

Leading Change Through Capital Delivery

City of Kitchener

November 4, 2025

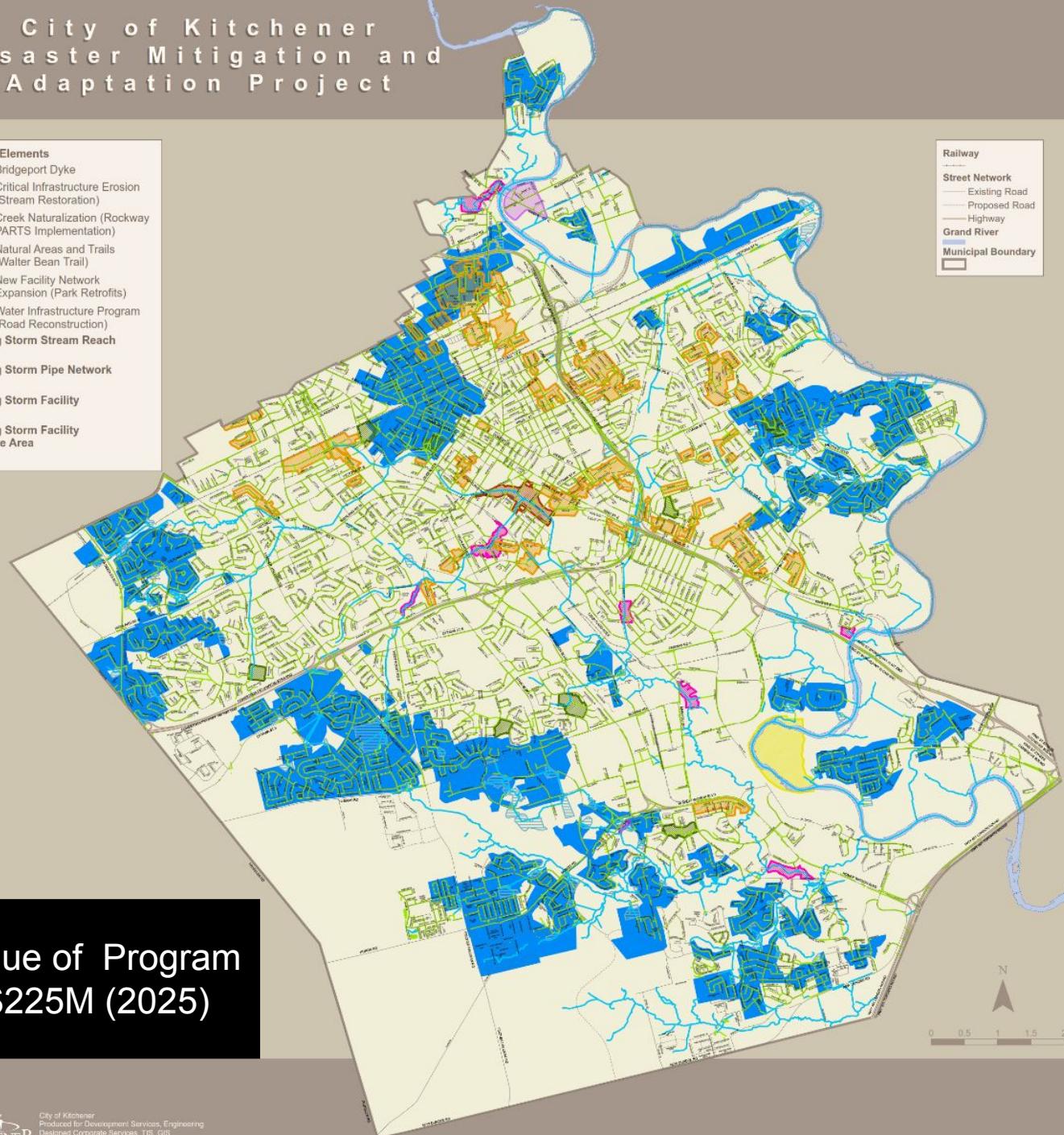
National Water and Wastewater Conference

Sanitary and Stormwater Utilities, Infrastructure Department

City of Kitchener



Project Elements
Bridgeport Dyke
Critical Infrastructure Erosion (Stream Restoration)
Creek Naturalization (Rockway PARTS Implementation)
Natural Areas and Trails (Walter Bean Trail)
New Facility Network Expansion (Park Retrofits)
Water Infrastructure Program (Road Reconstruction)
Existing Storm Stream Reach
Existing Storm Pipe Network
Existing Storm Facility
Existing Storm Facility Drainage Area



Capital Delivery – Stormwater Projects

Kitchener Ontario:

- 1 hour south of Toronto
- ~275,000 people 13,750 hectares 29 creeks

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

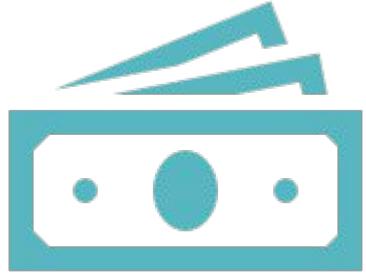
(DMAF):

- Partnership: Kitchener & Canada
- Timeline: Feb 2020 - Dec 2032
- Support infrastructure implementation

Assets:

- Over 95 projects across 6 asset types: dikes, storm sewers, trails, stormwater facilities, creek restorations, and naturalization.

Results of Capital Delivery



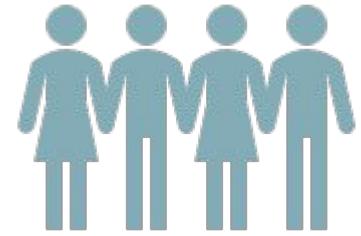
Accelerated implementation



Enhanced engagement



Increased internal collaboration



Inclusive Partnership and Stewardship

DMAF Timeline



Montgomery Creek Restoration



Project Overview

Revitalized 500m of channelized creek in Kitchener using natural channel design. Completed in 2022 with a \$3M budget, the project restored ecological function, reduced flood risk, and upgraded aging infrastructure.

Key Challenges

Launched during COVID-19 with limited engagement options. Faced delays in mail communications and concerns over tree pruning and greenspace changes.

Adaptive Approach

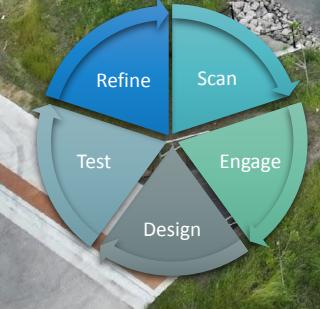
Scan: site and context

Engage: mailed notices, site tour, one-on-one conversations

Design: responsive engagement model

Test: community feedback

Refine: emotionally intelligent dialogue



New Standard of Practice

Set precedent for transparent, emotionally intelligent engagement. Built trust through apology, dialogue, and community connection.

Montgomery Creek Reconstruction



Change & Relationship
Management

Meadowlane Park Stormwater Facility



Project Overview

Identified in the 2016 Master Plan, this stormwater facility is one of the largest in a critical watershed. Originally scoped at \$1M, it evolved into an \$8M integrated stormwater–park project.

Key Challenges

Initial engagement missed seasonal use (tobogganing hill), triggering backlash. COVID and inflation added complexity.

Adaptive Approach

Scan: site and context

Engage: winter pop-ups, Community Resource Group

Design: six new concepts

Test: CRG review

Refine: iterative redesigns

Modes of Operating

Expanded beyond scope-cost-schedule to include social, political, and environmental factors.

Coordinated across departments, consultants, and rights holders.

Meadowlane Park Stormwater Facility



Kitchener ▾

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Petitioners plead for storm water pond plans to stop at Meadowlane Park

By CityNews Staff
Posted Jan 26, 2018

The hill nickname is a reference to the hill's shape and its location in the community. Located in the center of the park, it is within walking distance of many houses. However, in 2016, the city's Stormwater Management Plan proposed to remove the hill. City staff say only 10 per cent of the water that flows into the park does so from the hill, so removing it would not significantly impact water quality in Sandrof's Creek. In turn, enhancing community access to the hill would help to protect the creek.

Once the plans were announced, Lara Romanow, a member of the Meadowlane Park Committee, started a petition to keep the hill. She explained why she wanted to keep it.

"10 days ago, I took my son to the hill for the first time. After I showed him the hill, I asked him 'what do you think about the hill?'. He thought it was cool and said 'I'm going to climb it!'. Romanow added that the hill is a great place for children to play.

"There are so many people who have been there for decades. It's a place where our families and neighbours will always be."

Keep the Hill at Meadowlane Park

1,646 Signatures **2,500** Next Goal

Support now

As each member of the committee behind this project, did you grow up with green space that was open and there to make memories? If yes, please think about what this project is taking away from future generations of kids and families in this community! Making this park into one big pond that is NOT USABLE is not real green space. If this project goes through, please explain how this park will be usable for the community members? If there are just paths left, that seems like a massive decrease in functionality of this green space area. The park today has many functions and is used in so many different ways.

Started January 14, 2018

Why this petition matters

Started by [Lara Kristina Romanow](#)

Can a majority of the potential runoff be directed to the new development on Ottawa Street? W pond? Large pipes like 25 in or larger would There is already a pond in this newer location of houses.

The pond in the new development on Ottawa Street is designed for the development itself. This pond would not be able to treat stormwater from an additional area of 178 hectares. There are also a few other technical factors that would not make this possible. Please contact the project manager for more information.

If the city insists on making a pond in this location, why can it not be smaller (30% of the park) or incorporate part of a pond underground?

We are investigating all options. If, after community consultation, we find that a pond is the best solution, size matters. Because of the large size of the catchment area, a small pond cannot achieve the necessary environmental benefits:

- Improving water quality
- Reducing erosion downstream
- Mitigating flood risk

The Provincial design standard is to remove 80% of total suspended solids, and if the pond is smaller, it will not be able to achieve this standard.

Please see the previous response about underground facilities: <https://www.engagew.ca/meadowlane-pond?tool=qanda#q395845>

#Pond Size

If the city insists on making a pond in this location, why can it not be underground? This would be a good compromise, even though it would be more money. The city has received a large sum of money for this project and others in KW area and I am worried the City of Kitchener is seeing

Facebook page deleted or made private.

Meadowlane Park Stormwater Facility



Shoemaker & Schneider Creek Naturalization



Project Overview

The Schneider Creek Floodplain Mapping & Two-Zone Policies Update aimed to restore valley function, improve flood resilience, and enhance public access. Alternative 4—Natural Channel and Valley—was selected through public and Indigenous consultation.

Key Challenges

Initial engagement missed seasonal land use. COVID-19 and inflation added complexity. Property acquisition and safety concerns emerged.

Adaptive Approach

Scan: site and context

Engage: Indigenous Nations and the public

Design: Alternatives shaped by values

Test: evaluation against integrated criteria

Refine: preferred solution selected

New Practice

Embedded Indigenous knowledge into Environmental Assessment. Prioritized interconnected values and inclusive decision-making.

Informed Evaluation Criteria by Indigenous Nations



The real system is relationships....

- Relational infrastructure enables:
 - Adaptability
 - Interactive/collaborative planning
 - Relational accountability
 - Safety through shared trust and engagement

Change through capital delivery happens through relationships. Step by step, they shape our systems and ourselves.





Thank you!

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