



Subject: *District Recreation Fund Applications (Intake 2) for 2024*
To: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee
Date Prepared: June 7, 2024
Related Motions: C24(93)
Prepared by: Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Summary

This report brings forward District Recreation Fund (DRF) recommendations for Council consideration.

The second intake for DRF closed April 30, 2024. Five applications have been reviewed and are being brought forward for consideration. Additionally, a change of scope has come in from an organization that was awarded funding earlier this year.

Council may wish to approve funding from multiple districts where projects benefit facilities and user groups that service a large area of the municipality. This report notes under each project where other districts have contributed to previous years' projects.

Financial Impact Statement

The available District Recreation Fund for 2024-2025 was \$717,115. In addition, there is \$3875 remaining in the Gore area rate, and \$156,820 in the Mount Uniacke DRF area rate, bringing total available funding to \$877,810.

In Motion C24(93) Council approved \$116,885 for 7 projects. \$25,767 was awarded to Corridor Minor Ball, but due to project scope change, this group's funding has been returned to the appropriate districts, and the new project request is included in the report below.

The total requests for this second intake (5 projects plus 1 rescope) are \$193,142.

Recommendation

That Council approve the funding recommendations for the DRF grant applications based on discussion at committee pending all supporting documents are complete.

Recommended Motion

Move that Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend that Council approve District Recreation Funding 2024-2025 (intake 2) based on discussion at committee (motion will have details for council);

And, that Council approve removing 1st intake funding for Corridor Minor Ball under Motion C24(93) and approve funding as part of 2nd intake as discussed;

And, that Council request a policy review on funding of school assets through District Recreation Funds.

Background

The District Recreation Funding Program offers annual funding opportunities to groups that provide benefit to the residents of East Hants and offer the development of programs, activities and infrastructure that encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

District Recreation Funding Program Objectives:

1. Support community-based organizations to maintain and enhance their recreation facilities.
2. Establish criteria which is equitable and consistently applied.
3. Maintain accountability when dispersing public recreation funds.
4. Support the vision and strategies of municipal strategic plans.

Organizations are first eligible for 50% of project costs. If a districts fund does not have ample funding to meet this threshold, the organization may then receive up to 50% of a district's available funds. In special circumstances, Council may contribute more than 50% of the total project cost or more than 50% of the funds not yet committed in the District Recreation Fund if:

- The applicant is the only organization maintaining a recreation facility in that district;
- There is evidence of significant community support demonstrated by written letters of support from the other eligible organizations;
- The project directly advances municipal plans; or,
- At the direction of Council.

Applications are reviewed for completeness, adherence to policies and evaluated against alignment with municipal recreation priorities and other applications from the district and Municipality.

Staff evaluate the District Recreation Funds applications and make allocations based on policy. Council may wish to consider combining district funds to help accommodate the funding requests or adjust the allocation amount for a particular project.

2024/2025 District Recreation Funds Allocations:

District	Carry Over for Report	2024-2025 Allocation	January 2024 (Intake 1)	Available Funding
1 - Enfield	\$ 47,300	\$ 32,310	\$ (11,583)	\$ 68,027
2 - Elmsdale/Belnan	\$ 73,073	\$ 26,229	\$ (12,972)	\$ 86,330
3 - Milford/Nine Mile River	\$ 3,222	\$ 20,558	\$ (6,890)	\$ 16,890
4 - Shubenacadie	\$ 17,215	\$ 10,721	\$ -	\$ 27,936
5 - Maitland/MacPhees Corner	\$ 51,187	\$ 12,687	\$ (4,660)	\$ 59,214
6 - Walton/Noel/Kennetcook	\$ 12,476	\$ 10,036	\$ (7,162)	\$ 15,350
7 - Lantz/Milford	\$ 45,882	\$ 29,253	\$ -	\$ 75,135
8 - Mount Uniacke	\$ 83,916	\$ 25,909	\$ (18,305)	\$ 91,520
9 - South/East Uniacke	\$ 87,080	\$ 27,636	\$ (18,305)	\$ 96,411
10 - Enfield/Grand Lake	\$ 6,301	\$ 29,561	\$ (6,583)	\$ 29,280
11 - Rawdon/Gore	\$ 48,619	\$ 15,943	\$ (4,660)	\$ 59,902
5 - Maitland/MacPhees Corner - Gore \$0.01	\$ 3,875			\$ 3,875
Mount Uniacke Additional Rate	\$ 116,660	\$ 40,160		\$ 156,820
Available Funds	\$ 596,807	\$ 281,003	\$ (91,120)	\$ 786,690

Discussion

The Staff Grant Committee reviewed all five applications against Council's policy, as well as the change of scope for one project. Summary of each project is below.

Project Rescope:

Corridor Minor Baseball (District 10)

Original Project: Field Maintenance, Storage & Equipment Upgrade

Approved DRF Funds: \$25,767 - (Amount requested), pending approval of other funding

District 10 - \$10,000, District 1 - \$7,931, District 2 - \$7,836

Provincial funding awarded in May was lower than expected, and at the same time the garage/shed project complete with site prep had increased in cost. The group has resubmitted a budget for the Custom Garage (all-inclusive build) project only and is asking for consideration as follows:

Project Cost: \$37,627

Requested DRF Funds: \$18,814

DRF Recommendation: \$14,640 (1/2 of District 10 available funds)

Shortfall: \$4,174

Project Descriptions

District 1 - Enfield

Funding Available: \$68,027

Enfield District School

Project: Accessible Playground

Total Project: \$204,360

Requested DRF Funds: \$100,000 (1/2 of project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: None at the time, awaiting project readiness

Notes:

- Pending Funding - Provincial Recreation Facility Development Grant, SAC Innovation Fund
- No funding from CCRCE, 8 elementary/district schools in East Hants, funding through DRF may set precedent
- Council may want to consider evaluating the Policy with respect to school playgrounds limiting our programs to upgrades rather than recapitalization of entire playground

District 2 - Elmsdale/Belnan

Funding Available: \$86,330

Riverview United Church

Project: Efficiency/Heating Upgrade (heat pumps, lighting and solar panels)

Total Project: \$96,000

Requested DRF Funds: \$20,000

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$20,000

Notes:

- Pending Funding (Efficiency NS & United Church of Canada) but has plans to use a loan if needed
- Funding only hall/community portion of building

District 3 - Milford/Nine Mile River

Funding Available: \$16,890

Milford Recreation Association

Project: Hall Refurbish (Heat pumps, painting, window treatments)

Total Project: \$37,881

Breakdown:

Heat pump Upgrades: \$19,320

Interior Painting: \$5345

Window Blinds: \$6486

Drapes: \$6730

Requested DRF Funds: \$18,940 (1/2 total project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$8,445 (1/2 District 3 funds available)

For heat pump and painting only total would be \$24,665, and 50% is \$12,333, shortfall \$3,888

Shortfall: \$10,495

Notes:

- Pending funding from Province (anticipated to be half of project cost)
- Priority at this time is heat pumps
- In previous years District(s) 2,7 have contributed

District 8 - Mount Uniacke

Funding Available: \$91,520

Uniacke Legion - Branch 165

Project: Hall Repairs & Accessible Doors

Total Project: \$13,628

Requested DRF Funds: \$5,388

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$5,388

Notes:

- In past years, District 9 has contributed to this group's projects

District 10 - Enfield/Grand Lake

Funding Available: \$29,280

Enfield Rugby Football Club (RFC)

Project: Clubhouse/Washroom Project (Phase 2)

Total Project: \$138,575

Requested DRF Funds: \$30,000

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$14,640 (1/2 of District 10 available funds)

Shortfall: \$15,360

Notes:

- Funding confirmed from province - Provincial Recreation Facility Development Grant
- Phase 1 was funded in 2023 with ACOA
- Association's membership: majority from Enfield, Elmsdale, Lantz, Milford and Shubenacadie, but others coming from Nine Mile River, Sipekne'katik, Belnan, and Rines Creek
- In past years, Districts 1,2,7 have contributed to this group's projects

Summary of recommendations based on policy:

Applicant	District	DRF Amount Requested	Dist. Funds Available	Recommendation
Enfield District School	1	\$100,000	\$68,027	-
Riverview United Church	2	\$20,000	\$86,330	\$20,000
Milford Recreation Assoc.	3	\$18,940	\$16,890	\$8,445
Uniacke Legion	8	\$5,388	\$91,520	\$5,388
Corridor Minor Ball	10	\$18,814		\$14,640
Enfield Rugby	10	\$30,000		\$14,640
District 10 Total:		\$38,932	\$29,280	
Totals:		\$193,142		\$63,113

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

District Recreation Fund Program provides capital funding to non-profit community groups who own and operate indoor and outdoor community facilities available to all residents to enjoy. These community groups contribute to a strong community and provide sustainable infrastructure.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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Alternatives

Council may wish to approve funding from multiple districts where projects benefit facilities and users of facilities that service a large area of the municipality.
