



Governance and Priorities Committee Report For the June 26, 2014 Meeting

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** June 3, 2014
From: Julie MacDougall, Assistant Director
Subject: Allocation of 2014 Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Program, Shape Your Future Victoria and Greenways Grants

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations for the 2014 grant cycle of the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Program, Shape Your Future Victoria and Greenways Grants. This program was established in 1994 to operationalize the Neighbourhood Development Policy. The 2014 funding is \$30,000 for Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grants (which include the Shape Your Future grant program) and \$25,000 for Greenways Grants for a total budget available of \$55,000. During this term of Council, supported projects have included neighbourhood beautification, mural painting and anti-graffiti programs, park enhancements and the establishment of community orchards, and capital upgrades in community centres.

Neighbourhood development grants were created to provide the opportunity for projects to be fostered at a local, grassroots level. The Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grant provides opportunities for neighbourhood community associations to start innovative and creative community projects to improve their neighbourhoods. The Neighbourhood Greenways grant funds neighbourhood groups/community associations wishing to build or animate a portion of a greenway. The Shape Your Future Victoria Matching Grant encourages citizens to create innovative community improvement projects based on themes in Victoria's Official Community Plan.

This year, the City received six funding requests for the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grant program for a total of \$25,250 and two Shape Your Future Victoria grant applications totaling \$2,734. There was one application received for the Greenways Grant Program.

This report recommends fully funding all six Neighbourhood Enhancement grant requests as well as full funding for one and partial funding for the second Shape Your Future grants. Staff is recommending declining the one Greenways Grant application due to operational challenges with the application. This leaves the entire Greenways budget unallocated.

Summary of 2014 Neighbourhood Grant Program Recommendations

	Enhancement Matching	Greenways	Total
Budget	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 55,000
Requested amount	\$ 27,984	\$ 10,000	\$ 37,984
Recommended	\$ 27,845	\$ 0	\$ 27,845
Balance	\$ 2,155	\$ 25,000	\$ 27,155

Recommendation:

1. That Council supports the recommendations for the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grant program as outlined in Appendix 1 which includes:
 - Burnside Gorge Community Association - installation of perimeter fencing and interpretive signage for their community garden (\$5,000);
 - Fairfield Gonzales Community Association - educational awareness program on neighbourhood resiliency which will include urban gardening, food security and emergency preparedness (\$3,525).
 - Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group - upgrades to the commercial kitchen at the Fernwood Community Centre (\$4,125);
 - The Learning Disabilities Association - partner with George Jay Elementary and Vic High schools to deliver additional youth literacy programming (\$5,000).
 - James Bay New Horizons - installation of a honey bee education garden and beehives (\$4,200).
 - North Park Neighbourhood Association - neighbourhood planning and branding exercise (\$3,400).

2. That Council supports the recommendations for the Shape Your Future grant program as outlined in Appendix 2 including:
 - Fernwood Community Mapping Project - printable and interactive online mapping game that highlights historical and current place-markers on a community green map (\$2,495).
 - The Grant Street Improvement Committee - build and install a book box lending library (\$100).

3. That Council declines the application in the Greenways Grant program from the North Park Neighbourhood Association as outlined in Appendix 3.

Respectfully submitted



Kristina Öberg
Manager, Culture, Sport & Neighbourhoods



Julie MacDougall
Assistant Director



Jocelyn Jenkins
General Manager, VCC

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager: _____

Date: June 19, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations for the 2014 grant cycle of the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Program, Shape Your Future Victoria and Greenways Grants.

Background

The Neighbourhood Development Funding Program operationalizes the Neighbourhood Development Policy, adopted by Council in 1994. The program provides funding support to the City's Community and Neighbourhood Associations to support their provision of basic programs and services in neighbourhoods in accordance with policy guidelines (see Appendix 4 for program criteria).

The Neighbourhood Grants Program has three specific funding categories which include:

- **Base Grants** (Council previously dealt with these in a separate report regarding the April 10, 2014 GPC motion to allocate up to an additional \$45,000 in ongoing funding to Community and Seniors' Centres and Neighbourhood Associations.),
- **Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grants** (includes the Shape Your Future Victoria grant program) \$30,000
- **Greenways Grants** \$25,000

Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grants were introduced in 1994 as a way to operationalize the Neighbourhood Development policy. Grants are available for up to \$5,000 per project. Neighbourhoods identify the projects that provide a community benefit. Projects can be for capital equipment acquisition, neighbourhood improvement, a neighbourhood planning project, or school partnership project. The community is required to match the City's contribution with donations of volunteer time, cash or materials contributions. Projects are reviewed by all City departments who may be affected, or who may have input into specific project areas.

Shape Your Future Victoria Grants are a City initiated program established in 2013 with up to \$15,000 of the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grant funds being allocated to this grant program. The fund allows grants of up to \$2500 for projects that support the implementation of the Official Community Plan. Projects are reviewed by all City departments who may be affected, or who may have input into specific project areas.

Neighbourhood Greenways Grants were introduced in 2003 after the adoption of the Greenways Plan. The purpose of the grant is to support community associations build or animate a portion of a city's greenway. The goal of the program is to enhance and develop interesting neighbourhood sites on the greenways arterial grid. Projects are reviewed by all City departments who may be affected, or who may have input into specific project areas.

Issues & Analysis

This report provides a summary of the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching (including Shape Your Future Victoria program) and the Greenways Grants for the 2014 funding cycle. Appendices 1 through 3 outline the administration's recommendations to Council for the 2014 Neighbourhood Development Funding Program.

1. Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grants - \$30,000 available
There were six Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching grant applications submitted this year for a total request of \$25,250.

- Burnside Gorge wishes to install perimeter fencing and interpretive signage for their community garden.
- Fairfield Gonzales wishes to launch an educational awareness program on neighbourhood resiliency which will include urban gardening, food security and emergency preparedness.
- Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group has requested funds for upgrades to the commercial kitchen at the Fernwood Community Centre.
- The Learning Disabilities Association wishes to partner with George Jay Elementary and Vic High schools to deliver additional youth literacy programming.
- James Bay New Horizons has requested funds to install a honey bee education garden and beehives.
- North Park Neighbourhood Association is working through a neighbourhood planning and branding exercise.

After consultation with various departments and communication with applicants to revise certain aspects of their requests, all six projects are being recommended for approval.

2. Shape Your Future Victoria Grants (up to \$15,000 available within the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grants \$30,000 fund)

There were two Shape Your Future Victoria grant applications this year, submitted by residents in Fernwood, both with support from the Fernwood Community Association. The total request was \$2,794.

- The Fernwood Community Mapping Project will result in a printable and interactive online mapping game that highlights historical and current place-markers on a community green map (\$2,495). The mapping project is recommended for full funding.
- The Grant Street Improvement Committee wishes to build and install a book box lending library (\$239). The book box project is recommended to support the purchase of materials that are needed over and above the donated supplies already in hand.

3. Greenways Grants \$25,000 available

There was one Greenways grant application submitted this year from the North Park Neighbourhood Association. They wish to enhance Vancouver Street between Pandora and Caledonia Streets by

- including 'sharrows',
- adding concrete planters to be used as traffic dividers and landscaping features, and
- installing new signage for the Greenways route.

This application was reviewed by staff in Parks Recreation & Culture, and the Engineering Department. Staff identified the following issues with the application:

- The proposal reduces event parking and loading space for Royal Athletic Park, which would be problematic for the venue.
- Maintenance of the planters would result in longer term operational considerations that would add new infrastructure requiring ongoing maintenance by City staff.
- The remaining width of the roadway, after adding the 'sharrows' and planters, would not be sufficient for two-way vehicle traffic.
- The 2003 Greenways Plan proposes to close Vancouver Street to vehicle traffic between Green Street and Caledonia Street to create a plaza.
- Signage design for the Greenways network has not yet been approved.

For these reasons, it is recommended that this application be declined. Staff will work with the neighbourhood association over the coming year to create an acceptable application for the 2015 grant program.

Recommendation

1. That Council supports the recommendations for the Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grant program as outlined in Appendix 1 which includes:
 - Burnside Gorge Community Association - installation of perimeter fencing and interpretive signage for their community garden (\$5,000);
 - Fairfield Gonzales Community Association - educational awareness program on neighbourhood resiliency which will include urban gardening, food security and emergency preparedness (\$3,525).
 - Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group - upgrades to the commercial kitchen at the Fernwood Community Centre (\$4,125);
 - The Learning Disabilities Association - partner with George Jay Elementary and Vic High schools to deliver additional youth literacy programming (\$5,000).
 - James Bay New Horizons - installation of a honey bee education garden and beehives (\$4,200).
 - North Park Neighbourhood Association - neighbourhood planning and branding exercise (\$3,400).
2. That Council supports the recommendations for the Shape Your Future grant program as outlined in Appendix 2 including:
 - Fernwood Community Mapping Project - printable and interactive online mapping game that highlights historical and current place-markers on a community green map (\$2,495).
 - The Grant Street Improvement Committee - build and install a book box lending library (\$100).
3. That Council declines the application in the Greenways Grant program from the North Park Neighbourhood Association as outlined in Appendix 3.

Attachments

1. Neighbourhood Development Enhancement Matching Grant 2014 Recommendations
2. Neighbourhood Development Shape Your Future Victoria 2014 Recommendations
3. Neighbourhood Development Greenways 2014 Recommendations
4. Neighbourhood Development Grant Program Assessment Criteria

APPENDIX 1 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT MATCHING GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2014

Neighbourhood - Title	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Analysis
<p>Burnside Gorge Community Association Cecelia Ravine Community Gardens</p>	<p>Installation of perimeter fence for the garden and interpretive signage</p>	<p>\$5000</p>	<p>\$5000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesh fence will provide open views to the garden while creating a sense of enclosure and space, as well as provide vertical growing surfaces. • Signage will inform public about garden's purpose and guidelines. • Will help to deter random vandalism, theft and camping. • Supports OCP goals for food systems.
<p>Fairfield Gonzales Community Association Planting Seeds, Growing Community and Building Resilience</p>	<p>An educational awareness program to provide residents an understanding of urban gardening, food security and emergency preparedness</p>	<p>\$3525</p>	<p>\$3525</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community programs will be presented in the community at Moss St Market, Porter Park and Dallas Road waterfront. • Supports many City objectives and links well to OCP and Neighbourhood Policy. • Good coordination of many existing community partners into a series of events. • Recommend the community association work with VEMA to ensure consistent messaging for emergency preparedness.

<p>Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group</p> <p>Capital Equipment Acquisition: Kitchen upgrades</p>	<p>Installation of commercial grade large double sink and hardware, and acquisition of commercial-grade large counter-top appliances</p>	<p>\$4125</p>	<p>\$4125</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of the commercial grade items will enhance the ability to deliver "Fernwood Family Feast" program as well as enable other food programs being offered at the community centre.
<p>Fernwood – Learning Disabilities Association</p> <p>School Partnership Project</p>	<p>Partnering with George Jay Elementary and Vic High School to deliver additional youth literacy support and parent education workshops in order to develop literacy and academic skills at a community level</p>	<p>\$5000</p>	<p>\$5000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique delivery program would help address literacy and school participation issues for vulnerable children and youth. Links to OCP objectives in social equity. Program need demonstrated through use of Foundational Skills Assessment data.

<p>James Bay New Horizons Honey Bee Garden</p>	<p>Installation of a honey bee education garden and beehives Repair to existing cobb bench</p>	<p>\$4200</p>	<p>\$4200</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergenerational project with seniors and local schools. • Program will teach apiary and the importance of bees to food systems. • Professional apiarist has been consulted regarding placement of beehives. • Recommend starting with only 2 hives for first year. • Garden upgrade will enhance street frontage of the community centre. Interpretive signage will educate the residents. • Links to OCP objectives for food systems.
<p>North Park Neighbourhood Association Village Branding project</p>	<p>North Park neighbourhood village (Cook Street between Caledonia and Pandora) will undertake a branding exercise to create sense of place and define the area as the commercial heart of the neighbourhood</p>	<p>\$3400</p>	<p>\$3400</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project builds on 2012 NPNA visioning work. • It supports the neighbourhood's work in placemaking. • The project will result in a clear village identity that will allow the neighbourhood to define and create a list of amenities for future projects to enhance the public realm. • Supports many City objectives and links well to OCP and Neighbourhood Policy.
	<p>Total</p>	<p>\$25,250</p>	<p>\$25,250</p>	

APPENDIX 2 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT SHAPE YOUR FUTURE VICTORIA GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2014

Neighbourhood - Title	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Analysis
<p>Fernwood Community Mapping Group via Fernwood Community Association Project: Fernwood Community Mapping Project</p>	<p>Creation of a printable and interactive online green mapping game that presents historical and current place-markers</p>	\$2495	\$2,495	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map design is intended to promote community connections. • Added element of online interactivity allows people to add place-markers and stories. • Extensive community involvement in the planning and gathering information stage. • Supports principles of neighbourhood development and links to OCP goals of Placemaking.
<p>Grant Street Improvement Committee via Fernwood Community Association Project: Book Box Project</p>	<p>Build and install a book box lending library on private property on Grant St.</p>	\$239	\$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant will be used for purchasing supplies. The allocated funding represents the amount needed, after discussion with applicant. • Book box will be installed in time for the annual block party. • Maintenance will be managed by the residents. • Engineering Department recommends installing 0.5m behind property line. • Links to OCP goals of Community Wellbeing.
	Total:	\$2,734	\$2,595	

Neighbourhood - Title	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Analysis
<p>North Park Neighbourhood Association</p> <p>Vancouver Street signage and road treatments (Bay to Caledonia)</p>	<p>Enhance the Vancouver St Greenway to include "sharrows" and add concrete planters to be used as traffic dividers and landscaping features</p> <p>Install new signage and change existing signage on greenways route</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>Decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal reduces event parking and loading for RAP which would be problematic for the venue. Maintenance of the planters would be a public safety liability. The remaining width of the roadway would not be sufficient for two-way vehicle traffic. The 2003 Greenways Plan proposes to close Vancouver St to vehicle traffic between Green St and Caledonia to turn it into a plaza. This proposal is in direct conflict with the Greenways Plan. Signage for the Greenways network has not yet been approved.
<p>Total:</p>	<p>Total:</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$0</p>	

APPENDIX 4

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The criteria for assessing the Neighbourhood development grants are as follows:

Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching proposals must:

- a) Provide a public/neighbourhood benefit and create a new tangible product
- b) Be completed in 12 months
- c) Involve neighbourhood members in the identification, planning and execution
- d) Be a planning project, improvement project, school partnership, program development or capital equipment acquisition

Shape Your Future Victoria proposals must:

- a) Be from a group of residents supported by a sponsoring non-profit agency
- b) Implement OCP policy directions
- c) Adhere to neighbourhood matching project guidelines regarding in kind/cash match
- d) Provide a public/neighbourhood benefit and create a new tangible product
- e) Have at least 8 residents involved in a 4 block radius, and be completed in 4 months
- f) Create a blueprint or how-to guide for other neighbourhoods to follow

Greenways proposals must:

- a) Be from Community or Neighbourhood based non-profit associations
- b) Be a planning, design and construction project
- c) Be on the designated Greenways map
- d) Create a new tangible product beneficial to the neighbourhood

