

Date: June 2, 2009



**TO:** Board Members – Vancouver Park Board  
**FROM:** General Manager – Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Funding Applications

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## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board approve application to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program for supplemental funding totalling \$2,000,000 (\$1,000,000 each) to the following 2009 – 2011 Capital Plan funded projects:*

- i. incremental enhancements to the 2009-2011 Capital neighbourhood park renewal program, and*
- ii. additional sport and exercise amenity related to one synthetic turf playfield installation.*

## POLICY

On September 29, 2008, the Board approved the 2009-2011 Capital Plan, including allocations of \$5,500,000 for 'Synthetic Turf Playing Fields' (ref. # P4b) and \$2,125,000 for Other Park Renewals (ref. # P1d).

## BACKGROUND

At its meeting of May 14, 2009, the Park Board Planning and Environment Committee reviewed and endorsed a list of five potential infrastructure projects prepared by staff for submission for Federal Government funding from two recently announced Infrastructure Renewal Programs.

One of these programs, the \$500 million Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Fund, is currently accepting applications, with a submission deadline of June 19, 2009. The RInC program provides one-third of project costs to a maximum of \$1,000,000 per project, with the remaining two thirds to be contributed from the municipality or from other partners.

Neighbourhood park renewal and synthetic turf playing field development are amongst the proposed infrastructure projects endorsed by the Planning and Environment Committee. Both projects have allocations in the current Capital Plan which are appropriately scaled to be eligible for maximum RInC funding. The remaining three

projects on the list are larger scale facility renewals better matched to the other infrastructure funding program announced in January, the \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, which is not yet receiving applications.

## **DISCUSSION**

The attached Council Report provides further background on the RInC program requirements, and outlines how supplemental funding would enhance the two projects for which staff are preparing RInC applications.

With Park Board and Council approval, funding applications will immediately be submitted to Western Economic Diversification Canada, which has responsibility for RInC program implementation.

If either or both funding requests are successful, further program development and public consultations will be initiated as soon as possible. As a principal objective of the RInC program is short term economic stimulus, and construction must be materially concluded on or before March 31, 2011, a reordering of the Board's current capital project priorities will likely be necessary.

If the RInC applications are successful, a report will be brought back to the Board with details on how funds received will be incorporated into the current capital program.

## **SUMMARY**

The Board is asked to approve two applications to the RInC program for a total of \$2,000,000 in supplementary funding to the line items for neighbourhood park renewal and synthetic turf playing fields in the 2009 – 2011 Capital Plan.

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