

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY An UPDATE



Presentation to the City of Markham Development Services Committee

Workshop: November 30, 2021

“Making Markham an Age-Friendly Community!”

Markham’s Older Adult Strategy 2017

Introduction



- First presentation by Committee For Age Friendly Markham (“CFAFM”) to DSC on March 18, 2019. Request for staff report in Nov 2019.
- Staff report in December 2020. CFAFM submitted response to staff report in Dec 2020.
- Council commitment for this Workshop planned for Q1 2021.
- Here we are... 32 months later!

We’re not getting younger. There is a growing 60+ demographic. The inadequacy of current approaches was highlighted through COVID.

What we expect



1. SMART Action – Take a leadership role. Put the required resources to issues that are under municipal jurisdiction
2. For matters that are primarily under Regional jurisdiction, push York Region to do more
3. For matters that are primarily under Provincial jurisdiction, advocate strongly at every opportunity for Markham citizen interests

Three Themes



1. Accessible Design Considerations – Universal design, accessible, affordable, designed to accommodate a full life lived at home – Always Homes!
2. Land use Planning – zoning and mixed use development
3. Public Land Opportunities – using existing land inventories to meet citizens' emerging needs

Theme One: Accessible Design



1. “Always Homes” – which are affordable and fully accessible with Universal Design
2. Home elevators and chair lifts – design capability into new homes for future installation, and support retrofit of existing housing inventory
3. Seniors’ snow clearing delivered in a responsive, timely and compassionate manner
4. Sidewalk completion – target program completion within 4 years for arterial and collector roads

Theme Two – Land Use Planning



1. Inclusionary Zoning to increase affordable housing stock
2. Live / Work Opportunities – to improve the walkability of Markham neighbourhoods
3. Future Urban Area – design and develop with Seniors accommodation and other needs in mind
4. Increased density including secondary suites and coach houses

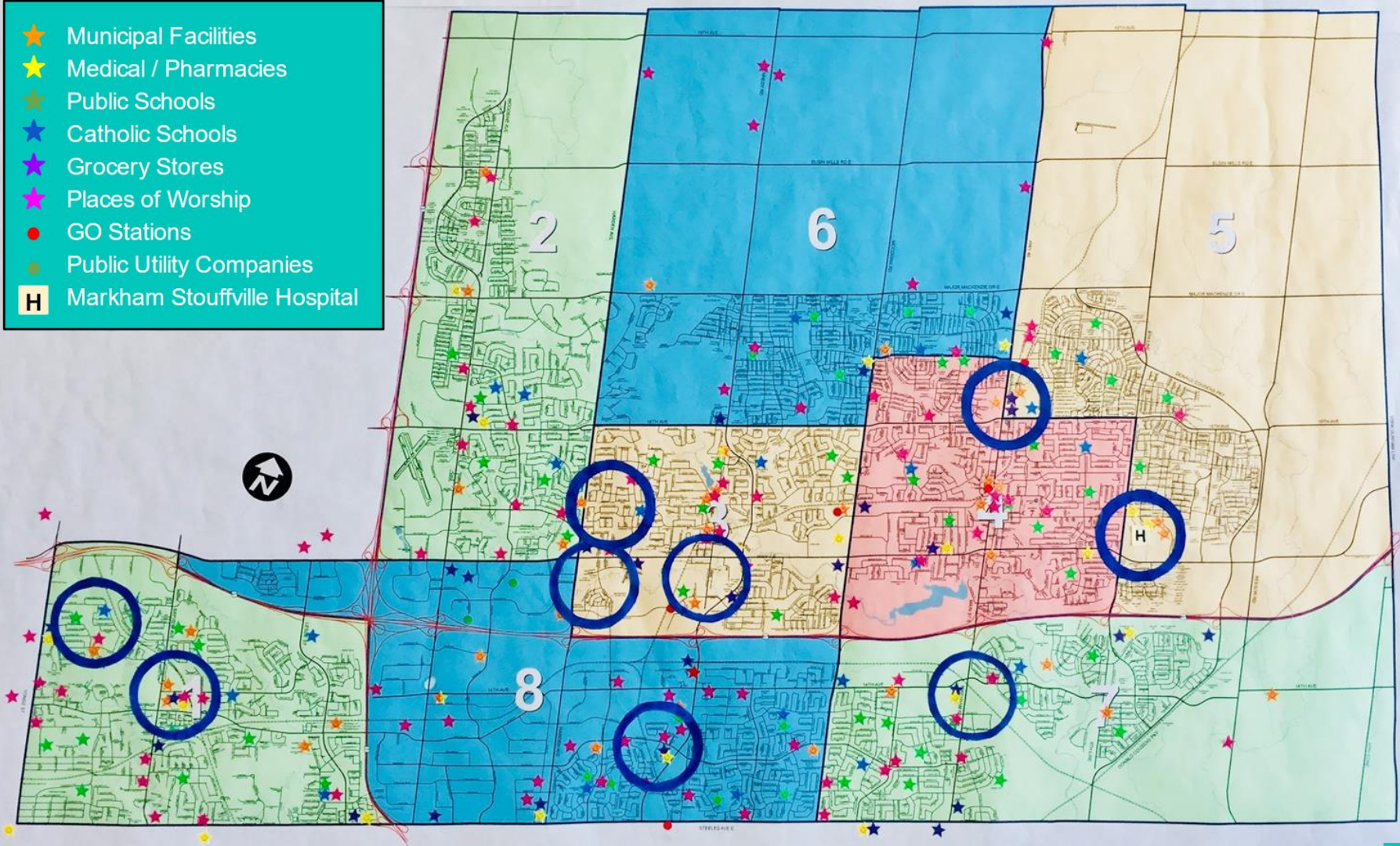
Theme Three – Public Land



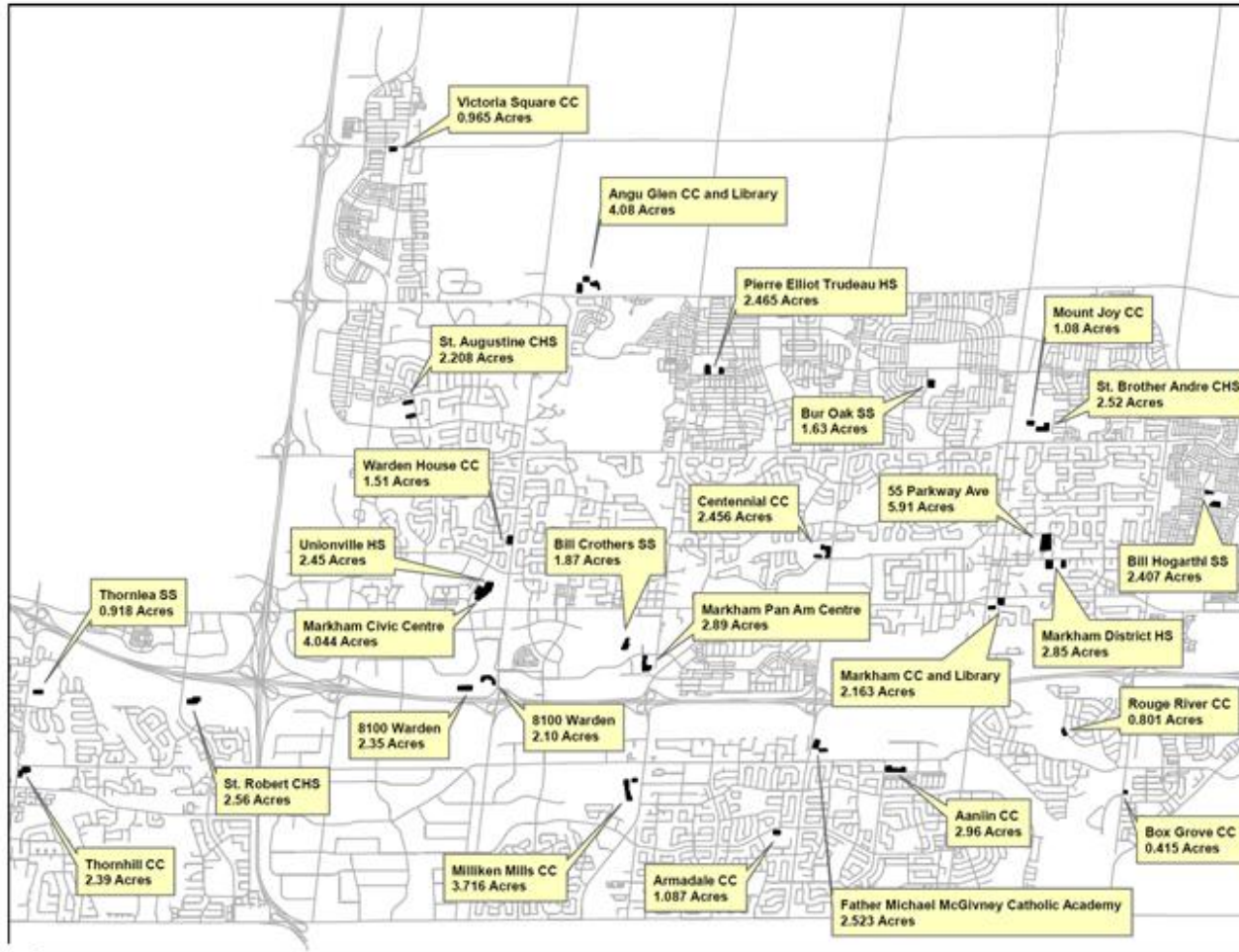
1. Repurpose publicly owned surface parking to accommodate affordable and accessible housing, developmentally challenged accommodations, hospice and other public interest needs
2. Focus on lands near transit, medical services and amenities
3. Implement a Public Land Corporation (model after Markham District Energy)

COMMUNITY HUBS

- ★ Municipal Facilities
- ★ Medical / Pharmacies
- ★ Public Schools
- ★ Catholic Schools
- ★ Grocery Stores
- ★ Places of Worship
- GO Stations
- Public Utility Companies
- H** Markham Stouffville Hospital



Parking Lots for Potential Repurposing



- Draft, just preliminary!
- 65.25 acres of municipal and high school surface parking
- Not included: surface parking lots for Ontario Hydro, GO stations, places of worship, etc.
- Reasonable to round-down to about 50 acres

We recommend...



- A. Council expedite establishing a land development corporation to make land allocation an ongoing process
- B. Council prescribe amenities to be included in various types of houses
- C. Council match Whitby, Courtice and other municipalities by donating land for residential hospices
- D. Council follow the lead of Whitby, Courtice, Port Perry and Region of Durham to support residential hospice care in Markham and York Region

In conclusion, when will Markham Council actualize its vision of Markham as an age-friendly community by taking actions to these ends?

Thank you for your consideration

Questions?



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