

NO: R064

COUNCIL DATE: April 12, 2021

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 8, 2021**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **1850-01**
General Manager, Finance

SUBJECT: **Community Enhancement Partnership Program Grant Application – Spirit Garden Inground Irrigation Project**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Finance Department recommend that Council approve a grant under the Community Enhancement Partnership (“CEP”) Program for \$3,000 to the Spirit Garden South Surrey community group for the Spirit Garden Inground Irrigation project located at the 2680 140th Street detention pond.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to recommend Council award a CEP grant to support the Spirit Garden South Surrey community group for the Spirit Garden inground irrigation project. The first phase of the improvement project was completed in 2017 with the support of the CEP Program. The Spirit Garden South Surrey community group intends to complete the final phase of the garden improvements this year.

BACKGROUND

In January 2010, Council adopted the CEP Program, which is intended to provide financial support for projects focussed on community engagement and neighbourhood enhancement. Under the CEP Program, residents, businesses and community groups may apply to the City for a grant under three separate categories; these being:

- **Small Project Grants** - to support in planning, organizing and implementing projects intended to directly improve the physical aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood.
- **Partnership Grants** - to support projects that build community relationships through celebration and activity.
- **Façade Grants** – enable small businesses or commercial property owners to apply for funding to renovate or improve their building facades.

The CEP Program Guidelines are attached as Appendix “I”.

The community has been notified of this program through stakeholder mail-outs, press releases, promotional posters at civic facilities and on the City’s website and social media channels. A Grant Selections Committee has been established with representatives from various departments and is responsible for assessing grant applications that are received under the CEP Program. This will be the first CEP Grant to be approved in 2021.

The following sections of this report provide a description and evaluation of the application for a grant under the CEP Program that was recently received by the City.

DISCUSSION

Spirit Garden Inground Irrigation Project

The Spirit Garden South Surrey community group has applied for a Small Project Grant to support the final phase of the garden improvements. The project consists of inground irrigation work of the Spirit Garden to ensure the aesthetics of the garden remain green and vibrant.

The Spirit Garden was created in 2009 around a detention pond located just north of 28 Avenue and 140 Street (Appendix “II”). The garden is located on City land that functions as a detention pond and has been planted and maintained by local volunteers since its inception. The group works closely with Engineering to ensure that the pond retains its function while improving the site with planting beds and a pathway. Over the years, the garden has become an appreciated and well-used site by the neighbourhood. The final inground irrigation project cost is estimated to be \$3,085 and the applicant has applied for a \$3,000 grant to offset some of the material and labor costs.

Based on a review of the project according to the CEP Program criteria, a grant of up to \$3,000 for the Spirit Garden Inground Irrigation project is considered reasonable, subject to the group submitting photographs documenting the progress and outcomes of the project.

FUNDING

The CEP Program receives an annual funding of \$45,000 from the City Grants Budget. Appendix "III" outlines the remaining balance for the 2021 CEP Program based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendation of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The CEP Program supports the objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0 by encouraging social connections, community pride, volunteerism, community ownership, placemaking at the neighbourhood level, fostering a culture of collaboration and the generation of new ideas, and citizen engagement. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion and Public Safety. Specifically this project supports the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Community Pride and Engagement DO20: Surrey residents are proud of their community;
- Community Pride and Engagement SD15: Work at the neighbourhood level to empower local clubs, groups, individuals, and agencies to contribute to a vibrant community; and
- Community Pride and Engagement SD19: Support placemaking opportunities at the neighbourhood level and the creation of community gathering spaces.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve a CEP Program grant for \$3,000 to the Spirit Garden South Surrey community group for the Spirit Garden Inground Irrigation Project.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Kam Grewal, CPA, CMA
General Manager
Finance

Appendix "I": CEP Program Overview and Guidelines

Appendix "II": Project Details and Location

Appendix "III": Status of Community Enhancement Partnership Program Funding



Community Enhancement Partnership Program (CEPP) Program Overview and Guidelines

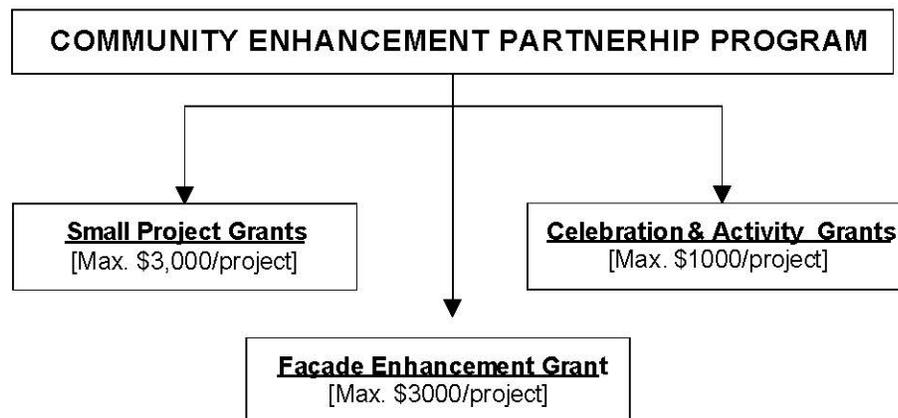
The Community Enhancement Partnership Program (CEPP) is an initiative of Council to encourage neighbourhood projects and activities that beautify our streets and public spaces. Through the Program, residents, groups and businesses can apply to the City for a grant to plan, organize and implement small beautification and place-making projects, activities and celebrations. Successful applicants match their requested grant amount with contributions of volunteer labour and services, donated materials, and/or cash. The Grant program is a partnership in which the applicant and the City contribute towards the applicants proposed project. Projects must be completed within twelve (12) months of a grant being awarded.

FUNDING CRITERIA & ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to all Surrey residents, students, community groups, organizations or associations. Small businesses will also be considered for building or landscaping beautification projects in targeted areas. All applications must encourage inclusive neighbourhood participation. Projects must be undertaken within the geographic boundaries of Surrey. All applicants must demonstrate their project or activity will:

- focus on beautifying, celebrating and creating engaging places in Surrey;
- generate a public benefit in an inclusive and cooperative manner;
- involve members of the community in the project;
- commit to overseeing the project and any resulting maintenance;
- have broad neighbourhood support.
- improve the look and feel of City streets

PROJECT GRANT CATEGORIES



i) Small Project Grants

Small project grants have a maximum amount of \$3,000 per project. They are offered to support planning, organizing and implementing projects that physically improve the appearance of the City. As examples, a neighbourhood garden, boulevard landscaping, community pathway, floral tree plantings, decorative lighting display or a neighbourhood entrance feature would fall under this category.

ii) Celebration & Activity Grants

Celebration & Activity grants have a maximum amount of \$1,000 per project. They are offered to support community activism and celebration. As examples, a neighbourhood festival or block party or a neighbourhood improvement campaign would fall under this category. Projects that create opportunities to develop neighbourhood organization and promote community leadership are encouraged. Ideally, the community celebration will ultimately encourage people to get involved in improving their neighbourhood for the long term.

iii) Facade Enhancement Grants

Facade Enhancement Grants help to encourage commercial property owners and businesses to invest in their buildings and storefronts through facade renovations. Property owners are urged to renovate, building facades through grants, matching up to 30% of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$3,000. Through the Facade Enhancement Grant Program, property owners and businesses will help to improve the streetscape of the local community, attracting residents, businesses and customers to the area. Facade grants are targeted towards different areas around the City each year.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & RECOGNITION

For awarded projects, photos must be submitted to the City as a permanent record and for potential posting on the City's website and within local newspapers.

Awarded projects may be subject to inspection by City staff. Annual inspections may be undertaken to monitor maintenance and upkeep of projects.

- Applicants that have failed to undertake or maintain projects, as outlined on submitted applications, may be eliminated from consideration for future City grant opportunities.
- Applicants are required to abide by all Municipal, Provincial and Federal laws and regulations.
- The City of Surrey reserves the right to remove any physical installations or improvements on public land at any time.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Each application will be evaluated by a grant evaluation committee using the following evaluation criteria and within available funding.

Evaluation Criteria

Overall Community Enhancement Program Objective

- Project corresponds with the objective to “beautify, animate and celebrate Surrey”.

Project Proposal & Feasibility

- Provides a clear description of what the project is and why it is proposed.
- Provides a clear public benefit.
- Is well planned with a realistic timeline and a clear beginning and end.
- Has a reasonable budget.

Community Building

- Community contribution is documented, demonstrating broad community participation and support for the project.
- Encourages inclusive community participation and provides opportunity to bring people together.
- Encourages interaction between different groups, such as different cultural groups, tenants, seniors and business owners.
- Encourages collaboration between all age groups, particularly youth and adults.

Outcomes

- There is a clear understanding of how the community will be improved as a result of the project, with anticipated outcomes clearly documented.
- Project is designed for low maintenance and the applicant and stakeholders commit to project maintenance, with the majority of maintenance undertaken by the applicant.

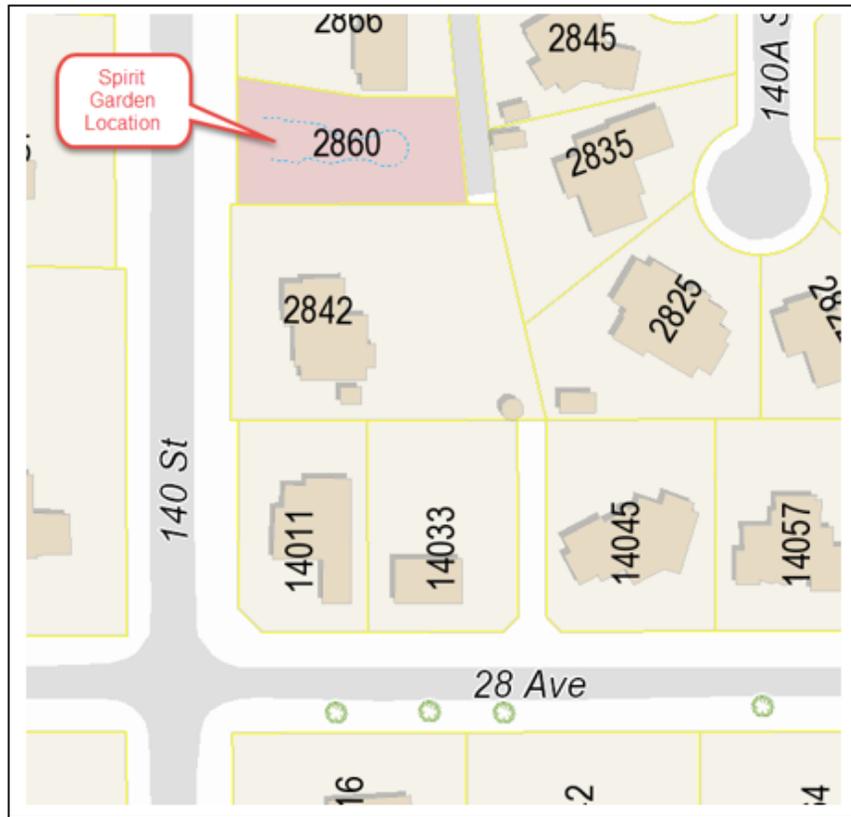
Grants will NOT be awarded to/for:

- The purpose of private gain.
- Government agencies, political or partisan groups, formal business associations, universities, exclusive clubs or associations, newspapers and non-Surrey-based organizations (based or originating).
- Applicants who have failed to document a community contribution.
- Applicants who have failed to successfully carry out or maintain a project for which a grant was previously awarded.

Grants must NOT be used to:

- Duplicate an existing public or private program.
 - Support ongoing programs or services.
 - Replace funding lost from other sources or provide gap funding.
 - Pay for the applicants operating expenses that are not directly related to the project for which the grant is awarded.
 - Purchase land or buildings.
 - Pay for out of City travel expenses.
 - Pay for expenditures or financial commitments made *before* the organization’s grant application was submitted.
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Project Details-
2860 140th Street Detention Pond



APPENDIX “III”

Status of Community Enhancement Partnership Program Funding



**2021 FINANCIAL PLAN
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	\$ 98,328		
2021 Adopted Budget	<u>\$ 45,000</u>		\$ 143,328
Grants Awarded in 2021 (to date)			
1. Spirit Garden Inground Irrigation Project (Proposed)		<u>\$ 3,000</u>	
Allocations for 2021		<u>\$ 3,000</u>	<u>\$ 140,328</u>