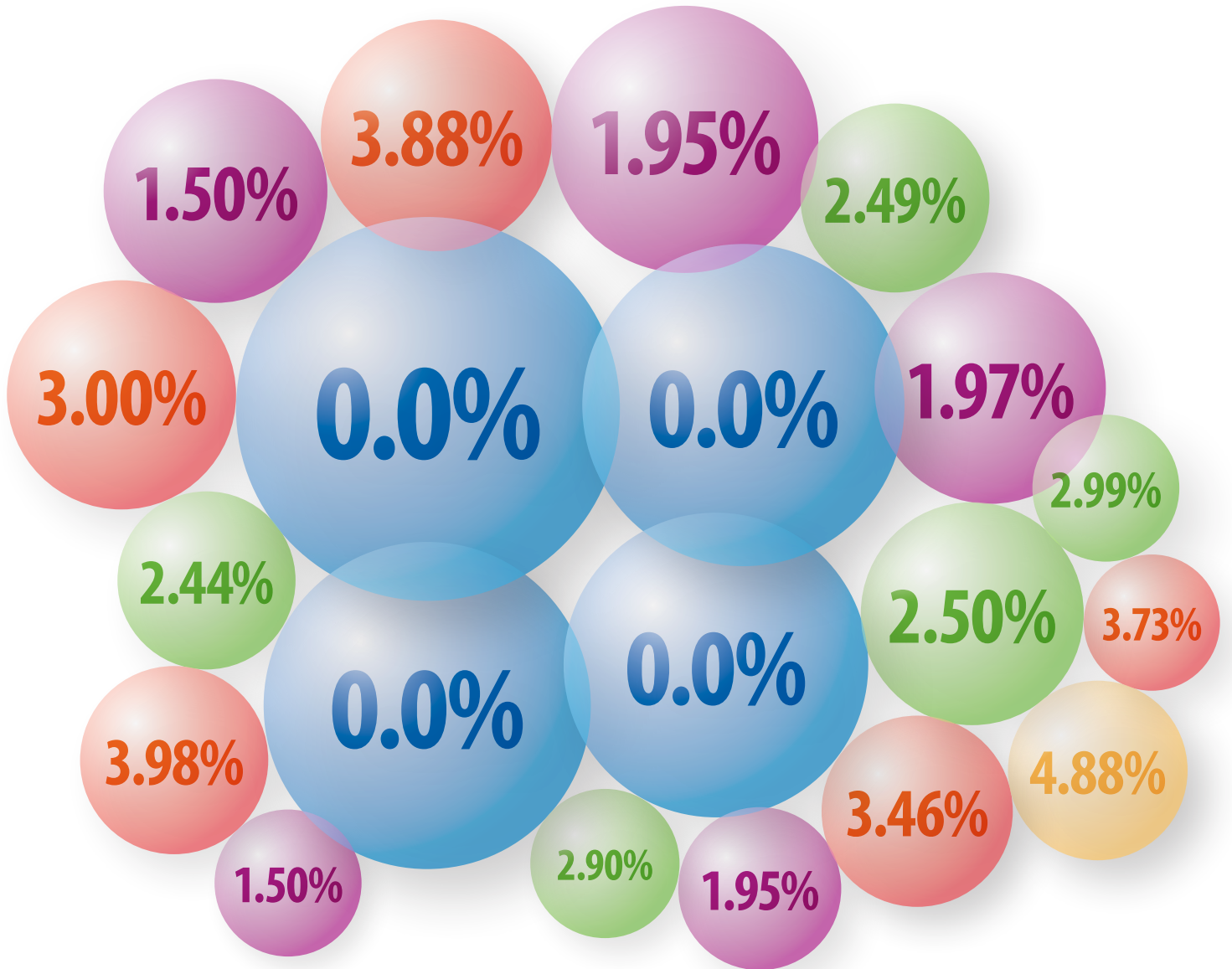


A Markham Milestone BUDGET 2025



**Lowest Average Tax Rate Increase
in GTA for past 20 years**





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.

Building Markham's Future Together 2020-2026

Four goals serve as the pillars of the City of Markham's strategic plan, Building Markham's Future Together 2020-2026. Budget 2025 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



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A Markham Milestone

Our city has achieved the lowest average tax rate increase in the GTA for the past 20 years.

A Markham Milestone that represents strong fiscal responsibility, excellent management and respect for taxpayer's dollars.

Our fiscal success stands out among our municipal peers and reflects an entrepreneurial spirit that would be admired within a private sector environment. For the past several years, the C.D. Howe Institute has scored the City of Markham A- for fiscal accountability, placing our city at the very top of the list of Ontario municipalities included in the review.

This year's budget 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.

I am pleased to present Budget 2025 that sets the tax increase for this year at 3.88%. For the average home in Markham this represents an increase of \$53.54 on the city portion of your tax bill. The total operating and capital budget for 2025 is \$674.7 million.

This fiscal milestone is one of many that the City of Markham has achieved.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award
2000-2024*



The City of Markham has been named one of Canada's best employers for the fourth consecutive year.

After hosting the astoundingly successful 50th Little Native Hockey League Tournament, we have entered into a three-year hosting agreement and will welcome back the thousands of young Indigenous hockey players to our community.

We continue to invest in new infrastructure to meet the demands of a growing, flourishing City.

Budget 2025 provides for the expansion of our flood control program to Markham Village to protect our older neighborhoods. This comes after years of progress in the community of Thornhill.

This year's budget provides important funding for aging infrastructure, a hallmark of asset management in Markham that has and will continue to set us apart.

Our Celebrate Markham program will see a significant funding increase. We have heard from you how important our festivals and events are to you in enriching our shared cultural experiences. This additional funding will ensure festivals like the Markham Village Music Festival, Markham Jazz Festival, Taste of Asia and the Unionville Festival will continue to thrive.

A fiscal milestone of this significance can only be achieved together. I value the work of City Council and staff. I am grateful for the contributions that many individuals, community groups, businesses and government partners make towards achieving this milestone along with other milestones that make Markham distinctly Markham.



Frank Scarpitti
Mayor, City of Markham



Above: The City of Markham has been named as one of Canada's best employers in 2024 by Forbes for the fourth consecutive year.

Previous page: Honouring City Staff for National Public Works Week.

Below: First cohort of students at York University's Markham Campus celebrate their first day of school with Mayor Frank Scarpitti and President Rhonda Lenton.



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**



Celebrating Achievement

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

MUNICIPAL FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

- A- (highest ranked municipality in Ontario and Top 5 out of major Canadian municipalities)
- C.D. Howe Institute Annual Report Card

PLATINUM AWARD

- A Strong Markham: 2024 Budget Book
- 2024 Hermes Creative Awards

CITY OF MARKHAM

- Forbes Best Employers (2021–2024)

TOP PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Claudia Marsales
- Ontario Public Works Association

PROJECT OF THE YEAR – MANAGEMENT INNOVATION

- Enterprise Asset Management (Eam) System – Data Model
- Ontario Public Works Association

FINANCIAL INFORMATION RETURN RECOGNITION AWARD

- City of Markham 2023 Financial Information Return
- Government of Ontario

SMART CITY

- World Council on City Data – ISO 37120 Platinum-level certification 2019 to 2024

TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE AWARD

- Innovating Public Service in Road Maintenance with Cityover Artificial Intelligence
- Ontario Public Works Association

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, AUDIENCE OUTREACH AWARD

- Standing In the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community
- Canadian Museum Association

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

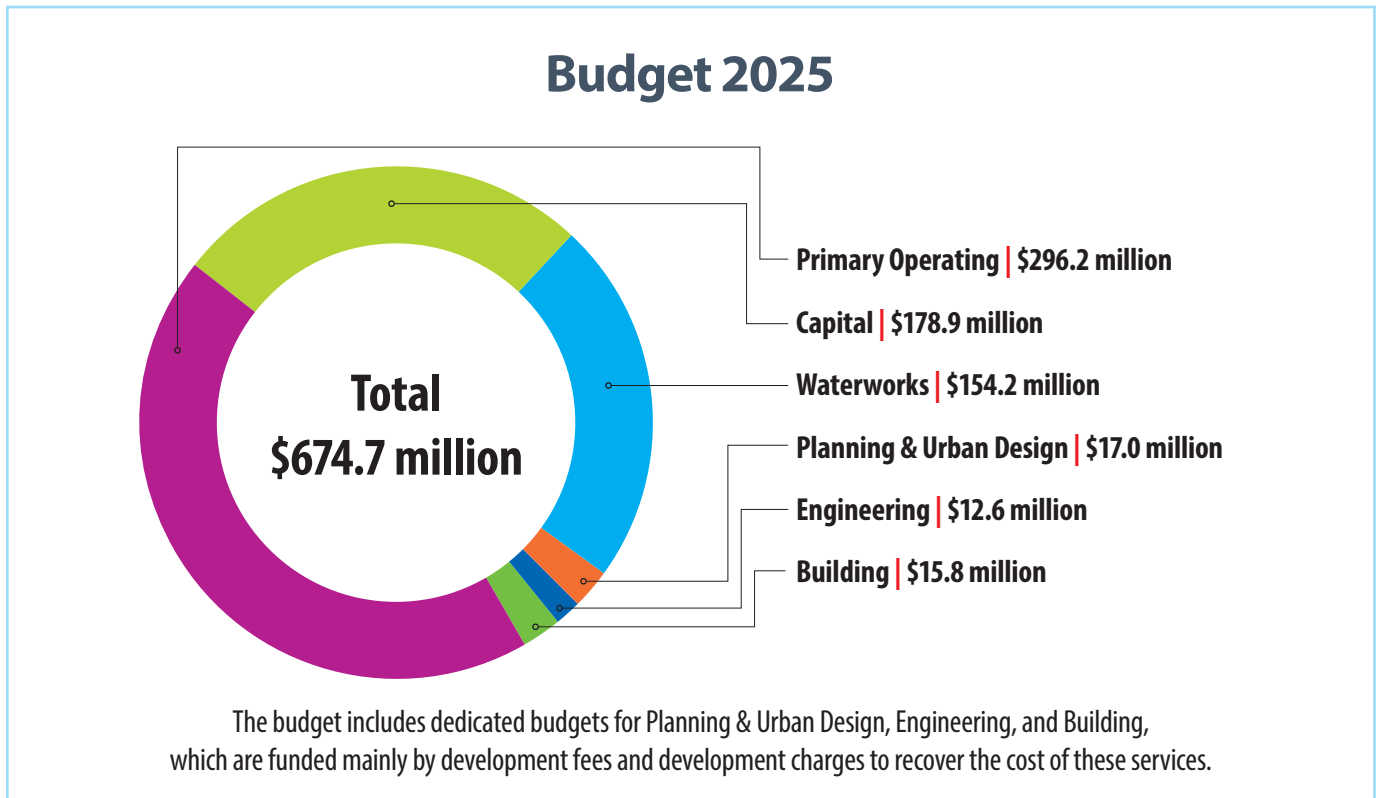
- OVIN Demonstration Zone
- Economic Developer Council of Ontario

RECOGNIZING IT INNOVATION AND BUSINESS VALUE AWARD

- City of Markham
- CIO Awards

Responsible Markham

The City of Markham's budget for 2025 is \$674.7 million.



Delivering excellent services

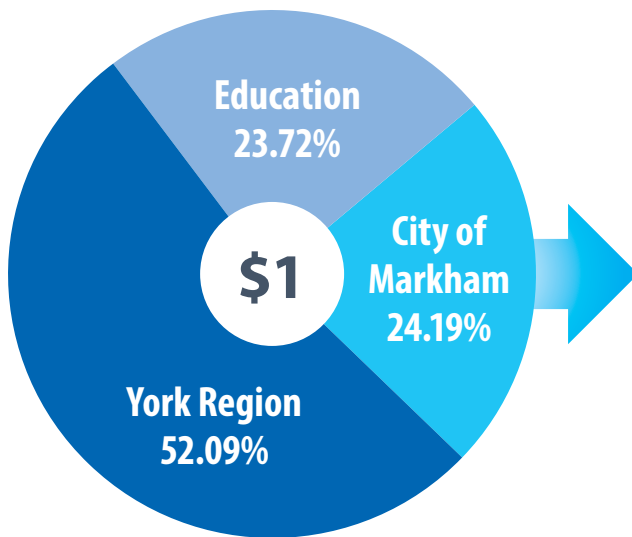
This year's budget celebrates an award-winning tradition of exceptional people delivering exceptional services. As part of Budget 2025, \$296.2 million is funded by property tax and supports general day-to-day operations and service delivery.

The tax rate increase in 2025 will be 3.88%. For the average home in Markham, this represents an increase of \$53.54 on the City portion of your tax bill. Markham continues to have the lowest average tax rate increase in the GTA over the past 20 years. Budget 2025 celebrates a record of fiscal achievement unmatched in the GTA. We are determined to deliver the lowest possible tax rate increase for our residents and businesses, while continuing to provide excellent services.



2025 tax rate
increase

Your tax dollars, your services



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

| | |
|---|--------|
| Fire & Emergency Services | \$0.27 |
| Roads, Bridges & Sidewalks | \$0.22 |
| Library Services | \$0.09 |
| Parks Maintenance | \$0.12 |
| Waste, Recycling and Environmental Management | \$0.11 |
| Recreation Services | \$0.12 |
| Arts & Culture | \$0.03 |
| Planning & Development | \$0.02 |
| Bylaw Enforcement & Licensing | \$0.02 |

Did you know?

In recent years, the City has invested over \$100 million in flood protection to keep our communities safe.

Budget 2025 funds operating costs to deliver the excellent programs residents and business have come to expect, 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.

Did you know?

Budget 2025 invests \$6.7 million in new technology to improve customer service to residents and businesses.

Investing in infrastructure

Budget 2025 includes \$178.9 million in capital funding to build and deliver 231 projects that maintain our infrastructure and support new growth.

About 41% or \$74.4 million of the capital budget is for projects to help support growth, including new storm sewer and watermain construction, road network construction, parks, green spaces, and pedestrian crossings and traffic signals.

Budget 2025 allocates approximately 59% or \$104.5 million to maintaining existing infrastructure in a good state of repair. This includes projects to repair and refurbish existing roads, recreation, library and cultural facilities and amenities. In addition, 0.8% or \$1.5 million is put aside as a proactive measure to repair and replace assets over the next 25 years.

2025 Capital Budget (\$178.9 million)



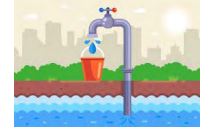
\$81.7 M

Flood control, stormwater management, ponds and culverts



\$40.3 M

New road construction, repairs and rehabilitation and traffic improvements



\$16.3 M

Water and wastewater system replacement/upgrade



\$12.1 M

Exterior and interior facility improvements



\$10.3 M

Parks construction and maintenance



\$7.3 M

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



\$6.7 M

Implementation of technology infrastructure



\$4.2 M

Fleet replacement and repairs



Key Capital Projects

The 2025 capital budget of \$178.9 million includes:

Did you know?

In 2024, our Operations team resurfaced and maintained 62 km of road with 33,000 tonnes of asphalt.

- Ⓜ \$24.4M – Victoria Square Boulevard storm sewer and watermain construction
- Ⓜ \$22.4M – Markham Village flood control construction
- Ⓜ \$19.3M – Woodbine Avenue watermain construction
- Ⓜ \$10.3M – Cast iron watermain CIPP lining construction
- Ⓜ \$8.4M – City-wide sidewalk program construction
- Ⓜ \$8.2M – City-wide asphalt resurfacing
- Ⓜ \$7.0M – Erosion restoration program
- Ⓜ \$4.3M – Active Transportation Master Plan priority locations construction
- Ⓜ \$3.3M – Wet stormwater pond cleaning
- Ⓜ \$3.2M – Rodick Road and Miller Avenue detailed design

In the fall of 2024, Council approved 18 important capital projects totaling \$9.9M, which required initiation early in 2025 to ensure timely completion. These include:

Did you know?

93% of Markham residents agree that the City facilities are in good condition. We strive to keep it that way! (Citizen Survey 2024)

- Ⓜ \$3.8M – Corporate fleet replacement – Non-Fire service
- Ⓜ \$2.0M – Enterprise Boulevard at Bill Crothers Secondary School (design and construction)
- Ⓜ \$1.3M – Glynnwood Tributary sewer - Detailed design
- Ⓜ \$0.4M – McCowan Reservoir cricket pitch soil removal project
- Ⓜ \$0.4M – Reforestation of City-owned natural areas
- Ⓜ \$0.4M – Centennial Community Centre net-zero mechanical system replacement



Celebrate Markham

Markham sure knows how to celebrate! As Canada's most diverse city, we are fortunate to play host to a vast array of culinary festivals, sports, dance and academic competitions and experiences for everyone of all-ages. To support these diverse and well-attended community events, the Celebrate Markham Grant Program provides funding to not-for-profit organizations in Markham.

In 2025, Markham will increase the budget for community events and programs through its Celebrate Markham Grant Program. Based on a formula of \$1.25 per capita, the funding envelope for Celebrate Markham will increase by \$92,500 to \$462,500. Budget 2025 will increase the funding for major festivals and signature events of City-wide importance.

Water rate increase

Budget 2025 also includes \$154.2 million for waterworks. For 2025, a 3.05% water rate increase is included to support water and wastewater services, representing an increase of \$31.51 for the average home in Markham. Water rate increases are subject to a variety of unavoidable factors including the cost of purchasing water.

Excellence through Efficiency and Effectiveness

Markham continually looks for ways to streamline and find efficiencies in service delivery. From 2009 to 2025, our Excellence through Efficiency and Effectiveness (E3) Program will have delivered \$36.8M in annual operating savings, equal to a tax rate increase avoidance of 28.8%.

Did you know?

93% of Markham residents value the importance of community events (Citizen Survey 2024).

Did you know?

As Markham is a landlocked municipality, we purchase water from the City of Toronto through York Region.



3.05%

water rate increase represents an increase of **\$31.51** for the average Markham home.





Building Markham



Markham is proactively managing growth and is laser focused on ensuring the City maintains and invests in new infrastructure to build complete, safe and connected communities. Budget 2025 improves and widens our roads to get people moving while also making important safety enhancements for pedestrians.

New infrastructure to manage growth

Investments include:

- Ⓜ \$43.7 million for Victoria Square Boulevard and Woodbine Avenue storm sewer and watermain construction
- Ⓜ \$8.4 million for City-wide sidewalk design and construction program
- Ⓜ \$5.3 million for road widening and construction projects
- Ⓜ \$3.1 million for traffic signals and pedestrian crossings

Launched in May 2024, Markham's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan will study collision data and engage via public consultation with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. The City has 45 designated pedestrian cross-overs (PXOs) with appropriate signage, and Budget 2025 will continue to invest in this important safety program.

Markham is a green city, and we are building new parks, greenspaces and trails for residents to celebrate and enjoy! New investments include:

- Ⓜ \$3.0 million for new parks (York Downs East phase 2 North Parkette, Berczy Glen Roman phase 2, Royal Orchard Parkette, Berczy Glen Rinas phase 2 Parkette)
- Ⓜ \$0.6 million for new trails (Markham Centre Trails Projects 6 and 7 Environmental Assessment)

Did you know?

Markham is responsible for the operation of 104 traffic signals and each signal head weighs anywhere between 11 to 16 kilograms.

Did you know?

Markham has 51 km of bike lanes, 34 km of multi-use paths, 2.4 km of dedicated cycle tracks and 1,100+ km of sidewalks.




Resilient Markham

Markham is taking proactive steps to tackle climate change and ensure we're prepared for unexpected weather events. Approximately 59% or \$104.5 million of the 2025 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:


Flood Control Related Projects:

- \$22.4M – Markham Village Flood Control Phase 1B – Construction
- \$10.3M – Cast iron watermain CIPP lining construction
- \$7.0M – City-wide Erosion Restoration Program
- \$3.5M – Wet stormwater pond inspection, cleaning, design and construction
- \$1.7M – Toogood Pond dam rehabilitation construction
- \$1.2M – Storm culvert cleaning and restoration

 \$10.9 million for asphalt resurfacing and curb, sidewalk and parking lot repairs

 \$9.0 million for repairs and replacements at recreation, library and cultural facilities

 \$4.1 million for parks maintenance and playground and court replacements/rehabilitation

 \$3.3 million for facility upgrades at recreation, library, and cultural facilities

 \$1.4 million for roofing replacement projects at City facilities

 \$1.0 million to increase Markham's tree canopy by planting trees and supporting the Trees for Tomorrow Program

Did you know?

Markham plants more than 20,000 trees and shrubs each year.

Did you know?

Exciting new mobility solutions are being tested in Markham Centre as part of the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) demonstration zone.

Did you know?

Be on the lookout for new autonomous grass mowers coming to a neighbourhood park near you!

Did you know?

Milliken Mills Arena is now equipped with the City's first electric Zamboni.








Inclusive Markham



Accessible Markham

The City of Markham is committed to ensuring all community members can contribute to our society free from barriers of racism, discrimination and access. We are taking targeted and intentional steps to improve access to our services, programs and facilities, while implementing actions identified in the City's own Diversity Action Plan, Eliminating Anti-Black Racism Action Plan and Multi-year Accessibility Plan. Budget 2025 investments include:

-  \$4.5 million for Active Transportation Master Plan construction and programs (Active School Travel Program, Smart Commute and Markham Cycles)
-  \$1.5 million for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) playground refurbishments year 3 of 4
-  \$0.2 million for accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion projects

Did you know?

With over \$2.6M allocated to date, Markham now has 4 permanent and 8 pop-up off-leash dog parks for our four-legged friends to enjoy. Our goal is one permanent dog park per ward.

Celebrating Indigenous Partnerships

Markham is committed to fulfilling the Municipal Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In 2024, the City of Markham, in partnership with Destination Markham, hosted the 50th anniversary celebration of the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) Cultural Festival and Gala Celebration. A record 245 teams and over 10,000 young Indigenous players and their families visited Markham during the six-day event. After a successful 50th anniversary celebration of the LNHL, the City, in partnership with Destination Markham Corporation, is happy to announce that it has secured a Three-Year Hosting Agreement with the LNHL from 2025 to 2027.

Did you know?

92% of Markham residents agree that Markham services and facilities are accessible (Citizen Survey 2024)



Opening Up Opportunities

In Markham, Exceptional Services are provided by Exceptional People and we strive to ensure that our workforce reflects the diversity of our community. We will continue to partner with colleges and universities to provide early career experience opportunities.

Launched in 2024, the Mentorship Initiative for Indigenous and Planners of Colour (MIPOC) has been successful in providing internship opportunities with the City of Markham and we are committed to continuing this program along with Career Edge for new graduates.

Markham Fire & Emergency Services has built partnerships with Humber College and Seneca College to enhance inclusion while reducing participation barriers for Black, Indigenous, and racialized Markham students who wish to build a career in firefighting.

Celebrating Markham

Opened in 1985, the Flato Markham Theatre has been the centre of arts and culture in our city. Many iconic musicians and artists have graced the Flato stage over the years. Through the visionary leadership of former Mayor Tony Roman and community groups, the theatre was constructed to ensure a growing and diverse community had a place to come together in celebration of the arts, for years to come.

The City of Markham and Nördlingen, Germany are proud to celebrate 25-years of sister-city relations in honour of the first European settlers from Bavaria, Germany. This year marks the 230th anniversary of William Berczy's arrival in Markham which includes the naming of the city we call home today.

Host venue for the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, Markham's Pan Am Centre is turning 10 years old. This game changer for the City of Markham has hosted national and international sports and dance competitions. Amongst its alumni are Pan Am Games medalists in badminton, Michelle Li and Jason Ho-Shue and Olympic medalists in swimming, Kayla Sanchez and Joshua Liendo.

AppleFest 2024, held at Markham Museum on September 28, highlighted the power of strategic partnerships in fostering local pride, strengthening community bonds, and supporting economic growth. Looking ahead to the festival's 40th anniversary in 2025, we're excited to expand these partnerships, creating even more memorable experiences for the community to celebrate together.



Did you know?

On January 31, 2017 the City of Markham signed a historic agreement of Cultural Collaboration with Eabametoong First Nation, a first of its kind in Canada.

Did you know?

The City of Markham continues to offer internship opportunities in Engineering, Legal, Building Services and Finance, with preference given to Markham residents.

Did you know?

York University's Markham Campus, officially opened on September 4, 2024 in Markham Centre. This is the first university campus in York Region!





**Markham Civic Centre
Anthony Roman Centre**

101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, ON, L3R 9W3
905.477.5530 | CustomerService@markham.ca

