
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDP-16-2024 CPP Capital Grant – Fisherville Parks Committee Batting Cage Repair and Drainage Improvements



For Consideration by Council in Committee on September 17, 2024

OBJECTIVE:

To approve a request, from the Fisherville Parks Committee, to repair the batting cage base at Fisherville Lions Park and improve drainage at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-16-2024 CPP Capital Grant – Fisherville Parks Committee Batting Cage Repair and Drainage Improvements be received;
2. AND THAT the request from the Fisherville Parks Committee to repair the batting cage base and improve adjacent drainage at Fisherville Lions Park, with a projected budget of \$40,250, be approved;
3. AND THAT capital grant funding, to an upset amount of \$14,000 to support the batting cage base repair and adjacent drainage improvement in Fisherville 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-16-2024, 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, Community & Development Services

Approved: Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The request from the Fisherville Parks Committee (as lead) and its partner Fisherville Minor Sports, is to relocate and reconstruct the existing batting cage to address drainage issues that impact several areas of the park, which will also improve ongoing maintenance in the affected areas (e.g. grass cutting) and the life cycle of the batting cage and equipment.

The work will include removal of the existing batting cage, excavating and regrading in the new location, installation of an engineered concrete pad for the new batting cage and fencing. This project will eliminate undesirable flooding at the Park's edge and on the adjoining ball diamond. It should be noted that drainage will be directed away from neighbouring properties and that there will be no impact on adjoining private property.

The budget for the project is estimated at \$40,250.

BACKGROUND:

Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program (CPP) capital grants stream is intended to encourage and enhance strategic partnerships to the benefit of community stakeholders and the municipality, offering a fair, clear, and customer-focused approach to assessing community initiatives and requests for projects intended to take place on County property. The CPP balances the rigour of the review process—necessary to ensure legitimate public interest issues are addressed—with flexibility and respect for the volunteer commitment of the groups.

The current request from the Fisherville Parks Committee is for:

- i. Approval to undertake this project on Haldimand County property, and;
- ii. Capital funding to support excavation, regrading, and batting cage pad replacement at Fisherville Lions Park with related upset funding in the amount of \$14,000 from the CPP Capital Reserve, representing no more than 35% of the total budget of \$40,250.

ANALYSIS:

The Proponents:

The Fisherville Parks Committee, which is the proponent for this project in partnership with Fisherville Minor Sports, has been a partner with Haldimand County and its predecessor municipalities since before amalgamation in 2001. Operating with a grant through the County's Fields & Parks Management Program (\$7,050 in 2024), the Parks Committee ensures that the Park remains in excellent condition for the benefit of residents, visitors/tourism, sports participants and spectators.

Fisherville Minor Sports reported 2024 baseball registrations of eighty-plus children under nine years of age, a further eighty participants aged nine to under 23 years of age, plus two additional teams of adults. The Park hosted five major tournaments over the summer, with practices on the property every Monday through Thursday all summer. Indications are that registrations are on the rise and demand will continue to be high.

There are currently four related, yet independent, organizations associated with the Fisherville Lions Park – the Fisherville District Lions Club, the Fisherville Parks Committee, Fisherville Minor Sports and the Fisherville District Community Centre Corporation, an incorporated volunteer Board of Directors which leases and operates the Fisherville Lions Community Centre. These groups all work in concert with one another, and all are in support of the current request to improve drainage and install a concrete pad under the batting cage.

The Project:

The current proposal is for the Fisherville Parks Committee to first commission excavation to regrade that portion of the park nearest the batting cage, the pavilion, and ball diamond #1 to improve drainage, particularly during heavy rain events in the summer. The group has hired a local engineering firm to provide diagrams of the project to ensure drainage is appropriate and has no impact on neighbouring properties.

Improving drainage in this way will benefit Fisherville Minor Sports in protecting the batting cage from being unavailable for use multiple times per summer during and after heavy rain events and by also reducing flooding events on the left field of diamond #1. The Fisherville Parks Committee will also benefit from the drainage solution and from the new placement of the batting cage. A drier area surrounding the batting cage and at the perimeter of diamond #1 will grant easier access and fewer interruptions in the mowing schedule due to overly wet grass.

Once drainage has been redirected to a new ditch within the park envelope, a gravel base and new concrete pad will be installed adjacent to the existing pavilion, according to the engineered drawings supplied by the group. The existing batting cage structure shall then be moved onto the new pad.

The batting cage currently sits on an earthen base. A concrete pad under the batting cage reduces damage to batting machine balls, thereby extending the life of balls and equipment.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Policy 2011-01 states the Community Partnership Program (CPP) will encourage and actively support partnerships with not-for-profit community groups. Within the CPP capital grants stream, Council has the responsibility to approve community capital projects with an overall budget of over \$10,000.

The overall proposed budget for this project is \$40,250; the requested CPP capital funding of \$14,000 is in keeping with the CPP grant funding limitation of 35% of the total project value.

Based on approved/recommended projects to date requiring funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, there are sufficient funds available in the Reserve, including the current report (CDP-16-2024) and CDP-17-2024, which is also being presented at this meeting. Should both initiatives be approved, there remains approximately \$56,700 in the Community Partnership Reserve which remains unallocated for 2024.

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 Fisherville Parks Committee has confirmed it is able to commit its share of the project (\$26,250) upon approval of the current request.

As a result of the proposed project, the following capital budget amendment is required:

	Current Council-Approved Budget	Proposed Revised Budget
Expenditures		
Fisherville Batting Cage Project	\$0	\$40,250
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$40,250
Financing		
Community Contribution (65%)	\$0	\$26,250
Community Partnership Capital Reserve (35%)	\$0	\$14,000
Total Financing	\$0	\$40,250

In addition to the funding required for the requested enhancement, the Public Sector Accounting Board 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 inspections and maintenance of the batting cage will remain the responsibility of the Fisherville Parks Committee. Future capital replacement or repair of the asset—potentially through a partnership with the group—may impact the County’s existing long-range capital funding plan.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

This application by the Fisherville Parks Committee and Fisherville Minor Sports was assessed and supported by the Community Partnership Program Staff Review Team, with particular input from the following Divisions: Community Development & Partnerships (CDP), Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations (FPC), Facilities Capital & Asset Management (FCA), Finance, Planning & Development (PDD), and Legal & Support Services (LSS). Further, the request was reviewed and supported by the County's Accessibility Coordinator.

The other two entities operating in the Fisherville Lions Park (the Fisherville District Community Centre Corporation and the Fisherville District Lions Club) have also reviewed and are in support of this application.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

REFERENCES:

1. [Policy No. 2011-01 Community Partnerships Program](#)
2. [Policy No. 2019-04 Fields & Parks Management Program](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Location Map – Fisherville Lions Park.