



Date: July 30, 2003

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board endorse application to the Local Government Infrastructure Grants Program for matching funds for the capital projects itemized below, at a total value of \$279,000.

POLICY

There is no applicable policy. The Park Board has applied for, and received, Federal/Provincial Infrastructure funding in the past.

BACKGROUND

Application packages and background information on a “Local Government Grants Program for Water, Sewer and Other Infrastructure Implementation” were released by the Provincial Government Ministry of Municipal Affairs in January 1999.

Funding of \$50 million is available annually in each of the next three years, and possibly longer. The deadline for first phase consideration is **February 28, 1999**. Funding approvals will be announced starting in April 1999, with payments beginning April 1, 2000. Projects that are already under construction or completed are not eligible.

Most of the funding (\$48.5 million annually) will be allocated to water and sewer infrastructure projects. The Ministry cautions that they already have on file over \$100 million in current water and sewer grant applications. Individual grants in this program area will be approved based upon 25% of the eligible capital costs

The balance of funding (\$1.5 million annually) targets “the construction of other physical assets which enhance local government services and provide economic benefit to the community” with preference given “to projects which...improve accessibility to public space in the community....and support regional growth strategies....” This portion of the program funds from 25% to 50% of a project to a maximum of \$100,000.

DISCUSSION

The following projects, which fit within the program criteria and for which matching funds are available, have been proposed by staff for the Infrastructure Program:

1. **Install an on-site well at the Langley Tree Farm for irrigation purposes.** Currently, a gas powered pump is used to draw water from a nearby holding pond, causing extreme water level drops during the summer. The G.V.R.D. has expressed concern regarding the impact on habitat and recreational use of the pond. The pump also causes localized air and noise pollution. An on-site well would eliminate these problems and provide a cleaner, more accessible and more reliable source of water.

Project cost: \$20,000

Amount of application: \$5,000

2. **Phase two of the Stanley Park Seawall pedestrian/cycle path separation.** Much of the seawall has been improved to accommodate a safer mix of pedestrian and cyclist/skater traffic. The project will continue the path widening, and create a grade separation between the walking and the cycling/skating tracks on the Seawall west of Pipeline Road.

Project cost \$200,000

Amount of application: \$100,000

3. **Thunderbird Community Centre 2nd floor expansion.** Park Board and local volunteer effort has generated funding from various sources to expand what is currently one of the smallest community centres in Vancouver. A small proportion of overall project costs is yet required before this project can proceed to construction.

Project cost: \$650,000

Amount of application: \$100,000

4. **Mt. Pleasant Community Centre.** Renovations are required to improve kitchen arrangements, washrooms, offices, and ventilation to better accommodate neighbourhood programs such as the Out of School care program. Hoped-for funding to match the Park Board's allocation has not materialized to date.

Project cost: \$148,000

Amount of application: \$74,000

Total Project costs: \$1,018,000

Total amount of application: \$279,000

SUMMARY

Total project costs and the proportion to be applied for from the Infrastructure Grant program are as follows:

Project	Total Cost	Matching funds/source(s)	Infrastructure Program request
Install Tree Farm well	\$20,000.	\$15,000	Operating funds \$5,000.
Phase Two of pedestrian/cycle separation on Seawall	\$200,000.	\$100,000	1997-98 Capital Plan \$100,000.
2 nd floor addition at Thunderbird CC	\$690,000.	\$590,000	1997-98 Capital Plan & Association fund-raising \$100,000.
Mt. Pleasant CC	\$148,000.	\$74,000.	1998 Capital Plan \$74,000.
Total proposed for application from Infrastructure Program:			\$279,000

Prepared by:

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