
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDP-06-2022 Community Partnership Program – Jarvis Lions Park Disc Golf Installation



For Consideration by Council in Committee on May 10, 2022

OBJECTIVE:

To approve a request from the Jarvis Lions Club to undertake, at Jarvis Lions Park, the installation of a nine-hole disc golf course for community recreation and socialization.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-06-2022 Community Partnership Program – Jarvis Lions Park Disc Golf Installation be received;
2. AND THAT the request from the Jarvis Lions Club to undertake the installation of a disc golf course, at Jarvis Lions Park in Jarvis, be approved;
3. AND THAT capital project funding to an upset amount of \$4,900 to support the installation of a disc golf course in Jarvis Lions Park, with related funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, be approved;
4. AND THAT project and funding approval are conditional upon compliance with Policy 2011-01 and County installation standards, permits, and processes;
5. AND THAT the Revised Budget as outlined in Report CDP-06-2022 be approved.

Prepared by: Sheryl Sawyer, Senior Community Partnership Liaison

Reviewed by: Katrina Schmitz, Manager, Community Development & Partnerships

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Jarvis Lions Park is a vibrant community park in Jarvis, located near the intersection of provincial Highways 6 and 3. (Attachment 1) Amenities include ball diamonds, tennis/pickle ball/ball hockey courts, a playground, a paved walking trail, and a pavilion. The Park is adjacent to the Jarvis Lions Community Centre—including a concession that supports Park activities—and the Jarvis Lawn Bowling building, both of which are well-used hall facilities.

Two groups – Jarvis Lions and Jarvis Parks Committee – have come together to present a proposal for a nine-hole disc golf course in the Park. The Jarvis Lions Club, which is the lead on this proposal, is a very active community group with over 60 members and a strong history of community service. Through its Fields & Parks Management Program, Haldimand County partners with the Jarvis Park Committee for the operations and maintenance of the Park, including providing grant funding.

The request was reviewed through the Community Partnership Program's Staff Review Team, which supported the installation and the related CPP funding of \$4,900, representing 35% of the anticipated total budget of \$14,000.

BACKGROUND:

Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program (CPP) is intended to encourage and enhance strategic partnerships to the benefit of community stakeholders and the municipality, offering a simple, streamlined, and customer-focused approach. The Program is intended to balance the rigor of the review process – necessary to ensure legitimate public interest issues are addressed – with flexibility and respect for the volunteer commitment of community groups. The Jarvis Lions Club is a robust and committed group with a long history of service to the community through events, enhancements, and financial support for community initiatives. The request from the Club is for:

- (i) Approval to undertake this project on Haldimand County property; and
- (ii) Capital funding to support the installation of a nine-hole disc golf course at Jarvis Lions Park (Attachment 1) with related upset funding in the amount of \$4,900 from the CPP Capital Reserve, representing no more than 35% of the total budget of \$14,000.

ANALYSIS:

The Proponent:

The Jarvis Lions Club has an active membership of over 60 members, ranging in age from 26 to 91 years, and a decades-long history of community service and fund-raising. In 2019, prior to the global pandemic, the Lions donated over \$50,000 to community projects through fund-raising and lottery proceeds. In 2020 and 2021, in spite of pandemic limitations, the Lions were still able to raise \$12,000, a substantial amount that speaks to the community commitment and financial health of the group.

The Club has also invested in Park enhancements, most recently constructing a 1 km-plus fully accessible walking path, including solar lighting, seating and almost 100 new trees. In order to further enhance Jarvis Lions Park and provide more options for outdoor community recreation, the Lions wish to install a nine-hole disc golf course in the Park. The Jarvis Park Committee has committed to provide the ongoing maintenance of the course.

The Partner:

The Jarvis Park Committee is part of the County's Fields & Parks Management Program through a Memorandum of Understanding. This includes an annual operating grant in the amount of \$39,664, representing 35% of the cost if Haldimand County were caring for the Park (including staff, equipment, materials and supplies). Given that the proposed disc golf course is entirely within the area for which the Park Committee is already responsible for care/maintenance, it has agreed to care for the disc golf fairways as part of its regular Park maintenance.

The Project:

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf; instead of a ball and club, players use a flying disc, much like a Frisbee. The golf disc is thrown from a tee area to a target/basket, which is the 'hole'. As the player progresses down the fairway, they must make each consecutive shot from the spot where the previous throw has landed.

Disc golf is a rapidly-growing low-cost recreational activity suitable for individuals and families of all ages and abilities. In 2018, the Caledonia Disc Golf Association received approval to install an 18-hole disc golf course in LaFortune Park; in just a few years it has already become a very popular recreation

asset for residents and visitors alike. In 2018, when the LaFortune disc golf course was installed (PED-COM-10-2018), there were 45 courses listed on the Ontario Disc Golf Association website. As of the writing of this report, there are now 54 courses listed, reflecting a 20% growth rate in the past four years. As well, a popular disc golf scoring app, UDisc, reported a nearly 50% growth rate from 2020 to 2021, with over 15 million rounds recorded in UDisc in 2021 as compared to five years ago.

Staff reviewed several plans presented by the group and made a number of site visits. The most recent plan meets staff recommendations for minimal risk to other Park users and neighbouring properties. The plan involves nine holes in a pleasing arrangement for flow and continuity of play. The holes also avoid crossing pedestrian walkways and any impact to ball diamond activities. Tee pads will be maintained and moved (if necessary) by Jarvis Park Committee volunteers. Appropriate signage will be installed at the start of the course (including a course overview, instructions and rules of play and conduct, emergency contact information, etc.) and at each hole.

Need and Community Benefit:

Feedback from residents and users of the LaFortune Park disc golf course has been extremely positive. By all accounts, the Park and course are heavily used and form an important part of outdoor recreation facilities available to County residents and visitors. The low cost and accessibility of the sport to a broad demographic has been favourably identified, as well as opportunities for tourism promotion. Players are also known to travel extensively to other disc golf courses and for tournaments and events.

Other communities, notably the City of St. Catharines, have documented increased park usage and decreased crime rates in a park after installation of a disc golf course.

Project Review:

The proposal was reviewed by an interdepartmental team of County staff (the CPP Staff Review Team) and was favourably received as it meets the following CPP priorities and objective:

- (i) Community Vibrancy and Health Community;
- (ii) Corporate Image and Efficient Government;
- (iii) Creates or maintains public infrastructure;
- (iv) Reduces the cost of government services by optimizing partnership resources; and
- (v) Capitalizes on the collective energies and expertise of participating groups.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Policy No. 2011-01 states the Community Partnership Program (CPP) will encourage and actively support partnerships with not-for-profit community groups. Within the Community Capital Projects Grant Program, Council has the responsibility to approve community capital projects with an overall budget of greater than \$10,000.

The overall proposed budget for this project is \$14,000; the requested CPP funding of \$4,900 is in keeping with the Community Capital Projects grant funding limitation of 35% of the total project value.

Based on the approved/recommended projects to date requiring funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, there are sufficient funds available in the Reserve. Should this initiative be approved there remains approximately \$430,000 in the Community Partnership Reserve which is unallocated.

The CPP policy requires all community funding for Council-approved projects be in place with the County or secured/confirmed with the applicable community group prior to the start of any on-site work. The Jarvis Lions are prepared to begin fund-raising for their share of the project (\$9,100) upon approval of the request.

As a result of the proposed project, the following Capital Budget amendment is required:

	Current Approved Budget	Proposed Revised Budget
Expenditures:		
Jarvis Lions Park Disc Golf Installation	\$0	\$14,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$0	\$14,000
Financing:		
Community Contribution (65%)	\$0	\$9,100
Community Partnership Capital Reserve (35%)	\$0	\$4,900
TOTAL FINANCING:	\$0	\$14,000

In addition to the funding required for the requested enhancement, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) reporting standards require the County to record the fair market value of contributed assets. This enhancement will be amortized over the estimated life of the associated asset for account purposes.

Ongoing additional operating costs related to the disc golf course (inspections, maintenance, and repairs) will be the responsibility of the Jarvis Park Committee through Haldimand County's Fields & Parks Management Program. As well, staff from the Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations Division will be available to provide ongoing consultation (primarily related to tree management) and support. Future capital replacement or repair of assets – through a partnership with the community groups – will impact the County's existing long-range capital funding plan.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

This application was assessed and supported by the Community Partnership Program's Staff Review Team, which is comprised of staff from all County divisions. Staff from the Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations Division conducted multiple site visits of the location to assess the condition of the park in relation to the proposed disc golf installation and any required risk management mitigation.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Location Map – Jarvis Lions Park Proposed Disc Golf Course.