

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: April 19, 2021
Department: Community Services
Report No.: CS-2021-10
Submitted by: Robert Lilbourne, Director of Community Services
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk
SUBJECT: **Additional Capital Projects – Canada Community Build Fund**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report CS-2021-10 Additional Capital Projects – Canada Community – Build Fund for information and further;

THAT: Council direct staff to direct funds available from the Canada Community – Build Fund totaling \$635,000.00 towards the projects listed below:

- Upgrade pea stone in Mt. Brydges Playgrounds to current accessibility standards - \$80,000.00
- Construction of a full-size Tennis Court and two Pickleball Courts in Mt. Brydges - \$130,000.00
- Municipal Share - All Wheels Skate Park - \$425,000.00

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Community Wellbeing – Residents of all ages in Strathroy-Caradoc will have access to community amenities and activities that are accessible and support active lifestyles and wellbeing. Upgrade or repurpose older playgrounds. Address accessibility deficiencies.

Destination Building – Strathroy-Caradoc will provide distinct experiences that celebrate its past and future by prioritizing innovative new ideas that set the Community apart.

BACKGROUND:

On March 25, 2021, the Federal Government announced substantial changes to the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF).

Deputy Prime Minister Freeland announced [Bill C-25](#), which would permanently rename the GTF to the Canada Community-Building Fund and increase funding by \$2.2 billion in 2021.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc's scheduled allocation for 2021 was \$661,880.00. With the Federal Government's announcement, the Municipality receives a top-up of \$636,207.00 bringing the total funding to the municipality to \$1.298M.

Recreation infrastructure is considered an eligible investment for the Canada Community-Building Fund.

The recommendations have regard for the Corporate Strategic Plan, our Parks and Recreation Master Plan and contain pandemic resilient initiatives.

COMMENTS:

Replacement of pea stone in all Mt. Brydges playgrounds for accessibility

Staff have slowly replaced the pea stone with the accessibly compliant Engineered Wood Fibre (EWF) as part of the ongoing efforts to ensure playgrounds are safe and accessible. The most recent edition of the Canadian Standards Association, CAN/CSA-Z614 "A Standard on Children's Play Spaces and Equipment" identifies this product as acceptable.

All remaining playgrounds within Mt. Brydges will be upgraded to the EWF product.

Construction of a full-size Tennis Court and two Pickleball Courts in Mt. Brydges

The lack of hard court surfaces in Mt. Brydges was identified in a recent public consultation when gathering data for the Recreation Facilities Infrastructure Renewal Strategy (RFIRS).

This funding provides an excellent opportunity to develop a pandemic resilient amenity for which there is an identified need within the Community. The location specified beside Caradoc Public School has ample parking and is visible from the street, reducing vandalism and other unwanted behavior (see attached).

All Wheels Skate Park (AWSP)

There has been a historical desire for a new skate park within the Community. The current park in Strathroy is over 20 years old and does not suit the needs of today's users.

Staff and Council have been working towards developing a new AWSP over the last 5 to 7 years. Below is a timeline of what has taken place.

2013	Council approves skate park committee
June 2015	Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Recommendation for a skate park
Early 2018	Council approves design and consultation phase
Summer 2018	Public consultation – High school over lunch and WMMC in the evening
November 2018	Council approves design and location
2019	Construction drawings completed

Staff have recently been working with a local service club that has shown some interest in financially supporting this project. Representatives from the department have presented to the Club's executive as well as to the membership as a whole.

Realizing that the funding request will not complete the park, the commitment of service club funds will bolster our application when applying for grants.

CONSULTATION:

Management Team

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$635,000.00 from the Canada Community – Build Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Location Map of Tennis and Pickleball Courts
- Concept Design of All Wheels Skate Park