




TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: MILITARY HERITAGE PARK CIP 150 FUNDING AND APPROVAL

WARD: 8

**PREPARED BY AND
KEY CONTACT:** K. OAKLEY, P. Eng. 
MANAGER OF CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT

SUBMITTED BY: J. WESTON, M.A.Sc., P. Eng., PMP 
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

**GENERAL MANAGER
APPROVAL:** R. FORWARD, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng., 
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER APPROVAL:** C. LADD 
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the project Military Heritage Park be approved to proceed utilizing funding in the amount of \$572,440 from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, obtained through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.
2. That the project 14-16-2351-1662 Military Heritage Park New Development-Part 1 be closed and the committed design funding of \$15,000 be uncommitted from the Tax Capital Reserve.
3. That the design of the Military Heritage Park project be added to the 2015 Capital Plan with funds approved for 2016 in the amount of \$115,000, funded from the Tax Capital Reserve (13-04-0440).
4. That the funding for the construction of the Military Heritage Park project be added to the 2015 Capital Plan in the amount of \$1,144,880 and funded as follows:
 - a) 2016 - \$572,440 (50% funded from Grant and 50% from Tax Capital Reserve)
 - b) 2017 - \$572,440 (50% funded from Grant and 50% from Tax Capital Reserve)
5. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute any agreements, documents or applications under or in connection with the Military Heritage Park Project.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

6. Through the Economic Action Plan 2015, and as part of a coordinated federal approach to celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary, the Government of Canada has launched the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150). The program provides \$150 million nationally over 2 years to support the rehabilitation, renovation and expansion of existing community infrastructure.
7. The CIP 150 can provide up to 50 percent of funding of total project costs of infrastructure projects, however, priority may be given to those projects which require a federal contribution of only one-third of the total project cost. Eligible infrastructure projects are those which are open for use to the public, can be linked to Canada's 150th Anniversary, are currently construction-ready, and can be substantially completed by March 31, 2018. Applicants are required to attest that the work to be undertaken is an incremental construction that would not have otherwise been

constructed or constructed as quickly (incrementally). Recipients may receive contributions up to \$1,000,000, however, to ensure that projects are completed within the required timeframe, priority may also be given to smaller scoped projects.

8. Following the review of both the eligibility criteria and a number of infrastructure projects, the City submitted funding applications for the following 4 projects (listed below in order of application priority):
 - a) Allandale Historical Train Station
 - b) Dunlop Street Corridor Improvements (Mulcaster to Bayfield)
 - c) Centennial Park
 - d) Military Heritage Park
9. The City has been notified by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), (the agency responsible for administering the funding program in this geographic area), that the application for Military Heritage Park has been approved for the full \$572,440. This approval is conditional on a contribution agreement being signed by the City and FedDev Ontario.
10. The scope of work will encompass the design and construction of a park that will symbolically reference the City of Barrie's military history and its relationship with CFB Borden through the creation of landforms, sculpture, art, interpretative signage and plant material. The park will act as a self-guided educational experience created through a variety of green and open spaces including a ceremonial square for events and activities, a central roundhouse plateau (allowing for long distance views), a regenerative woodlot, a beach shoreline, earth berms and small mounds to reflect the environment of "symbolic" trench retaining walls, a tulip meadow, memorial forest, a poppy and wildflower meadow and a bosque of trees along Lakeshore Drive, and educational displays. This design concept was approved on June 17, 2013 by Council as part of Motion 13-G-160. Refer to Appendix "A" to see the conceptual plan.

ANALYSIS

11. This project involves the development of a south shore waterfront park to showcase local military heritage, including construction of a central ceremonial square, elevated roundhouse plateau, and symbolic landscape elements such as a beach and trench-like earthworks; tree and floral plantings reflecting global locations of military campaigns; and installation of display panels and interpretive signage to enable educational self-guided tours.
12. Only phase 1 was included in the 2015 – 2019 capital plan, however, the CIP 150 funding will allow the project schedule to be accelerated so that all phases can be completed by March 31 2018 (a requirement of the funding program).
13. Phases 2, 3 and 4 of park implementation were not considered as part of the capital prioritization process during the 2015 Business Planning cycle. Despite this, staff recommend that this project proceed because of the strategic benefits of this project and the opportunity to take advantage of the grant funding. One of the criteria for the grant application was the demonstration of incrementality (that the project would not have been constructed as quickly without the grant).
14. Motion 15-G-049, paragraph 17 and 18, authorizes staff to submit applications for grants that would reduce expenditures associated with projects, programs and services approved as part of the operating and capital budgets, and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any agreements that may be required to accept such grant funding. Notwithstanding these approvals that are in place, an additional requirement of the grant program is that the City provide a resolution of Council duly endorsing the project.

15. FedDev Ontario has requested that no public announcements regarding the CIP 150 funding be made during the current federal election campaign.
16. The Rotary Club of Barrie has been strong advocate and supporter of the development of the Military Heritage Park since its initial inception in 2006. Although the Rotary Club has expressed interest in fundraising for this project, the scope and scale of this project make the value of the donation difficult to achieve in such a short period of time and in order to meet the terms and conditions of the City's grant application.
17. The Rotary Club members have expressed their desire to fundraise for specific detailed components of the park so as to continue their involvement in the park's development. These components would be confirmed with the Rotary Club during the design phase so that their fundraising efforts could be targeted towards specific features. In the meantime, the City will continue with the design and tendering of the park in its entirety so as to comply with the required completion date of March 2018. The funding sources for the project may need to be adjusted as and when fundraising contributions are confirmed. A list of park components that might be suitable fundraising opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Interpretative and educational signage.
 - b) Commemorative benches throughout the site.
 - c) Plant material installations throughout the park including bulb and floral plantings, trees (deciduous and evergreen), shrubs and wildflower meadows.
 - d) An art competition to illustrate through sculpture, art, panels and/or illustrations and possibly light, the major military campaigns throughout the World during WW2.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

18. Review and implementation of the detailed park design would require the appropriate Conservation Authority permits as the site is within the regulatory limits of Lake Simcoe.
19. This project does not contain in-water works.

ALTERNATIVES

20. There are 2 alternatives available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could decide not to approve the project and grant funding.

This alternative is not recommended, as the project is important to the City, and foregoing the grant would mean the City would have to fund the entire amount, delay the project, or defer other important capital work.

Alternative #2 General Committee could decide not to approve the advancement of the design funding.

This alternative is not recommended, as the design must be started in the fall of 2015 in order to comply with the timelines and schedule requirements of the grant program.

FINANCIAL

21. The Rotary Club of Barrie expressed their desire to advance the project development of the Military Heritage Park in 2015 subject to their fundraising efforts offsetting the required costs for the detailed design of the park. Due to extenuating circumstances, the Rotary Club is not able to

meet this commitment and have requested the City to proceed with the detailed design through the regular Capital Business Plan.

22. The 2015 Capital Plan included approval of \$182,325 in 2015 and \$35,000 in 2016 for phase 1 of the Military Heritage Park. No funds have been spent to date. Of the total funding approved in the 2015 capital plan, \$15,000 was from the Tax Capital Reserve and pending approval of this report, will be uncommitted from the reserve. The balance of the funds were anticipated to be contributed from the Rotary Club. As noted previously, with the approval of the CIP 150 grant, the entire project will be accelerated from the original schedule, and additional funds are required to accomplish this.
23. It is recommended that the design phase be initiated in fall 2015. Approval of the \$115,000 design funding will allow the procurement process to proceed in order to retain a consultant to undertake the detailed design. Cash flows for design work would primarily occur in 2016 but funds will need to be committed in 2015 so that an RFP can be issued, and the contract awarded.
24. In addition to the above, it is recommended that the construction funding be added to the 2015 Business Plan in the amount of \$1,144,880.

All recommended funding is summarized as follows:

Year	Budget Request	Tax. Cap. Reserve	CIP 150	Phase
2016	\$115,000	\$115,000		Design
2016	\$572,440	\$286,220	\$286,220	Construction
2017	\$572,440	\$286,220	\$286,220	Construction

25. The operating costs for the approved Military Heritage Park concept will be developed as the project continues through its detailed design stage. Staff in the Roads, Park and Fleet Department will be involved in this process to identify maintenance procedures and operational expenses for consideration as part of the overall park development cost. Staff will also undergo a review of the design with various business partners and stakeholders to explore alternate methods or partnership arrangements that will help reduce the on-going operational costs for the park so that the long-term benefits to the site represents a balanced approach between municipal staff and dedicated partners.

LINKAGE TO 2014 – 2018 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

26. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
 - Responsible Spending
 - Inclusive Community
27. This detailed design for the Military Heritage Pak provides for the full development of the park for use by the public by March 2018. Working with the Rotary Club of Barrie on the fundraising of specific components allows for their continued involvement in the park while helping to offset project costs.

APPENDIX "A"

