

Subject: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Application

Staff Report No. CS-009-24

**Department/
Commission:** Community Services Commission

Date: September 25, 2024

Recommendation:

- 1) That Council direct staff to apply for Stream 1 – Repair and Rehabilitation of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund
- 2) That Council direct staff to apply for Stream 2 – New Builds/Signature New Builds of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

Report Highlights

- Staff are seeking Council direction to apply for the Province of Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund grant funding program to support recreation infrastructure.
- Staff will engage the services of Grant Match to support the application process.
- Staff have identified the Bethesda Sports Fields and cricket pitch for Stream 1 and a new artificial turf facility in partnership with the York Catholic District School Board at the site of Blessed Chiara Badano CES and St. Katherine Drexel CHS.

1. Purpose:

To request Council direction to apply for Stream 1 – Repair and Rehabilitation (project funding between \$150,000 - \$1,000,000), and Stream 2 – New Builds/Signature New Builds (project funding up to \$10,000,000) of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.

2. Background:

The Province of Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) is a \$200 million cost-share capital funding program delivered by the Ministry of Sport (the

Ministry) to revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and support the construction of new facilities across the province.

The CSRIF is a cost sharing program that will be delivered over three years (2024-25 to 2026-27) through two streams:

- Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation
- Stream 2: New Builds/Signature New Builds

Town staff will engage the team from Grant Match who are experienced in government grant applications to ensure the Town's submissions for both streams are well aligned with program objectives.

In order to be eligible projects for consideration for Stream 1 - Repair and Rehabilitation – the deadline for application is October 29, 2024 and projects must;

- extend the lifespan of existing community sport and recreation facilities/spaces;
- maximize the use of existing facilities (e.g., use of space, increasing hours of operation, enhancing functionality and/or participation rates);
- or improve health and safety, accessibility and environmental standards of existing facilities (e.g., access to facility/field of play, lower operating costs, improved energy efficiency, etc.).

To be eligible for Stream 2 – New Builds/Signature New Builds – This Stream is awarding funds on an on-going basis until the funding is depleted. Project criteria include;

- Public infrastructure projects for which there is a demonstrated need, such as replacing an existing facility that has reached the end of its lifespan to meet community programming needs.
- Projects that make transformative investments in community sport or recreation infrastructure, including the repurposing or expansion of existing structures to create net new community sport or recreation facilities.
- Building new facilities that do not exist in the province/region that attract new programming, net new employment, retain jobs, and provide economic impact for local communities and businesses such as an increase in tourism, new high-performance facilities to attract and host large sporting events, create or increase collaboration with local businesses.
- Signature New Builds, which are defined as high-profile projects that will be recognized for innovative design, or for having significant community and economic impact, or iconic status within the sport sector. These projects will serve as symbols of progress in sustainability and technology and will have a positive influence on the people of Ontario.

3. Analysis:

For Stream 1 - Repair and Rehabilitation –

Bethesda Sports Fields and cricket pitch rehabilitation/enhancements. In 2024 the cricket pitch was relocated to provide for a larger playing surface and greater separation from the adjacent soccer pitches. Further enhancements to the park will include;

- Upgrade sports lighting to LED;
- Addition of safety netting around cricket perimeter;
- Irrigation upgrades;
- Batter sight screens;
- Practice cricket batting/bowling cages;
- Field grading enhancements;
- Seating/Shade Structure opportunities
- Lighting of cricket pitch (provisional)

Bathesda Sports Fields and Community Park is a sporting hub for our community where baseball, soccer, and cricket converge to provide sporting opportunities for our community. Upgrading the lighting system to LED will improve the quality and consistency of illumination as well as significantly reduce utility costs. Providing shade opportunities and seating for athletes and spectators will further enhance the user experience.

Stream 2 – New Builds/Signature New Builds –

Partnership with York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) for the development of an outdoor artificial turf facility at 55 Meridian Dr. Stouffville (site of St. Katherine Drexel CHS and Blessed Chiara Badano CES).

YCDSB would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town whereby the land along with contributions to the annual operating costs would be made available to the Town for the purpose of constructing an artificial turf facility. The Town would execute the capital project and have exclusive use evenings, weekends and during the summer. YCDSB would have exclusive use Monday to Friday during the school year for use of their student body.

The project scope of work includes:

- Grass field removal, excavation of “soft” subgrade, new fill material remediation for compaction of subgrade to design depth;
- Base preparation for field storm water collection and artificial turf installation;
- Concrete curbing for perimeter fence installation (various heights - 1.8m, 3.6m and 5.4 metre behind the goal area as barrier protection for errant soccer balls);
- Player and referee shelters and benches;
- Bleacher seating;
- Field lighting;
- Perimeter asphalt/rubberized walkway/track (provisional)
- Score board (provisional)

As per the Leisure and Community Services Master plan, investment in artificial turf will extend the play season for the full range of uses including soccer. Given the continued demand for sports fields by our user groups, this is an opportunity to partner with YCDSB

to build a facility that will help to grow our inventory and increase our service level and quality of facilities. Doing so will encourage further growth of our leagues and potential for tournaments

4. Options:

4.1 Option A (Recommended)

Council direct staff to take the necessary action to apply for Stream 1 – Repair and Rehabilitation and Stream 2 – New Builds/Signature New Builds for the Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) cost-share capital funding program delivered by the Ministry of Sport

4.2 Option B

Council direct staff to take the necessary action to apply for Stream 1 – Repair and Rehabilitation for the Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) cost-share capital funding program delivered by the Ministry of Sport for the Bethesda Sports Fields and cricket pitch rehabilitation and enhancements.

4.3 Option C

Council direct staff to take the necessary action to apply for Stream 2 – New Builds/Signature New Builds for the Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) cost-share capital funding program delivered by the Ministry of Sport for the development of an outdoor artificial turf facility in partnership with the YCDSB.

5. Financial Implications:

Funds for improvements at Bethesda Sports Fields are currently identified in the 2026-2034 Long Range Capital Budget Forecast which will be used for the Town's contribution towards the estimated project total of \$1,600,000 (cost sharing of approximately \$800,000 each) and be funded through the Town's Growth Reserves.

Funds for the Stream 2 project of the outdoor artificial turf are not currently accounted for and would be funded through use of the Park Trust for the Town's contribution towards the estimated project total of \$4,600,000 (cost sharing of approximately \$2,300,000 each). If this project does not receive the full cost sharing amount through the Stream 2 funding, the project will not proceed.

Should Council direct staff to apply for the two streams of Provincial funding available staff will immediately begin to formalize quotations and letters of support for the cost sharing funding application process.

6. Alignment with Strategic Plan:

A Healthy and Greener Town
Increase Offerings and Opportunities for Active Living

7. Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – (Map of Bethesda Sports Fields and Community Park)
Attachment No. 2 – (Map of St. Katherine Drexel CHS property)

8. Related Reports:

None.

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For further information on this report, please contact the Department Head: Rob Braid, Commissioner of Community Services at 905-640-1910 or 1-855-642-8697 ext. 2245 or via email at rob.braid@townofws.ca