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Greenbelt Foundation

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## Greenbelt Foundation Backgrounder

Moccasin Identifier: Grant Announcement, June 2021

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### Overview

With renewed funding from the Greenbelt Foundation, the Moccasin Identifier (formerly “the Moccasin Identifier Project” or “MIP”) will install five representations of moccasins (“moccasin identifiers”) over the next three years at culturally significant Indigenous sites in the Greenbelt and Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). The moccasins will be installed to help promote the cultural ties Indigenous Communities have to the land. As a part of this new grant, the Moccasin Identifier will also be working with Indigenous Tourism Ontario to develop an augmented reality app to enhance visitors’ experiences at the moccasin identifier sites.

### Background

The Moccasin Identifier has been keenly supported by the Greenbelt Foundation since 2018 as it works to raise awareness for the current and historical presence of diverse Indigenous Communities in the Greenbelt region. The Project installs large representations of the distinct moccasins worn by Indigenous Peoples to mark sites where First Nations and the Métis Nation have deep, ancestral ties to the landscape. Today we announce a second grant from Greenbelt Foundation, which will allow the project to take its next steps.

Since its founding in 2011, Moccasin Identifier has visited schools, universities, workshops, and cultural festivals to educate people about important Indigenous cultural sites. Beyond the five installations currently planned, the Moccasin Identifier will conduct additional outreach with municipalities and community partners to identify sites for future installations. Moccasin Identifier plans to secure agreements for an additional 10 installation placements. The installations are unique to each site and will increase the visibility and awareness of Indigenous Communities and languages within the GGH, promote stronger cultural identities, and educate visitors of the significance of Indigenous cultural sites.

### Moccasin Identifier Installation Sites:

1. Rouge National Urban Park
2. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
3. Credit Valley Conservation
4. Long Point World Biosphere
5. City of Toronto