



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 23, 2024
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Community Sport and Infrastructure Fund (FCS24048) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Abdisalam Osman (905) 546-2424
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Kirk Weaver Acting Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- (a) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be delegated authority to submit applications under the Ontario government Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation within the prescribed list of priorities outlined in Appendix "A" to Report FCS24048 for the City of Hamilton and under Stream 2: New Builds as projects are identified;
- (b) That any successful applications under the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund be referred to the appropriate budget process for consideration of the municipal financing strategy;
- (c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute all necessary documentation, including Funding Agreements, to receive funding under the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund with content satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and
- (d) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to prepare any necessary by-laws for Council approval for the purpose of giving effect to the City's acceptance of funding from the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In August 2024, the Ontario government launched the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF), a \$200 M initiative aimed at revitalizing community sport and recreation infrastructure across Ontario. CSRIF provides municipalities, Indigenous organizations and non-profits with funding to repair or rehabilitate existing community spaces.

**Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation** focuses on extending the lifespan of existing facilities, improving accessibility and enhancing functionality to meet community needs. Eligible projects can receive up to \$1 M in funding, with the provincial government contributing up to 50% for municipalities and up to 90% for Indigenous communities. Applications for Stream 1 must be submitted by October 29, 2024. Only projects that are at a tender-ready state and able to meet the 2026 completion timeline will be considered.

Several City of Hamilton projects meet these criteria:

- Huntington Park / Valley Park Aquatic Slide Replacement
- Inch Park Inclusive Playground
- Inch Park Arena Roof and HVAC Replacement
- Southam Park Renovation

Only one project can be submitted under Stream 1. It is recommended that the Inch Park Inclusive Playground be prioritized for submission due to its focus on inclusivity, community impact, and readiness to meet the program's requirements.

**Stream 2: New Builds** supports the construction of new sport and recreation facilities or the replacement of those that have reached the end of their lifespan. Projects must substantiate a Class A estimate and be tender-ready to meet the 2027 completion timeline. Currently, no City of Hamilton projects meet the criteria for Stream 2 funding. However, staff will continue to review opportunities for project applications as applications for this stream will be accepted on an ongoing basis and are not subject to the October 29 deadline.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

## **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** Municipal cost-sharing is required for approved projects. The financial strategy will be aligned with the City's budget process.

**Staffing:** N/A

Legal: The City will need to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the province and may need additional agreements or by-laws to accept and manage the funding.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) was introduced in August 2024 as part of the Ontario government's 2024 Budget, under the initiative Building a Better Ontario. This \$200 M capital funding program was designed to address the growing need for investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure across the province. The fund was developed to provide municipalities, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit organizations with the financial support required to repair, rehabilitate or construct new sport and recreation facilities to enhancing community access, sustainability and inclusivity.

CSRIF is delivered through two streams. Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation focuses on extending the lifespan of existing community facilities, making upgrades to improve health and safety, increasing accessibility and reducing environmental impacts. Stream 2: New Builds / Signature New Builds supports the construction of new sport and recreation facilities or the replacement of facilities that have reached the end of their lifespan.

Eligible projects under CSRIF include critical repairs such as roof replacements, HVAC installations, structural enhancements and accessibility improvements. Larger projects, under Stream 2, can include building new recreational complexes or arenas. Prior to the program launch, staff prepared a briefing note in August for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario meetings with the Honourable Neil Lumsden, Member of Provincial Parliament and Minister of Sport. The briefing note indicated support for the soon to be released CSRIF program and it further identified 17 capital projects that could potentially align with the funding opportunity.

Upon formal release of the program guidelines, staff from Recreation, Finance and Corporate Facilities and Energy Management reviewed the capital projects through the lens of the program guidelines and identified unmet mandatory requirements.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

N/A

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

All City departments were consulted in determining the list of projects that would meet the eligibility requirements of the CSFIR.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) provides critical funding for the City of Hamilton to repair and rehabilitate community sport and recreation facilities. Stream 1 is particularly relevant to Hamilton's priorities, as it focuses on extending the useful life of existing infrastructure, enhancing accessibility and improving operational efficiencies. This aligns with the City's long-term strategic goals for community resilience, sustainability, and public well-being.

Eligible projects must be at a tender-ready state to ensure completion by 2026. The following projects meet these criteria:

- Huntington Park / Valley Park Aquatic Slide Replacement
- Inch Park Inclusive Playground
- Inch Park Arena Roof and HVAC Replacement
- Southam Park Renovation

While several projects are eligible and meet the tender-ready criteria for completion by 2026, only one project can be submitted under Stream 1 of CSRIF. After reviewing the eligible projects, it is recommended that the Inch Park Inclusive Playground be prioritized.

### **Eligible Projects under Stream 1**

Eligible projects must:

- Occur in Ontario and focus on the repair or rehabilitation of sport or recreation facilities.
- Be for facilities primarily open for public use.
- Not be receiving other provincial funding for the same project.

Projects can include:

- Extending the lifespan of facilities by addressing structural issues or critical repairs (e.g., roof repairs, HVAC installations).
- Maximizing facility usage by enhancing functionality and increasing operating hours.
- Improving health, safety, accessibility and environmental standards, including energy efficiency upgrades and the installation of accessible features like ramps or improved signage

## **City of Hamilton Priorities for CSRIF Application**

The City of Hamilton has reviewed its list of capital works-in-progress and identified priority projects that align with the CSRIF Stream 1 requirements. These projects aim to improve public access to recreational facilities and meet the program's timeline and funding criteria. However, no current City of Hamilton projects meet the criteria for **Stream 2: New Builds**, which requires projects to be tender-ready and completed by 2027.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

N/A

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report FCS24048 – Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Project Submissions

AO/dt

**Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Total Gross</b>	<b>Cost Sharing Breakdown</b>			
		<b>Maximum Funding Eligible</b>	<b>Provincial Share 50% (up to \$1 million)</b>	<b>City Share 50%</b>	<b>City Ineligible</b>
	<b>(000's)</b>	<b>(000's)</b>	<b>(000's)</b>	<b>(000's)</b>	<b>(000's)</b>
Inch Park Inclusive Playground	\$ 2,901	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,901	\$ -
Total	\$ 2,901	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,901	\$ -