



Council report

Meeting date:	February 16, 2021
Title:	Recreation – Hydro One Building Safe Communities Grant
Prepared by:	Kodey Hewlett – Recreation Supervisor
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston – CAO / Deputy Clerk

Recommendation

That council provides staff direction on the Hydro One Building Safe Communities Grant regarding either trails or community garden improvements.

Executive summary

Staff is seeking direction regarding an application for the Hydro One Building Safe Communities Grant to be submitted February 19, 2021.

Background and discussion

The Hydro One Building Safe Communities Grant fund focuses on improving either physical or emotional community safety through programming and projects. If successful, the grant can supply communities with up to \$25,000 to provide projects addressing the needs of the community.

Eligible applications must:

Improve community safety (physical or emotional).

Support wellbeing, inclusion and, where applicable, support cultural diversity.

Have a clear objective, be measurable, and identify community impact.



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Following review of the eligibility criteria and community needs staff propose two projects for the grant.

1. Community Garden Expansion

The current community garden in Durham is comprised of eight raised garden beds that provide access to a sustainable food source. Users are designated a plot in which they are free to plant what they would like but must provide their own seeds, plants, and tools. When time permits, recreation staff assist with watering and basic garden maintenance.

Grant funding would allow the community garden program to expand and provide a new, small tool shed, rain barrels for watering, and a composter, as well as general improvements to the community garden area. Funding would also allow recreation staff to expand the community garden program into the other urban centers of West Grey including Ayton and Neustadt allowing even more residents the access to a sustainable food source.

2. Trail Improvement

Currently, the only trail system in operation is located in Durham. It is a combination of ice roads, public and private lands, as well as SVCA property. The trail system is user operated and created, being minimally maintained by the municipality. To date the municipality has applied for a grant to improve the trails and playground equipment (still pending funding). As well, council has tentatively approved, in the 2021 recreation budget, a supplementary allocation for trails improvements in the 2021 season. Access to further funding would allow staff the ability to further maintain the trails system beyond the original scope of the intended 2021 projects.

The two proposed projects meet different needs of the community but both focus on the improvement of emotional and physical community safety, helping to better the healthy and active lifestyles of West Grey residents. The trail project has been identified as an action item in the West Grey strategic vision plan, while the community garden project would benefit residents in various areas of West Grey.

Legal and legislated requirements

None.

Financial and resource implications

Matching funds are not required for the grant.



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Staffing implications

None.

Consultation

Kerri Mighton – Director of Finance/Treasurer
Laura Johnston – CAO
Hydro One

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Promote community

Goal: A cultural hub

Strategy: Support recreation programming

Attachments

None.

Next steps

Following council direction staff will complete the grant application for submission. Deadline for the grant submission is February 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor