



Subject: *District Recreation Fund Applications (Intake 1) for 2024*
To: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee
Date Prepared: March 7, 2024
Related Motions:
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 Executive Committee consideration and recommendation to Council.

The first DRF intake closed on January 31, 2024. There were 8 grant applications received with funds requested totaling \$181,857. The applications were reviewed by the Staff Grant Committee and evaluated against Council policy. One application is being deferred to the April deadline to allow more time for project readiness. Seven applications meet the policy criteria and have been included in this report.

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. 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 is \$717,115. In addition, there is \$3875 remaining in the Gore area rate, and \$156,820 in the Mount Uniacke DRF area rate. This brings the total available funding to \$877,810.

The requests for the first intake totaled \$181,857. The amount being recommended for approval is \$77,278 based on Council policy.

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 1) based on discussion at committee (motion will have details for council).

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	2024-2025 Available Funding
1 - Enfield	\$ 47,300	\$ 32,310	\$ 79,610
2 - Elmsdale/Belnan	\$ 73,073	\$ 26,229	\$ 99,302
3 - Milford/Nine Mile River	\$ 3,222	\$ 20,558	\$ 23,780
4 - Shubenacadie	\$ 17,215	\$ 10,721	\$ 27,936
5 - Maitland/MacPhees Corner	\$ 51,187	\$ 12,687	\$ 63,874
6 - Walton/Noel/Kennetcook	\$ 12,476	\$ 10,036	\$ 22,512
7 - Lantz/Milford	\$ 45,882	\$ 29,253	\$ 75,135
8 - Mount Uniacke	\$ 83,916	\$ 25,909	\$ 109,825
9 - South/East Uniacke	\$ 87,080	\$ 27,636	\$ 114,716
10 - Enfield/Grand Lake	\$ 6,301	\$ 29,561	\$ 35,862
11 - Rawdon/Gore	\$ 48,619	\$ 15,943	\$ 64,562
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	\$ 877,810

Discussion

The Staff Grant Committee reviewed all eight applications against Council's policy.

One application (Enfield District School - Accessible Playground Project) is being deferred to the April deadline to allow more time for project readiness. This project doesn't have a completed application at this time, as the group is missing the requirement of 3 quotes for the project work.

The project applicant is the Parent Teacher Association with support from the Vice Principal. When the project was originally discussed with municipal staff, it was to add an accessible playground feature and a shade structure to the school grounds. From the initial conversation, the project has grown to a full playground replacement, updating to a more accessible design and before the end of life of current playground. Full project cost is proposed at approximately \$270,000 with a DRF request of \$75,000. CCRCE is contributing project support in form of procurement and the Parent Teacher Association hopes to raise \$12,000. No other funding is secured at this time, but the group is seeking funding from the Province and other community funds. If this project moves forward in April, it would be staff's recommendation that funds would be released pending confirmation of funding secured from other sources.

The remaining seven projects are outlined below, by district.

DRF Project Descriptions

District 3 - Milford/ Nine Mile River

Funding Available: \$ 23,780

Nine Mile River Trails

Project: 2024 Loops - Trail Expansion

Total Project: \$ 49,723

Requested DRF Funds: \$24,862 (1/2 of project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$ 11,890 (1/2 of District 3 available funds)

Shortfall: \$12,972

Notes:

- Pending Funding - Provincial Trails fund, Windmill Community fund.
- In past years, Districts 1, 2, & 10 have contributed to this group's projects.

District 6 - Walton/Noel/Kennetcook

Funding Available: \$ 22,512

Hants North Baseball

Project: Field Refurbish

Total Project: \$ 22,553

Requested DRF Funds: \$11,533

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$ 11,256 (1/2 of District 5 available funds)

Shortfall: \$277

Notes:

- In past years, Districts 5 & 11 have contributed to this group's projects.

Hants North Recreation & Development Association

Project: Storage Shed

Total Project: \$4457

Requested DRF Funds: \$2446

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$2228 (1/2 of project)

Shortfall: \$218

Notes:

- In past years, Districts 5 & 11 have contributed to this group's projects.

Tenecape Community Hall

Project: Insulation (to allow winter use)

Total Project: \$ 5005

Requested DRF Funds: \$2502 (1/2 of project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$2502 (1/2 of project)

Notes:

- Pending Funding - CFIP Program (Provincial).

District 8 - Mount Uniacke

Funding Available: \$ 109,825

Mount Uniacke Mustangs Fastball

Project: Player Benches/Dugout Replacement

Total Project: \$ 36,610

Requested DRF Funds: \$26,582

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$ 18,305 (1/2 of Project)

Shortfall: \$8277

Notes:

- Pending Funding - Provincial Community Recreation.
- In past years, District 9 has contributed to this group's projects.

District 10 - Enfield/Grand Lake

Funding Available: \$ 35,862

Corridor Minor Baseball

Project: Field Maintenance, Storage & Equipment Upgrade

Total Project: \$54,535

Requested DRF Funds: \$25,767

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$17,931 (1/2 of District 10 available funds)

Shortfall: \$7836

Notes:

- Program has 2 main components:
 - Garage/Shed with site prep/install - \$28,087
 - Subcompact Tractor (loader/mower) - \$26,448
 - Indication from the group is if funding doesn't cover both projects the priority is the shed at this time.
- Pending Funding - RCG Program (Provincial).
- Building Permit required - pending.
- Association's players come from many districts.
- In past years, Districts 1 & 7 have contributed to this group's projects.

E.H. Horne School Preservation Society

Project: Brick Repair & Interior Painting

Total Project: \$26,330

Requested DRF Funds: \$13,165

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: 13,165 (1/2 of project)

Notes:

- District 1 has contributed to past projects.

Summary of recommendations based on policy:

Applicant	DRF Amount Requested	Dist. Funds Available	Recommendation
Nine Mile River Trails	\$24,862		\$11,890
District 3 Total:	\$24,862	\$ 23,780	\$11,890
Hants North Baseball	\$11,533		11,256
Hants North Recreation	\$2,446		\$2,229
Tenecape Community Hall	\$2,502		\$2,502
District 6 Total:	\$16,481	\$22,512	\$15,987
Uniacke Mustangs Fastball	\$26,582		\$18,305
District 8 Total:	\$26,582	\$109,825	\$18,305
Corridor Minor Ball	\$25,767		\$17,931
EH Horne School Preservation Society	\$13,165		\$13,165
District 10 Total:	\$38,932	\$35,862	\$31,096
Totals:	\$106,857		\$77,278

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.
