

Date: 2023-03-08

Subject: **Budget Amendment for Torbram – Sandalwood Adventure Park
Federal Grant Funding – Ward #10**

Contact: Ed Fagan, Director, Parks Maintenance & Forestry

Report Number: Community Services-2023-254

Recommendations:

1. That the report from John Allison, Interim Supervisor, Parks Projects & Community Development, Community Services dated March 8, 2023, to the Committee of Council meeting of March 29, 2023, re: **Budget Amendment for Torbram - Sandalwood Adventure Park Federal Grant Funding – Ward 10** be received; and
2. That a budget amendment be approved for project #215865-012 – Sandalwood Heights Adventure Park, in the amount of \$750,000, with funding to be provided from Federal Grants.

Overview:

- **The City applied for a federal grant funding for Torbram - Sandalwood Adventure Park and was notified of approval for up to \$750,000. The funding must be used by March 31, 2024.**
- **Given the escalation in construction cost, this project can benefit from a top-up to address the additional expenses.**
- **Staff recommends increasing the budget by \$750,000, which will be offset entirely by the full grant amount, resulting in net zero increase to the City. Any surplus funds remaining in the project will be returned to the source reserve.**

Background:

In 2007, the City completed Torbram-Sandalwood Community Park. The park includes significant large-scale, active-recreation components with (3) soccer fields and a cricket overlay. The park serves the surrounding community and includes a shared-use agreement with the Peel District School Board.

Staff developed a concept plan in 2018 for the land adjacent to Torbram-Sandalwood Community Park, to further enhance the site as a universally-accessible park, catering to alternative recreation, horticultural and environmental awareness. Construction is scheduled for 2023 for the Torbram-Sandalwood Adventure Park, with projected completion in fall 2024.

The new facility will be an outdoor space dedicated to a variety of recreational and leisure activities. The park will be fully compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), with inclusive play and recreational spaces for people of all ages and developmental abilities. Amenities will include:

- Parkour apparatus (first in Brampton),
- Off-leash dog park
- Community garden
- Alternative learning space
- Adventure playground
- Open space areas
- Splash pad
- Basketball courts - half courts
- (2) Tennis courts
- Improvement to the urban forest canopy with a high focus on encouraging creativity, art, imagination, and learning

The Torbram-Sandalwood Adventure Park will significantly contribute to Brampton's role as an innovator in diverse childhood play spaces. The City will further be defined as a leader in universally accessible recreation that supports public health and well-being. These initiatives will complement long-term growth in the area and enhance the park as a vital community facility as well as city-wide destination.

Current Situation:

The City applied for a federal grant geared towards projects to revitalize community spaces to help encourage Canadians to re-engage and explore their communities. The grant can contribute up to 75 percent of the total eligible costs and up to \$750,000 per project.

The Torbram -Sandalwood Adventure Park project received approval from the federal government for up to \$750,000. In order to take advantage of this grant funding opportunity, the funds must be used prior to the expiry date of March 31, 2024.

There has been significant market volatility causing high uncertainty in construction costs over the recent year. With cost escalations, this project can benefit from a top-up to address project expenses. This report seeks Council approval to increase the budget for the Torbram-Sandalwood Adventure Park project by \$750,000, which will be offset entirely by the federal grant resulting in net zero increase to the City. The top-up will be used to supplement the project scope.

Staff recommends increasing the budget by the full grant amount to support project completion and to leverage external funding. Any surplus funds remaining in the project will be returned to the source reserves.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

A budget amendment will be required for project #215865-012- Torbram -Sandalwood – Adventure Park for various components of the facility, in the amount of \$750,000, with funding to be provided from federal grants:

Funding Source: Project #215865-012	Approved Funding	Budget Amendment	Total Funding
Account #645134-Rec Dev Charges	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000
Account #601029-Federal Grants		\$750,000	750,000
Total	\$2,500,000	\$750,000	\$3,250,000

Given the approval of the federal grant, there is currently sufficient funding available in the recommended funding sources for this increase, subject to Council approval.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report supports the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Brampton is a Green City – Implement a Green Framework
- 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:

It is recommended that the budget amendments outlined in this report be approved to allow the City to take advantage of the federal grant funding opportunity and for the work to proceed as soon as possible.

Authored by:

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Approved by:

Chief Bill Boyes
Interim Commissioner
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Submitted by:

Marlon Kallideen
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- Appendix A: Torbram-Sandalwood Adventure Park Concept