



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of October 15, 2020

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 8, 2020
From: Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Grant Funding Application

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the submission of a grant application through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation for \$2.4 million in funding and commits the City's share of \$1.853 million for the Topaz Park Artificial Turf Replacement Project.
2. If the grant is awarded, authorize the City entering into a shared cost agreement with the Province of British Columbia, generally described in this report, on the terms acceptable to the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities and in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) and seek Council support of the application submitted October 1, 2020 for \$2.4 million in grant funding for the artificial turf replacement project at Topaz Park.

The federal and provincial governments are investing in a second intake of applications for the ICIP CCR to create long-term economic growth, build inclusive, sustainable communities and support a low carbon, green economy. Eligible projects must improve access to and/or increase the quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure for citizens, including Indigenous peoples and vulnerable populations. The second intake is designed for projects which will be initiated in 2021 or 2022 and can be completed no later than March 31, 2026.

The CCR Program funding decisions consider multiple factors including alignment with program criteria, funding distribution, and program subscription. As such, a request representing less than the 10% of the program funding has a higher possibility of success as it provides more communities with access to funding. Applicants are guided by the project size from applications that were shortlisted in the previous CCR Program intake which had an average grant request of \$2.5 million.

The emphasis of the program is on renewal, retrofit or refurbishment projects, not new infrastructure. Staff determined that of the roster of capital projects planned by the City, the Topaz Park Artificial Turf Replacement Project aligned best with the program criteria and successful projects in previous intakes.

In January 2020, Council approved the allocation of \$3.02 million from the Building Infrastructure Reserve Fund and \$1.2 million from the Artificial Turf Field Reserve Fund for a total of \$4.253 million to complete the artificial turf field replacement project.

The City's grant application seeks funding of \$2.4 million. Should the request be successful, the City would be required to enter into a shared cost agreement with the Province of British Columbia. The agreement is a standard form agreement provided by senior levels of government and includes indemnity and release in favour of the Provincial and Federal Governments.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

The proposed park improvements support Strategic Plan Objective #5: Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City.

Impacts to Financial Plan

The City's application seeks funding of \$2.4 million for the replacement of the City's only artificial turf facility and supporting infrastructure. If the application is successful, the City's share of the project cost would be reduced to \$1.853 million from the previous Council approved \$4.253 million.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The following OCP goals and objectives are supported by the recommendation in this report.

(9.12) Recognize and balance the multiple purposes and uses of parks, such as cultural events, recreation, sports, ecosystem services, commemoration and aesthetic enjoyment:

(9.14) Enhance child and youth friendly parks and recreation facilities, services and programs in the City, to promote a healthy community and to help attract and retain households with children;

Accessibility Impact Statement

Accessibility will be a primary consideration of the detailed design exercise for the field project. During the design process, feedback will be sought from stakeholders such as members of the Accessibility Working Group, and others with experience living with disabilities, along with design experts.

The concept plan for the artificial turf field replacement project incorporates features designed to improve the accessibility of this facility including low-slope pedestrian connections between the proposed field and the adjacent parking area and sidewalk. Accessible routes from the nearby parking area to the skateboard park and bike park will also be provided. Consideration of lower-allergen plantings will also be taken account during the design process.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff are seeking a Council resolution to support the grant application for \$2.4 million in funding for the Topaz Park Artificial Turf Replacement Project submitted October 1, 2020. If the application is successful, the City's share of the project cost would be reduced to \$1.853 million from a committed \$4.253 million.

Respectfully submitted,



Nav Sidhu
Assistant Director
Parks and Recreation



Thomas Soulliere
Director
Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

October 8, 2020