



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13, 2021

Report Number: SRCM.21.11

Department: Office of the City Manager
Division: Strategy and Government Relations

**Subject: SRCM.21.11 Community Building Fund and
Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund Grant
Applications**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to submit applications for funding to the Community Building Fund (Ontario Trillium Foundation) and Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (Infrastructure Canada), including approval of the remaining capital funding not covered by the grants should the City be successful.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That Council endorse the City's submission of applications to the Community Building Fund (Ontario Trillium Foundation) and Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (Infrastructure Canada) for several eligible capital projects as described in SRCM.21.11;
- b) That should the City's Community Building Fund grant application be successful, Council approve that the funding sources allocated to the project in the 2022 Capital Budget be reduced by the grant amount received;
- c) That should the City's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund grants be successful, Council approve the City's allocation of:
 - a. Mill Pond Park Revitalization Project (Phase 1) – With the total current value of the project at \$11,024,000, and the grant being for up to 40% of costs, that the City's (60%) portion be funded from the Development Charges Outdoor Recreation Reserve Fund, the Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund and the Water Quality Protection Reserve Fund.
 - b. Humber Flats Remediation Project – With the total current value of the project at \$2,965,000, and the grant being for up to 40% of costs, that the City's (60%) portion be funded from the Water Quality Protection Reserve Fund.

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Contact Person:

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Report Approval:

Submitted by: Lise Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

While Council endorsement is not an explicit requirement of the grant applications outlined in this report, in submitting these applications, the City is committing to securing the necessary capital financing for the remaining portion of project costs not covered by the grants if the projects are approved for grant funding.

As such, staff are seeking Council endorsement of the submission of these applications to the Community Building Fund and Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. This ensures the City has secured commitment to fund the City's portion of the work should the applications be successful.

Should the City not be successful in any of these grant applications, no funds would be expended as outlined in these recommendations, and the projects would be subject to regular capital budget approval by Council.

Community Building Fund Grant Application

The Ontario Trillium Fund (OTF) opened up funding applications for the Community Building Fund, which provides support for non-profits, indigenous communities and municipalities in the community sport and recreation sectors. The fund will support projects that repair, renovate or retrofit existing sport and recreation facilities to address local community need by extending the life and maximizing the use of existing facilities.

Staff from the City Manager's Office reviewed application requirements with staff from the Infrastructure Delivery and Engineering Services Division to find a suitable capital project. It was determined that mechanical and electrical upgrades to Rouge Woods Community Centre, a project that is currently in the 2022 Capital Budget to be considered by Council in the coming weeks, would be the best candidate for the City's application. The total project value is \$1.3 million. If the City is successful with its application, the grant would cover up to \$500,000 or a maximum of 80% of total project costs for municipalities of Richmond Hill's size. Staff are recommending that the draw

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on the corresponding funding sources in the 2022 Capital Budget be reduced by an amount equal to the value of the grant.

Due to timing, City staff have submitted the application for funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation by the deadline of the September 29, 2021 to ensure that this opportunity was not missed. This report outlines the potential funding for the remaining funding for the project not funded by the grant, should the City be successful, for Council approval.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) Grant Application

Infrastructure Canada recently opened a new intake for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The DMAF is a national, competitive, and merit-based contribution program with two objectives:

- To support infrastructure projects designed to mitigate current and future climate-related risks and disasters triggered by natural hazards, such as floods, erosion, extreme temperature, storm, etc.
- To strengthen the resilience of Canadian communities at risk of infrastructure failure that could result in threats to health and safety; threats to critical infrastructure, including interruptions in essential services; significant disruptions in economic activity; and/or increasingly high costs for recovery and replacement.

Staff from the City Manager's Office reviewed application requirements with staff from the Infrastructure Delivery and Engineering Services Division as well as Policy Planning to find suitable capital projects. It was determined that the City has two potential candidates: Mill Pond Park Revitalization (tackling the "erosion" component of the application) and Humber Flats Remediation (addressing the "flood" component of the application).

Mill Pond Park Revitalization Project

The Mill Pond Park Revitalization project will implement the City's vision for a phased revitalization of this natural oasis and destination in the heart of Richmond Hill. The project aims to improve the connectivity of the southern portion of Mill Pond Park with the northern portion of the Park from both a water resources, environmental, and social perspective. Natural and stormwater infrastructure approaches will be used to minimize the existing natural erosion hazards emanating from the Upper East Don River, enabling greater public use of the park and functionality of the existing stormwater infrastructure for the growing population surrounding this park.

The Environmental Assessment and Park Master Plan currently underway have been proceeding together concurrently since 2021 and are expected to be complete in early 2023. The revitalization of Mill Pond Park is a multi-year phased design/construction project that will include a series of measures aimed at mitigating the current natural erosion hazards of the East Don River by restoring the valleyland, creating a new naturalized channel between the existing Heritage Estates Stormwater Pond and Mill Pond, and re-aligning certain trails and removing certain bridge overpasses to create a

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new primary trail system. The revitalization will enable the public amenity and stormwater management infrastructure components in the park to continue to serve the growing population planned for this area while decreasing the current public and environmental safety issues associated with the erosion hazard.

The City is seeking 40% of the Phase 1 project costs through the DMAF grant application. The remaining 60% of the project costs can be sourced over a number of years from the Development Charges Outdoor Recreation Reserve, the Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve and from the Water Quality Protection Reserve.

Humber Flats Remediation Project

Following direction from the Environment Strategy and the current Official Plan, while supporting two Council Strategic Priorities of “Balancing Growth and Green” and “Fiscal Responsibility,” this project will replace the road crossing at Humberland Road to reduce the risk of upstream flooding of residential properties. The project was originally identified during a floodmapping project undertaken by the City in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

Flooding of residential properties represents a health and safety risk to the impacted residents and can cause damage to their homes. Reducing flooding will reduce property damage impacts and potential liability to the municipality. This will also help reduce the regulated area which will decrease redevelopment restrictions for the impacted properties which ended up in the floodplain due to updated TRCA flood mapping. These properties are currently in the floodplain and have restrictions to redevelopment.

The Humber Flats Remediation Project meets a number of the DMAF grant objectives, including climate change mitigation and disasters triggered by a natural hazard by reducing the flooding risks for nearby residents and a play structure in the floodplain with the reconstruction of a road crossing and other floodplain improvements. This project will also strengthen Canadian communities at risk of infrastructure failure by increasing health and safety of the area, and increases the economic potential of the area in the future. Removing properties and the play structure out of the floodplain will reduce the risks to Richmond Hill residents, and could potentially allow for additional redevelopment in the area.

The City is seeking 40% of the project costs through the DMAF grant application. The remaining 60% of the project costs will be sourced over a number of years from the Water Quality Protection Reserve.

The City has also provided a letter of support to York Region in its application for DMAF funding for a number of projects, including one in Richmond Hill, which will reduce inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system. Should the Region be successful, the City will benefit from the funding awarded.

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Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

Staff are requesting that Council approve the following capital expenditures:

- For the Rouge Woods Community Centre Mechanical and Electrical Upgrade Project, which is already in the 2022 Capital Budget for Council's consideration at an upcoming meeting, that should the City's funding application be successful the amount required for the project be reduced from the allocated funding from City sources by the value of the grant.
- For the Mill Pond Park Revitalization Phase 1 Project, contingent on the successful award of up to 40% of the total current cost of \$11,024,000 towards the project through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the following sources be used to fund the City's remaining portion of the project: Development Charges Outdoor Recreation Reserve Fund, Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund and the Water Quality Protection Reserve Fund.
- For the Humber Flats Remediation Project, contingent on the successful award of up to 40% of the total current cost of \$2,965,000 towards the project through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund that the source for the remaining costs to the City be the Water Quality Protection Reserve Fund.

These financial approvals are contingent on funding being received and will not be advanced in the event that the applications are unsuccessful.

While neither the Ontario Trillium Foundation nor Infrastructure Canada commit to a firm application review and/or funding award timeline for grant applications, the programs provide funding for work that may be undertaken over a number of years. The grant-contingent funding requested through this report will be incurred over this time period required in any transfer payment agreement with the City, with specific in-year draws to be determined based on funding award and subsequent project execution timing.

Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

Pursuing grant funding is in support of Fiscal Responsibility, one of Council's 2020-2022 Strategic Priorities.

Climate Change Considerations:

The proposed capital projects for which the City will be seeking grant funding include work that will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by conserving energy, helping to lower the City's GHG emissions and improving the City's stormwater management by mitigating the risk of flooding and erosion.

Conclusion:

Staff in Strategy and Government Relations in the City Manager's Office are pleased to work with our colleagues in infrastructure delivery to leverage the City's financing by maximizing grant opportunities that are available to us as a municipality. Council

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approval of the recommendations in this report allow for the City to pursue grants from the Community Building Fund and the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation fund by committing the City's portion of the project costs, should the funding applications be successful.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.21.11 Community Building Fund and Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund Grants.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 29, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

David Dexter - Sep 27, 2021 - 9:18 AM

MaryAnne Dempster - Sep 29, 2021 - 4:24 PM