

REPORT

Office of the Mayor

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of
Council,
Regular Council Meeting

Date: May 29, 2023

From: Denise A Tambellini Intergovernmental
and Community Relations Manager

File:

Item #: 2023-354

Subject: **Canada Community Revitalization Funding Approval Tipperary Park /
City Hall Upgrade**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council accept the following report for information.

PURPOSE

The Government of Canada, through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund, approved \$243,750 in project funding to upgrade the amenities in Tipperary Park and City Hall in New Westminster. This report, prepared for information, outlines the project and the federal funding program.

BACKGROUND

New Westminster is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada with a growth rate of over 11.5% over the last four years. It is one of the more compact, dense and land-constrained neighborhoods in Canada. New and/or improved public gathering spaces benefits the overall health and well-being of the community, especially in reforested and natural areas. The Tipperary Park project will expand the quality of open space, encourage sustainable transportation and, through carbon sequestration, improved air quality as a result of the rain gardens and tree planting.

The integrated project combines work from Parks and Open Space and Engineering. It includes four components: a rain garden, tree planting, a bike enclosure and public seating area. This project will improve the cycling, social and green infrastructure at Tipperary Park/ City Hall, a large urban park and green space around New Westminster City Hall.

This report is an information report and will outline the funding program and provide a summary of the project.

1. Canada Community Revitalization Fund

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) is a two-year, \$500 million national infrastructure program to revitalize communities across Canada. Not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other public institutions, and Indigenous communities could apply for funding for projects that aim to:

- revitalize downtown cores and main streets
- reinvent outdoor spaces
- create green infrastructure
- increase the accessibility of community spaces

Examples of projects that could receive funding under this program include:

- farmers markets
- community and cultural centres
- parks or community gardens
- recreational trails and public outdoor sports facilities
- multi-purpose centres

Projects funded under the CCRF could receive a maximum contribution of up to \$750,000 or \$1 million (depending on project location), with funding to cover up to 75% of the total project costs. Indigenous community projects may qualify for funding to cover 100% of total project costs. All contributions will be non-repayable.

This is the second project funded by the CCRF in the last 2 years.

In British Columbia, the CCRF is managed by the Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan). PacifiCan is the Government of Canada's new economic development agency dedicated to British Columbia. PacifiCan promotes growth and diversification in B.C.'s economy by enhancing innovation, improving business competitiveness, and promoting inclusive growth.

2. Tipperary Park Upgrade

The park upgrade project will improve the cycling, social and green infrastructure at Tipperary Park/ City Hall, a large urban park and green space around New Westminster City Hall. The work will include installation of a rain garden (supported by upgraded sewer pipes), tree planting, and an end of route cycling enclosure (including a recharging station for e-bikes) with an adjacent public seating/ gathering area.

Comprehensively, these four projects (installation of a rain garden, bike enclosure, tree planting and public seating area) represent the values behind the work that is underway in all areas of the city.

The rain garden is designed to collect and infiltrate storm water from City Hall's rooftop and surrounding paved areas using native/ adaptive planting. The reforestation (large shade tree planting) in and around City Hall will contribute to storm water management as well as to the city's urban forest goals to reach a 27% city-wide tree canopy cover.

In addition to showcasing green infrastructure, the project also includes the design and construction of a Bike Enclosure for City Hall staff as well as a complimentary 'parklet'-type seating area adjacent to the bike enclosure. The parklet is proposed as a public social/ gathering place. This space has the potential to be reinvented as a 'green transportation HUB'.

Timeline

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| • Storm water Feature - Construction Complete | Aug 2022 |
| • Seating Installation | Mar 2024 |
| • Tree Reforestation | Mar 2024 |
| • Bike Enclosure Construction Complete | Mar 2024 |
| • Tree Planting and Irrigation Installation | Mar 2024 |

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Tipperary Park project intends to decrease Green House Gases (GHGs) by encouraging sustainable transportation and through the carbon sequestration, improved air quality as a result of the rain gardens and tree planting. This new green infrastructure also reduces pressure on the City's grey infrastructure (i.e. by removing some of the storm water runoff from the existing combined sewer system). Over time, with lower demand, this green infrastructure will decrease replacement cost of grey infrastructure.

As highly public facing building and landscape (at the front of City Hall), these improvements demonstrate the City's 7 Bold Steps towards Climate Action through the reinvention of public space. Specifically, this includes impact on:

Bold Step #2- Car Light Community

Bold Step #6- Robust Urban Forest

Bold Step #7- Quality People- Centered Public Realm

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Federal Government will provide \$243,750 to offset this project with the remaining funding coming from existing city budgets. This project is included in the Five Year Financial Plan.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

This report was created in liaison with Engineering, Parks and Recreation, Finance and the CAO's Office.

OPTIONS

1. That Council accept to the following report for information.

CONCLUSION

The Government of Canada, through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund, approved \$243,750 in project funding to upgrade the amenities in Tipperary Park and City Hall in New Westminster. This report, prepared for information, outlines the project and the federal funding program.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Denise A Tambellini, Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager

This report was reviewed by:

Harji Varn CFO and Director Finance

Gary So, Senior Financial Analyst

Dean Gibson Director Parks and Recreation

Erika Mashig, Manager Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction

Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering

Brittany Tom P.Eng., Integrated Storm Water Engineer

Karen Campbell, Project Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties

This report was approved by:

Lisa Leblanc, Acting Chief Administrative Officer