



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 15.1.8**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 18, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed

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Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** May 29, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Lockview High School All-Weather Field Track

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**ORIGIN**

November 8, 2022 Regional Council meeting motion (item 17.6):

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to submit an application for ICIP funding for the Lockview High School project for a total project budget amount of \$4.9M, with a maximum contribution of 23% from HRM, a minimum contribution of \$213,000 from the community and the balance from PNS and ICIP funding for a recreation facility that may include an all-weather sports field, running track and indigenous programming space, as generally based on the community proposal;
2. Direct the CAO to include the HRM share of costs in the upcoming capital budget;
3. Direct the CAO to engage with the community group for any additional funding to support the project, as may be required; and
4. Authorize the CAO to negotiate and execute any agreements in support of the project as required.

May 5, 2024 Request from HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39

61(5)(a) The Municipality may (a) acquire property, including property outside the Municipality, that the Municipality requires for its purposes or for the use of the public;

79A Municipal Expenditures

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
  - (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to advance to the next stage of the Lockview High School Park All Weather Field Project, as set forth in the Discussion section of this

**RECOMMENDATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

report, prior to receiving confirmation of full amount of the community contribution of \$213,000.

## **BACKGROUND**

Lockview High School, in the community of Fall River, is comprised of a school building, parking areas, open space, and a grass sports field with a gravel track (Attachment A). Over the past several years, the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee (Turf Committee) has developed a proposal for HRM to undertake a redevelopment of the existing grass field to an all-weather turf field. The proposal has included project cost estimates and a financial contribution commitment from the Turf Committee that would come from community and corporate fundraising.

In the Fall 2022, the Provincial Government identified to HRM that the Lockview project had provincial financial support. Subsequently, on November 8, 2022, Regional Council approved the project with a total budget of \$4.9M that was submitted the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This includes:

- a maximum contribution of \$1,127,000 from HRM;
- a minimum contribution of \$213,000 from the community; and
- the remainder to be contributed through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) (\$1,960,000 federal and (\$1,640,000 provincial).

Since the ICIP funding approval announcement, the Turf Committee has implemented a fundraising strategy and has raised approximately \$136,000 to date, \$77,000 short of its \$213,000 commitment. However, initial project construction tenders are scheduled for June 2024, which is to be followed by subsequent tenders that would have the project completed in fall 2025. The current shortfall presents a risk that the final project will not meet Council direction related to both the maximum percentage of the contribution by the municipality and the expected contribution of the community group.

With the implications to the project schedule from the shortfall being outlined to the Turf Committee, it has requested that HRM enable the project to continue to be advanced, thereby providing additional time for it to continue its fundraising.

## **DISCUSSION**

Since Regional Council's approval, the following steps have been taken by the municipality to advance the Lockview project:

- an ICIP application was submitted and approved in June 2023;
- permissions for access to the site are in place for geotechnical, topographical, and archaeological work;
- site due diligence is ongoing;
- design work for the field and pathway are nearing completion;
- the monitoring, washroom, and storage building design is nearing completion;
- negotiations for a land lease from the Province are being finalized;
- engagement related to space for Indigenous programming has been occurring; and
- there has been regular engagement with the Turf Committee.

### **Community Fundraising**

Since Regional Council's approval of the project, the Turf Committee has been actively fundraising, which has included solicitation of local businesses, local organizations, and community events and raffles. Contributions have also been made from Councillors through discretionary funding. The Turf Committee's fundraising team has been updating staff of its progress since January 2024, with the approximate amounts raised and pledged as follows:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Funds in Bank</b> | <b>Funds Pledged*</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| January 15  | \$1,500              | \$29,500              | \$31,000     |
| February 1  | \$28,500             | \$71,500              | \$100,000    |
| February 15 | \$31,000             | \$71,500              | \$102,500    |
| March 1     | \$40,500             | \$65,000              | \$105,500    |
| March 15    | \$44,000             | \$79,000              | \$123,000    |
| April 1     | \$48,500             | \$76,000              | \$124,500    |
| April 15    | \$58,000             | \$86,000              | \$144,000    |
| May 1       | \$102,000            | \$61,500              | \$163,000    |
| May 15      | \$123,000            | \$51,000              | \$174,000    |
| May 23      | \$136,000            | \$41,000              | \$177,000    |

\*Funds Pledged have been committed to the Turf Committee but have not been fully secured and have therefore not been included in the identification of the shortfall amount. The inclusion of the Funds Pledged further reduces the shortfall amount.

Since April 1, 2024, there has been a substantial increase in raised funds. The Turf Committee expects being able to raise the entire \$213,000, but this will only be completed over the next few months.

Although the entire community fundraising portion for this project will not be in place prior to the anticipated issuance of the first tender, it appears the Turf Committee will continue its efforts in meeting their obligations over the next few months. Based on this, it is recommended that the municipality advance the project to the next stage which includes issuing the tender and construction.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Lockview High School Park All Weather Field Project is being initiated within the 2024/25 capital budget year and is scheduled to be completed in 2025/26. Should the Turf Committee not meet the municipality's expectation with respect to fundraising, staff would either look to reduce the scope of the project or to include in the draft 2025/26 capital budget an increase to address the shortfall. If the latter, a motion would also be needed to change Council's prior direction on relative funding amounts.

In the event of a fundraising shortfall, the estimated requested increase to CP240001 for the 2025/26 capital budget is up to a maximum of \$77,000, based on the approximate funds raised to date.

**RISK CONSIDERATION**

The Turf Committee may not achieve the full fundraising commitment as included in Council's November 2022 direction. In this case, the Municipality's portion of the project cost would increase from a maximum of \$1,127,000 to \$1,204,000 (an increase of \$77,000), based upon the current Funds in Bank fundraising balance. Should the shortfall remain, HRM may look to update the scope of the project or request the required amount through an increase to CP240001 for the 2025/26 capital budget.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement was undertaken.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Regional Council could choose to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Defer the tendering process of this project until the community fundraising has reached its established goal of \$213,000. This is not recommended as it a delay would likely extend construction until a fall 2026 completion date and would include a request of an extension for ICIP funding to the Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing.
1. Forgo the project entirely and continue to maintain the existing natural grass sports field at Lockview High School. This is not recommended as the majority of funding for this project is in place to convert the existing natural grass sports field to an all-weather sports field.
2. Allocate funding from another source to mitigate the shortfall to a maximum of \$77,000. This is not recommended based on the expected community fundraising increases from pledged amounts to the Turf Committee.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A Lockview High School Site Map

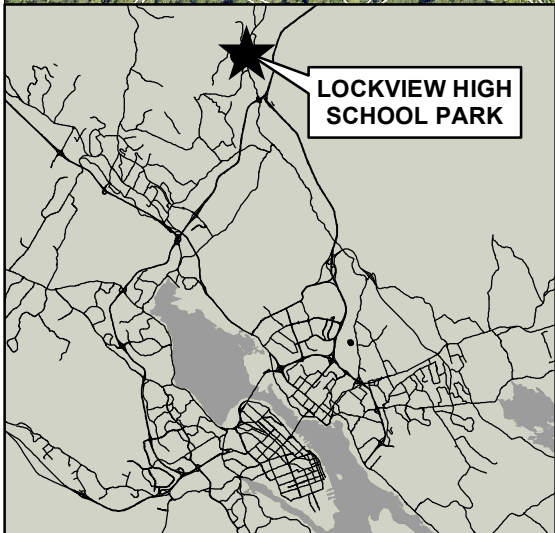
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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.


Report Prepared by: Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist, Parks & Recreation 902.292.1264

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## LOCKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL PARK SITE OVERVIEW

 Lockview High School Park - Provincially Owned Land Parcels



**HALIFAX**  
Parks & Recreation  
Policy & Planning

0 40 80  
Meters