

Report to Council

Report Title: Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant Application- Centennial Pool Hoyer Lift

Prepared By: Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: July 15, 2025

Report Number: REC2025-15 **File Number:** C11REC, F11

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-15 - Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant Application- Centennial Pool Hoyer Lift, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, and in doing so approves applying to the Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) for a Hoyer Lift at Centennial Park Pool.

Report:

Background:

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) funds projects that improve accessibility and support active lifestyles for people with disabilities and older adults. It supports individuals to live more active, healthy, safe and socially connected lives within their communities. The grant program funds up to \$60,000 to small capital projects that focus on making outdoor spaces, buildings and housing more accessible for everyone.

The Municipality of Brockton is committed to accessibility in our communities with a Multi Year Accessibility Plan that that was prepared in accordance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2021 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. The Accessibility Plan addresses improvements to recreational facilities, playground and programs. Recognizing the need to enhance to enhance accessibility and improve safety staff are requesting to apply to the EASE grand funding for a pool Hoyer lift. The installation of a Hoyer lift—a mechanical pool lift designed to assist individuals with limited mobility in safely entering and exiting the pool—would be a major step forward in ensuring that our aquatic offerings are truly inclusive.

In 2023 the Brockton Accessibility Advisory toured the pool facility and made several recommendations, some of which have already been implemented and others that will require pre-planning through the budget process. This grant application for a pool Hoyer lift aligns with the review and recommendations made by the Committee to make the pool facility as accessible as possible.

Analysis:

Municipal staff are in support of any upgrades or devices that can be added to improve accessibility for residents. Hoyer lifts are mechanical devices, valued up to \$12,000, that transfer people from the deck into the swimming pool, and the swimming pool to the deck. The pool currently has a ramp; however, this still creates barriers for individuals that require wheelchair assistance.

Benefits for Centennial Park Pool:

- Hoyer lifts make outdoor pools for enjoyable and accessible
- A lift can help minimize the risk of falling and injuries while entering or exiting the pool
- Swimmers with mobility concerns can independently get into the pool without relying on others
- As Brockton continues to expand and support Newcomers, enhancing accessibility features in one of our recreational facilities speaks volumes about our community
- Enables the facility to accommodate more diverse programming, such as: Aquatic therapy and rehab for seniors or individuals recovering from injury or surgery, offer specialized swim lessons for children and adults with physical disabilities and create partnerships with organizations that provide programming for individuals with special needs.

AODA and the Ontario Building Code encourage or require accessible design in municipal facilities. Installing a lift may help avoid future costs related to non-compliance and aligns with municipal accessibility plans and provincial standards. The installation of a Hoyer lift at the Centennial Park Pool represents a cost-effective, meaningful, and highly visible way to promote accessibility, inclusion, and dignity in our public services. By making our pool more welcoming and functional for all community members, we take a concrete step toward a more equitable and healthier community.

Staff seek Council support in endorsing this grant application to facilitate these vital improvements at Centennial Park Pool.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

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

- | | |
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| • 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? Yes

Initial estimates for a commercial-grade pool Hoyer lift range from \$20,000 to \$25,000, including installation, within the \$60,000 grant funding parameters. If successful, cost of Hoyer Lift would be fully funded through grant monies.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer