

Report to Council



Date: September 14, 2020

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure – Community, Culture & Recreation – City Park

Department: Parks & Buildings Planning

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives the report from Parks and Buildings Planning dated September 14, 2020 with respect to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – BC – Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure;

AND THAT Council directs staff to submit an application for grant funding application for City Park through the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICP) – Community, Culture and Recreation*;

AND THAT the 2020 Financial Plan be amended to include the transfer of \$1,067,000 of reserve funding from the City Park 2019 CCR grant application project to the City Park 2020 CCR grant application project.

AND FURTHER THAT the City of Kelowna will be responsible for its share of the eligible costs, ineligible costs and potential overruns related to the project.

Purpose:

To provide Council with background information on a grant funding opportunity, and a recommendation to proceed with an application for a playground, pier and gathering circle for City Park.

Background:

On June 25, 2020, the Canadian and British Columbian governments committed up to \$100.6 million towards the second intake of the Community, Culture, and Recreation (CCR) Program to support cost-sharing of infrastructure projects in communities across the Province. The Community, Culture, and Recreation (CCR) Program will fund infrastructure projects that will support projects that improve citizen's access to and quality of cultural, recreational and community spaces.

The CCR Program is a component of the over-arching ICIP which provides funding through an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) between Canada and British Columbia for capital projects. The goals of ICIP are to create long-term economic growth, build inclusive, sustainable communities and support a low carbon, green economy. This intake is designed to target projects starting in 2021 or 2022.

For a municipality the Government of Canada contribution is up to 40 percent, and the Province of British Columbia contribution is up to 33.33 percent. Therefore, the municipality would be responsible to fund 26.67 percent. The applicant must demonstrate that their share of funding has been, or is being secured, and that a plan is in place to cover any cost overruns beyond budgeted contingencies. Further, the application must demonstrate that funds have been committed to operate, maintain and plan for replacement.

Program information indicates that the projects most likely to receive funds provide value for money and are proportionate to the size of the community that will benefit. Equitable distribution of funding will be a consideration. The program directs applicants to consider the amount of money requested by shortlisted applications in the previous intake. These applications requested an average combined federal-provincial grant of \$2.5 million. Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2020. Full details of the program can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/investing-in-canada-infrastructure-program/community-culture-recreation>

In the 2019 CCR Grant Program Intake, the City made an application for City Park for a project total of \$8.9 million. Post application feedback from the grant administrators indicated that, while the application was strong, the program was vastly oversubscribed, and it was not able to fund large projects. Through these discussions, staff has revised the grant to focus on the improvements to City Park that most closely fulfill the objectives of the program, being the playground, the gathering circle, the pier and associated shoreline improvements. As such, the request for this grant application is \$2,930,000, with the City portion being \$1,067,000, for a total project cost of approximately \$4 million.

City Park

City Park is one of our primary waterfront parks in downtown Kelowna. It is visited by thousands of tourists every summer, and popular with residents throughout the year. The project will meet the objectives of the grant program by increasing both the access and quality of public spaces in the park. It will deliver on all three of the program areas of focus, community, culture and recreation. The project will build a destination playground, a community gathering circle at The Point, a terminus pier, as well as strengthen the shoreline that anchors these spaces along the waterfront. The project will be the uniqueness of place, through using natural elements, forms and indigenous materials. The spaces will be a backdrop upon which to grow and share culture, create community, and build relationships.

Destination Playground

Staff are excited to have the opportunity to be working with the staff at the Sncewips Heritage Museum, who are providing cultural and artistic direction for the playground design, structure and form. This approach will create play structures, features and spaces for connection that speak to the uniqueness of the Okanagan Valley, based on the legend and principles of the four food chiefs of the Syilx Nation. The project will use natural forms and indigenous and recycled materials. It will provide opportunities for play, learning and community connectedness.

The Point Gathering Circle

The Gathering Circle will create a community and social space at The Point of City Park. This space, currently underutilized, has a history of much community connectedness through the historic Aquatic Centre. It is also the space in the park that is most connected to the water from three directions, south, west and north. The Gathering Circle will provide a venue for cultural sharing, community celebration as well as a potential terminus for recreational events.

The Pier

The Pier will connect to the Gathering Circle, but extend the experience out into the water. Its circular form will represent connection of communities, and afford unique views of the valley.

Shoreline Connection

Anchoring The Pier will be shoreline treatments around The Point's Gathering Circle. The improvements will include social space that meets the water, increasing current access to the water in these locations, and providing seating and viewing opportunities for enjoying the water informally or viewing events such as the fireworks.

Sustainability and Asset Management

The design will have a focus on sustainability and asset management. Through reuse of existing light standards, for example, and choices of recycled rubberized play surfacing and longevity of material selection, the project will be designed for long term wear and use. The surfacing materials will be chosen for high durability and wear.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Applicants are required to demonstrate that their share of funding has been, or is being secured, and that a plan is in place to cover any cost overruns beyond budgeted contingencies. If staff are directed to proceed with the grant application, a budget amendment will be needed to direct funds previously allocated to the 2019 CCR Grant Application to the following:

From the 2019 CCR Grant, which allocated \$2.4 million from General Reserves to the CCR Grant in the current budget, to make amendments to:

- Transfer \$1.067 million to the City Park 2020 CCR Grant Project.

Current annual operating budgets are sufficient to cover the continued operating, maintenance and long-term asset management (renewal) costs of the park.

External Agency/Public Comments:

Staff are collaborating Sncwips Heritage Museum on the programming and design for this project, and have asked for a letter of support for the grant application from Westbank First Nation.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Submitted by:

Melanie Steppuhn, BCSLA, Parks Planner

Approved for inclusion:



Derek Edstrom, Partnerships and Investments Divisional Director

cc:

Financial Services

Civic Operations

Communications & Information

Cultural Services Manager