



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: June 18, 2025

Report Number: SRCM.25.10

Department: Office of the City Manager
Division: Strategy and Transformation

Subject: **SRCM.25.10 – Health and Safety Water Stream
and Play Your Court Grant Applications**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to submit applications for funding to the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program Health and Safety Water Stream and Tennis Canada Play Your Court program, including approval of capital funding not covered by the grant should the City's applications be successful.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That SRCM.25.10 regarding Health and Safety Water Stream and Play Your Court Grant Applications be received;
- b) That for the City's application to the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS) for the South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project:
 - i) Council endorse submission of the City's funding application to HSWS.
 - ii) Should the application be successful, Council approve that the South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project proceed with a \$1,623,000 budget, with up to \$1,184,790 to be funded from the Provincial HSWS, and the remaining City portion to be funded from the appropriate funding sources, as determined by the Treasurer.
- c) That for the City's application to the Tennis Canada Play Your Court program for the MacLeod's Landing Park Tennis Court Improvement Project:
 - i) Council endorse submission of the City's funding application to the Play Your Court Program.
 - ii) Should the application be successful, Council approve that the MacLeod's Landing Park Tennis Court Improvement Project proceed with a \$650,000 budget, with up to \$100,000 to be funded from the Tennis Canada Play Your Court program, and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate funding sources, as determined by the Treasurer.

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- iii) That the City agrees to the National Bank sponsorship requirements of the Play Your Court Program as outlined in SRCM.25.10.

Contact Person(s):

- Krysten Bates, Strategy and Government Relations Coordinator
- Lise Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
- Darlene Joslin, City Manager

Report Approval:

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.

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Background:

Richmond Hill has the opportunity to seek funding from two grant programs announced earlier this year: the Provincial Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Health and Safety Water Stream, and Tennis Canada's Play Your Court program. Following cross-departmental discussions and recommendations from staff, two capital projects from the 2026 capital budget forecast were identified as strong candidates for these funding opportunities. The projects selected were chosen due to their strong alignment with funding objectives and eligibility criteria (e.g. project value, project start and end dates, type and quantity of infrastructure improvements, etc.).

Health and Safety Water Stream: South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project

In August 2024, the Provincial Government introduced the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP), which provides funding for communities to build more housing and community-enabling infrastructure. In April 2025, the Province launched the Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS) through the MHIP, with \$175 million available to municipalities and First Nations to preserve the current housing supply and protect communities during extreme weather events. Through this initiative, the Province will fund up to 73% of eligible project expenses that expand or rehabilitate aging water, wastewater, stormwater, flood and erosion infrastructure.

The South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project involves the implementation of valleyland restoration works that will protect a City-owned sanitary sewer line in the South Richvale valleyland. Currently, a section of stream bank has eroded down to a level that puts the sewer pipe at risk of failure. Should a crack or puncture to the pipe occur, environmental and human health impacts could result from discharged sanitary sewage. An assessment of the sanitary sewer has been completed and resulted in the recommendation to undertake valleyland restoration works to protect the sewer. Design for this project is currently nearing completion, and pending capital budget approval by Council, construction is expected to take place in Q2-3 2026.

Play Your Court Program: MacLeod's Landing Park Tennis Court Improvement Project

Launched in 2022, the Play Your Court program, delivered by Tennis Canada and sponsored by National Bank, aims to make tennis more accessible for all Canadians. The program provides grants up to \$100,000 to help municipalities and community organizations repair existing tennis courts, with a goal of revitalizing more than 100 courts by 2030. While Richmond Hill has not applied to the Play Your Court program in the past, the MacLeod's Landing Park Tennis Court Improvement Project has emerged as the best candidate for 2026 funding through this initiative.

This project involves repair and replacement of the four outdoor tennis courts at MacLeod's Landing Park. The renewed courts will be upgraded from standard asphalt paving to acrylic colour-coated asphalt, a more attractive surface that is popular with

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tennis patrons. The need for renewal of these courts is based on the Tennis Court Condition Assessment conducted in 2023, which ranked MacLeod's Landing Park as a high priority for repair. Design for this project is currently underway, with construction expected in 2026, pending Council budget approval. This project was selected for this grant opportunity in part because of its high degree of project readiness and because the grant requires that a minimum of four courts are repaired to be eligible for funding.

It should be noted that to accept the Play Your Court Program grant funding, the owner of the courts must agree to sponsorship conditions applicable for a period of 10 years. The City must agree to incorporate the official National Bank trademark into court signage (as well as nets, fencing, and wind screens, if possible). The City will also be required to use the official National Bank trademark when or wherever the court name is used/presented and National Bank must be granted an option to acquire additional external signage, at their own cost, based on approval and municipal by-laws. The City would also not be permitted to sell any additional naming or sponsorship rights associated with these courts.

Next steps

While Council endorsement is not an explicit grant application requirement, Council commitment to fund the remaining portion of project costs not covered by these grants is necessary. Additionally, the City's Capital Budget Financial Monitoring Policy requires Council approval to proceed with the submission of applications for funding when the City's portion of the cost exceeds \$500,000. Note that both of the projects detailed in this report have yet to receive capital budget approval. If the City is not successful with these grant applications, the work on both projects will proceed through the regular capital budget planning process.

Financial Implications:

Contingent upon success with one or both of the City's applications to the HSWS and/or the Play Your Court program, staff recommend that Council approve a budget inclusive of project management costs of \$1,623,000 for construction of the South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project and \$650,000 for construction of the MacLeod's Landing Park Tennis Court Improvement Project. This approval is requested in advance of the City's annual capital budget process, to accommodate the June 26, 2025 deadline for the HSWS grant application. While intake for the Play Your Court program is ongoing, submitting the application as soon as possible is recommended before funding allocation fills up for 2026. If successful, the City's costs for the projects would be reduced by up to \$1,184,790 and \$100,000, respectively.

In order to submit applications for HSWS and Play Your Court funding, a commitment by Council for the City's portion of the costs for both projects is required. Staff request that Council approval the following capital funding sources, contingent on the success of these two grant applications:

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- For the South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project, \$1,623,000 for valleyland restoration works that will protect a City-owned sanitary sewer line in the South Richvale valleyland with up to \$1,184,790 to be funded from the Provincial HSWS program, and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate sources as determined by the Treasurer.
- For the MacLeod's Landing Tennis Court Improvement Project, \$650,000 for the restoration of the four outdoor tennis courts at MacLeod's Landing Park, with up to \$100,000 funded from the Tennis Canada Play Your Court program, and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate funding sources as determined by the Treasurer.

This approval is contingent on Richmond Hill being awarded grant funding through one or both of these programs. In the event that one or both of the grant applications are unsuccessful, capital budget allocations for the full cost of these projects will be requested through the normal capital budget process.

Relationship to Strategic Plan 2024-2027:

This report aligns with Pillar 3: Strengthening Our Foundations, Priority 1: “make decisions that are evidence based and data driven to enable the City’s long term financial sustainability, as well as social, environmental and economic sustainability”. Pursuing grant funding opportunities supports financial sustainability, as does incorporating best practices in asset management planning in our capital investments.

Advancing the South Richvale Valleyland Sewer Protection Project also aligns with Pillar 1: Growing a Livable, Sustainable Community, Priority 2, Action c): “ensure that the City’s natural and environmental assets are protected and rehabilitated”, as this project will protect City infrastructure and restore the natural environment in the South Richvale area.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.25.10 - Health and Safety Water Stream and Tennis Canada Grant Applications.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 3, 2025

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

Lise Conde - Jun 2, 2025 - 9:27 AM

Gigi Li - Jun 2, 2025 - 9:54 AM

Anthony Iannucci - Jun 2, 2025 - 10:56 AM

Tracey Steele - Jun 3, 2025 - 11:29 AM

Darlene Joslin - Jun 3, 2025 - 3:41 PM