



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The City of Markham's 2020 Budget delivers sound Stewardship of Money and Resources, as outlined in the Building Markham's Future Together: 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. Together, Markham Council and staff are working to deliver exceptional services that meet the needs of our diverse and thriving city.

## How is Markham fighting climate change?

The City of Markham continues into its 7<sup>th</sup> year of a 30-year city-wide [Flood Control Program](#) to improve storm drainage and to limit surface and basement flooding risks in urban areas.

2020 will see initiatives that protect property and infrastructure from extreme weather and the effects of climate change while building a safer community:

- \$10.9M for construction in West Thornhill on Clark Avenue to the East of Henderson Avenue, and on Morgan Avenue, between Yonge Street and Henderson Avenue.
- Evaluation of sewer upgrade needs in Markham Village and Unionville.



Through its Municipal Energy Plan, the City of Markham aims to build a more sustainable community by reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050. Initiatives include:

- **Using solar energy and building automation**  
Markham has 1.83 MW of rooftop solar photovoltaic cells and its array network is among the largest hosted by an Ontario municipality.

The City's investments in energy conservation and efficiency for its buildings have saved \$2M per year in utilities and achieved a 14 per cent greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction per resident since 2012.



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City facilities have reduced their GHG emissions by 14 per cent, and cut energy use by eight per cent with a cumulative cost savings of \$3.4M. A further \$2.6M in savings have been realized through LED streetlight retrofits.

The updated Corporate Energy Management Plan, a five-year energy conservation and demand management plan, forecasts at least five per cent in GHG reductions and facility energy savings.



- **Exploring geothermal**

The City of Markham is supporting the development of a community-scale distributed geothermal energy system for heating, cooling and domestic hot water in the Berczy-Glen neighbourhood. This will achieve greater energy efficiency through optimization, energy savings, reduced maintenance burden and costs, and reduced GHG emissions.

## How is Markham improving community connections?



Trails connect our communities and encourage active lifestyles. The **Markham Centre Trails** network, a 13 km fully-integrated pathway system from Apple Creek Boulevard to Main Street Unionville, provides access into and across the Rouge River valley system to encourage residents to walk, run and cycle for fitness.

This is a multi-year project and Markham's 2020 Budget includes:

- \$1.2M for construction of Phase 1 which spans approximately 800 m on the North side of the Rouge River from Warden Avenue to Birchmount Road, and \$0.2M for the design of Phase 2 which spans approximately 830 m also along the North side of the Rouge River from Birchmount Road to Sciberras Road.
- \$0.2M for the design of a new trail from the Rouge Valley Trail to Kennedy Road and Austin Drive, to be constructed in 2021. This will provide an alternate route when water levels on the Rouge River are high.

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## What is Markham doing to create a greener future?

The 2020 Budget includes \$22.1M to begin construction on the following new parks: Box Grove Community Park, Cornell Community Park, Cornell Parkette, Wismer McCowan Woodlot Park, York Downs Park and Leitchcroft Towhhouse Park.

Since 2014, the City of Markham has consistently created and designed its parks with the goal of making them ready for residents as soon as possible after they move into a new community. A total of 55 new parks, totaling 128.35 acres of public space, have been constructed as part of this program.

In 2020, the City will plant 10,000 new trees, making progress towards its 30 per cent tree canopy target. As part of the Trees for Tomorrow program, more than 400,000 trees have been planted since 2007.

These new green spaces will improve air quality and preserve the environment.



## How is Markham leveraging Smart City technologies?

As part of the Digital Markham Strategy, Markham deployed Bell's Smart City platform which integrates IBM data and analytics technology into Internet of Things systems in 2019. This will continue in 2020 with the Bell Smart City Accelerator Research Program, which allows Markham to gain valuable data and insights into leak detection sensors, building energy usage and asset management.

In addition, Markham will further the Digital Markham Strategy by expanding digital access and literacy programs, pilot testing digital city technology in "living labs", and implementing new technologies to enhance service delivery.

The City will expand the use of Your Voice Markham, the City's online engagement platform, to offer residents a new way to engage with the City on specific projects and initiatives.





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## What is Markham doing to safeguard City assets now and for the future?

Through Markham's **Life Cycle Replacement and Capital Reserve Fund**, the City protects assets by setting aside 0.5 per cent of the budget, ensuring that sufficient funds are available for the rehabilitation and replacement of City infrastructure for 25 years.

The 2020 Budget invests \$32.4M to ensure our community centres, libraries and cultural venues are maintained in good condition.



The budget includes \$6.9M in asphalt resurfacing and pavement preservation on approximately 19 km of two-lane and four-lane roads. This strategy is economical, environmentally responsible, and effective in extending pavement life and reducing overall maintenance of the road network.

## How is Markham driving economic growth?



Markham will embark on a new economic development strategy that will establish a vision for Markham's economic future and articulate a series of action plans and performance measures to guide the City and our partners towards strengthening Markham's competitiveness, vibrancy and prosperity. The economic development strategy will be evidenced-based, include extensive stakeholder consultation and help ensure Markham's continued success in an era of accelerated change.

In 2020, the City of Markham will continue to advance its Destination Markham Strategy with the launch of the Destination Markham Corporation (DMC). Markham will be among the top places in Canada to live, work, play and do business. The City will be regarded as a highly desirable, welcoming place with distinctive, high quality attractions and exceptional amenities for residents, visitors, talent and business.