



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
OFFICE OF PARKS, FACILITIES, RECREATION & CULTURE

MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.

Author's Name: Trese MacNeil	Report Date: September 2, 2024
Author's Phone: 519 736-5712 ext. 2122	Date to Council: September 23, 2024
Author's E-mail: tmacneil@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation **BE AUTHORIZED** to apply to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, for H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Tennis and Multi-Use Courts, subject to the documents being satisfactory in legal form to the Chief Administrative Officer, in technical content to the Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation, and in financial content to the Chief Financial Officer; and,
2. The following funding identified in 2025 **BE DESIGNATED** to address the \$530,000 in funding required by the Town for all matching and ineligible project costs:
 - a. New Capital Reserve (0400): \$254,400
 - b. DC Parks (0124): \$275,600
3. The following recommendations **BE APPROVED** upon written confirmation of the Town being awarded the grant funding:
 - a. The Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign and execute any agreements, declarations or approvals required resulting from receiving funding under the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund grant, satisfactory in financial content to the Chief Financial Officer, and in technical content to the Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation; and,
 - b. Authority **BE DELEGATED** to the Chief Administrative Officer to approve the final project scope and deliverables to maximize use of the grant and the Town's \$530,000 in funding; and,
 - c. The Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to take any such action required to affect the recommendations noted above and sign

- any required documentation/agreement(s) for the implementation of the H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Tennis and Multi-Use Courts project, satisfactory in legal form to the Clerk, in technical content to the Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation and in financial content to the Chief Financial Officer; and,
- d. The funding sources as noted above **BE APPROVED** for immediate use; and,
 - e. Authority **BE DELEGATED** to the Chief Administrative Officer to award and issue purchase orders and or sign and execute any agreements as may be required for the necessary services to execute the scope of work for the H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Tennis and Multi-Use Courts; and,
4. Should the Town be unsuccessful with the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund grant application, Council **APPROVE** the \$530,000 in funding to be used for the H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Tennis and Multi-Use Courts project funding from the following 2025 funding sources:
- i. New Capital Reserve (0400): \$254,400
 - ii. DC Parks (0124): \$275,600; and,
- b. Authority **BE DELEGATED** to the Chief Administrative Officer to approve the final project scope and deliverables to maximize use of the Town's \$530,000 in funding; and,
 - c. Authority **BE DELEGATED** to the Chief Administrative Officer to award and issue purchase orders and or sign and execute any agreements as may be required for the necessary services to execute the scope of work for the H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Tennis and Multi-Use Courts.
5. Administration **BE DIRECTED** to add the assets created by the H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Tennis and Multi-Use Courts project to the 2025 Asset Management Plan for lifecycle rehabilitation and replacement.

2. BACKGROUND:

On August 19, 2024, the Ontario government announced that they are accepting applications for the new Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) that will be delivered over three years (2024-25 to 2026-27). The province is investing \$200 million through the fund to help communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities.

Funding is available to either repair or upgrade existing sport and recreation facilities into more accessible, state-of-the-art facilities that better suit the community's needs, or to build new and transformative sport and recreation facilities, including replacing existing facilities that have reached the end of their lifespan and are beyond repair. Applications are open to municipalities, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations and (for new builds only) for-profit organizations, through two streams:

- **Stream 1:** Repair and Rehabilitation - Eligible projects will receive between \$150,000 and \$1 million and must be completed within twenty-four months of entering into a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the Ministry in respect to the project. The deadline to submit grant applications is October 29, 2024.

- **Stream 2: New Builds/Signature New Builds** - Eligible projects will receive up to \$10 million and must be completed no later than March 31, 2027. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funding has been fully allocated.

Regardless of the Stream, the CSRIF is a cost-sharing program paying up to 50% of eligible costs and the provincial contribution will vary based on the eligible applicant and project type. Eligible applicants can submit only *one* application per stream. Administration is recommending that the Town of Amherstburg apply to Stream 2 only, as the town does not currently have a project in the 5-year Capital Project Plan that qualifies for Stream 1.

The CSRIF is a discretionary and non-entitlement program, and there is no guarantee of funding. There is no appeal process for unsuccessful applicants to the program.

3. DISCUSSION:

Administration requests Council support an application to Stream 2: New Builds/Signature New Builds of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Grant. This grant program is highly competitive and the Province is looking for signature and unique projects, with demonstrated community sport or recreational needs that can be completed within the prescribed timeframe.

The purpose of Stream 2 is to invest in new, transformative community sport and recreation infrastructure, including assets that do not currently exist in a community or the replacement of existing assets that have reached the end of their lifespan.

Eligible Stream 2 projects must:

- Occur in the Province of Ontario;
- Be for the construction of a new or replacement sport or recreation facility/space or other community facility/space that offers sport or recreation programming;
- Be for a community facility/space in Ontario that is open primarily for use by the public and that will continue to be open primarily for use by the public upon the completion of the project;
- Be submitted by an applicant that meets the eligibility requirements;
- Not be receiving any Ontario provincial funding for the same project.

At this time, there is no project in the town's 5-year proposed Capital plan that meets the grant requirements for Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation.

During the January 15, 2024 Council meeting, Council passed Resolution #20240115-006 "That \$500,000 **BE IDENTIFIED** in the 2025 Capital Budget to be identified for H. Murray Smith Centennial Park".

The resolution identified above provides an opportunity to leverage potential grant funding to construct tennis and multi-purpose courts at H. Murray Smith Centennial Park to benefit residents.

Proposed project for the grant application at H. Murray Smith Centennial Park:

- Construction of two tennis courts
- Construction of two multi-purpose courts
- Accessible concrete pathway around two sides of the tennis court and between the two sets of courts

The Centennial Park updated and approved Concept B for grant report proposed park layout is attached to this council report for reference.

Council has also directed Administration to pursue construction of a boat launch at K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park. This project was discussed with the Ministry as a potential grant application however the Ministry did not feel it would be a strong application due to a number of factors, including but not limited to; lack of design specifications and readiness and the proximity places it in direct competition with a private boat launch in the vicinity. Other projects were also considered, however given the requirements for the grant there were not other projects at this time which are as strong in meeting the requirements as the one proposed in this report.

Should Council not wish to pursue the proposed project, it is not recommended Administration apply to this grant for any other projects at this time. Should Council wish to pursue a project that is new infrastructure and not yet identified in the 5-year proposed Capital plan, projects that *are* identified would need to be re-aligned to offset funding for the new project. In other words, with the requirement to match dollars at a rate of 50%, other proposed projects will be impacted in order to avoid issuance of debt, at a minimum of 50% of the total cost of the new project.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

The cost for this project is a high-level estimate only and is based on current research conducted for projects of similar scope and scale. There is a risk that cost could increase or decrease based on actual tender pricing. Due to grant guidelines that indicate no construction can begin before notification of the grant, construction of the tennis and multi-use courts could be delayed until 2026.

The following are a number of other potential risks:

- The timing and claiming of invoices could be problematic if they are received at or near the March 31 deadline. The payment of invoices may be delayed resulting potential cash flow issues with the Town carrying the burden of the Ministry's portion of the cost for the 50% of the grant until payment is made.
- The cost of HST is not funded, even the non-recoverable portion, which for a large project will need a funding source. The HST cost cannot be considered as part of the town's contribution either.
- If the Town borrows funds, this additional cost is not recoverable in the grant nor can it be considered part of the town's contribution.
- In addition, there is potential that the grant could be funded at less than 50% of the total costs and therefore the Town would be responsible for these additional costs.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Cost estimates for the proposed project of two tennis courts, two multi-use courts and accessible pathway are as follows:

- Two multi-use sports courts: \$510,000
- Two tennis courts: \$485,000
- Accessible concrete sidewalk: \$65,000

Total estimated project cost: \$1,060,000

As per Council direction in CR20240115-006, Administration has identified in the 2025 capital budget \$500,000 for tennis courts under capital project H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Redevelopment (PAR-001-24). The funding sources are Development Charges Parks (DC), as this 52% of the project is DC eligible, and New Capital as these amenities would be new assets, not replacement or refurbishment of existing.

The addition of the multi-use sports courts and accessible concrete sidewalk to the project results in a Town share of \$530,000, which is \$30,000 above Council's direction for \$500,000. The \$30,000 is recommended to be funded from the same sources, DC and New Capital. Total funding for the project, if the grant is awarded, would be as follows:

- Community Sport and Recreation Fund - \$530,000
- New Capital Reserve (0400): \$254,400
- DC Parks (0124): \$275,600

Grant applications with confirmed funding for the municipal share are viewed more favourably as it demonstrates the Town's ability to execute the project should they be awarded the grant. As such the recommendations in this report provide for necessary funding approvals to enhance our submission. Should the recommendations in this report be approved, those approvals will be reflected in the Recommended 2025 6 Year Capital Budget. Of note, should the grant not be awarded the recommendations include confirmation that the \$530,000 in Town funding be used to construct the 2 tennis courts, as originally identified by Council in CR20240115-006.

If Council wishes to pursue Stream 2 for an alternative project, the five-year Capital plan will need to be reviewed to determine what projects will likely need to be realigned and or pushed out to future years to provide for the Town's share of the alternative project. There may also be a need to consider issuance of debt, depending on what the alternate project may be.

The creation of new assets engenders the need to plan for their lifecycle for future rehabilitation and replacement, as such, should assets be created they will need to be incorporated into the Asset Management Plan.

6. CONSULTATIONS:

Director, Parks, Facilities and Recreation

Director of Development Services/Deputy CAO
 Director of Corporate Services/CFO
 Technical Support Project Manager
 Manager of Facilities
 Manager of Parks

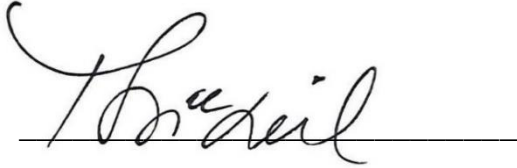
7. CORPORATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Vision: Preserving our past while forging our future.

<i>Amherstburg Community Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 1 Deliver Trusted & Accountable Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve trust between council and staff, and residents, by strengthening governance and internal accountability structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver transparent and efficient financial management. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase effective communication and engagement with residents. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop our staff team, resources, and workplace culture. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to deliver strong core municipal services. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Amherstburg is an inclusive accessible and welcoming community committed to reconciliation. 	<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 3 Encourage Local Economic Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage development of commercial and industrial lands. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to promote local tourism industry, especially overnight accommodation. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to facilitate downtown development for residents and visitors. ✓ Continue to leverage partnership opportunities with other provincial, federal, and local governments, agencies, and organizations.
<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 2 Invest in Community Amenities and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintain safe, reliable and accessible municipal infrastructure and facilities. ✓ Increase access to recreation opportunities for all ages. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and execute plans for town-owned lands (e.g. Duffy’s site, Belle Vue) <input type="checkbox"/> Create public access to water and waterfront <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of Town operations and increase Town resilience to climate change. 	<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 4 Shape Growth Aligned with Local Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Define and communicate a vision for the Town’s future and identity. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote and plan for green and “climate change ready” development. <input type="checkbox"/> Review and implement policies that promote greater access to diverse housing. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Town’s historic sites and heritage. <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve the Town’s greenspaces, agricultural lands, and natural environment.

8. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion Administration is requesting Council permission to apply to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Stream 2.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trese MacNeil", is written over a horizontal line.

Trese MacNeil
Manager of Recreation Services

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.docx
Attachments:	- Centennial Park_updated and approved Concept B_for grant report .pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 4, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Heidi Baillargeon was completed by workflow administrator Sarah Sabihuddin

Heidi Baillargeon



Tracy Prince



Valerie Critchley



Kevin Fox