



Subject: *District Recreation Fund Application (Intake 1) for 2025*
To: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee
Date Prepared: February 27, 2024
Prepared by: Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Summary

This report presents recommendations for the District Recreation Fund (DRF) for the Executive Committee to review and recommend to Council.

The first DRF intake closed on January 31, 2025. There were 7 grant applications across 7 districts received with requested funds totaling \$150,284. The applications were reviewed by the Staff Grant Review Committee and evaluated against Council policy. All 7 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 2025-2026 is \$798,920. A full summary of balances by district is provided later in this report. After the election in October, remaining district balances were redistributed based on new district boundaries with outstanding project commitments remaining in the original district.

In addition, there is \$3875 remaining in the Gore area rate (reallocated to District 11) and \$186,830 in the Mount Uniacke recreation area rate.

The requests for the first intake totaled \$150,284. Policy being recommended based on policy approval is \$110,237 based on Council policy.

Recommendation

That Council approve funding for the DRF grant applications based on discussion at Committee, pending all supporting documents are received and external funding.

Recommended Motion

Move that Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend that Council approve District Recreation Funding 2025-2026 (Intake 1) based on discussion at committee (motions 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 (33% for CCRCE properties/projects). If a districts fund does not have sufficient 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.

2025/2026 District Recreation Funds Allocations:

Districts (as of Oct 2025)	Remaining Commitments (2024/25)	Carryover: 2024/2025 Balances	2025/2026 Allocations	Available Funds
1 - Enfield Centre (Garden-Cole)	\$800	\$38,767	\$25,979	\$63,946
2 - Elmsdale (Mitchell)	\$700	\$47,992	\$24,389	\$71,681
3 - Nine Mile River-Belnan (Hebb)		\$37,553	\$27,873	\$65,426
4 - Shubenacadie-Indian Brook (MacPhee)		\$35,628	\$13,190	\$48,818
5 - Maitland-Noel Shore (Rhyno)		\$49,389	\$16,872	\$66,261
6 - North Lantz-Milford (Merriam)		\$23,000	\$18,923	\$41,922
7 - South Lantz (Tingley)		\$41,448	\$21,184	\$62,633
8 - Mount Uniacke-South Rawdon (Perry)		\$103,085	\$30,847	\$133,932
9 - South-East Uniacke (Moussa)		\$100,028	\$32,111	\$132,139
10 - Enfield-Grand Lake (Dixon)	\$1,500	\$11,386	\$33,468	\$43,355
11 - Rawdon-Kennetcook (Roulston)	\$5,000	\$56,205	\$17,602	\$68,807
Subtotal	\$8,000	\$544,482	\$262,438	\$798,920
Remaining Gore \$0.01		\$3,875		\$3,875
Mount Uniacke Additional Rate	\$15,000	\$156,820	\$45,010	\$186,830
Total Available Funds				\$989,625

Discussion

The Staff Grant Committee reviewed all seven applications against Council's policy. The projects are outlined below by district. Outlined for each project is a brief description of the project, the total cost, recommendation for funding based on policy and other relevant notes such as pending funding.

DRF Project Descriptions

District 1 - Enfield Centre

Funding Available: \$63,946

Enfield District School Parent Teacher Association

Project: Accessible Playground

Description: A new playground structure will be built on a portion of current soccer field. Structure will be barrier free and have artificial turf surfacing. Swings will be relocated so they are no longer on pea gravel. New structure will have various ramps and platforms and sensory panels along with slides of varying heights.

Total Project: \$ 279,116

DRF Policy Allocation: \$60,000

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$ 31,973 (1/2 of District 1 available funds)

Shortfall: \$ 28,027

Notes:

- Pending Funding - Provincial Recreation Facilities Development Grant
- Under policy, CCRCE properties can receive a max of 33% of project cost, this request is 21%.
- District 10 students also attend this school.

District 2 - Elmsdale

Funding Available: \$ 71,681

East Hants Gymnastics & Trampoline Club

Project: Equipment Upgrade & CCTV System

Description: The club is upgrading two pieces of gymnastic equipment and adding a CCTV system to the facility. Replacing dated uneven bars and adding a wall mounted set of rings will help maximize space and simplify transition and use for coaches and athletes. The CCTV system will allow parents viewing opportunity to main part of facility during classes and will also improve security and coach/athlete safety.

Total Project: \$ 23,698

DRF Policy Allocation: \$11,849 (1/2 of project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$ 11,849

Notes:

- Pending Funding - Provincial Community Recreation Development Grant
- Members/users are from District 1,2,3,6,7,10 and beyond.

District 3 - Nine Mile River - Belnan

Funding Available: \$ 65,426

Nine Mile River Trails

Project: River Glade Boardwalks

Project Description: Phase 2 of the River Glade Trail development. In 2024, phase one was completed with trail cut out and groundwork. Phase 2 is the installation of the boardwalks themselves, necessary to provide easier passage over wet areas and creeks, that will also help protect the ecosystem.

Total Project: \$ 29,210

DRF Policy Allocation: \$14,605 (1/2 of project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Recommendation: \$ 14,605

Notes:

- Pending Funding -NS Recreational Trail Expansion Grant & NMR Windmill Community Fund.
- In past years, Districts 1, 2, & 10 have contributed to this group's projects.

District 6 - North Lantz - Milford

Funding Available: \$ 41,922

Milford Recreation Association

Project: Storage Addition and improvements

Project Description: A storage addition is being built at the back of the main hall, allowing proper and safe storage of chairs and tables and other equipment not in use. To facilitate chair storage, dollies will be purchased to store/move existing chairs. A third, smaller component of the project is the replacement of burners, rings and drip pans on the hall's commercial stove.

Total Project: \$ 32,460

Requested DRF Funds: \$16,230 (1/2 of project)

Application Status: Complete

DRF Policy Allocation: \$ 16,230

Notes:

- Pending Funding - Provincial Community Recreation Development Grant.
- Building permit has been sought.
- In past years, Districts 2 & 7 have contributed to this group's projects.

District 7 - South Lantz

Funding Available: \$ 62,633

Lantz Recreation Society

Project: Asset Lifecycle Replacements & Damage Repair

Description: There are 5 components to this project:

- At the LE Shaw Memorial Pool - Full replacement of pool liner (\$23,000) & new mower (\$6500)
- At the Peter Smith Memorial Sport Fields - Interior repair/renovation of washroom (\$805) & safety rail for ball field B (\$4100)
- Community bench repairs (\$554)

Total Project: \$ 34,959

Requested DRF Funds: \$ 24,685

Application Status: Incomplete; documentation outstanding

DRF Policy Allocation: \$17,480 (1/2 of project)

Shortfall: \$ 7,205

Notes:

- Pool is located in District 7 while ball fields are in District 6.
- Softball & pool users and membership comes from across the corridor region.

District 8 - Mount Uniacke - South Rawdon

Funding Available: \$ 133,932

Mount Uniacke Mustangs Fastball Association

Project: Field 2 Dugout & Bench Replacement

Description: As a follow-up to last year's project where dugouts were replaced on the main field, this year's project is similar, for field 2. Project includes demolition/disposal of existing dugouts, site prep & concrete slabs, and installation of prefab metal dugouts/benches.

Total Project: \$ 26,215

Requested DRF Funds: \$15,415

Application Status: Complete

DRF Policy Allocation: \$13,108 (1/2 of project)

Shortfall: \$2307

Notes:

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

District 10 - Enfield Centre

Funding Available: \$ 43,355

Corridor Minor Baseball

Project: Zero Turn Mower

Project Description: The baseball club is looking to upgrade their mower. Current mower is reaching end of life and the proposed replacement will increase efficiency for staff and volunteers.

Total Project: \$ 9984

Requested DRF Funds: \$7500

Application Status: Complete

DRF Policy Allocation: \$ 4992 (1/2 project)

Shortfall: \$2508

Notes:

- In past years, Districts 1, 2 & 7 have contributed to this group's projects and club membership comes from across the corridor region.

Summary of allocations based on policy:

Applicant	District	DRF Amount Requested	Dist. Funds Available	DRF Allocation (Policy Recommendation)
Enfield District School	1	\$60,000	\$63,946	\$31,973
EH Gymnastics & Trampoline	2	\$11,849	\$71,681	\$11,849
Nine Mile River Trails Assoc.	3	\$14,605	\$65,426	\$14,605
Milford Recreation Assoc.	6	\$16,230	\$41,922	\$16,230
Lantz Recreation Society	7	\$24,685	\$62,633	\$17,480
Mount Uniacke Mustangs	8	\$15,415	\$133,932	\$13,108
Corridor Minor Baseball	10	\$7,500	\$43,355	\$4,992
Totals:		\$150,284		\$110,237

Code of Conduct

With the new Code of Conduct, Councillors who feel they have a conflict of interest should declare this conflict before any discussion takes place related to a motion of Council. District Recreation Fund applications will be broken out into separate motions to allow those Councillors with an identified conflict the opportunity to participate in discussions for other applications.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

District Recreation Fund Program provides capital funding to non-profit community groups who own and/or 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

The available District Recreation Fund for 2025-2026 is \$798,920, broken down below by district.

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The requests for the first intake totaled \$150,284. The amount brought forward through Council policy allocation is \$110,237.

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.