

## Franceschini Bridge

City of Brampton

Over Highway 410, between Williams Parkway and Bovaird Drive, Brampton, Ontario

### New Landscape



Located over Highway 410, the road bridge was used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to service a former gravel quarry operated by the Franceschini Brothers; allowing trucks to traverse Highway 410 without interrupting traffic.

After gravel extraction was completed and the quarry closed, the pits were converted into lakes, the surrounding areas are today vibrant neighbourhoods, and the abandoned bridge became an eyesore - often used for construction and blocked off from the public.

Over a span of 40 years, 12 former gravel pits were transformed into a series of interconnected linear parks stretching over seven kilometres throughout the city. They are called the Esker Lakes and form the 14 km recreational trail called the Esker Lake trail.

After many years of complaints from residents requesting a safer link and shortcut across the 410, the City collaborated with the Ministry of Transportation to rehabilitate Franceschini Bridge. Rehabilitation of Franceschini Bridge involved the construction of a new asphalt trail on both east and west end of the bridge, replacement of old railings, the bridge was converted with the modification of the existing rail systems, providing light poles and lights for users, new surface treatment and art, patching existing concrete, decorative entry gateways, and fencing.

Opened in Summer 2018, it now provides a crossing option for pedestrians and cyclists to connect with Bramalea Community Park and the Lakelands North Subdivision as part of the Esker Lake Trail.

