

Town of Qualicum Beach: Funding Requests Declined, Cut or Delayed

Council decisions, January 2025 to September 9, 2026. Prepared September 19, 2026. Superscript numbers refer to the sources listed at the end.

Summary

Since January 2025, Council has turned down, reduced or postponed 14 requests for money or support from community groups, the School District and councillors, and pushed back more than 25 of its own parks, arts, seniors and accessibility projects worth at least \$1.6 million. Where a request had both a dollar amount and a final decision, groups asked for **\$747,854** and received **\$87,000**.

Over the same period, Council committed **\$8.5 million** to buy Eaglecrest Golf Course, **\$6.5 million of it from existing reserves and surplus**, and budgeted a further \$6.17 million for upgrades and related costs. That purchase is the single largest reason Town projects were delayed: its funding plan took \$2 million set aside for Saahtlam Park, pickleball courts and bus garage planning, \$400,000 from the fund community requests draw on, and pushed every scheduled strategic initiative back one year. The Town intends to repay the cost from Eaglecrest land sales.^{22,23}

Community requests	Asked	Received	Not funded	Town projects deferred	Amount
Declined (4)	\$543,354	\$0	\$543,354	Eaglecrest funding plan, Jul 2025	\$615,000
Cut or partly funded (6)	\$204,500	\$87,000	\$117,500	2026-2030 Financial Plan, Dec 2025	\$1,003,100
Total with an ask and a decision	\$747,854	\$87,000	\$660,854	Total with a stated amount	\$1,618,100

Not in the totals: \$625,000 in requests still delayed or undecided (pickleball, Hamilton Marsh, cenotaph).

Requests declined

Requester	Asked	Times at Council	Outcome and vote	Reason given
QB Memorial Golf Club: irrigation replacement ^{2,3,5}	\$398,000 (\$848,000 cost less \$450,000 club reserve)	2	Not funded Dec 17, 2025 (unanimous).	Lease makes the club responsible; water reserve too short to lend.
Qualicum School District: fee waiver, 75-space childcare centre ⁶⁻⁹	\$144,554 in fees already paid (the letter named no amount)	2	Postponed Jul 31, 2026; referred to 2027 on Sep 9. Staff had offered up to \$50,913 for playground and equipment.	Staff recommended declining: provincial law bars waiving the charges; no budget for regional charges; policy prohibits grants-in-aid.
QB Collective and Oceanside FC: Town as grant applicant, World Cup event ^{10,11}	No Town money (\$50,000 provincial grant)	1	Defeated 2-3, Jan 21, 2026 (opposed Westbrook, Skipsey, Vander Valk).	Short lead time, reporting load, staff at capacity.
Lawn Bowling Club: Victoria Day tournament ¹²	\$800	1	Denied 5-0, Apr 22, 2026.	Private members' event, not open to the public.
Subtotal: declined	\$543,354		\$0 received	

Requests cut or partly funded

Requester	Asked	Received	Times at Council	Outcome and reason
St. Stephen's United Church: payment for public use of its parking lot ^{1-4,8,38,39}	\$20,000 (2026): \$20,000/yr, no end date	\$10,000 (once)	5	One-time \$10,000 grant Dec 10, 2025; staff said it replaced the request, which was closed Dec 17. Town already gives a tax exemption and maintains the lot under a \$1/yr licence.
The Old School House arts centre ^{1,3,4,15-17,22,39}	\$104,000: \$29,000 interim 2025, plus \$75,000 for 2026 (fee-for-service asked at \$75,000/yr, ongoing)	\$50,000 (2026)	7	One-time funding for two part-time staff, paid Feb 2026; fee-for-service referred to 2027. Staff cited budget pressures and existing in-kind support (\$1 lease, insurance, maintenance, \$40,000 washrooms in 2025).

Requester	Asked	Received	Times at Council	Outcome and reason
Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Society: Leigh House rent ^{1,3,4,16,18}	About \$24,000 (2026): rent at \$1/yr instead of ~\$24,000/yr, no end date	\$24,000 for 2026 (2 years budgeted)	4	Two-year agreement tied to Reconciliation and climate deliverables; none paid by Jun 30, 2026. Staff noted the rent is non-tax revenue and a facilities review is due.
Lawn Bowling Club: roof and solar ^{2,3,5,16,18}	\$51,500 (\$31,500 roof, \$20,000 solar)	\$0 so far	4	Roof assessment ordered; club to seek solar grants. Lease makes club responsible; 2021 assessment dates roof to 2031.
Farmers Market: Christmas Night Market 2026 ¹²⁻¹⁴	\$2,500	\$2,000	2	Cut 4-1 (Young opposed) after questions about projected costs.
QB Collective: Community Movement campaign ^{12,13,40,41}	\$2,500	\$1,000	2	Cut 4-1 (Young opposed). Staff said ParticipACTION sponsored it; the Collective disputed this.
Subtotal: cut or partly funded	\$204,500	\$87,000		\$117,500 not funded

Requests delayed or on hold

Item	Amount	Status
Kwalikum Secondary multi-purpose court (School District) ^{2,3,5,19}	No amount requested; Town set \$50,000	Funded for 2027, not sooner. Staff: not a municipal responsibility; reserve fully allocated 2026-27.
Pickleball courts (QB Pickleball Club) ^{2,3,5,12,22,42}	\$85,000 Town share (club proposed 50/50); Council offered \$125,000 each in Apr 2026	On hold until the club shows a funding plan. The 2026 budget went to Eaglecrest in July 2025 and was restored in December.
Hamilton Marsh matching donations (Cllr Harrison motion) ^{20,43}	Up to \$500,000 (\$100,000/yr for 5 years)	Deferred Nov 20, 2025 to budget; never brought back. The RDN completed the purchase in Apr 2026.
Legion cenotaph ^{2,3,8,14,21}	\$40,000 (Town budget; the Legion named no amount)	Rescinded Sep 9, 2026 because the Legion postponed its project to 2027. Not a Council rejection.
Subtotal: stated amounts	\$625,000	Plus \$50,000 set aside for the KSS court in 2027

Town parks, arts and community projects pushed back

The Eaglecrest plan carried 4-1 (moved by Skipsey, seconded by Young; Harrison opposed). Where that money went is set out in the next section.^{22,23}

Project	Amount	Moved
A. Eaglecrest funding plan, July 23, 2025^{22,23}		
Saahtlam Park amenity improvements; pickleball courts; bus garage planning	Not stated	2026 funding reallocated
Parks: park inventory plan (\$100,000); Community Park needs assessment (\$50,000); smoking ban in parks (\$45,000); Urban Forest Master Plan update (\$40,000)	\$235,000	One year each (2026-2030)
Accessibility: two accessibility plans (\$50,000 each); foreshore access planning (\$15,000)	\$115,000	2028 to 2029
Arts and identity: Visual Identity Refresh (\$20,000 + \$50,000 + \$50,000); land for performing arts centre / cinema (\$30,000)	\$150,000	One year each (2026-2029)
Seniors, youth, community: youth and family strategy (\$50,000); Seniors Activity Centre study (\$30,000); Food Action Plan (\$30,000); dementia-friendly community (\$5,000)	\$115,000	One year each (2026-2029)
Old Baptist Church heritage designation; Pride flag-raising	Not stated	To 2027 strategic planning
Subtotal: Eaglecrest funding plan	\$615,000	
B. 2026-2030 Financial Plan, December 17, 2025^{2,3}		
New Community Park facility (grant-dependent)	\$620,000	To 2028
Saahtlam Park playground and amenities	\$350,000	To 2028 (4-1, Westbroek opposed)
Community gardens	\$30,000	To 2028
Wayfinding signage phase 1	\$3,100	Dropped; back to 2027 planning
Subtotal: 2026-2030 Financial Plan	\$1,003,100	

Project	Amount	Moved
C. Other deferrals^{22,25}		
Public art incl. BC Hydro boxes (Jul 2025, 4-1, Harrison opposed); invasive species action plan (Jun 2026)	Not stated	To 2027 / fall 2026 strategic planning
Grand total, items with a stated amount	\$1,618,100	

Related: in January 2025 Council halved that year's contribution to the Strategic Initiatives Reserve, the fund most community requests draw from, from \$250,000 to \$125,000. It was restored for 2026.²⁴

Where the money went: Eaglecrest Golf Course

In July 2025 Council approved buying Eaglecrest Golf Course for **\$8.5 million** (moved by Skipsey, seconded by Young; carried 4-1, Harrison opposed). **\$6.5 million came from existing reserves and surplus**; the other \$2 million is to come from future land sales. Since then, a further **\$6.17 million** has been budgeted for due diligence, course and clubhouse rehabilitation, equipment, a contingency and servicing land for sale. Staff state the purchase and upgrades are intended to be entirely self-funded through sales of Eaglecrest land, with reserves acting as bridge financing until then.^{8,22,23,26}

Purchase funded from	Amount	Upgrades and related costs	Budget	Spent*
Community Growth Reserve (was set for Saahtlam Park, pickleball, bus garage, workplace)	\$2,000,000	Due diligence, legal, engineering (2025)	\$125,000	n/a
General Fund accumulated surplus	\$1,275,000	Land sales servicing (2025)	\$200,000	n/a
Qualicum Beach Land Reserve Fund	\$1,200,000	Course rehab, irrigation, reconfiguration	\$2,600,000	\$1,769,100
Open-space development cost charges	\$700,000	Clubhouse rehabilitation	\$600,000	\$517,600
Community amenity contributions	\$650,000	Maintenance equipment	\$900,000	\$631,000
Strategic Initiatives Reserve (fund for community requests)	\$400,000	Contingency	\$1,004,000	\$0
Park Land Reserve Fund	\$275,000	Subdivision servicing (2026)	\$625,000	\$53,600
Subtotal: existing reserves and surplus	\$6,500,000	Traffic study (on hold)	\$120,000	\$0
Future sale of Town-owned land	\$2,000,000	Subtotal: upgrades	\$6,174,000	\$2,971,300
Total purchase price	\$8,500,000	Total: purchase + upgrades	\$14,674,000	

*Spent to June 30, 2026, from the Town's Q1/Q2 2026 capital report. The 2025 and 2026 servicing lines may overlap. Excludes \$2.86 million for Eaglecrest Drive water and storm mains, which are utility infrastructure.^{8,17,27,28}

For comparison	Amount
Eaglecrest purchase and 2025-26 upgrades (budgeted)	\$14,674,000
Flexible money moved to the purchase (Community Growth Reserve, surplus, Strategic Initiatives Reserve)	\$3,675,000
Town parks, arts and community projects deferred	\$1,618,100
Community requests not funded (10 requests with an ask and a decision)	\$660,854

Reading these numbers fairly: about \$975,000 of the purchase money (open-space development charges and the Park Land Reserve) is generally restricted by law to park land and open space, so it could not have paid for grants or operating requests. The \$3.675 million in flexible money is what had been planned for other uses, including the \$400,000 from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve. Whether the reserves are replenished depends on Eaglecrest land sales; no land-sale revenue is reported in the documents reviewed. Eaglecrest was also cited directly as a reason for two community requests (pickleball funding and staff capacity for the Collective co-application) and for delaying the tree protection bylaw.

Reasons given, tallied

Counts cover the 14 community requests. Many requests were given more than one reason, so counts add to more than 14.

Reason given	Requests	Which requests
Budget pressure: reserves committed, fully allocated or too short	7	Old School House, KSS court, golf club, School District, lawn bowling solar, pickleball, Hamilton Marsh
Group's lease already makes it responsible	2	Golf club, lawn bowling roof
Town already supports the group in other ways	2	St. Stephen's, Old School House
Policy 3000-6 prohibits grants-in-aid / not a Town responsibility	2	School District, KSS court

Reason given	Requests	Which requests
Waiting on the applicant (funding plan or own postponement)	2	Pickleball, cenotaph
Eaglecrest purchase cited (money or staff time)	2	Pickleball, Collective co-application
Staff capacity	1	Collective co-application
Provincial law does not allow it	1	School District
Said to have another sponsor (the group disputed this)	1	Community Movement event
Paperwork outstanding from an earlier sponsorship	1	Community Movement event
Event not open to the public	1	Lawn bowling tournament
Questions about applicant's costs	1	Farmers Market
Loss of non-tax revenue	1	Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Society

For the Town's own projects, 20 of the 26 items listed trace to the Eaglecrest funding plan (plus the tree protection bylaw update, deferred for Eaglecrest workload), 4 to the December 2025 budget, and 2 to separate motions. Minutes record votes but rarely why individual councillors voted as they did; the debate is on the Town's YouTube channel.

Limitations

September 9, 2026 votes are not yet public. The Old School House fee-for-service was also discussed in a closed meeting (July 9, 2025). No follow-up was found for the Hamilton Marsh motion, the lawn bowling roof assessment, or Eaglecrest land-sale revenue. The Seaside Cruizers' requested amount is not in the minutes. Times at Council count only public Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. Where a group asked for a yearly amount with no end date, the first year (2026) is counted.

Corrections

September 19, 2026: a check of every request against the Town's documents. St. Stephen's asked for \$20,000 a year, not \$100,000, and received a one-time \$10,000 grant on December 10, 2025, so it moves from declined to cut. The Biosphere Society asked for \$1-a-year rent with no end date; the \$120,000 was a five-year calculation. The pickleball club proposed an \$85,000 Town share; \$125,000 was Council's own offer. The Legion and the School District named no amount, and the figures shown are now labelled as a Town budget and fees already paid. Staff's claim that ParticipACTION sponsored the Community Movement event was disputed by the group. Missing meetings and votes were added. Community requests not funded went from \$822,854 to \$660,854.³⁸⁻⁴³

September 18, 2026: an earlier version listed The Old School House request as \$504,000, using a staff scoping sheet that showed its fee-for-service rising from \$75,000 in 2026 to \$115,000 in 2030. TOSH's own proposal asked for "\$75,000 annually" with no end date, so the request now counts \$29,000 for 2025 and \$75,000 for 2026. Totals went down by \$400,000.⁴

How this was compiled

Minutes of 60 Council meetings (January 2025 to July 31, 2026) and 20 Committee of the Whole meetings, plus the staff reports and scoping sheets stating amounts requested, all from the Town's public document library. September 9, 2026 uses its agenda and Council Corner summary. Council: Mayor Teunis Westbroek; Councillors Scott Harrison, Anne Skipsey, Petronella Vander Valk and Jean Young. A companion spreadsheet has every item with dates, votes and links.

Sources

All documents are from the Town of Qualicum Beach document library (qualicumbeach.com/document-library). Titles are clickable links.

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| 1. Committee of the Whole minutes, Oct 24, 2025 | 16. Regular Council minutes, Jun 18, 2025 | 31. 2026-2030 Financial Plan (adopted Apr 1, 2026) |
| 2. Committee of the Whole minutes, Nov 12, 2025 | 17. Regular Council minutes, Feb 11, 2026 | 32. 2025 Audited Financial Statements |
| 3. Special Council minutes, Dec 17, 2025 | 18. Regular Council minutes, Apr 16, 2025 | 33. Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 921.01 (adopted Jul 15, 2026) |
| 4. Committee of the Whole agenda and scoping sheets, Oct 24, 2025 | 19. Regular Council minutes, Mar 12, 2025 | 34. Eaglecrest Project FAQ, Sep 14, 2026 |
| 5. Committee of the Whole agenda and scoping sheets, Nov 12, 2025 | 20. Regular Council minutes, Nov 20, 2025 | 35. Growing Communities Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 784 |
| 6. Special Council agenda, Jul 31, 2026 | 21. Regular Council minutes, Jul 15, 2026 | 36. News release: Qualicum Commons Lease Agreement Update, Apr 7, 2026 |
| 7. Special Council minutes, Jul 31, 2026 | 22. Special Council minutes, Jul 23, 2025 | 37. Media release: One-year Transition Period for Qualicum Commons, May 22, 2026 |
| 8. Regular Council agenda and staff reports, Sep 9, 2026 | 23. Special Council agenda and deferral lists, Jul 23, 2025 | 38. Regular Council minutes, Dec 10, 2025 |
| 9. Council Corner, Sep 9, 2026 | 24. Regular Council minutes, Jan 22, 2025 | 39. Special Council agenda and staff summary, Dec 17, 2025 |
| 10. Regular Council minutes, Jan 21, 2026 | 25. Regular Council minutes, Jun 24, 2026 | 40. Regular Council agenda and applications, Apr 22, 2026 |

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| 11. Late item, QB Collective co-applicant request, Jan 21, 2026 | 26. Regular Council minutes, Oct 22, 2025 | 41. Regular Council agenda, May 13, 2026 |
| 12. Regular Council minutes, Apr 22, 2026 | 27. Special Council minutes, Mar 16, 2026 | 42. Committee of the Whole (Parks and Recreation) minutes, May 27, 2026 |
| 13. Regular Council minutes, May 13, 2026 | 28. Special Council minutes, Jun 29, 2026 | 43. Regular Council agenda, Nov 20, 2025 |
| 14. Regular Council minutes, Sep 17, 2025 | 29. Regular Council minutes, Mar 4, 2026 | |
| 15. Regular Council minutes, May 14, 2025 | 30. Staff report: 2025-2029 Financial Plan Amendment, Oct 22, 2025 | |