

DATE OF MEETING 2023-MAY-17

AUTHORED BY [DEBORAH BECK, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNER]

**SUBJECT ROCKY POINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENT
REQUEST UNDER THE PARTNERS IN PARKS PROGRAM**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To seek committee approval to award Partners In Parks funding to Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council award \$50,000 from the 2023 Partners In Parks (PIP) Program funds, to the proposed PIP Rocky Point Park improvements – including playground installation at Harry Wipper Park.

BACKGROUND

Harry Wipper Park is a 6.56 acre sports field located off Hammond Bay Road in the Rocky Point/Hammond Bay/Stephenson Point Neighbourhood Plan area. This park was acquired in 1981. The park is zoned PRC-2, and was designated as such in anticipation of developing active recreation amenities. The park is situated in a residential neighbourhood with an elementary school on the adjacent property and an active transportation corridor running between these two properties.

Rocky Point has experienced an influx of young families moving into the neighbourhood over the last few years. In 2015, a conversation began around the need for a playground in this growing neighbourhood and in the fall of 2021, the neighbourhood formed a group called Families of Rocky Point, in order to start exploring the development of a neighbourhood playground in this area. Group members wish to create a playground that can be accessed by the public during school hours, when the school playground is not accessible, and include toddler friendly play features. The nearest playground from this location is nearly a kilometre away and along a busy road.

The PIP program was initiated by City Council in 1982 to develop neighbourhood parks and projects. Each year, approximately \$100,000 is budgeted to the program and neighbourhood representatives work with City staff to develop their projects to apply to have a portion of the funds allocated to their project.

DISCUSSION

The Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association is in the process of formalizing, and has applied to include this proposed park improvement under the City of Nanaimo's Partners in Parks Program

for 2023. They have been actively pursuing fundraising opportunities and other sources of funding to help with this project.

This group met with City Staff and have identified a location adjacent to the Harry Wipper Sports Fields, at the end of Renee Place, as a suitable location for a neighbourhood park improvement project, including installation of a playground. This location has easy access from the Wally Creek Trail System, and is in close proximity to two parking lots and a washroom building.

It is estimated that the total project cost is \$130,000. The group expects to be able to fundraise and receive donations-in-kind to the value of \$80,000 with the remaining \$50,000 to be allocated by the City using PIP funds. If approved, a project account will be set aside for the Rocky Point Playground / Harry Wipper Park Neighbourhood improvements. All disbursements from the account will be City-controlled. Fundraising proceeds can be added to the City account and the project will not proceed until the fundraising, as outlined in the delegation's proposal, is successful.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council award \$50,000 from the 2023 Partners In Parks (PIP) Program funds, to the Rocky Point PIP proposed park improvements – including playground installation at Harry Wipper Park.
 - **Budget Implication:** \$50,000 from the 2023 PIP account will be put towards completing this PIP project in 2023.
 - **Policy Implication:** The PIP program is consistent with City Plan which supports creation of recreation facilities through community partnerships.
 - **Engagement Implication:** Community engagement has been carried out under the PIP process.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternate direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Residents in the Rocky Point/Hammond Bay/Stephenson Point Neighbourhood Plan Area, have identified a need for a toddler friendly playground that is accessible during school hours in this neighbourhood.
- City Staff have identified a location adjacent to the Harry Wipper Sports Fields, at the end of Renee Place, as a suitable location.
- Residents have requested \$50,000 for neighbourhood park improvements at this location through the Partners in Parks Program.
- Residents have been actively pursuing fundraising opportunities and additional sources of funding for this project.
- Staff recommend that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council award \$50,000 from the 2023 Partners In Parks (PIP) Program fund, to the Rocky Point PIP proposed park improvements – including playground installation at Harry Wipper Park.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: ROCKY POINT PIP PROPOSAL

ATTACHMENT B: ROCKY POINT PIP SITE PLAN |

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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