



Parks



Recreation



Culture



Library

Accomplishment Highlights

since the Last Master Plan Update

Compiled in January 2008



Contributing Departments

- **Culture** (John Ryerson and Michelle Sukul-Chan)
- **Markham Public Library** (Catherine Biss and Debbie Walker)
- **Operations** (Paul Ingham)
- **Planning & Urban Design** (Linda Irvine)
- **Recreation Services** (Barb Roth and Lori Wells)
- **Strategic Services** (Allan Seabrooke and Sara Tam)



Introduction

- First master plan for recreation, culture and library completed in 1999
- Updated in 2003 and completed in 2005 and expanded to include outdoor recreation facilities and parks
- Accomplishments are being highlighted for the 2004-2007 period
- A new master plan is being recommended to start in 2008



Today's Purpose

- To highlight the accomplishments achieved during the 2004 to 2007 period



Service Delivery

- Children & Youth

- Library camps and other library programs develop literacy and reading/writing skills for children
- Diverse children and youth camps offered at libraries, cultural venues, and recreation facilities
- Recreation Services introduced Living School Program, completed a 3-year Youth Strategic Plan (2006-2009), and held notable events (e.g. Stamp Out Violence)
- Youth drop-in opportunities enhanced at community centres (28% increase since 2005) and libraries (Teen Areas)
- Increased youth employment and access to programs, such as after-school programs and fitness
- Received the Provincial designation as Youth Friendly Community in 2005





Service Delivery

- Older Adults

- Seniors Club increased to 8 clubs of varying sizes operating out of Town facilities
- Hosted York Region 55+ Summer/Winter Games events, Inter-club Senior Dance, Senior Extravaganza
- Increased diversity of programming such as computers, Aquafit, tours and programs at cultural venues, and access of library material and facilities

- Family Programming and Diversity

- Increased family-oriented programming and pricing
- Cultural venues has enhanced hours of operation
- Increased programs that reflect a diverse Markham (e.g. cultural cooking, cricket, Bollywood dancing), Library has outreach program for newcomers

- Organizational Review Completed

- Recreation Services completed review
- Council created new Culture Department

New Facility Development

- Angus Glen Community Centre & Library
 - 172,950 square foot complex completed with opening phased from Fall 2003 to January 2005.
- East Markham Community Centre & Library
 - Design underway
 - Partnership with Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Southeast Community Centre & Library
 - Land acquired
- Other Developments
 - Reception Centre at the Museum - completed
 - YMCA - completed
 - CSIO - feasibility completed and planning underway



Facility Improvements

- Improved Accessibility by Persons with Disabilities

- Physical improvements such as access ramps/lift, barrier free design
- Introduced and enhanced programs and funding for the special needs population (e.g. Learn to Swim, Leisure Buddy Volunteer, Youth Special Needs Dance) and exhibit development at the Gallery
- Staff training - Moving to Inclusion training, annual training of part-timers

- Accessibility - Other

- Improvements in financial assistance offerings and building partnerships with funders
- Developed or improved facilities with transit accessibility in mind



Partnerships

- School Boards

- Permitted Fields Agreement, Bill Crothers Secondary School sport fields, Living School Program, partnership between Unionville H.S. and Markham Theatre, school programs with cultural venues

- Other

- A variety of partnerships pursued, e.g. YMCA, Board of Education, York Region Public Health, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Canadian Sports Centre Ontario, York Region Housing, Pathways, Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, CHATS, Angus Glen Golf Course, Markham Bocce Association, York University, Human Services Planning Coalition, Markham Arts Council, Markham Sport Council



Partnerships to Offset Operations



- Telus – ‘Baby Goose’ infant literacy program
- Volunteer Outdoor Ice Rink Program and Museum received \$15,000 donation
- Grants received by cultural venues:
 - \$93,000 to Markham Theatre
 - \$320,000 to Varley Gallery
 - \$900,000 to Markham Museum
- \$50,000 in donated fixtures to the Museum and Gallery received baby grand piano and funding for five publications
- Funds raised by Homes for the Holidays and Mayor’s Dinner for the Arts and support provided by York Tourism Partnerships
- Foundations – Museum, Gallery, and York Region Community Foundation

Organizational Excellence

- Performance measurement and customer measurement
- Minimize environmental footprint such as pesticide free parks, energy conservation, LEED principles
- Strategic planning such as Active Living Strategy, library facility planning, CSIO initiative as a regional draw, and organizational review
- Regular review and update of master plan



Parks & Outdoor Facilities

- 250 acres (101 ha) of new parkland constructed during 2004-2007 period
- Parks and Urban Design developed 5-year Construction Program - latest 2008 to 2013
- Pathway Master Plan – Council approval sought in 2008
- Outdoor Tennis - Increased public access
- Maintenance – Public washrooms and baseball diamonds
- Sport fields – Shared use agreement approved, # of fields increased, staff developed provisional plan
- Major Events - Staff involved in supporting two Canadian Open



Indoor Recreation

- Developed more youth-oriented space – Angus Glen
- Facility expansions and development – Centennial, Thornhill, East Markham
- Adjustments and review of pricing structure for programs offered
- Markham Sport Council up and running – Trillium Grant secured
- Markham recognized as a True Sport Community in 2006



Culture Facilities



- Varley Gallery celebrated its 10th anniversary
- Strengthened outreach programs and raised profile of culture
- Museum Master Plan approved in 2005
- 2003 Public Art Policy approved and implementation plan forthcoming – art added to libraries and civic buildings
- William Berczy Exhibition, Book, and “Berczy Suites”
- Funding Strategy include capital replacement reserve, long-term relationship building, grants, partnerships, and donations (\$100,000 from the Ward family and \$1.5 million in gift to Varley Gallery)

Library Facilities

- Markham Village expansion completed, East Markham facility - in progress, Southeast facility - land acquired and planning underway
- Upgraded existing and older facilities to meet modern standards such as,
 - Shelving units - new and reconditioned
 - Improved interior layout, furnishings and lighting and exterior fencing and parking lot at Thornhill Village
 - New technology for check-out and check-in
 - Computer training room at Thornill Community Library
 - Improved staff workspaces



Closing Remarks

- Parks, recreation, culture and library facilities, services and programs continue to expand and change in response to the needs of Markham residents and customers
- Much have been accomplished as outlined in Attachment B of the accompanying Committee report
- New plan is needed to ensure and renew our direction to align to the new Council term and changes in the community
- Recommend initiating the process in 2008 to parallel Development Charges Soft Services update and Growth Management Strategy initiatives

