



Report

Subject: Highlands Youth for Christ - Community Matching Fund Grant Application

Department: Community Services

Division: Facilities/Parks

Report #: CMS-2025-013

Meeting Date: 2025-07-14

Recommendations

That report CMS-2025-013, Highlands Youth for Christ - Community Matching Fund Grant Application be received;

And that Council approve an increase to the allowable funding from \$5,000 to \$15,000 on a one-time basis; and,

And that Council approve the Community Matching Fund Grant Application from Youth Unlimited/Youth for Christ and distribution of budgeted funds in the amount of \$15,000;

Overview

The open space located at 9 Centre Street, west of the Orangeville Senior's Centre and north of the rail trail was once owned by the Town of Orangeville and transferred to Youth Unlimited/Highland Youth for Christ (HYFC). HYFC utilizes this outdoor space to run youth programs but it's in desperate need of repair. HYFC has applied for a Community Matching Fund grant to transform the area into a welcoming and safe green space that will enhance recreational opportunities, access to the trail and support a stronger sense of community among local youth.

The proposed enhancements include grading the land, installing sod, constructing a gazebo and picnic tables, planting trees, and adding a half-court basketball facility. This initiative will create a vibrant outdoor environment that benefits both the youth directly served by HYFC and the broader Orangeville community.

The Community Matching Fund program carries a budgeted amount of \$15,000 per year with a maximum amount of \$5,000 for each individual community-based application received. The funds in the Community Matching Grant program have not

been utilized in six years (2019). Staff are proposing to allocate the Council-approved 2025 budgeted amount of \$15,000 of the Community Matching Grant Fund to one applicant, HYFC.

Background

Implementation of a Local Youth Centre

In 2006, Youth Unlimited/Highlands Youth for Christ presented a proposal to the Town of Orangeville expressing their intention to expand operations and establish a centrally located facility to better serve the community's youth. Following negotiations with the Town, HYFC acquired the former Orangeville Police Station at 9 Centre Street to support this initiative.

In 2014 a portion of Town land was transferred to HYFC which created an outdoor space adjacent to the facility. An easement was held back as part of the transfer of land in order for the Town to create a trail connecting Bythia Street and Centre Street.

In May of 2025, the HYFC submitted a Community Matching Fund application to renovate the outdoor space (Attachment 2).

Community Matching Fund

The Community Matching Fund is an initiative sponsored by the Town of Orangeville to provide funding support to community groups interested in enhancing neighbourhood parks. The Town will match contributions for community-based projects that make parks more welcoming, fun and safe. Funds are allocated through a competitive application process.

All projects must meet five eligibility criteria:

1. Be contained within the Town of Orangeville Boundaries.
2. Be for a Town of Orangeville public park, open space and/or trail.
3. Be sponsored by a community-based organization.
4. Include a timeline to be completed within three to six months.
5. Include a match that equals or exceeds the amount requested.

The Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program award grants of up to \$5,000 to community-based groups until the funds have been depleted.

Analysis/Current Situation

The outdoor space between HYFC and the Orangeville Senior's Centre is underutilized and in need of repair. The proposed upgrades, as detailed in HYFC's application (Attachment 1), aim to transform this area into a safe, welcoming, and functional space. This initiative will enhance the surrounding facilities and provide increased opportunities and positive youth engagement within the community.

The project will include leveling and preparing the land for a grassy area for outdoor youth activities, laying sod, constructing a gazebo and picnic tables, planting trees and installing a half-court basketball court. The project construction is anticipated to take place over the summer. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$40,555.50 and the applicant is asking the Town of Orangeville to contribute \$15,000 towards this project.

The Community Matching Grant Fund is intended for projects located on public property; however, the proposed renovation site is located on HYFC property. Despite being on private property, enhancements to this site complements the trail, the Orangeville Seniors Centre and a highly successful non-profit youth centre, which would all benefit from the beautification efforts of this project.

The proposed project meets all eligibility criteria with the exception that it is privately owned. Given that no applications have been received since 2019, staff recommend a one-time exception to waive the public property criteria and the \$5,000 grant limit. Funding for the Community Matching Fund program is included annually in the Parks Divisional operating budget, subject to Council approval.

Corporate Implications

The 2025 Parks Operating Budget includes a \$15,000 provision for the Community Matching Funds Grant. To date, no requested have been approved leaving \$15,000 in available funding. By approving this grant request, the \$15,000 will be fully committed.

Conclusion

The Town has a longstanding history of collaboration in addressing community needs with HYFC. This project represents another opportunity for partnership that would provide mutual benefit to many residents.

The Community Matching Fund provides an opportunity for organizations like HYFC to enhance local facilities in ways that support programming and create additional green space. The proposed project represents a valuable investment in the community by improving the functionality and visual appeal of the space.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal: Community Vitality

Objective: Well-Being; provide venues and programs for recreation and fitness, including spaces for youth to thrive.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Social Well-being

Strategy: Promote Orangeville as an engaged inclusive community for all.

Notice Provisions

Not Applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reviewed by:

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Prepared by:

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Attachment(s):

1. Community Matching Fund - Youth Unlimited 2025 Application
2. Site map showing the location of the open space