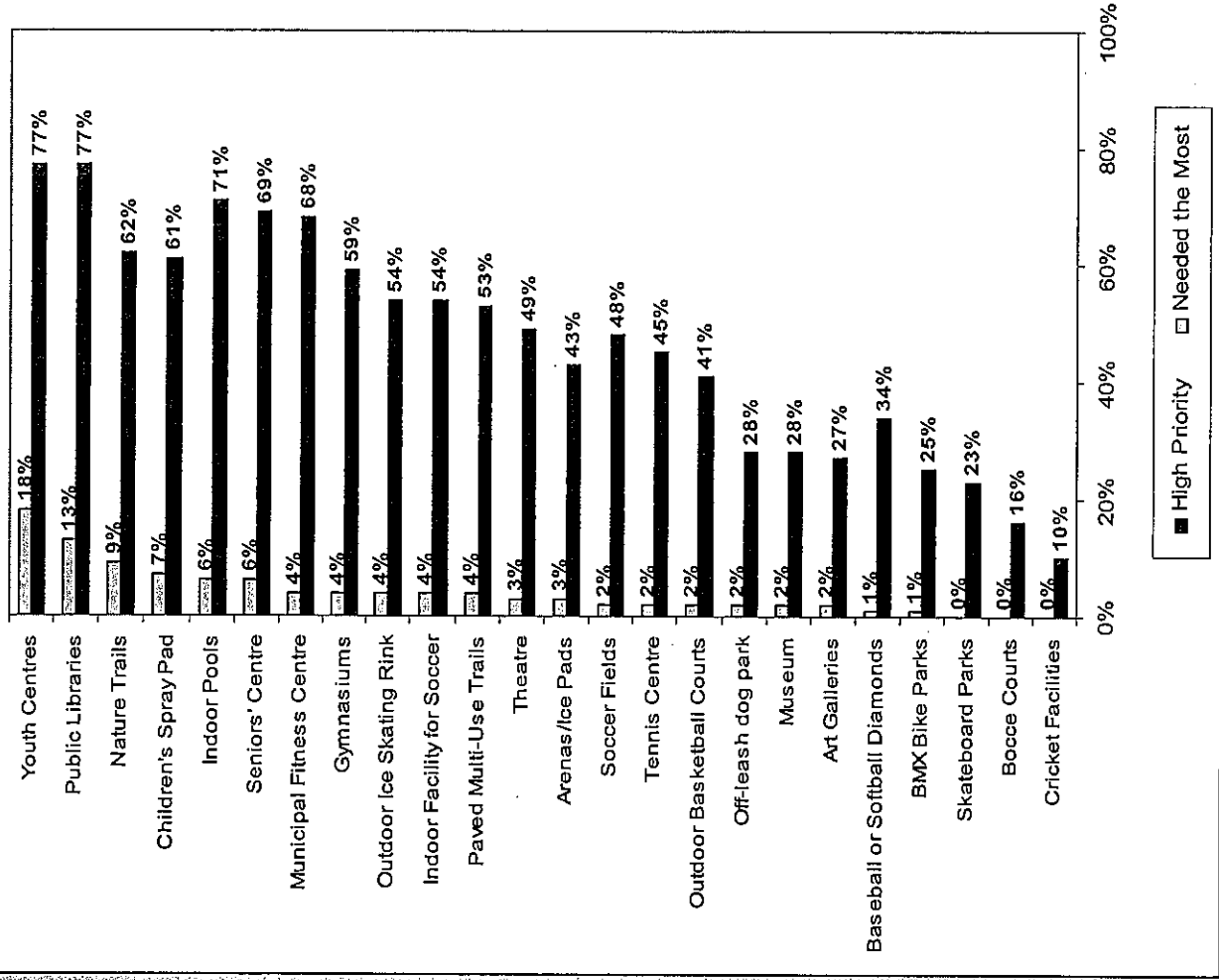
* "Don't Know" responses excluded.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Highest priority rankings for additional municipal spending:

- ✓ Youth centres
- ✓ Public libraries
- ✓ Nature trails
- ✓ Spray pads
- ✓ Indoor pools
- ✓ Senior centres
- ✓ Fitness centres

Priority for Municipal Funds to Improve or Expand Facilities



KEY TRENDS

- Increased preference for **unstructured and self-scheduled activities**;
- Communities centres and libraries as **“community hubs”**;
- High levels of **inactivity and obesity**, including children/youth;
- Increased demand for programs / services for **older adults** (emphasis on active living and skill development);
- **“Lack of time”** becoming more of an issue – multi-purpose facilities help to mitigate this problem;
- Walking, swimming, soccer, and skateboarding among **popular and/or growing activities**.

KEY DRIVERS

- Many residents are satisfied with current parks, facilities, and programs. They are looking for these service levels to be carried forward.
- However, there are also some service level gaps.
- Factors to consider...Vaughan is:
 - Growing quickly in all age groups, but aging
 - Becoming more ethnically diverse
 - Not as physically active as desired
 - A mix of stable and growing communities
 - Experiencing urban intensification
 - Focused on fiscal sustainability



FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Recommendations for 2009-2017 were aligned with the **Development Charges Study** of the time;
- **Implementation Strategy** identifies capital and ongoing operating cost estimates for recommended infrastructure (2009 to 2031);
- Presently, parks and facility capital projects are funded through development charges, municipal taxes, and grants. Most active parkland is provided through dedication – **this is expected to continue, but alternative funding and acquisition options should continue to be sought.**

PROVISION STANDARDS

2008 Supply Recommended Provision Standard

Active Parkland (ha)	740 / 65	2.5 hectares of active parkland per 1,000 residents (as part of the overall target of 4,0ha/1000 for parks and open space)
Passive Parkland (ha)	349 ha	
Community Centres	10	dependent upon component needs & distribution (see below)
Arenas (Ice Pads)	8	1,500 registered youth participants
Indoor Pool Tanks	10	1,300,000
Gymnasiums	9	1,350,000
Outdoor Soccer Fields	145	150 registered youth participants
Ball Diamonds	65	150 registered youth participants
Tennis Courts	124	15,000 in new areas
Bocce Courts	17 and 64 out	no additional courts recommended
Basketball Courts	60	1,500 youth (aged 10-19) in new areas
Skateboard Parks	1	17,500 youth (aged 10-19)
Waterslides/Facilities	18	1 per residential block
Playgrounds	47 parks	within 500 metres of urban residential areas, unobstructed
Off-leash Areas	7	no pilot project recommended
Outdoor Skating Rinks	1	no recommended in district parks
Library Facilities (all)	2000 sq ft	100 square feet per capita



INDOOR RECREATION - Recommendations

Proposed Facility Components	Proposed Community Centres			Long-Term Residential Growth Area
	Carrville (Block 1f)	Vellore Village (Block 40/41/42)	Vaughan Corporate Centre	
Indoor Ice Pads ¹	twin pad	to be determined (here or at centre in Long Term Residential Growth Area)	—	to be determined (here or at centre in Block 40/41/42)
Indoor Pool(s)	—	—	Potential replacement of Woodbridge Pool	2 pool tanks
Gymnasium ²	to be determined (potential 2 nd phase)	to be determined (potential 2 nd phase)	to be determined	to be determined
Fitness / Active Living Studio ³	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included
Multi-use Program Space & Dedicated Space	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included	Yes - included
Library Space	Community Branch	Community Branch	Resource Library (to be confirmed)	Community Branch (to be confirmed)
PROPOSED TIMING FOR CONSTRUCTION ⁴	2012-2014	2013-2015	2020-2022	2029-2031



LIBRARIES - Recommendations

- **Aggressive library building program required:**
 - Address existing service gap in **Maple** (Resource Library recommended as part of Civic Centre campus);
 - Address short-term service gaps in **Carrville and Vellore Village** (as part of community centres);
 - Address longer-term service gaps in the **Long-Term Residential Growth Area** and **Vaughan Corporate Centre** (as part of community centres);
- Libraries to update **service delivery model** to reflect evolving role as community hubs.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Recommendations

- Continued provision of soccer fields (emphasis on senior size fields and artificial turf);
- New ball diamonds, courts, waterplay facilities, and playgrounds in new neighbourhoods;
- Consider conversion of underutilized ball diamonds and tennis courts into other uses;
- New skateboard parks in Thornhill, Maple, Woodbridge, Woodbridge East, and Carrville (as well as smaller skate zones);
- Develop an off-leash dog park and expand supplies as appropriate;



PARKLAND - Recommendations

- **Seek to maintain a ratio of active and passive parkland at 4 hectares per 1000 residents;**
 - **Of this, 2.5 ha/1000 should be targeted for active parkland (in 2008, this ratio was 2.85ha/1000)**
- **To achieve this, a range of alternative parkland acquisition tools will be required;**
- **Assess parkland renewal and redevelopment requirements;**
- **Trail development will be a high priority and will require additional lands beyond traditional parkland dedication**





VAUGHAN



Vaughan
Public Libraries

**Active
TOGETHER**

Master Plan for Parks, Recreation,
Culture & Libraries
Physical Activity Strategy

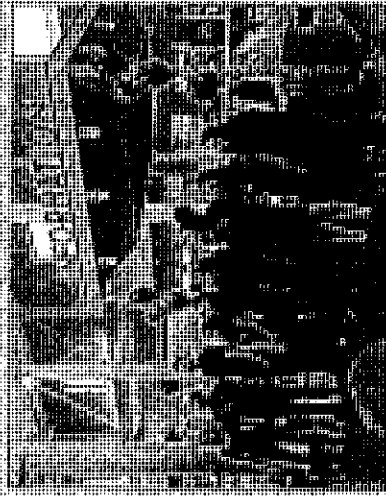
STATUS UPDATE



LIBRARIES - Update

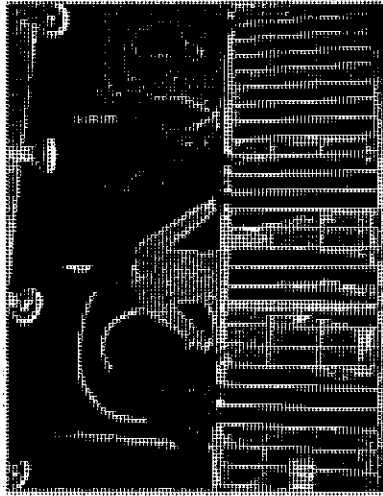
- Resource Library at Civic Centre
 - Acquisition of resources initiated
 - Notional purchase of land completed
 - Building Program of VPL Board completed
 - Projected opening Q3'14
- Thornhill Woods Neighbourhood Library
 - RFP for Design/Build to be released Q4'11
 - Projected opening Q4 2012
- Community library (Block 11)
 - Land secured at site of community centres

Approved by VPL Board



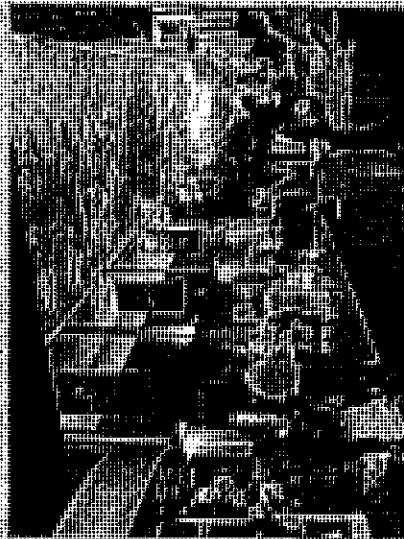
LIBRARIES - Update

- Creation and/or expansion of teen spaces at three libraries
- VPL Board redefined facility construction priorities; further review pending
- Accessibility improvements made to Kleinburg Library
- Service delivery model refined to incorporate technological innovation
- Bathurst Clark Resource Library refurbished to improve accessibility and enhance customer service



INDOOR RECREATION - Update

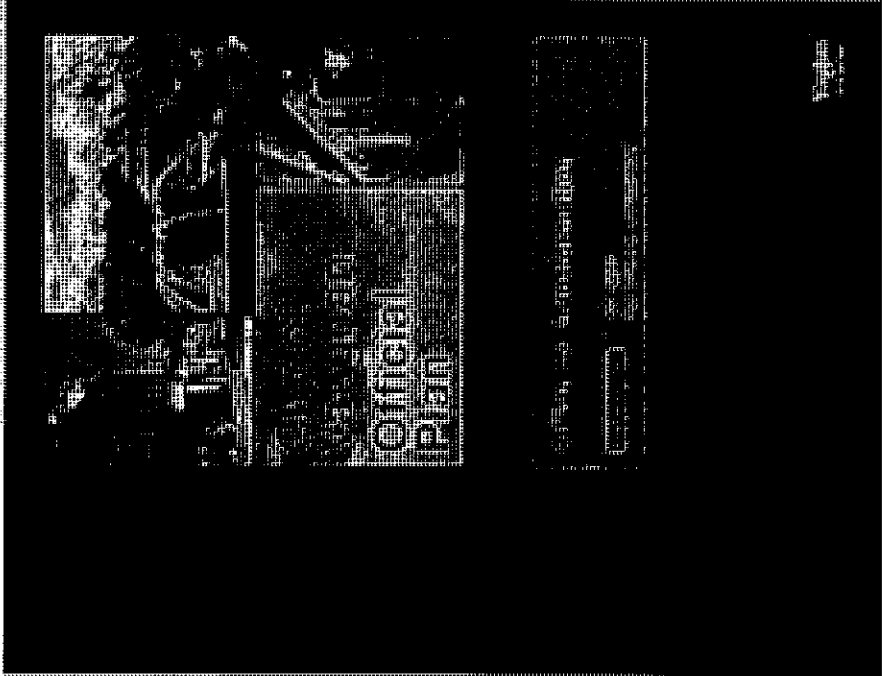
- North Thornhill Community Centre opened 2010;
- Vellore Village fitness centre addition
- Father Ermanno Bulfon fitness centre expansion;
- Al Palladini Community Centre cycling room addition was opened in September 2011;
- With assistance from a grant from the Lowes Foundation, the Maple Arena has been refurbished over the summer of 2011.



INDOOR RECREATION - Update

- In 2010, Infrastructure Stimulus Funding allowed for retrofitting of the Al Palladini and Garnet A. Williams Community Centre Arenas, including accessibility upgrades;
- Fire alarm systems at community centres are being retrofitted to improve notification for the hearing impaired, and reception counters have been renovated for service to those in wheelchairs;
- Land for a new Community Centre in Block 11 has been purchased;
- Through 2011 budget deliberations, Council requested that staff review the programs delivered at the Woodbridge Pool with a view to move programs to other locations in light of the Pool's eventual decommissioning.

OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

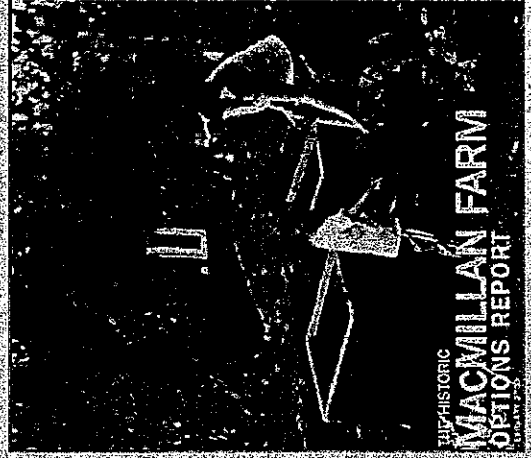
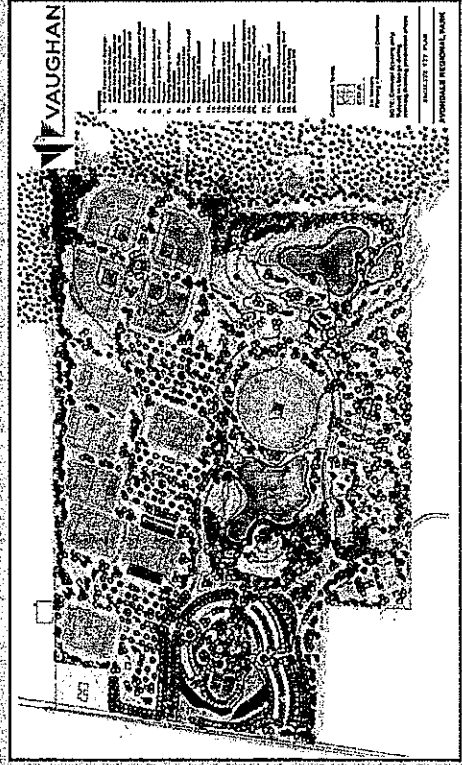


- New hierarchy of parkland classification & park typology established through Official Plan Review.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

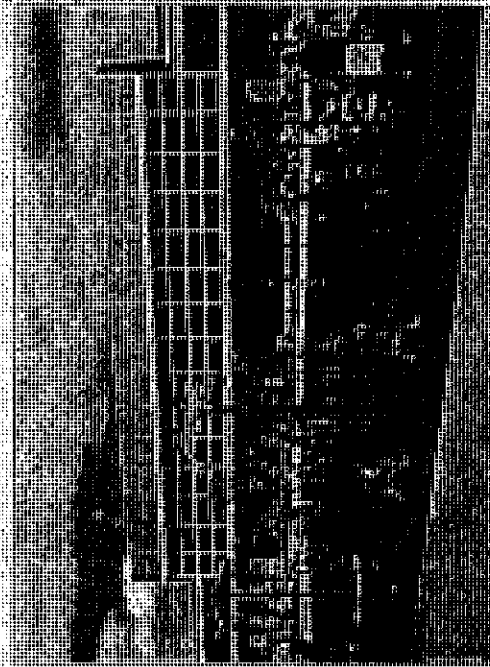
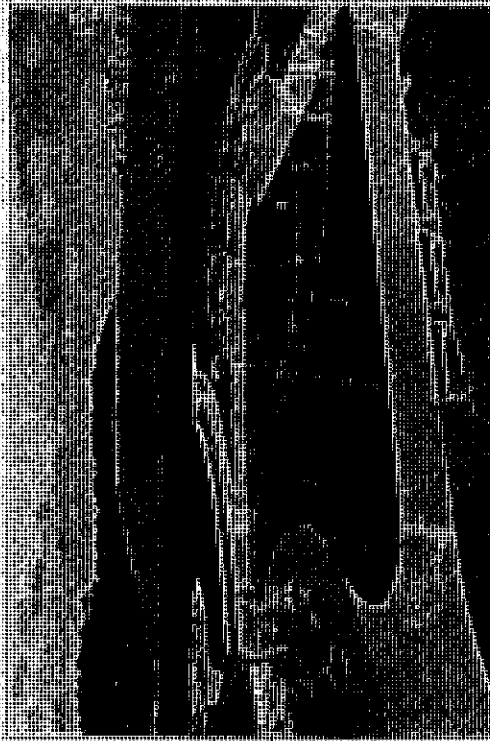
- Strategic acquisition of active/passive parkland where shortfalls (deficiencies) are identified. North Maple Regional Park, MacMillan Farm and School Board surplus land on Confederation Parkway acquired;
- RFP for Parkland/Greenland Acquisition Strategy is pending to ensure acquisition of adequate land base for outdoor recreation.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Outdoor Aquatics

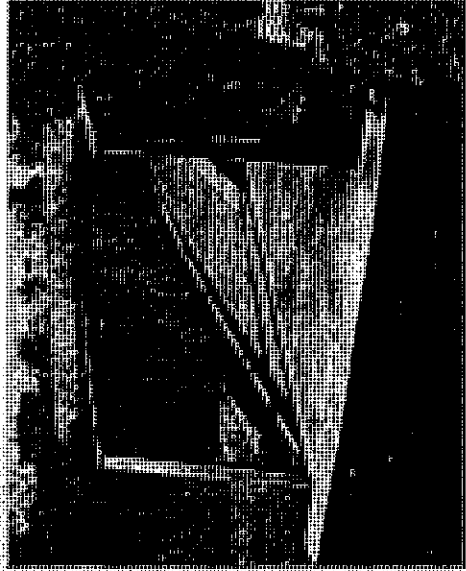
- Continued implementation in District and Regional parks - North Thornhill Community Centre and District Park (Block 10) completed in 2010.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Trails

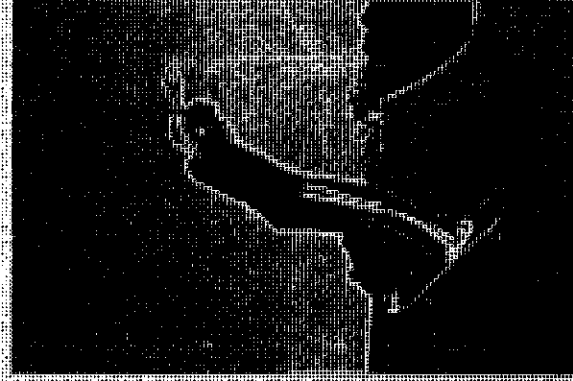
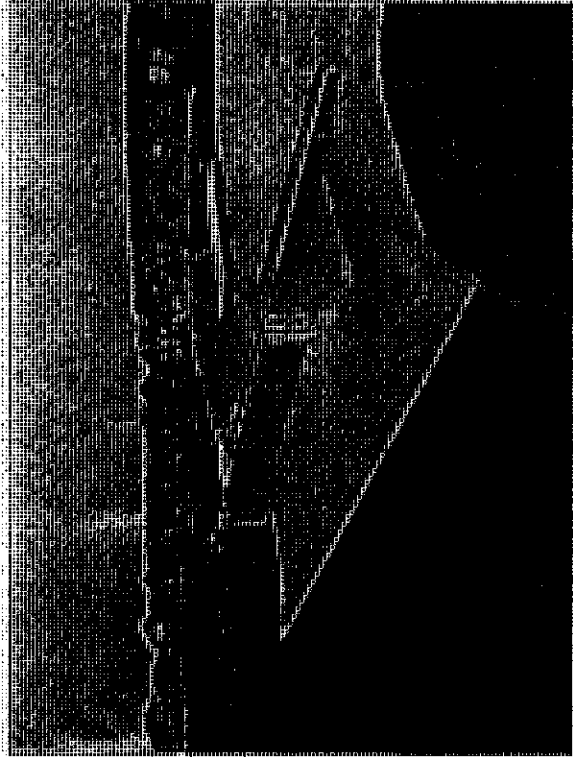
- Implementation of key off-road pathways as articulated in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (9.5 km of trails built over the previous 2 years, with approximately 2.5 km in the planning stages);
- Trails continue to be a priority to create pedestrian corridors. Funds allocated yearly for additional connections.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Skateboard Parks

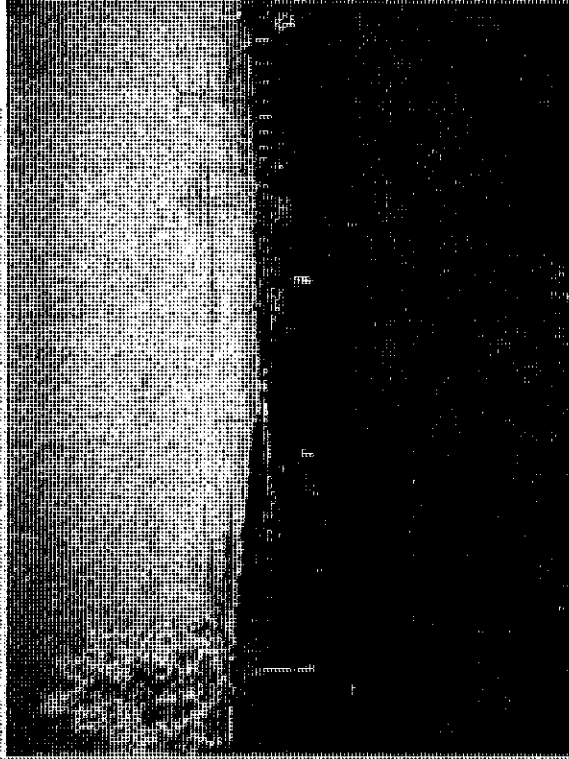
- 5 new "skate zones" designed & implemented prior to the end of 2011;
- 1 large skateboard park at Matthew Park (Vellore Village).



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Off Leash Dog Parks

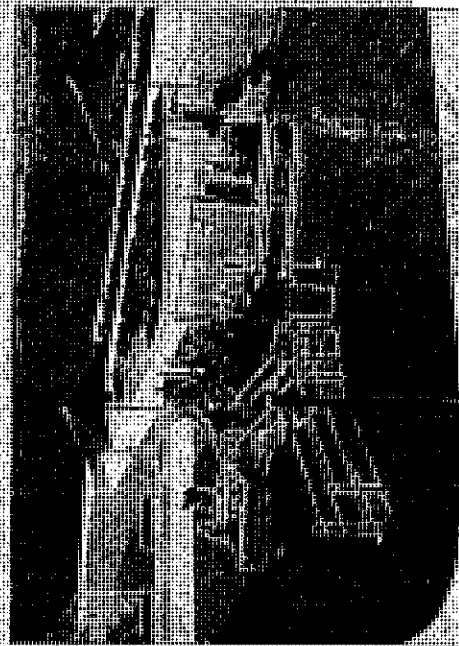
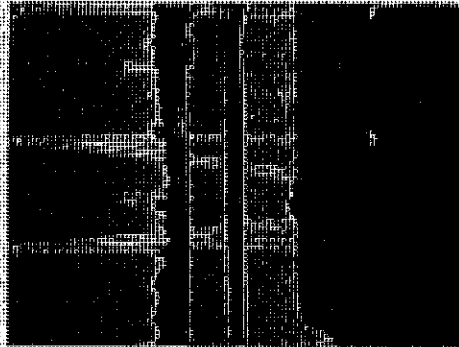
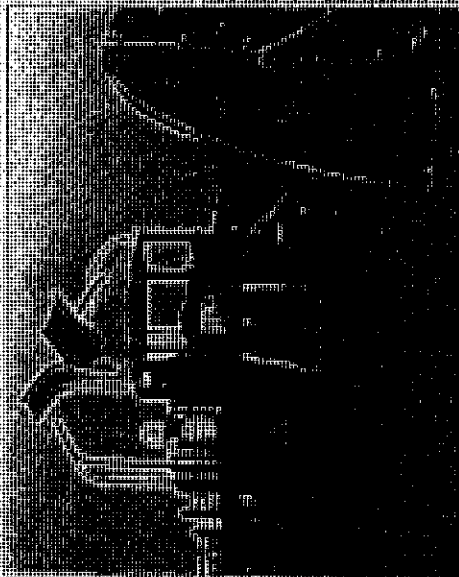
- First Off Leash Area completed as a pilot project in 2009 within Concord Thornhill Regional Park;
- 2012 capital request for the design & development of an additional Off Leash Area west of Highway #400.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Accessibility

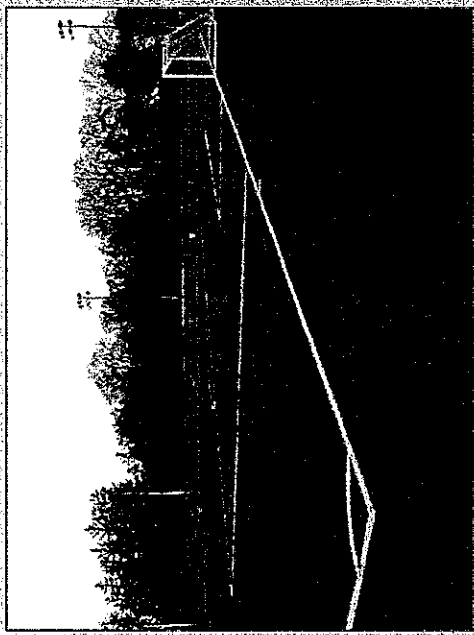
- All parks to have elements making the playgrounds 50% accessible. Achieved through surfacing (rubber and wood fiber mulch), ramps, transfer platforms, features, etc.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Artificial Turf Soccer Fields

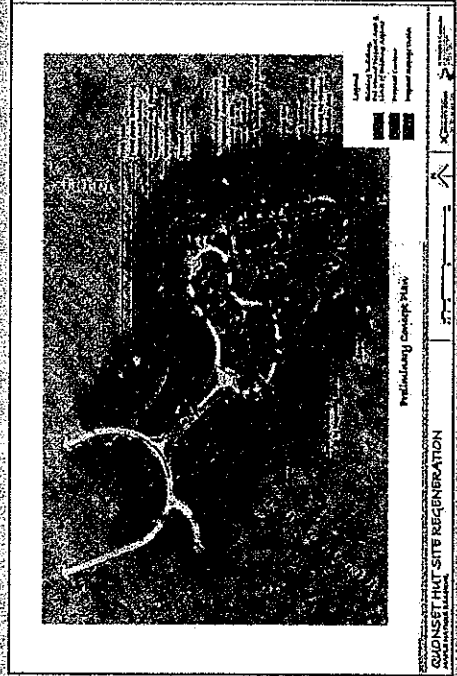
- McNaughton field opened (at the time was only one of 7 FIFA II Star rated fields in North America);
- One other existing field at Vaughan Grove Sports Park;
- One new field completed in August 2011 at Sonoma Heights Community Park;
- Two more scheduled for North Maple Regional Park;
- 2012 capital request for an artificial turf soccer field at Concord Thornhill Regional Park.



OUTDOOR RECREATION - Update

Stewardship

- The Maple Nature Reserve Quonset site restoration design and construction project was completed in 2009 in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, providing habitat and opportunities for environmental stewardship;
- Greening Vaughan Environmental Days (annual events).



ARTS & CULTURE - Update

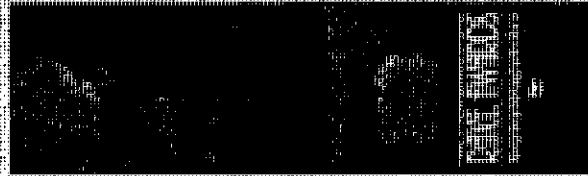


creative together

- Creative Together Cultural Plan received by Council in August 2010
- Diversity Strategy approved by Council in June 2010
- City Playhouse Theatre
 - Expansion of arts and cultural educational programming
- Art Gallery Feasibility Study received by Council in August 2010
- Pierre Berton Interpretive Centre Feasibility Study received by Council in 2006

Arts and Culture Programs:

- Dora Owen Vaughan
- Culture Days in Vaughan
- RAVE Arts Awards
- Arts Bursary for Vaughan students
- Insect Art Exhibition
- Vaughan Art School/Visible Community Centre
- Vaughan of a Week Arts and Craft Show
- Arts and Culture Heritage Buildings



Cultural Heritage:

- Four Heritage Conservation Districts
- City's Archaeological Study & GIS Mapping (2010)
- Built & Heritage Landscape Policy Study (2010)
- Heritage Preservation Awards



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY - Update

GOALS:

- ✓ Vaughan residents will have increased their physical activity levels by 10% by the year 2020
- ✓ Vaughan residents will have reduced their "screen time" by 10% by the year 2020

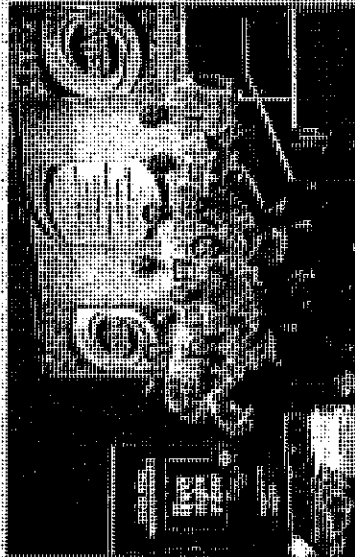
OBJECTIVES

1. Plan Identity and Recognition

- Launch event in Council, Mayor as Community Champion
- Active Together Logo
- Recreation Guide section, key messages, website
- Photo contest
- Promotion of City events (Park openings, Canada Day, Winterfest)

2. Strengthening Community Partnerships

- Coalition of Community Partners
- School Partnerships - Healthy Schools Program, Pause to Play, Walk to School
- Sports Leagues



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY - Update

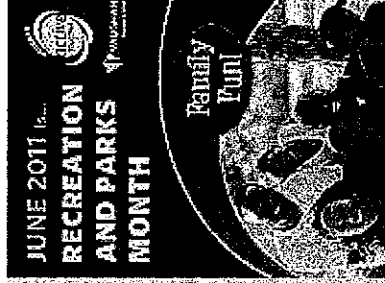
OBJECTIVES cont'd

3. Active Programs and Initiatives

- Recreation Month – free activities
- Family Day, March Break & Youth Week activities
- Destination Lane Swim, Fitness Training
- School initiatives – Walk to School, Healthy Schools
- CANBIKE – safe bike riding skills
- Live Right Now – Vaughan residents to lose 100,000 lbs.
- “On Your Mark” – youth physical activity and health program
- “Pause To Play Week” – turn off the screens
- World Physical Activity Day
- Vaughan Mills “Healthy Strides” walking program

4. Infrastructure

- Vaughan Liveable City – active transportation workshop
- School travel planning / Walk to School pilot
- TDM trail signage grant
- Playground equipment



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY - Update

OBJECTIVES cont'd

5. Social Environments and Support

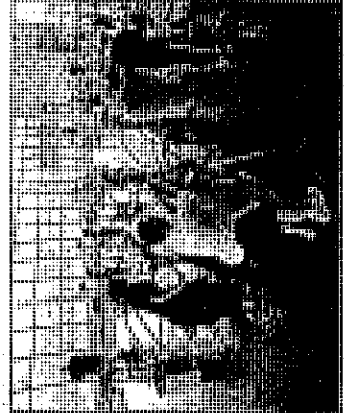
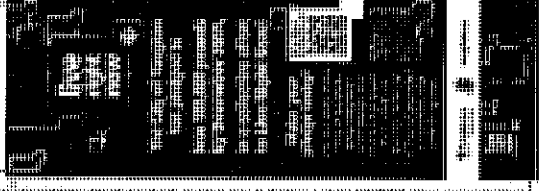
- RecAssist - fee assistance program
- Recreation Month - free activities
- 1/3 Price Recreational Swims
- Reduced fees for seniors
- Language line services

6. Including Under-represented Groups

- Coalition of Community Partners - broad community representation
- "On Your Mark" - in partnership with VCHC, specifically targets female youth
- Youth Forum in partnership with YRP and VCHC
- National Access Awareness Week

7. Workplace Initiatives

- City of Vaughan - Corporate fitness discount
- Inclusive member shared account - Corporate fitness discount



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY - Update

OBJECTIVES cont'd

8. Policy Support Considerations

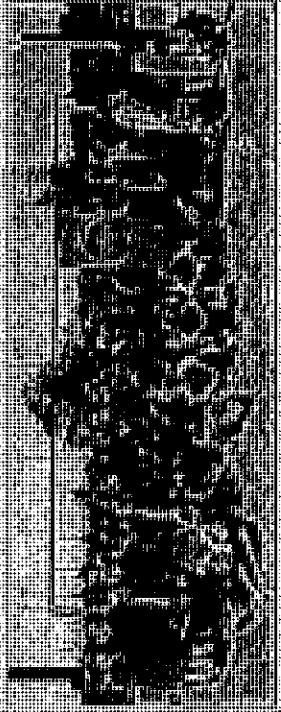
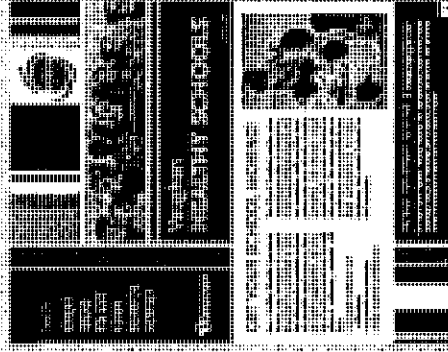
- Emphasis on a physical activity component in summer camps
- RecAssist - fee assistance program

9. Communications and Social Marketing

- Recreation Guide section and key messages
- Website, twitter, facebook
- Healthy Schools newsletter
- Physical Activity Strategy branding

10. Plan Evaluation and Measuring Performance

- Customer Satisfaction surveys
- PA Strategy marketing budget
- Tracking of participation numbers



NEXT STEPS

- Revise and update the current Master Plan

(scheduled to commence 2012 pending budget approval)

- The following factors will be considered as part of this revision/update:
 - Orangeville development charges decision (may require facility scheduling reallocation);
 - Alignment with new Vaughan Official Plan, Demographics, Trends, Development timing;
- Ongoing annual review of the action items contained in the "Active Together" Master Plan.



QUESTIONS

