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## 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Ravine Strategy and Meadoway

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#### Issue/Background:

- This briefing note responds to a request from Budget Committee, at its January 18, 2024 meeting, that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR), in collaboration with Executive Director Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) provide a briefing note on the Capital Plan for implementation of the Ravine Strategy and Meadoway including the City of Toronto, Provincial Government and Federal Government funding for:
  - a) Ravine Strategy implementation to-date (2020-2023);
  - b) The next five years (2024-2029); and
  - c) The following five years (2030-2034).
- In 2020, City Council adopted 2020.EX12.1 - Ravine Strategy Implementation, which outlined the key actions and recommendations required to implement the Ravine Strategy.
- Led by TRCA, in partnership with the City of Toronto and with funding from the Weston Family Foundation, The Meadoway will transform 16 kilometres of hydro corridor into one of the largest urban linear greenspaces in Canada and create ecological and trail connections between the Don River and Highland Creek ravines and Rouge National Urban Park.
- Intergovernmental partnership, collaboration and funding is critical to support the Ravine Strategy, and provincial and federal funding programs have augmented the City's investment in its ravine system.
- Implementation of the Ravine Strategy remains a priority for PFR and partner divisions, as well as the TRCA, and is on schedule for delivery of actions over the next two decades.

#### Key Points:

- Over the period of 2020-2034, there is actual and planned spending of \$30.6 million by Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) and \$5.6 million by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for the implementation of the Ravine Strategy and The Meadoway, with funding shared by the Federal Government (\$21.0 million), Provincial Government (\$1.2 million), and PFR (\$14.0 million).

- PFR has identified a total of \$95.2 million remaining in capital needs constraint specifically for projects in the ten Ravine Priority Investment Areas. Please note this figure reflects a decrease in remaining capital needs from the 2024 PFR Budget Notes, launched on January 10, as a result of a \$4.2 million allocation to projects in four Ravine Priority Investment Areas through the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund.

Table 1: Ravine Strategy/Meadoway PFR Capital Budget & Plan and TRCA Cash Flow Summary

Timing	Total Cash Flow		Funding Source		
	2024-2034 PFR Capital Budget and Plan	TRCA Meadoway	Federal	Provincial	City (PFR)
2020*-2023	6.6		4.0	1.0	1.6
2024-2029	21.5	5.6	17.0	0.2	9.9
2030-2034	2.5				2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>

\*Ravine Strategy tracking began in 2020, following City Council's approval of the Ravine Strategy Implementation report 2020.EX12.1 - Ravine Strategy Implementation

Ravine Strategy implementation to date (2020-2023)

- PFR had \$6.6 million in capital investments on Ravine Strategy implementation to-date (2020-2023), including:
  - \$1.6 million total over four years funded from Debt through the City Wide Environmental Initiatives Program
  - \$5.0 million for eight projects to be fully reimbursed by federal and provincial governments through Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Fund

Next five years (2024 – 2029)

- To continue Ravine Strategy implementation between 2024-2029, the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan for PFR includes \$21.5 million including:
  - \$2.9 million total (\$0.5 million in 2024) funded from Debt through the City Wide Environmental Initiatives Program, including approximately \$0.2 million to advance wayfinding in The Meadoway
  - \$1.2 million estimated carry forward of the \$6.2 million cash flow funding from the 2023 Capital Budget, to complete the remaining two projects to be fully reimbursed by federal and provincial governments through the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Fund
  - \$15.3 million for four projects approved through the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF)
  - \$1.4 million funded from Debt through the CAMP SOGR for Trails & Pathways [Heath Crest Trail and Stairs into Ravine (Vale of Avoca)]
  - \$0.6 million funded from Development Charges for the East Don Trail (funds not included in the NIF as a match)
  
- The Meadoway implementation continues to be advanced by TRCA through Weston Family Foundation philanthropy. To augment this continued support, the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan for PFR includes \$0.1 million funded from Debt through the CAMP SOGR for Trails & Pathways and the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund includes \$5.6 million for The Meadoway.

The following five years (2030 – 2034)

- Current planned capital funding for years 2030-2034 includes \$2.5 million (\$0.5 million per year) to be funded from Debt through the City Wide Environmental Initiatives Program to continue investment in access improvements and restoration, with a focus on the Ravine Priority Investment Areas.

**Questions & Answers:**

Q1: Why are Toronto's ravines important?

A1: Toronto's ravines have significant ecological value, are places where people seek active and passive recreation, house critical grey and green infrastructure, and contribute significantly to the resilience of the city. They contribute \$822 million in ecological services annually.

Q2: What is the status of Ravine Strategy Implementation?

A2: Implementation of the Ravine Strategy remains a priority for PFR and partner divisions (Toronto Water, Transportation Services, City Planning), as well as the TRCA. The City and its partners have taken significant steps over the last four years to advance the actions and deliverables of this multi-decade strategy. All actions are in progress or complete, except for two long-term actions which will be initiated at a later date.

Q3: Has Parks, Forestry and Recreation reported back to City Council on Ravine Strategy implementation?

A3: City Council directed PFR to report every three years on advancement of the Ravine Strategy's actions. The first update, [2022.IE30.9 – Ravine Strategy Implementation Update](#), was adopted by Council in June 2022. The next report is planned for 2025.

Q4: Is the City of Toronto actively seeking additional funding for future capital projects?

A4: Yes, the City of Toronto currently has a funding application into the federal government for a total value of \$6.4 million to support implementation of the Ravine Strategy over the next ten years. Further, following City Council direction, work is underway to establish partnerships with Evergreen and Toronto Foundation to advance a philanthropic campaign for ravines.

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