

O'Connor Sports Court Fundraising Update

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	April 28, 2026
Type:	Referred & Deferred Matters
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Report Summary

This report provides an update on the status of fundraising efforts of the O'Connor Sports Court community-led project. A business case for the required capital funding to complete the project was presented during 2026 budget deliberations which was deferred pending a report from staff.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to proposed investment in infrastructure to support community recreation with a focus on quality of life which supports the Council strategic priority 5.0 of Creating a Healthier Community.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Approval of HCI capital projects includes approval of operating costs to be provided in the base budget in subsequent budget years to the operating department.

Background

The O'Connor Sport Court is community-led project led by the Flour Mill Community Action Network currently in the final proposal and fundraising phase. On the December 2, 2025, City Council Budget deliberations the following amendment occurred to the business case (Attachment 1) for the project:

As amended:

THAT the 2026 Budget be amended to include the business case entitled "Create an Outdoor Sports Court at O'Connor Playground" as outlined on page 161 of the 2026-2027 budget document, subject to:

THAT the one-time cost of \$240,000 be funded with previously approved Healthy Community Initiative Funds of \$150,000, donations of \$21,000, and the Capital Financing Reserve Fund - General of \$69,000 for a 2026 net levy impact of zero.

The item was deferred, and staff were asked to provide an update on the fundraising status of the project in Q1 2026.

Q1 2026 Update

The original project estimate was \$257,892, which included acrylic surfacing for the outdoor sports court and a 20 per cent contingency, consistent with standard practice for community-led projects of this nature. Following the deferral of the project by City Council during budget deliberations, staff met with Councillor Landry-Altman to review the project scope and explore options to advance the project.

As acrylic surfacing is not required to complete the court and may be installed at a later date, the project scope was adjusted accordingly. As a result, the budget was revised to \$235,000, inclusive of a 20 per cent contingency, while the volunteer group continued fundraising efforts with the support of the Parks and Recreation team.

In January 2026, staff obtained updated vendor quotations for the various components of the project. Based on these quotations, the estimated project budget has been further reduced to \$180,000, which continues to include a 20 per cent contingency.

City Council has previously approved \$150,000 in funding through the Healthy Communities Initiatives (HCI) Fund to support the project. In addition, the Flour Mill Community Action Network has raised \$22,000 in cash contributions, which are secured in the project account held by the City.

As a result, a funding shortfall of approximately \$8,000 remains to be raised in order for the project to proceed.

In February 2026, staff reviewed the scope of the project and reduced the fencing requirements from a full enclosure to include only baseline/endline fencing to meet safety standards. As a result, the project budget has been reduced to within the \$172,000 current fundraised.

Summary and Next Steps

Staff will proceed with scheduling the project for completion in 2026, and continue to update the Flour Mill Community Action Network.

Council has directed staff to develop a formal, multi-tiered Community Grants program, including policies, an application process, and evaluation criteria. This work will also include a review of HCI capital funding and recommendations on how community groups can leverage HCI capital for approved community-led projects, supporting initiatives similar to the O'Connor Outdoor Sports Courts in progressing to completion. As HCI funding is not intended to fully fund capital projects, the report will clarify appropriate funding roles and expectations. Staff will report back to Council with recommendations on grants at the end of Q2.

Resources Cited

Finalization of 2026-2027 Budget FA2025-51-A7 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=59108>

Healthy Communities Initiatives Fund Approval - November 18, 2025 CC2025-263 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=59070>

