

POLICY MANUAL



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Capital Grant – Playground Upgrading and Development	October 1, 2008	C08-163

HISTORY:

Starland County has been working with our insurer Jubilee Insurance Agencies to evaluate playground equipment at County owned facilities and playground equipment of not-for-profit agencies that are insured as an additional named insured (ANI) on the County policy.

Most of the playground equipment in Starland County required some upgrading to meet current insurance requirements. In some cases, removal of more dangerous equipment was recommended by Jubilee Insurance agencies. Starland County has seen increased usage of the County's park facilities at Michichi and the Starland Recreation area. McLaren Dam has declined in registered campers in recent years, but the camping at that facility is tied to success in fishing.

The Hamlets within the County have also seen an increase in the number of younger children. Rumsey and Craigmyle are communities where school bussing numbers have increased in the last 5 years.

In response to the issue of the quality of playground equipment, Council has determined a need to provide some funding to the not-for-profit sector that will allow them to specifically upgrade playground equipment, especially equipment that addresses safety and insurance issues. The County also has a need to spend funds on upgrading playground equipment on municipally owned property. To address these deficiencies, Council will annually budget \$80,000 that is designated to address playground equipment replacement and upgrading. The funds will initially be directed to the not-for-profit agencies who demonstrate the commitment to apply for other matching grant funding to upgrade or develop new playgrounds. When applications from not-for-profit agencies decline, or when playground inspections indicate the equipment generally meets insurance standards, the funds will be directed to upgrading County owned facilities.

CONDITIONS FOR PLAYGROUND CAPITAL GRANTS:

1. The application for the playground capital grant program must be submitted by a not-for-profit group that is seeking the funding assistance. Proof of registration status is required with the application.
2. The application must include a budget for the current year, the latest financial statement available for the organization, a statement on the amount of grant being applied for, as well as contact information for the applying group.
3. The request for applications is normally advertised in three consecutive newspaper editions in the month of February. A copy of the request is also submitted to each organization that received operational grant funding in the previous year. In 2008, the first year of the program, the request will be advertised in October along with grants for other Operational grants provided by the County.



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4. Some community groups like church organizations or private facilities are not eligible for funding assistance.
5. Late applications will not be accepted.

GRANT ALLOCATION CONDITIONS:

1. A grant approved by Council will be paid by the County to the applying organization.
2. The grant must be used to assist with the payment of purchasing or installing playground equipment and related expenses like site preparation or the purchase of base materials. Final approval of any grant application is subject to the approval of the Council of Starland County.
3. Review of the financial information presented should indicate a need for the funding assistance provided.
4. The maximum single grant that can be authorized for any one playground is \$30,000.00.
5. Organizations will be encouraged to apply for matching funds from a Provincial Government grant program. Starland County will provide information on grants that might be available, and will provide a letter of support for any not-for-profit that applies for the funding.
6. If organizations are planning the development of a major playground, they can apply to Council for funding in subsequent years.
7. Approved funding must be within the budget allocation for Operational Grants.

OTHER FUNDING POLICIES:

1. Cheques will be issued by Starland County to the Organization that applied for the funding.
2. A statement of funding allocation must be submitted to Starland County upon completion of the playground project. If the not-for-profit agency fails to submit a summary of expenditure, the agency will not be eligible to receive other Starland County operational grants. The summary of expenditures must include copies of invoices for eligible expenditures.
3. Any unspent funds in the current year will be used by Starland County to upgrade playground equipment on County owned properties.
4. The current program will operate from 2008 – 2012 (5 year period), and will be reviewed by Council at the end of the implementation period.

POLICY AMENDMENTS:

October 01, 2008 (C08-163) – Policy Adoption