

## WHAT IS THE CITY DOING?

The City of Brampton embraces the critical role beavers play in an ecosystem. Their engineering abilities to enhance stream habitat complexity are far better and cheaper than any human intervention. This said, the City monitors where beavers build their dams to protect properties from flooding and prevent damage to high value trees. Beavers that pose a threat to public safety are unfortunately trapped and euthanized.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Try and co-exist with beavers. It is best to allow nature to run its course. The removal of beavers is only a temporary solution as it does not deter other beavers from moving in.

Ways to deter beavers include:

- Use beaver guard fencing around tree species preferred by beavers. Without a food source, beavers will be discouraged from establishing in the area.
- Plant tree species that beavers do not favour. Spruce and balsam trees are good options.

Did you know  
beavers are Canada's  
National animal?  
Save the beavers,  
save the ecosystem,  
your home!



I'm Beiber the beaver.  
Let me tell you about  
the important ways  
I contribute to the  
ecosystem!



# BEAVERS



(3-1-1)     [brampton.ca/growgreen](https://www.brampton.ca/growgreen)

 **BRAMPTON**



North American Beaver

I live in creeks, rivers and streams. I am a keystone species and if you remove me, the whole ecosystem suffers.



## MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

### **Beavers are pests that destroy the environment**

Many people believe the construction of beaver dams destroys native tree species. In fact, nature works in amazing ways. The types of trees beavers like to cut are also the tree species that happen to re-generate easily.

### **Beavers dam large rivers increasing flooding**

Beavers cannot create dams in fast-flowing water. They build in areas such as small streams and ditches, and as a result, their impact on larger river networks is minimal. Beavers also create deeper channels, allowing the stream to store more water, helping to prevent flooding, while also recharging the ground water table.

My favourite trees to gnaw on are Aspen, Poplar, Willow, Birch and Alders



## WHY ARE BEAVERS KEYSTONE SPECIES?

Beavers are keystone species. This means that the beaver plays a unique and critical role in the structure, integrity, and function of an ecosystem. They help support landscapes and watersheds by controlling a river's meander and creating vital habitat for wildlife. No one does it better!

Beavers are nature's engineers. Their dams not only provide protection from predators, they offer numerous ecosystem services as well. Beaver dams create new, beautiful, and healthier landscapes that provide habitat for fish, frogs, waterfowl and birds. Beavers and their dams also support wetlands.

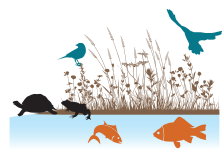
## LEAVE IT TO BEAVERS!



Improve water quality by filtering out sediments and toxins.



Offer recreational opportunities (i.e. wildlife photography).



Support biodiversity by providing wetland habitat for plants and wildlife (i.e. fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians).

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF BEAVERS AND THEIR DAMS



Transform low quality habitat into highly functional systems by trapping sediment, which supports the growth of lush meadows once the beaver leaves and the dam washes out.



Turn streams that quickly dry out into deep water catches that support wetland formation and reduce flooding.

## What is a meander?

A meander is the curve in a stream or river that forms the snake-like pattern that slows the flow of water.



Not all beavers build dams. Some of us build dens on the river bank!



Beaver Den