



Subject: *District Recreation Fund Application 2026 - Intake 2*
To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee
Date Prepared: May 8, 2026
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 Executive Committee to review and recommend to Council.

The second DRF intake closed on April 30. There were 4 grant applications received with requested funds totaling \$24,628. The applications were reviewed by the Staff Grant Review Committee and evaluated against Council policy. All 4 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 total available funding for DRF, including carryover and new allocations, for 2026-2027 is \$885,377. A full summary of balances by district is provided later in this report. In addition, there is \$3875 remaining in the Gore area rate (District 11) and \$243,863 in the additional Mount Uniacke recreation area rate.

In Motions C26(101) & C26(102) Council approved up to \$207,152 for 9 projects from the first DRF intake.

The total requested funding for this second intake is \$24,628. Based on policy review, DRF allocation would be \$19,464 for these 4 projects.

Recommendation

That Council approve funding for the DRF grant applications based on discussion at Committee, pending confirmation of external funding (where applicable) and supporting documents are received.

Recommended Motion

Move that Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend that Council approve District Recreation Funding 2026-2027 (Intake 2) based on discussion at Committee [motion(s) 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 district's 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 allocation recommendations 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.

2026/2027 District Recreation Available Funds:

Districts	2026/2027 Available Funds	Intake 1 Allocations	Intake 2 Available Funds
1 - Enfield Centre (Garden-Cole)	\$47,658	\$19,000	\$28,658
2 - Elmsdale (Mitchell)	\$67,751	\$16,503	\$51,248
3 - Nine Mile River-Belnan (Hebb)	\$76,984	\$26,860	\$50,124
4 - Shubenacadie-Indian Brook (MacPhee)	\$62,612	\$2,000	\$60,612
5 - Maitland-Noel Shore (Rhyno)	\$73,156	\$0	\$73,156
6 - North Lantz-Milford (Merriam)	\$45,508	\$11,692	\$33,816
7 - South Lantz (Tingley)	\$62,718	\$10,733	\$51,985
8 - Mount Uniacke-South Rawdon (Perry)	\$157,530	\$26,527	\$131,003
9 - South-East Uniacke (Moussa)	\$158,935	\$26,527	\$132,408
10 - Enfield-Grand Lake (Dixon)	\$55,257	\$42,000	\$13,257
11 - Rawdon-Kennetcook (Roulston)	\$77,268	\$25,310	\$51,958
Subtotal	\$885,377	\$207,152	\$678,225
Remaining Gore \$0.01 (Dist. 11)	\$3,875		\$3,875
Mount Uniacke Additional Rate	\$243,863		\$243,863
Total Available Funds	\$1,133,114		\$925,962

Discussion

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

DRF Project Descriptions

District 5 - Maitland-Noel Shore

Funding Available: \$ 73,156

Minasville Community Centre

Project: Roof Replacement

Project Description: Roof is in need of repair as shingles are lifting with visible signs of wear.

Total Project: \$ 11,172

Requested DRF Funds: \$8,500

Application Status: Complete

DRF Policy Allocation: \$5,586(1/2 project)

Shortfall: \$2914

Notes:

- No funding available at Province once project was identified, previously would have used the cancelled Community Recreation Capital Grant.

Hants North Recreation & Development Association

Project: Playground Edging Repair

Description: Replacement to the deteriorating timbers that border the playground area - safety concerns have been identified.

Total Project: \$ 8,500

Requested DRF Funds: \$6500

Application Status: Complete

DRF Policy Allocation: \$ 4250 (1/2 project)

Shortfall: \$3286.50

Notes:

- Park/Facility users come from surrounding areas, including District 11.
- Due to safety concerns project has been completed.

District 10 - Enfield Centre

Funding Available: \$ 13,257

Enfield, Elmsdale & District Lions Club

Project: Window Replacement

Project Description: Replace all twelve windows with goal being energy efficiency and enhanced function.

Total Project: \$ 15,678

Requested DRF Funds: \$3928

Application Status: Complete pending 3rd quote

DRF Policy Allocation: \$ 3928 (request within policy)

Notes:

- In past years, corridor-based districts have supported projects on this site.
- Funding is pending from Province - CFIP application done in February

District 11 - Rawdon-Kennetcook

Funding Available: \$ 51,958

Rawdon Gold Mines Community Hall

Project: Interior Painting

Project Description: Fire inspector has recommended painting over existing panelling with fire retardant paint.

Total Project: \$ 11,400

Requested DRF Funds: \$5700

Application Status: Complete

DRF Policy Allocation: \$ 5700 (1/2 project cost)

Summary of allocations based on policy:

Applicant	District	DRF Amount Requested	Dist. Funds Available	Policy based recommendations
Minasville Community Hall	5	\$8,500	\$73,156	\$5,586
Hants North Recreation	5	\$6,500	\$73,156	\$4,250
Enfield & Elmsdale District Lions	10	\$3,928	\$13,257	\$3,928
Rawdon Gold Mines Hall	11	\$5,700	\$51,958	\$5,700
Totals		\$24,628		\$19,464

Conflict of Interest

With the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act Nova Scotia, Councillors who feel they have a conflict of interest should declare this conflict before any discussion takes places 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 Funds for the second intake of 2026-2027 is \$678,225, and broken down below by district.

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Alternatives

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