

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025**

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**SUBJECT**     **Implementation Projects: Adaptation in Action Grant Program – Coles Bay Regional Park Shoreline Restoration Project**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To seek approval to proceed with a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)—Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation grant application for the Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project within Coles Bay Regional Park.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2025, staff identified the Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project as a divisional priority due to significant erosion concerns at the park shoreline. These concerns impact ecological and cultural values, site safety, access and accessibility, climate resilience, and alignment with local First Nations interests.

The Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) grant may fund up to 80% of eligible project costs. The application deadline is October 9, 2025. Staff have received support for the submission from the Capital Regional District's (CRD) grant program and all prerequisites have been met.

In accordance with CRD Bylaw No. 4186, any grant application exceeding \$500,000 requires a resolution from the CRD Board.

**Project Overview and Costing:**

The project aims to restore 45 metres of eroded shoreline at Coles Bay Regional Park, using a nature-based, engineered design which was slated in two phases:

- Phase 1: Preliminary investigations and conceptual design to be completed by mid-October 2025.
- Phase 2: Detailed design, construction, planting, and maintenance plan to begin in fall 2025 and complete in fall 2027 to 2028 (pending permits).

The Regional Parks 2025 Capital Plan allocated \$350,000 for this project, funded through capital reserves. Phase 1 expenditures totaled \$62,000, leaving \$288,000 for Phase 2. Updated consultant estimates place the cost of Phase 2 at approximately \$1 million, creating a significant funding gap. To address this shortfall and enable the project to proceed, staff recommend applying to the LCCA grant program.

Table 1 summarizes the proposed funding strategy.

Table 1

<b>Phase 2 – Proposed Funding Strategy</b>		Notes
LLCA Grant	\$800,000	
CRD Available Funds (2025 Capital Plan)	\$200,000	Current allocated budget has an additional \$88k available, providing a modest contingency
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$1,000,000	

The Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project complements a nearby shoreline protection initiative led by the BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation, which will restore 220 metres of shoreline along reserve lands located approximately 90 metres south of the regional park. The Nation secured funding for this work through the Province of British Columbia's Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding Program and has provided a letter of support for the CRD's grant application.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

1. That the CRD Board direct staff to submit an application for \$800,000 in Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation grant funding for Phase 2 of the Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project; and
2. That staff be directed to accept the grant funds, oversee grant management and reporting requirements.

### *Alternative 2*

That staff be instructed not to proceed with the grant application for the Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

The CRD Board Priorities 2023-2026 include initiative 3c to "increase resilience, community and adaptation planning to address climate-related risks and disasters." In addition, the CRD Corporate Plan 2023-2026 initiative 7f-1 provides direction for Regional Parks to "work with First Nations to develop and implement priority initiatives related to regional parks and regional trails."

### *Climate Implications*

Sea level rise and coastal flooding have been identified as medium-level risks in the Corporate Climate Change Risk Assessment and long-term vulnerabilities in the CRD Climate Action Strategy. Restoring the shoreline at Coles Bay Regional Park using nature-based design principles will increase climate adaptability.

### *Environmental Implications*

Erosion along the shoreline of Coles Bay Regional Park has led to the loss of land and vegetation, including culturally important species. Without intervention, mature trees will become more vulnerable to storms and infrastructure, and accessibility may be further compromised. This

project aligns with the Green Shores program, run by the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia, promoting nature-based solutions for shoreline management. It aims to improve shoreline resilience, habitat, water quality and community benefits through stewardship and sustainable practices.

#### *Financial Implications*

Phase 2 is estimated at \$1 million, with \$288,000 available from approved capital funds. If approved, staff will submit the grant application to cover 80% of the project (\$800,000). If unsuccessful, staff will pursue alternative funding, including the Disaster Resilience & Innovation Fund through the Province of British Columbia and explore cost-saving opportunities through partnerships. The project will not proceed unless alternative funding is secured to bridge the current funding shortfall.

#### *First Nations Implications*

The BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation initiated this project to support traditional shellfish harvest in Coles Bay. The Nation is undertaking a similar restoration on adjacent reserve lands. Pauquachin and CRD staff have collaborated on design and planning, including a data-sharing agreement and conceptual design incorporating Green Shores principles. The Nation has provided a letter of support for this grant application.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities—Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation grant presents an opportunity for a joint application from CRD's Regional Parks Division and Climate Action Program. The grant will fund up to 80% of Phase 2 of the Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project, estimated at \$1 million. The remaining \$288,000 will be covered by capital reserve funds. If the grant is not awarded, staff will pursue other funding options to complete the project.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the CRD Board direct staff to submit an application for \$800,000 in Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation grant funding for Phase 2 of the Coles Bay Shoreline Restoration Project; and
2. That staff be directed to accept the grant funds, oversee grant management and reporting requirements.

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