

Playground Revitalization Update 2022

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

Report Summary

This report provides recommendations regarding the capital fund-raising commitment from United Way Centraide Northeastern Ontario for the Playground Revitalization Project and information regarding grant applications made to leverage federal and provincial project funds for the project.

Resolution

Resolution #1

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury authorizes staff to enter into a partnership agreement with United Way Centraide Northeastern Ontario regarding their contribution total of \$250,000, with \$200,000 to be received in 2022 and \$50,000 in 2023 towards the Playground Revitalization Project as per the terms as outlined in the report entitled "Playground Revitalization Update 2022", from the General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community Services Committee meeting on February 16, 2022.

Resolution #2

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves a draw from the Parks Obligatory Reserve to a maximum amount of \$190,000 to leverage federal and provincial project funding as outlined in the report entitled "Playground Revitalization Update 2022", from the General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community Services Committee meeting on February 16, 2022.

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

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Families, Play Opportunities and Age Friendly Strategy. Revitalization of playgrounds provides inviting, safe play spaces for all residents to enjoy.

This report has no connection to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP).

Financial Implications

Upon council approval, maximum of \$190,000 be funded from Parks Obligatory Reserve Fund to leverage federal and provincial grant funds as described in this report.

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Playground Revitalization Project, the project initiated in 2018 to replace play equipment at various City of Greater Sudbury (City) playgrounds rated in poor condition.

The report provides an update on the capital fundraising campaign United Way Centraide North Eastern Ontario (UWCNEO) committed to during previous deliberations. While UWCNEO's fundraising campaign continues to be impacted by limited staffing resources and challenges presented by COVID-19, the organization has proposed a modified financial commitment to the City. This report seeks direction from Council to enter into a partnership agreement and describes key terms which will be included.

The report also provides an update on recent grant applications submitted by the City for project funding. The City has recently received confirmation from FedNor that funding in the amount of \$495,000 has been approved for the revitalization of 8 playground sites through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). The report also provides information on a second application made to the Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Building Fund (Capital Stream) for \$500,000 to advance the revitalization of 5 additional playground sites. The report seeks approval from Council to draw the required City contribution for both grant streams from Park Reserve funds.

Background

As part of the 2018 budget deliberation process, a business case for the revitalization of 58 playground sites identified as being in poor condition was included for Council's consideration. The business case outlined capital investment to upgrade 58 playground sites at an estimated cost of \$40,000 per site for a total of \$2,320,000.

During the budget deliberation process, Council was also informed about the United Way Centraide North East Ontario's commitment to match the City's investment in Playground Revitalization through a fundraising campaign. The United Way's contribution would supplement the City's budget and result in an average investment of \$80,000 per playground site. The Finance and Administration Committee approved \$2.3 million for Playground Revitalization with an annual contribution from the Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) funds in the amount of \$150,000 per year to cover debt payments for 25 years.

At the May 11, 2019 Community Services Committee meeting, Council received a report titled "Playground Revitalization Update 2019". The report provided an update on the following twelve playgrounds which were identified for revitalization as part of the first phase of the project:

- Côté Park (Ward 3)
- East St. Tot Lot (Ward 9)
- Hillcrest Playground (Ward 1)
- Howard Armstrong Sports Complex (Ward 6)
- Lakeview Playground (Ward 10)
- Lonsdale Playground (Ward 11)
- Penman Park (Ward 5)
- Pinecrest Tot Lot (Ward 5)
- Place Hurtubise Playground (Ward 8)

- Sixth Ave. Playground (Ward 2)
- Selkirk Park (Ward 4)
- St. Joseph Playground (Ward 12)

A report titled Playground Revitalization Update 2020 was presented to City Council on September 22, 2020. The report provided an update on the 14 playground sites included in phase two of the Playground Revitalization Project. The following sites have been completed as part of Phase Two:

- Participation Tot Lot (Ward 1)
- Queen's Athletic Sports Complex (Ward 1)
- Algoma Tot Lot (Ward 3)
- Russell Beaudry Playground (Ward 3)
- Birch Tot Lot (Ward 4)
- MacMillan Tot Lot (Ward 5)
- Catherine Park (Ward 7)
- Doug Mohns Sports Complex (Ward 7)
- Ravine Park (Ward 7)
- Paquette Tot Lot (Ward 8)
- Ray Street Tot Lot (Ward 9)
- Cedar Park Playground (Ward 12)
- Columbus Tot Lot (Ward 12)
- Eyre Playground (Ward 12)

United Way Centraide Update

As part of the Playground Revitalization Update 2020 report previously presented to Council, it was noted that UNWCNEO's ability to raise capital funds for the project had been significantly impacted by a number of factors. UNWCNEO cited the significant reductions in their staffing resources as a factor. United Way Centraide North East Ontario operates across six districts (Sudbury, Cochrane, Timiskaming, Nipissing, Parry Sound and Manitoulin) and have had their full time compliment of employees reduced from 16 in 2018 to a current level of eight full time employees. Currently UWCNEO employs one fundraiser in Sudbury and one in Timmins; both work primarily on workplace campaigns.

UNWCNEO also stated COVID-19 had significant impacts on their ability to fundraise as typical funding sources such as workplace campaigns.

During the pandemic UNWCNEO has shifted its focus on addressing urgent needs for food, shelter, hygiene and personal protection equipment in our community with responsibilities for the distribution of Government of Canada funds to support charities and municipalities with focus on supporting seniors and vulnerable populations.

Through the work of UWCNEO in this past year, 103,000 individuals and families were supported in accessing basic needs like clothing and hygiene items. Over 386,000 food baskets, meals and grocery gift cards were provided throughout communities in the Northeast, and more than 33,000 referrals were provided to people needing social support such as financial assistance and legal services.

Considering the current challenges with respect to fund-raising and the organization's focus on supporting vulnerable populations, the UNWCNEO Board of Directors are proposing a modified project commitment as follows:

- UWCNEO will fund improvements to the Moonlight Beach Playground in the amount of \$150,000 with project to be completed in 2022
- The new playground amenity will be renamed to a name to be determined by UWCNEO in a formal celebration coordinated between UWCNEO and the City. This renaming will align with UWCNEO's 40-year anniversary celebration in 2022. A subsequent report will be presented to the Community

Services Committee regarding the renaming of the play structure as per the City's Building, Property and Park Naming Policy.

- UWCNEO will provide \$50,000 per year in the years 2022 and 2023 to be used to revitalize additional playground sites.
- Contributions from UWCNEO in 2022 and 2023 will be directed towards locations where there is a demonstratable population of those living in poverty, or where children and families from low-income neighborhoods will travel to in alignment with the organization's mandate.
- UWCNEO will work with the City to establish naming opportunities for each project funded by UWCNEO and will seek out and cultivate new partnerships for playgrounds where possible.
- UWCNEO will include the Playground Revitalization Project in their annual fundraising plan for 2022 and 2023, ensuring the project is included in the fundraising activities of the Revenue Development Team.

Upon Council approval, the City will enter into a partnership agreement based on the terms noted above.

FedNor Canada Community Revitalization Fund Application

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) aims to help communities across Canada build and improve community infrastructure projects so they can rebound from the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a national investment of \$500 million over two years, the fund's purpose is to support not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, and other community groups, as well as Indigenous communities:

- build new community infrastructure and revitalize existing assets
- bring people back to public spaces safely as health measures ease
- create jobs and stimulate local economies

City staff responded to a call for applications in July 2021. The City submitted a more detailed application in the Fall of 2021 as part of FedNor's two phase application process. The City applied for the revitalization of 8 playground sites at an estimated total project cost of \$660,000:

- Gil Loop Playground (Ward 3)
- St. Charles Park (Ward 1)
- Shawn Tot Lot (Ward 4)
- Simon Lake Playground (Ward 2)
- Grandview Playground (Ward 5)
- Brighton Tot Lot (Ward 7)
- Rosemarie Playground (Ward 8)
- Lebel (Ward 8)

Sites above were included based on updated condition assessments and inspection reports.

The City has received confirmation of \$495,000 from FedNor with the remaining 25% contribution (\$165,000) being the responsibility of the City under the terms of the funding stream (maximum contribution rate for eligible projects costs shall not exceed 75%).

To date, all but \$75,000 of the City's \$2.3M contribution has been spent or committed on the first two phases of the Playground Revitalization Project. An additional \$90,000 is required to realize the City's 25% project contribution which is being recommended to be funded from Parks Obligatory Reserve Fund.

Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Building Fund (Capital Stream) Application

The Community Building Fund – Capital stream provides support for non-profits, Indigenous communities and Municipalities in the community sport and recreation sectors. The fund will help strengthen communities

by supporting the repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation facilities to address:

- Local community need by extending the life and maximizing the use of existing facilities (e.g. playgrounds, splashpads, etc.) OR
- COVID-19 related public health requirements now that support future preparedness

Organizations were able to apply for up to 100% of their total project cost up to a maximum of \$500,000, with the exception of Municipalities with a population over 20,000 that could only apply for up to 80% of their total project cost.

- Eligible project costs will be supported up to a maximum of \$500,000.
- Minimum request amount is \$10,000.

OTF officials confirmed that multiple playground sites could be included as part of a single application. The City has made application for funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the following locations (prioritized based on recent condition assessments and inspection reports):

- Don Lita Playground (Ward 8)
- Daniel Tot Lot (Ward 5)
- VLA Playground (Ward 2)
- Onaping Tot Lot (Ward 3)
- Central Lane (Ward 7)

Should the OTF application be approved, the City's 20% contribution would be \$100,000 which is being recommended to be funded from Parks Obligatory Reserve Fund.

Summary of Project Funding & Commitments

The following chart summarizes committed, received and grant requests to advance additional project locations described above. The chart also summarizes the municipal contributions required (should the City be successful with outstanding grant applications):

Funding Source	Amount	Status	Municipal Contribution
UWCNEO	\$250,000	Commitment	
FedNor	\$495,000	Confirmed	\$165,000 (\$75,000 existing capital + \$90,000 Parks Reserve)
OTF	\$500,000	Application submitted	\$100,000 (Parks Reserve)

Remaining Playground Revitalization Project Locations

With the grants and commitments noted above, and pending successful funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the following sites remain to be completed (playgrounds which have been rated in poor condition and require replacement). City staff have established a revitalization budget for each site based on existing amenities. Revised costs estimates reflect increases in equipment costs due to steel tariffs and other COVID related factors:

Playground	Ward	Estimated Replacement Cost
Black Lake	2	51,240
Penage Road Community Centre	2	12,200
Den Lou Playground	2	79,000
Centennial Park	2	183,000
Whitefish Playground	2	91,500

Pine and Fir	3	12,200
Pine Street	7	73,200
Thomas Tot Lot	7	85,400
Parkinson Tot Lot	7	97,600
Mountainview Playground	9	73,200
Total		758,540
Contingency		15%
Estimated Total Replacement Costs		872,320

Total replacement costs for the sites noted above is \$758,540. When adding a 15% contingency, at total estimated amount of \$872,320 is required to complete the Playground Revitalization Project (should the City be successful with the OTF grant application).

City staff, in collaboration with UWCNEO, will continue to explore and make grant applications available for capital funds towards the project. Additional funds required for the project will form part of future capital prioritization requests.

Annual inspections on play equipment will continue to take place. Should individual components fail inspection, equipment will be safeguarded and placed out of service until funding can be secured for replacement.

Next Steps

Staff will enter into a partnership agreement with United Way Centraide Northeastern Ontario regarding their project contribution under the terms described in this report.

Community consultation sessions for design feedback will take place for locations where funding has been secured.

The City, in collaboration with UWCNEO, will continue to explore grant opportunities for project funding. Any additional funds required to complete the project will form part of future capital prioritization requests.

Resources Cited

Playground Revitalization Update 2020, City Council (September 22, 2020)

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=39075>

Playground Revitalization Update 2019, Community Services Committee (May 11, 2019)

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=7&id=1353>

Playground Revitalization Update, Community Services Committee (September 25, 2018)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1247&itemid=15433&lang=en>

Playground Revitalization Final Report, Community Services Committee (December 5, 2017)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=3&id=1155>

Playground Revitalization Incremental Report #1, Community Services Committee (June 19, 2017)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=5&id=1152>

Playground Revitalization Report, Finance and Administration Committee (April 12, 2017)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1169&itemid=>

12145

Playgrounds Report, Finance and Administration Committee (September 20, 2016)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=7&id=973>