



Report to Council

Report Number: REP-REC-03-2025

Subject: Inclusive Community Grant Update

Date of the meeting: February 10th, 2025

Prepared by: Justin Lafrance, *Acting Recreation Director*

Circulated to and/or collaborated with: Amélie Deschamps, *Communications and Marketing Coordinator*

Approval: Pierre Leroux, *CAO*

In agreement with the recommendation based on the contents of this report.

Recommendation

[That Council receives the information presented in this report.]

Financial Considerations

In the 2024 budget, Council allocated \$8,000 for the paving of an accessible pathway connecting amenities in Marcel Legault Park. As we were preparing the grant application, we identified an opportunity to enhance the project by expanding the pathway, ensuring greater accessibility throughout the park. This led to a revised project scope, with a quoted cost of \$22,489, which we applied for in the grant. The full amount was successfully secured

The municipality chose to further enhance the project by adding an additional amenity to be connected to the accessible pathway, bringing the total project cost to \$27,370.60. As a result, the municipal contribution amounted to \$4,881.60.

This strategic use of external funding allowed the municipality to enhance the project's impact while remaining fiscally responsible.

Financial implications have been verified with annual budget and / or approved applicable policy or by-law: YES

Context

As part of the grant application requirements, one of the key performance measures was to present a report to Council detailing the progress and impact of the grant. The following outlines the objectives and community benefits of the Inclusive Community Grant, approved by Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Report

In collaboration with the Grant Writing Committee, The Nation Municipality successfully secured funding through the Inclusive Community Grant Program. The program's primary goal is to enhance accessibility in outdoor spaces by improving built environments, ensuring that seniors and individuals with disabilities have equitable access to community resources.

The newly constructed 1,420-square-foot pathway fully meets these objectives, significantly improving accessibility within the park. It now connects seven park amenities, making the entire space more inclusive and welcoming to all residents. Without this grant, only one or two amenities would have been accessible, limiting community use.

This project represents a major step forward in removing barriers and enhancing inclusivity, allowing people of all abilities to fully enjoy the park and its facilities.

Relevance to priorities

The pathway aligns with key municipal priorities, including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Accessibility Plan. By increasing opportunities for seniors and individuals with disabilities to engage in outdoor physical activity, it fosters stronger community connections and supports active living.

Communication Plan

The Communications and Marketing Coordinator shared the project's completion on the municipality's official social media pages on November 18, 2024. Additionally, the project was highlighted on government officials' pages, further emphasizing its positive impact on the community.

Other Option/Options to the Recommendation

N/A

Attachments

Before and After Pictures of the Project