Hanover
Ontario, Canada

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday. July 29, 2026 | 6:00pm
P & H Centre | Boardroom

Residents who wish to participate in the meeting virtually must provide a minimum of 24 hours notice to: lregier@hanover.ca

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1. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

2. **DELEGATION**- Hanover Horticultural Society

3. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

   3.1 Connection is the New Core Service | Article from Municipal World 2025.
   3.2 Commemorative Recognition Program

4. **ADOPTION OF THE MAY 26, 2026 PRC ADVISORY MINUTES**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-** Cash in Lieu of Parkland Reserve

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Director Update

6.2 Parks & Recreation Facilities

6.3 Aquatics & Programs

7. **ITEMS FOR DIRECTION | DISCUSSION-**

7.1 2026-2027 Capital Budget Review

8. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ROUNDTABLE** – 'eyes & ears' items relative to PRC operation

9. **NEXT MEETING – Sept. 23, 2026** @ 6pm (Next regular meeting)

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Connection is the new core service

New mandate for parks and recreation

By reframing parks and recreation as social infrastructure, municipalities can shift from delivering services to designing for connection. *Photo: Adobe Stock*

by Troy Glover

Social disconnection threatens public health across Canada, and parks and recreation can help repair the damage. More than half of Canadian adults experience loneliness, with more than 13 per cent feeling lonely always or often, and more than 40 per cent feeling lonely at least some of the time.

That is more than four million Canadians struggling with persistent disconnection, and millions more who feel its sting in everyday life. The consequences are clear: loneliness harms individual health, raising risks for heart disease, dementia, and premature death. It also erodes civic trust, fuels incivility, and weakens the social fabric of our communities.

Accordingly, the World Health Organization (WHO) named social disconnection a global public health threat, linking it to nearly 900,000 premature deaths each year. Governments in the United States and Europe have responded with national strategies. Canada, meanwhile, remains silent. This policy vacuum demands municipal leadership.

Municipalities already shape many of the shared spaces and programs where connection can happen. But as a social recession pervades across the country, they need to act with greater intentionality. Residents need more than services; they need places designed purposefully to foster belonging and encourage everyday connection.

Parks and recreation departments sit at the heart of this opportunity. With a stronger mandate, they can do even more to foster trust, belonging, and connection. If connection is the antidote to social disconnection, then parks and recreation offers one of the most powerful tools at a municipality's disposal.

With this in mind, municipalities must consider renewing the mandate for parks and recreation as vital social infrastructure to design for greater social connection.

Municipalities tend to treat parks and recreation simply as amenities and programs. Parks and recreation builds playgrounds, maintains arenas and trails, staffs pools and community centres, and runs everything from swimming lessons and senior fitness to day camps and pickleball courts. Its value proposition focuses on:

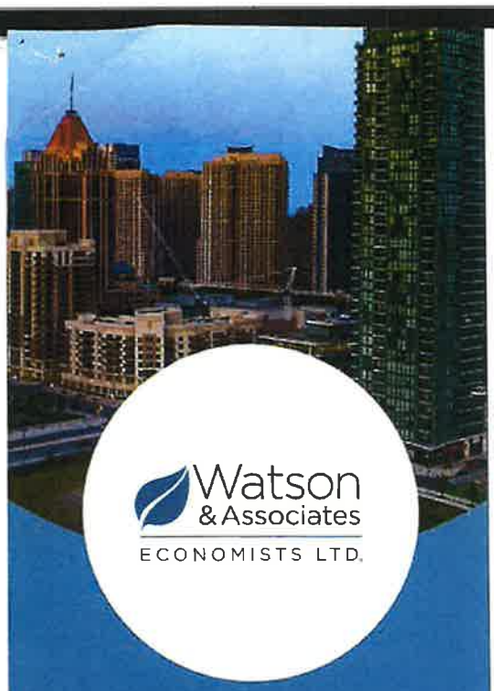
- delivering services
- offering accessible programs
- managing clean, safe spaces
- providing enjoyable recreational experiences

Today, that value proposition must expand. Parks and recreation does more than support leisure; it plays an increasingly crucial role in designing physical and social conditions that spark connection.

Parks and Recreation as Social Infrastructure

Currently, municipalities navigate pressures that exceed traditional service metrics. Residents age. Local populations become more diverse. Trust in government wains. Volunteerism drops. The daily rhythms of community life fray under polarization, disconnection, and incivility. These forces expose social challenges that demand social responses.

While departments like public works, transportation, and waste management



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uphold a city's structure, parks and recreation animates its soul. No other department offers such powerful potential to build trust, belonging, and everyday connection.

This moment calls for bold leadership. Municipalities must align parks and recreation more directly with social outcomes. By repositioning parks and recreation as vital social infrastructure, local governments can combat loneliness and strengthen the connective tissue of community life.

That shift requires a new mindset, one that moves from amenities to outcomes, from services to systems, and from recreation to relationship building.

Local governments understand physical infrastructure like roads, bridges, and water systems. These networks support essential services and shape how communities function. Less understood, but just as vital, is social infrastructure: the shared spaces, programs, and systems that foster connection, trust, and belonging in everyday life.

Social infrastructure makes relationships possible by affording opportunities for connection to happen. And those relationships matter, for they create the conditions for the development of social capital, the return potential embedded in human connection.

Residents draw on social capital when they need support in a crisis, guidance from a neighbour, or simply a sense of being seen. Communities with stronger social capital are almost always more resilient, healthier, and more cohesive. In a time of rising disconnection, and in an era marked by disruption from future pandemics, climate emergencies, and social unrest, a municipality's stockpile of local social capital may be among its most undervalued assets.

Parks and recreation departments already play a meaningful role in supporting community connection. They animate public space, operate programs that bring neighbours together, and create meaningful experiences in which residents meet across lines of difference. Yet, for many municipalities, social connection remains an implicit benefit, not an explicitly defined outcome.

It is time to change that.

By reframing parks and recreation as social infrastructure, municipalities shift from delivering services to designing for connection. This reframing transforms everyday decisions about spaces, programs, and priorities into opportunities to strengthen the social fabric. This shift invites new questions:

- How might this park encourage spontaneous interactions among neighbours?
- In what ways could this program invite people from different backgrounds to collaborate or share space?
- What changes to our investments would help strengthen the social fabric of the community?

These questions encourage municipalities to listen more closely, observe how residents actually use public space, and experiment with small changes that build trust, inclusion, and connection over time.

Ultimately, these questions introduce possibility. They point to a deeper goal: to build connections among strangers so that all residents begin to see themselves as part of a shared, imagined community, one in which people feel seen, supported, and socially connected.

Framework for Designing Social Infrastructure

Designing for connection demands intentional choices in how we shape spaces, develop programs, and define success. The CONNECT Framework offers a practical tool to guide this work.

Each letter in CONNECT represents a design lens. These lenses sensitize municipal staff to think of parks and recreation as social infrastructure.

C is for centre

Ask: For whom are we designing this space or program?

Focus on the user. Engage residents to understand their lived experiences, social needs, and participation constraints. Map who the current spaces and programs serve well, and who may feel left out.

Listen closely to the people who will use and shape the space. Connection begins with knowing for whom a space or program is designed.

O is for optimize

Ask: How can we optimize this space or program to foster social connection?

Enhance for low-stakes, inclusive moments of interaction. Arrange seating, pathways, and gathering areas to promote spontaneous encounters.

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Choose programs that bring people together across interests and backgrounds. Encourage moments in which residents recognize each other and themselves in public life.

N is for narrate

Ask: What stories, identities, and histories does this space or program reflect?

Connection deepens when people feel seen. Use storytelling, public art, naming, and community voice to surface and celebrate the stories that shape a place.

Invite diverse histories, traditions, and expressions of collective identity into the design process. When residents see themselves in public spaces, they are more likely to feel a sense of belonging.

N is for navigate

Ask: How can we remain responsive as community needs and rhythms evolve?

Communities change. Design with flexibility in mind. Accommodate multiple uses and evolve with the seasons.

Allow shifts in response to feedback. Navigate uncertainty with openness and a willingness to adapt based on what best affords connection.

E is for experiment

Ask: What small changes can we make to learn what builds connection?

Not every idea needs to begin as a major initiative. Experiment with pop-up programs, temporary installations, or micro-pilots.

Use these placemaking initiatives to observe how residents engage, what sparks interaction, and what barriers remain. Start small, learn fast, and scale what works.

C is for care

Ask: How do we steward this work with attentiveness, responsibility, and respect for community relationships?

Care means more than clean spaces. It is about building and maintaining trust. Listen, respond, and show up as visible stewards of public space and the public good.

Care lives in how programs are staffed, decisions are shared, and accountability is upheld. When residents feel heard and respected, they are more likely to participate, invest, and connect.

T is for track

Ask: How will we measure success in terms of connection?

Define what connection looks like in your context. Use surveys, interviews, or observational data to understand how spaces and programs foster meaningful social ties.

Track what is changing and share what you learn. Use this feedback to refine future initiatives.

Social Connection in Everyday Decisions

The CONNECT Framework offers a new way to look at what amenities and programs already exist and asks how well they foster connection. Parks and recreation staff can apply the framework to audit existing services, guide new initiatives, and shift team mindsets from transactional service delivery to intentional relationship building.

Whether enhancing park amenities, adapting drop-in programs, or engaging residents in co-design, the framework helps municipalities embed social connection into everyday decisions. When applied consistently, it positions parks and recreation as essential social infrastructure for resilient, inclusive communities.

Social disconnection threatens our individual well-being and the social fabric of our communities. But municipalities hold powerful tools to respond. Parks and recreation departments already manage the places and programs where connection can take root; what is needed now is a more intentional focus on designing for it.

The CONNECT Framework offers a way forward. By designing parks and recreation intentionally as social infrastructure, municipalities can strengthen relationships among their residents and build greater community capacity.

Parks and recreation has the capacity to lead with purpose. When connection becomes a core service, communities thrive.



Troy Glover (troy.glover@uwaterloo.ca), Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, director of the Healthy Communities Research Network, and an active member of the Future Cities Institute at the University of Waterloo. Glover also leads a consulting practice called Healthy Placemaking Solutions.

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Add a custom memorial plaque to accompany your chosen amenity.

Grey Granite Curved Bench pictured below



The bench we dedicated has become a peaceful spot for our family to remember our loved one. It's a beautiful way to keep their memory alive.

-Wilken Family-

Hanover
Ontario, Canada



* Hanover Cemetery



* Commemorative Grove

For More Information Contact us:

Phone:
519.364.2780

Email:
civic@hanover.ca

Address:
341 10th Street Hanover, ON

Website:
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Town of Hanover

Commemorative Recognition Program

Hanover
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Hanover
Ontario, Canada

Leave a lasting memory with a commemorative bench, tree or rock.

Four meaningful locations to choose from:

- Commemorative Grove
- Community Trail
- Town Park
- Cemetery



Our Commemorative Recognition Program offers a heartfelt way to celebrate life's milestones - honouring loved ones, special people and important moments like births, anniversaries, retirements or achievements.

*Fees are set annually through the Town's Rates, Fees & Charges By-law, are subject to change and exclude shipping costs

Four Commemorative Tree Species Available to Choose From:



Pin Oak | Valued for their small stature, symmetrical shape and tolerance of urban conditions. Leaves are glossy green to yellowish green **$350***



White Spruce | Hearty evergreen with a pyramidal shape. Known for stiff green needles and year-round colour. **$300***



Sugar Maple | Large shade producing tree with dark-green leaves that turn yellow, burnt orange and red in the fall. **$350***



Red Maple | Green foliage that has an excellent fall colour of scarlet-red. **$350***

Bench Style Available for Parks & Trails:



Black Powder Coat with backrest
Regular **$1,500*** | Premium **$2,300***

Bench Styles Available for the Cemetery:



Red Granite | Straight Bench | **$900***



Grey Granite | Curved Bench | **$900***



Grey Granite | Straight Bench | **$900***

Rocks available at Commemorative Grove:



Approximate Size: 2 ft. square | **$225***

#4

Hanover
Ontario, Canada

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday May 26, 2026 | 6:00pm
P & H Centre | Boardroom & Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT	Matt Bender | Brandon Koebel | Marion Massaloup | Keith Hopkins | Carol Hudson
OTHERS PRESENT	Laura Christen | Lyndsay Regier | Kristina Zimmerer | Rob McIntosh | Kendra Pollard | Brenda Jolly
REGRETS	Danica Metcalfe | David Ford

1. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** – Nil.

2. **DELEGATION** – A presentation was provided by Brenda Jolly and Kendra Pollard from the Hanover Aerials Gymnastics Club. They provided the committee with an overview of their club, their successes, growth, challenges and needs.

3. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
   - 3.1 Article: Staff Recommend Not Allowing 'Bring Your Own' Events in Grey Highlands
     - 3.1.1. It is staff's intention to review the Town of Hanover Municipal Alcohol Policy at the July meeting
   - 3.2 PRC- 03-26 P&H Centre Wading Pool Filter Replacement Project
   - 3.3 Skate Park Youth Citizen Request
   - 3.4 Care to Share? Town of Hanover Budget Questionnaire - Now Open
   - 3.5 PRC Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

4. **ADOPTION OF THE March 26, 2026 PRC ADVISORY MINUTES**
   Moved by M. Bender | Seconded by M. Massaloup
   THAT the minutes of the March 26, 2026 regular meeting be approved as printed and circulated. **CARRIED.**

5. **ADOPTION OF THE April 21, 2026 PRC ADVISORY MINUTES**
   Moved by C. Hudson | Seconded by M. Massaloup
   THAT the minutes of the April 21, 2026 regular meeting be approved as printed and circulated. **CARRIED.**

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** – Nil.

7. **STAFF REPORTS –** Committee members reviewed staff reports that were circulated with the agenda package.

8. ITEMS FOR DIRECTION | DISCUSSION

8.1 Resignation Notice - Member N. Simpson has submitted his resignation from the committee. We want to thank Member Simpson for his contributions to the committee.

MOVED by M. Massaloup | Seconded by M. Bender
THAT PRC Advisory Committee accept the resignation of Neil Simpson from the PRC Advisory Committee. **CARRIED**.

8.2 Parks & Rec Ontario - 2026 Ontario Budget Earmarks Additional 300M for Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF).

8.2.1. Seeking the Committees support/ input to submit applications for the Pavilion replacement project and LED Lighting upgrade at Kinsmen Ball Park.

MOVED by B. Koebel | Seconded by M. Bender
THAT the PRC Advisory Committee supports the application for LED lighting upgrade for the Kinsmen Ball Park for CSRIF Stream 1: Repairs and rehabilitation of existing sport and recreation facilities.
CARRIED.

MOVED by M. Massaloup | Seconded by C. Hudson
THAT the PRC Advisory Committee supports the application for the Pavilion replacement and parking lot paving project at the Kinsmen Ball Park for CSRIF Stream 2: Builds new and transformative facilities, including replacement for aging infrastructure.
CARRIED.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ROUNDTABLE

9.1 Committee member inquired when is the Splash Pad would be opening. The Splash Pad is planning to be opened for the beginning of June.

9.2 Committee member inquired about the clean-up occurring at the Hanover Town Park from the flooding at the end of winter. Facility Operators continue to clean up the park and hopefully will be done soon.

9.3 Committee member inquired about the east end trail extension project and what the next steps are for council.

9.4 Committee member inquired if the committee can review the cash in lieu for parkland opportunities when new developments occur in Hanover.

10. NEXT MEETING – July 29, 2026 at 6pm (Next regular meeting).

11. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by M. Massaloup | Seconded by M. Bender.
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:40pm. CARRIED.

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PRC Advisory Committee – July 29, 2026

Directors Report | Notes & Highlights

East End Trail- At the July 13th Council meeting, the costing for sidewalks was presented. See attached report PB-16-26. The following motion was passed. Moved by COUNCILLOR KOEBEL | Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOCKING

That Report PB-16-26 East End Trail Update and Financial Analysis for Portion of Nature Trail and Sidewalks in SCHW be received; and That council direct staff to proceed with Option 1 - Concrete Sidewalk and Parking Lot, as outlined in the report. **CARRIED** (5 Yea to 1 Nay)

See attached Report PB-16-26 for more information

- **Swim Team Starting Blocks –**PRC Staff conducted a review to determine whether the facility could accommodate a transition from removable blocks to permanent installations. Following this review, it was determined that permanent installation could be accommodated, provided that all associated project costs are fully covered by the Swim Club. A Memorandum of Understanding outlining the agreed upon terms has been drafted and is pending signatures from both parties.

- **Power Workers Union Grant** – Committee member N. Simpson provided an opportunity for PRC to submit an application to the Equity Trust Disbursement Grant 2026 intake. An application was submitted seeking funds to support the outdoor rink. The application was successful and $3,000 was donated.

- **Build Communities Strong Fund** – At the July 13th Council meeting , Council endorsed the submission of an application to the Build Communities Strong Fund for the Kinsmen Ball Park Pavilion, Ball Diamond LED Lighting, paved parking lot improvements, AND Soccer Pavilion project.

  The following motion was passed:

  Moved by COUNCILLOR KOEBEL | Seconded by COUNCILLOR SAKAL

  That Report DCS-13-26 Build Communities Strong Fund – Grant Matching Request be received; and; That council endorse the submission of an application to the Build Communities Strong Fund for the Kinsmen Ball Park Pavilion, Ball Diamond LED Lighting, paved parking lot improvements, and Soccer Pavilion project scope; and That council supports in principle the prioritization of these projects within the Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan, subject to future budget approval, confirmation of eligible costs, and the outcome of the grant application. **CARRIED**

  See the attached Report DCS-13-26 for more information

- **Heritage Committee**- in partnership with our downtown businesses, we have refreshed the popular "Windows in Time" posters, which will be displayed in downtown storefronts from June 29 to July 31. Featuring historic photos and a timeline of the businesses that have occupied each building, the posters offer a fascinating look at Hanover's past. Take a stroll downtown and discover the stories behind our community!



- **P&H Centre Partial Roof Replacement |** The P&H Centre Partial Roof Replacement tender has closed, and the contract has been awarded to Nedlaw Roofing (Owen Sound). The project includes the replacement of approximately 5600 square feet of roofing, primarily located above the walking track area. Construction is scheduled to take place in mid to late October. The P&H Centre will remain open throughout the project, and facility operations are not expected to be impacted during construction.

Hanover
Ontario, Canada

Staff Report To Council

From: Andrew Wilken, Director of Development and Infrastructure/CBO
Laura Christen, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Date: July 13, 2026

Report: PB-16-26

Subject East End Trail Update and Financial Analysis for Portion of Nature Trail and Sidewalks in SCHW

Recommendation

That Report PB-16-26 East End Trail Update and Financial Analysis for Portion of Nature Trail and Sidewalks in SCHW be received; and

That council provide direction to staff with respect to their preferred option.

Background

Council has received two prior reports with respect to the East End Trail development within Saugeen Cedar Heights West (SCHW) subdivision:

- March 16, 2026 meeting | Report PRC-02-2026 East End Trails Extension Project Options to Proceed (attached); and
- June 15, 2026 meeting | Report PB-14-26 East End Trail Update and Financial Analysis (attached).

At the June 15, 2026 meeting, the joint report from the Directors of Development and Infrastructure and Parks, Recreation and Culture provided further information and costing for sidewalk options that council had requested.

The report outlined the developers' contributions and how that may assist in constructing sidewalks and parking instead of the original planned forested nature trail, grant funding status update and estimated cost of including a sidewalk from 22nd Avenue A easterly to 24th Avenue within SCHW and extending a sidewalk from 19th Street to 20th Street on 24th Avenue.

During extensive discussion and deliberations council approved the following resolution 155-26:

That Report PB-14-26 East End Trail Update and Financial Analysis be received; and

That council defer a decision pending receipt of a further staff report on the option to install a sidewalk from 22nd Ave A east to 24th Ave and to construct a nature trail from 22nd Ave A to the trail parking lot.

As directed by council, staff have investigated the costs to construct a concrete sidewalk and part of the original nature hiking trail as described within the resolution. The sidewalk portion that was calculated from 24th Ave between 19th to 20th Street was removed from further calculations with the understanding that it may be revisited when further development in the North-East lands occurs.

Discussion

The developer for SCHW has maintained their commitment to fulfilling their requirement of constructing pedestrian infrastructure within the subdivision. There is an understanding that approximately $50,000 could be allocated to trail and/or sidewalk construction within SCHW, once the trail head ties and parking lot construction are completed.

As requested by council, staff are providing financial analysis of the compromise/ hybrid option as detailed in the June 15th meeting resolution. This would be partial development of the trail from 22nd Ave A heading easterly to 24th Ave and connection to the parking lot at Block 115. Construction of concrete sidewalks is also detailed.

A. Costing - Sidewalk 22nd Avenue east to 24th Avenue

As previously detailed in report PB-14-26, the total cost if the Town were to directly undertake the installation of a 1.5-meter-wide concrete sidewalk from 22nd Ave A heading easterly to 24th Ave would be approximately $61,000. This encompasses the requirement of obtaining drawings, tender document, inspection and reinstatements to driveways that will need repair, replacement or to appropriately tie into existing conditions. The developer can complete sidewalk construction at a lower cost and previously indicated at $50,000.

It should also be noted that winter maintenance on the sidewalks would not be provided until the subdivision is assumed.

B. Costing - Trail 22nd Avenue east to new Parking Lot (24th Avenue)

The estimated cost to the Town for the nature trail from 22nd Ave A to the trail parking lot is estimated to be $48,000 after the developer's financial commitment to completing the trail, tree removal, purchase and installation for a single pedestrian ramp and tie-ins as needed. Should this be the option that council supports, it is anticipated that 30% ($14,400) grant funding should be maintained. In this costing, the developer would take responsibility for the pedestrian ramp foundations, craning, delivery, welding work, etc. in addition to its purchase.

Since the potential dates for the construction have moved further into the year, no removal of vegetation or trees can occur until after November 1st, therefore, trail construction will not be able to occur until 2027.

Financial Implications

Depending on the direction provided there will be a cost to the municipality. Top up funding for both the proposed nature trail and sidewalk option would be necessary to move those options ahead. In addition, timing for these initiatives is also dependent on the option chosen. Should council approve the option for the proposed partial nature trail, the current 2026 budget allocation is sufficient, thus a transfer to reserve would be required to then be brought forward for 2027 budget.

Staff have worked through various scenarios and are providing council with the following financial impacts for consideration.

Table 1: Financial Impact to Municipality

Option	Description	Estimated Cost to Town
1	Only **Concrete Sidewalk** (22nd Ave. A to 24th Ave.) **and Parking Lot** - Construction in 2026 by Developer | Previously detailed in Report PB-14-26.	NIL*
2	Only **Trail, Pedestrian Ramp and Parking Lot** – Construction in 2027 by Developer (No Sidewalks)	$48,000.00 less anticipated grant $14,400.00 Trail *** $33,600.00
3	Both **Concrete Sidewalk, Trail, Pedestrian Ramp and Parking Lot** – Construction in 2026 and 2027 (Sidewalk by Developer. Trail, Bridge and Parking Lot by Developer)	**Sidewalk $50,000.00 Trail $33,600.00 $83,600.00

Note: * reflects projected net cost less the $50,000 developer contribution
** $10,000 carried for replacement panels
*** as noted current 2026 budget allocation is sufficient for this cost

If Option 1 or 3 is the preferred direction, there will be a need to budget for the replacements of sidewalk panels due to potential damages when future development occurs in that section of the subdivision. Staff is recommending that $10,000 be placed in future years operational budget to cover replacement sidewalk panel costs if they were to arise.

Link to Strategic Plan

This report supports the indicated Strategic Goals and Action Plans of the Town of Hanover.

☒ **Goal 1: Safe and Reliable Infrastructure**
Build, maintain and continuously improve our municipally owned properties, buildings, and equipment.

☒ **Goal 2: Healthy and Welcoming Community**
Care for our natural environment and provide an enviable quality of life for everyone who calls Hanover "home".

☐ **Goal 3: Strong and Vibrant Economy**
Refresh downtown Hanover and retain and attract local economic investment and jobs.

☒ **Goal 4: Balanced Growth**
Work together to create a community we can all be proud of.

☒ **Goal 5: Open and Responsible Government**
Deliver services in a friendly, efficient and effective manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Wilken
Director of Development and Infrastructure

Laura Christen
Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Concurrence,

Sherri Walden
CAO

Hanover
Ontario, Canada

Staff Report To Council

From:	Jelena Savic, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer Laura Christen, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture
Date:	July 13, 2026
Report:	DCS-13-26
Subject	**Build Communities Strong Fund – Grant Matching Request**

Recommendation

That Report DCS-13-26 Build Communities Strong Fund – Grant Matching Request be received; and;

That council endorse the submission of an application to the Build Communities Strong Fund for the Kinsmen Ball Park Pavilion, Ball Diamond LED Lighting, paved parking lot improvements, and Soccer Pavilion project scope; and

That council supports in principle the prioritization of these projects within the Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan, subject to future budget approval, confirmation of eligible costs, and the outcome of the grant application.

Background

The Town's Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan includes several significant infrastructure projects at Kinsmen Ball Park and related recreation facilities over the 2027 and 2028 budget years. These projects respond to identified needs within the Town's recreation infrastructure, including the renewal and improvement of ball diamond amenities, lighting, parking, and pavilion space to better support organized sport, community use, accessibility, and year-round functionality.

The 2027 capital plan currently includes the Kinsmen Ball Park Pavilion project and Ball Diamond LED Lighting. The 2028 capital plan also includes a Soccer Pavilion project. Together, these projects represent a substantial investment in community recreation infrastructure and would have a significant impact on the Town's future capital budgets if funded primarily through the tax levy.

The Build Communities Strong Fund — Local Impact Stream, delivered by FedDev Ontario, provides an opportunity to pursue federal funding for eligible community infrastructure projects in southern Ontario. The program supports projects that build, expand, or improve community infrastructure, strengthen community vitality, and enhance quality of life. Eligible examples include recreation and sport facilities, parks, publicly accessible outdoor infrastructure, and community and multi-use buildings.

The Build Communities Strong Fund may provide up to 50% funding for eligible project costs, with the Town responsible for the remaining 50%. For projects starting on or after April 1, 2027, the application deadline is August 6, 2026.

Since the deadline falls before the applicable budget deliberations, staff are seeking council's endorsement to submit the application and confirm in principle support for prioritizing this work within the Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan, contingent upon a successful application outcome and future council budget approval.

Discussion

The Kinsmen Ball Park Pavilion, Ball Diamond LED Lighting, paved parking lot improvement, and Soccer Pavilion are all projects that would improve the quality, functionality, and accessibility of Hanover's recreation infrastructure. These investments would directly benefit local users, including minor ball, adult slo-pitch leagues, Special Olympics, soccer organizations, tournament participants, families, spectators, and the broader community.

The projects also align well with the objectives of the Build Communities Strong Fund. The proposed work would improve publicly accessible recreation infrastructure, support community vitality, and enhance quality of life. Ball and soccer facilities are important community assets that support active living, youth recreation, volunteerism, community events, and local economic activity through tournaments, visiting teams, spectators, and related spending in the community.

There is a significant tax-supported component associated with these projects if they proceed without significant funding support from other levels of government. However, the grant provides an opportunity to reduce the municipal share by up to 50% of eligible project costs. The availability of this funding also creates an opportunity to consider bundling related recreation infrastructure work into a coordinated application, rather than addressing each project separately over multiple budget years.

The application will be stronger if the Town can demonstrate that the projects are ready, financially viable, beneficial to the community, and aligned with local priorities. Council's endorsement would help demonstrate that these projects are a priority within the Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan and that the Town has the capacity to advance the work if funding is approved. Endorsing the application would authorize staff to apply for funding and would confirm that council supports in principle the prioritization of these projects within the Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan. It would not represent final approval of the municipal contribution.

Final budget approval, project scope, timing, and phasing would still be considered through the applicable budget process and would depend on the outcome of the grant application. The Town is expected to know the outcome of the application before final budget approval. This will allow council to consider the projects with better information, including whether grant funding has been secured, the required municipal contribution, and the overall affordability of the capital plan. In addition, if funding is approved, the Town would be required to enter into a contribution agreement or transfer payment agreement with the funder. The program guidelines state that an application does not constitute a commitment from FedDev Ontario, and that the final contribution amount is subject to funding availability and FedDev Ontario's determination. This means council would have a further opportunity to review the final terms, conditions, eligible costs,

reporting requirements, cash flow implications, and municipal contribution requirements before the Town is contractually committed to the funding arrangement.

Staff also anticipate that additional fundraising campaigns, donations, sponsorship opportunities, and other grant applications may be pursued to further offset the municipal contribution further. Staff also plan to consider opportunities through Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) and other applicable programs to reduce the final tax-supported cost where possible.

Overall, the grant application provides an opportunity to advance important recreation infrastructure while reducing the impact on the tax levy. Council's endorsement would signal support for the application and the in principle prioritization of this work, while preserving council's ability to make final budget and project phasing decisions once the funding outcome is known.

Financial Implications

The 2027 capital plan currently includes the projects included in Table 1. If grant funding is received through the Build Communities Strong Fund, the funding structure of this work would be as follows:

Table 1

	Kinsmen Ballpark Pavillion (7100-C014)	**Ball Diamond LED Lighting (7100-C031)**	**Total**
Total	$870,000	$375,000	**$1,245,000**
Grant (50%)	$435,000	$187,500	$622,500
Town (50%)	$435,000	$187,500	$622,500

A scope alteration is also possible, to update the gravel parking lot into a paved parking lot. This would support broader site functionality, including the annual outdoor ice rink use. The anticipated cost of this work is $50,000, of which the Town would fund $25,000 (50%).

With the addition of the paved parking lot adjacent to the Kinsmen Ball Park Pavillion, the total Town contribution for the expanded 2027 scope would be:

Table 2

Item	**Town Share (50%)**
Kinsmen Ballpark Pavillion	$435,000
Ball Diamond LED Lighting	$187,000
Paved Parking Lot	$ 25,000
Total	$647,500

The 2028 capital plan also includes $600,000 in tax-supported funding for a Soccer Pavilion. Staff recommend that this project be considered for inclusion in the grant application as part of a broader recreation infrastructure package. If included, and if approved for 50% funding, the Town's share of the Soccer Pavilion would be $300,000.

The total potential Town contribution for the work would therefore be:

Table 3

Item	Town Share (50%)
Kinsmen Ballpark Pavillion	$435,000
Ball Diamond LED Lighting	$187,000
Paved Parking Lot	$ 25,000
Soccer Pavillion	$300,000
Total	$947,500

The total project package would be approximately $1,895,000, with potential grant funding of $947,500 and a corresponding Town contribution of $947,500, subject to funding approval, confirmation of eligible costs, final project scope, and council's future budget deliberations.

Link to Strategic Plan

This report supports the indicated Strategic Goals and Action Plans of the Town of Hanover.

☒ **Goal 1**: **Safe and Reliable Infrastructure**
Build, maintain and continuously improve our municipally owned properties, buildings, and equipment.

☒ **Goal 2: Healthy and Welcoming Community**
Care for our natural environment and provide an enviable quality of life for everyone who calls Hanover "home".

☐ **Goal 3: Strong and Vibrant Economy**
Refresh downtown Hanover and retain and attract local economic investment and jobs.

☒ **Goal 4**: **Balanced Growth**
Work together to create a community we can all be proud of.

☒ **Goal 5**: **Open and Responsible Government**
Deliver services in a friendly, efficient and effective manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Jelena Savic
Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

Laura Christen
Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Concurrence,

Sherri Walden
CAO

#6.2

PRC Advisory Committee – July 29, 2026

Manager of Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities

Notes & Highlights

Ice Update

- On June 18th Ice requests were sent to user groups, to be returned by July 3rd
- On July 13th ice allocations confirmations were returned to user groups.
- Users groups have until Sept. 8th to return ice without penalty.
- First ice for the 2026 – 2027 season is planned for September 9th.
- Ice User Group annual meeting is scheduled Tuesday Aug. 18th.

Annual Pool Maintenance Shutdown: September 8 to Sept 20, 2026

Trailhead and Park Signage Update: The updated trailhead and park signage installation project is underway. The new signs are consistent with the wayfinding signage throughout the community, and installation is expected to be completed within the next 30 to 45 days.

Splash Pad Warranty Claim- The splash pad activation sensor was malfunctioning and staff coordinated a warranty claim. The sensor was replaced under warranty on July 9th

Facility Event Worker Job Posting: We will be hiring 3-4 Facility Event Workers, and the job posting will be posted the week of July 27th. If you know of any students who would be a good fit for these positions, please encourage them to apply.

Coming Events:

- Saturday September 19th – Hanover Annual Harvest Market/ Heritage Square
- Saturdays running until October 10th – Eat Well Market / Heritage Square.
- Minor Baseball Tournament Aug. 28-30
- Coed Baseball Tournament Sept. 11-12
- Master Baseball Tournament Sept. 19th
- Music in the Square / Heritage Square:
    - Rick Fairburn & Emily Power: Aug. 9th
    - Lisa McEwem & Steve Wilkenson Aug 22nd

#6.3

PRC Advisory Committee- July 23rd 2026

Aquatics Notes & Highlights

July 2026

- Summer lessons are FULL
    - Added 4 extra classes for the month of July (lessons running twice a week for the month on Tuesday and Thursdays to meet the demand of waitlists)

- Increased fall swimming lessons by 12 classes by adding an extra 30 minutes (6 classes) on Monday and Thursdays

- Slowly getting schools scheduled for next spring as we work through the change in the Swim to Survive grant
- Offering schools more opportunities for Board of Ed lessons

- New Full Time Aquatic Coordinator hired (starting September 14th)
- Currently working on new changes from WSIB to first aid and how advanced courses are offered with these changes

#6.3

PRC Advisory Committee- July 29th, 2026

Programs Notes & Highlights

- **2026 Summer Camps continue**
  - Hanover Kids Camps (44-48 campers per week) SOLD OUT
  - Specialty Camps (15-65 campers per week)

- **Canada Day Success**
  - July 1st, 2026 | Hanover Town Park
  - $3700 received from Celebrate Canada Grant
  - Activities included:
    - 4 Inflatables
    - Balloon Twisting
    - Temporary Tattoos
    - Touch-a-Truck | Hanover Fire
    - Games with Hanover Kids Camp staff
    - Live entertainment
    - O'Canada | Grey Bruce Singers
    - Rotary BBQ
    - Food Trucks (Kettle Corn & Funnel Cakes)
    - Rockin Boots | Dance Flash Mob
    - Children's activity from Library
    - Open House | The Deck | Cookie Decorating

- **Arena Board Renewals**
  - Renewals are beginning for the 2026/2027 ice season

- **SALC | Seniors Active Living Centre Grant**
  - $50,300.00 in funding supporting senior programming
    - Age-Friendly Connections Monthly E-newsletter
    - New Skate Aids
    - Monthly Luncheons May, June, September – December
    - Fitness Classes (Gentle Fitness & Pound Fitness Jan 2026-Dec 2026)
    - Carpet Bowling
    - Senior Games
    - part time Older Adult Programs Assistant position approved

- **Canada Summer Jobs Grant**
  - $7392.00 to support 3 – 8 week - student positions
    - 1 parks student
    - 2 public works students

#7.1

Hanover

Capital 5 Yr Budget Forecast Summary

Capital Projects

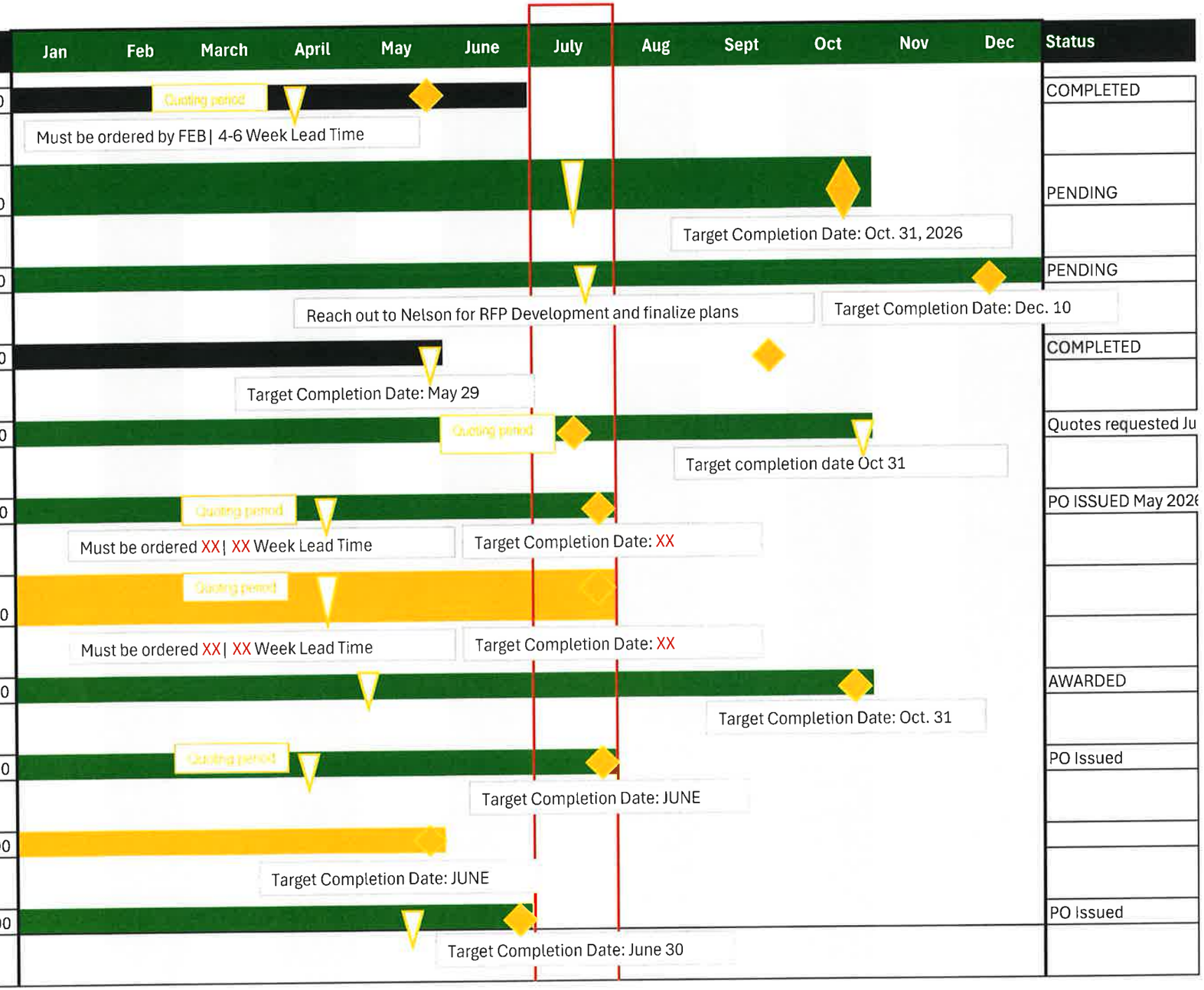
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	GRAND
Parks, Recreation & Culture							
7100C006 Hardball Diamond Refurbishment			250,000				250,000
7100C010 Main Tractor Replacement & Loader				120,000			120,000
7100C012 Trails System East Loop Development (24th Ave/14th St)	159,500						159,500
7100C013 Heritage Square - Security Cameras		25,000					25,000
7100C014 Kinsmen Ball Park Pavillion	80,000	870,000					950,000
7100C015 RailLands - Fencing & Field Upgrades	10,000						10,000
7100C025 Centre of Excellence Park		605,000			736,800		1,341,800
7100C029 Downtown Washroom		95,000					95,000
7100C030 Parking Lot Paving Commerative Grove/ Wilken Park			50,000				50,000
7100C031 Ball Diamond LED Lighting		375,000		245,000			620,000
7100C032 UTV		20,000					20,000
7100C033 Zero Turn Mower Replacement	25,000						25,000
7100C034 Compact Tractor		35,000					35,000
7100C035 Triplex Mower Replacement			32,000				32,000
7100C036 Soccer Pavillion		600,000					600,000
7100C037 The Deck Facility Basement Remediation Project		43,000					43,000
7210C002 Chemical Feed Systems		20,000					20,000
7210C008 Circulation Pump (Main Pool Pump)					50,000		50,000
7300C001 Program Equipment Replacement & Upgrade		10,000					10,000
7410C004 Boom Lift		50,000					50,000
7410C007 P & H Centre Generator Upgrade		27,000	315,000				342,000
7410C011 P&H Centre Barrier Free Bottle Filling Stations		15,000					15,000
7410C013 P&H Centre Refrigeration Plant Equipment	65,000	7,000	110,000	85,000	150,000	50,000	467,000
7410C014 P&H Centre Roof Replacement	320,000						320,000
7410C015 P&H Centre North Fence Replacement		12,000					12,000
7410C016 P&H Centre Digital Sign	25,000						25,000
7410C018 20" Floor Scrubber Replacement		20,000					20,000
7410C019 Concession Equipment Fryer			18,000				18,000
140 7th Ave Parking Lot Expansion		42,000					
Changeroom Lockers			50,000				
Total Parks, Recreation & Culture	684,500	2,829,000	775,000	450,000	936,800	50,000	5,725,300

Legend: Blue font- added to 2027 | Red Font Propose deferring to future year

#7.1

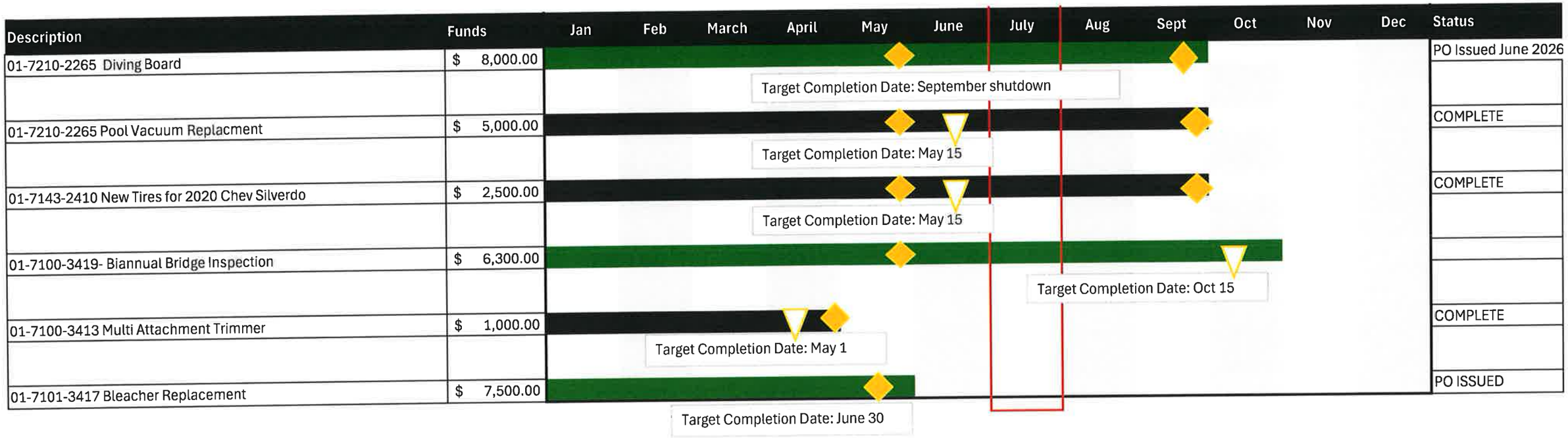
Capital Project Planning Timeline 2026

Description	Funds	Status
7100C033 Zero Turn Mower replacement - Ferris	$ 25,000.00	COMPLETED
All attempts must be made to obtain at least three (3) bids		
7100C012 Trails System East Loop (24th -14th St)	$ 24,000.00	PENDING
	80,000 to $24,000.	
7100C014 Kinsmen Ball Park Pavillion Professional Fees	$ 80,000.00	PENDING
7100C015 Raillands Fence	$ 30,000.00	COMPLETED
Deferred from 2025- awarded to Built wright fencing- deposit paid		
7410C016 P&H Centre Digital Sign	$ 25,000.00	Quotes requested Ju
All attempts must be made to obtain at least three (3) bids		
7410C013 P&H Centre Refrigeration Plant Equipment | Brine Pump #1	$ 40,000.00	PO ISSUED May 202
2025 Project		
7410C013 P&H Centre Refrigeration Plant Equipment |Cimco Control $55,000 System & Underfloor Pump $20,000	$ 65,000.00	
7410C014 P&H Centre Roof Replacement	$ 320,000.00	AWARDED
01-7415-2226- Grease Trap Repair	$ 10,000.00	PO Issued
01-7100-3419 Pinewood Parkette problem tree removal	$ 6,000.00	
01-7414-3420 Commercial Bottle Fill Station	$ 8,000.00	PO Issued



#7.1

Description	Funds	Status
01-7210-2265 Diving Board	$ 8,000.00	PO Issued June 2026
01-7210-2265 Pool Vacuum Replacment	$ 5,000.00	COMPLETE
01-7143-2410 New Tires for 2020 Chev Silverdo	$ 2,500.00	COMPLETE
01-7100-3419- Biannual Bridge Inspection	$ 6,300.00	
01-7100-3413 Multi Attachment Trimmer	$ 1,000.00	COMPLETE
01-7101-3417 Bleacher Replacement	$ 7,500.00	PO ISSUED



Civic Centre

		STATUS:
01-1300-3400 Saugeen Room Area - Ceiling Tile Replacement -	7,425	Implementing with Office renovation approved at July 13th Council Meeting
01-1300-3400 Admin. Office - Ceiling Tile Replacement	15,100	Implementing with Office renovation approved at July 13th Council Meeting
01-1300-3400 Reinstallation of 38 sprinkler heads in admin office	6,024	Implementing with Office renovation approved at July 13th Council Meeting
01-1300-3400 Fancoil Maintenance and Replacement Yearly Requiren	9500	Implementing with Office renovation approved at July 13th Council Meeting
01-1360-3410 Exterior Site Repairs (Water Tower location when remov	5500	after water tower is removed
01-5300-0881 - optomotrist- lower level painting $12,000 revnue not e	12,000	Fall project