



**Report**  
**Staff Report**  
The Corporation of the City of Brampton  
**4/2/2025**

**Date:** 2025-03-10

**Subject:** **Budget Amendment and Recommendation Report: Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project – Ward 2**

**Contact:** Karley Cianchino, Supervisor Wetlands & Environmental Projects, Environment & Development Engineering

**Report number:** Planning, Bld & Growth Mgt-2025-239

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report from Karley Cianchino, Supervisor, Wetlands and Environmental Projects to the Council Meeting of April 2, 2025 re: **Budget Amendment and Recommendation Report: Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project – Ward 2**, be received; and
2. That a budget amendment be approved, and capital project 237485-002 be established in the amount of \$366,750.00 for the Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project, with \$251,750.00 funded by the Federal Government under Environment and Climate Change Canada and \$115,000.00 funded from Reserve #4 via return of funding from 217485-001.

**OVERVIEW:**

- In 2021, Council endorsed the Lake Enhancement Strategy, focusing on improving four of Brampton's key lakes: Norton Place Park Lake, Donnelly Ponds, Loafer's Lake, and Professor's Lake.
- In July 2023, staff applied for a grant under Environment and Climate Change Canada's Environmental Damages Fund to support actions outlined in the Lake Enhancement Strategy, specifically targeting the Donnelly Ponds.
- The Donnelly Ponds lie within Brampton's largest contiguous interconnected natural heritage area and provide a range of passive recreation opportunities for the Brampton community.

- **In March 2024, the City received confirmation of a grant totaling \$251,750.00 to enhance shoreline features at the Donnelly Ponds.**
- **In November 2024, the City Treasurer executed the Funding Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada.**
- **Should the recommendations in this report be approved, a budget amendment will be required to establish capital project 237485-002 in the amount of \$366,750.00, with funding of \$251,750 from Environment and Climate Change Canada and \$115,000 transferred from capital project 217485-001: Environmental Master Plan.**

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 2019, Council requested the development of the [Lake Enhancement Strategy](#), which was subsequently passed in 2021 ([CW365-2021](#)). This Strategy prioritizes improvements for four Brampton lakes: Norton Place Park, Donnelly Ponds, Loafer's Lake, and Professor's Lake. It builds on the Council-endorsed [Eco Park Strategy](#) and incorporates best practices, site evaluations, and stakeholder consultations.

For the Donnelly Ponds, the Strategy emphasizes harmonizing natural and urban elements to create a tranquil retreat for residents. While the ponds are enjoyed for passive recreation, particularly along the Esker Lake Trail, challenges like water quality issues and flooding have reduced community engagement. Addressing these challenges is critical to preserving the ponds' ecological and community value.

To support the implementation of the Strategy - particularly the enhancement and restoration of the Donnelly Ponds shoreline - City staff, in collaboration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), applied for funding through Environment and Climate Change Canada's [Environmental Damages Fund](#) (EDF). The grant application sought funding to improve the ponds' ecological function and connectivity through activities like invasive species management, shoreline habitat enhancement, and planting native species. These efforts also aim to engage community volunteers, fostering stewardship while enhancing ecological health and visitor experiences.

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

In March 2024, City staff were informed of the successful grant application, securing \$251,750 through Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Environmental Damages Fund. This fund, which collects revenue from environmental violations, supports projects that restore and enhance Canada's natural environment. The awarded funds are designated for restoration activities at the Donnelly Ponds. To implement this project, City staff have partnered with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). To maximize restoration efforts, this report

recommends allocating \$115,000 from Capital Project 217485-001: Environmental Master Plan Implementation towards the project.

In November 2024, the Treasurer executed the Funding Agreement, formally enabling the City to access the grant funds from ECCC. To comply with the timelines stipulated by ECCC for utilizing the grant, a new capital project account is required to receive and manage the grant funds efficiently.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

### **Financial Implications:**

Should the recommendations in this report be approved, a budget amendment will be required to establish capital project 237485-002 in the amount of \$366,750. This includes funding of \$251,750 from Environment and Climate Change Canada and \$115,000 to be transferred from Capital Project 217485-001: Environmental Master Plan (EMP). The EMP capital project account was established to support the implementation of its multi-year action plan and the achievement of its targets, which align with the goals of the Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project.

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
New Project # - Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project	\$251,750	Environment and Climate Change Canada
	\$115,000	Transfer funds from 217485-001 (Reserve 4)
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$366,750</b>	

### **Other Implications:**

**Communications Implications** – The public will be informed about the project and planned improvements and timelines through various communications tactics, such as open houses, web content, digital and social media, media material and key messages.

## **STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:**

The Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project will achieve the Term of Council Strategic Focus Areas of:

- **Health & Well-being:** Focusing on citizens' belonging, health, wellness, and safety.
- **Environmental Resilience & Sustainability:** Focusing on nurturing and protecting our environment for a sustainable future

**CONCLUSION:**

The secured funding will enable the City to complete the Donnelly Ponds Restoration Project by March 2026.

This project will advance key recommendations from the Council-endorsed Lake Enhancement Strategy for the Donnelly Ponds by enhancing both social opportunities and the natural heritage features of the ponds. These efforts will ensure the Donnelly Ponds continue to serve as a vital resource for ecological health and community enjoyment.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

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Karley Cianchino  
Supervisor, Wetlands &  
Environmental Projects  
Environment & Development  
Engineering

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Michael Heralall  
Director  
Environment & Development Engineering

Approved by:

Approved by:

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Steve Ganesh, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner, Planning, Building and  
Growth Management

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Marlon Kallideen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – Environment and Climate Change Canada Grant Agreement