



December 18, 2019

Memo To: Mayor and Members of Council

Copy To: Ilmar Simanovskis, Commissioner, Community Services
Grant Taylor, Director, Public Works Operations

From: Jeff Stewart, Manager, Parks Operations

Subject: **Tennis Rehabilitation Program – Additional Information**

Background:

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on November 12, 2019, staff were directed to report back on the following matter. That staff investigate the cost and feasibility of upgrading the tennis courts at French Royalist Park, including the ability to receive and apply a colour-coated surface upgrade; with the goal of adding this project to the 2020 Capital Budget so that the tennis courts may be upgraded in 2020.

This direction was based on a motion that the Committee received from Councillor West and a community delegation requesting that these courts be upgraded from the existing black asphalt to an acrylic colour coated surface.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide additional information on the estimated cost to rehabilitate and upgrade the tennis courts at French Royalist Park; the impact that such work would have on the 10-year capital budget and how staff determine priorities in regards to reconstruction, resurfacing and the application of acrylic colour surfaces on the City's tennis courts.

Discussion:

Staff, working with the tennis community, have developed a comprehensive tennis plan for the City. The Tennis Strategy (2016) and the Tennis Court Assessment and Conditional Analysis Report, CAR (2018) assists staff with the overall management of 23 tennis facilities consisting of 81 courts. Staff follow this process to inform the annual and the capital budget forecast.

Currently, French Royalist Park is not one of the top 10 courts to be resurfaced or reconstructed within the CAR report. Further, the tennis courts within this neighbourhood park are not identified within the 10-year capital forecast.

Staff have investigated the feasibility to receive and apply a colour-coated surface, with the goal of adding this project to the 2020 Capital program. This work includes mobilization and site restoration at an estimated cost of \$300,000. This work would need to be completed during the summer months resulting in sections of the park including walkways and open space being closed to the public for an extended period.

Through the Council approved Parks Master Plan and parks revitalization process, staff are currently working on the feasibility and public interest in upgrading the tennis facilities at Bayview Hill Park and Town Park. Further, the tennis courts at Stavert Park, which is located on the north side of Mill Pond Park in Ward 4, have been identified within the 10-year capital budget process for upgrading. Each of the three parks noted are either community or destination parks, which are typically larger, more centrally located with public parking. These larger parks are ideal for recreational facilities like upgraded tennis courts as they are often centrally located within a block, serving a wider number of residents. Based on Council approval of the required funding, these three community/destination park locations, representing 11 courts, have been identified as priority locations for higher-quality tennis facilities.

In conjunction with the 2020 Budget process, staff were directed to limit the impact on the tax-based reserves to approximately \$14M. As such, half of the City's planned park revitalization and park repair and replacement projects, which require at least a portion of funding from these reserves, have been deferred.

The four projects that were deferred include Humber Flats/Mallard Marsh, Rumble Pond Park South, Horner Park and Russell Farm Park. As such, should Council approve the tennis court upgrades requested at French Royalist Park, this project will be moving ahead of the four park repair and replacement projects that staff recommended be deferred to limit the budget impact. The four deferred projects are valued at approximately \$2.4M, with three of the projects in the value range of the requested upgrades to French Royalist.

Capital Forecast

The following park revitalizations fall within the next five-years. Public Works Operations informs the program to determine the extent of tennis infrastructure improvements that may include replacing the court surface or full reconstruction. The following locations are considered high priorities in the CAR Report.

Year: 2020 - Bayview Hill Park

Year: 2021 - Newberry Park, Brick Works Park and Mill Pond/Stavert Park

Recommendations:

- a) That the requested upgrades to the tennis courts at French Royalist Park not proceed for the reasons outlined in this Memorandum and that staff be directed to continue to follow the Tennis Rehabilitation Strategy; and
- b) That the establishment of any community tennis clubs be directed to tennis courts at community or destination parks only; and
- c) That residents interested in establishing a community tennis club be directed to work with City staff in compliance with the approved Community Tennis Club Policy.