

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Date	Tuesday, October 8, 2024
Subject	Grant Opportunity - Endorsement Request for the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Applications

Recommendation

1. That Council endorse the City of Guelph’s grant application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund for Funding Stream 1 – Repair and Rebuild, offered through the Ministry of Sport, for the Lyon Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation project as outlined in the Grant Opportunity - Endorsement Request for the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Applications report dated October 8, 2024.
 2. That Council endorse the City of Guelph’s grant application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund for Funding Stream 2 – New Builds and Signature New Builds, offered through the Ministry of Sport, for the South End Community Centre – Value-Added Enhancements project as outlined in the Grant Opportunity - Endorsement Request for the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Applications report dated October 8, 2024.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the City’s intention to apply for funding for two projects through the provincial [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund](#) in order to satisfy the funder’s grant submission requirements that states that municipalities submitting funding applications must seek Council endorsement to undertake the projects identified for each submission to be considered eligible for funding.

Key Findings

Announced by the Province in late August 2024, the fund’s purpose is to help communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities through funding projects that extend the lifespan of existing facilities, maximize the use of existing facilities, as well as improve the health and safety, accessibility and environmental standards of facilities.

There are two program streams available through the fund, [Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation](#) and [Stream 2: New Builds and Signature New Builds](#) to which eligible applicants can submit one application per stream. After completing a thorough,

strategic review of project proposals and following grant opportunity assessment processes, staff are recommending two projects move forward to the grant application stage. The two projects are:

- Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation: Lyon Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation project
- Stream 2: New Builds and Signature New Builds: South End Community Centre – Value-Added Enhancements project

Staff are confident in their strategic selection of these projects and through this report are seeking Council endorsement to undertake these projects through funding applications in accordance with the funder's requirement. These projects have been selected through a collaborative process to ensure that each application enables the City to maximize the full possibility of the grant funding available under each funding stream.

If the City's funding application is successful and the grants are secured, these projects will be brought forward for inclusion in the budget.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The key findings of this report are aligned with the Strategic Plan's Foundations theme and "Maintain the City's healthy financial position" objective as the grants would offset project funding through property taxes and development charges. Additionally, this work supports the City Building objective "Grow and care for our community spaces and places," specifically in advancing supporting actions 7.1 Build the South End Community Centre and 7.3 Attract more people to our parks and programs by making them easier to access and enjoy.

Future Guelph Theme

Foundations

Future Guelph Objectives

Foundations: Maintain the City's healthy financial position

Financial Implications

The Lyon Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation project grant application will request the maximum allowable amount available under Stream 1: \$1 million, with the City providing the required match of \$2 million. The project will remain out of the capital budget until the grant decision is known. If the City's funding application is successful and the grant is secured, at that time a budget adjustment to add this project to the budget would be processed. In the meantime, capacity will be held in the reserves for this project.

The South End Community Centre – Value-Added Enhancements project grant application will request the maximum allowable amount available under Stream 2: \$10 million, with the City providing the required match of \$110 million. If approved, the overall project budget would increase by \$5.5 million for the value-added enhancements and would displace the current funding sources for the remaining \$4.5 million (94.7 per cent development charge funded, and 5.3 per cent property tax funded). The increased scope of work proposed for the project will not be included in the budget until the application is deemed successful. Once the grant is secured, a budget adjustment would be processed as described above.

Report

The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund was announced by the Province in late August 2024 to help communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities through funding projects that extend the lifespan of existing facilities and maximize the use of existing facilities as well as improve the health and safety, accessibility and environmental standards of facilities.

Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation eligible projects can receive up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$1 million and need to be completed within 24 months. The deadline to submit applications is October 29, 2024.

Stream 2: New Builds and Signature New Builds eligible projects can receive up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$10 million and must be completed no later than March 31, 2027. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis until funding has been fully allocated.

Staff collaborated across departments and functions to propose projects for funding under each funding stream. Intergovernmental Services and Finance staff worked with department leaders and subject matter expert staff to assess the proposals. Each proposal was assessed for alignment with grant eligibility criteria, corporate strategic fit with the City's goals and priorities and ability to maximize the grant opportunity for the City.

As a result of the assessment, two projects, one for each funding stream, were recommended to move forward to the application stage. The two projects are:

- Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation: Lyon Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation project
- Stream 2: New Builds and Signature New Builds: South End Community Centre – Value-Added Enhancements project

Lyon Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation project

The Lyon Outdoor Pool is a feature attraction at [Lyon Park](#) in the city's east end. [The Parks and Recreation Masterplan](#), approved by Council in 2023, highlights demand for outdoor pools and water features. The local community voiced support for the outdoor pool for easy access to summer play, affordable play and programming, along with support for this unique facility in the city (there is only one outdoor pool in the city). Attendance reaches capacity during nice weather days while the pool is open annually, June through September.

Objectives of the project include renovating the pool bowl to conserve water, limit leaking and maintain the chemical balance; increasing accessibility and visibility to the swimming area; and increasing health and safety around the pool (e.g., adding shade for sun protection and smooth non-slip surfaces).

This full repair and renovation project would give this facility another 10 years of use. Presently, rehabilitation and renovations are needed to continue operations in the short term (one to three years). If shut down, the City would be without an outdoor pool.

South End Community Centre – Value-Added Enhancements project

The new [South End Community Centre](#) (SECC) that the City is currently undertaking is a signature build for the City. The project will result in twin ice pads, a double gymnasium, lap and teaching pool, and multi-purpose rooms. The project

meets the CaGBC Zero Carbon Building Design Standard and is in alignment with the City's Race to Zero and 100RE goals.

The proposed value-added enhancements to SECC would help to offset future operating costs and increase the revenue generating potential of the site. With this grant funding the City would maximize solar energy installations to further reduce energy costs long-term, while also funding new opportunities for additional programming infrastructure. This may include projects such as additional timing equipment in the pool area making the space more desirable to groups booking the space. While these proposed value-added enhancements would represent an increase to the existing scope of work for SECC, this scenario will provide a reduction in the use of City capital funds, increase long-term revenue potential, and provide a reduction in the long-term operating costs of the building which are funded through property taxes.

Financial Implications

The Lyon Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation project grant application will request the maximum allowable amount available under Stream 1: \$1 million, with the City providing the required match of \$2 million. The project will remain out of the capital budget until the grant decision is known. If the City's funding application is successful and the grant is secured, at that time a budget adjustment to add this project to the budget would be processed. In the meantime, capacity will be held in the reserves for this project.

The South End Community Centre – Value-Added Enhancements project grant application will request the maximum allowable amount available under Stream 2: \$10 million, with the City providing the required match of \$110 million. If approved, the overall project budget would increase by \$5.5 million for the value-added enhancements and would displace the current funding sources for the remaining \$4.5 million (94.7 per cent development charge funded, and 5.3 per cent property tax funded). The increased scope of work proposed for the project will not be included in the budget until the application is deemed successful. Once the grant is secured, a budget adjustment would be processed as described above.

Consultations and Engagement

Discussions and engagement on project selection included input from the Chief Administrative Officer; Finance; Culture and Recreation; Parks; and Facilities and Energy Management.

Attachments

None.

Departmental Approval

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