

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Meeting Date: April 21, 2021
Report Code: CS-21-039
Subject: St. George's Park Capital – Proposed Change of Scope

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-039 respecting St. George's Park Capital – Proposed Change of Scope, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve the allocation of an additional \$15,000 from the capital reserve to capital project 21D.38 - St. George's Ball Park in 2021.

Highlights:

- In 2019, there were 58 rentals booked at the St. Georges Park ball diamond.
- 2019 facility booking revenue at St. George's Park was \$5,121.
- The Class B lit ball diamond at St. George's Park is an important facility for supporting community softball and slo-pitch and tournaments.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

7. Encourage and promote participation in cultural activities and active lifestyles
8. Support Community Safety and Social Inclusion
9. Address the City's infrastructure deficit
10. Optimize the City's operations while maintaining or improving quality of life

14. Maintain, improve and promote the use of our local parks and trails

Background:

The City's approved 2021 capital program includes project 21D.38 – St. George's Backstop replacement for the Class B diamond. The project detail sheet is included as Attachment 1. The approved budget is \$15,000.00.

St. George's is the only Class B diamond in the City. As one of nine ball diamonds, St. George's Park serves an important role in meeting the needs of user groups. Four Class A diamonds, and six Class C diamonds are also maintained by the City. There were 58 bookings at St. George's in 2019. Due to a season limited by COVID-19, there were 8 bookings in 2020. Ball diamonds are booked in 1.5-hour time blocks.

Staff performed a site visit on March 30 to review conditions and prepare to initiate a quote process consistent with the City's [Purchasing By-law](#).

Upon inspection, staff identified that the wood timber retaining walls behind the backstop area had been damaged and become unstable after the winter season. This condition represents an important health and safety consideration. A loose handrail was removed forthwith, and the access to the top of the stairs via the parking area has been blocked with orange construction fence to prevent users from accessing the stairs from the top. The photos below demonstrate the identified conditions:

Failing Retaining Wall Timber



Slope and Retaining Wall Slumping



Casement Stair Retaining Elements in Poor Condition



Analysis:

The condition of the timber retaining wall and staircase at St. George's Park has deteriorated significantly and presents a condition that must be rectified before users are permitted to book the facility for baseball or other summer sports.

Staff recommend a modified scope of project 21D.38 – St. George’s Backstop to re-direct the funds for prioritized repair of the retaining walls and staircase.

There are two options to approaching the work:

Option A

Increase the budget and complete the backstop and wall/steps. The revised budget would be \$30,000.

In consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, it was confirmed that \$15,000 can be allocated from the capital reserve for this project. This option is preferred as it allows both projects to be completed simultaneously with less disruption to users.

Option B

The backstop project would be delayed for a year and re-submitted for consideration as a part of the City’s 2022 capital budget process. Staff would undertake work to ensure user safety for the 2021 season relating to the existing backstop.

An excavation and landscape construction contractor would be engaged to replace all rotten wood timbers including repairs to stairs and terraces would be re-established using concrete block, faced with pressure treated lumber to maintain the aesthetic and character of the site. Preliminary estimates confirm the work can be completed within the \$15,000 2021 budget envelope.

Repairs to the casement stairs including a new handrail that would be required to meet *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and Ontario Building Code standards.

In addition to the handrail, as part of the project, staff would propose to add an area inside the park main gate as an accessible viewing area for the park.

Pending approval, staff anticipate the project can occur in the next four to six weeks ahead of the 2021 ball season.

Staff are recommending Option A as it allows both projects to be completed simultaneously with less disruption to users.

Financial Implications:

If Option A is selected, the capital budget allocation would be changed to \$30,000 with \$15,000 being allocated from the capital reserve.

If Option B is selected, the backstop replacement planned for 2021 will be re-submitted for consideration as a 2022 capital request for consideration with the City's 2022 capital budget process.

In 2019, a typical baseball season, St. George's Ball Diamond booking revenue was \$5,121.65.

Communication Strategy:

This report to the Community Services Committee.

Consultation:

Larry Gill, Parks and Cemetery Supervisor

Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Attachments:

1. 21D.38 – St. George's Backstop Replacement Capital Detail Sheet

Recommended by:

Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Reviewed by:

Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks

Reviewed by:

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space at aparsons@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440 ext. 1221.