Centre Wellington

Report to Council

To: Mayor Watters and Members of Council

Report: CS2026-17

Prepared By: Kasey Beirnes, Manager of Buildings & Property

Date: 27 Apr 2026

RE: EASE Grant Application - Bissell Park Multi-Use Pad Replacement

Recommendation:

THAT the Council of the Township of Centre Wellington endorses an application to the 2026/2027 Ontario Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant, for the Bissell Park Multi-Use Pad Replacement Project.

AND THAT Council delegates authority to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Managing Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer to execute any funding agreements and any other documents related to securing the funding should the Township's grant application be successful.

Report:

Background

Intake 2 of the Ontario Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant was released on March 25, 2026, under the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. This grant fund is available to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to improve accessibility in communities. Grants of up to $60,000 are available for projects that improve accessibility and support active lifestyles for people with disabilities and older adults.

Project Eligibility

The Bissell Park Multi-Use Pad replacement project will improve accessibility and increase barrier-free paths of travel so that the facility can be accessed and used by people of all ages and abilities. Specifically, the project will include a new access ramp connecting the Bissell Park path to the multi-use pad, and a ramp connecting an existing park pavilion to the facility. In addition to pathways, the upgraded pad surface will provide a safe, accessible, and barrier free recreational space. As such, the project meets the eligibility criteria and is well-suited for this grant. Staff recommend applying for the maximum funding amount of $60,000, with no matching contribution required by the Township. Applications for this intake of the EASE grant program are due by May 7, 2026. Projects must be completed between October 1, 2026, and October 31, 2027.

Funding status notifications will be provided to applicants between September and November 2026.

Project Update

In December 2025, through Report No. CS2025-40, Township Council directed staff to proceed to detailed design and permitting for the Bissell Park Multi-Use Pad Replacement project. The detailed design will consider two options:

1. Like-for-like replacement with accessibility and safety upgrades, and/or
2. Like-for-like replacement with accessibility and safety upgrades, and piping for future refrigeration.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued to retain a consulting team to design the replacement facility. The RFP closes on April 29, 2026. Staff will review submissions and award the project to the highest scored bidder.

It is Township staff's intent to bring the completed detailed design to Council and request approval to move into the construction tendering phase of the project in the September 2026 timeframe. In the event that Council does not meet in September due to the upcoming municipal election, Township staff will seek approval for construction tendering through the 2027 Budget adoption process.

Assuming Council approves tendering for construction in the September 2026 timeframe, the high-level project schedule is as follows:

- **May 2026**: Award and kick-off detailed design;
- **Summer 2026**: Present preliminary design to the public and interested parties for information;
- **Fall 2026**: Finalize detailed design and permitting, and present to the public, interested parties, and Township Council for approval to tender for construction;
- **Fall 2026**: Tender, award, and initiate construction;
- **Winter/ Spring 2026**: Project substantial completion.

If Council does not meet in the September 2026 timeframe, the high-level project schedule is as follows:

- **May 2026**: Award and kick-off detailed design;
- **Summer 2026**: Present preliminary design to the public and interested parties for information;
- **Fall 2026**: Finalize detailed design and permitting, and present to the public and interested parties;
- **Winter 2027**: Obtain Township Council endorsement to issue construction tender (concurrent with adoption of the 2027 Budget);
- **Spring 2027**: Tender, award, and initiate construction; and,
- **Summer 2027**: Project substantial completion.

Any required updates to the construction budget resulting from the detailed design will be presented to Township Council and approved through the 2027 Budget development and adoption process. As outlined in Report No. CS2025-40, the project team will make efforts to design a facility that can be constructed within the current approved budget.

Corporate Strategic Plan:
Improve the activity, health & wellness of our community

Financial Implications:
There are no financial implications resulting from this report. If the EASE grant application is successful, the project team will update the total project budget to account for grant funding. Applicants will be notified between September and November 2026, and any required updates to budget will be made through the Township's 2027 Budget development and adoption process.

Consultation:
This report was prepared in consultation with Dan Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer, Adam Gilmore, Managing Director of Community Services, and Adam McNabb, Managing Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer.

Approved By:
Adam Gilmore, Managing Director of Community Services, Managing Director of Community Services
Dan Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer