

Report to Council

Report Title: Walkerton Lawn Bowling 2025 Capital Request

Prepared By: Brad Thomson, Facilities and Parks Supervisor and Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: February 11, 2025

Report Number: REC2025-04 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-04 - Walkerton Lawn Bowling 2025 Capital Request, prepared by Brad Thomson, Facilities and Parks Supervisor and Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so provides the following direction to staff regarding the 2025 budget request: _____

Report:

Background:

The Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club has been a valued partner of the municipality for many years, promoting recreational activity, social engagement, and healthy living for residents of all ages. The club operates on municipal land under a formal service agreement that outlines responsibilities for facility maintenance, programming, and shared community use.

The current service agreement, last renewed in 2021 stipulates that the club is responsible for the continued maintenance of the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Greens, at its own cost, and shall make recommendations to the Municipality for any capital expenditures it deems necessary to the facility.

During budget consultation in 2024, the capital request for the fence replacement was not approved by Council. The fence has become a hazard, it has been struck by snowplows and vehicles and is in disrepair.

In 2022 the Armoury building was sold, the gate that the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club used to enter into the Lawn Bowling property was no longer available to them due to the sale of the property. Staff removed a part of the fence to give access to the Club without replacing with a proper gate. Part of the fence that is next to the Cenotaph is in good condition and will not need replaced for many years.

Analysis:

Staff are seeking Council direction on the request from The Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club. Currently, the draft 2025 budget does not allocate any funding for the items requested. The club has submitted the following capital requests:

1. **New/repair fence** (\$14,000)
2. **Expansion of pavilion and new cement pad under pavilion** (\$12,000)
3. **Security lighting upgrades** (\$2,000)
4. **New storage shed** (\$10,000)

Staff support the request for a new or repaired fence around the Lawn Bowling greens, as it is a crucial element in maintaining the turf in optimal condition. As noted above, this request was part of the Draft 2024 Budget but was not approved during the budget discussion. The fence prevents vehicles, pets, and non-members from accessing the greens. Given the gate access on the adjacent property and the current gap in the fence, a gate is necessary to keep vehicles out. The existing fence is in poor condition, with sharp edges, holes, and loose sections, posing significant safety risks for both players and pedestrians using the adjacent sidewalk.

As lawn bowling is generally played by older adults, the need for shade is important. With the growth of the club, the existing pavilion is no longer large enough to give shade to everyone. The cement pad under the pavilion will aid in the accessibility of this area.

The storage shed has deteriorated over the years and needs replaced to keep equipment safe and out of the elements.

The previous security lighting was installed on the Armory building, but since the new owners of the building have deactivated these lights, the greens are left in darkness at night, creating safety concerns.

The Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club plays a vital role in the recreational landscape of the municipality. Addressing these capital needs will help the club continue to thrive and serve the community for years to come.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?


- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

The total estimated cost for the proposed capital projects is \$38,000. Funding options may include municipal capital budgets, grant applications, and potential fundraising efforts by the club.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Brad Thomson, Facilities and Parks Supervisor



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer