

Greater Sudbury Court Revitalization Project

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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the Greater Sudbury Court Revitalization Project which has been approved for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the areas of Asset Management and Creating a Healthy Community and aligns with the Population Health Priority of Play Opportunities. The Greater Sudbury Revitalization of outdoor sport courts will see much needed investment in facilities to extend life cycles, conversion of under-utilized facilities to reduce foot print and the provision of new recreation opportunities at a neighbourhood level.

This report is aligned with the Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) by upgrading existing lighting, where needed, to reduce energy use. Indirectly, the revitalization and re-purposing of under-utilized tennis courts encourages neighbourhood recreational activities that are easy to access without further travel. The proposed projects will avoid future building construction on the site and will take place within the existing amenities footprint.

Financial Implications

Through the 2021 budget process, Council approved capital dollars in the amount of \$4,380,000 for the project.

Through the ICIP program, the Federal government is contributing \$1,752,000 to the project and the Provincial government is contributing \$1,459,854.

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with an overview of the Greater Sudbury Court Revitalization Project which has been approved for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding. The project will see the revitalization of 14 outdoor tennis court facilities and 14 outdoor basketball courts across the community over the next several years.

The report provides information about the project scope and funding received. The report also informs Council of the locations identified for revitalization which were determined using an evaluation of existing condition assessments, reference to recommended provision levels and considering priority neighbourhoods.

The report outlines the next steps for the project including site work, community consultation and future project status updates to Council.

Background

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is a cost-shared infrastructure funding program between the federal government, provinces and territories, and municipalities and other recipients. This program will see up to \$30 billion in combined federal, provincial and other partner funding, under four priority areas, including public transit, and culture and recreation.

In August 2019, the Province of Ontario announced that it would accept applications for the Community, Culture and Recreation Funding Stream. Under the program guidelines municipalities could apply for multiple projects in two categories:

- Multipurpose Projects with a maximum project value of \$50 million
- Rehabilitation and Renovation Projects with a maximum project value of \$5 million

At the City Council meeting of October 8, 2019, Council received a report titled “Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Community Culture and Recreation Stream” providing a summary of the funding program and seeking direction from Council on which municipal projects the City of Greater Sudbury would identify for funding consideration.

Council provided direction to staff to submit applications for the Valley East Twin Pad project and the Library / Art Gallery project under the multi-purpose category of the grant stream and to make applications for the Neighbourhood Playground Field Houses, the Recreational Court Revitalization project and the Lionel E. Lalonde Therapeutic/Leisure Pool project as part of the rehabilitation and renovation category.

On March 23, 2021, Federal, Provincial and municipal officials announced joint funding for the revitalization of public recreation courts across the City of Greater Sudbury. The project scope will see the revitalization of 14 outdoor tennis court facilities (10 double court sites and 4 quad court sites) and 14 outdoor basketball courts across the community.

Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Implications

Outdoor Tennis Courts

The City’s Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014) notes a sizable surplus of tennis courts, particularly in Onaping Falls, Capreol, Walden, Nickel Centre, and to a lesser degree Sudbury. Further, it is stated that no additional courts are required in any area of the City during the timeframe of the Plan. The Plan the backlog of deferred maintenance on City tennis courts is significant and growing even though the City undertakes court repairs (e.g., resurfacing, lighting, fencing, etc.) as funding allows. As an action item, the plan recommends that the City should convert under-utilized tennis pads in over-supplied areas to other alternative uses (e.g., pickleball) or remove the courts entirely to mitigate capital requirements.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

The Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan describes outdoor basketball courts as community-level facilities with accessibility by foot, bicycle and public transit as an important consideration. The Plan states that the distribution of outdoor basketball courts is relatively good across the City, particularly in less populated communities. The Plan noted service gaps existing in the following areas: Onaping Falls

(Onaping, Levack, or the urban portion of Dowling); Sudbury (Copper Cliff, Downtown, Minnow Lake, and South End); and Valley East (Val Caron).

Recommended Provision Levels

The Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan established a provision target of one tennis court per 5,000 persons, with considerations for a 1 kilometer service radius. With an inventory of 56 outdoor tennis courts, the City is currently providing one tennis court for every 2,877 persons.

The Plan also established a provision target for outdoor basketball courts of a target of one full court equivalent per 750 youth ages 10 to 19 years, with considerations for a 1 kilometer service radius. Based on the existing 31 full court equivalent inventory, the City is currently providing one court per 567 youth ages 10 to 19.

Recent Outdoor Sports Court Developments

The following investments in improved and new outdoor sports courts have been made recently to address recommendations made in the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014):

- Development of new half court basketball court at York Street Playground (Ward 10) through an Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) capital grant at an estimated project cost of \$19,300.
- New full court basketball court developed at Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre (Ward 6) through corporate sponsorship and HCI grant.
- New basketball court installed by Clifford & Lily Fielding Charitable Foundation at Kivi Park (Ward 9).
- New basketball standards installed as part of improvements at Percy and Ridgecrest outdoor rinks (Ward 12).
- Rehabilitation of the Brébeuf Tennis Court complex (Ward 12) through capital allocation at an estimated project cost of \$135,000.
- Rehabilitation of the James Jerome Sports Complex tennis courts (Ward 10) through capital allocation at an estimated project cost of \$185,000.
- Development of a new basketball court at St. Joseph's Playground (Ward 12) through capital allocation and the Playground Revitalization project.
- Conversion of the O'Connor Playground tennis courts to permanent pickleball courts (Ward 12) through capital funding and New Horizons grant at an estimated project cost of \$50,000.
- Redevelopment of Cote Park tennis courts (Ward 3) to rehabilitate asphalt and create permanent pickleball courts at an estimated project cost of \$45,000 through City capital funds and HCI capital.

Project Overview

The scope of the Greater Sudbury Court Revitalization project will see the revitalization of 14 outdoor tennis court facilities (10 double court sites and 4 quad court sites) and 14 outdoor basketball courts across the community. The project will improve the quality of Greater Sudbury's recreation and leisure infrastructure by completing a backlog of deferred maintenance on outdoor sports courts in an effort to increase utilization. Work will also include:

- The conversion of under-utilized tennis pads in over-supplied areas to other alternative uses (e.g. pickleball, skateboarding) resulting in a greater variety of recreational activities (25% to 30% of courts identified to be converted).
- Improved safety and accessibility for users through the rehabilitation/replacement of asphalt surfaces, improved pathways and entrances.
- Improved playability of outdoor courts through installation of new netting, fencing, basketball standards and other equipment.

Through the ICIP program, the Federal government is contributing \$1,752,000 to the project and the Provincial government is contributing \$1,459,854. Through the 2021 budget process, Council approved capital dollars in the amount of \$4,380,000 for the project.

Work will commence in 2021 and will be completed in 2027.

Prioritization of Locations for Outdoor Court Revitalization

Previous capital prioritization submissions have included the following tennis complexes requiring work:

- Twin Forks (Sudbury)
- Delki Dozzi (Sudbury)
- Elmview (Hanmer)
- Sixth Avenue (Lively)

In 2020, staff completed condition assessments on the remainder of the City's outdoor sports courts. Condition assessment data has been incorporated into a scoring tool to determine locations and prioritization of sites for the project. Sites were evaluated using the following criteria:

Asset Condition

- Data from condition assessments completed in 2020.
- Reported health & safety concerns or courts closed due to inability to play
- Identified previously as part of Capital Prioritization

Provision Levels

- Gaps noted in the Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan
- Conversely sites in a 1km overlap of another facility had points deducted
- Opportunities for conversion to meet other facility gaps (basketball, skateboarding, etc.) and sites identified by the Greater Sudbury Pickleball Association for conversion

Priority Neighbourhoods

- Priority neighbourhoods identified using Low Income After Tax Prevalence data from the 2016 Census.

The following tables summarize the outdoor tennis and basketball courts which will be included as part of the scope of the Greater Sudbury Outdoor Court Revitalization project:

Outdoor Tennis Courts Identified for Revitalization		
Location	Ward	Score
Twin Forks Playground	8	20.5
Delki Dozzi Sports Complex	1	19
Sixth Avenue Playground	2	18.5
Elmview Playground	6	18.5
Copper Cliff Tennis Courts	2	17
Dowling Leisure Centre	3	17
Lorne Brady Park	7	17
Lion's Park	6	14.5
Queens Athletic Field & Sports Complex	1	13
Carmichael Sports Complex	11	12
Onaping Tot Lot	3	10
Doug Mohns Park	7	10
Coniston Centennial Park	9	9
Falconbridge Community Centre	7	8.5

Outdoor Basketball Courts Identified for Revitalization		
Location	Ward	Score
Ryan Heights Playground	5	11.5
Downe Playground	11	9.5
Minnow Lake Place	11	9
Elm West Playground	4	7
McLean Playground	5	6
Capreol Lions Den Park	7	6
Wahnapitae Community Centre	9	6
Eyre Playground	12	5.5
Copper Tot Lot	1	5
VLA Playground	2	5
Vermillion Playground	3	5
Kin Park	5	5
Valley Acres Playground	6	5
Don Lita Playground	8	5

Next Steps

A community engagement process will commence in the Summer of 2021 to gather community feedback about revitalization of sites identified above to ensure that facilities are designed to meet the needs of local neighbourhoods and communities. Stakeholders such as the Greater Sudbury Pickleball Association, Community Action Networks and Neighbourhood Associations will be engaged. The general public will have opportunities to provide feedback through the City's Overtoyou platform.

Upon completing the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Federal and Provincial governments, geotechnical work will commence.

An average of 4 to 5 facilities will be scheduled for revitalization per year for the term 2021 through 2027 using the prioritization lists above. Leisure Services Division staff have engaged Infrastructure Capital

Planning Division staff for the potential to collaborate on required asphalt work for project efficiencies and cost savings.

Staff will provide status updates on the project through the CAO Quarterly Performance report and an annual report to the Community Services Committee.

Resources Cited

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Community Culture and Recreation Stream Report, City Council (October 8, 2019)

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=1979>

Canada and Ontario invest in improved public recreation courts for Greater Sudbury residents, Public Service Announcement (March 23, 2021)

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/news-and-public-notice/2021/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-public-recreation-courts-for-greater-sudbury-residents/>

City of Greater Sudbury Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014)

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/play/parks-and-playgrounds1/parks-open-space-and-leisure-master-plan-review-2014/>