

**TO:** Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Wendy Marshall  
Manager of Parks Services

**MEETING:** January 8, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Grant Funding Applications for Huxley Community Park Improvements

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That an application for grant funding be submitted for the Huxley Community Park Improvements, Phase II through the *ICIP - Community, Culture and Recreation Program*.
2. That an application for grant funding be submitted for the Huxley Community Park Improvements, Phase II and Phase III through the *ICIP - Northern and Rural Communities Program*.
3. That the Board supports the Huxley Park Community Improvements and commits its funding share of the project costs in the amount of \$206,346.

### **SUMMARY**

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Community, Culture and Recreation Program (CCR) and the Rural and Northern Communities Program (RNC) are accepting applications for funding. The CCR Program will provide funding up to 73.33% for projects that improve access and quality of cultural, recreation and community spaces. The RNC program will provide funding up to 100% for communities with populations below 5,000. Deadline for application is January 23, 2019 and construction must be completed within 5 to 6 years. Huxley Community Park Improvements (PR-S4-1.2) is applicable under both the CCR and the RNC programs.

The Huxley Community Park Master Plan (Electoral Area B) was approved in 2015 and Phase I developments, including a playground and sports court upgrades, were completed in 2017 with grant funding totaling \$67,000. Phase II detailed design is currently underway for a skatepark, entrance, parking lot and connecting trails. Phase III will include sports court bleachers, rebuilding the tennis court and basic electrical upgrades. Both projects are eligible for funding under the CCR and RNC programs. Phase II can be submitted under the CCR program and Phases II and III under the RNC program. While the scope of the project can vary between the two programs, the matching funding must remain the same.

For the CCR program, the preliminary 2019 Area B Community Parks Budget has allocated \$206,346 for matching funding, including donations, for Phase II. If a successful application is made under the CCR program, up to \$567,534 can be received in grant funding. The total cost of Phase II is \$773,700.

For the RNC program, with \$206,346 matching funding, \$949,554 can be received in grant funding. The total cost for the two phases is \$1,155,900.

Board resolutions confirming the Regional District's financial commitment to the project's cost is required prior to the grant funding application deadline of January 23, 2019.

## **BACKGROUND**

The ICIP cost shares infrastructure investments between the Federal, Provincial and local governments. Two streams are applicable for RDN park projects. The CCR will provide funding for projects that will improve citizens' access to and quality of cultural, recreation and community spaces and will provide up to 73.33% of project funding. The RNC project provides funding for green, community, recreational, cultural and public infrastructure. For communities with a population fewer than 5,000, up to 100% funding is available. A community is a settlement area within a Regional District. Matching funding cannot be from other Federal or Provincial sources; therefore, Community Works Funds (CFW) cannot be used. The deadline for applications for both streams is January 23, 2019 with announcement to follow in the fall. Construction must be completed within 5 to 6 years.

It is expected that more applications will be received for the ICIP than there is funding available. Several projects were considered for the grant programs and after examining the grant criteria Huxley Community Park Improvements were selected based on their fit to the grant criteria, the background work already completed and community donations.

## **Huxley Community Park Improvements**

In 2015 the Huxley Community Park Master Plan, including a playground, sport court upgrades and a skatepark, was approved by the Regional Board (Attachment I). In 2017, Phase I was completed and included a playground and upgrades to the sport courts. In 2017, a concept plan for the skatepark was completed. Detailed design work, funded by CWF, is now underway for Phase II which includes the skatepark, skatepark seating, path connections, entrance and parking lot. Phase III will include sports court bleachers, rebuilding of the tennis court and electrical upgrades.

The Huxley Community Park Master Plan had several opportunities for public engagement as did the concept planning for the skatepark. The Gabriola Skatepark Fundraising Association has raised \$30,000 for the skatepark and fund raising is continuing. It is expected that more donations will be raised in the next year.

The Huxley Community Park Development is an excellent fit for the CCR program. Under this program, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) needs to provide 26.67% of funding. Based on the preliminary 2019 Area B Community Parks Budget, a total of \$206,346 is available from reserves, operations and donations to provide the matching funds for Phase II. If an application is submitted to the CCR program for Phase II, the RDN could receive \$567,354 grant funding. There are not enough funds available to provide matching funds for both Phases under the CCR program.

An application can also be submitted under the RNC program; however, the chance of success may not be as good as the CCR program as the project does not directly fit the program's core outcomes. If an application is made for Phases II and III to the RNC program, and not the CCR, based on Gabriola's population of fewer than 5,000, up to 100% funding could be received. If the application is not successful under the RNC program, the application will not be forwarded to the CCR program. Therefore, to increase the odds of success it is recommended that an application be submitted for both programs.

The RDN can submit an application under both programs for the same project as long as the matching funding remains the same for both programs. The project scope can be different between the two applications meaning that both Phases II and III can be applied for under the RNC using the \$206,346 matching funds.

It was always anticipated that grant funding would be required to complete the upgrades at Huxley Community Park. For the construction of Phase I, \$67,000 was received from grants.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. That an application be submitted for the Huxley Community Park Improvements, Phase II under the *ICIP - Community, Culture and Recreation Program* and for Phase II and III under the *ICIP - Northern and Rural Communities Program* and that the Board commits to its share of the project costs.
2. That an application be submitted for the Huxley Community Park Improvements, Phase II under the *ICIP – Community, Culture and Recreation Program* and that the Board commits to its share of the project costs.
3. That an application be submitted for the Huxley Community Park Improvements, Phase II and III under the *ICIP – Northern and Rural Communities Program* and that the Board commits to its share of the project costs.
4. That no grant submissions are made and alternative direction provided.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### Huxley Community Park Improvements

The preliminary 2019 Area B Community Parks Budget has \$55,000 from reserves, \$121,346 from operations and \$30,000 in donations allocated for the Huxley Park project. Detailed design for Phase II is underway with \$75,000 approved in CWF. Any increase in donations received for the skatepark will reduce the amount required from the Community Parks Budget. CWF is not available as matching funding under this program.

The estimated construction cost for Phase II is \$773,700 and breaks down as follows:

Skatepark	\$540,540
Parking, landscaping, paths, sitting area	<u>\$233,160</u>
Total	\$773,700

Under the CCR program, the maximum available grant funding would be \$567,354 as outlined below.

CCR Grant Funds (73.33%)	\$567,354
Area B Community Parks Budget Reserves	\$ 55,000
Area B Community Parks Budget Operation Funds	\$121,346
Donation	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total	\$773,700

The estimated construction costs for Phase III is \$382,200. There are insufficient funds in the Area B Community Parks Budget to fund the matching costs for both Phase II and III. However,

applying under the RNC grant with up to 100% funding, the RDN could receive \$949,554 to complete both phases as outlined below.

NRC Funding (82%)	\$949,554
Area B Community Parks Reserves	\$ 55,000
Area B Community Parks Operations Funds	\$121,346
Donation	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total	\$1,155,900

If grant funding is not received, the project would be delayed until either other grant funding can be obtained, Community Works Funds become available or the Reserve Funds are increased and used in subsequent years. The available 2018 Area B CWF is \$868,814. However, there other projects, including the Village Way Path, that are also allocated for CWF funding.

Once built the ongoing yearly maintenance costs are estimated at \$5,890 and Asset Management costs at \$1,300 per year.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - As We Invest In Regional Services We Look At Both Costs And Benefits - The RDN Will Be Effective And Efficient

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - We Recognize Community Mobility And Recreational Amenities As Core Services

The Huxley Park developments will provide key recreational amenities for children, youth and adults offering a wide range of activities. Applying for grant funding to allows the RDN to receive additional funding to be efficient in development of infrastructure.



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December 18, 2018

Reviewed by:

- W. Marshall, Manager, Parks Services
- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Huxley Community Park Master Plan