

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the disbursement of the Playground Development Grants totaling \$8,000, as outlined in the report titled “Playground Development Grants 2025”, dated May 5, 2025, of the Executive Committee of Council meeting, be approved.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on May 5, 2025, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval for the recipients of the 2025 Playground Development Grants.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of
Council,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (ECC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: **PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2025**
PURPOSE: To seek Council approval for the recipients of the 2025 Playground Development Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the disbursement of the Playground Development Grants totaling \$8,000, as outlined in the report titled “Playground Development Grants 2025”, dated May 5, 2025, be approved.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The Playground Development Grant program outlined in the report aligns with the goals and values in the Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), Healthy Community Policy (1991), and the Benefits Based Approach (2024).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Playground Development Grant was a program of the previous Parks Recreation and Culture (PRC) Commission and was transitioned to the Executive Committee in 2024 after the Commission was changed to the PRC Committee. On the May 8, 2024, ECC meeting staff were directed to develop a new Playground Equipment Grant Program to replace the previous process that was contained in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Policy Manual. As that work is ongoing, staff have carried over the previous process for 2025 and are bringing forward the two requests received as part of this year’s program callout.

There is a maximum of \$12,000 in grant funding available annually if approved in the City of Burnaby’s Annual Budget. Grants are awarded as matching funds, to a maximum of \$4,000 per school, on a first come first served basis to the parent group(s) that meet the Playground Development Grant criteria (Attachment 1).

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Two requests were received for the 2025 Program from Gilmore Elementary School and Lyndhurst Elementary School each for the maximum grant of \$4,000 to support outdoor learning areas.

Gilmore Elementary School has requested funding to support the development of an outdoor learning area to foster hands on learning and interaction with learning (Attachment 2). It will include seating areas that will allow for outdoor instruction activities, a weather resistant outdoor chalkboard and ground cover. The Gilmore Elementary School PAC has indicated it has a verbal confirmation of support from the School District and will provide the formal letter once received. This application meets all criteria and staff recommend this grant be approved and will ensure the letter of support is received prior to disbursement of funds.

Lyndhurst Elementary School has also requested funding to support the development of an outdoor learning area (Attachment 3). The space will include benches and seating to provide an outdoor learning space including a natural landscape that supports pollinators and biodiversity and foster an appreciation for nature and learning opportunities about environmental stewarding. A letter of support from the School District was included in the application. As this request meets all criteria, staff recommend it be approved.

An award of \$4,000 Playground Development Grant each to Gilmore Elementary School (Attachment 2) and Lyndhurst Elementary School(Attachment 3) will be distributed after receiving Council approval.

Due to other priorities, staff have been unable to complete the review of the existing program, however they intend to report back regarding this prior to the next intake. The review will include an analysis of how to potentially streamline the program recognizing the relatively small amount of the overall program compared to the cost to administer it.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff have an established process to contact each Burnaby School parent group via the School Principal, with the details of the grant criteria, application process and the timeline, embedded in an information letter, (Attachment 4) so each school has equal opportunity to apply.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Currently, funding for playground grants is provided from the PRC Operating Budget with a maximum of \$12,000 set aside annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Playground Development Grant Criteria

Attachment 2 – Playground Development Grant Application Gilmore

Attachment 3 – Playground Development Grant Application Lyndhurst

Attachment 4 – Playground Development Grant Info Letter

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Robin Juergensen, PRC Manager PRC Partnerships & Innovations and reviewed by Rebecca Thandi, Director PRC Strategic Initiatives.