

Holiday Park Golf Course Driving Range Project

ISSUE

This report provides information and requests post-budget approval for a capital project for improvements to the Holiday Park Golf Course Driving Range, with a budget of \$150,000 to be funded from the Golf Course Capital Reserve.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That a post-budget capital project for the Holiday Park Golf Course Driving Range, with a budget of \$150,000, be approved; and
2. That the funding source, in the amount of \$150,000, from the Golf Course Capital Reserve be approved.

BACKGROUND

The City operates a driving range at Holiday Park Golf Course. The driving range generates significant revenue of approximately \$120,000 per year (based on the three-year average of 2019 to 2021) to support golf course operations. The driving range has seen significant increase in usage over the last five years which has put a strain on the health, quality, and sustainability of the natural turf hitting area within the driving range.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Administration has been researching options to support the sustainability of the natural turf in response to the increased demand while continuing to provide a quality practice facility. Expansion of the hitting area is not an option due to the configuration of the driving range and location of the existing parking lot. In consultation with a golf course architect, the decision to incorporate a synthetic hitting area to complement the natural turf was deemed the best option and reflects best practices as seen in golf courses across Canada. Along with the installation of a full width synthetic hitting area, the proposed project also includes upgraded pathways to improve conditions at the driving range (see Appendix 1).

Installation of the permanent synthetic hitting area provides several benefits to driving range operations and sustainability of the natural turf:

- 1) Utilizing the synthetic hitting area in the spring will allow the natural turf additional time to establish itself and recover from winter;
- 2) The driving range can open earlier in the spring;
- 3) Maintenance of the natural turf can be completed while utilizing the synthetic turf;
- 4) Fall driving range usage can be extended allowing preparation of the natural turf for winter; and

- 5) The synthetic turf can be utilized during times of inclement weather, for example saturation from heavy rain, to protect the natural area while it re-establishes.

A similar project was completed at the Silverwood Golf Course in 2019 and has been a great success in extending the driving range season and supporting the health of the natural turf during times of increased usage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Golf course operations contribute annually through the operating budget to the Golf Course Capital Reserve, which funds golf course improvements through capital projects. The Golf Course Capital Reserve has sufficient funds to support the Holiday Park Driving Range Project without negatively impacting future projects. Pending approval of this request and the completion of year-end transfers, the reserve is projected to have a balance of at least \$863,000 at the end of 2022. There are no additional operating costs as a result of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The project includes the removal of approximately 850 square feet of a naturalized bluff of bushes to maximize the usable space for the synthetic hitting area. The project budget includes funds for the development and implementation of a replanting plan. Pending approval, the green infrastructure will be replaced inside the Holiday Park Golf Course in fall 2022.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, or social implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to City Council approval, Administration will submit this project to Meewasin Valley Authority for approval. Once all approvals are in place, a request for quote will be sent out. It is estimated the project will begin in fall of 2022 and be ready for use in spring 2023. These timelines are designed to minimize the disruption to golf course operations.

APPENDICES

1. Site Details Plan - Driving Range

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Mike Libke, Manager, Special Use Facilities and Capital Planning
Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services