



# The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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## Staff Report

**Report Title: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Stream 2**

**Date: Oct. 7, 2024**

**Report Number: CS-2024-10-42**

**Department: Community Services**

**File Number: C11 CS 24**

**Prepared By: Mike Fair, Director of Community Services**

**Attachments: Lions Park Map and Neighbourhood Area Map**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby approves Report CS2024-10-42 prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services;

AND FURTHER authorizes staff to prepare and submit a grant application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Stream 2 for the construction of the Point Clark Pickleball Court Facility.

### **Background:**

The Province of Ontario has released Stream 2 for Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund. The overview of the grant program are as follows:

This stream supports major new infrastructure projects that:

- address a demonstrated community need, such as replacing an existing facility that has reached the end of its lifespan to meet programming demand
- transform infrastructure, including the repurposing or expansion of existing structures to create net new community sport and recreation facilities
- are unique facilities that do not already exist in the province/region
- will attract investment and economic growth for local communities and businesses
- will attract and host large sporting events that increase tourism

The intake is open now and is ongoing until all funding has been allocated.

Eligible applicants include:

- municipalities
- Indigenous communities and organizations
- local service boards
- not-for-profit organizations
- for-profit organizations that operate or manage a space that offers sport or recreation programming

Examples of eligible projects include:

- new public infrastructure projects for which there is a demonstrated need, such as replacing an existing facility that has reached the end of its lifespan to meet community programming needs
- projects that make transformative investments in community sport or recreation infrastructure, including the repurposing or expansion of existing structures to create net-new facilities
- new facilities that do not exist in the province/region that attract new programming and net-new employment, retain jobs, and provide an economic impact for local communities and businesses (for example, increase tourism or attract and host large sporting events)
- Signature New Builds, which are defined as high-profile projects that will be recognized for innovative design, or for having a significant community and economic impact, or iconic status within the sport sector

Funding is available up to \$10 million. Approved projects must be completed with all eligible project expenses incurred no later than March 31, 2027.

Provincial cost-sharing

- up to 90% for Indigenous communities and Indigenous not-for-profit organizations
- up to 50% for municipalities, local services boards and not-for-profit organizations
- up to 25% for for-profit organizations

Under unique and exceptional circumstances, a provincial contribution of up to 70% of eligible project costs for not-for-profit organizations, local services boards or municipalities with a population of less than 20,000 will be considered.

### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

Pickleball has emerged as one of the fastest growing sports in North America. A dedicated group of enthusiasts has been instrumental in bringing this opportunity to Point Clark as outlined below:

#### Timeline

2019 - Staff were first approached by pickleball players to paint three courts on the Point Clark Community Centre Parking lot to determine if a need existed. Benefits of multiple courts in one location include:

1. Community building: With multiple courts, larger groups can gather, fostering a greater sense of community and interaction among players.
2. Players can rotate through the courts, playing with different partners and opponents, which enhances learning by exposing them to various play styles.
3. Players of different skill levels can be grouped across different courts, allowing for more balanced and enjoyable competition.

2022 - a fourth court was added, and a formal registration collected to offset costs for painting and nets.

2023 - a fifth court was added since number of participants exceeded fifty registered paying members.

2024 (spring) - Huron-Kinloss hired a Pl.ural Consulting to complete a parks and trails revitalization plan. One component of the plan included a potential site for multiple pickleball courts. The community engagement included surveys and in person meetings to gather input from the residents of Huron-Kinloss.

2024 (August) - The Pickleball users attended the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council as a delegation seeking the temporary courts on the parking lot be replaced by a dedicated pickleball facility.

2024 (September) The Parks and Trails revitalization presentation to the public was well received. The consultants provided a proposal that included 3 pickleball courts located at the base of the hill of the Point Clark Community Centre property. The feedback at the meeting was that 3 courts is not sufficient to meet the demand, and Lions Park was suggested as a better location to build 6 courts.

Staff have met with pickleball representatives to discuss the grant application, potential locations for the courts, neighbourhood community engagement, and the commitment to a fundraising strategy and grant applications.

After reviewing several sites, Lions Park was selected as the preferred site due to its central location, ability to host 6 courts and overall site amenities such as washrooms facilities and level ground.

Due to the proximity to neighbours, Staff and pickleball representatives agree that specific community engagement should take place with the Lions Park neighbourhood residents to mitigate any concerns and to present a conceptual plan which will be prepared by Pl.ural consulting.

The initial estimated cost is between \$350 000 and \$500 000 including six courts, landscaping, pathways, and asphalt parking area.

In conclusion both Staff and the pickleball representatives agree that this proposal best suits both the goals of the Township's Strategic Plan and the pickleball group. The project engagement will take place in November to align with the final Parks and Trails Revitalization Plan and the application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Stream 2.

### **Financial Impacts:**

Future financial impacts will include minor maintenance to be included in future operational plans and include a cost recovery plan for future maintenance activities such as court resurfacing.

### **Performance Measurement:**

The report helps achieve Strategic Priority 3 of preparing for Inclusive Growth, and Goal 3.1 Ensure Municipal systems support future growth, and Objective 3.1.2 to Review current infrastructure and anticipate needs of a growing community, and

Action item 3.1.2.6 to conduct an Infrastructure needs assessment for Point Clark Pickleball Courts.

**Strategic Area:**

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle      | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

**Strategic Goal: Ensure municipal systems support future growth  
Encourage strong communication and community engagement**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer