



Date: January 3, 2003

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Application for Infrastructure Program Funding**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council be requested to approve application for \$2,000,000 in matching funds from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Grants Program for implementation of the VanDusen Gardens Vision Plan Phase I, with the City's \$1,000,000 share of funding to be derived from the Park Board 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan allocation of \$250,000 and the balance of \$750,000 from the VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association.**
- B. THAT Council be requested to approve application for \$2,000,000 in matching funds from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Grants Program towards implementation of the objectives of the Playing Field Renewal Plan, with the City's \$1,000,000 share of funding to be derived from the Park Board 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan allocation of \$4,100,000 for Sport Field improvements.**
- C. THAT the application previously made for Infrastructure Grants Program funding for Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Renewal and Kerrisdale Community Centre Renovation be withdrawn for the reasons outlined in this report.**
- D. THAT Council be asked to identify the Sunset Community Centre Renewal Project as the highest priority amongst currently active Infrastructure projects.**

## **POLICY**

There is no applicable Board policy. The Board has previously approved project applications to the Infrastructure Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

Information on the Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Program and the current status of previously approved project applications was reported to the Board at its meeting of December 16, 2002. At

the same time, two new projects were identified for possible inclusion in the next round of City submissions to the program.

The key requirements of the Infrastructure Program are as follows:

- C a minimum of 1/3 of funding for each project is to be committed at the local level, to be matched on a 1/3:1/3 basis by both senior governments;
- C local Council sets priorities for public and non-profit sector applications within its jurisdiction;
- C projects already under construction or completed are not eligible for matching funds;
- C all projects must be construction, renewal, expansion or material enhancement of infrastructure for the public's use or benefit, classified under one of two headings:
  - (1) “green” local government infrastructure projects relating to drinking water systems, sewage treatment and disposal, and energy efficiency of local government facilities;
  - (2) “Other” local government infrastructure priorities, including new or improved cultural, recreational, sport and tourism facilities, and major public attractions and exhibition buildings.

“Other Infrastructure” projects have a funding cap of \$2,000,000, although there are provisions for exception to be made for “important and high priority” projects.

Funding applications can be sent in at any time. Approvals will be made at set intervals until June 30, 2005 and all funded projects must be completed by March 31, 2006.

Projects previously approved by the Board are as follows:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>\$ Total</b>	<b>\$Match</b>
6/43	Stanley Park Water System Renewal (Green)	\$7.5 M	\$5.0 M
9/43	Mt. Pleasant Community Centre / Library Complex (Other)	\$6.5 M	\$1.75 M
12/43	False Creek Community Centre Expansion (Other)	\$1.3 M	\$0.56 M
29/43	Kerrisdale Community Centre Renovation (Other)	\$0.5 M	\$0.165 M
31/43	Champlain Heights Community Centre Expansion (Other)	\$1.3 M	\$0.24 M
not ranked	Sunset Community Centre Renewal (Other)	\$7.0 M	\$4.0 M

The Infrastructure Application process is exceptionally rigorous and successful outcomes have proven relatively few. Of 43 ‘Green’ and ‘Other’ Infrastructure Projects approved by Council in the last round, only 6 received a funding award. To date, none of six projects listed above have been approved or rejected for Infrastructure Program funding.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for the following actions for Council consideration:

- C Withdraw two project applications that have been dealt with by other means, or are otherwise now ineligible for Infrastructure Program support;
- C Submit two new project applications with matching funds specified, and seek high priority rankings for these projects; and
- C Identify Sunset Community Centre Renewal as the highest priority of the Board.

### Project Application Withdrawals

A status update with respect to the six existing Infrastructure project applications of interest to Park Board was included in the December 16<sup>th</sup> information report. In the two years since the first submissions were made, circumstances have changed such that the following applications no longer require or are eligible for Infrastructure Program funding:

- C *Mt. Pleasant Community Centre and Library Complex*: Full funding has been achieved through the 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan and other sources, and the project is proceeding on this basis. The Infrastructure Program application should be withdrawn from consideration.
- C *Kerrisdale Community Centre Renovation*: The work described in the Infrastructure Program application has been finished with alternate funding. The application previously submitted should be withdrawn. Consideration might be given to an Infrastructure Program application for the next phase of community centre renewal, focused on upgrading the centre gymnasium, if and when the required 1/3 of capital funding is in place.

The remaining projects — (1) Stanley Park Water System Renewal, (2) Champlain Community Centre Expansion, (3) Sunset Community Centre Replacement, and (4) False Creek Community Centre Expansion — should remain active until resolved through awarded program funding or until alternative means of implementation is secure.

### New Project Submissions

Two new projects for possible application to the Infrastructure Program were outlined in detail in last month's Board report:

- (1) VanDusen Botanical Garden Concept Plan Phase 1A: The proposal is to apply for \$2,000,000 from the Infrastructure Program to advance the long term renewal of visitor service facilities at the Garden. Park Board would commit the \$250,000 allocated in the 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan as part of the required 1/3 share; the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association (VBGA), which jointly operates the Garden with the Park Board, is prepared to commit the required balance of \$750,000.

(2) **Playing Field Renewal:** The proposal is to reserve \$1,000,000 of the 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan allocation for fields to support an Infrastructure Program application for \$2,000,000, which would enable the accelerated implementation of the Playing Fields Renewal Plan. This long term Renewal Plan was jointly developed jointly by the Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver School Board (the two Boards together being the providers of almost all playing field space in the City). The Vancouver Field Sports Federation was actively engaged in the plan development, and supports the Infrastructure Program application.

The VanDusen and Playing Fields projects have been proposed for submission because both have the following critical factors in their favour:

- C Funding would advance capital improvement plans previously approved by the Board;
- C Local matching funds are in place; and
- C Community-based organizations will advocate for the projects.

### **Priority Ranking for Sunset Community Centre Replacement**

The Infrastructure Program application for Sunset was submitted on October 25, 2002 and a response was received from the Infrastructure Program office dated November 18, 2002. This response was encouraging in that it requests further clarification on a number of points, indicating that the application is receiving serious consideration. Staff will supply most of the information requested.

One item will require Council attention: a priority ranking of this project in relation to other project applications previously made by the City. The Board may wish to request that a high priority be assigned to the Sunset Renewal Project for the following reasons:

- C Council has previously committed \$3,000,000 to this project from the \$20 Million fund approved by the voters on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002.
- C The \$4,000,000 requested from the senior governments is double the \$2,000,000 cap set in the Infrastructure Program guidelines. However, according to Infrastructure Program officials, exceptions may be made “for important and high priority projects.”
- C There is expressed political support for the project at both the Federal and Provincial Government levels.

### **Next Steps**

In late November, notice was circulated to City departments and boards advising that the Province is now taking applications for Round II of the Infrastructure Program. In preparation for new submissions by the City, the following milestones have been laid out:

1. Departments/Boards will review previously submitted applications and identify those which are no longer eligible for funding. At the same time new projects are to be developed for consideration.

2. A City Staff Review Group, with representation from all departments, will evaluate the information on past and new projects in order to determine a provisional ranking for Council consideration. The Review Group will be convened as early as possible in January.
3. Council will consider a report from the Review Group regarding the proposed new and still eligible past applications. A Council date has not yet been determined, however we anticipate that Council will be considering this item in late January or early February 2003.
4. Upon Council approval, new applications will be submitted along with a revised priority list blending old and new projects together.

## **SUMMARY**

This report recommends two new projects for the next round of City infrastructure grant submissions: (1) VanDusen Vision Plan Phase I implementation; and (2) Playing Field Renewal. The total amount to be applied for is \$4,000,000. The proposed source of funding for the City's required contribution of \$2,000,000 would be the \$1,250,000 from the 2003 - 2005 Park Board Capital Plan and \$750,000 from the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association.

Two of six projects submitted for Infrastructure Program funding are no longer eligible or no longer require funding. The applications for Mount Pleasant and Kerrisdale Community Centres can and should therefore be withdrawn. The remaining four — Stanley Park Water System Renewal, Champlain Community Centre Expansion, Sunset Community Centre Renewal and False Creek Community Centre Expansion — should remain on the active list at an appropriate priority ranking.

It is proposed that the Board request that the Sunset Community Centre Renewal Project be assigned highest priority on the revised ranking list of all City projects to send a strong message regarding the importance of this project and the need to secure funding beyond the cap set.

Prepared by:

Planning and Operations Division  
Board of Parks & Recreation  
Vancouver, BC  
PR:mv

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