



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole- Administration & Operations

Date: April 13, 2026

Department: Public Works

Topic: Canal Beautification Project

Background:

The canal embankment has experienced significant overgrowth in recent years, reducing visibility, public access, and the overall aesthetic of this community asset. As part of the 2026 Capital Budget, \$100,000 was allocated toward cleaning and beautifying the canal embankment.

We are seeking direction from Committee regarding potential options. Three options are presented below.

Option 1

Targeted Cleanup with Public Amenities

Using the Vendor of Record for 2026, a contractor could be engaged to an upset limit of \$60,000 to complete tree and vegetation removal along the upper and lower southern embankments of the canal. The remaining \$40,000 could be used to install posts with solar lighting panels along the edge of the rock embankment from the Cardinal sign to the stairs at the easterly limit. Benches and picnic tables could be installed along the pathway and by the Cardinal sign at incremental distances. Perennial shrubs that bloom seasonally could be planted along the rock embankment in future years to improve aesthetics. Repairs to benches or picnic tables and lighting can be incorporated into future operational budgets. "Use at Own Risk" signage would be installed at the top and bottom of the existing stairs. The extent of vegetation removal achievable within the budget will depend on equipment type and site access, as hourly rates vary significantly. This option balances immediate improvement with amenity value.

Option 2

Vegetation Removal and Scaled-Down Public Amenities

Using the Vendor of Record for 2026, a contractor could be engaged to an upset limit of \$75,000 to remove as much tree growth and vegetation as possible along the upper and lower southern embankments that are accessible. The remaining \$ 25,000 could be used to install solar lighting by the Cardinal sign and down the embankment. In 2027 additional public amenities including picnic tables and benches could be strategically placed to maximize usage. This option prioritizes cleanup with public amenities phased over multiple years.

Option 3

Conceptual Design Study

Tender a conceptual design study. The consultant would be requested to review the preliminary artist concepts prepared in 2023, assess additional opportunities, and develop multiple conceptual design options for the canal embankment area. The 2023 artist sketches illustrate potential amenities such as a gazebo near the Cardinal sign, natural amphitheater seating, boat docking and improved pathway connections. These concepts would be reviewed and refined as part of the study. The study would also include preliminary layout concepts, high-level cost estimates for each option, constructability considerations, and potential risk mitigation measures. The cost of the study would be determined through a competitive tender process. This option may reduce the risk of uncoordinated piecemeal work but will delay visible improvements by at least a year. Any remaining funds could be applied to future revitalization phases. A full conceptual design package could be available for consideration early in the next Council term.

Summary

<u>Option</u>	<u>Approach</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Key Outcome</u>
1	Partial vegetation removal with picnic tables, benches and solar lighting.	\$60,000- Vegetation removal. \$ 40,000- Public Amenities.	Improves appearance and adds public amenities.
2	Maximum vegetation and tree removal	\$75,000- Vegetation removal \$25,000- Public Amenities.	Maximizes vegetation removal on the southern embankment with modest beautification improvements.
3	Conceptual design study	To be tendered (up to \$100,000).	Full plan from conception to completion with budgetary estimates.

Cleaning and beautifying the canal embankment is a multi-year effort requiring sustained resources and financial commitment. Early work will influence the scope and cost of future phases.

Staff are seeking direction from Committee on the preferred option. Should Committee wish to proceed with Option 1 or 2, staff will engage the Vendor of Record and report back with a confirmed scope and timeline.



Director of Operations