

Report to Council

Report Title: Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Grant Application - Walkerton Ball Diamond Light Replacement 2025

Prepared By: Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: March 18, 2025

Report Number: REC2025-09

File Number: C11REC, F11

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-09 - Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Grant Application - Walkerton Ball Diamond Light Replacement 2025, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The Walkerton Ball Diamond lighting system is 26+ years old, has reached the end of its operational lifespan, are significantly deteriorating and need to be replaced. Staff had an electrical contractor inspect the lighting system in 2023 and it was determined that the lights needed to be replaced as they have deteriorated, parts are no longer available, the bottom of the light casings have started to rot, and the sockets themselves are beginning to fail. There are currently 32, 1,500-watt metal halide lights that use a significant amount of electricity when lit. Switching to new 750-watt LED lights is expected to reduce operating costs by approximately \$1,734.00 yearly.

Recognizing the need for replacement, staff previously applied for the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) provincial funding in 2023 and 2024; however, both applications were unsuccessful even with guidance from OTF grant program manager to make improvements to 2024 application. Given the importance of this project to the community, staff have again submitted an application for funding through OTF on March 5, 2025, in hopes of securing the necessary financial support.

Analysis:

In 2025 staff once again consulted with the OTF grant program managers to discuss our unsuccessful submissions and received feedback that advised we include more health statistics within our community that

supports the benefits of fostering physically active lifestyles. Using this feedback as well as enlisting the service of Grant Match staff submitted the third application on the March 5, 2025 deadline.

The maximum funding for this application is \$200,000. The OTF Capital Stream supports projects that “update buildings, enhance spaces, and purchase fixed and non-fixed equipment so people and communities can thrive.” This project supports the priorities of this grant where the proposed improvements will foster physically active lifestyles and the main objective to extend the life of a facility or space are aligned. If successful with the OTF funding for the ball diamond light project the monies must be spent by the end of 2026.

An updated estimate and inspection by electrical contractor revealed we can reuse the existing electrical cables, reducing the cost from the 2024 estimate of \$232,067.10 to 2025 estimate to the amount of \$127,395.15 + HST. If successful, the grant could potentially cover the cost of this project and ensure the timely replacement of the lighting to providing the reassurance of uninterrupted service for our ball users for many years to come.

If the application is unsuccessful, alternative funding options, including future municipal budget allocation and potential sponsorships, will need to be considered. Staff will continue to explore alternative funding options though grant applications and potential sponsorship or donation opportunities.

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 | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The lighting replacement of the Walkerton Ball Diamond lights to LED was included in 2025 capital budget with condition of successful grant funding.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer