

**Date:** 2022-02-18

**Subject:** **Budget Amendment for the Construction of an Outdoor Soccer Court at Century Gardens – Ward 1**

**Contact:** Ed Fagan  
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**Report Number:** Community Services-2022-251

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report titled: **Budget Amendment for the Construction of an Outdoor Soccer Court at Century Gardens – Ward 1** to the Committee of Council Meeting of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 be received; and
2. That a budget amendment be approved in the amount of \$500,000 to proceed with the construction of an Outdoor Soccer Court at Century Gardens, with funding to be transferred from Reserve #134 – Recreation Development Charges.

**Overview:**

- **The City of Brampton is collaborating with Brampton native Atiba Hutchinson, an internationally renowned professional Canadian soccer player, to introduce a pilot project of an outdoor boxed soccer court.**
- **Boxed soccer courts are smaller in size compared to a regular soccer field and are classified as a contemporary version of a ball court used across Europe.**
- **The new boxed soccer court will be an addition to Century Garden's Youth Hub and will contribute to the accessible and modern facility that will serve the community and enhance youth development.**
- **Staff is requesting a new capital project be established to implement the pilot program in 2022.**

## **Background:**

Atiba Hutchinson is an internationally renowned professional soccer player from Brampton who is the current captain of the Canadian national team and has been a member since 2003. Throughout his career, Mr. Hutchinson has created an impact by being the first North American player to receive the Danish Superliga Player of the Year award.

Mr. Hutchinson approached staff with an idea to enhance the soccer presence in Brampton by having a drop-in outdoor boxed soccer court that is embedded within the community. His vision is to construct a court in a location that is within walking distance of residential homes, accessible by transit, with available parking and in an area with a high population of youths between the ages of 6 and 16.

The boxed soccer court concept originated from the Netherlands and there are approximately 250 courts worldwide. The courts are also known as Cruyff courts, named after the founder Johan Cruyff, a Dutch professional football player. Cruyff's mission is to build a safe court that encourages children to play outdoors and supports the inclusion of young people of all abilities. The unique court concept provides the opportunity for players to strengthen their skillset by playing in a smaller area which encourages creativity, as the courts are similar in size to a tennis court. City staff believes this will be a great asset for the City of Brampton as there are only two courts of this kind currently located in Canada and this proposed court will be the first fully lit boxed soccer court in the country.

The new amenity will align with the strategy of the Youth Hub construction at Century Gardens. The intent is to have a boxed soccer court that is not formally programmed, allowing it to be accessible to all residents of the community. This aligns with the Youth Hub project as youth who participated in the consultation report stated the need to incorporate activities focusing on health and wellness. The boxed soccer court would be an added benefit to the space allowing youth to exercise, socialize and enjoy the game of soccer with peers.

## **Current Situation:**

Currently, there are no courts of this kind located in the City of Brampton. Staff assessed various locations across the city for the boxed soccer court. Century Gardens was deemed the most suitable location for its residential density, large population of youths and accessibility by transit and by foot. In addition, Century Gardens Youth Hub would be an ideal space to add this amenity for youth to enjoy and partake in free drop-in soccer games with the surrounding community. Mr. Hutchinson also has deep connections with Century Gardens as it is close to where he grew up and played soccer.

Staff have benchmarked with various municipalities to establish a strategy to construct the soccer court. The intent is to have a court that has a 15m x 30m design which includes an artificial turf surface, fencing and netting that can be reconfigured.

Staff recognize the benefits of this infrastructure as it will be a freely accessible and youth-focused amenity, promoting an active lifestyle and unity within the community.

### **Corporate Implications:**

#### Financial Implications:

A budget amendment is required in the amount of \$500,000 for the Construction of an Outdoor Soccer Court at Century Gardens. Subject to Council approval, a new capital project would need to be established with funding to be transferred from Reserve #134 – Recreation Development Charges. Sufficient funding is available.

The Outdoor Soccer Court was not part of the previous Development Charges Study, and as such, staff will review the included projects, available funding, and potential impacts in the next Development Charges Study.

### **Term of Council Priorities:**

This report supports the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Brampton is a City of Opportunities – Creating complete communities by supporting community hub concepts.
- Brampton is a Mosaic City – Cultivating inclusive and flexible community spaces for all ages.
- Brampton is a Healthy and Safe City – Continue to design and build new activity hubs to provide accessible spaces and play elements to residents of all ages and abilities.

### **Conclusion:**

City staff, in collaboration with Recreation and Building Design and Construction, are proposing the creation of a newly designed boxed soccer court as a part of the construction of Century Gardens Youth Hub. The pilot project will feature a new style of soccer court embedded within the community to support healthy and active lifestyles. With the approval and direction of Council, staff will proceed in implementing the project.

Reviewed by:

Reviewed by:

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Anand Patel  
Director, Recreation, Community  
Services

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Ed Fagan  
Acting Director, Parks Maintenance &  
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Approved by:

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Marion Nader  
Commissioner, Community Services

**Attachments:**

Appendix A: Cruyff Foundation Outdoor Soccer Courts