

Depave Paradise on Barton: Converting asphalt to green space to improve water quality through green infrastructure in Hamilton's Urban Watershed

Project Timeline:

Planning, site development, community engagement: May 2018-December 2019
Implementations: January-September 2020

Project Sites:

1. 621 Barton St East
Site Champion and User: Phil Beck, EduDeo Ministries
2. 342 Barton St East
Site Champion: Matt Christie
Site User: Hello Baked/Emerald Coffee
3. 579-581 Barton St East
Site Champion: Stephen Colville Reeves
Site User: Barton Furniture
4. 414 Barton Street East
Site Champion: Renee Wetselaar
Site User: St. Matthews House

Project Goals:

Reduce stormwater runoff volumes in Hamilton's lower City by removing underutilized boulevard asphalt on four sites along Barton Street East and install Low Impact Development (LID) techniques in its place. LIDs like rain gardens, naturalized plantings and trees absorb and filter urban runoff, reduce toxins flowing into the Hamilton Harbour and reduce urban heat island effect. These transformed boulevards provide an ideal placemaking opportunity on Barton, introducing greenery, seating and a public space for all. They also provide an educational opportunity for the community to learn about green infrastructure techniques. This project aligns with the current Clean and Green Strategy Focus Areas of Beautification and Environmental Stewardship which outline:

- Increase green infrastructure across the City to support stormwater management
- Implement depave projects across the City to add more garden space
- Promote pollinator and gardens including native plants

Project Proposal:

It has been estimated that by 2021, urban runoff will be the single largest source of pollution entering the Hamilton Harbour. The paving over of cities has major ecological impacts on our urban watershed because stormwater that flows over these hard surfaces picks up pollution and litter like cigarette butts, motor oil, pet waste and hazardous household waste and discharges into local water bodies via the



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storm sewer. By removing pockets of pavement where they are not needed, we can help to slow down stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the ground, where it will be cleaned by plants and soils and recharge groundwater aquifers. This project proposes to engage the local community on Barton Street East near the industrial area of Hamilton and the Hamilton Harbour, to remove approximately 380m² of impervious surfaces like asphalt and concrete to restore the natural hydrological cycle through 4 Depave Paradise events.

What is Depave Paradise?

Depave Paradise events are volunteer led workbees to physically remove asphalt and concrete from impermeable areas. This will result in cleaner water by reducing stormwater runoff volumes and the diversion of harmful substances from entering the Harbour, ultimately improving water quality for Canadians. Over 315,000L of stormwater will be diverted from the storm sewers annually and approximately 81 kg of typical urban pollutants such as suspended solids, phosphorus and nitrogen will be reduced (Duncan's Data Set, 1999). Green Venture, Barton Village BIA and many community partners will come together to convert City of Hamilton owned corner boulevards and private property lots into LID demonstration sites that will also be functional green spaces. The corner sites have been identified as either underutilized public space, poorly maintained sites that are causing basement flooding issues and/or ideal highly visible demonstration sites to educate the surrounding community about green infrastructure for stormwater management and improve water quality. This project empowers the local community by facilitating work bees to rip up impermeable surfaces like asphalt and concrete and replace with a permeable one including rain gardens to absorb and filter stormwater. There is motivation from several property owners, site users and community groups along Barton St East to participate in this project. The site plans accompanying this proposal shows the intended transformation of the corner boulevards. Shade trees and native perennials planted in rain gardens will reducing urban heat island effect, providing habitat for pollinators and absorbing stormwater back into the ground, while beautifying street edges. These site plans are pending approval from the City of Hamilton.

Partnerships:

Green Venture, a community-based non-profit environmental organization, will take a lead coordination role with support and input from the Barton Village BIA, landscape architect and LID advocate Adele Pierre, small businesses and land owners on Barton St East, City of Hamilton, Beautiful Alleys, St. Matthews House and numerous other local organizations and community members. Each site will be maintained by the adjacent building owner through a maintenance agreement between Barton Village BIA and the site user.

We invite Clean and Green Committee to become a funding partner for our Depave on Barton project. Below you will find a budget that reflects the approximate cost of each Depave Paradise project. Each of the projects on Barton will require some or all of these items. Funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation will be secured upon site plan approval and site champion/user contributions in-kind or cash are confirmed. We are left with a remaining balance to secure for each site. Any funding support Clean and Green can provide to one or more of the projects is welcome and appreciated.

Please contact me with questions:

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Depave Paradise Budget

Approximate Per Site Budget based on 100m2 space

Item	Detail	Amount (\$)
Landscaping and Site Development Materials	Soil for native perennial garden beds, shredded pine mulch, gravel for seating area, native perennials (plants, shrubs, grasses, trees), materials for seating (armour stone, wood)	\$4,000.00
Travel	Mileage reimbursement for meetings, Depave and Planting events with safety equipment and tools	\$250.00
Design and Printing	Public education sign for site to educate on stormwater management and recognize volunteer contribution	\$500.00
Landscape Architect Design Fees	Design fees for landscape architecture drawing and site plan design planning support	\$2,000.00
Material Disposal	Asphalt and material removal from site	\$2,000.00
Contractor Support	Contractor for asphalt cutting, excavation of materials and grading support	\$6,500.00
Program Coordination	Organize planning committee, plan and execute depave events, order materials, site plan approval, communications and outreach to the community	\$7,000.00
Green Venture Administration	Prorated portion of GV expenses for project: office supplies, phone, utilities, website, insurance, accounting, etc.	\$3,000.00
	Total Project Estimate	\$25,250.00
	OTF (Ontario Trillium Foundation through Green Communities Canada)	\$12,000.00
	Site Owner Contribution (in-kind or cash contributions committed)	\$5,000.00
	Total Secured Contributions	\$17,000.00
	Remaining to Fund	\$8,250.00