



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, Manager of Corporate Services (Treasurer)
Date: 2025-02-27
Subject: Ontario Trillium Grant Application Approval

Recommendation:

That the West Elgin Council receives the report from M. Badura, Manager of Corporate Services – Treasurer, for information; and

That the West Elgin Council approves the submission of an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant application for the purchase and installation of accessible playground equipment in Rodney.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an overview of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's grant opportunity and to seek approval for submitting a grant application to support the purchase and installation of accessible playground equipment in Rodney.

Background:

The Ontario Trillium Foundation provides funding to municipalities and non-profits to improve community spaces through renovations, equipment purchases, and accessibility enhancements.

To qualify, projects must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Expand access to a service or program.
- Extend the lifespan of a facility or space.
- Improve accessibility for the community.

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$200,000, with applications open from February 5 to March 5, 2025. Given that municipal applications have a greater chance of success compared to applications submitted by committees or service groups, staff recommend that the Municipality apply for this funding in partnership with the Park Revitalization Committee.

Over the past several months, municipal staff have collaborated with the Park Revitalization Committee to develop project plans, gather documentation, and finalize site selection for the new playground.

The proposed location for the new accessible playground equipment is south of the pool in Rodney. This site was chosen to minimize costs associated with creating an accessible pathway while ensuring proximity to existing recreational facilities. The location meets zoning and safety requirements and provides ample space for the new equipment.

Upon securing funding, the following site preparation activities will be required:

- Removal of existing structures – Old playground equipment will be disassembled and removed.
- Groundwork and leveling – The area will be graded to ensure proper drainage.
- Installation of safety surfacing – Options include rubber mulch or poured rubber.
- Playground equipment installation – Ensuring compliance with accessibility standards.
- Additional features – Pathways, benches, and signage will be installed to enhance usability.

The community has shown incredible support for this project, contributing \$31,575 in donations over the past two years. Additionally, local organizations have pledged a total of \$53,500, including the Kiwanis Club of Rodney (\$27,500), West Lorne Optimist Club (\$10,000), Rodney Lions (\$15,000), and Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Society (\$1,000). A great big thank you to everyone for your overwhelming generosity and support!

An accessible playground in Rodney will provide the following benefits:

- Inclusive Play Opportunities – Ensures children of all abilities have access to a safe and engaging play area.
- Health and Wellness – Encourages physical activity, reducing childhood obesity and promoting well-being.
- Community Engagement – Creates a welcoming space for families and strengthens social connections.
- Increased Park Usage – Modern, safe equipment will attract more families and make the park a central hub for recreation.
- Long-Term Value – Enhancing public spaces contributes to overall community development and quality of life.

Staff strongly recommend that Council support this project and approve the submission of the OTF grant application. By securing this funding, the Municipality of West Elgin can provide a modern, accessible, and inclusive recreational space for residents while enhancing the overall community infrastructure.

Financial Implications

The total estimated project cost exceeds the \$200,000 maximum grant amount available through OTF. To successfully complete the project, additional municipal funding of approximately \$70,000 will be required for accessible sidewalks and site preparation. If approved, these costs will be incorporated into the 2025 capital budget.

Policies/Legislation:

N/A

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
☒ To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	☒ To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	☒ To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	☒ To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Magda Badura
 Manager of Corporate Services -Treasurer

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Trillium Grant Application Approval - 2025-04-Corporate Services Finance.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 23, 2025

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

Robin Greenall