

Markham 2018 Budget



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER: Keeping Tax Rates Low and Investing in our Future

Overview

Using a balanced approach, the [2018 City of Markham Budget](#) continues the municipality's goal of Stewardship of Money and Resources, as outlined in the [Building Markham's Future Together: 2015-2019 Strategic Plan](#).

Together, City Council and Markham staff are working to ensure high quality municipal services that meet, if not exceed, the expectations of our residents and businesses.

Safeguarding our assets for the next 25 years

In 2004, Markham formally established the Life Cycle Replacement and Capital Reserve to address the on-going capital replacement and preventative maintenance of capital assets.

For the past 12 years, the City of Markham has been able to ensure sufficient funds are available for the rehabilitation and replacement of City infrastructure for 25 years.

The approved 2018 budget includes an additional 0.50 per cent infrastructure investment in the lifecycle reserve to maintain new and existing assets for the next 25 years, based on known inflows and outflows.



Providing new communities with immediate access to parks



Since 2014, the City of Markham has expedited the delivery of parks with the goal of providing residents with access to parks as soon as possible after they move into a new community.

A total of 41 new parks, totaling 93.3 acres of public space, have been constructed to date as part of this program.

The 2018 budget includes design and construction of Markham Centre Riverwalk Urban Park, design and construction of Wismer Park pavilion and washrooms,

bridge construction at Box Grove Community Park and construction of Cornell Park pavilion and washrooms. These projects represent an investment of \$4.5 million.

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Protecting public and private properties from climate change

The City of Markham has implemented a 30 year city-wide [Flood Control Program](#) initiative to improve draining capacity to help protect public and private properties, and make critical infrastructure more resilient to climate change.



In several West Thornhill priority areas storm sewer capacity upgrades have progressed. Bayview Glen neighbourhood has been completed and Grandview neighbourhood will be completed in 2019.

In response to flooding in June and July of 2017, City staff have accelerated the following within the Flood Control Program:

- West Thornhill Flood Control Implementation: Phase 4 Design from 2019 to 2018, with integrated sanitary sewer upgrades.
- Technical studies for storm and sanitary infrastructure improvements in Markham Village and Unionville areas from 2027 to 2017.
- Sanitary system downspout disconnection program in Markham Village and Unionville areas in 2018.

The 2018 budget includes \$14.3 million for continuation of construction in the West Thornhill area, including flood control remediation study and sanitary system downspout disconnections.

Planning for future growth in our community



Over the past ten years, the City of Markham has been actively planning and consulting with the public on Markham's strategy to manage future population and employment growth.

As part of the 2018 budget, the City of Markham identified funds to plan for this growth through an increased operating budget for:

- An additional 12.9 kilometres of road maintenance, winter maintenance, street and catch basin cleaning,
- Electricity, maintenance and repair of 311 new streetlights,
- Park maintenance of 11.8 additional hectares of parks,
- Waste collection for an additional 1,830 residential homes and apartment units.