



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☒	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: West Hant Regional Committee of the Whole

Submitted by: _____
Kathy Kehoe, Director Community Development

Date: November 25, 2025

Subject: Information Report - Community Splash Pad

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act, Section 65, Powers to expend funds for municipal purpose.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

n/a

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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At the November 12th Committee of the Whole meeting the following motion was passed:

That Council direct staff to report back at the December Committee of the Whole on the approximate cost of installing a Splash pad within the West Hants Regional Municipality, potential locations, vendors, and funding possibilities for Councils consideration for the 2026/27 budget.

Council recently approved the Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Parks & Recreation Facilities contract. The intent of the assessment, when complete will create a long-term vision for parks and recreation facilities that are needed in WHRM and will support decision making and capital improvement planning for the next eight years. The assessment is intended to address current conditions, identify gaps and provide actionable strategies for future planning, investment and sustainability.

DISCUSSION

Existing Splash pads

There is one splash pad operating in the municipality and it is owned /operated by the Hantsport Memorial Community Centre (HMCC) and was installed in 2011. It is understood that with regular maintenance splash pads have been known to last more than 20 years.

Site Location

Elmcroft Park is a municipally owned property that could be considered for a new splash pad location. This space is already a recreation focal point and used by many young families in the region. If a splash pad is to be located on lands that are not owned by WHRM the purchasing of the property would be over and above these prices noted within this report.

TYPES OF SYSTEMS

Flow-Through System

The system at HMCC is a “flow-through system”, meaning the water is not recirculated or re-used. Flow through systems allow for single use of the water which then goes into a wastewater system. This appears to be the preferred system within the industry as it does not require retreatment from any potential bacteria, waste or other contaminants in order to prevent the spread of communicable disease or infection.

A flow-through system installed in an area that is not on municipal services would require a well to be drilled and water flow rates to be sufficient and comply with all municipal and provincial regulations. The water flow rate for a splash pad with 14 water features is approximately 87 gallons per minute.

Recirculating System

A recirculating system uses less water than a flow-through system, but it requires a holding tank to catch the wastewater for retreatment as well as requires additional water to be added that has been lost due to evaporation, run-off and absorption.

For example, a splash pad that is approximately 2300 sq ft in size would need approximately 5-10 cubic meters of water (approx. 2641.67 gallons) resupplied each day if it were on a recirculation system. A recirculating system with 17 features would require a flow rate of 194.5 gallons per minute.

Recirculating systems require continuous monitoring and testing similar to pool operations. At the Hants Aquatic Centre staff test every two hours, and a recirculating splash pad would be tested on a similar schedule. If there is a fouling and contaminated water is collected into the holding tank, the entire system would need to be flushed at least once. This would be a slow process if not on municipal water services, either by relying on the well to refill or by trucking fresh water in.

Capital/Operating Costs

For the purpose of this report staff have used a splash pad size range between 2000 sq. ft & 2300 sq. ft. , has 14+ water features and being open approximately 16 weeks of the year, seven

days per week up to 10 hours per day. The splash pad capital cost will increase or decrease depending on the number and type of water features selected.

Note, when connecting with various contractors' prices for the Flow-through Splash pad ranged between \$370,500 - \$750,000 and indicated that for the Recirculating Splash pad a capital cost increase between 30% - 50% depending on a number of variables.

The figures noted in this report are estimations only and municipal procurement practices would be required to properly determine costings. When reviewing budgetary estimates, we found some information included certain cost components while other did not. To avoid underestimating the budget we have taken a cautious approach and included some costs that may already be incorporated in another vendor's base price.

Depending on the hours of operation, consideration may also be required to support additional summer/seasonal staff if a recirculating splash pad was to be installed, simply due to the staffing requirements for water testing. A recirculating system requires constant servicing whereby a dedicated person is needed to ensure the splash pad is running smoothly. Generally, it takes 45 mins-1 hr., 2-3 times per day to check chemicals and any required maintenance.

	Flow-Through Splash pad	Recirculating Splash pad
Capital Costs		
Splash pad Equipment	\$370,500- \$750,000	\$550,000- \$975,000
Planning and Design	\$5,000	\$5,000
Site Preparation	\$45,000	\$45,000
Geotechnical (depending on complexity)	\$5,000 - 25,000	\$5,000- \$25,000
Equipment/features	Included in price	Included in price
Plumbing/Mechanical	Included in price	Included in price
Electrical	\$25,000-\$75,000	\$25,000-\$75,000
Surfacing	Included in price	Included in price
Mechanical building (12x15)	Not required	\$36,000
Shade/seating	\$30,000	\$30,000
Landscaping & Pathways	\$20,000	\$20,000
Signage & Safety	\$2,500	\$2,500
Washrooms (if none exist onsite) /Septic (if not on municipal sewer)	\$100,000	\$140,000
Approximate Total Build Cost- (depending on size, number of water features and location)	\$603,000 -\$1,052,500	\$858,500-\$1,353,500
Annual Operational Costs		
Staffing	\$1,000.00	\$22,000.00
Water (2026 prices)	\$62,934.28	\$1,000.00

Electricity	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Chemicals	None	\$2,000.00
Routine Mtnc (including vehicle costs/fuel)	\$1,000.00	\$11,000.00
Winterizing & Spring Start Up	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Approximate Annual Operating Costs	\$74,934.28	\$46,000.00
Estimated impact on the general rate, assuming no debt servicing is needed	\$0.0038	\$0.0023

Vendors

Vendors that sell and install splash pads in the maritime provinces include Cobequid Trail Consulting, Leisure Valley Pools & Spas, ABC Recreation and PlayQuest etc.

Funding Opportunities

1. The Province of Nova Scotia, Communities Culture, Tourism & Heritage (CCTH) – Recreation Facility Development Grant Program – projects approved for funding are eligible to receive up to two-thirds of the total capital cost of the project to a maximum of \$150,000. In 2025/2026 this program awarded a total of \$150,600 for 5 projects in the Annapolis Valley.
2. Partnerships in communities through a business sponsor or through a community service group to financially support this type of project is not uncommon.

NEXT STEPS

To be determined by Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) was proposed in the 2025-26 as the funding source for the estimated \$450,000 project for the construction of the splashpad in an area with existing washroom facilities. The five-year capital budget has a projected ending balance of \$1,185,414 for the Canada Community Building Fund. This does not include third party CCBF grant funding or the splash pad. If Council wishes to use CCBF funding, other projects may need to be delayed or cancelled unless the municipality receives external grant funding.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council can wait for the completion of the Needs Assessment for Parks and Recreation Facilities before making a final decision regarding a new splash pad.
2. Council can direct staff to include a new splash pad in the 2026/27 Capital Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

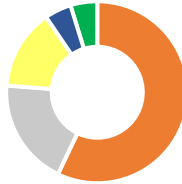
- Five Year Canada Community Building Fund Capital Schedule

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

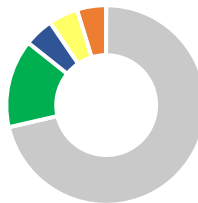
**Goal: Balanced
Decision Making**



Unbalanced



Heavily Weighted



Report Prepared by: _____

Kathy Kehoe, Director, Community Development

Report Reviewed by: _____

Kevin Bennett, Manager, Parks & Recreation Facilities

Report Reviewed by: _____

Carlee Rochon, Director, Financial Services

Report Approved by: _____

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer

Canada Community Building Fund Projects

Information Technology	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Public WiFi Investments	\$ -	\$ 100,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 100,000
Planning & Development	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Small Scale Solar Project (CAC)	\$ -	\$ 25,000
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 25,000
West Hants Sports Complex	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Heat Exchanger	\$ 108,139	\$ 108,139
Sports Complex Upgrades	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000
Exterior LED Sign	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Rubber Mats	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
RO Water Treatment System	\$ -	\$ 50,000
WEST HANTS SPORTS COMPLEX TOTAL	\$ 338,139	\$ 488,139
Windsor Community Centre	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Heat Pump System	\$ -	\$ 95,000
Install Central Heating & Cooling System	\$ -	\$ 100,000
WINDSOR COMMUNITY CENTRE TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 195,000
Rail Corridor Trail System	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Little River Bridge	\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000
Recreation Property - Active Transportation & Community Trail Opportunities	\$ 264,684	\$ 464,684
RAIL CORRIDOR TRAIL SYSTEM TOTAL	\$ 914,684	\$ 1,114,684
Community Development	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Shamrock Field	\$ 81,475	\$ 116,475
Causeway Trail	\$ 74,580	\$ 399,580
Hobarts Beach Recreation Site	\$ 57,389	\$ 57,389
Community Way Park	\$ 50,000	\$ 85,000
Maplewood Cemetery	\$ 45,000	\$ 210,000
Irishmans Road Recreation Site	\$ -	\$ 80,000
R.A. Jodrey Memorial Park	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Hants Aquatic Centre	\$ 26,000	\$ 176,000
Hantsport Community Art	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Meadow Pond Recreation Lands	\$ -	\$ 345,500
Cheverie Saltmarsh Restoration Trail	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Elmcroft Park	\$ -	\$ 590,000
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	\$ 349,444	\$ 2,149,944

Public Works - Facilities	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Windsor Library	\$ -	\$ 43,802
Hantsport Library 2	\$ -	\$ 18,772
PUBLIC WORKS - FACILITIES TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 62,574

Public Works - Roads	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Asphalt Sidewalks Replaced with Concrete	\$ 521,450	\$ 521,450
Avondale Boat Launch Repairs	\$ 512,133	\$ 1,137,873
Grey to Avon - Concrete Sidewalk Construction	\$ 156,435	\$ 156,435
Crosswalk Rapid Flashing Signals	\$ 52,145	\$ 208,580
Active Signage Program	\$ 10,429	\$ 41,716
Centennial Drive Sidewalk Construction	\$ -	\$ 365,015
PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS TOTAL	\$ 1,252,592	\$ 2,431,069

Capital Renewal Projects - Sidewalks	2025-26	5 YEAR TOTAL
Main Street North	\$ 148,717	\$ 148,717
Rand Street	\$ -	\$ 436,212
Maple Avenue	\$ -	\$ 305,348
Chestnut Avenue & Pine Street	\$ -	\$ 250,822
Porters Avenue	\$ -	\$ 109,053
Nesbitt Street South	\$ 153,093	\$ 153,093
Payzant to King Street Connection	\$ 403,496	\$ 403,496
Wentworth @ Payzant Drive Traffic Control	\$ -	\$ 360,503
King Street	\$ -	\$ 719,750
Cobbett Street	\$ -	\$ 87,242
Fort Edward Street	\$ -	\$ 87,242
CAPITAL RENEWAL PROJECTS - SIDEWALKS TOTAL	\$ 705,306	\$ 3,061,478

TOTAL CCBF PROJECTIONS	\$ 3,560,165	\$ 9,627,887
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WH MARCH 31, 2025 EXPECTED RESERVE BALANCE	\$ 2,532,073	\$ 2,532,073
TOW MARCH 31, 2025 EXPECTED RESERVE BALANCE	\$ -	\$ -
WHRM MARCH 31, 2025 EXPECTED RESERVE BALANCE	\$ 2,859,378	\$ 2,859,378
ANTICIPATED REVENUE IN 2026/2030	\$ 1,084,370	\$ 5,421,850
ANTICIPATED RESERVE BALANCE MARCH 31, 2026/2030	\$ 2,915,656	\$ 1,185,414