

Service Impact

By providing the necessary resources, staff will ensure that City parks are maintained at the expected and approved level of service for residents and visitors to enjoy. Additionally, regular operational maintenance and monitoring of City parks and amenities enables staff to proactively address maintenance needs, safety concerns and component replacement (as needed) to ensure amenities are available for use as much as possible and to avoid any potential downtime for repairs or replacement. If resources are not available, City standards will not be met, a reduction in service levels for other parkland citywide will be needed (in order to absorb the service required for the newly acquired space) and the potential would exist for amenities to be unavailable to users.

BR #10825 – Bill 109/23 Impacts – Natural Heritage System

Description of Budget Request

Three permanent FTEs (two in 2025 and one in 2026), are required to perform development application review work involving natural heritage matters that was previously done by conservation authorities (CAs). Provincially legislated changes have removed the ability of CAs to review or comment on proposals, applications or matters under various laws relating to many natural heritage matters including fish and wildlife habitat, threatened/endangered species, woodlands and more.

Why Staff Recommend this Initiative

As a direct result of the City investing in restoration and naturalization, Mississauga's natural heritage system is growing. However, pressures on the natural heritage system are increasing due to intensification and development on or adjacent to City parklands and private land. To continue to protect the existing system and reach natural heritage system land coverage targets by 2033, continued timely review of the natural heritage implications of development applications is essential.

Details of Service Change

Development applications related to the *Planning Act*; *Aggregate Resources Act*; *Condominium Act, 1998*; *Drainage Act*; *Endangered Species Act, 2007*; *Environmental Assessment Act*; *Environmental Protection Act*; *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*; *Ontario Heritage Act*; and the *Ontario Water Resources Act* are no longer reviewed for their natural heritage implications by CAs, where the work was done by four FTEs. Given the need to review approximately 80 applications annually, the City requires two permanent Planners (starting in 2025) and one permanent Landscape Technologist (starting in 2026). As part of the development application review as it relates to the Acts noted above, these positions will complete:

- Review initial pre-submission applications
- Determine scope and terms of reference for Environmental Impact Studies
- Conduct pre-submission site visits and delineation of natural heritage features
- Preliminary review for errors and omissions