

DATE OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
AUTHORED BY CHARLOTTE DAVIS, MANAGER, PARKS OPERATIONS
SUBJECT ROTARY BOWL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval to add a Rotary Bowl Improvement project to 2023, to ensure that the work can be completed in time for the 2024 athletic season.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve adding a Rotary Bowl Improvement project for \$256,900 to 2023 of the 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan funded by \$169,300 in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILTs) and \$87,600 from the General Asset Management Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Rotary Bowl was purchased by the City of Nanaimo from School District #68 (SD68) in 2017 as part of a package that also included the purchase of the Serauxmen Stadium, and the jointly funded construction of the NDSS Community Field (now named q'unq'inuqwstuxw). Rotary Bowl is an important recreational venue for Nanaimo and the general region in providing full track and field amenities. In addition to all it provides to residents in the region, it is also an economic driver to Nanaimo and provides infrastructure for sports tourism, including being instrumental in hosting large events such as the BC Summer Games.

In fall 2021 the City replaced the complete track surface. The facility now meets the performance standards of World Athletics and holds a World Athletics Class 2 certification. The value of the project was \$1,228,136.

In the summer of 2022 the City installed a new water service to the stadium district to supply both Serauxmen Stadium and Rotary Bowl. The new service means that the stadium district is no longer reliant on water sourced from a well in a disused mine shaft under the stadium. Work in the area of the stadium plaza meant that the aged and broken irrigation system at Rotary Bowl was finally decommissioned. At the same time the City issued a request for proposals for the replacement of the irrigation system. The process was cancelled having received only one submission that was valued at more than twice the estimated project budget. Since that time the turf at the Rotary Bowl is unirrigated.

In spring of 2022 a windstorm damaged one of two throwing cages at the facility. The remaining cage no longer meets World Athletics throwing event specifications. In 2023 the Nanaimo Track and Field Club (NTFC), the primary users of the facility, were unable to host throwing events associated with both the 2023 Track and Field Jamboree and a World Athletics qualifying event.

Until this time, with the exception of Port Alberni, Rotary Bowl was the only location on Vancouver Island that could hold World Athletics throwing events. The City has been in ongoing discussions with NTFC regarding the condition of the throwing cages and the need for them to be replaced. The replacement of the cages and the irrigation project are currently included in the 2024-2028 Draft Financial Plan and is comprised of four separate components:

Item	Description	Amount
Throwing Cage Pads	Asphalt throwing cage pads for better performance and to prevent grass growing through netting.	85,000
Irrigation System	Install new irrigation system.	84,300
Equipment, Hammer Cage	Replace hammer cage that doesn't meet World Athletic standards.	64,800
Equipment, Discus Cage	Replace discus cage that was destroyed in wind.	22,800
Total Project Cost:		<u>\$256,900</u>

DISCUSSION

Staff have engaged the services of the same sports architect used on the design of the track resurfacing, to complete a design that incorporates new throwing cages and sports surfacing, along with a new irrigation system designed by an irrigation specialist.

The design discussions are happening in collaboration with community partners to ensure that the new assets meet all requirements of use for district meets, provincial competitions and national level events.

This work is in preparation for a tender that is presently planned to go to market in 2024. However, due to the length of procurement processes and estimated delivery timelines, in order to be able to host athletics events during the summer of 2024, procurement activities would need to be undertaken in fall/winter 2023.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

PILTs currently has a projected 2023 closing balance of \$192,180 and the General Asset Management Reserve Fund currently has a projected 2023 closing balance of \$7,225,176 both have sufficient to funds available for the project. If approved the project will be removed from the 2024 – 2028 Draft Financial Plan.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve adding a Rotary Bowl Improvement project for \$256,900 to 2023 of the 2023-2027 Financial Plan funded by \$169,300 in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILTs) and \$87,600 from the General Asset Management Reserve Fund.

- The advantages of this option: The project will be completed by summer 2024 meaning that NTFC can host the full schedule of summer athletics events.
- The disadvantages of this option: Approves a project included in the 2024 – 2028 Draft Financial Plan prior to Council deliberations.
- Financial Implications: The 2023 – 2027 Financial Plan will be amended at a future date to include the Rotary Bowl Improvement project.

2. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City Purchased Rotary Bowl in 2017 and replaced the track in 2021.
- The irrigation system and throwing cages are not functional and in need of replacement. In order to complete the work in time for the 2024 athletics season, procurement needs to begin in fall/winter 2023.

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