

Mulock Property Master Plan Engagement Summary Report – Phase 1B



Prepared by PROCESS

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WHAT IS THE MULOCK PROPERTY VISIONING PROJECT?

In Fall 2019, the Town of Newmarket retained PLANT Architect Inc. (PLANT) and PROCESS to assist with the development of a vision and concept master plan for the Mulock property. This includes an extensive consultation process, outlined below.

ABOUT THIS SUMMARY REPORT

This report is written by PROCESS team members. It summarizes the key messages that emerged during the consultations held between October 2019 and February 2020. The feedback is being considered as the team begins to develop design options for the Mulock Property.

Our team conducted focus groups with Town of Newmarket staff and the public. This report focuses on the public's feedback. Town of Newmarket staff consultations are also summarized in the appendix.



Image from Diverse Thinkers Workshop

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

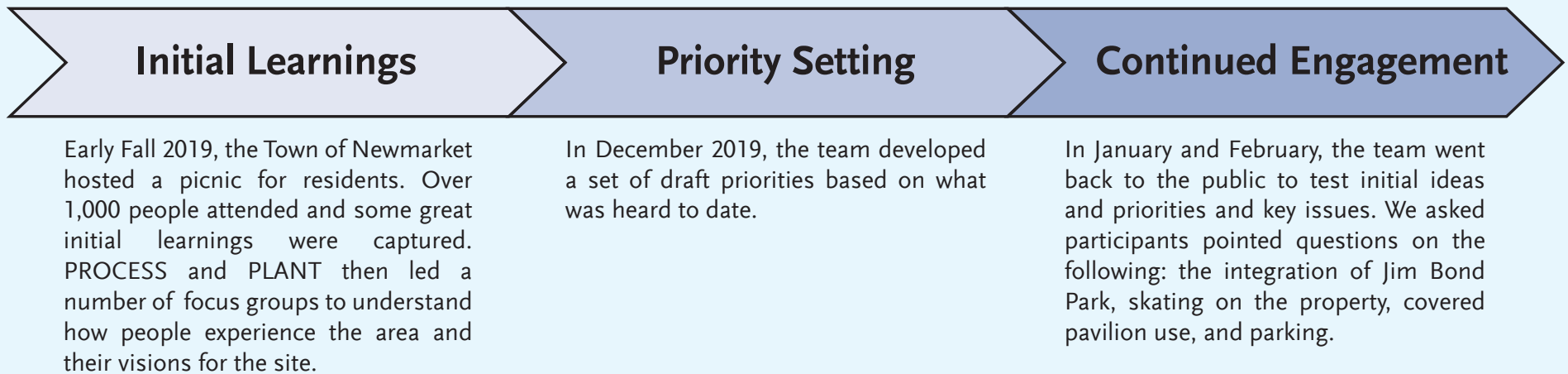
Over the course of Fall 2019 and Winter 2020, the Town of Newmarket led extensive public and stakeholder consultations about the Mulock Property. PROCESS, a creative engagement, urban and cultural planning studio, is working with the Town of Newmarket and PLANT Architect to design and facilitate inclusive public and stakeholder consultations. The objective of the consultation process is to ensure that the Mulock site is reflective of a diversity of perspectives.

Specifically, the consultations are intended to:

- **ENGAGE** a diversity of Newmarket residents and potential partners (including those typically not involved in planning processes);
- **EDUCATE** the public about the Plan project and process;
- **COLLECT** a range of ideas and feedback through transparent and authentic discussions about the future of the site;
- **COMMUNICATE** design decisions to the public about how their feedback and experiences can be incorporated into the development of the park (through a user-centric approach); and
- **BUILD CAPACITY**, excitement and ownership for the Mulock Property vision!



CONSULTATION PROCESS TO DATE



WHO WE ENGAGED

Group		# of participants
Internal	Task Force Workshops	12
	Council & Mayor Workshop	9
	Employee Survey	60
External	Public Picnic (organized by Town of Newmarket)	Approx. 1000
	Heritage Member Workshop	6
	York Region & LSCRA Workshop	8
	Diverse Thinkers Workshop	15
	Residents Visioning Workshop	Approx. 100
	Online Survey	1,109
	Schools	Approx. 50
	Pop-ups	Approx. 700
Total Engaged to date:		Approx. 3000



Residents Visioning Workshop



Residents Visioning Workshop



Child contributing to Pop-Up

DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATIONS

PUBLIC PICNIC

On October 20th 2019, the Town of Newmarket took an exciting step and opened the Mullock Property to the public by hosting a public picnic. Over 1000 people attended. The picnic intended to create excitement, interest and education about the project and collect initial feedback on how the property should be used.

INTERNAL WORKSHOPS

*Town of Newmarket Task Force,
Town Council Workshop*

In December and January 2020, our team, met with Town and Region staff to understand their perspectives on a new vision for the Mullock Property, to ensure the ideas and designs that emerge from research and public consultations are implementable and actionable.

The Task Force and Town Council meetings included an Indigenous history and cultural competency training led by Trina Moyan Bell.

EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS

Heritage Focus Group, York Region and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Diverse Thinkers Workshop

In December and January 2020, Plant Architect Inc., PROCESS, and the Town of Newmarket met with interested and engaged Newmarket residents, with specific interest in heritage and with experience in the business, nonprofit and cultural sector to hear their initial ideas about the property. The Diverse Thinkers workshop also included an Indigenous history and cultural competency training led by Trina Moyan Bell.



Diverse Thinkers Workshop

RESIDENTS VISIONING WORKSHOP

On February 5, 2020, Plant Architect Inc., PRO-CESS, and the Town of Newmarket conducted a visioning session with local residents regarding the future of the Mulock Property. The conversation focused on the five (5) priorities that will guide the creation of the Mulock Master Plan that emerged out of the previous consultations.

The event included a drop-in and a workshop held at the Old Newmarket Town Hall, 460 Botsford Street with approximately 100 people in attendance. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Introduce the project and educate members of the public on the site history and context, including Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation cultural competency training;
- Share initial findings and thoughts on the site;
- Collect feedback on a vision for the site and understand top concerns/considerations;
- Generate excitement, energy, community buy-in and ownership of the project and process.

This workshop also included an Indigenous history and cultural competency training led by Trina Moyan Bell.



Images from Residents Visioning Workshop

POP-UPS

The Town of Newmarket hosted two pop-up consultations with activities designed by PRO-CESS. The pop-ups are intended to meet people where they are, educate people about the project through brief conversations and hear initial ideas about their visions for the site. Over 700 people participated, including a large number of youth under 17.

SCHOOL GROUP WORKSHOPS

On February 26th 2020, Town of Newmarket staff visited two Grade 12 classes at Sir William Mulock High School, which is within walking distance of the Mulock property. 46 students participated in the workshop, with Town staff using activities designed for Pop-Ups. The purpose of the meeting was to share the background research to date and gain their input about the vision for the property.

ONLINE SURVEY

Public and Employee

An online survey was released to collect feedback about people's experiences with the property and area and ideas for the site moving forward. An online survey can reach a wider audience than in-person consultations. Unlike the in-person consultations, which provide more opportunities for background information, education and dialogue, the online survey format does not offer as much opportunity for mutual learning. We also collected information via email and the HeyNewmarket website.



Child contributing to Pop-Up



Hand drawn feedback from Pop-Ups

Who's Missing?

It is important to acknowledge that while the consultations were designed to be inclusive, it is difficult to reach all people within the municipality. Through the process, our team constantly asks 'who is missing', what experiences are not represented and what steps we can take to better engage people. By incorporating a diversity of outreach, in-person and online opportunities to engage, we hope to break down barriers for those who typically are unaware or unable to participate.

WHAT WE HEARD BY THEME

Below is a summary of key findings we have heard from each of the public engagement groups based on the following:

- Experiences Today: Context and Property
- Future: Property and House
- Priorities and Themes: A Destination; Rooted in History and Forward Looking; Inclusive and Accessible; Natural; Connected.

Quantifying Responses: After the team categorized the various comments from the different engagements, we assigned an approximate level of frequency that comments were documented. The scale is: Most, many, some, and few. Outlier comments are also included and referenced. The appendices provide a more detailed summary of the comments from each engagement.

Key Issue Testing: Understanding that there are prominent decisions to be made around specific issues, our team carved out specific questions for these issues. This includes: skating use on the property, a covered pavilion on the property, parking on site and in the area, and the potential integration of Jim Bond Park. Comments on these topics are integrated in the discussion below.



Natural Area

EXPERIENCES TODAY

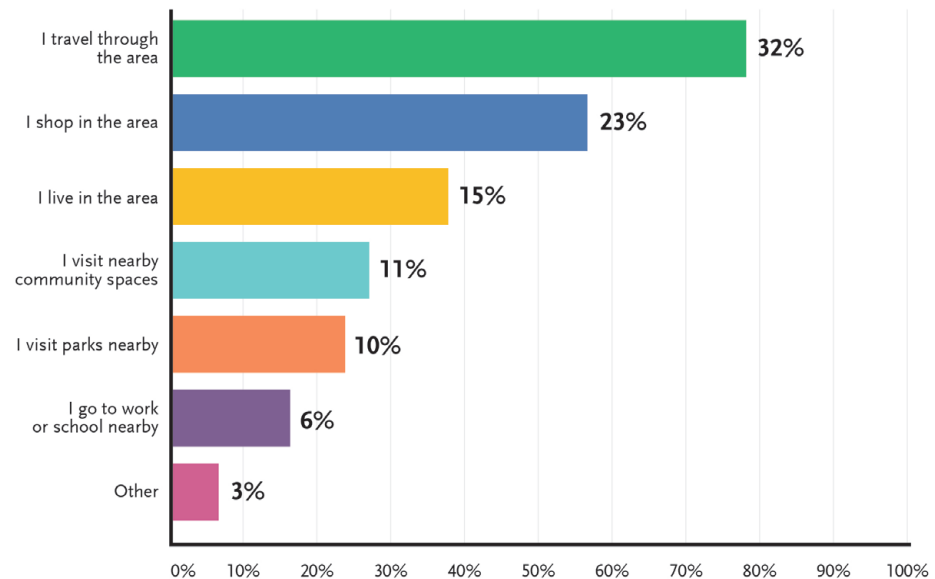
Context Today

How people experience the area:

- Most people indicated they pass-through/ drive through the area.
- Many people shop or live in the area. Some people visit local community spaces or go to school or work nearby. Few people walk, run or cycle in the area or visit family or friends (see Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 for public survey results about experiences in the area).
- While many people perceived the area as “in transition,” local neighbours also described the area as their community. Key features people identified with or described include:
 - Nature’s Emporium plaza;
 - The adjacent Summerhill neighbourhood;
 - An area with offices, plazas, hydro;
 - Disturbed wetlands.

“The area is prone to being a bedroom community. We want to get rid of the idea that you have to go to the city to experience everything.” – Heritage Focus Group participant

Figure 1: Online Survey Respondents Experiences in the Area



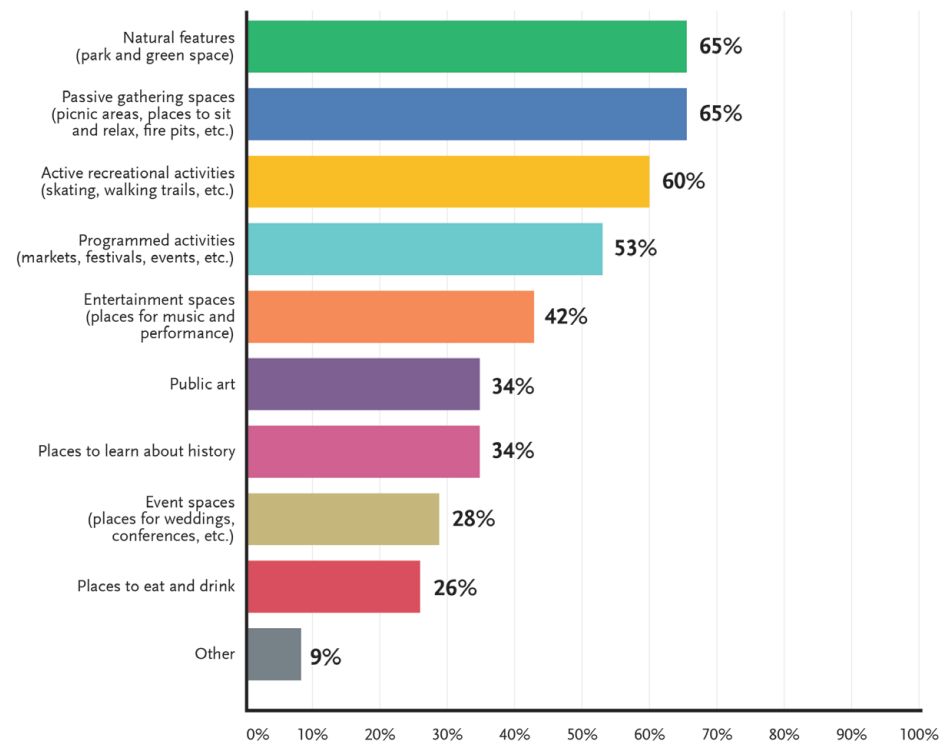
What's missing in the area

According to the online survey, people felt that the following were the top community amenities missing in the area:

- Natural features and passive gathering spaces (including places to picnic areas, places to sit and reflect, fire pits, etc.).
- Online survey respondents also identified active recreation activities and programmed activities.
- Other amenities mentioned included:
 - Community gathering spaces
 - Art and cultural spaces
 - Public amenities such as libraries or daycares

Figure 2: Online Survey Response – Community Amenities that are Missing in the Area

65% indicated natural features and passive gathering spaces; 60% indicated active recreational activities; 52% indicated that programmed activities were missing.



SITE TODAY

Experiences

There are a variety of experiences with and perceptions of the Mulock Property.

- Most people engaged know of the site because they drive past it or live in the area. Some people have heard stories of the property but have yet to visit. Few people have visited when the Mulock Family lived there or had a family or a friend connected to the site.

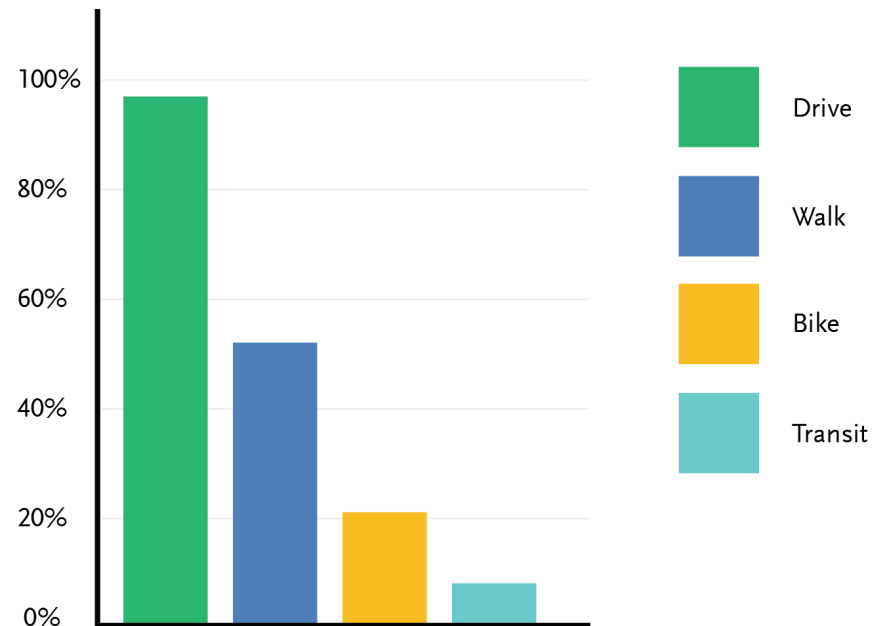
“A Family member used to deliver milk and eggs to property owners over 30–40 years ago... maybe longer.” – Survey Respondent

“I’ve driven by and always thought it was a beautifully preserved property” – Survey Respondent

Online Survey Response: Current experiences and understanding of the property

Based on the online survey, 47% have driven past the site; 25% have heard many stories but have yet to visit the site; 11% have never heard of the site; 7% attended the picnic hosted by the Town in fall of 2019; less than 5% have visited when the Mulock family lived at the property and/or had many connections to the site.

Figure 3: Online Survey How Respondents Travel to Destinations in Newmarket



PERCEPTIONS OF THE SITE

The majority of participants had diverse perceptions of the site and described it in a number of ways:

Local neighbours used the following words to describe the site:

natural; woodsy; urban; central; homey; majestic; fluid; oasis; peaceful; to-be-preserved; elegant; small-town-feel; potential.

Unknown/Mysterious: While many people live by the area or have driven past it, very few people have been on the property – leading to a sense of mystery.

“There was a rumour that a band member from Rush lived on the property.” – Diverse Thinkers Workshop member

“I always wondered why this gorgeous property does not seem to be used” – Survey Respondent

“When I was a kid, we were told that if we tried to visit the property we would get in trouble for trespassing. So, instead, my friends and I would try to get a peek of the house/property through the trees as best as we could.” – Survey Respondent

Historical Significance: Many people recognize the site as a historical landmark in Newmarket, having heard stories about the families who have lived on site.

“It is one of the few, if not only, properties somewhat untouched from the original period, from the Rogers family.” – Heritage Focus Group member

“It’s been a historical landmark at Yonge and Mulock for my whole life. My children’s lives too.” – Survey Respondent

“[The property] is a survivor; a place that has survived change and development in Newmarket.” – Diverse Thinkers Workshop member

Natural Oasis: Many describe the property as an intimate and enclosed green and natural oasis, nestled within a changing environment, due to the presence of greenery and nature. Some have a sense that it is secluded, private and isolated and are excited for it to be opened up to the public.

“The sense of enclosure and shape of the space is so intimate. It is not a trail, but a place to gather and enjoy the acres of space around (very different from the rest of experience in Newmarket).” – Mayor Taylor

“I love the natural beauty of the trees and beautiful lawns.” – Survey Respondent

“It is a green gem nestled into a residential context” – York Region Focus Group Member (also local resident)

“A secluded oasis away from the busy bustle.” (intimate, enclosed, nestled)

FUTURE OF THE SITE AND AREA

Mulock Property

Specifically, the following key aspects were discussed and proposed:

Preserve and enhance the natural environment (including the trees, gardens, and naturalized spaces for wildlife):

- There was much discussion on incorporating diverse gardens, including traditional Indigenous medicine gardens, vegetable gardens, community gardens and flower gardens. Some people indicated the property should be pet-friendly and advised that it should be on-leash.

“Include flowers everywhere” – Student Workshop participant

Incorporate passive gathering spaces:

- Many people are interested in picnics, places to sit, opportunities for relaxation and meditation.

*“It should be a place to read and relax.”
- Student Workshop participant*

“...A quiet area to meditate. Include a fire pit area in the winter.” – Local neighbour

*“I pay money to take a break from my phone...
Can this be a place to disconnect?” – Diverse Thinkers Focus Group*

“I would like to see a quiet area for reading and meditation. Possible waterfalls, fountains, benches, labyrinth” – Resident Workshop Participant

Include options for active recreation:

Many people indicated they are interested in opportunities to walk or bike as well as formalized recreation. Ideas suggested include walking trails, skating trails and natural play areas.

Promote programmed activities and events:

Many people recommended having organized programs such as art classes/workshops or community events such as farmers markets and music events.

*“Use the topography of the land to create a music venue or outdoor performances”
- Visioning Workshop Participant*

“Include passive areas for concerns, use lawn chairs, use a portable stage (like East Gwillimbury) to have acoustic concerts...” – Visioning Workshop Participant

When asked about the future of the site, the following ideas were shared:

- A Destination;
- Accessible;
- Natural;
- Inclusive;
- Approachable;
- Welcoming;
- Integrated with the surrounding;
- Connected to history;
- Preserved and untouched.

Incorporate opportunities for education:

Participants discussed wanting to learn about the diverse histories of the site, including the Quakers, Mulock and Indigenous history as well as environmental education.

Mulock House

The majority of participants suggested that the house should include affordable food (either through a restaurant or cafe), incorporate flexible events, be a place to host art events or an art gallery and include some sort of interactive historical feature. While the majority of participants believe that the house should be accessible to everyone, there is also an understanding that it may be used for revenue generation and be a rental venue (for weddings, conferences, events).

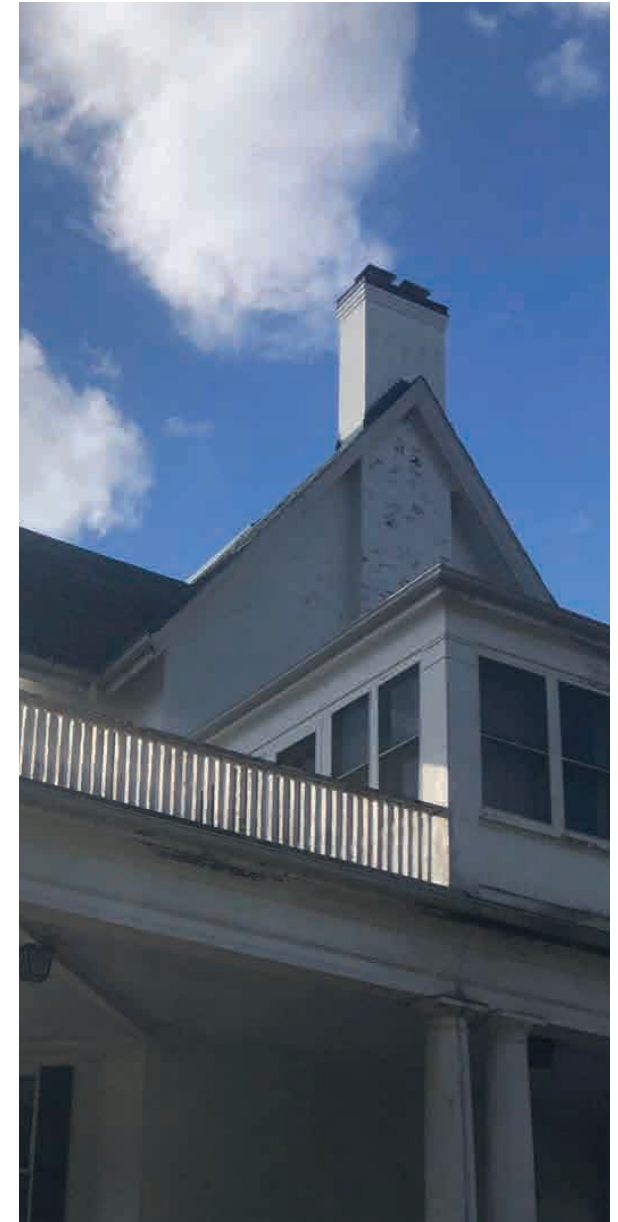
“Consider ‘flagship opportunities’... whether its a site for art, creativity, innovation” – Diverse Thinkers Focus Group

“We’d love a natural destination that fits with the community it borders. Perhaps a pub on site to service summer crowds with a patio and winter crowds who go skating on a trail ... and an art gallery/museum/event venue in the home similar to MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie.” – Online Survey Respondent

“The big question is: are we keeping it a community learning environmental destination or a money making tourist destination?” – Online Survey Respondent

Online Survey Response:

- According to the on the online survey, people felt that the following would make the Mulock Property a place to visit: 73% of respondents said maintained landscape/green spaces; 70% of respondents said passive gathering spaces; 67% said active recreation; 61% said programmed activities would make them want to visit the property.
- When asked to expand on the types of recreational activities, the top comments were: 83% wanted walking trails; 51% of respondents said skating; 40% of respondents said a playground/play area and a splash pad/playable water feature.



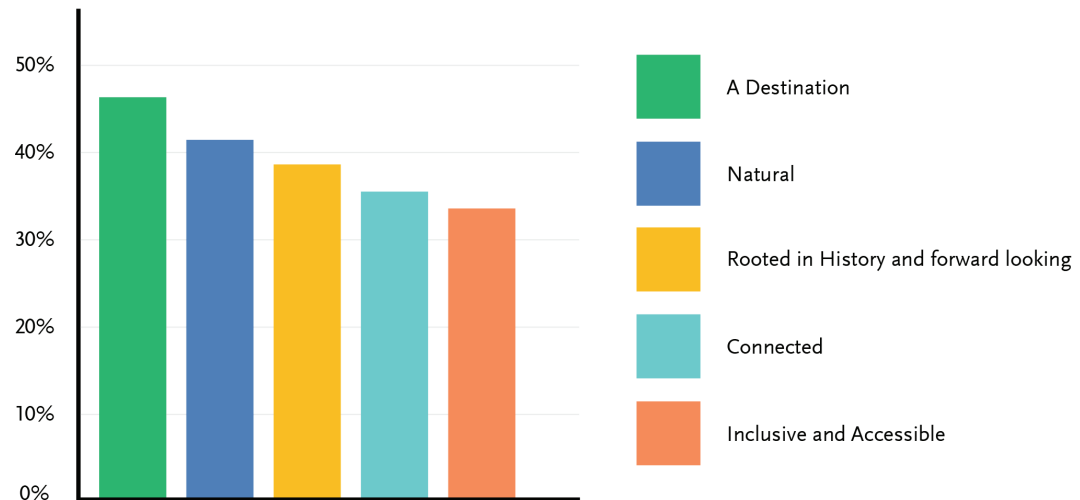
Mulock House

FUTURE OF THE SITE AND AREA

Based on the first round of consultations in Fall 2019, the project team developed five priorities for the site to test with the public. Participant feedback is categorized by each priority:

- **A Destination**
Ensure this site becomes a significant place to visit in Newmarket.
- **Rooted in History and Forward Looking**
Share the multiple layers of history and evolution of the Town on the site.
- **Inclusive and Accessible**
Create an inclusive and accessible site for all residents and visitors.
- **Natural**
Maintain and enhance the natural features of the landscape.
- **Connected**
Connect the site with the neighbouring areas (Jim Bond Park, the hydro corridor) through pedestrian walkways, trails and cycling routes, to ensure it is integrated within the Town of Newmarket.

Figure 4: Online Survey Respondents Mulock Priorities Ranked



Online survey respondents found all priorities important, with the site as a destination viewed as slightly more important than the others.

DESTINATION

There were many ideas shared about how to make the property a destination:

Make the property ambitious, unique yet also a place for daily use:

- The majority of participants see the property as accessible, inclusive and welcoming. While most envision it as an extraordinary destination park, many of the local neighbours and youth who participated also hope it can be a place to visit on a daily basis.
- Many interested folks (diverse thinkers) specifically were interested in developing something ambitious, unique and “well beyond the ordinary.”
- Many of the local neighbours and nearby school group participants, specifically indicated that the site should be used daily.

“Embody the slogan ‘Well beyond the Ordinary.’” – Diverse Thinkers Focus Group member

“A place for everyday enjoyment, weaved into your weekly routine and not simply a place to visit on special occasions.” – Residents Workshop Participant

“The town should encourage supporting businesses to work there. Food trucks, coffee shops, restaurants. It would be amazing if there was a way to get there by bike. My family frequently bikes from Bayview and Mullock to downtown Newmarket for ice cream or lunch. It makes for a great, active, screen-free afternoon. :)” – Online Survey Respondent

Potential themes to incorporate as part of the Property prioritized through the consultations include:

- Environment (ex. environmental/outdoor education and programming);
- Innovation and experimentation (ex. a tech or innovation hub);
- Education and Indigenous education (ex. Medicine garden);
- History (ex. Dynamic and interactive historical features);
- Art and creativity (ex. Public art, gallery, etc.)

Programmed Activities and Art

Many participants want to see programmed activities and art on site. In particular, there were a number of artists and diverse thinkers who particularly discussed opportunities for an arts hub, art gallery and/or public art on the site (either temporary or permanent). According to the online survey, 62% want to see programmed activities on site (markets, festivals, community events) and 36% specifically indicate they would like to see public art on the site.

Testing Key Issues

Skating: There were mixed perspectives on skating, with the majority of participants not wanting or mentioning a skating rink on site. The idea of a skating rink or skating trail was included in the Town's original vision for the property based on early consultations and presentations by the Town just after the purchase of the property. The Town specifically requested that through the engagement process, our team would look specifically for feedback on this topic. Here is what we heard:

Online Survey Responses: Of those who want to see active recreation on site, when asked about skating, only 50% of respondents want to see skating. This is in relation to 89% of respondents wanting to see walking and running trails.

In-Person Responses: In the in-person engagement sessions, our team specifically introduced visual diagrams to demonstrate impacts and opportunities of providing skating (either as a trail or rink) on site. These diagrams showed that: An NHL sized skating rink is large, and would dominate any of the available open spaces, especially if it was covered, which was part of the early Town vision.

Smaller skating rinks or rinks of different shape and size could be accommodated in different locations ;
A skating trail could be accommodated on site but would likely be 250-500 m, which is significantly shorter than the 2km Arrowhead Skate Trail originally presented on the website.

Skating Rink: Through in-person consultations, when asked, an overwhelming majority did not support having a skating rink on site, especially an NHL sized rink. Participants would prefer to maintain the natural features, including open landscape areas and trees on site.

Skating Trail: Most participants support a skating trail if it makes sense, and does not overwhelm the site, indicating that the trail could be used in the summer as a walking path or multi-purpose trail for cycling that could connect to city-wide trail networks. However, some participants did not think a skate trail was necessary and few participants did not want any skating activities at all, given the emerging weather/climate change, or lack of interest.

ROOTED IN HISTORY AND FORWARD LOOKING

For the most part, participants are interested in recognizing diverse histories in creative ways. This includes the histories of the Indigneous peoples, Quakers (including the Rogers family), the Mulock family (and specifically Sir William Mulock) as well as other histories less often told, such as the African Canadian history within York Region.

“Sometimes we forget there is a deep history in Canada [speaking to the Indigenous history]. We just aren’t aware of it and it should be recognized.”
– Diverse Thinkers Focus Group Member

There are specific aspects of Mulock’s history that participants are interested to see incorporated into the site, including Mulock’s experience as:

- An innovator/experimenter;
- A naturalist, farmer and gardener;
- A ‘man of the trees’; and
- The social convener, community gatherer and storyteller.

Participants are interested in incorporating educational opportunities to share and learn about the history. These opportunities can be incorporated into the landscape (such as various types of gardens), through the architecture, public art (through artworks and performances) or programs (such as interactive exhibits or augmented reality). The majority of participants want to avoid static exhibits or museums. Only a few on-

line survey respondents mention the desire for a museum. The members who participated in the Heritage Focus Group workshop did not support a museum but instead suggested there could be some elements in the house that speak to the history, in conjunction with other uses. Ultimately, there is a desire to ensure the past is connected to the present and the future and that the site is not “frozen in time.”

“The property should include layered gardens of peonies, Indigenous medicine, and food so that people can experience the layers of history in a shared garden space.” – Visioning Workshop Attendee

“What about tours for schools to learn about all the rich history of the location and the historical figures who visited this site and their contributions to Canada and the world? It would also make a great beekeeping site.” – Online Survey Respondent

34% of online survey respondents said they want places to learn about history included on the property.

Many of the youth who participated in the school workshop recommended incorporating history through murals, signage, heritage trails, water features, gardens or experimental farms and healing gardens. They indicated having an interactive experience with augmented reality, 3D projections and other digital technologies. The youth also indicated the desire for more social gatherings such as annual festivals or community programming like Yoga in the Park, which speaks to the history of the property.



Image from Residents Visioning Workshop

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT – TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



Town of Newmarket Task Force Workshop with Cultural Competency Training led by Trina Moyan Bell

In 2008, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created to inform Canadians about what happened in Indian Residential schools and document the truth of survivors, families, communities and anyone affected by their experience with residential schools. Released in 2015, the TRC recommends 94 Calls to Action aimed at federal, provincial, municipal and community levels and are intended to create and renew relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Reconciliation is more than a word. It's a process of relationship building. It is an ongoing learning process for both non-Indigenous and Indigenous people. The first step of Reconciliation is to speak about the truth and learn about the history of the Indigenous peoples because local histories of the land have not been widely taught, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Settler histories and experiences dominate decision-making and narratives about municipalities in Ontario, and Canada, rendering Indigenous communities' deep cultural connections to the

land largely invisible. Bringing Indigenous education into the consultation process asks Newmarket residents and participants to think more broadly about what stories should be told in their municipalities through landscape, programming and design. In addition, engagement with Indigenous communities within Newmarket and within the neighbouring Williams Treaty First Nations is essential.

The PROCESS team includes collaborator and Indigenous consultant Trina Moyan Bell, who has played an essential part in this project. She has worked with the project team to research and raise awareness of Indigenous history and knowledge of the Mulock Property and the land Newmarket sits on. This is an important step as the municipality continues to address Truth and Reconciliation.

What we've learned

Below is information based on Trina Moyan Bell's initial research and consultation about the area. Indigenous history has not been continuously documented in the same manner as European history, and there are many details still unknown, and ripe for discovery. Any documentation of history, even as short as this one should be considered as a tip of the iceberg, and further research and consultation with First Nations communities in the area is needed.

The Town of Newmarket is situated within the traditional homelands of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga Anishnabeg) Nation that encompass a vast area of what is now known as Southern Ontario. The Michi Saagiig are known as “the people of the big river mouths” and were also known as the “Salmon people” who occupied and fished the north shore of Lake Ontario where the various tributaries emptied into the lake.¹

The Michi Saagiig Nation are also part of eighteen treaties first signed between 1781 and 1923 that allowed the growing number of Europeans to settle in Ontario. The relationships created through these treaties are collectively known as the Williams Treaties. The First Nations communities within the Williams Treaties include Alderville First Nation, Chippewas of Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation is the closest in proximity to Newmarket.

Unfortunately, many key aspects of the agreed upon treaties between 1781-1923 were not honoured by the European settlers and the Canadian government. In 2018, after years of legal dispute, the Williams Treaties First Nations were compensated 1.1 billion for loss of land and harvesting

rights. At that time, in 2018, the Government of Canada apologized for the negative impacts of the 1923 Williams Treaties on the Williams Treaties First Nations in Rama, Ontario.



Town of Newmarket Task Force Workshop with Cultural Competency Training led by Trina Moyan Bell

¹ <https://www.peterboroughutilities.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=42481>

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

Overwhelmingly, participants want the site to be welcoming to all. This includes:

- Providing spaces and programming for all ages, people of different abilities, and of diverse demographics;
- Accessible and affordable food (cafe and/or restaurant in the house or one of the out buildings. Some mentioned food trucks onsite as well.
- Accessible gathering and event areas (for markets, concerts and performances and other programming). This could include covered event spaces or open natural spaces for gathering.

Some raised concerns regarding how to ensure the site is open to everyone while also being rev-

enue generating. There were questions about how the property can serve private venue rentals while including the public? These are key considerations the team will be reviewing through the design options.

“Have activities that attract kids (8 years old) all the way 80 years old and up.” – Residents Workshop Attendee

“It might be a beautiful place for weddings & Conferences, however I wouldn’t want that revenue making aspect of it to take over all other utilisation of the property.” – Online Survey Respondent

“If there is a pavilion, it should be natural and add to the greenery.” – Visioning Workshop Attendee

Testing Key Issues

Covered Amenity Space/Amphitheatre:

One consideration raised through the process was the desire for a covered amenity space (in conjunction with skating or not), or an amphitheatre. There was little support for a built amphitheatre, with preference to a natural one using existing topography. Youth specifically requested an open-air pavillion.

In the in-person engagement sessions, our team specifically introduced visual diagrams to demonstrate impacts and opportunities of a new covered amenity space on the site. The topic of a covered amenity space received mixed opinions. If there is to be a covered amenity space, participants felt it should be located closer to Yonge or Mulock (not near neighbours or on the large, open lawn). However, ultimately, there were no strong opinion that a covered amenity space is required on site. Many who commented on this topic, indicated that the house or other existing structures would suffice. There were two comments from the online survey that requested a covered amenity space.

NATURAL

Overwhelmingly, the majority of participants indicated that preserving natural features on site is a top priority. Natural features (parks and green spaces) were indicated as the key community amenity online survey respondents want to see on the property (65% of respondents):

- This includes maintaining and enhancing tree coverage and using the existing landscape for programming. Many youth suggested creating natural play areas (that do not impact the landscape and wildlife).
 - Many suggested developing a series of gardens (community, botanical, Indigenous, medicine, pollinator, teaching, etc.) across the site.
 - Some recommended that there should be a strong focus on environmental education, sustainability and stewardship. Many youth specifically recommended environmentally progressive methods for waste management.
- There were references to incorporating water and wetlands onto the site (and sharing the story of water on the site).
 - Few indicated a desire to enhance natural features for wildlife in the area. Youth from the school workshop specifically indicated having a wildlife sanctuary.

“Keep everything natural – no hard-scaping!”

“Save the trees!”

“The swamp should be built into a natural water feature”

“We need a natural place for our young people to go and spend quality time!”

“Most are obvious “givens” like inclusion and joining neighbouring parks.”

- Visioning Workshop Attendees



Newmarket Residents at the Fall Picnic at the Mulock Property

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

Getting to the site

Participants had a diversity of perspectives on the best ways to access the site. Ultimately, participants felt the site should be accessible using a diversity of transportation methods.

Ideas include:

- **Encourage active transportation or alternative transit options** to provide access to the site rather than reliance on automobiles.
- **Parking:** Most recommend limited parking on-site and prefer creative solutions (parking at local schools, the vacant lot to the south, nearby plazas).

- **Shuttle:** Many interested folks recommended a shuttle (similar to the one from the picnic), which could leave from Town Hall, the Ray Twinny Recreation Complex, GO Station or elsewhere. Many suggested that a shuttle could specifically be considered during peak event times.
- **Accessibility:** Many discussed the need to ensure wheelchair and stroller access (for parking, pathways and buildings).

“Keep it natural and green please. Don’t pave over the entire property for parking/skating/splash pad.” – Online Survey Respondent

“Ensure there is ample parking spaces available as a large majority of residents drive.” – Online Survey Respondent

Transportation in Newmarket: Shifting the norm?

The online survey responses indicate that 95% of participants drive to destinations in Newmarket. In-person consultations suggest that many participants want options for safe active transportation or suggest a shuttle operate at the site, with a desire to rely less on cars.

CONNECTING TO BROADER AREAS

In addition to getting to the property, many participants discussed opportunities for the site to be connected to the neighbouring areas.

- **Jim Bond Park:** Overwhelmingly, there is a desire to connect the property with Jim Bond Park. Few opposed the idea (with fear of parking in the neighbourhood). Many thought that concerns could be mitigated through thoughtful design.
- **Connections to broader areas (Yonge-Mulock):** Many mentioned desire to enter the site along Mulock, especially at the corner of Yonge. As well as the need to consider design of adjacent sites (new developments) as they progress so that there are appropriate connections and good design.

“I would like [Mulock Property] to be connected to Jim Bond but then something needs to be done with Jordanray blvd, including no parking signs and speed bumps – it’s already a way too busy and too fast of a street.” – Online Survey Respondent

“[The Yonge-Mulock] intersection could be the gateway to Newmarket.” – York Region Focus Group

Testing Key Issues

Parking: There were mixed opinions on parking. Some local neighbours voiced concerns about people parking in their neighbourhood. However, for the most part, they felt this problem could be solved with smart design solutions. In the in-person engagement sessions, our team specifically introduced visual diagrams to demonstrate impacts and opportunities for a small amount of parking on the site. Participants requested the options with the least damage possible to the natural areas, and preferred parking along Mulock as the best option. Ultimately, there is an understanding that creative solutions for access to the site are necessary (including off-site parking, shuttle buses and other active transportation networks).

Jim Bond Park: Our team specifically asked participants at in-person engagements if connecting Mulock property to the neighbouring Jim Bond park would be appropriate or beneficial for the park and adjacent neighbourhood. For the most part, participants saw the connection to be essential. Few neighbours voiced opposition to the connection, raising concern it could increase traffic in the adjacent neighbourhood. Through the online survey, there were five mentions of Jim Bond Park. One person specifically voiced opposition to connecting the property to Jim Bond Park, one person indicated they would like to see the connection but worried about traffic. The others requested integrating the two properties.



Jim Bond Park

CONSULTATION NEXT STEPS

In the next few months, the consultant team will be working on design alternatives based on the research and consultation done in Phase 1. Opportunities for further engagement will be released shortly.

