



PARKS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

In October 2008, City Council approved the *Active Together Master Plan*. This document provides a road map for the provision of Parks, Recreation, Culture, and Libraries to the City's ultimate build-out in 2031. For more information visit: www.vaughantomorrow.ca.

The City of Vaughan currently has over 1,000 hectares of developed park and open space lands for you to discover. There are unprogrammed spaces designed for passive recreation and highly programmed recreation facilities to accommodate active lifestyles.

The Needs of Residents are Top Priority in Designing New Park Facilities

Beginning in 2008, all new playgrounds are now designed to provide accessibility for children with special needs, and accessible playground safety surfacing is incorporated into new park developments wherever possible.

New facilities being introduced include:

- The City's first Off-leash Dog Park at Concord Thornhill Regional Park in Thornhill;
- A FIFA 2 STAR rated artificial turf soccer field at McNaughton Park in Maple, one of only a dozen in North and Central America according to the Official FIFA web site;
- Neighbourhood scale skateboard parks including the first at Freedom Trail Park.

In addition Parks Development is continuing the development of Open Space Trails, striving to improve connectivity within both the Humber and Don River systems.

We are Leaders in Initiating Change

Parks Development is committed to green and sustainable design. Our designs embrace responsible environmental practices, enhanced social benefits, and reduced maintenance costs.

Parks Development specifies quality products and materials that are durable and can be recycled including synthetic materials, engineered wood products, vegetable fibers, reclaimed metals and concrete.

Some new initiatives may include permeable pavers and granular or wood chip surfacing to reduce storm water runoff, more drought tolerant plant material, bicycle parking, bioswales, rain gardens, and recycling bins.

Community Involvement

Vaughan residents are encouraged to help keep our community parks clean and safe through the following programs, and by calling the Parks & Forestry Operations Department when by-laws are in violation.

NEW Urban Forest Project: In 2009, the Parks & Forestry Department completed a *Five Year Plan to Expand the Urban Forest*. This undertaking known as **Vaughan B'Leaves** will engage the public to work with the City to plant more trees on both public and private lands throughout Vaughan. Trees provide environmental, social and economic benefits to communities and businesses and ultimately lead to an improved quality of life.

Adopt-a-Park: Community groups, schools, and associations are encouraged to adopt-a-park and assist in keeping our parks safe from vandalism, free of garbage, and to establish a sense of community ownership. Participants' names appear on the park sign.

Park Ambassador: Residents of Vaughan are encouraged to become Park Ambassadors and be a visible presence in neighbourhood parks. Park concerns or problems are relayed to City Officials by the Park Ambassador.

Park By-Laws & Crime Stoppers: Vaughan parks are clearly marked with the appropriate By-Laws. Call the after-hours dispatch (905-832-2281, push '0'), and we will respond to concerns as soon as possible. Vaughan works in partnership with Crime Stoppers. Residents are to call Crime Stoppers (1-800-222-8477) to report any acts of mischief. Dog owners are required to stoop and scoop, and to keep dogs on leashes at all times.

Tree Dedication: Commemorate a special event by planting a tree in a community park.

For information on these initiatives call 905-832-8577.

Through the Parks Development Sustainability "Tool Kit", Vaughan parks will include practical pollution prevention solutions focused on resource conservation, storm water management, and waste reduction. Creative landscape architecture and construction science can produce design solutions that are cost effective and enhance the environment. Parks Development will continue to build on our sustainability foundation providing leadership in the new green environmental era.

Watch for more to come in your neighbourhood!

FALL CARE FOR YOUR STREET TREE

Fall is an ideal time to have your arborist look at your tree to spot any weak, dead or dying branches needing to be removed. Removing sucker growth and replacing mulch greatly benefit your tree.

Broadleaved trees should be watered through September and up until leaf fall, while evergreens should receive one thorough watering in October. Wrapping small or newly planted evergreens that may be exposed to salt drift or harsh winds, is another good idea. All wrapping must be removed in early spring.

If a tree on City property needs inspection, call 905-832-8577 and choose option '3'.



PARK ACTIVITIES

Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

The planning, design and construction of walking, hiking and cycling routes has increasingly become a priority for municipalities across Ontario, including the City of Vaughan. People are more aware of the importance of health and exercise and the need to reduce the impact motor vehicle use is having on the environment.

The Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan will create a comprehensive city-wide pedestrian and cycling network that, when implemented over the next 10 to 20 years, will accommodate a wide range of users and expand the existing pedestrian and cycling facilities within Vaughan. It will complement and support public enjoyment of the natural geography, landscape, and environmental features offered in Vaughan.

For more information visit: www.city.vaughan.on.ca/news-centre/projects/parks.cfm.



WINTER SNOW CLEARING AND RELATED BY-LAWS

The City of Vaughan Parks & Forestry Operations Department assists residents in clearing heavy snow from sidewalks. Primary road sidewalks and pathways are cleared first.

All property owners are required to ensure that snow and ice are cleared from the City sidewalk abutting their property within 24 hours after a snowfall as per By-Law #300-93. Please help us keep our sidewalks safe for everyone by not parking vehicles over the sidewalks. This obstructs sidewalk snowploughs.

By-Law #244-2005 prohibits the building, placement or maintaining of posts, fences, trees, hedges, retaining walls and wooden or cement curbing on all public road allowances. The removal of any such obstruction is particularly important for the safe and efficient clearing of sidewalks and driveway windrows.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act, Section 181, prohibits the placing of snow or ice on a roadway. Complaints of such activities should be directed to York Regional Police.

TRAIL SYSTEMS

Boyd Conservation Area

Nestled in the steep-sided Humber River Valley, Boyd Conservation Area is an oasis of green at the edge of the city. It opened in 1957 and is a perfect place to enjoy a picnic, barbeque, bird watching or a nature hike. Enjoy picnic areas, group camp sites, bocce courts, playground, soccer, sand volleyball and basketball courts. Seven kilometres of hiking trails are laid out among the 96 hectares (237 acres) of protected woodland.

For more information, call 416-667-6299 or visit: www.trcaparks.ca.

Access Point: Islington Avenue (5 kilometres north of Highway #7), Woodbridge

Open: April to October

For information on Heritage Walking Tours see page 67.



Bartley Smith Greenway

The Bartley Smith Greenway is a 15 kilometre trail that is a work-in-progress; the course follows the West Don River. The trail commences at Steeles Avenue near Dufferin Street, northward through Marita Payne Park, continuing north to Langstaff Road where the southern trail ends. The trail recommences north of McNaughton Road and continues to Teston Road (Maple).

Enjoy a unique Canadian valleyland vision, the Langstaff EcoPark. The valley has been transformed with new marshlands, the largest constructed wetland in Ontario, and thousands of new trees and shrubs, all of which have resulted in an explosion of wildlife. Birds, beavers, coyotes, foxes, birds, snakes, turtles and frogs, top the list of wildlife seen while walking, hiking or biking. A stop at beautiful Keffer Marsh lookout is highly recommended.

Access Point(s): Main intersections are Steeles Avenue and Dufferin Street, Langstaff Road and Keele Street.

Total Approximate Distance: 6 kilometres

Parking: Dufferin Clark Community Centre (Clark Avenue and Dufferin Street); Langstaff Road at Planchet Road

Surface of Trail: Gravel

Humber Trail (William Granger Greenway)

The first and second phases of the Humber Trail (5.7 kilometres) have links to the Canadian McMichael Art Collection, Boyd Conservation Area and Canada Company Way. It is open and free of charge for hiking, biking and walking.

This section of the Humber Trail is dedicated to William Granger, former Toronto Region & Conservation Authority (TRCA) Chair, in recognition of his contribution to watershed management. It includes many significant natural habitats, cultural and heritage resources, recreational and educational facilities, and the historic aboriginal trade route known as the Toronto Carrying-Place Trail. These attributes contributed to Humber River's designation as a Canadian Heritage River.

Access Point(s): Main intersections of the trail with City roads are Stegman's Mill Road and Islington Avenue at Canada Company Way. The trail ends at Rutherford Road with no access at this location.

Total Approximate Distance: 5.7 kilometres

Parking: Binder Twine Park; Foster T. Woods

Surface of Trail: Gravel on main trail; dirt on local trails.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I do if my boulevard tree requires pruning, fertilizing or removal?

Call the Parks & Forestry Operations Department at 905-832-8577. They oversee pruning, mulching, fertilizing, and replacements of all boulevard and park trees.

My boulevard tree or sod has been damaged during winter snow removal. What should I do?

The Parks & Forestry Operations section will have staff inspect the damage and advise on the necessary repairs. Please call 905-832-8577.

Who is responsible for the general clean up of debris, glass, dog poop, in parks, open spaces, and woodlots?

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department co-ordinates the clean up of parks, open spaces, and woodlots. Please call 905-832-8577 to report unkempt areas.

The grass on the boulevard and parks is high and needs cutting.

If this is in an existing park or boulevard, the Parks & Forestry Operations Department maintains a bi-monthly cutting rotation. If it appears as though this location has been missed, your inquiry is given to the Parks Operations Manager. New subdivisions are the responsibility of the developer. If the area is unassumed, please call the Engineering Department at 905-832-8525.

There are weeds/dandelions in the existing park adjacent to my home.

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department cut the grass regularly to prevent excessive growth of weeds. All our parks are pesticide free.

My neighbourhood park has been vandalized.

Please call the “Vandalism Hotline” at 905-879-4357, or By-Law at 905-832-8505.

My neighbourhood park playground is damaged. What should I do?

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department has a program to check playgrounds on a regular basis for damages. We appreciate a call between visits for emergency repairs and will inspect immediately. Please call Parks at 905-832-8577, or after hours call 905-832-2281 and press ‘0’.

Are parks patrolled in the evening for vandalism or loitering?

Yes. By-law officers patrol the parks. Should you notice anything suspicious, please contact the Public Works Dispatch at 905-832-2281 ext.8807. After hours call 905-832-2281 and press ‘0’. A By-law officer will come to investigate. You may also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

The fence along the walkway has fallen. Who repairs it?

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department will investigate and determine a course of action if the City is responsible. Fences are generally built on private property and are the homeowner’s responsibility.

The boulevard tree in front of my house has a wasp/bees nest.

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department should be advised. A contractor will be notified to remove or spray nests in boulevard and park city trees. Swarms of honey bees will be monitored, but if left undisturbed, generally move away on their own to benefit pollination.



**Skateboard
PARK**
at
**Vellore Village
Community Centre**

1 VILLA ROYALE AVENUE, WOODBRIDGE

The outdoor, concrete street-style skateboard park consists of ledges, rails, banks, up-gaps, steps, boxes, and a ¼ pipe. Key features include a 6-set with a rail, hubba ledges, wedge ramp, up-ledges, and 2 boxes.

This park also features an outdoor skating oval providing additional concrete for skateboarding, rollerblading or practicing tricks on your board or bike.

The park is unsupervised, and is to be used at one’s own risk. Helmets and protective equipment are strongly recommended.

For more information, contact the community centre at 905-832-8544.

78 Parks / FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I would like to find a park with an outdoor water feature or tennis court.

Water play areas are open May to September. For a location near you refer to the *Spring & Summer Recreation Guide* or call 905-832-8577.

My children play soccer in the soccer field and it was full of mud.

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department ensures the maintenance of soccer and baseball fields. We will investigate your concern.

Who should I call to arrange an event or plan a family picnic in a city-owned park, or the Boyd Conservation Area?

Please contact the Recreation & Culture Department, Permitting Section at 905-832-8500 for any enquiries. Boyd Conservation Area belongs to the Toronto Region & Conservation Authority (416-667-6299).

Where can I purchase a plot in a cemetery or enquire about an historical burial?

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department maintains the availability, purchasing and location of plots in City owned cemeteries. Call 905-832-8577 ext.6315 for information about monuments for graves, restrictions or prices.

Who ploughs snow from sidewalks?

The Parks & Forestry Operations Department is involved in sidewalk snow clearing and parking lot clearing of all facilities such as community

centres, libraries, parks, and walkways. Bus shelters are maintained by York Region Transit.

The sidewalk plow has damaged my sprinkler heads during snow removal and grass cutting.

If you feel the City has damaged your property and are requesting reimbursement, a claim must be filed to the Clerk's Department within five working days (or fax to 905-832-8535). The Parks & Forestry Operations Department will also inspect the complaint. Obstructions are not allowed on City-owned boulevards.

My loved one has passed away and I would like to dedicate a tree.

A "Tree Dedication Program" is in place. Please call 905-832-8577.

We are putting in a pool and need access through the park.

After receiving a permit from Building Standards (905-832-8510), contact the Parks Department who will inspect the site to determine if access is possible. Restoration will be required by the permit holder and a security deposit is required.

Can I trim my neighbour's tree branches overhanging on my property?

The City of Vaughan does not get involved with matters concerning private property. If the tree is causing damage, contact By-Law Enforcement at 905-832-8505.

Who can I call about park-related matters after 4:30pm?

Contact the City of Vaughan After Hours Dispatch at 905-832-2281 ext.8807.

I have a permit for the field and someone else is using it.

Please contact the City of Vaughan After Hours Dispatch at 905-832-2281, press '0' and ask them to pass on your concern to the on-call Parks Supervisor.

Is the City responsible for removing trees in the Asian Long-horned Beetle infested zone?

City staff are working under the direction of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). For more information call the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342.



Park Locations:

See maps on pages 70-73 for park locations and seasonal outdoor facilities.

Outdoor Skating:

For outdoor skating rink locations and hours of operation refer to page 88.



Private Property Tree Protection By-Law

City of Vaughan Council passed By-Law# 185-2007, the *Private Property Tree Protection By-Law*, which now requires any property owner wishing to remove any tree on private property over 20cm in diameter at 1.4m above the ground to obtain a permit from the City.

The By-Law can be viewed online at

www.vaughan.ca under Departments, Parks & Forestry Operations Department.

Permit applications are available at Vaughan Parks & Forestry Operations Department offices at 2800 Rutherford Road, or may be downloaded from the City's website at www.vaughan.ca.