



# REPORT

## Council

**Meeting Date: October 21, 2024**

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**FROM:** Finance Department

**DATE:** October 15, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund**

**LOCATION:** Town-wide

**WARD:** Town-wide

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the submission of a grant application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund for the Coronation Park Renewal and Revitalization project be endorsed.

### **KEY FACTS:**

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The provincial government is investing \$200 million into the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) to help communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities.
- Funding will be allocated through two streams: the Repair and Rehabilitation stream, and the New Builds/Signature Builds stream.
- Staff are recommending submission of the Coronation Park Renewal and Revitalization project to the Repair and Rehabilitation stream of CSRIF.
- The application deadline is October 29<sup>th</sup>, with funding decisions anticipated in early Winter 2024/25. If successful, funding of up to 50% (to a maximum of \$1 million) may be provided.
- Council resolution indicating support for the project is required prior to application submission.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) was first announced in April 2024 as part of the province's 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario. The CSRIF is a competitive, application-based program that will invest \$200 million to help communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the program guidelines were released and the application intake for funding commenced.

The CSRIF consists of two distinct funding streams that can be applied to: the Repair and Rehabilitation stream, and the New Builds/Signature Builds stream. For both funding streams, a municipality may only submit one project per funding stream.

#### Repair and Rehabilitation stream

The purpose of this funding stream is to invest in projects that extend the lifespan of existing community sport and recreation facilities/spaces, improve local programming and accessibility features to meet community need. Applicants can submit project applications for provincial funding of up to 50%, to a maximum of \$1 million. The application deadline is October 29, 2024; with decisions expected early winter 2024/2025. The deadline for project completion is 24 months from executed agreement.

Eligible projects under this stream must be for the repair or rehabilitation of a sport or recreation facility/space that offers sport or recreation programming, and the space must be open primarily for use by the public. Project examples include critical facility repairs, installing HVAC systems, resurfacing playing fields, installing new arena boards/glass, pool repairs, expansion/retrofit of change rooms, installing new playground equipment.

#### New Builds/Signature Builds stream

The purpose of this funding stream 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. Applicants can submit project applications for provincial funding of up to 50%, to a maximum of \$10 million. There is no application deadline and the intake will be open until funds are allocated. Projects must be complete by March 31, 2027.

Eligible projects under this stream must be for the construction of a new or replacement sport or recreation facility/space that offers sport or recreation programming, and the space must be open primarily for use by the public. Project examples include public infrastructure projects where there is a demonstrated need, projects that make transformative investments in community sport or recreation infrastructure (including repurposing or expanding existing facilities), building new facilities that do not exist yet in the province/region.

Applications under both funding streams will be assessed by the Ministry of Sport based on the following criteria:

- Capacity to deliver project in timeframe – includes risk assessment and financial assessment
- Community need
- Community support
- Economic impact

- Addresses a gap in services
- Operating/financial capacity
- Value for money

**COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

Staff reviewed the CSRIF program guidelines for both funding streams to identify projects that both fit the grant criteria and can meet the program timelines. Projects that are already planned for (in approved budgets or the 2025 budget) were identified, as the capacity to deliver the project within the timeframe, including a risk assessment and financial assessment, is a key evaluation criteria for the Ministry of Sport.

Under the Repair and Rehabilitation funding stream, staff identified three projects that meet the criteria, and recommend the Coronation Park Renewal and Revitalization project.

The Coronation Park project would include the replacement of two large playgrounds (including accessibility improvements), rehabilitation and expansion of current picnic areas for accessibility, added shade structure for health and safety, and walkway and associated lighting replacements.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1,750,000 which results in a grant request of \$875,000. The town's share of funding is included in an existing approved project for Coronation Park, along with a 2025 requested Capital Budget, which amounts to \$970,000. The scope of the project would be expanded by \$780,000 to allow for additional amenity upgrades that would enhance the community experience by expanding picnic area and increasing covered shelters. These upgrades are expected to increase community usage and the visitor experience, and staff believe best meet the grant evaluation criteria of having a community need and community support. If successful, the grant would allow for savings to the capital reserve (\$95,000), while also funding expanded amenities.

Other projects considered were the Falgarwood Pool Rehabilitation and the River Oaks Community Centre Rehabilitation (rink slab, boards, etc.), both of which are included in the 2025 requested Capital Budget. While these projects fit the grant criteria, they are expected to score lower based on the grant evaluation criteria than the Coronation Park project.

Under the New Builds/Signature Builds funding stream, no projects were identified that meet the program criteria and could be delivered by March 31, 2027. Staff will monitor the program in the event any projects do arise, as the intake under this funding stream is ongoing until all funds are allocated.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**(A) PUBLIC**

Submission of the Coronation Park project for grant funding will allow for improvements to the park in the areas of health and safety and accessibility by upgrading playgrounds, expanding picnic areas and increasing covered shelters.

**(B) FINANCIAL**

The grant application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund could result in provincial funding to assist in delivering the Coronation Park project.

**(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

The Parks and Open Space department is involved in the grant application process, and would deliver of the recommended project.

**(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This report addresses Council's strategic priorities:  
Community Belonging  
Environmental Sustainability  
Accountable Government

**(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION**

N/A

**APPENDICES:**

N/A

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