

BUDGET COMMITTEE **MAY 26, 2003**

WILLIAM GRANGER GREENWAY - BARTLEY SMITH GREENWAY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks, the Director of Parks, and the Director of Reserves and Investments recommends:

That the following funding request for the works identified on the William Granger Greenway and the Bartley Smith Greenway be considered in the 2004 Capital Budget process.

Purpose

To provide the Committee with the funding request by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and provide an update of works completed to date and proposed for the William Granger Greenway and the Bartley Smith Greenway.

Background - Analysis and Options

William Granger Greenway - Humber River Watershed

The Granger Greenway/Humber River Trail forms part of the Inter regional trail planned from the headwaters of the watershed in Bolton to the waterfront in Toronto. The proposed 15 kilometer trail section in Vaughan is a critical link in this system and will provide a significant passive recreational experience for the residents of the City. In addition recreational pathways linking to the Inter-regional trail will provide connectivity to the residential communities along the East Humber River.

To date 4 kilometers of trail and three bridges have been constructed affording access to the valley and natural spaces for both the residents of the City and the many tourists that frequent the Kleinburg area. In particular the linkage to the McMicheal Art Gallery has resulted in many visitors experiencing the natural beauty along the East Humber River in Vaughan.

The funding request of \$75,000.00 for the 2003 Capital Budget year will allow the project to continue and afford access to the system from Rutherford Road including the nearby residential areas, The Al Paladini Centre and the new secondary school under construction east of Islington Avenue. Further with the provision of a recreational path along Rutherford Road (via Region of York works) connecting to the WEA Hydro Corridor Trail and the WEA District Park link a recreational route 9 kilometers in length will be provided for the use of both residents and tourists.

Bartley Smith Greenway – West Don Watershed

The Bartley Smith Greenway (BSG) is a 15 kilometer work-in-progress following the course of the West Don River. The built trail commences at Steeles Avenue, near Dufferin Street, travels northward through Marita Payne Park and continues north to Langstaff Road where the southern leg of the trail ends. The trail recommences north of McNaughton Road and continues to Teston Road.

The missing link in the system is the trail connection between Langstaff and McNaughton Roads. To that end the 2003 budget request of \$100,000.00 includes a trail connection from Planchet

Road to Tudor Park on Jacob Keffer Parkway. This section of trail will allow access from Tudor Park to the existing trail traveling from Langstaff Road along the river leading to local business and the many residential areas bordering the West Don River. Of particular note, along the BSG we would highlight the Langstaff Ecopark the product of considerable effort by The Langstaff Ecopark Steering Committee, local business', the TRCA , the Region of York, the Anne Bartley Smith Foundation, many volunteers and the City.

Funding Request

The funding requests of \$75,000.00 for the William Granger Greenway and \$100,000.00 for the Bartley Smith Greenway are also in keeping with the recommendation of the Special Committee of the Whole, Report no. 17, Item 14 on March 4, 2002 which states, in part:

“ That a \$1,000,000.00 commitment over five years for the Bartley Smith Greenway and Granger Greenway be approved and that staff provide a report regarding these initiatives.”

With the provision of funding by the City the TRCA is able to provide matching funds via grants from other agencies and private foundations as well as services in kind such as design and construction.

Conclusion

That this report and the correspondence by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority be received and that this request be considered in the 2004 Capital Budget process.

Attachments

1. Letter and Project Funding Breakdown from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Report prepared by:

Paul Gardner, Manager of Parks Development, extension 3209
Linda Laflamme, Landscape Architect, extension 3210

Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services

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**TORONTO AND REGION
Conservation**
for The Living City

May 20, 2003

Doris Haas
Commissioner
Community Services Department
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Ms. Haas,

Re: **William Granger Greenway - Humber River Watershed
Bartley Smith Greenway - Don River Watershed
2003 Budget**

The William Granger and Bartley Smith Greenway projects within the City of Vaughan are priority projects of the TRCA. Over the past 10 years, Vaughan residents and businesses have joined forces to create the two Greenways. When completed, these Greenways will provide the City of Vaughan with an impressive trail system, linking Vaughan to the Oak Ridges Moraine and to the Lake Ontario Waterfront.

Earlier this year you advised that the funding for the Granger Greenway and the Bartley Smith Greenway had not been confirmed through the first round of budget allocations. We request that should additional funding become available, the Granger Greenway and Bartley Smith Greenway be included in the list of priority projects to be considered for additional funding.

In January we wrote to the mayor and members of council requesting their favourable consideration of the budget proposal. Given the City's funding constraints, we reduced the original request of \$400,000 to \$175,000 at that time.

This request is in keeping with the recommendation of the Special Committee of the Whole, Report no. 17, item 14 on March 4, 2002, which states in part:

"That a \$1,000,000 commitment over five years for the Bartley Smith Greenway and the Granger Greenway be approved and that staff provide a report regarding these initiatives."

To date, within the Granger Greenway project, 4 km of pedestrian trails, 3 pedestrian bridges, wetland creation, interpretive signage, community events and environmental enhancements have been completed between Kleinburg and Rutherford Road.

In the Bartley Smith Greenway 7 km of trail have been completed linking Marita Payne Park to the Langstaff Ecopark, 5 bridges have been installed, and many environmental enhancements have been undertaken. Recently a partnership with the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and a



8.4

5-year grant for \$250,000 has been secured from the Trillium Corporation.

This year, the funding for the Granger Greenway will provide for critical linkages to the Rutherford Road sidewalk and subsequently to the Woodbridge Expansion Area Hydro Corridor. With this link in place, a 9 km continuous trail will be completed for the community. For the Bartley Smith Greenway, a critical segment between Planchet and Tudor District Park will be completed. From this point, City sidewalks provide access to a soon to be built trail north of Rutherford (construction by developer).

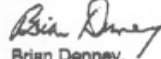
In addition, the funding provides a modest level of support to meet the other funding requirements of the Trillium grant. A number of stewardship events have already taken place in the City, and a new newsletter has been created and distributed to residents and new home owners in the vicinity of the Bartley Smith Greenway. In April, the number of persons taking part in the Vaughan Chamber Corporate Tree Planting Challenge doubled from last year.

I have requested that my staff develop a very short presentation to illustrate the Granger Greenway and Bartley Smith Greenway accomplishments, the funding resources that the City of Vaughan contribution has enabled us to secure for these two projects, and the plans for the future. This presentation will be available for the June 2, 2003 Committee of the Whole meeting. We would be pleased to review it with you prior to that date.

I am appending to this a short outline of the works to be accomplished in 2003. We look forward to your continuing support.

Please contact Gary Wilkins, the Humber Watershed Specialist at (416) 661-6600, extension 5211 or Adele Freeman, the Don-Highland Watershed Specialist at (416) 661-6600, extension 5238 regarding these projects. We are committed to working with you, council, and the residents and businesses within Vaughan to achieve sustainable communities, healthy rivers, and to enhance regional biodiversity.

Yours truly,



Brian Denney,
CAO
Toronto and Region Conservation

cc:

Marion Kallideen, Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks - City of Vaughan
John Hannah, Director of Parks - City of Vaughan

Nick Saccone, Manager, Environmental Services - TRCA
Gary Wilkins, Humber Watershed Specialist - TRCA
Adele Freeman, Don-Highland Watershed Specialist - TRCA

8.5

Project Funding Breakdowns

Granger Greenway

2003 Funding Request from Vaughan: \$75K

Funds will be used for:

\$ 1,250	Vaughan W.E.A. Openspace Community Planting at Rutherford and Hwy 27
\$ 750	Canada Co. Avenue Terminus - planning, design, approval for road closure & connection to new development
\$13,000	Trail Connection - North Plt to Bridge site
\$42,500	Bridge Installation
\$12,500	North Nursery Trail Connection
\$ 5,000	Project Administration
\$75,000	Total

Bartley Smith Greenway

2003 Funding Request from Vaughan: \$100K

Funds will be used for:

\$90,000	Tudor Valley Trail Connection - Planchet to Jacob Keffer
\$10,000	Support towards the Bartley Smith Outreach Stewardship Program
\$100,000	Total