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## 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Ravine Strategy and Meadoway

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#### Issue/Background:

- This briefing note provides an update on the 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 (2020-2024);
  - b) The next five years (2025-2029); 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 the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in partnership with the City of Toronto and with funding from the Weston Family Foundation, The Meadoway, which is part of the Loop Trail project, 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 Parks and Recreation (P&R) and partner divisions, as well as the TRCA, and is on schedule for delivery of actions over the next two decades.

#### Key Points:

- For the implementation of the Ravine Strategy and the Meadoway, P&R has budgeted \$45.2 million over the next 10 year as summarized in Table 1 below. This amount includes federal and provincial grants in the amount of \$24.9 million and \$1.3 million respectively. The TRCA has budgeted an additional \$5.6 million including federal grants to be received by the TRCA.

**Table 1: Ravine Strategy/Meadoway in the 2025 10-Year Capital Budget & Plan for P&R and TRCA Cash Flow Summary In Millions (\$)**

Timing	Total Cash Flow			Funding Source		
	2025-2034 PFR Capital Budget and Plan	TRCA Meadoway	Total	Federal	Provincial	City (P&R)
2020*- 2024	8.0	0.9	8.9	5.6	1.2	2.1
2025- 2029	26.6	4.7	31.3	19.3	0.1	11.9
2030- 2034	10.6		10.6			10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>24.6</b>

\*Ravine Strategy tracking began in 2020, following City Council’s approval of the Ravine Strategy Implementation report [2020.EX12.1](#) - Ravine Strategy Implementation

- P&R has identified a total of \$79.9 million remaining in capital delivery constraint specifically for projects in the ten Ravine Priority Investment Areas.

Ravine Strategy implementation to date (2020-2024)

- To date (2020-2024), PFR has invested \$8.0 million in capital funding for the implementation of the Ravine Strategy, including projected spending of \$1.9 million in 2024:
  - \$2.1 million total over five years, funded from Section 42 First 5% Cash-in-lieu City Wide Parkland Development Reserve Fund, through the City Wide Environmental Initiatives Program for Environmentally Significant Area planning, wetland restoration, wayfinding, and trail and access improvements in ravines.
    - Projected spending of \$0.400 million in 2024.
  - \$5.9 million for eight projects identified in Appendix A to be fully reimbursed by federal and provincial governments through Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Fund.
    - Four of the eight projects were completed in 2024, with projected spending of \$1.5 million.

### Next five years (2025 – 2029)

- To continue the implementation of the Ravine Strategy from 2025-2029, the P&R 2025 10-Year Capital Plan includes \$26.6 million for the following:
  - \$2.5 million total (\$0.5 million in 2025) funded through debt from the City Wide Environmental Initiatives Program, including approximately \$0.2 million to advance wayfinding in The Meadoway.
  - \$14.4 million for four projects over 2025-2026 identified in Appendix B, approved through the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF).
  - \$8.9 million over 2025-2029 (\$1.1 million in 2025) funded through debt from the Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) for State of Good Repair (SOGR) for Trails & Pathways in ravine Priority Investment Areas (PIAs) for thirteen projects, including Heath Crest Trail and Stairs into the Ravine (Vale of Avoca), which is an increase in funding of \$7.5 million from the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan as a result of the Gardiner and DVP reallocation.
  - \$0.3 million estimated carry forward to 2025 of the \$6.2 million for the eight projects identified in Appendix A, to be fully reimbursed by federal and provincial governments through the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Fund
  - \$0.5 million over 2025-2026 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 the TRCA through Weston Family Foundation philanthropy. Additionally, the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund has allocated \$5.6 million for The Meadoway, with \$0.9 million in 2024 and \$4.7 million in 2025.

### The following five years (2030 – 2034)

- Planned capital funding for 2030-2034 includes the following:
  - \$2.5 million (\$0.5 million per year), funded through debt through from the City Wide Environmental Initiatives Program, to continue investments in access improvements and restoration, with a focus on the ravine Priority Investment Areas.
  - \$8.1 million for six projects funded through debt from the CAMP SOGR for Trails & Pathways in ravine Priority Investment Areas (PIAs).

### **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 P&R 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 and Recreation reported back to City Council on Ravine Strategy implementation?

A3: City Council directed P&R 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 is pursuing funding opportunities through federal government grant programs to support implementation of the Ravine Strategy. Further, following City Council direction, work is underway with Evergreen and Toronto Foundation to advance a philanthropic campaign for ravines.

Q5: Does Urban Forestry's move into the newly formed Environment, Climate and Forestry (ECF) division impact Ravine Strategy implementation?

A5: The implementation of Toronto's Ravine Strategy is currently delivered across multiple divisions and branches. While Urban Forestry is now located in the ECF division, there are no changes to the roles and responsibilities of each branch in delivering the commitments of the implementation plan. To ensure seamless project delivery, a Service Level Agreement is being developed between Parks and Recreation and Environment, Climate and Forestry divisions.

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**APPENDIX A: ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Stream Projects in Millions (\$)**

#	Title	Cost	Notes	Progress to date
1	Upper Highland Trail Connection at Meadoway	\$0.3	New trail connection from Meadoway to Highland Creek Trail.	Completed in 2024.
2	Highland Creek Trail, Phase 3 A	\$0.3	Trail Improvements to connect the paved bridges of Phase 1 to Morningside parking lot.	Completed in 2024.
3	Ravine Trail Wayfinding	\$0.5	New trail wayfinding signage in ravines.	East Don signage completed in 2024. Black Creek, Highland Creek and Meadoway are still in progress.
4	Community Access to Ravines	\$0.7	Repair and upgrade access points at multiple ravine access points at various sites.	Access improvements completed in 2023 at Edwards Gardens, Burnett Park, and Duncan Creek. Don Valley Golf Course to be completed in 2025.
5	Highland Creek at University of Toronto Scarborough Campus	\$1.9	Protect and restore ravine trail south of Morningside Park.	Completed in 2023.
6	Cudmore Creek Wetland and Trailhead	\$1.5	Restore Wetland and improve trail access.	ICIP-funded portion of project is completed in 2024. Remaining components funded through CW Environmental Initiatives to be completed in 2025.
7	Taylor Creek Trails & Pathways	\$0.4	SOGR - rehabilitation of the trail and pathway system, including site drainage.	Completed in 2022.
8	Humber River Recreational Trail (Rowntree Mills Park)	\$0.6	State of good repair work to maintain and upgrade the Humber River Recreational trail through Rowntree Mills Park to current standards.	Completed in 2021 with additional rest nodes and seating.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6.2</b>	Reimbursed by the ICIP program	

**APPENDIX B: NIF Projects In Millions (\$)**

#	Title	Cost	Notes	Progress to date
1	Meadoway	\$5.6	Construction of two sections of the Meadoway.	In progress.
2	East Don Trail	\$6.7	Construction of a section of the East Don Trail.	To be initiated.
3	Ravine Priority Investment Areas	\$6.7	Wetland restoration, access to nature and trail connections.	In progress.
4	The Loop Trail	\$1.0	Wayfinding along sections of the Loop Trail.	In progress.
<b>Total Federal funding</b>		<b>\$20.0</b>	For above projects.	
<b>Total City matching</b>		<b>\$14.2</b>	Matching funds contribute to additional Ravine Strategy projects.	