

A Strong Markham

BUDGET 2024



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award
2000-2023*





Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

Our Mission Statement

Working with the community to provide high-quality municipal services that meet, if not exceed, the expectations of residents and businesses.

Our Vision

Markham, the leading Canadian municipality – embracing technological innovation, celebrating diversity, characterized by vibrant and healthy communities – preserving the past and building the future.



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A Strong Markham



I am proud to present Budget 2024 for the City of Markham. The tax rate increase for 2024 will be 2.99%. For the average home in Markham, this represents an increase of \$39.98 on the City portion of your tax bill. Markham continues to have the lowest average tax rate increase in the GTA over 19 consecutive years.

By listening to your concerns and hopes for the future, we've created a responsible budget that acknowledges the financial challenges we are all facing, while ensuring we continue to deliver excellent quality services that you have come to expect both now, and into the future.

Markham is...responsible, resilient, innovative and inclusive. All of this is reflected in various investments, initiatives, programs and innovations that are included as part of Budget 2024. We take pride in our community with its strong economy, award-winning planning, programs and services, with our rich history and culture. We continue to invest in infrastructure to support the Provincial target of building 44,000 homes over the next 10 years, while ensuring our assets continue to be



in a state of good repair so that Markham remains a great place to live, work and play. In addition to the 2024 Capital Budget of \$118.3 million, in fall 2023, Council advanced the approval of \$38.7 million for important projects that will be initiated early in 2024. These included road resurfacing, renewal of library collections and flood control protection.

We are also dedicating funding to improve energy efficiency, grow green spaces and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) to meet our target of net-zero emissions by 2050. Markham is a recognized leader in innovation and we continue to prioritize technology initiatives that enhance the customer experience, improve services and drive efficiencies, positioning us well for the future.

As Canada's most diverse City, Markham strives to be safe, accessible and supportive for all. Budget 2024 supports ongoing initiatives identified in **Markham's Diversity Action Plan, Elimination of Anti-Black Racism Action Plan** and capital projects that are focused on improving safety and accessibility in City facilities and public spaces.

Thank you to City Council and all staff who provided insight and recommendations for the development of Budget 2024. I also extend my sincere appreciation to all of the individuals, community partners, businesses and government partners who support our efforts in so many ways.



Frank Scarpitti
Mayor, City of Markham



Markham-Milliken Children's Festival.

Below: Markham Civic Centre.

Opposite: Mayor reading a story book during "The Reading Circle" event at Aaniin Library on July 29, 2023, organized by Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee.



A Strong Markham served by a Strong Council

MARKHAM CITY COUNCIL (2022–2026)

(Front Row L to R:)

Ward 8 Councillor **Isa Lee**

Ward 6 Councillor **Amanda Yeung Collucci**

Ward 4 Councillor **Karen Rea**

Ward 7 Councillor **Juanita Nathan**

(Middle Row L to R:)

Regional Councillor **Alan Ho**

Deputy Mayor **Michael Chan**

Mayor **Frank Scarpitti**

Regional Councillor **Jim Jones**

Regional Councillor **Joe Li**

(Back Row L to R:)

Ward 1 Councillor **Keith Irish**

Ward 3 Councillor **Reid McAlpine**

Ward 5 Councillor **Andrew Keyes**

Ward 2 Councillor **Ritch Lau**



Building Markham's Future Together (BMFT)

Four goals serve as the pillars of BMFT. Budget 2024 supports all four goals of Markham's strategic plan.

**Exceptional Services by
Exceptional People**

**Safe, Sustainable
& Complete Community**

**Engaged, Diverse,
Thriving & Vibrant
Community**

**Stewardship of Money
& Resources**

Strong Leadership makes a Strong Markham

DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), consecutively since 2000

CANADIAN AWARD FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) consecutively since 2001

CITY OF MARKHAM Forbes Best Employers

MARKHAM MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Willis Award for Innovation (Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators)

EA Danby Award in Municipal Administration (Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario)

Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

IPAC Award in Innovation (Institute of Public Administration of Canada)

IABC Ovation Award

AI POTHOLE DETECTION

PEO York Chapter Project of the Year (Medium Categories) - Better Road Practices Using AI

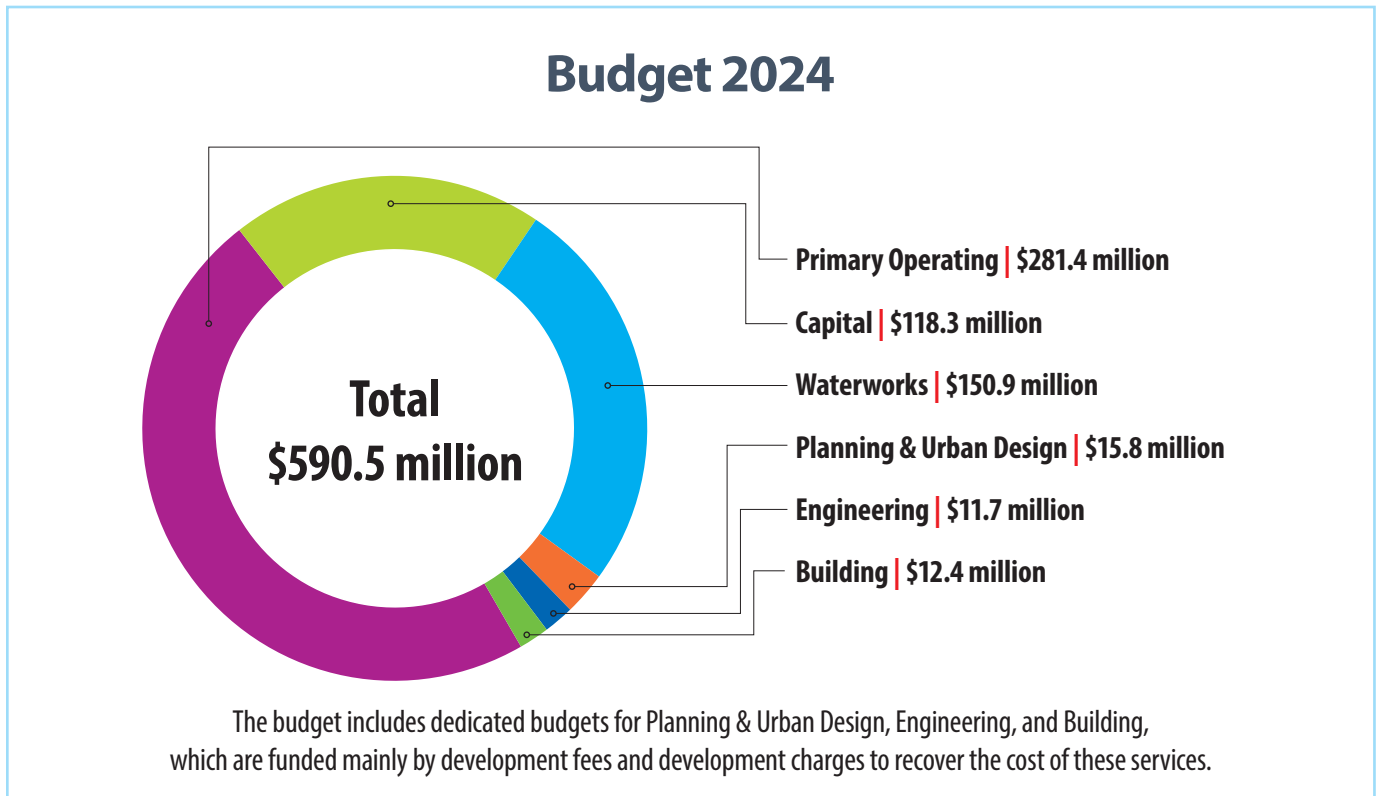
OPWA Project of the Year Award - Technical Innovation - Innovating Public Service in Road Maintenance in the City of Markham with CityROVER Artificial Intelligence

SMART CITY

World Council on City Data - ISO 37120 Platinum-level certification

Responsible Markham

The City of Markham's budget for 2024 is \$590.5 million.



Delivering excellent services

As part of Budget 2024, \$281.4 million is funded by property tax and supports general day-to-day operations and service delivery.

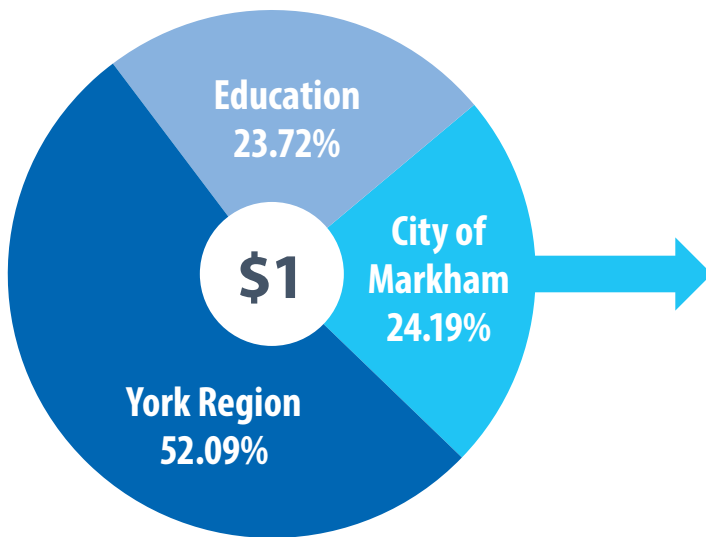
The tax rate increase in 2024 will be 2.99%. For the average home in Markham, this represents an increase of \$39.98 on the City portion of your tax bill...the lowest average tax rate increase in the GTA over the past 19 years.

Budget 2024 funds operating costs to deliver programs for Markham residents, including recreation, library, garbage collection, fire services, parks and trails, and winter maintenance. The budget considers cost pressures that the City faces from day-to-day operations including growth, inflation, contract escalations and appropriate staffing considerations to ensure the continuation of high quality services that Markham residents are accustomed to.



**2024 tax rate
increase**

Your tax dollars, your services



For every \$1.00 of property tax revenue Markham keeps...

- Fire & Emergency Services | \$0.30
- Road, Bridge & Sidewalks | \$0.21
- Library Services | \$0.12
- Parks Maintenance | \$0.11
- Waste, Recycling & Environmental Management | \$0.10
- Recreation Services | \$0.09
- Art & Culture | \$0.03
- Planning & Development | \$0.02
- Bylaw Enforcement & Licensing | \$0.02



Infrastructure for a Strong Markham

Budget 2024 includes \$118.3 million in capital funding to deliver 271 projects supporting a wide array of City programs and services.

About 40% or \$43.8 million of the capital budget relates to new infrastructure to service Markham's growing communities. This includes projects such as new road widening and construction, parks, trails, green spaces, and pedestrian crossings and traffic signals.

Approximately 60% or \$74.5 million is to keep the existing community infrastructure in a good state of repair. This includes projects to repair and refurbish existing roads, recreation, library and cultural facilities and amenities, and improve stormwater infrastructure.

In addition, Budget 2024 reflects an increased investment of 0.7% or \$1.2 million as a proactive measure to repair and replace assets over the next 25 years.

2024 Capital Budget (\$118.3 million)



\$56.0 M

New road construction, repairs and rehabilitation and traffic improvements



\$16.3 M

Exterior and interior facility improvements



\$14.7 M

Parks construction and maintenance



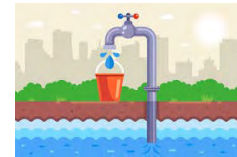
\$10.9 M

Flood control, stormwater management, ponds and culverts



\$5.8 M

Implementation of technology infrastructure



\$4.5 M

Water and wastewater system replacement/upgrade



\$4.4 M

Replacement of day-to-day City assets to serve the public



\$3.9 M

Fleet replacement and repairs



\$1.8 M

Green initiatives and environmental strategies



Key Capital Projects

The 2024 capital budget of \$118.3 million includes:

- ✓ \$28.8M – Elgin Mills Road Widening – Woodbine to Warden Avenue (Property Acquisition)
- ✓ \$8.2M – Don Mills Channel stormwater management pond construction
- ✓ \$4.5M – City-wide Sidewalk Program Construction
- ✓ \$3.7M – City-wide Asphalt Resurfacing
- ✓ \$2.9M – Corporate Fleet Replacement
- ✓ \$2.7M – Markham Centre Trails: Warden Avenue to Verdale Crossing construction (\$1.4 million); Apple Creek to Highway 7 design (\$1.3 million)
- ✓ \$1.6M – Cornell East (\$1.2 million) and Cornell West (\$0.4 million) Parkettes
- ✓ \$1.5M – Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Playground Refurbishments – Year 2 of 4
- ✓ \$1.3M – Playstructure & Safety Surface Replacement
- ✓ \$1.1M – Centennial Community Centre Arena Pad Replacement
- ✓ \$1.0M – Main Street Markham Reconstruction and Sanitary Sewer Upgrade Design
- ✓ \$1.0M – Mount Joy Artificial Turf/Grade Beam Replacement



In the fall of 2023, Council approved 36 important capital projects totaling \$38.7M, which required initiation early in 2024. These include:

- ✓ \$23.7M - Markham Village Flood Control Construction
- ✓ \$4.0M – Asphalt Resurfacing – Concrete & Interlock
- ✓ \$3.1M – Library Collections
- ✓ \$1.7M – Markham Village Community Centre Arena Pad Replacement
- ✓ \$1.1M – Water Meters – City-wide Replacement Program

Excellence through Efficiency and Effectiveness

The City continues to look for ways to streamline and find efficiencies in service delivery. From 2009 to 2024, our **Excellence through Efficiency and Effectiveness (E3) Program** will have delivered \$35.6M in annual operating savings, equal to a tax rate increase avoidance of 28.12%.

Budget 2024 also includes \$150.9 million for waterworks. For 2024, a 3.5% water rate increase is included to support water and wastewater services, representing an increase of \$35.26 for the average home in Markham. The majority of this increase results from the cost of purchasing water from the City of Toronto, through York Region.

Budget 2024 continues to provide exceptional services and planning for the future—keeping Markham strong—while maintaining the lowest possible tax rate increase for our residents and businesses.

Low-income Seniors Support

New in 2024, Markham is introducing a new program to help keep seniors healthy and aging in place. **The Low-Income Seniors Property Tax Assistance Program** will support low-income seniors with an interest-free repayment plan to help them clear their tax arrears. Once arrears are addressed, seniors will be registered in the city tax deferral program, which will freeze property tax increases until their property is sold. More information will be made available when the new program becomes operational.

More information on key Budget 2024 initiatives can be found in the following pages of this book.



3.5%

water rate increase represents an increase of **\$35.26** for the average Markham home.

Did you know?

COVID-19 relief for residents & businesses included:

- ✓ 0% property tax rate increase in 2021
- ✓ 0% water rate increase in 2020/2021
- ✓ Deferral of Property Tax & Stormwater Fee in 2020



Building Markham

Did you know?

Markham has 24 electric vehicle charging stations for public use, including chargers at every community centre.

Did you know?

You can now track the status of development applications using MappiT, a user-friendly online tool available at markham.ca/MappiT

Markham will continue to manage growth by building infrastructure that builds complete, safe and connected communities.

New infrastructure to manage growth


Investments include:

 \$33.6 million for road widening and construction

 \$4.5 million for sidewalks

 \$1.7 million for traffic signals and pedestrian crossings

We're also investing in parks, amenities, trails and green spaces:

 \$3.1 million for new parks (Cornell Centre East and West Parkettes, Innovation and Songbird Parks and James Cochrane Park Expansion)

 \$3.0 million for new trails (Markham Centre and Rouge Valley)



Resilient Markham

Approximately 60% or \$74.5 million of the 2024 capital budget will maintain our existing assets in a state of good repair, prepare for changing climate conditions and support our goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Key examples include:

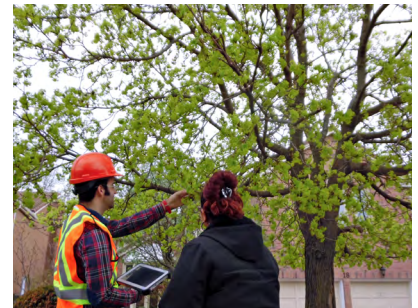
- Ⓜ \$10.4 million for repair and rehabilitation for recreation and cultural facilities and related amenities
- Ⓜ \$5.4 million for asphalt resurfacing and curb, sidewalk and parking lot repairs
- Ⓜ \$1.3 million for facility upgrades and artificial turf replacement for Mount Joy Sports Dome
- Ⓜ \$1.2 million for refurbishing basketball, tennis and pickleball courts
- Ⓜ \$1 million for roofing at City facilities
- Ⓜ 30-year Flood Control Program - \$8.2 million for Don Mills Channel stormwater management pond - Construction
- Ⓜ \$1.2 million - tree canopy and Trees for Tomorrow Program
- Ⓜ \$1.4 million for HVAC replacement and building automation system upgrades

Did you know?

Markham Village flood control construction will begin in 2024 (\$23.7 million).

Did you know?

The 30-year Flood Control Program is funded by the stormwater fee, which will increase by \$1, to \$54 per household in 2024.



Innovative Markham

Did you know?

Markham was recognized by the Intelligent Community Forum as a Top7 Community in the world for its progress on its Digital Markham Strategy and other smart city efforts.

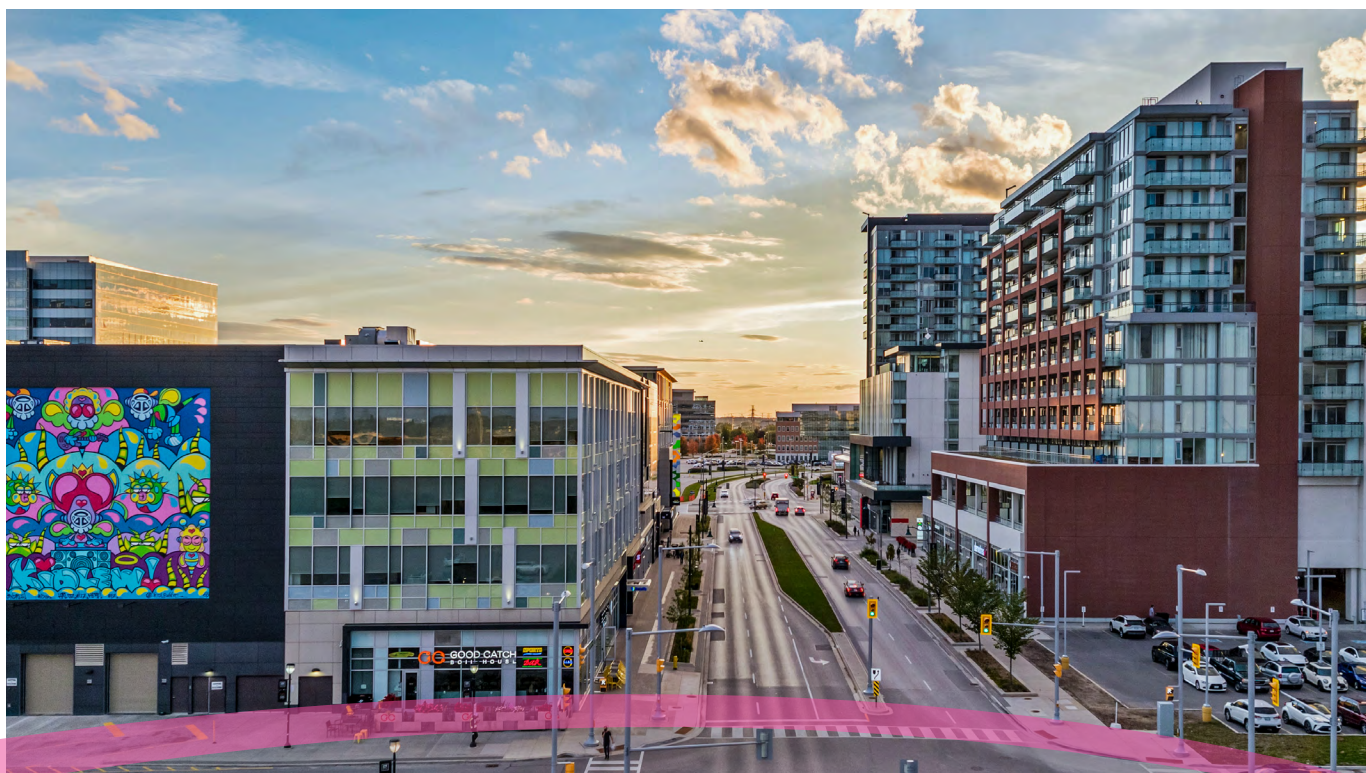


The City continues to transform and modernize service delivery and test new technology. Highlights include:

- ✔ \$2.2 million for a new Customer Relationship Management system, to modernize and improve customer service provided by the Contact Centre and City departments
- ✔ \$1.1 million for City website and new mobile capability
- ✔ \$2.5 million in grant funding to pilot leading edge mobility solutions in Markham Centre from Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) Demonstration Zone

Did you know?

In 2024, Markham Fire and Emergency Services will use DRAGO, a water cannon that shoots mist over 200 feet with a width of 50 feet (left).



Inclusive Markham



The City strives to be welcoming, inclusive and accessible to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Markham is committed to fulfilling the municipal calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The City and Destination Markham Corporation will co-host the 50th anniversary of the **Little Native Hockey League (LNHL)** 2024 Hockey Tournament, welcoming over 4,000 young Indigenous athletes and their families during March Break.

Accessible Markham

- Ⓜ \$2.8 million in 2024 will fund upgrades and improve accessibility in parks and playgrounds to meet AODA requirements
- Ⓜ In 2024, we will refresh our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to improve accessibility in the City

Building new career experiences

Approximately \$0.3 million in 2024 will help grow and strengthen our workforce in high-demand areas including:

- Ⓜ A partnership with the Mentorship Initiative for Indigenous and Planners of Colour (MIIPOC) to offer internship opportunities for aspiring planning professionals
- Ⓜ Internship opportunities in engineering, legal and finance, with preference given to Markham residents

Mayor welcoming Marion Jacko, President and Chico Ralf, Vice-President of LNHL at Markham Civic Centre.

Did you know?

The City partners with Career Edge, to bring foreign-trained professionals into our workforce, and Humber College, to provide career opportunities in the fire service for Black, Indigenous and racialized individuals.



**Markham Civic Centre
Anthony Roman Centre**

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