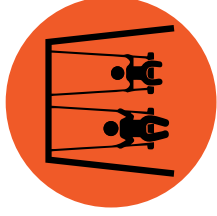
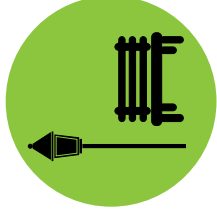


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Shared Places Our Spaces: Markham's Public Realm Strategy



Prepared for:
City of Markham

Prepared by:
8-80 Cities

January, 2015

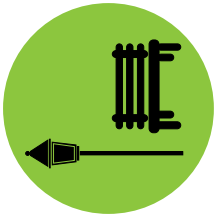
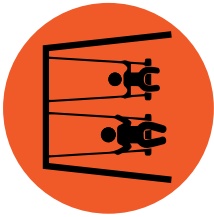
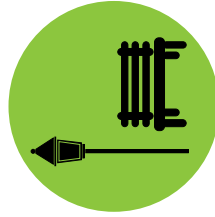
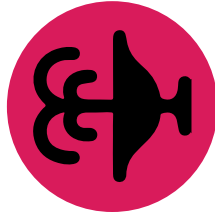


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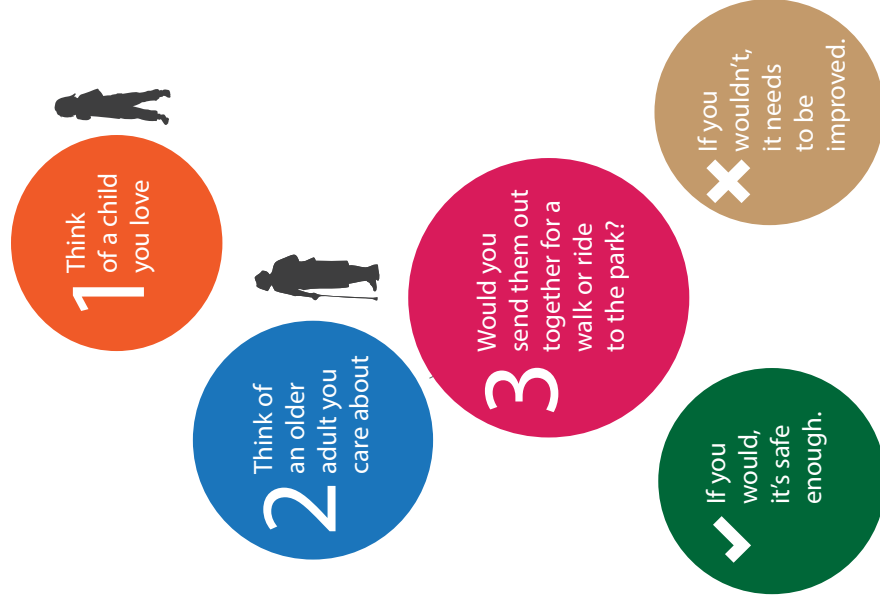
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8-80 Cities

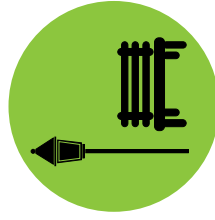
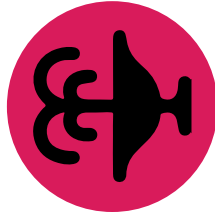
8-80 Cities is a non-profit organization based in Toronto, Canada. We are dedicated to contributing to the transformation of cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transit, and visit vibrant parks and public places.

Our approach is to engage communities at all levels and across multiple sectors to inspire the creation of cities that are easily accessible, safe and enjoyable for everyone. We have working experience in urban areas across Canada, the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.



Why 8-80?

We are convinced that if everything we did in our public spaces was great for everyone from 8 years old to 80 years old, we would end up with healthy and vibrant communities for all.



Document Intent

8-80 Cities specializes in conducting inclusive, interactive and engaging public consultations. This document comprises the results of an extensive community engagement process where we engaged Markham residents and asked them to share their ideas and vision for the future of Markham's public realm. In July, 2014 we began working with the City of Markham (the City) to determine an inclusive, fun and engaging community consultation process to engage Markham's residents and find out how they feel about their public realm, what they like, what they don't like and what could be improved.

This document outlines what we learned from speaking with the residents about the public realm in Markham, what it is and what it could be.



Importance of the Public Realm

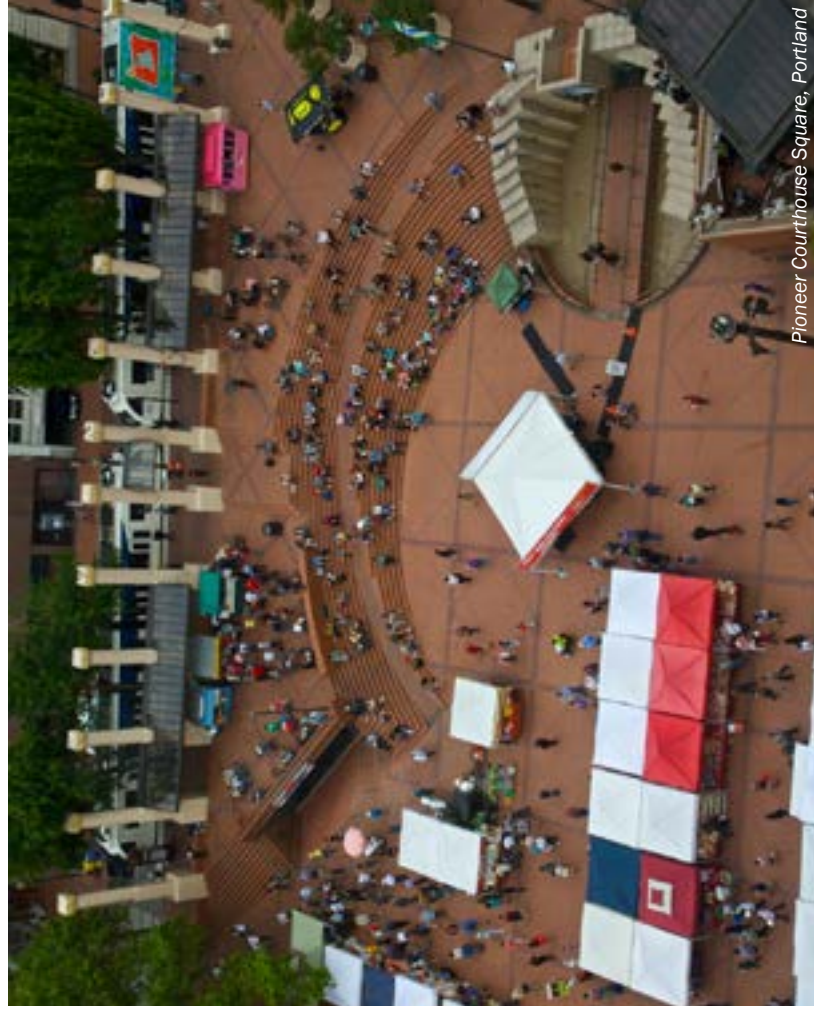
The parks, plazas, streets, roads, sidewalks, and public buildings that comprise the public realm are our community's most valuable assets. These spaces are powerful symbols of democracy because they belong to everyone. Our experience shows that the best parks and public spaces have a high level of community involvement, foster a sense of stewardship and ownership, and are sensitive to the changing needs and desires of the community they serve. By understanding what the community wants and needs, decision makers can work together to offer appropriate design, infrastructure and programming. Markham's Public Realm Strategy is an opportunity for residents to have their say and help shape the future of the city's public realm.

The public realm defines our greatest cities and shape our most vibrant communities. Imagine Ottawa without the Rideau Canal, Montreal without the cobble stone streets of the Old Port, Toronto without the St. Lawrence Market, and Vancouver without the seawall at Stanley Park.

Building a Sense of Place

The benefits of creating a vibrant and accessible public realm help highlight the reasons why all residents should be encouraged to participate in shaping these spaces. Parks and open spaces should be the heart of a city. They can be gathering places for friends and family, destinations for a variety of activities, and can inspire a sense of mutual ownership and responsibility for them. They can be used by community members for diverse reasons. Most importantly, they can be supported by cooperation between a city and a community. The public realm contributes to both the physical and cultural beauty of Markham.

Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square is affectionately known as "Portland's Living Room". Portlanders also helped fund the creation of the Square. Local residents could purchase bricks throughout the Square and have their names etched into the bricks prior to installation.



Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland

Creating Healthy Lifestyles

Parks, trails, and other open spaces are essential for fostering healthier cities. Designed properly, they can provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to be physically active, whether by walking on the sidewalk, cycling in a bike lane, hiking a trail, or playing soccer on a field. Having access to public social spaces also enhances a person's emotional and spiritual well-being, partly by helping to mentally and physically relax.

Throughout Ottawa, the Rideau Canal is lined with cycle paths, trails, gardens and parks. During the winter months the Canal is transformed into the popular Rideau Canal Skateway. It is the world's largest skating rink at 7.8km in length.



Rideau Canal, Ottawa

Inherent Economic Value

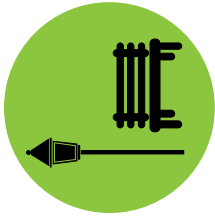
A well designed, planned, and managed public realm is an urban necessity. Four in five Canadians live in an urban area, and larger cities like Markham are facing increased pressure to increase density. Each year, more and more people move into small apartments and condominiums in a landscape of concrete and asphalt. Access to parks, sustainable transportation networks, community facilities, and indoor public spaces will become more vital as the city grows. In a recent Canadian study, property values increased by \$8 for every 30cm closer a home was situated to a green space.¹ Over the next 30 years, New York City's Highline Park has been predicted to bring \$4 billion in private investment and \$900 million in revenues to the city.² A successful public realm contributes wealth and creates economic value for communities all over the world.



Highline Park, NYC

¹Connecting Canadians with Nature, 2014 (Crompton, J. 1999. Financing and Acquiring Park and Recreational Resources. Waveland Press Inc. p535)

²Taking a Stroll Along the Highline. The New York Times. November 28, 2008.



Components of a Vibrant Public Realm

A successful public realm is defined by three key elements: excellent management, consistent programming, and appropriate infrastructure.

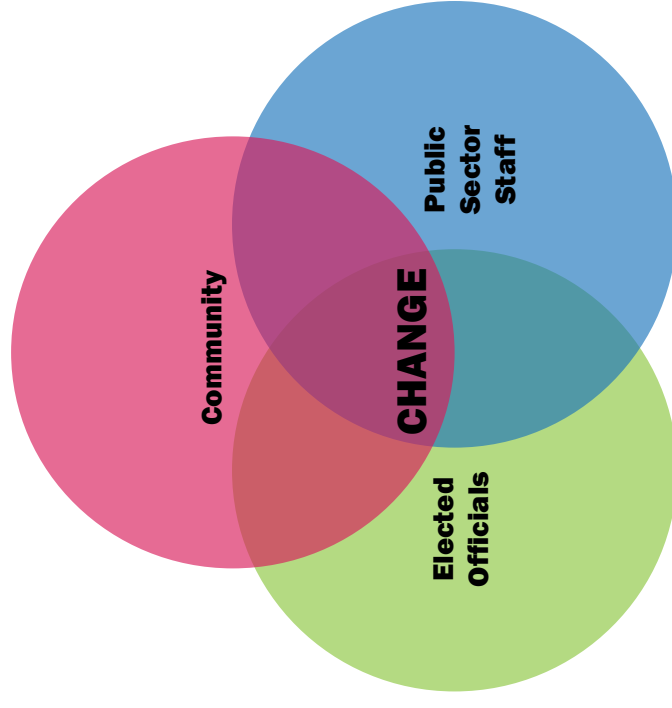
Management/Maintenance

According to the Project for Public Spaces, “About 80% of the success of any public space can be attributed to its management. No matter how good the design of a space is, it will never become a true place unless it is cared for well.”³

Great public spaces don’t have to be complicated. A fancy design cannot make up for a space that’s boring, inaccessible, uncared for or unsafe. This is where management comes into play. At 8-80 Cities, we often see cities spending millions of dollars on public realm improvement projects, without securing the thousands of dollars to provide ongoing management and maintenance. Although design and programming are essential to ‘place-making,’ management is the ongoing process of ‘place-keeping.’

The Three-Legged Stool

The most effective management of parks and public spaces involves what we call the three-legged stool—a balanced combination of elected officials, public sector staff and the local community (including residents, businesses, non-profit organizations and community groups). A sound management plan created in partnership with the community will keep the public realm safe, lively, accessible, and attractive in the long-term.



³ www.pps.org/reference/11principles

Programming

Making public spaces accessible is about more than providing safe infrastructure. It's also about creating an "invitation" that welcomes people into a space. This is where programming comes into play. Strong programming draws people into a space, which also adds to the site's visual attraction. In other words, activity and design are mutually dependent.

Programming in the public realm can include everything from large-scale public events (ie. Pan Am Games) to small community festivals, a pick-up game of soccer at a community centre or a neighbourhood block party. The City of Markham may host or fund some events, but it's most important role is to enable residents to program the public realm through community based activities that build community and encourage physical activity.

Programming and animating the public realm must also consider the importance of seasonality. The goal is to activate the public realm so that people feel welcomed and drawn to these spaces 365 days of the year, during the day and night. The ways people use the public realm varies during the course of the day, week, season, and year. Diverse activities and programs such as skating rinks, outdoor markets, festival space, and public art can all be used to transition the public realm from one season to the next.



Markham Village Music Festival



Clay & Paper Performance, Dufferin Grove Park, Toronto



Fresh Air Cinema, Stanley Park, Vancouver



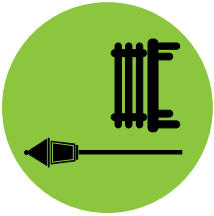
Gage Park Skating Trail, Brampton



Square One Farmers Market, Mississauga



Interactive Public Art, Millenium Park, Chicago



Appropriate Infrastructure

Public realm infrastructure must support a wide variety of activities including walking, cycling, resting, socializing, gathering and playing. Important elements include benches, community information boards, public art installations, lighting, street trees, play structures, water fountains, electrical outlets (for events) and bicycle parking.

A central feature of all the world's greatest public spaces is the provision of thoughtful and appropriately placed street furniture as well as adaptable seating opportunities. Whether in a park, plaza, community centre, or on a sidewalk moveable chairs allow people to rearrange the furniture to suit their needs, customize the spaces, and ultimately take ownership over the space.

Lighting is also essential to the activation of a space. Effective lighting increases safety, draws people into the public realm, extends seasonal and temporal use and contributes to a sense of place.

Where appropriate, public realm infrastructure should also include physical protection from rain, snow, and wind. Strategically positioned trees and other plantings in public spaces and along streets can provide areas of shade, filter out unwanted noise or views, and create a sense of safety and enclosure.

By infusing a space with colour and pleasant scents, natural elements can also stimulate the senses and increase enjoyment.



Importance of Streets

The road network is a vital, but often overlooked component of the public realm. Streets are our cities largest public spaces. It is estimated that approximately 80% of a city's public space is composed of streets and sidewalks.⁴ We need to re-think how these spaces can be used to create healthier, more sustainable and equitable cities.

Streets can be places that not only facilitate mobility, but also provide space for community building, physical activity, forming neighbourhood identity and contributing to people's quality of life.

Cities around the world have been taking back the streets! In an effort to create communities that encourage healthy lifestyles and sustainability, many cities have been transforming vehicular streets into people-friendly public spaces.

Providing safe, extensive infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians has also proven to alleviate congestion. Such infrastructure paves the way for affordable, convenient transportation, which in turn can have a profound impact on the economy. Traffic congestion contributes to delays in moving goods, lost productivity and higher fuel costs.

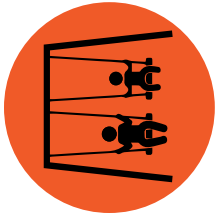
Congestion costs the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area over \$3.3 billion in lost GDP every year.⁵



⁴ www.pps.org/reference/lighter-quicker-cheaper-2-2

⁵ www.metrolinx.com/en/regionalplanning/costsofcongestion/costs_congestion.aspx





MARKHAM'S PUBLIC REALM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Residents know their communities best and they possess a great deal of creativity, knowledge and know-how about the public spaces in their neighbourhoods. The great diversity of people and perspectives in any community is its greatest resource. Finding creative ways to “tap the collective brain” is the first step in creating a public realm that is people-focused, people-friendly and fun. From October-November, 2014 we worked closely with the City of Markham to engage residents about Markham's public realm. The purpose of this community engagement process was to educate the public about the importance of Markham's public realm, and to have residents identify its existing strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities as well as their vision for the future of Markham's public realm.

The engagement sessions were supplemented with site visits, during which 8-80 Cities staff carried out observational exercises and analysis to gauge the level of safety, activity, and vibrancy of Markham's streets, sidewalks, parks, and public spaces.

Engaging the Public

Through community meet and greets held at community centres throughout Markham and public realm information centres at large-scale Markham events, 8-80 Cities and the City spoke to residents and stakeholders of all ages, abilities and ethnicities across the entire city. Stakeholders invited to participate at community workshops included members of ratepayers organizations representing neighbourhoods across the city, business improvement association representatives, local service club members, youth groups and members of the arts and cultural sectors.

Local residents are the experts when it comes to Markham's neighbourhoods. They are the ones who live, work, and play in the parks, public spaces, community centres and streets. Building on Markham's existing assets and improving the public realm will require full community buy-in and support. Hosting inclusive and empowering community engagement is an effective strategy for developing the sense of ownership and support that will enable the City of Markham to create collaborative solutions to public realm challenges.

Our Method

Three methods of engagement were used during the public engagement process:

1

Engaging the public at large-scale community events

The City of Markham set up information booths at the Markham Children's Festival and Applefest. Survey data was collected from these events.

2

Community Workshops

8-80 Cities and the City of Markham hosted six community workshops with various stakeholders across the city (see Appendix for list of stakeholder groups). These workshops began with an introduction to the Public Realm Strategy and a brief overview of the value of the public realm by 8-80 Cities staff. Following these introductory presentations, 8-80 Cities facilitated interactive activities designed to spark creative and critical thinking in regards to Markham's public realm. Our community engagement activities challenged residents to imagine their ideal public spaces and to determine what elements would create a vibrant public realm in Markham. Activities used in these sessions included; What Makes Markham Beautiful; Community Hearts & Pylons; Public Realm Guiding Principles; and Public Realm Scrapbooking. Detailed descriptions of these activities are included in the following pages.

3

Community Meet and Greets

8-80 Cities and the City of Markham hosted two of these Meet and Greets to collect resident feedback from the broader public. These events took place in the lobbies of four community centres (Milliken Mills Community Centre, Angus Glen Community Centre, Thornhill Community Centre and Centennial Community Centre) during peak busy hours. These community centres were chosen to represent the geographic diversity of Markham. 8-80 Cities staff and Markham city staff (including translators) engaged people in casual conversations about the public realm and invited them to participate in a series of activities. The activities used during these events included; Community Hearts & Pylons; Public Realm Scrapbooking; and the Public Realm Survey.



City of Markham staff also presented at and circulated public realm surveys during committee meetings in the Fall of 2014. Committees included: Cycle and Pedestrian, Race Relations, Heritage, Seniors and Accessibility.

‘Go-to-them Approach’

By taking a ‘go-to-them’ approach, we ensured that the community engagement process was as welcoming and inclusive as possible. 8-80 Cities, with support from the City, hosted six stakeholder workshops and four community Meet & Greet events in community centres and other meeting places across the city.

The following sections will highlight the results of each activity and feedback collection method used during the public engagement process, including:



Community Hearts



Community Pylons



Public Realm Scrapbooking

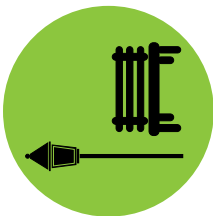
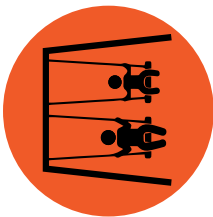


Public Realm Surveys

These activities were used during the workshops, Meet & Greets and large-scale community events. The results and findings presented in this report were collected at the following events:

- Centennial Community Centre Meet & Greet – November 20, 2014
- Thornhill Community Centre Meet & Greet – November 14, 2014
- Angus Glen Community Centre Meet & Greet – November 7, 2014
- Milliken Mills Community Centre Meet & Greet – November 6, 2014
- Markham East Ratepayers Associations Workshop – October 30, 2014
- Business Improvement Associations and Service Clubs Workshop – October 29, 2014
- Central Markham Ratepayers Associations Workshop – October 28, 2014
- Thornhill Ratepayers Associations Workshop – October 23, 2014
- Markham Youth Council Workshop – October 22, 2014
- Arts and Culture Organizations Representatives Workshop – October 21, 2014
- Applefest at Markham Museum – September 27, 2014
- Markham Children's Festival – August 23, 2014







COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES & RESULTS

Our community engagement activities are designed to help community members think critically about Markham's public realm and answer questions such as:

- What makes a great place?
- Where are Markham's gathering spaces?
- What are the best places in Markham?
- What is included in Markham's public realm?
- What would you like to see more of?
- What makes Markham a beautiful and vibrant place to live?

PUBLIC REALM FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

Using a public engagement feedback matrix, 8-80 Cities staff compiled, categorized, and ranked every idea collected during the community engagement sessions. The ideas were gathered over the course of three and a half months, during which more than 700 residents were engaged. This process yielded hundreds of ideas for improving Markham's public realm.

The ideas were first divided into two broad categories: Software and Hardware (except for Community Hearts). Software refer to project ideas that involve events, programming and public space management. Hardware project ideas include investment in physical infrastructure in the public realm.



Hardware (Physical Infrastructure)

Well maintained infrastructure, or “hardware”, that supports a public spaces’s uses and activities is an important component of creating a successful and well used park or public space.

Great parks offer a balance of natural “green infrastructure” that allow people to absorb natural beauty and tranquility, while also providing the infrastructure to support a variety of uses that serves the needs and desires of the community.

Some questions to consider when thinking of hardware...

- Is there infrastructure to support activities for all ages (children, youth, adults, older adults)?
- Are there attractive places to sit and stay?
- Are there flexible and adaptable spaces and features that can support a variety of activities throughout the day/seasons?
- Is there good lighting?
- Are there some basic amenities? (e.g washrooms, water fountains etc.)



Software (Uses, Activities, and Identity)

Parks can be so much more than just pretty places, they can actually help communities be healthier and happier. Unfortunately, many of our parks are under-used and not living up to their potential. How can we do better? We know that people bring more people. Activities that animate and activate the public realm are one of the greatest predictors of park use.⁶

That is why, when evaluating and planning for parks and public spaces it is important to not only focus on the physical qualities of the space, after all; a great park is so much more than the grass, trees, benches and other features it may contain. Looking beyond the “hardware” and focusing also on the “software” of the place- the uses, activities, and unique character are equally, and in some cases even more, important for creating a vibrant and healthy park.

When it comes to software, you may ask yourself...

- What do people want to do in this place?
- What makes this place unique?
- What kind of local cultural activities are or could be supported?
- What kind of social capital exists or could be harnessed?



By answering and understanding the types of activities that people would like to do in the place you can then start to think of the specific infrastructure that can support those functions, and not the other way around. This is the difference between creating a great place versus a great design.

⁶ Cohen, Marsh, Williamson, Derose, Martinez, Setodji & McKenzie. *Parks and Physical Activity: Why are some parks used more than others?*



Community Hearts

Total Response: 151

Community Hearts are the places in a community where people feel a sense of ownership and belonging. This activity asks residents to identify the place(s) in Markham that they feel a special attachment to. Community Hearts were used during six workshops and four Meet & Greet events. This activity was used as our “show-opener” activity to get participants thinking about places they like in their communities and why.

How it works: Participants write their favourite places on a cut-out heart, which is then posted and displayed.

Markham's Favourite Spaces...

(top 5 Community Hearts chosen at workshops and meet and greets)

Too Good Pond

**Main Street
Unionville**

**Markham's
community
centres**

**Main Street
Markham**

Markville Mall

Response Categories

Participant responses have been organized into the following five categories:

Parks & Public Spaces 34%

Residents feel a strong attachment to the parks and public spaces in Markham, big and small. Participants identified both neighbourhood parks (ie. Berczy Park or Randall Park), as well as larger green spaces that attract visitors from across the city (ie. Pomona Mills Park). Approximately half of the community heart responses in this category identified specific parks, while the other half made generic statements about the parks, trails, and public space network in Markham. Too Good Pond was the most common public space identified, with 10% of all responses in this category.

Indoor Public Spaces 29%

Indoor community facilities are vital to the public space network, particularly in a four-season city like Markham. The spaces identified in this category include the community centres, libraries, schools, art gallery, and theatre. The local community centres accounted for 58% of all responses in this category. This category also includes responses having to do with positive experiences with the variety of activities available at Markham's community centres and libraries.

Private & Commercial Spaces 18%

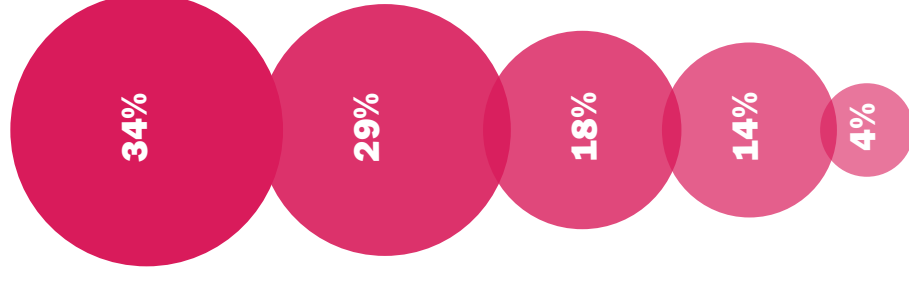
This category represents 'semi-public' spaces and includes places that are privately-owned for commercial and/or entertainment purposes. Food and retail are major draws for many people, so several respondents identified coffee shops and shopping malls as their community heart. Markville Mall accounted for 35% of all responses in this category, while 23% identified restaurants and coffee shops. This category also includes large community-wide events such as the Markham Fair and Markham at the Movies as well as other activities such as the ability to take part in informal games of basketball or soccer using Markham's public courts and fields, parks and public spaces.

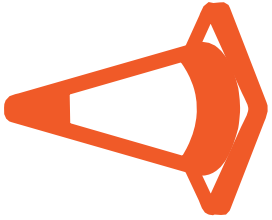
Roads & Streets 14%

As the largest form of public space, it makes sense that several respondents identified Markham's streets and roads as their community heart. Much more than commuter thoroughfares, Markham's streets are places to shop, socialize, meet, play, stroll, and exercise. Main Street Unionville represented 66%, and Main Street Markham was mentioned in 21% of all responses in this category.

Landmarks 4%

This category includes places of historical significance, and landscapes that are unique to Markham. Responses include Stiver Mill, and the farmlands at the edges of the city.





Community Pylons

Total Responses: 136
Hardware: 103
Software: 35

Everyone has ideas about how their community can be improved and made even more livable. Based on the idea that pylons signify a construction site and community development, the Community Pylon exercise encourages people to think about places and programs that could be updated, improved, or made more accessible. This activity was delivered in conjunction with the Community Hearts exercise during the workshops and open house events.

How it works: Participants write places and/or characteristics of the public realm that needs improvement on a cut-out pylon, which is then posted and displayed on a wall or poster.

Ideas from the public



Response Categories

Participant responses have been organized into the following six categories:

Parks & Public Spaces 41%

The majority of comments in this category were hardware suggestions for improving the existing parks network in Markham (29% of Parks & Public Spaces category total). Improvement suggestions heard most often included better maintenance (including winter maintenance), and the installation of more park benches, tables, lighting and fresh landscaping. Suggestions related to creating new parks and public spaces were also included in this category (15% of category total).

Transportation & Safer Streets 23%

This category includes comments related to traffic congestion, public transportation, pedestrian safety, sidewalk quality, and cycling networks. Workshops and open house activities were designed to discourage people from talking about traffic, but it inevitably arose (28% of category total). Underlying these complaints is a demand for more efficient transportation systems, and the need for alternative modes of movement. An efficient transportation system is one that encourages the use of non-motorized modes of transport (walking and cycling) as well as motorized forms (public transportation and private cars). A vibrant public realm depends on the ability of residents to access the local parks and public spaces through the transportation network available to them. Several suggestions included practical improvements that could be made to Markham's public transit system, such as improved bus shelters and real-time schedule updates. Other comments relayed the need for traffic calming in local neighbourhoods.

Development, Politics, other Issues 14%

Although not directly related to the public realm, this category included issues residents raised regarding the development process and politics. Many residents expressed their concerns over the rapid pace of development in Markham. Other issues included concerns over a lack of respect for pedestrians in Markham and many residents wanted more integrated land uses and complete communities.

Activities & Software 9%

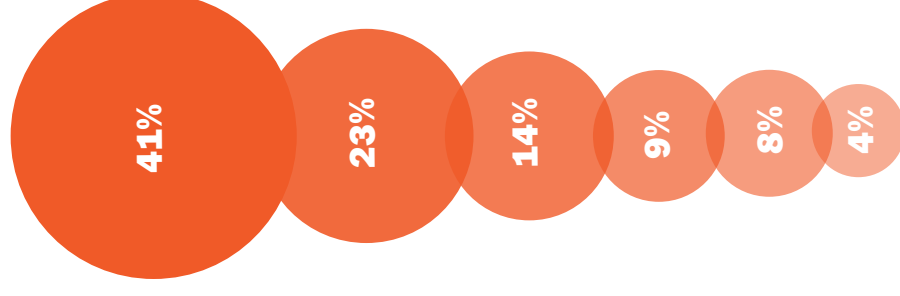
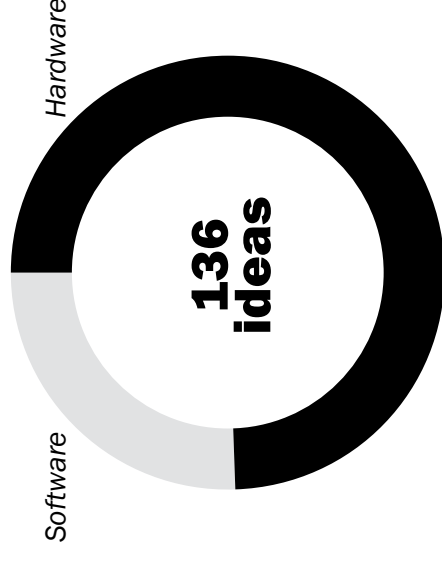
Residents want to be more informed about existing programs in Markham. Several people felt that programming information needed to become more accessible. Other comments in this category called for the creation of new programming in the parks and community centres, particularly for youth (ie. more community festivals).

Maintenance 8%

Ongoing maintenance demonstrates a place is safe and welcoming - both essential characteristics of the public realm. A minority of participants identified issues with broken sidewalks, over-filled garbage bins in parks and streets, and broken pedestrian traffic signals as areas for improvement.

Four-Season Use 4%

Great public spaces are activated all year-round. Several residents identified the lack of programming and events in Markham's parks and public spaces as a way to build community and get people active in the winter months.





Public Realm Scrapbooking

Total Responses: 280
Hardware: 206
Software: 162

A picture speaks 1,000 words. Using this rationale, this exercise is designed to spark people's imaginations about what they would like to see in Markham's public realm. Using reference images from global case studies, this activity helps residents think big and outside the box in regards to hardware and software improvements that might apply in Markham.

How it works: Participants sort through over 200 images of parks, public spaces, streets, and community events from around the world, and select images that represent something they would like to see in Markham. Once the image(s) is selected, participants write one or two sentences about why they chose that image, and how it might contribute to Markham's public realm.



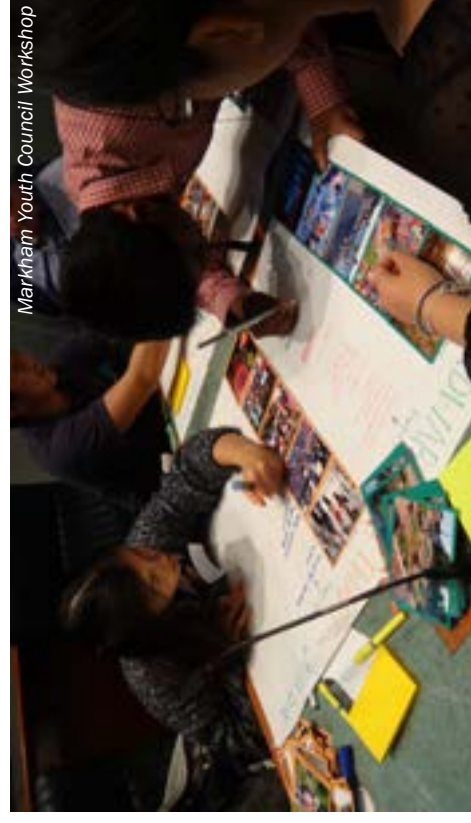
BAs and Service Clubs Workshop



Markham East Ratepayers Associations Workshop



Central Markham Ratepayers Associations Workshop



Markham Youth Council Workshop

Response Categories

Participant responses have been organized into the following six categories:

Parks & Public Spaces 26%

Many participants selected images that showed vibrant, successful and innovative parks and public spaces. These images showed parks with accessible seating, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, and busy playgrounds that are well maintained, safe, and fun.

Activities & Software 24%

Giant chess boards, public art, outdoor concerts, farmers' markets, and yoga in the park are common examples of activities and software that people selected. More than 20% of these images depicted some form of play for children and adults.

Sociability 16%

This category refers to images or comments from participants that reflect a clear desire for more opportunities to socialize and use Markham's public realm to gather with neighbours and friends.

Public Art & Music 13%

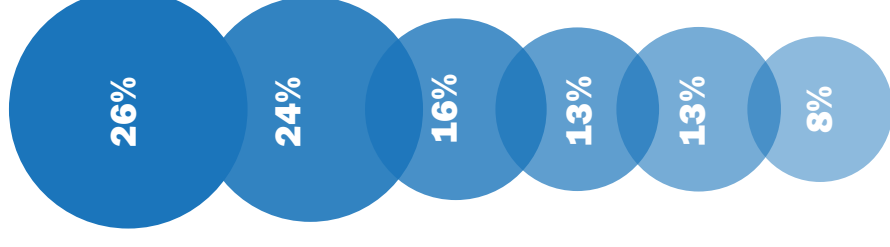
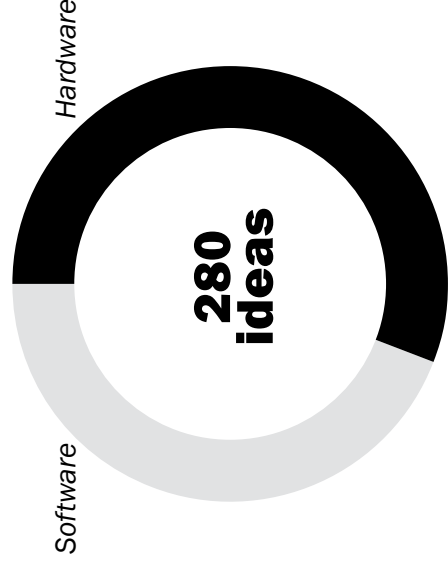
Public art and musical programming are fun and captivating ways to animate the public realm. Markham residents were drawn to images depicting interactive public art installations, colourful street activations, and creative uses of outdoor lighting.

Age-Friendly Communities 13%

Images and comments related to children, youth, and older adults in the public realm were included in this category. Perhaps thinking of their own friends and families, many participants referred to the need to create an age-friendly public realm where people of all ages can walk and visit public spaces freely.

Four-Season Use 8%

With winter arriving during the community engagement process, many residents were inspired by images that depicted playful and social outdoor winter scenes. Skating, tobogganing, and images with light and colour were popular image selections depicting all season public space usage.



Hardware

(physical infrastructure)

most commonly chosen reference images



"Outdoor skating would be perfect, because it'd be really fun and a great way to bond with others."



"Lighting allows longer outdoor season and use."



"I love the playgrounds in Markham. They are clean and so fun for kids to enjoy."



"Maximize interest, night time, space changes through day/night/seasons."



"I like this picture because I can see that the kids are having fun."



"Good public art needs to be walked on, touched, and climbed."



"Bike lanes in the area would allow more people to take their bikes out, hang out with friends."

Software (activities, uses and identity) most commonly chosen reference images



"This picture sticks out to me because it shows unity from the community. The road looks colourful and appealing and it looks fun."



"Integration of live theatre promotes creativity for all ages and will attract many people to the public space."



"Animating open spaces, promoting healthy living, promote community building"



"Full of energy :)"



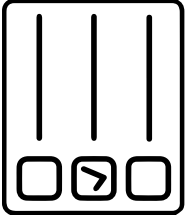
"I like how people throughout the community are interacting with each other outdoors"



"What a great way to encourage learning more about our natural environment"



"A place to bring my family that's creatively active. Inspiring."



Public Realm Surveys

Total Response: 738

Survey results were collected in a variety of settings and at several events. The public was asked to fill in public realm surveys during Applefest, the Children’s Festival as well as at all Meet and Greet events. During workshops, participants were engaged to answer similar survey questions through interactive activities and facilitated discussion. Results from the survey questions are listed below.

What makes Markham beautiful?

These responses were collected through:

1. a workshop activity in which participants were instructed to write down all of the characteristics that make Markham beautiful
2. the long-form survey, which was distributed primarily during Meet and Greet events
3. the short-form survey, which was distributed at Applefest and the Children’s Festival

Survey participant ideas...



What makes Markham beautiful?

Survey respondent answers have been organized into the following six categories:

Parks, Public Spaces, Nature 39%

- Existing parks
- Access to nature
- Trees and gardens

Diversity, Culture, People 22%

- Cultural diversity
- Built and natural heritage
- Friendliness, neighbourly

Government, Planning, Land Use 18%

- Convenient location
- Mixed-use, proximity to goods and services
- Municipal services (garbage, maintenance, etc.)
- Housing options
- Roads and transit infrastructure

Indoor Public Spaces 7%

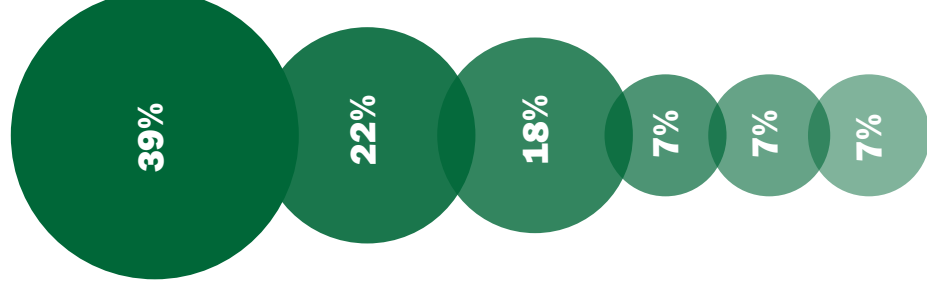
- Community centres
- Libraries
- Schools
- Shopping malls
- Restaurants

Cleanliness & Safety 7%

- Well maintained parks, roads, and sidewalks
- Low crime rate

Events & Recreational Activities 7%

- Public events and festivals
- Recreational programming



What makes Markham a great place to live?

Total Response: 695

This question is a variation on the “What makes Markham Beautiful” survey question and many responses were similar however, this question allows residents to drill down and think about the specific elements that make Markham a great place to live. These responses were collected through:

1. the long-form survey, which was distributed primarily during Meet and Greet events
2. the short-form survey, which was distributed at Applefest and the Children’s Festival

Survey participant ideas...



What makes Markham a great place to live?

Survey respondent answers have been organized into the following six categories:

Government, Planning, Land Use 35%

- Convenient location
- Mixed-use, proximity to goods and services
- Reliable municipal services (garbage, maintenance, etc.)
- Range of housing options
- Roads and transit infrastructure

Diversity, Culture, People 19%

- Cultural diversity
- Built and natural heritage
- Friendliness, neighbourly

Indoor Public Spaces 13%

- Community centres
- Libraries
- Schools
- Shopping malls
- Restaurants

Events & Recreational Activities 12%

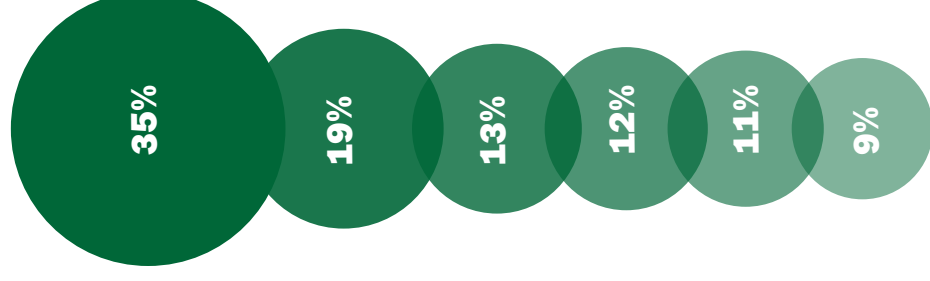
- Public events and festivals
- Recreational programming

Parks, Public Spaces, Nature 11%

- Existing parks
- Access to nature
- Trees and gardens

Cleanliness & Safety 9%

- Well maintained parks, roads, and sidewalks
- Low crime rate



What have you seen or experienced in other cities that you would like to see in Markham?

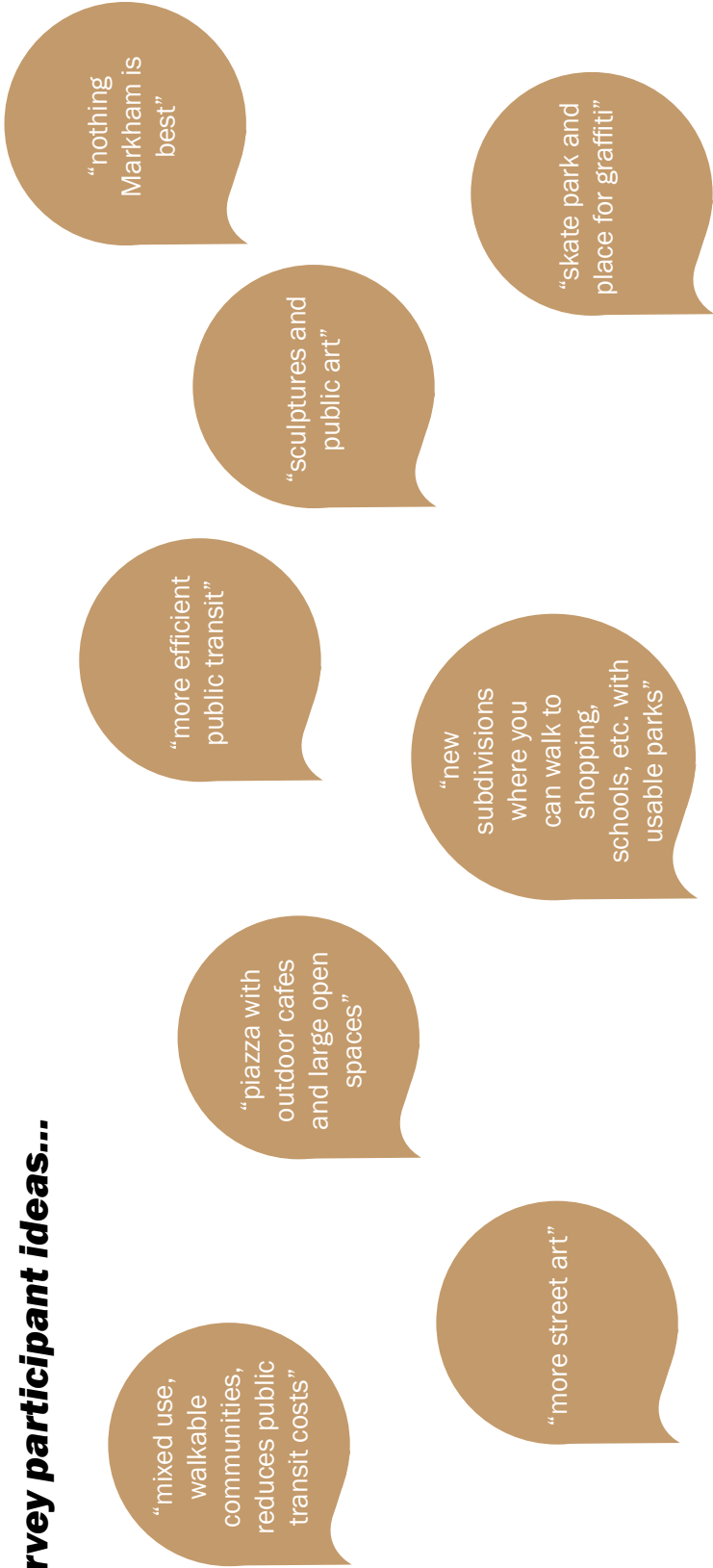
Total Response: 365

Markham is a multi-cultural and diverse community with residents bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from across the globe. This question was designed to allow residents to think about fun and interesting public realm initiatives they've seen around the world.

These responses were collected through:

- 1. the long-form survey, which was distributed primarily during Meet and Greet events
- 2. the short-form survey, which was distributed at the Applefest and the Children's Festival.

Survey participant ideas...



What have you seen or experienced in other cities that you would like to see in Markham?

Survey respondent answers have been organized into the following six categories:

Events & Attractions 37%

- More public events and festivals
- More children and family programming
- More public art
- New venues for play and entertainment

Road & Transit Infrastructure 23%

- Improved public transit
- Improved traffic management and roadways

Parks, Public Spaces, Nature 17%

- More parks, gardens, preservation areas, plazas, public art

Indoor Public Spaces 9%

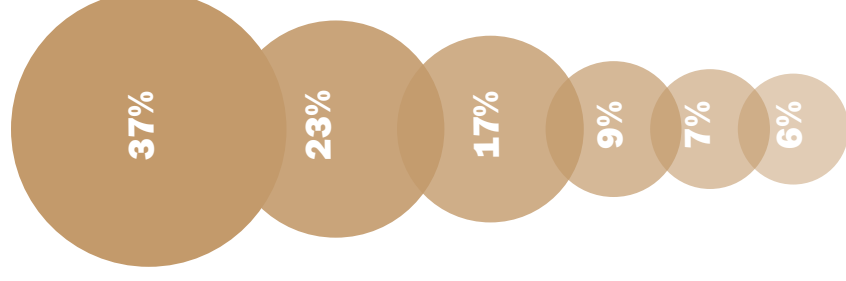
- More libraries, community centres
- More restaurants, shopping destinations

Walking & Cycling Infrastructure 7%

- More sidewalks/bike trails
- Improved pedestrian realm

Municipal Services & Safety 6%

- Improved municipal services and city management
- Increased sense of community and safety

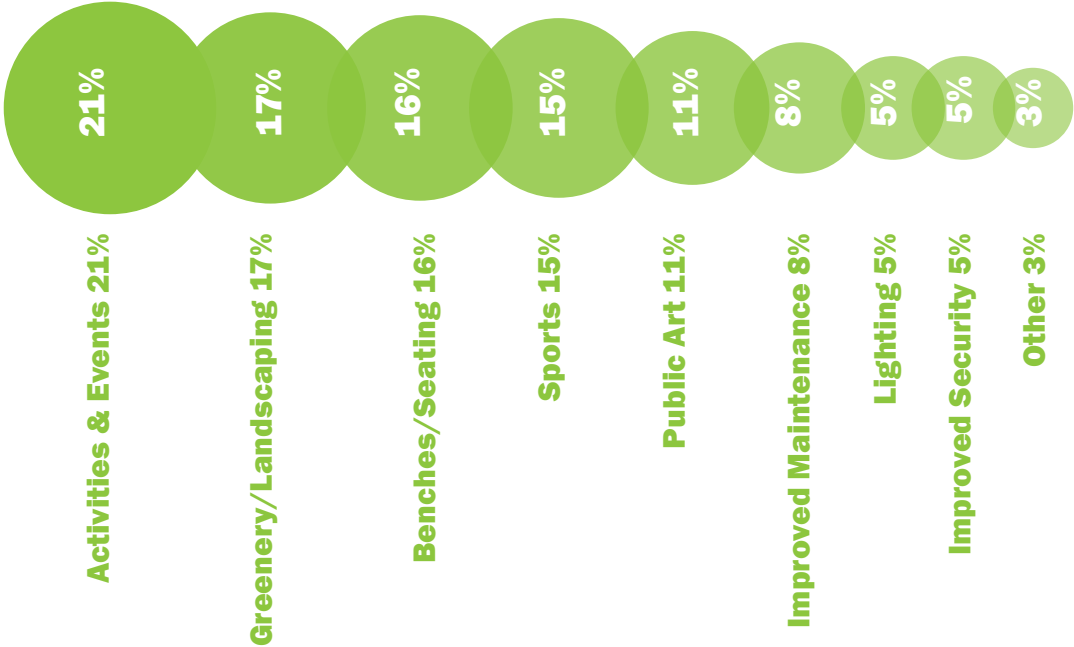
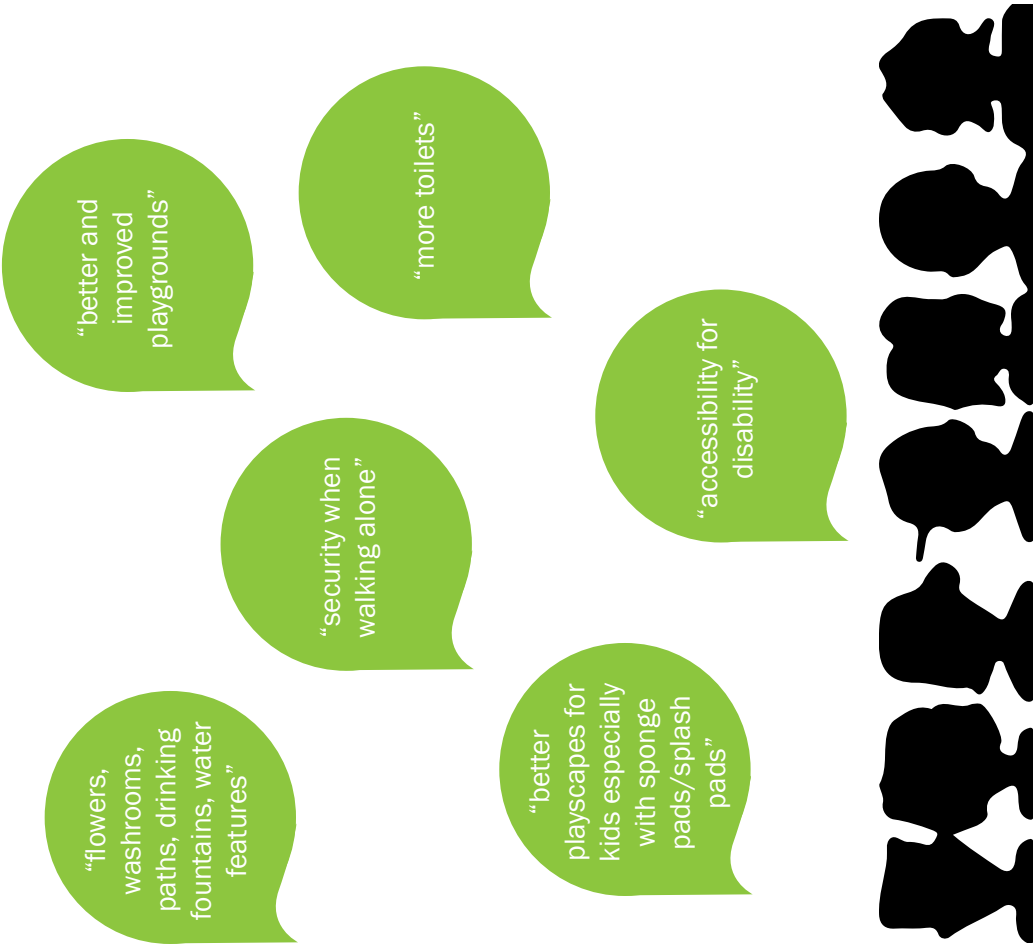


What would encourage you to visit Markham’s parks more often?

These responses were collected through the long-form survey, which was distributed primarily during Meet and Greet events. This question was presented in multiple choice format, with participants instructed to select all applicable choices. Participants could also leave comments related to this survey question. Those are details below.

Total Response: 74

Survey participant ideas...

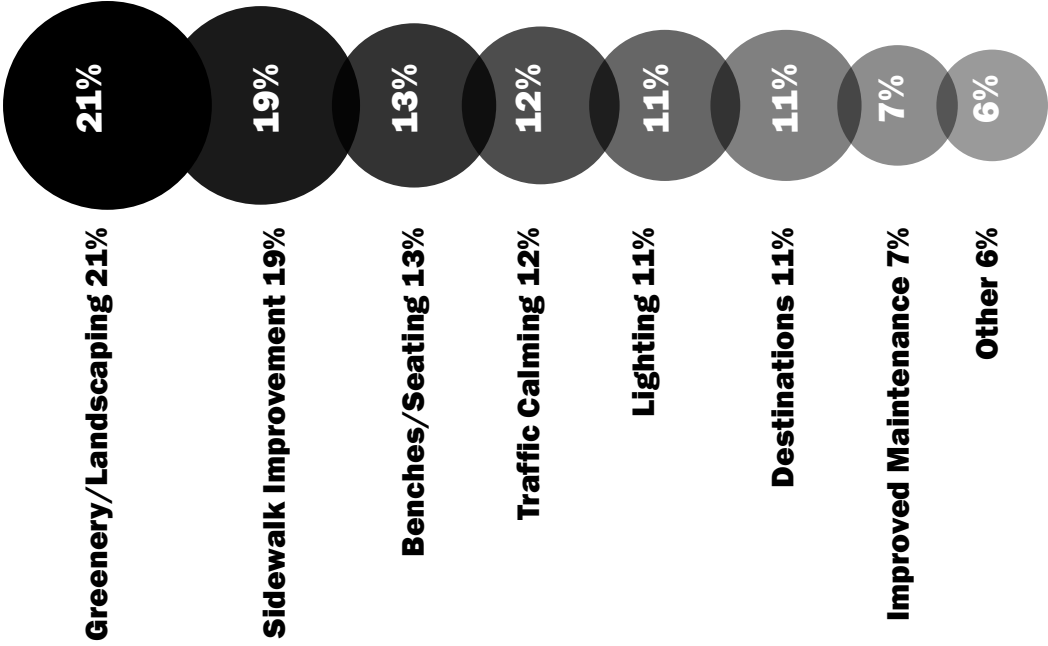
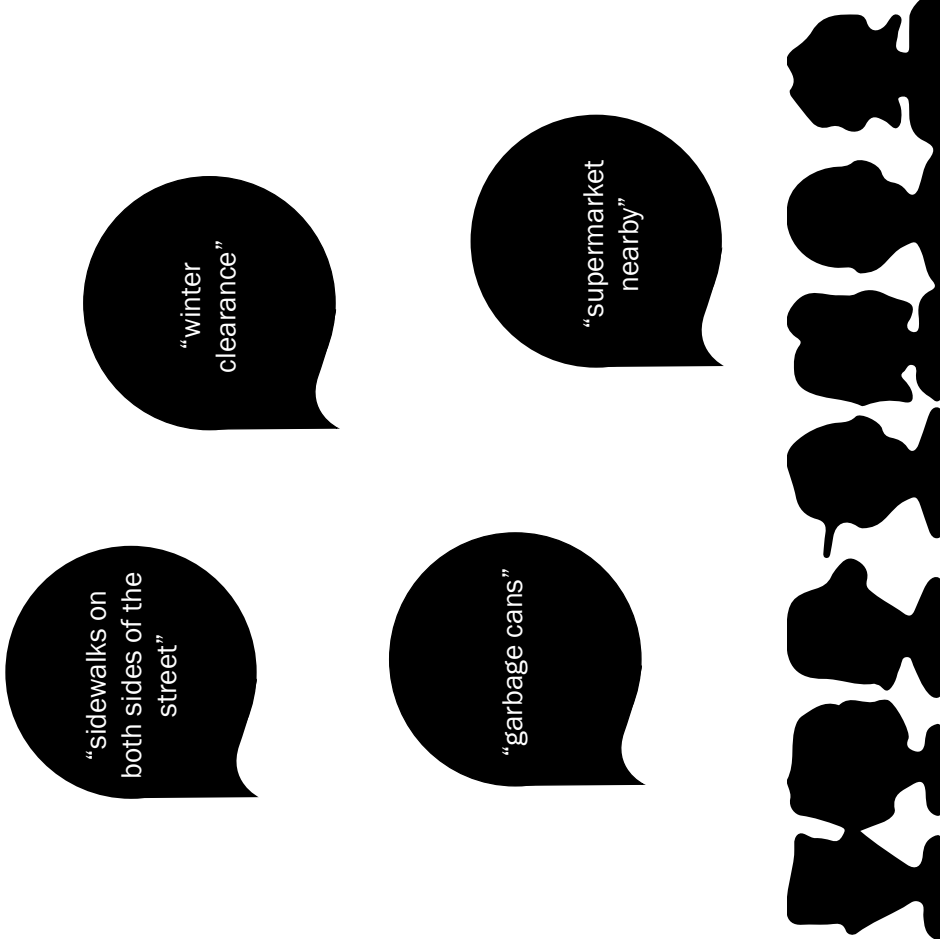


What would encourage you to walk along Markham’s streets more often?

These responses were collected through the long-form survey, which was distributed primarily during Meet & Greet events. This question was presented in multiple choice format, with participants instructed to select all applicable choices. Participants could also leave comments related to this survey question. Those are details below.

Total Response: 74

Survey participant ideas...



What would encourage you to use Markham's trails/pathways/bikeways more often?

These responses were collected through the long-form survey, which was distributed primarily during Meet & Greet events. This question was presented in multiple choice format, with participants instructed to select all applicable choices. Participants could also leave comments related to this survey question. Those are details below.

Total Response: 74

Survey participant ideas...

"seating"

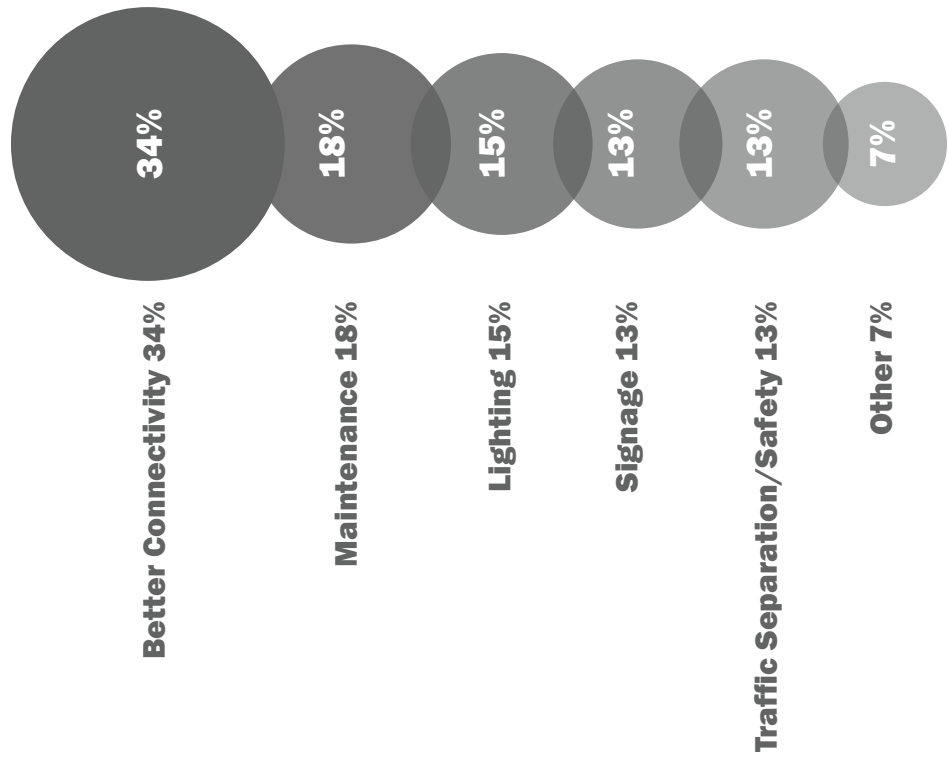
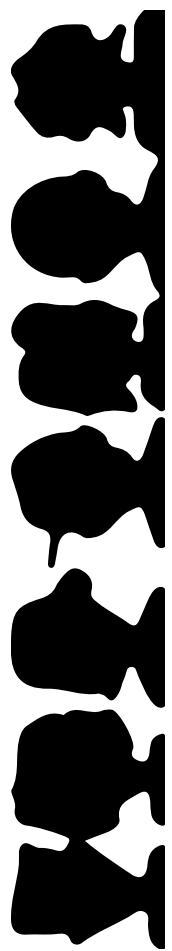
"already use trails because of bad traffic"

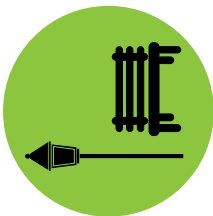
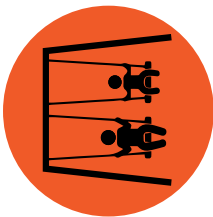
"bridges and walkways in natural areas"

"better scenery"

"more improvement of security and traffic separation/safety"

"indoor trail walk for winter"







Next Steps

How to move from Talking to Doing!

At 8-80 Cities we believe the local residents are a wealth of knowledge when it comes to their public realm. Throughout this community engagement process we have been able to determine elements of the public realm that are important to residents of Markham. The next step is to drill down to the neighbourhood level, speak with residents on a specific public realm location, such as a street segment, park or other public space. At 8-80 Cities we focus on community engagement followed by short-term pilot projects that act as ‘quick-wins’ for the public realm. Pilot Projects illustrate that the community voice was heard and the City has responded in a timely fashion.

Below are some recommendations that will help the public realm engagement process move from talking to doing.

1

DETAILED PLACE-BASED PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Using the information gathered in this report, choose specific parks, streets or public spaces and conduct targeted public engagement at the local level. Engage residents to determine exactly what they would like to see, do and plan for in a specific public space with a special focus on how they would like to animate their local public space.

Place-based engagement such as this will also give the City the opportunity to identify community champions that will work with the City to make their local parks and public spaces vibrant and inviting places for all.

2

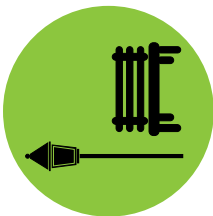
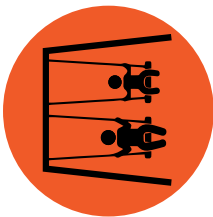
IMPLEMENT SHORT-TERM PILOT PROJECTS

Pilot projects can be implemented in the short-term and will show the community “quick-wins” that are directly related to community engagement results. Pilot projects can refer to any intervention that is inexpensive and doable in the short-term such as, community gardens, public art, colourful crosswalks, adding a few benches in key areas as well as activities that will animate a park or public space (yoga in the park, buskers and other ‘software’ or events).

3

INTERNAL CITY OF MARKHAM DEPARTMENTAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

This community engagement process has shown that ‘hardware’ interventions are just as important to Markham’s residents as ‘software’ interventions. Software such as events and ongoing programming, maintenance and management must be funded in conjunction with investments in public realm ‘hardware’ upgrades and designs. To effectively design and program a space, the internal City departments working on public realm improvement issues must be in-sync and initiatives must be collaborative.





Appendix A: Inspiration



Many inspiring and imaginative ideas were offered during Markham's public realm community engagement sessions. At 8-80 Cities we believe a vibrant and inviting public realm is within reach for all communities. In this inspiration section we have offered some great projects, from around the world, that highlight both software and hardware urban interventions that could easily be adapted in the Markham context.

PLAYGROUNDS

Themed Playgrounds_Malmö, Sweden

Twenty themed playgrounds offer free and imaginative outdoor fun for families and children in Malmö, Sweden. Local favourites include the Fairytale Playground next to Malmö City Library, the eco-friendly Solar Playground adjacent to the Green Market organic food store, and the Adventure Playground which hosts a whimsical obstacle course. Other playgrounds are designed for worldly exploration and beyond, such as the Space Playground, Africa Park, the Jungle Playground, and the Sea and Beach Playground. Each playground offers different attractions, challenges, and activities for different age groups. malmotown.com/en/article/themed-playgrounds-in-malmo/

PUBLIC ART

The Happy Wall_Copenhagen, Denmark

The Happy Wall is a 100-foot interactive public art installation in Copenhagen, Denmark. The surface of the Wall consists of nearly 2,000 wooden boards that can be flipped to reveal various colours. Everyone is welcome to manipulate the flaps to create pixelated patterns, symbols, or messages. There's even a sliding ladder to help people reach the top. As a testament to the Happy Walls' popularity, more than 4600 pictures have been uploaded to Instagram with #Happywall hashtag. A second Happy Wall was recently constructed in the happiest place in the world - Las Vegas. guerrilla-innovation.com/archives/2014/08/000857.php

Pop-Up Pianos

Pop-up piano projects bring free, playable pianos to public spaces throughout a city. These programs are designed to inspire creativity in the public realm, and to encourage passersby of all musical skill level to take a seat and play some notes. More than 1,300 pianos have been installed in 43 cities across the globe, from Toronto to London, and from Santiago to Hangzhou. streetpianos.com





CYCLING

Bicycle Commuter Center_Pittsburgh, PA

Two shipping containers have been converted into a secure parkade for 26 bicycles. The bright-green facility is adjacent to the Bicycle Commuter Center in Pittsburgh, which also includes 21 outdoor bike wall-racks, showers, and bike rentals. A collaborative project, the parking facility was led by a partnership between real estate developer and a local cycling advocacy organization, and supported with funding from the municipal government and city parking authority. In total, the Commuter Centre project cost \$85,000 – money well spent to make cycling a more viable and visible mode of transportation. bikepg.org/2010/01/14/downtown-welcomes-secure-bike-parking-center/



Public Bike Tools

Running into bike trouble on the road can leave cyclists stranded. To address this problem, some cities have installed public bike repair stations and air pumps along major bike routes. Simple tools and bike stands make it easier to fix your bike and continue the ride. Bicycle tool vending machines have been installed in transportation hubs in Minneapolis, and the City of Vancouver has piloted a program to install air pumps and basic tools along major cycling routes.

Temporary Bike Lanes

Temporary bike lanes highlight the need for permanent cycle infrastructure and can “pilot” candidate streets prior to permanent bike lane installation.



WINTER ACTIVATION

Winter Warming Huts

Winter in Winnipeg is cold, but these temporary huts on the frozen Red River are helping to warm the city with colour and creativity. This design competition attracts ideas and concepts from around the world. The winning warming huts are placed along the city’s 1.2km skating trail at The Forks, a public market and historic site. In recent years, the Warming Huts competition has also included a temporary indoor restaurant, set up right on the ice. warminghuts.com/



PEDESTRIAN REALM

Colourful Crosswalks

Crosswalks help pedestrians safely navigate streets and sidewalks, but they can also be used to enliven the public realm with colour and creativity. Colourful crosswalks help signify the importance of walking and increase the visibility of street crossings. These public art crossings can be made permanent fixtures like the Rainbow Crosswalks that celebrate the LGBTQ community in Vancouver, or kept as temporary paintings. The designs can also be created as a collaborative community project, or commissioned as part of a city’s public art program like Mississauga.



Walking Distance Wayfinding Signage

Walking Distance Wayfinding Signage project is a colourful reminder that most destinations within a neighbourhood and within walkable distance. The signs help 'humanise' distance by showing walking times (rather than kilometres) to public realm landmarks such as parks, shopping centres, and community centres. Pioneered by the Walk [Your] City initiative, similar projects have been launched in cities and towns around the world.

walkyourcity.org/

REUSE PUBLIC SPACE

Play Streets_United States

Play Streets are car-free streets on quieter blocks that provide children and communities with space for engaging in active play and physical activity. For schools and community groups with insufficient active play spaces, Play Streets open up streets for physical activity, benefiting students and local residents. First launched in New York City, municipally-run Play Street programs now exist in more than ten cities across the United States. These programs help build community, slow traffic, and create safer neighbourhoods for all. Best of all, Play Streets transform car places into people spaces in fun and creative ways.

seattle.gov/transportation/playstreets.htm



Parklets_Vancouver, BC

The City of Vancouver supports local businesses and residents convert parking spaces into people spaces through an innovative Parklet Program. A parklet is typically designed as a raised platform over a parking space that meets the sidewalk to offer pedestrians benches, tables, chairs, landscaping, and bike parking. They are designed and built by local designers, and offer interesting spaces for people to sit and relax. In Vancouver, these spaces are sponsored by private partners but are free and open for any member of the public to use. As a small, inexpensive, but high impact urban intervention, parklets help extend the pedestrian realm, create new social spaces, foster a sense of community, and support vibrant local businesses.

vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/parklets.aspx



SOCIALIZATION

Tool Library_Toronto, ON + Vancouver, BC

The average power drill is used for just 13 minutes in its lifetime. Tool libraries, which function like a conventional library, put idle tools into the hands of people who can't afford or don't have space for the equipment. Local residents simply borrow the tools and return them when their DIY project is done. Tool libraries in Toronto and Vancouver also host workshops to train people on how to use the tools. In addition to supporting the sharing economy, tool libraries become gathering spaces to meet and socialize with neighbours.





Community Skillshare_Brooklyn, NY

Skillshare programs are community-based, community-led, and community-building learning events organized and taught local residents. These events allow neighbours to connect and share ideas, skills, and knowledge. The workshops hosted by the Brooklyn Skillshare include juggling lessons, basic bike repair, knitting 101, and even Japanese bookbinding. Municipal governments can support these initiatives by providing space in community centres and other public indoor spaces.
brooklynskillshare.org

Family Next Door Project_European Union

The Family Next Door Project brings local and recent immigrant families together for the purpose of building community. The families prepare and then eat a meal together, while learning about their respective cultures. This project began in the Czech Republic, but has since expanded to include six other European Union member states.



EVENTS

Front Yard Performances_Minneapolis, MN

Public events don't need to be complicated, large-scale spectacles. The Open Eye Figure Theatre in Minneapolis offered free Adirondack chairs to local residents that agreed to place them in their front yard for anyone to use. The Theatre then launched a summer neighbourhood tour, which brought communities together for free front-yard puppet performances around the city.
openeyetheatre.org

Appendix B: Public Realm Surveys

Short form survey

 PUBLIC REALM SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS	
FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:
PHONE NUMBER:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
☐ Yes, I would like to receive e-mail updates from the City of Markham's Public Realm Strategy.	

What makes Markham beautiful?

What makes Markham a great place to live?

What have you seen or experienced in other cities that you would like to see in Markham?

Other Comments

Shared Places Our Spaces

City of Markham Public Realm Survey

1. In which area or neighbourhood of Markham do you live?

2. Please enter the last 3 digits of your postal code ____ (optional)*
 * This information will be used for data analysis purposes only.

3. What is your favourite public space in Markham?

4. Is there a park or public space within a 5-minute walking distance of your home?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the name of the park or public space _____

5. In your opinion, is there public space in Markham that could be better? _____

If so, how could this space be better? _____

6. What would encourage you to visit Markham's parks more often?

(Choose up to 3 items)

- ☐ Activities/Events
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Greenery & landscaping
- ☐ Seating area/benches
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Improved personal security
- ☐ Improved maintenance
- ☐ Other

Please specify _____

7. What would encourage you to walk along the streets more often?

(Choose up to 3 items)

- a. Greenery & street trees

- b. Sidewalks
- c. Benches
- d. Lighting
- e. More destinations
- f. Slower traffic speed/traffic calming
- g. Improved maintenance
- h. Other

Please specify _____

8. What would encourage you to use Markham's trails/pathways/bikeways more often?

(Choose up to 3 items)

- a. Better connectivity
- b. Lighting
- c. Signage
- d. Improved maintenance
- e. Traffic separation/safety
- f. Other?

Please specify _____

9. What makes Markham beautiful?

10. What makes Markham a great place to live?

11. What have you seen or experienced in other cities that you would like to see in Markham?

Please return your completed survey to:

Staff at the Event or at the Information desk at Angus Glen Community Centre. Surveys will be accepted until November 21.

Name: _____

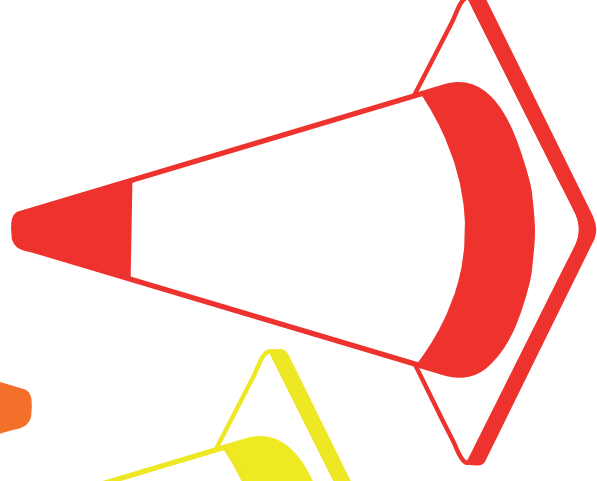
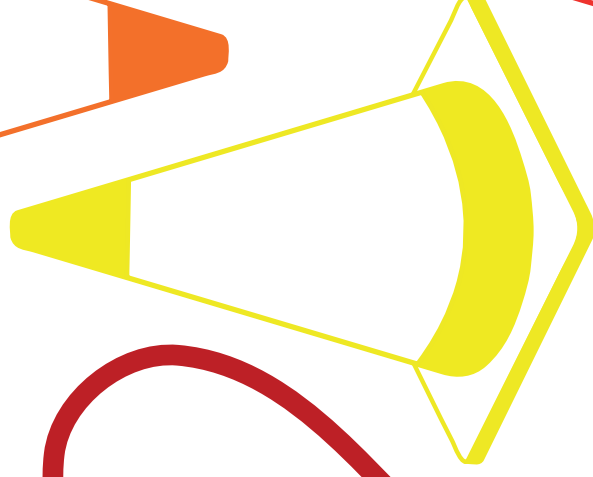
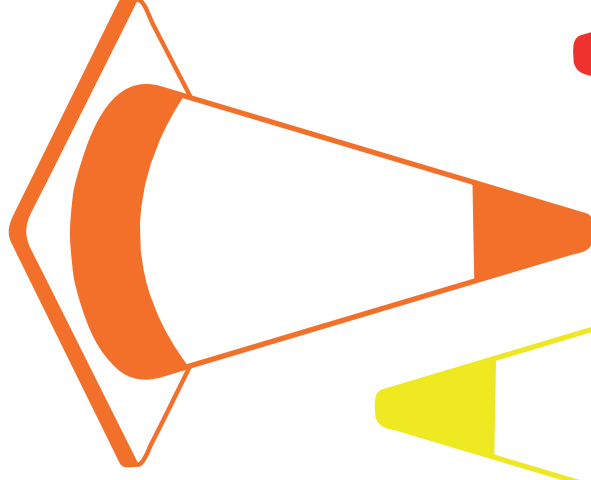
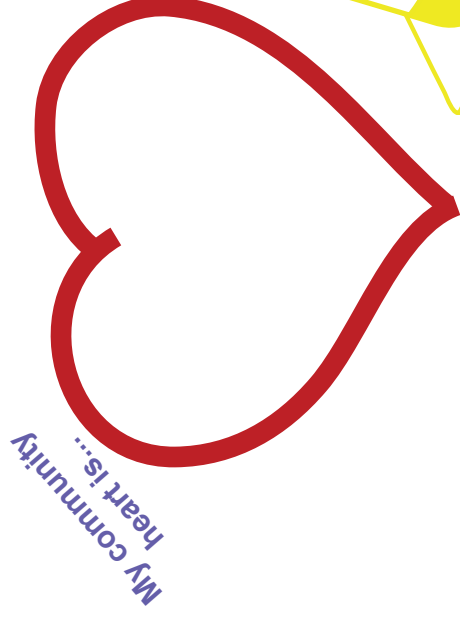
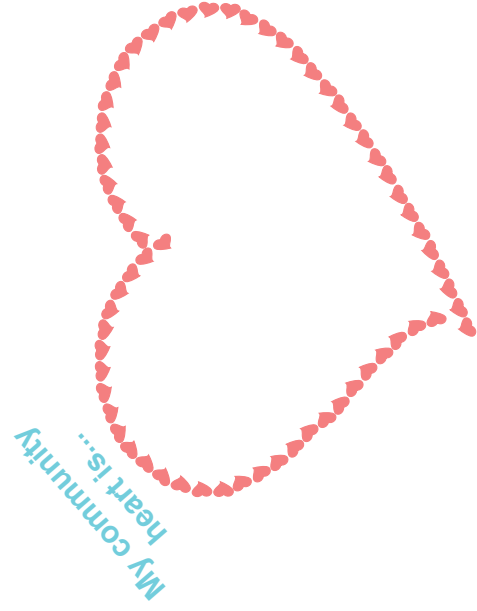
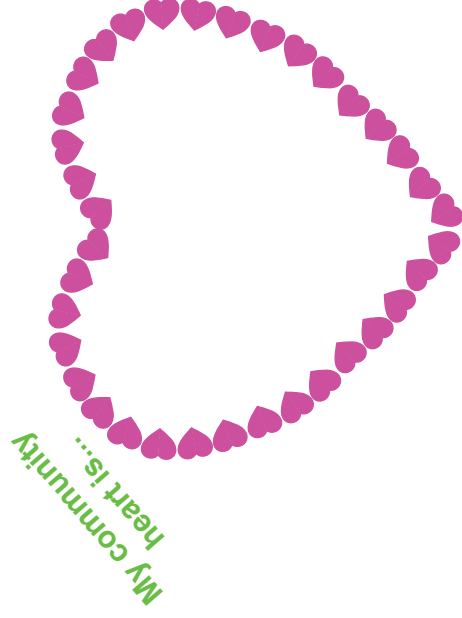
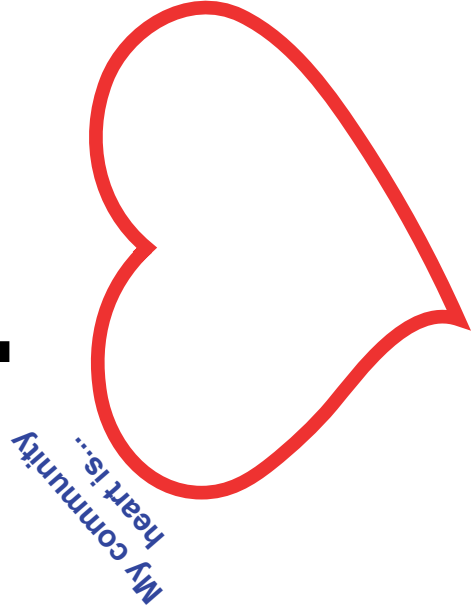
Email Address: _____

Location: _____

Name and email must be legible to be entered into the draw to win one of three Costco Gift Cards (1-\$50.00 and 2-\$25.00).

Appendix C: Engagement Activity

Templates



Appendix D: Workshop Invitation List

Workshops were designed to give stakeholder groups and other engaged community members the opportunity to participate in the public realm community engagement process in a direct and targeted manner. 8-80 Cities hosted six community workshops with various stakeholders across the city. The workshop invitation was sent out to more than 75 community groups and stakeholder organisations requesting that 2-3 members of each group attend the public realm workshops. Workshop attendance numbers varied based on a number of factors including local traffic volumes, location of workshop, weather, workshop timing and general interest in the public realm.

Public Realm Engagement Resident Association Groupings

**West Session, Thornhill Recreation Centre, Fireside Lounge, 7:00-9:00pm
23/10/2014**

Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Langstaff Community Association Inc. Langstaff Road East, Ruggles Avenue, Cedar Avenue, and Essex Avenue
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Ward One South Thornhill Residents Inc. (WOSTRI) Yonge Street on the west, Don River on the north, railway tracks on the south, Bayview Avenue on the east
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Grandview Area Residents Association Steeles Avenue on the south, Yonge Street on the west, railway tracks north of Doncaster Avenue on the north, on the east Almond Park ravine/Proctor Avenue to Steeles Avenue
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Bayview Country Club Estates Ratepayers Association Includes Fairway Heights Drive, Fairway Heights Crescent, Barclay Court, Saville Court, Bleinham Court, Twickenham Court, Grosvenor Court, Waterloo Court
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Cricklewood Ratepayers Association All residents on Cricklewood Crescent (located between Bayview Avenue and Yonge Street)
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Leitchcroft Ratepayers Association Highway #7; Pond Drive, South Park Drive, and Saddlecreek Drive
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	German Mills Residents' Association Inc. Highway 404 on the east, Settlers Park, Berczy (Wycliffe) Park on the west, Steeles Avenue on the south, and John Street on the north
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Bayview Fairways Ratepayers Association John Street on the north, Bayview Golf Course on the south, the end of Pine Knoll Gate on the east, and the north/south railway

	line on the west
Name of Ratepayer Association	Aileen-Willowbrook Ratepayers Association Inc.
Boundaries	Willowbrook Road on the north; Bayview Avenue on the west; the railway line on the south; the creek on the east
Name of Ratepayer Association	Bayview Glen Residents Association
Boundaries	Steeles Avenue to the south; Bayview Avenue to the west; CN rail line to the east, and to the north, the CN north line to the south of John Street
Name of Ratepayer Association	Milliken Mills East Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Kennedy Road from Steeles Avenue East to Denison Street; Denison Street, from Kennedy Road to Dunbar Crescent; Steeles Avenue East from Kennedy Road to Fenton Road; east boundary is a straight line north from Fenton Road to Denison Street
Name of Ratepayer Association	Thornhill Conservation District Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Exactly the same as the Thornhill Markham Heritage Conservation District Plan, which is generally: Yonge Street on the west; Bayview Avenue on the east; the southernmost boundaries of the south/side properties on John Street; and property immediately north of the river, but not including Village Squire Lane, Park Brook Place, or Forest Park Crescent
Name of Ratepayer Association	Leslie Street Thornhill Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Highway 407 to the north; John Street to the south; German Mills Creek to the west; and Highway 404 to the east
Name of Ratepayer Association	Aldergrove Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Duxford Cres, Manston Cres, Hornchurch Cres, Halder Cres, Chichester Road, Aldergrove Drive, Digby Cres, Wickman Ct, Stirling Cres, Martlesham Road, Winston Road, Cardiff Road, Trafford Cres, Kirton Ct
Name of Ratepayer Association	South Unionville Resident Forum

Boundaries	The block within 407 to Highway 7, Kennedy Road, to McCowan Road
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Name of Ratepayer Association	Settlers Park Residents Association (SPRA)
Boundaries	Steeles Avenue, East: German Mills Creek, North: Railway Line, West: Dawn Hill Trail, intersection of John Street and Railway Road

**Central Session, Angus Glen Community Centre, Activity Room 1, 7:00-9:00pm
28/10/2014**

Name of Ratepayer Association	Victoria Square Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	East side of Woodbine Avenue from Major MacKenzie Drive to Royal Albert Street, including the Hamlet of Victoria Square (*creek would be boundary between the Victoria Square and the Victoria Manor Associations). All of Elgin Mills Road from Hamlet of Victoria Square to Warden Avenue West side of Warden Avenue from Elgin Mills Road to 19th Avenue All of 19th Avenue from Warden Avenue to Highway 404 South along Highway 404 to Elgin Mills Road All of Elgin Mills Road from Highway 404 to Hamlet of Victoria Square, including Victoria Square Community Centre

Name of Ratepayer Association	Jennings Gate Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Includes Boynton Circle, Wilmot Court, Forson Court, Jennings Gate, Ryan Crescent

Name of Ratepayer Association	Devil's Elbow Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	South of Major Mackenzie Drive and east of Woodbine Ave . It includes Cachet Estates, Heritage Estates, Glenridge Estates and the Glenbourne Park area.

Name of Ratepayer Association	Unionville Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Highway 407 on the south; 16th Avenue on the north; McCowan Road on the east; and Warden Avenue on the West

Name of Ratepayer Association	Village Green Ratepayers Association
Boundaries	Swansea Road on the east, including Robert street and Janna Court, Avoca Drive on the south, Eton Street on the north and a

portion of the east side of Kennedy Road linking Avoca Drive to Eton Street on the west

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

South Unionville Community Association (SUCA)
Covers all homes built in 1997 or later (not including older homes on Helen Avenue) McCowan on the east to Kennedy on the west, and from Highway 407 on the south to the existing homes built south of Highway 7 on the north

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Cathedraltown Community Ratepayers Association
South of Elgin Mills, North of Major Mackenzie Drive, east of 404 and West of Woodbine Avenue

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Wismer Ratepayers Association
Major Mackenzie Drive, 16th Avenue, Highway 48 and McCowan Road

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Unionville Historical Society
Rodick Road (west) to McCowan Road (east), Stouffville border (north) to E/W CN line south of Hwy 407 (south)

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Boyington Heights Ratepayers Association (Inc.)
Highway 48 on the east, Highway 7 on the north, Milne Park Conservation Area on the south, Willowgate Drive on the west

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Angus Glen Ratepayers Association
Kennedy Road on the east, the portion of lands north of 16th Avenue and south of Major Mackenzie Road commonly referred to as "Angus Glen Subdivision"

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Unionville Villagers Association
The Unionville Heritage Conservation District boundaries

**Name of Ratepayer Association
Boundaries**

Raymerville Ratepayers Association
South of 16th Avenue; east of McCowan Road; north of the railway track which is immediately north of Bullock; and west of Peter Street (west of eastern boundary of Old Markham Village Ratepayers Association)

Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Victoria Manor Community Association Woodbine Avenue on the west from Stony Hill Boulevard south, following the east side of the creek to Major Mackenzie Drive East; east along Major Mackenzie to the hydro line; north along the hydro line to Stony Hill Boulevard
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Dickson Hill Hamlet and Neighbourhood Community Association All of Dickson Hill Road and Mill Race Court; those properties South on Hwy. 48 to Elgin Mills Road and North on Hwy. 48 to the Markham/Stouffville boundary line which is just north of 19th Avenue; and East and West on 19th Avenue to both bridges that cross the Little Rouge Creek.
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Sherwood South Ratepayers Community Group McCowan Road to the West up to Willowgate to the East. Hwy 7 to the North and Milne Dam Conservation to the South.

**East Session, Cornell Community Centre, Multi-Purpose Room, 7:00-9:00pm
30/10/2014**

Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Legacy Community Ratepayers Association Inc. Highway 407 on the north; old ninth Line on the east; 14th Avenue on the south; and Markham Green Golf course to the west.
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Cornell Residents Association 9th Line to the west; Little Rouge Creek to the north; Reesor Road to the east; and Highway 407 to the south
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Old Markham Village Ratepayers Inc. 16th Avenue on the north, Highway 7 on the south covering the approximate area of the Markham Main Street Land Use Study
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association Main Street Markham South from Highway #7 to Highway #407, including Rouge Street, Mill Street, Magill Street, Nelson Street, Mayhew Lane, Dryden Court, Fisher Court, James Scott Road, Charlotte Angliss Road, Schouten Crescent and Rougehaven Way

Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Sherwood-Amberglan Ratepayers Association including Senator Reesor's Drive, Henry Corson Place, John Dexter Place. In 1999, the boundaries were expanded to include a greater area
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Cedar Grove Community Club Just south of Highway 7 on the north, the York/Durham Town Line on the east, Steeles Avenue on the south, half way between Reesor Road and the Ninth Line on the west
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Box Grove Community Association Highway 407 on the north, Steeles Avenue on the south, the Rouge River on the west, the nor/south railway line between 9th and 10th line on the east
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Rouge Fairways Residents Association 14th Avenue on the north, C.N. Railway line on the south, the Hydro corridor at Highway 48 on the west, and the Rouge River on the east
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Rouge River Estates Residents Association Streets located north of 14th Avenue and East of Markham Road. Excluding the jurisdiction of the "Rouge River Estate Association"
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Greensborough Community Ratepayers Association Highway 48 on the west; 9th Line on the east; Major Mackenzie Drive East to the north; and 16th Avenue to the south
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Cedarwood Community Association North of Steeles Avenue, east of Markham Road (Hwy 48), south of railway tracks, and west of the Rouge River
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Cedarwood Tamil Community Association North of Steeles Avenue East; south-west of railway tracks; east of Markham Road (Highway 48); and west of Morningside Creek.
Name of Ratepayer Association	South Markham Residents Association

Boundaries	East of McCowan Road; West of Markham Road; North of Steeles Avenue & South of 14th Avenue
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	14th and Markham Community Association South of 14th Avenue - North of Dennison, East of McCowan - West of Markham Road
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Rouge River Estates Residents Association Streets located north of 14th Avenue and East of Markham Road. Excluding the jurisdiction of the "Rouge River Estate Association".
Name of Ratepayer Association Boundaries	Markham Village City Ratepayers Association North of 407, South of 14th Avenue, East of McCowan and West of Ninth Line

Public Realm Engagement Groupings

Warden House, 7:00-9:00pm 21/10/2014

Arts and Culture

Public Realm Committee

Public Art Committee

Flato Theatre Board

Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Friends of the Museum Board

Library Board

Civic Centre Council Chambers, 7:00-9:00pm 22/10/2014

Markham's Youth Groups

Youth Contacts

West

South

North

East

Markham Mayor's Youth Council

Civic Centre Council Chambers, 7:00-9:00pm 29/10/2014

Service Clubs, BIAs

IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire)

JewishWomen of York Region, Markham-Unionville Chapter

Kiwanis Club, Markham

Knights of Columbus, Council #7689 (St. Patrick's)

Knights of Columbus, Council #11708

Knights of Rizal, Markham Chapter

Lions Club, Markham

Lions Club, Milliken Mills

Markham District Veterans Association

New Horizon Lions Club, Canada-HK, Doncrest-Unionville

Ontario York Region Heritage Lions Club

Optimist Club of Markham

Rotary Club of Markham Sunrise

Rotary Club of Markham Unionville

Boxgrove Lions Club

BIA's

Markham Village Business Improvement Area

Unionville Business Improvement Area

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