



TOWN OF MARKHAM

Parks, Recreation, Culture & Library Master Plan

PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

May 10, 2004

AGENDA

- Purpose of Presentation
- Process to Date
- Research Highlights
- Public Consultation Highlights
- Draft Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion Period





PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

1. Provide an overview of the process and findings
2. Test draft recommendations and to receive feedback prior to additional public consultation

Background

- The new Master Plan is an update to the 1999 Recreation, Culture and Library Facility Master Plan
- The purpose of the new Plan is to identify priorities for the development and redevelopment of parks, recreation, culture and library facilities for the next ten years and beyond
- The scope is broader than the 1999 Plan - it now includes an assessment of outdoor recreation facilities and parks
- Monteith Brown Planning Consultants have been retained to assist the Town with this Project



PROCESS TO DATE

- Demographic Profile
- Trends Analysis
- Staff and Councillor Interviews
- Public Consultation
- Inventory and Statistical Analysis
- Draft Recommendation Development
- Test Draft Master Plan Recommendations
 - Community Services & Environment Committee
 - Set up Public Meeting on May 20



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Markham Demographics

Aging Population

- 19% of Town is age 55+; this will increase to 32% by 2021

Child/Youth Population is Still Increasing

Cultural Diversity, Language and Immigration

- Markham is home to a number of significant ethnic communities; 53% of Markham residents are foreign-born

Higher than Average Education and Income Levels



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Leisure Trends in Canada

The “New” Senior

- fitter and healthier than past generations

“Lack of Time” Limits Ability to Participate

- multi-purpose / multi-generational facilities save time

Team Sports in Decline

- steady or declining registrations in sports like baseball
- soccer is the main exception

Unstructured Opportunities in Demand

- walking is the most popular outdoor activity - trails in demand
- recreational swimming is a popular “cradle to grave” activity



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Leisure Trends in Canada

Emerging Youth Sports

- skateboarding, in-line skating, wall climbing, etc. are becoming increasingly popular

The Advent of the Super Bookstore

- “Chapters” has influenced expectations for public libraries

The Impact of the Internet

- the “wired” library requires broadband connectivity

Arts and Culture

- participation has declined in recent years, however, the aging of the population presents an opportunity to reverse this trend



PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Summary

- The public is generally satisfied with the Town's existing parks and facilities, but more needs to be done to adapt them to changing demands and future growth pressures.
- Trails are the public's highest priority.
- Soccer fields and large multi-purpose parks are common requests.
- Libraries enhance the area's quality of life and should continue to grow and adapt with the Town.
- New indoor pools within multi-purpose community centres are key requests.
- Arts and culture facilities are generally meeting current needs.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Search Conference

Purpose: To engage individuals from the community in discussing their ideas and concerns on parks, recreation, culture and library facilities

WHAT DOES “MARKHAM” DO BEST?

- Maintenance / beautification of parks / Communities in Bloom
- Affordable rates for facility rentals/activities
- Council approachable/accessible; good dialogue with community



PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Search Conference

WHAT NEED TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE...

Parks, Sports Fields, Open Space & Trails

- Trail linkages/connectivity
- More parks, larger parks, multi-purpose parks

Indoor Recreation Facilities

- Swimming facilities; Olympic-size pool
- More facilities in general

Arts and Cultural Facilities

- More theatres; expand theatre
- More diverse, multi-cultural programming

Libraries

- More Internet computers and other interactive technology
- Central research/reference library



PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholder Questionnaire

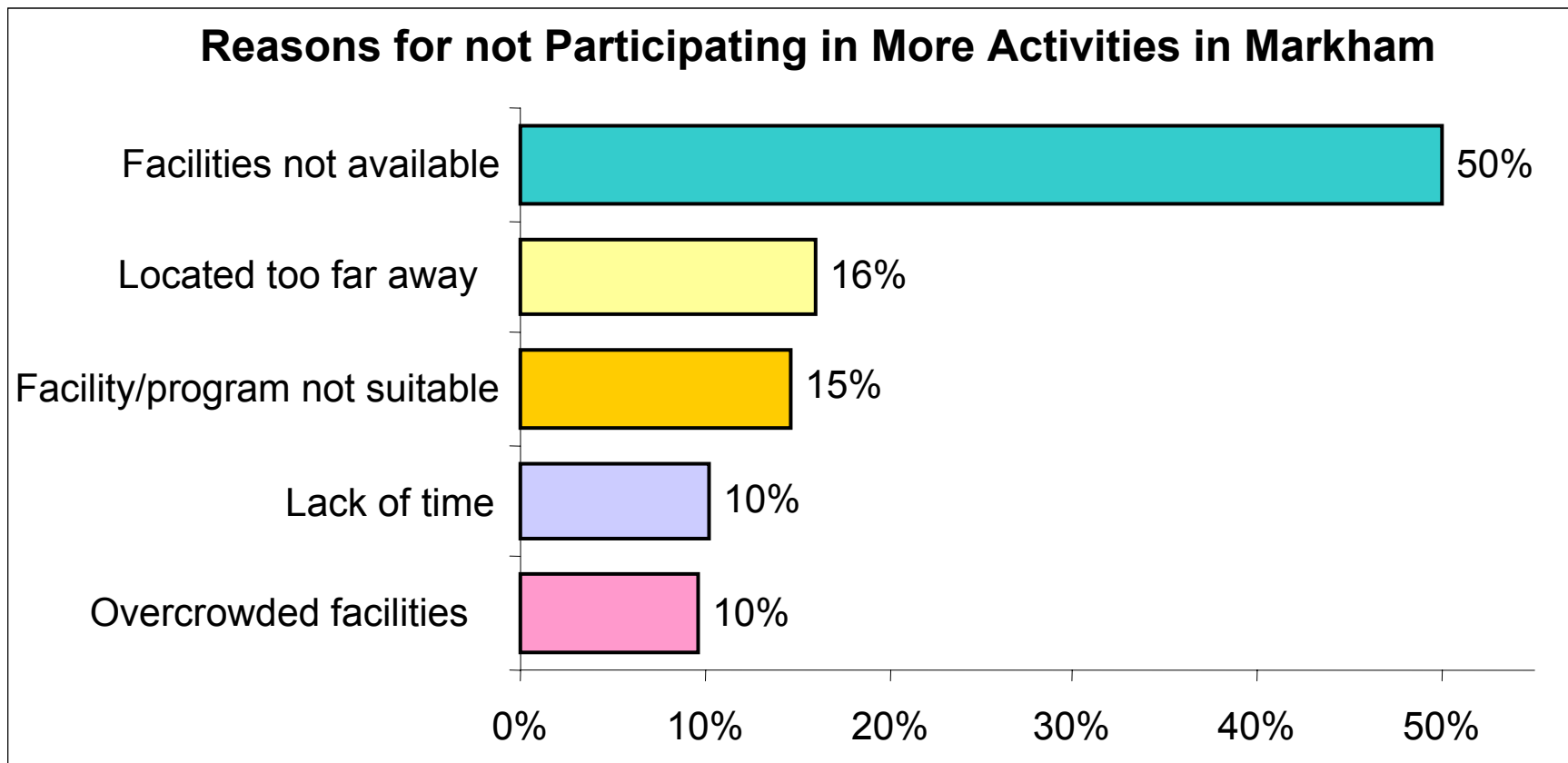
396 surveys were distributed to community organizations and leisure service users - 88 completed surveys were returned representing over 23,000 members

- overall adequacy of facilities was rated at 77%
- lack of washrooms, grounds maintenance, lack of spectator areas and shelters, and lack of meeting space were common concerns
- a large park space for public gatherings and events was a common request
- need for more diverse leisure opportunities (spontaneous and more passive recreation activities - e.g., trails, greenspace, etc.)



PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Household Survey - Participation Barriers

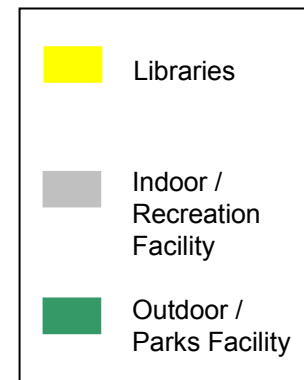
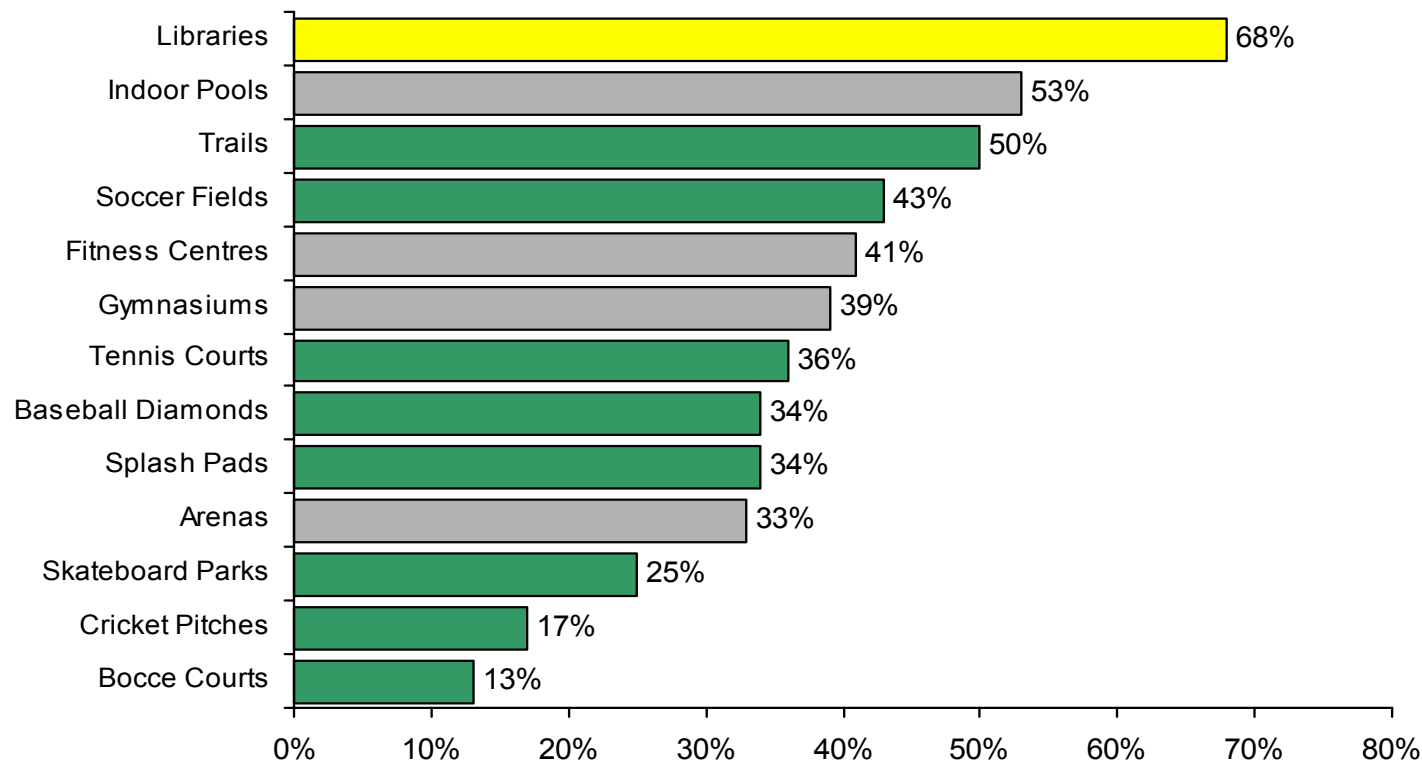




PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Household Survey - Spending Priorities

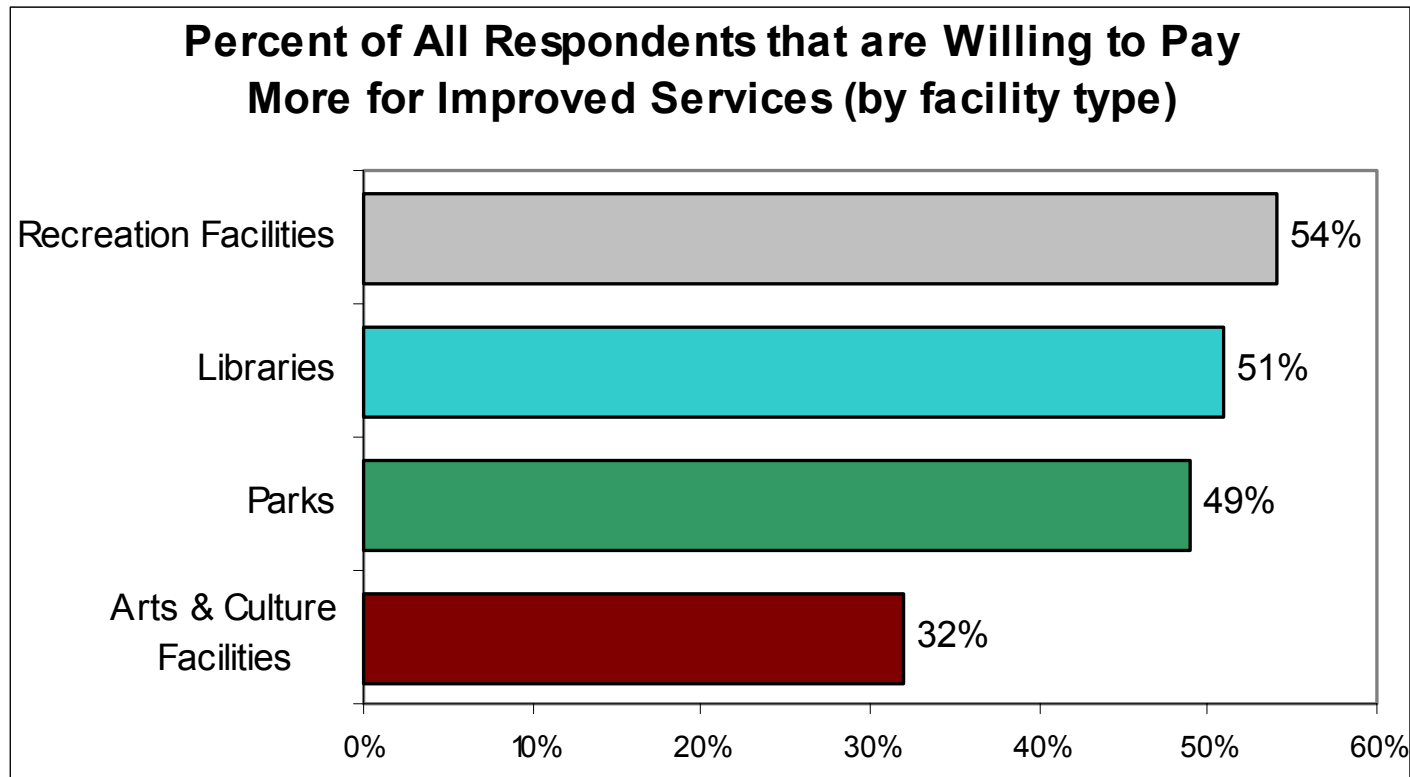
Facilities for Which Respondents Would Like to See Additional Public Funds Spent



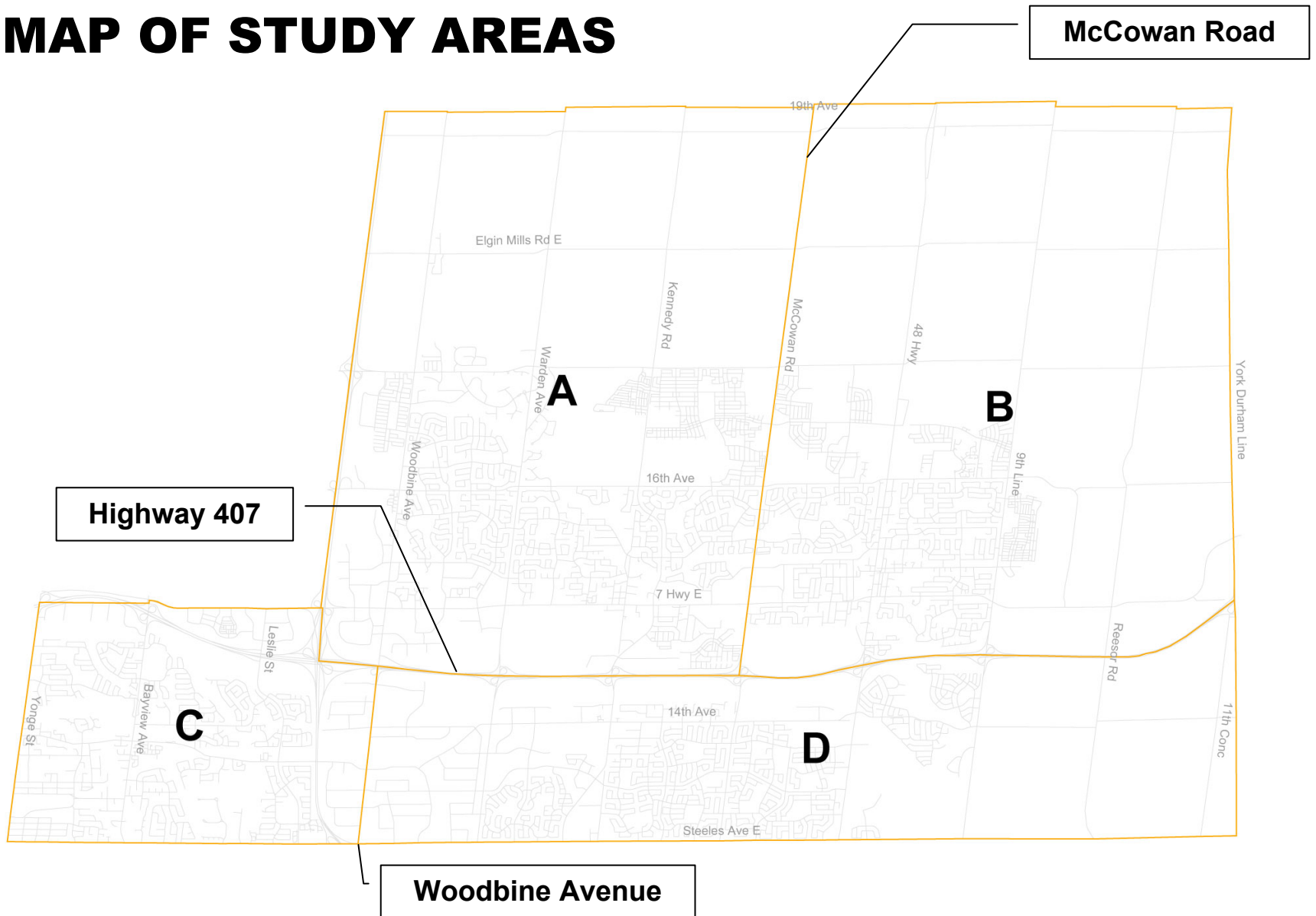


PUBLIC CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Household Survey - Willingness to Pay



MAP OF STUDY AREAS



Parks

- Complete trail master plan and link to bike path provision
- Add a skate board park to area D in the short term. Identify locations for more skate parks.
- Identify a location for a community park and acquire land. Multi-use focus. Options could include soccer, cricket, etc.
- Add soccer fields in under-serviced areas
- Add additional outdoor basketball across the Town
- Add tennis



DRAFT MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Recreation – DCA Shortfall in Meeting Community Needs

Community Needs 233,300 sq.ft. of facility space in this DCA period

Possible Facility Option 1	Possible Facility Option 2
<p>New Central East C.C.</p> <p>Estimated at 172,200 sq.ft. to include 25m 8-lane competitive pool, fitness, programs, gym, twin pad arena & common space</p>	<p>New Central East C.C.</p> <p>Estimated at 134,400 sq.ft. to include 25m 8-lane competitive pool, fitness, programs, gym, single pad arena & common space</p>
<p>New South East C.C.</p> <p>Estimated at 61,100 sq.ft. to include 3-4 lane leisure pool, fitness, programs, single gym & common space</p>	<p>New South East C.C.</p> <p>Estimated at 98,900 sq.ft. to include 3-4 lane leisure pool, fitness, programs, single gym, single pad arena / soccer & common space</p>
<p>Monitor need to decommission Markham Village and Crosby arenas.</p> <p>Estimated at 75,600 sq.ft. Requires non-DCA funding</p>	



DCA funds 183,200 sq.ft. **Funding needed for the remaining 50,100 sq.ft. (or \$11.5M based on \$230/sq.ft.) plus land acquisition for South East CC.**



DRAFT MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Library

- Library Board will be meeting on May 17 to consider facility options
- Master plan shows requirement for 20,000 sq.ft. facility in Central East and another one in South East. DCA funding only permits one in the next ten years.
- Markham Village addition (DCA funded) and Thornhill Computer / Quiet Study areas (non-DCA funded) are proposed in this funding period
- Investigate alternative funding for another new facility in this funding period
- Commence development for a Markham Centre branch for the next funding period (after 2013)



DRAFT MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Culture

- Additional facilities and space subject to master plans and feasibility studies from the cultural sites
- Investigate delivery of some recreation activities at the Museum
- Investigate a joint archive facility with the Library at the Museum site



DRAFT MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Partnership Opportunities

- Work with Markham Stouffville Hospital to provide a joint community centre facility
- Indoor soccer facility
- Trail development
- Indoor tennis facility

NEXT STEPS

- Public Consultation on Draft Master Plan Recommendations
- Draft Master Plan
- Final Master Plan & Recommendations





DISCUSSION PERIOD