

A Little Fish and the Landscape Architect: Collaborative Design to Create a Better Place for Redside Dace.

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A key element of the Mount Pleasant 51-1 Secondary Plan in the City of Brampton was the creation of a Natural Heritage System (NHS) which identifies, protects, restores and enhances the diversity and connectivity of natural areas and features such as woodlands and wetlands. The East Huttonville Creek corridor was realigned to connect fragmented natural features from lands cultivated and cropped and improve the existing drainage system. The creation of this system also included consideration of specialized habitat needs for various animals and fish, including Redside dace (RSD). Endangered in Ontario, creation of habitat for RSD was a key element and consideration of the restoration of the Block 51-1 NHS.

The collaborative team, consisting of ecologists, botanists, fluvial geomorphologists, land surveyors, geotechnical engineers, planners, civil engineers and landscape architects, worked together to create a connected riparian network of features that would create habitat attractive to RSD. As a designer, the Landscape Architect was instrumental in merging the ideas of these various disciplines with their knowledge and experience of coordinating approvals from agencies such as the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the City of Brampton for ultimate implementation. Throughout all phases of planning, the Landscape Architect can leverage their relationship with contractors to collaborate on establishing effective implementation strategies to make realistic implementation and budget decisions. Likewise, collaboration with specialized consultants is also essential at the construction stage as urgent site specific situations may demand an immediate response and decision making that only the Landscape Architect can provide.

The success of the Mount Pleasant Block 51-1 Natural Heritage System was dependent on the collaboration of these disciplines. As an implementation specialist, the Landscape Architect in this case helped merge ecological ideals with practical construction techniques to create lasting habitat for Redside dace. Supporting imagery will include a 3D model/video of the entire NHS as envisioned by the development team early in the design process, and an drone/flyover video of the work as constructed.

Biography

Paul DiProfio is a registered Landscape Architect (OALA, CSLA, ASLA) and specializes in municipal and private sector development projects including new community design/planning, streetscape design, parks and open space systems, memorial and cemetery planning, and educational facilities. He has been working in the industry for twenty-three years.