

DATE OF MEETING | MARCH 20, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | SCOTT NEWLANDS, PARK PROJECTS COORDINATOR
PARKS AND RECREATION |

SUBJECT | **EMERGENCY TRACK REPAIRS AT THE ROTARY BOWL** |

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide information to Council regarding emergency repairs to the track at the Rotary Bowl.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee receive the report titled “Emergency Track Repairs at the Rotary Bowl”, dated 2019-MAR-20, for information.

DISCUSSION

The Rotary Bowl was purchased from the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District #68 (SD68) as part of a greater land deal in 2017. The City of Nanaimo took over ownership and operations of the facility on 2018-JAN-01. The Nanaimo Track and Field Club has a co-management agreement to operate and allocate the facility on behalf of the City and operated the facility through the 2018 track season.

The poured-in-place rubber track surface was replaced in 2010 with the SD68, Nanaimo Track and Field Club and other community partners assisting in funding the replacement of this critical component. The rubber track surface has an estimated life expectancy of 12 years and requires routine maintenance throughout the lifecycle.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS

The southwest property line of the Rotary Bowl is lined with well-established Lombardy Poplar trees. The root systems from these trees have traveled and established themselves well over 25m from the bases of the trees, under the track surface and into the centre grass field area.

The roots under the rubber surface have heaved upwards, creating an uneven surface on the track. Signage was posted in this area in late 2018 to warn users of the tripping hazard in this section. However, substantial growth and further heaving in this location has caused further damage to the track. Some heaved sections have passed the threshold of safe running surface for competitive track events, which could mean the possibility of high level track events being canceled.

The emergency repairs will be carried out in March and April prior to the start of the 2019 track season to remove the damaged sections of rubber track and reinstate with a new rubber surface. Root damaged areas will be removed, new asphalt put in place, and rubber surfacing

reinstalled. Efforts will also be made to trench and install a root barrier along the track edge to mitigate further damage from root growth.

Staff are working on longer-term solutions for dealing with the tree roots and preventing damage to the track. Any further work will coincide with the resurfacing of the track.

BUDGET

The total budget for the immediate repairs is \$34,000. Funding for the work will be from two (2) private contributions:

- Nanaimo Track and Field Club - \$15,000
 - Municipal Insurance Association (MIA) - \$19,000
- A risk management grant application has been approved by the MIA for the emergency repairs.

The final 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan will be amended to include the emergency repairs. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Tree roots have heaved some sections of track passed the threshold of safe running surface for competitive track events.
- Work is to be carried out in March and April prior to the start of the 2019 track season.
- The final 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan will be amended to add the emergency repairs with funding from private contributions.
- The work will be funded by the Nanaimo Track and Field Club and the Municipal Insurance Association risk management grant program.
- Emergency repairs will include cutting out the damaged sections, reinstalling asphalt and redoing the rubber surface. Root barrier will also be installed between the track and the hill. |

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Pictures of root damage. |

Submitted by:

Scott Newlands
Park Projects Coordinator |

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation |