



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Report APRAC13-032
Community Assistance Cricket Pitch Project

PURPOSE

A report to provide an update on the Community Assistance program, specifically related to the potential Cricket Pitch development project at Milroy Park.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC13-032 dated November 19, 2013, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That Report APRAC13-032 be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report APRAC13-032. There are sufficient funds within the approved 2013 Community Assistance capital budget (Budget reference # 6-1.01) to support the City's share of the Cricket Pitch Project, which is estimated to be \$48,957.34 (net of the HST rebate).

BACKGROUND

Community Assistance Program

Community Assistance funding provides partnership support to enable voluntary community agencies or groups, including sport groups, to improve municipal parks and/or school playgrounds, serving a community need at a relatively low cost for the City. The community agency/group is required to contribute a minimum of 15% of the estimated total project cost. The City then considers the balance of the expenses for funding under the Community Assistance fund.

The Peterborough Cricket Association (PCA) has identified a need for an official cricket pitch to be developed within the City, and has requested the City's assistance through the community assistance program.

The Need for a Formal Cricket Pitch

The PCA was established in 2005, and is part of the Toronto Cricket Alliance. Participation in the sport of Cricket is growing across Canada. Local interest in Cricket is also increasing, due to the PCA's combined efforts with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board to introduce the sport to school children, and from an active immigrant integration strategy within our community. However, the ability to grow the sport locally has been hindered, due to the lack of an official cricket pitch. Currently, the PCA plays their league home games on a make-shift pitch within Morrow Park. In 2010, they established a practice cage at their sole expense on City owned property abutting Keith Wightman School.

Since the PCA was established in 2005, they have initiated numerous discussions with City staff about the possibility of constructing an official cricket pitch within the city. They also actively participated in the consultation processes of the Vision 2010 Strategic Plan Update, which was conducted in 2007. That Plan explicitly identifies a need to develop facilities that support the multi-cultural community and its need for recreation and culture, such as the development of a cricket pitch. The PCA also participated in the Morrow Park Master Plan process (MPMP) between 2009 and 2011. While the MPMP identifies the need for a cricket pitch and the ability to create one within Morrow Park, the probability of its development at that site remains uncertain.

Opportunity to Develop a Formal Cricket Pitch

Over the past two years, City staff along with the PCA, has been investigating alternative options to developing the cricket pitch in Morrow Park. That investigation included researching if and how other municipalities, colleges, and universities have developed cricket pitches. It was discovered that the University of Toronto Scarborough has integrated an official sized cricket pitch into an area that contained two existing side-by-side soccer fields, successfully transforming the site into a multisport facility. A baseball diamond is also located immediately adjacent to the university's soccer fields. An aerial photo of that facility, showing the cricket pitch layout on the soccer fields is attached as Appendix "A".

The existing design of Milroy Park is very similar to the facility at the University of Toronto Scarborough. An aerial photo of Milroy Park is attached as Appendix “B”. The configuration of the Milroy fields can accommodate a cricket pitch in the centre of the two fields, with the soccer fields providing the space for the cricket field area. However, the space between the two fields will need to be levelled, properly drained, and have a 12 foot by 120 foot concrete pad installed to create the pitch playing area, which will be covered by an Astro Court nylon turf. Staff is aware of 37 other cricket pitches throughout Ontario that have used Astro Court nylon turf as the preferred surface solution for cricket pitches. There are approximately fourteen small trees that will be relocated to another area of the park. Several of these trees could be situated at the spectator area of Fischer Park ball diamond. This will also help address ball user complaints that there is currently no shade in that area.

The PCA’s playing schedule does not conflict with the existing soccer use at Milroy Park. Therefore, the two sports can effectively utilize this facility without creating a scheduling conflict. The installation of the cricket pitch can be completed in late fall or early spring, to prevent the fields from being taken out of play during the playing season.

The primary users of the soccer fields have been notified that this project is planned; pending the PCA confirming their financial contribution.

Cost to Create the Cricket Pitch

The Public Works division provided quotes to facilitate the work in Milroy Park required for tree relocation, excavation, drainage, levelling, and the concrete pad. However, the PCA requested the City’s financial assistance with only a portion of the work, as follows:

- Tree relocation, excavation, drainage, and levelling of the area between the soccer fields, at a cost of \$57,597 (net of the HST rebate)

As per the Community Assistance Program requirements, the PCA will provide 15% of the \$57,597, leaving the City’s contribution at \$48,957. The cost of this project is comparable to past projects completed through the Community Assistance Program, which have been in the \$43,000 to \$50,000 range for things such as children’s play structures and basketball courts.

The PCA has applied for an Ontario Trillium Fund (OTF) grant to cover their share of the work listed above and to cover 100% of the cost to install the concrete pad and the Astro Court nylon turf. Public Works Staff will facilitate the completion of all work, except the installation of the Astro Court nylon turf, which will be the responsibility of the PCA.

Upon confirmation that the PCA’s OTF grant application is approved, an agreement will be signed, outlining the PCA’s responsibilities including the ongoing maintenance and eventual replacement of the Astro Court nylon turf. The work on the project will then proceed.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Aerial Photo - University of Toronto Scarborough Cricket/Soccer Facility
Appendix B – Aerial Photo of Milroy Park