



Council report

Meeting date:	March 2, 2021
Title:	Canada Healthy Communities Initiative
Prepared by:	Kodey Hewlett - Recreation Supervisor
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston - CAO / Deputy Clerk

Recommendation

That council provides staff direction on the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Grant

Executive summary

Staff is seeking direction regarding an application for the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Grant to be submitted for intake one March 9th 2021

Background and discussion

The Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Grant is hosted by Community Foundations Canada and is aimed at restoring communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic through “community-based infrastructure.” The grant focuses on three focus areas; create safe and vibrant public spaces, improve mobility of communities, or create responses to the pandemic for communities through new digital solutions. The grant does this through providing funding projects with up to \$250,000 to execute projects to be completed by June 2022.

Following review of the eligibility criteria and community needs staff have compiled the following projects for council consideration:

1. Trails system expansion

As discussed previously, the only trail system in operation is located in Durham. It is a combination of maintenance (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). Access to further funding would allow staff the ability to further maintain the trails system beyond the original scope of the intended 2021 projects

2. Upgrades to Riverside Park



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Currently, Riverside Park is one of the most used green spaces in all of West Grey even throughout the current pandemic. In a typical year the park hosts various events including Music in the Park, Arts Fest, Horticultural Society Events, Children's Events, and various family BBQ's and picnics. The park also sees many pass-through users accessing the trails and middle dam.

Proposed upgrades to the park would include a pavilion / bandstand area, accessible outdoor bathroom, and increased seating and landscaping. The project would lend itself assisting the various community groups by providing them a place to host their events and would aid in economic development by making the downtown core even more of a destination. As well, the project would also aid itself to hosting events for the 2022 Durham Homecoming. Currently a hydro installation project is set to be completed prior to the 2022 homecoming.

Other potential ideas for consideration could include improved streetscaping, art installations in parks, and improved playground and community space upgrades.

Legal and legislated requirements

None.

Financial and resource implications

Matching funds are not required as part of the grant.

Staffing implications

None.

Consultation

Kerri Mighton – Director of Finance/Treasurer

Laura Johnston – CAO

Community Foundations Canada

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Promote community

Goal: A cultural hub

Strategy: Support recreation programming



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Attachments

None.

Next steps

Following council direction staff will complete the grant application for submission. Deadline for the grant submission intake one is March 9th 2021. If unsuccessful in receiving funding during round one a second intake is available May 14th 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor