



Parks, Recreation & Culture
Staff Report to Council

DATE: June 15, 2015
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Maureen Sinclair, Director Parks, and Recreation & Culture
SUBJECT: **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program Application**

RECOMMENDATION(S): Council consider and resolve:

That Council supports the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department's application to the Western Economic Diversification, Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program toward the development of the artificial turf field at the Mission Rotary Sports Park.

PURPOSE:

This report is provided to obtain Council support for the application to the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program seeking funding for the development of the artificial turf field to be located at the Mission Rotary Sports Park.

BACKGROUND:

The Canada 150 Infrastructure Program provides funding in support of "meaningful upgrades to existing cultural and community facilities". Examples of suitable projects include upgrades to community centres, cultural centres and museums, parks, trails, libraries and recreational facilities. Council directed staff during their regular Council meeting on June 1st to review the application criteria and return with an appropriate community project. This report is provided seeking support for the application to be submitted by the June 17, 2015 deadline.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

The program allows local governments, not-for-profits and First Nation governments to apply for up to 50% funding for a relevant project to a maximum of \$500,000. Acceptable projects must create a lasting legacy to mark the country's 150th anniversary but must also be renovations to existing facilities rather than the development of new recreational or cultural facilities.

Parks, Recreation & Culture staff met and discussed a number of opportunities including improvements at Centennial Park, the downtown, Mill Pond, the Mission Leisure Centre site as well as the Mission Rotary Sports Park. While all of the projects had merit there were some challenges related to providing adequate information related to the costs and scope as required by Western Diversification through the application process.

As a result, staff are recommending that Council support the application requesting \$350,000 towards the proposed improvements to the Mission Rotary Sports Park, that being to replace the existing all weather field with an artificial turf surface. This location also conforms to the program requirement to directly own the infrastructure assets which are being renovated. Staff believes that we have created a strong application that will provide a community legacy that can be used and enjoyed by a variety of sports organizations and significantly increase their playing season.

COUNCIL GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

This project emphasizes Council's focus on improving community parks and recreational opportunities in Mission and the development of a more livable community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The grant funds would be additional monies into the Parks, Recreation & Culture Capital Budget allowing the project to be completed prior to the Canada 150th anniversary in 2017. The District's financial plan will need to be amended in the event that the application is successful.

COMMUNICATION:

If the funding is approved there are a number of communication elements, including signage and an official opening, which will take place in accordance with the Western Economic Diversification Canada 150th Community Infrastructure Program.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department are seeking Council's support for an application to the Canada 150th Community Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$350,000 in support of the artificial turf field to be located at the Mission Rotary Sports Park.

SIGN-OFFS:



Maureen Sinclair, Director Parks, Recreation & Culture



Reviewed by:
Stephanie Key, Deputy Director Parks,
Recreation & Culture

Comment from Chief Administrative Officer
Reviewed.