



Why do we need a Public Realm Strategy?



Why is the Public Realm important?



What is the Public Realm?



Recommendations



Next Steps



Shared Places Our Spaces Markham's Public Realm



"The public realm is the space between the buildings and the sky. It is the space where we live, work, play, and learn. It is the space where we meet, greet, and connect. It is the space where we belong."



A Vision for Markham's Public Realm



Our Strategy



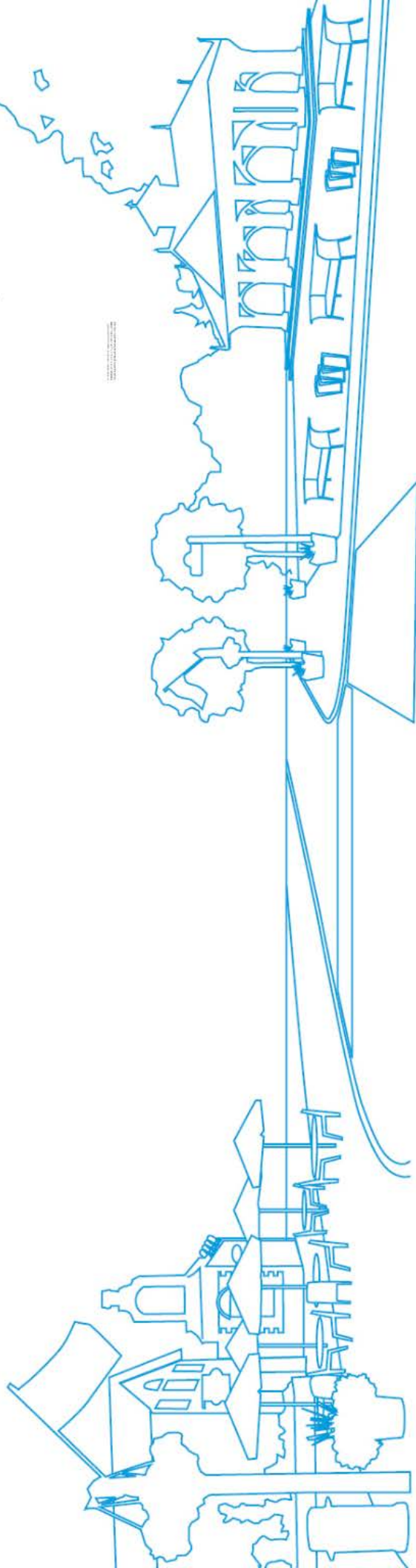
From where we are...



Shared Places Our Spaces

Markham's Public Realm

What is the Public Realm?



Our Public Realm is defined as the **spaces, connections and buildings**, which are visible or accessible, that **enhance public life, promote civic pride and enliven the spirit of the City.**

These spaces and connections include streets, boulevards, walkways, bikeways, trails, bridges, parks, open spaces, plazas, squares, wetlands natural features, views, landmark structures, public art, transit facilities, frontyards and building exteriors.

Shared Places, Our Spaces Engaging, Sustaining, Beautiful

Plant a Tree

Create Architectural
Excellence

Participate in
Community Cleanup

Promote
Public Art

Celebrate an Event



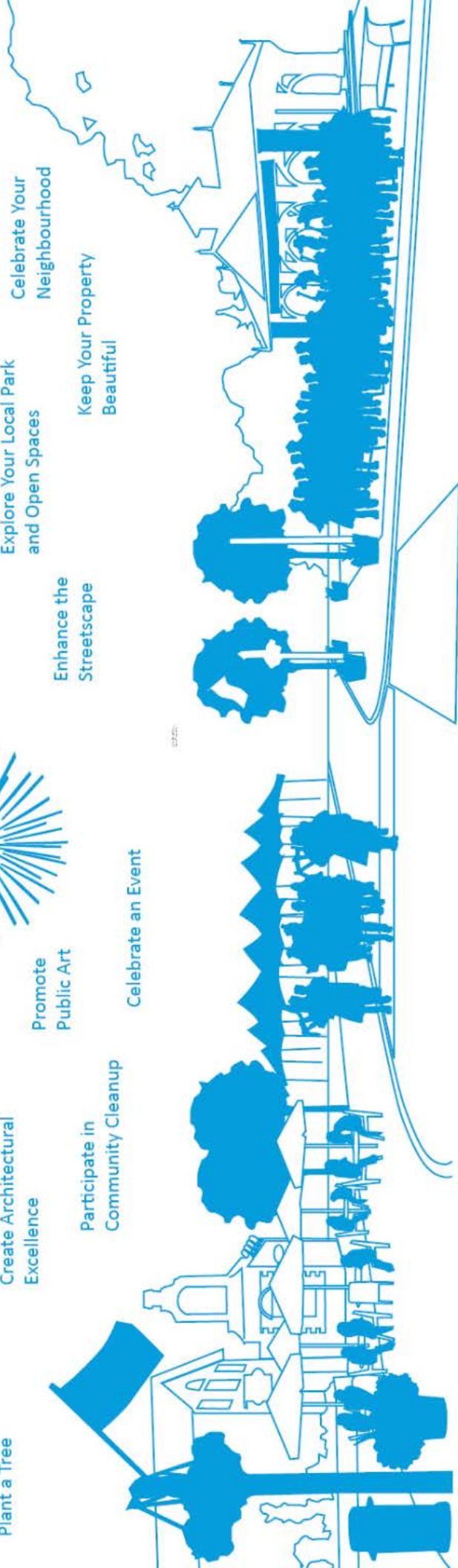
Come Together to Create a High Quality, Vibrant Public Realm

Explore Your Local Park
and Open Spaces

Celebrate Your
Neighbourhood

Enhance the
Streetscape

Keep Your Property
Beautiful





Why is the Public Realm important?

A public realm that is used and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities is key to creating a great public realm and vibrant city.

Builds Community Spirit



“Celebrate on a wide range of scales: Canada Day festivities; Ribfest; Taste of Asia festival; farmers markets; Jazz festivals; family picnics; organized and unorganized sports.”



**“The deciding factor for choosing where to work is
the quality of life in the vicinity of the business.”**

Integrates Healthy Physical Activities



“Over 3 in 5 of Canadian adults are overweight or obese.”

“Markham can continue to provide an accessible and safe public realm that encourages residents to use active transportation modes and to gather and connect with neighbours year-round.” - Greenprint



Connects Environmental Features

**“Preservation of our natural areas creates
a legacy for future generations.”**

Why do we need a Public Realm Strategy?

- One of our **strategic initiatives**
- **Improve our current** public realm Initiatives
- Provide the City with **a framework to plan, build and maintain** our public realm



**What has
happened to date?**

Terms of Reference and Scope of Work Defined

Staff Working Team

Operations, Urban Design & Planning, Heritage Planning, Development Engineering & Transportation, Capital Works, Asset Management, Recreation, Culture, Markham Public Library, Corporate Communications, Bylaws and Sustainability Office.

Public Realm Advisory Committee

Citizens, Councillors, City and Region Staff

Hired P J Smith & Company – Engage for Background Research

Lessons from 12 cities, What is working in Markham, Where can we improve

Prepared Draft Document



Shared Places Our Spaces

Markham's Public Realm Draft Strategy

May 5, 2014



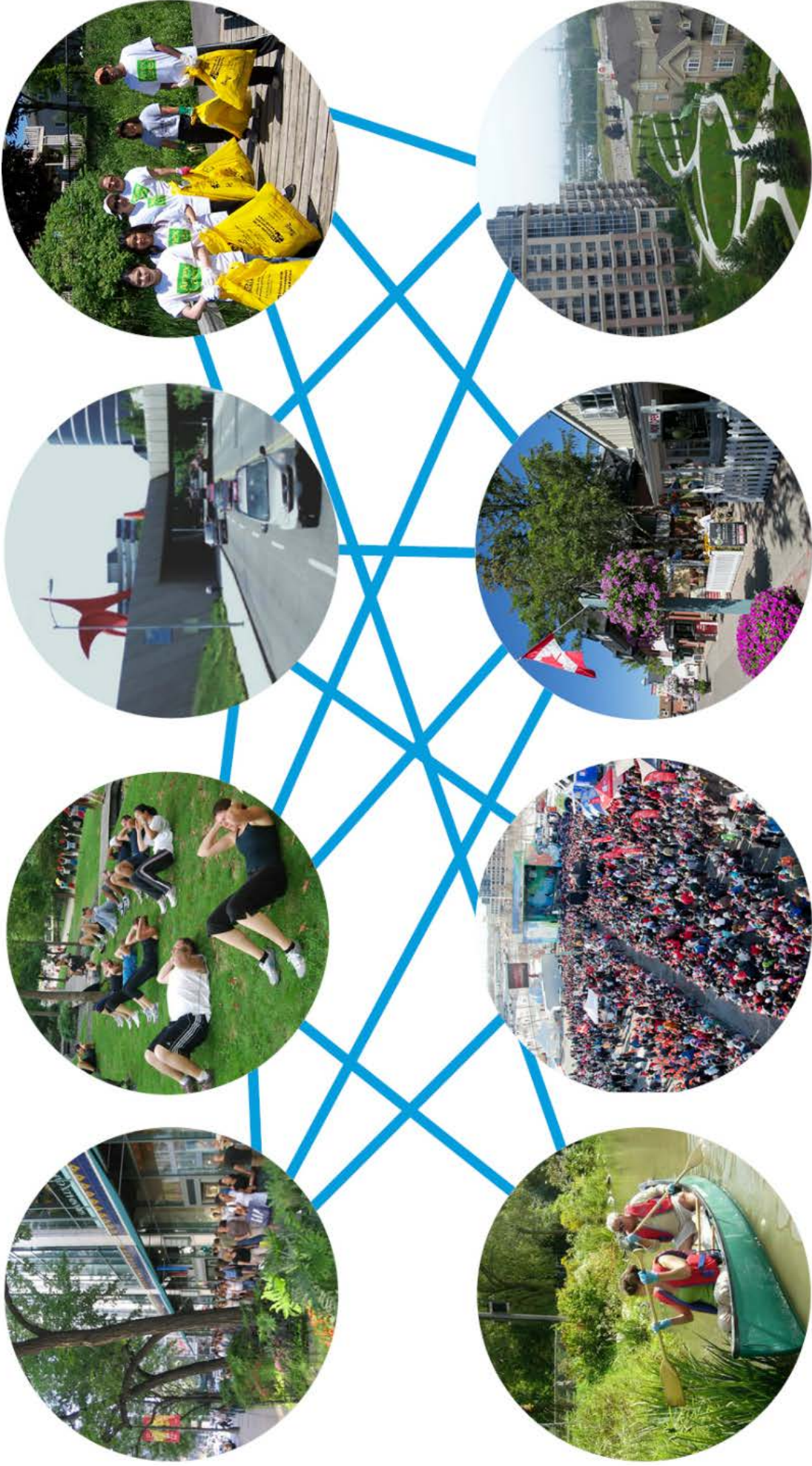
What is the intent of the document?

1. **Define** what the public realm means to Markham;
2. **Raise awareness** of the importance of a high quality public realm for our community;
3. **Educate** the community about the public realm and everyone's role to ensure its success;
4. Define the **vision and goals**;
5. Provide a framework for the **delivery and maintenance** of high quality public realm; and
6. Provide recommendations and **action items for implementation**.

The document includes:

- **Acknowledgements** from various stakeholders
- **Background information** regarding what the public realm is and its importance
- **Review and analysis** of Markham's current public realm initiatives
- **Our Vision, Strategy statement and Goals and Objectives**
- **Areas of focus**
- **Action items**
- **Appendices**

A Vision for Markham's Public Realm



Our Vision:

A place for all that is
engaging, sustaining and beautiful.

Our Strategy



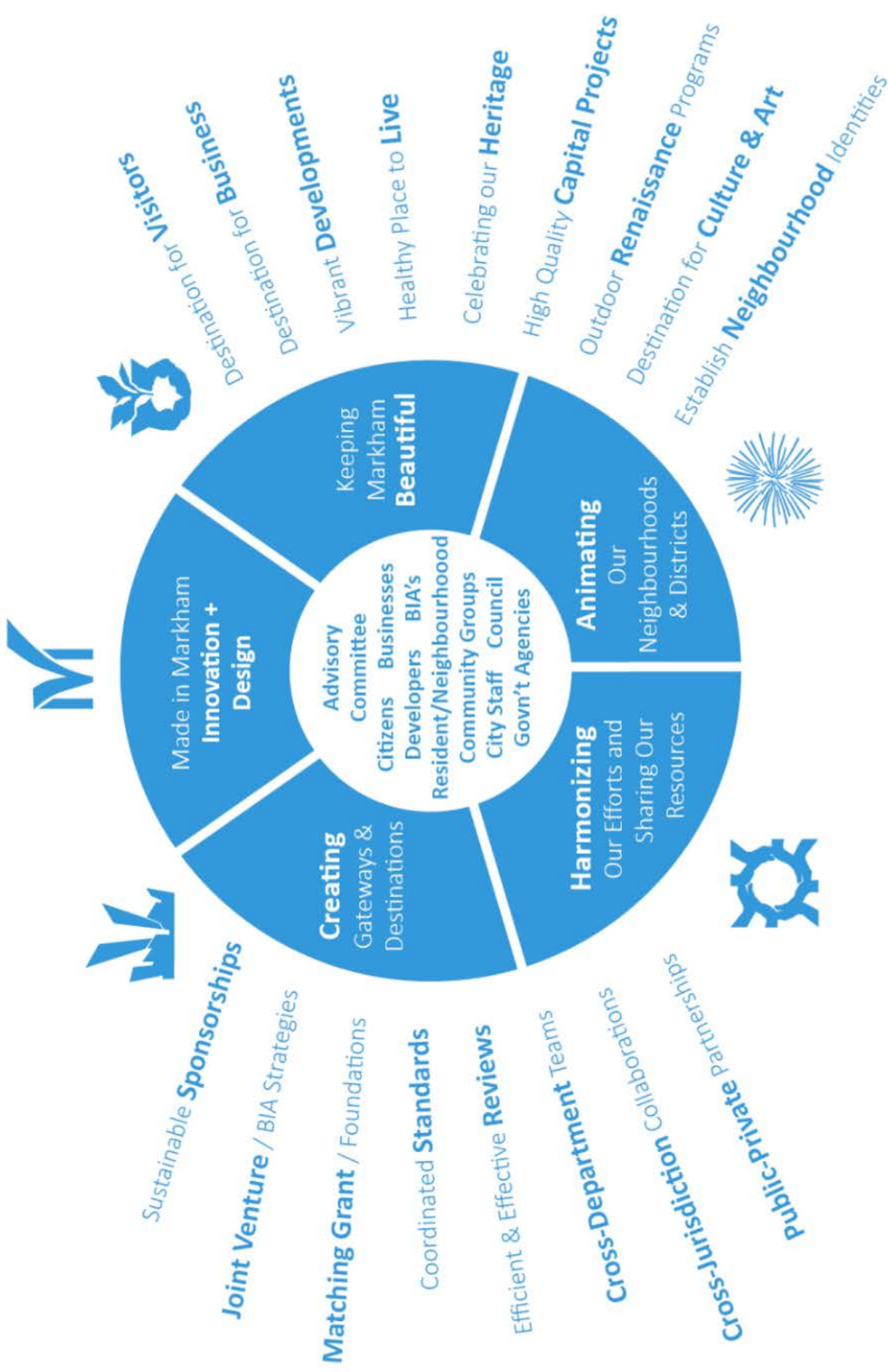
Markham's public realm is the foundation which enables the spirit of the community to flourish. As we grow from our heritage roots as a town to a great and vibrant city, the public realm is a fundamental component of a successful, sustainable community. **Markham's Public Realm**

Strategy is a plan to ensure that all who live, work, play and visit our city share ownership and responsibility and aspire to create and maintain great public spaces.

From where we are...



To Our Goals & Objectives



Made in Markham Innovation + Design

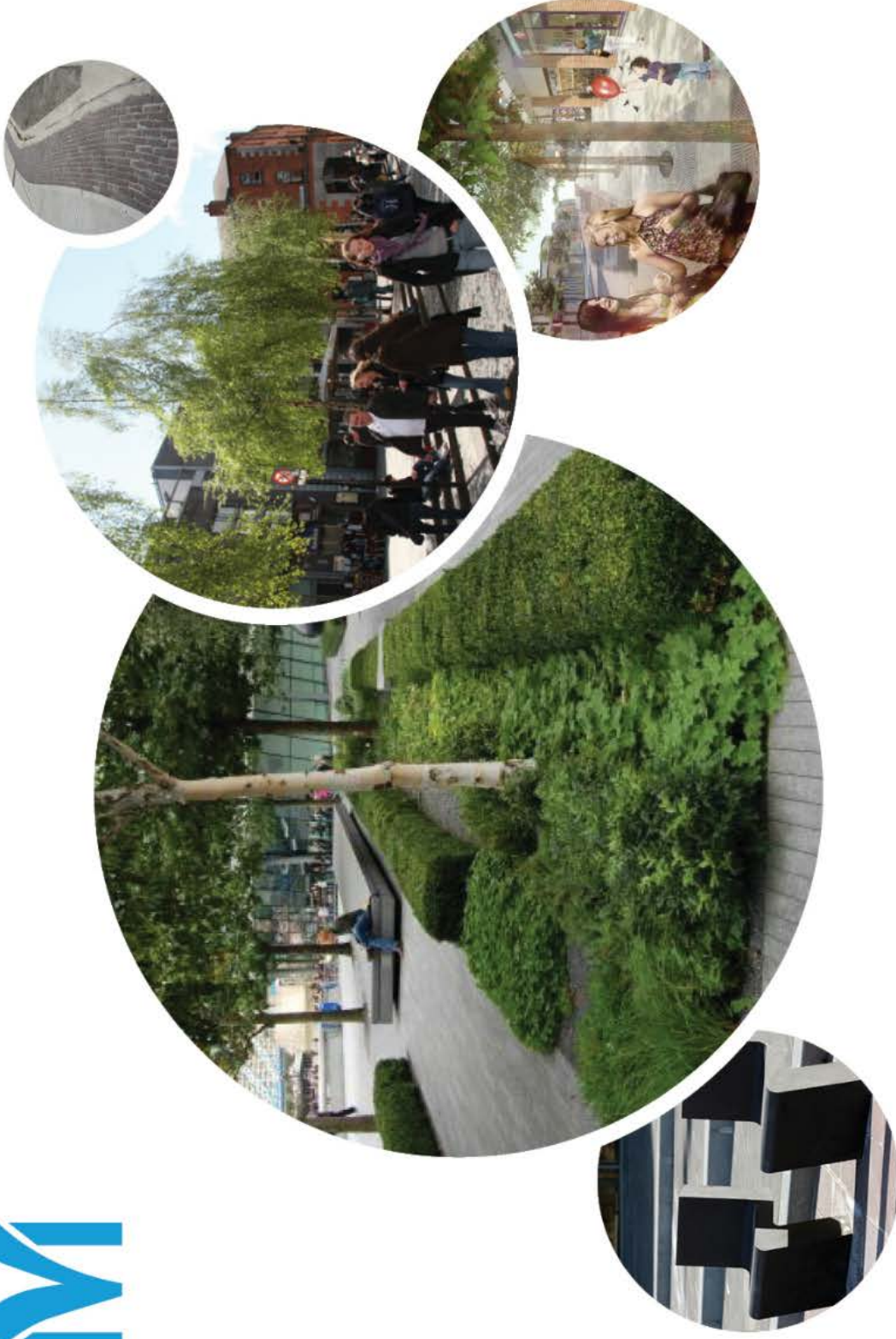
Deliver high quality public realm city-wide by applying innovative design standards, comprehensive oversight measures , precise construction practices and thorough inspection processes within our new developments, capital and redevelopment projects.





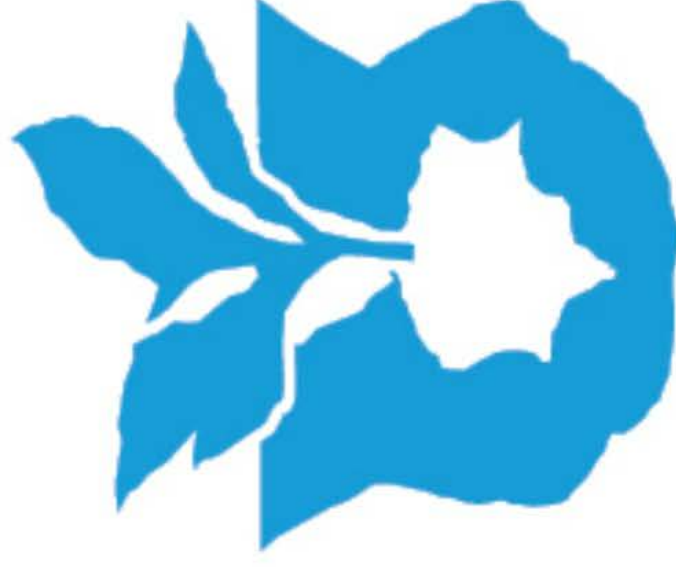
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Keeping Markham Beautiful

Support residents and businesses to maintain and beautify private and public properties.



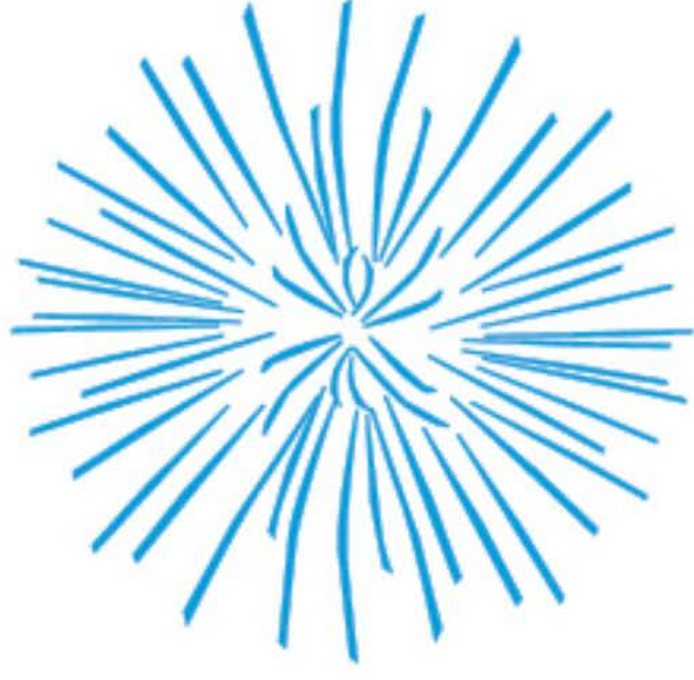
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Animating Our Neighbourhoods and Districts

Celebrate Markham's cultural diversity by assisting in event organization and promoting community use.



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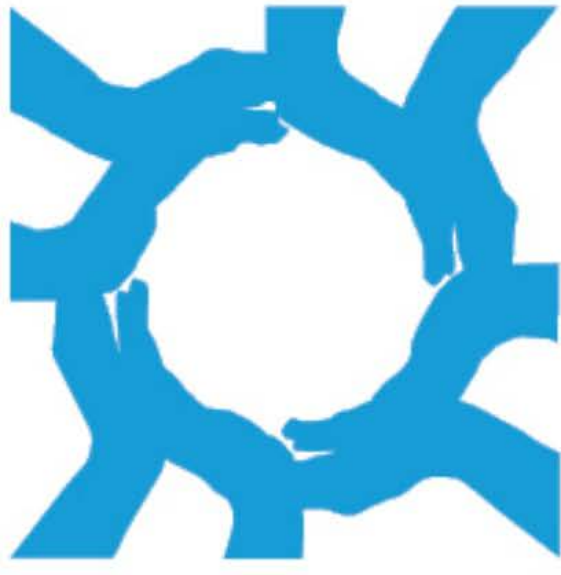


Harmonizing Our Efforts and Sharing Resources

Increase funding opportunities through public-private partnerships, government grants and private donations.

Enhance the collaboration between residents, BIA associations, community groups, the City and public agencies.

Prioritize the city-wide public realm delivery, improvement and maintenance in the budgeting process.



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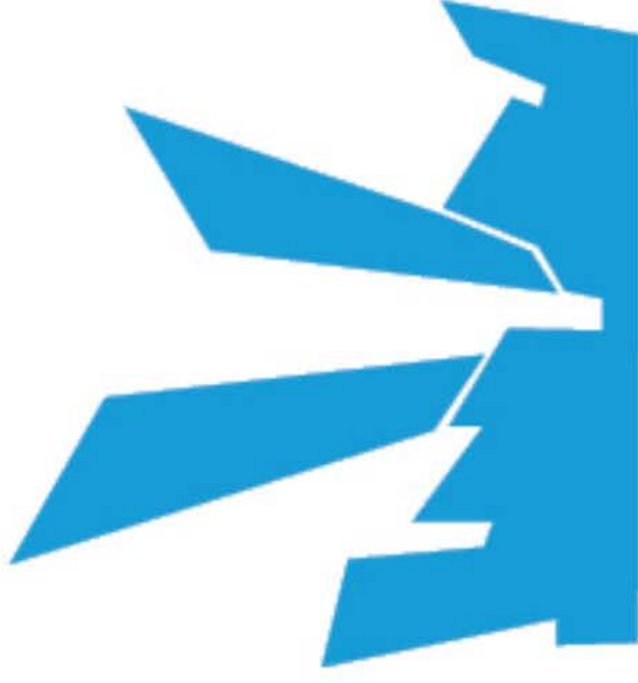
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Creating Gateways and Destinations

Showcase Markham's unique areas and destinations with beautiful public spaces, great public art, memorable arrivals, sustaining and engaging neighbourhoods and city districts.





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Next Steps



- Public Consultation
- Committee workshop January 2015.
- Bring back to General Committee the results of public consultation and Finalize Document by February 2015.

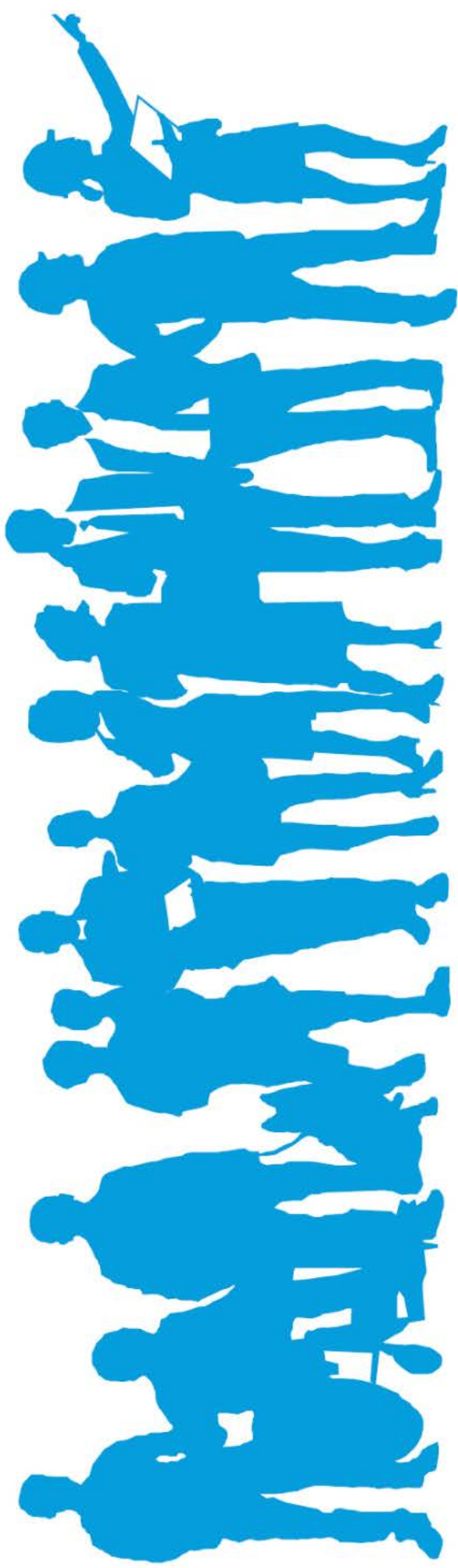
Recommendations



1. **That the staff report** titled “Shared Places Our Spaces - Markham’s Public Realm Draft Strategy”, dated May 5, 2014 be received;
2. **And That the document “Shared Places Our Spaces - Markham’s Public Realm Draft Strategy” dated May 5, 2014 be endorsed in principle** including the Public Realm Vision and Strategy;
3. **And That Council direct the Commissioner of Community & Fire Services to engage the community for input** on the draft strategy and document, and report back based on public feedback and any recommended changes by February 2015;
4. **And That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary** to give effect to this resolution.

“A great community does not happen by chance. It is the people, shared interest and collective efforts of everyone that makes a difference.”

Keep Cornell Beautiful, a voluntary non-profit group founded as a result of inspiration from the community of Cornell, Markham and the *Keep Markham Beautiful (Maintenance) Bylaw*.





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"The urban environment does not happen by chance. It is the result of the choices we make and the actions we take to shape it."



A Vision for Markham's Public Realm



Our Strategy



From where we are...

