



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Agenda

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Video Conference

Meetings may be viewed live on the City's Youtube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SaultSteMarieOntario>

As a courtesy meetings may be viewed live on the City's YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/saultstemarieca>

Pages

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge, with respect, that we are on Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that Minutes of Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of July 7, 2026 be approved.

4. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

5. **Adoption of Agenda**

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that the Agenda for Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting for October 13, 2026 as presented be approved.

6.	CDF Green Initiatives Fund 2026 Applications Review Q3	
6.1	Lotus House Energy Efficiency Project - \$10,309.97	3 - 26
	Mover _____	
	Seconded _____	
	Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the Lotus House Energy Efficiency Project and recommends that Council approve \$_____ in project funding.	
6.2	White Pines Green Industries Project- \$100,000	27 - 51
	Mover _____	
	Seconded _____	
	Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the White Pines Green Industries Project and recommends that Council approve \$_____ in project funding.	
7.	Staff Update	52 - 57
8.	Next Meeting	
	Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM – Regular Meeting – Hybrid (In-personal and virtual)	
9.	Adjournment	
	Mover _____	
	Seconded _____	
	Resolved that this Committee now adjourn.	

CDF – Green Initiatives Program Fund Terms of Reference

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Green Initiatives Program of the Community Development Fund (CDF) is to support green initiatives that result in improved environmental sustainability in Sault Ste. Marie.

2.0 Policy

The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) may recommend the allocation of funds for eligible projects or programs that support the City's environmental plans and practices, in particular the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other community environmental sustainability activities.

Funding applications will be reviewed by the ESC in accordance with the CDF – Green Initiatives Program Fund (GIPF) guidelines and will be recommended to Council for approval.

Total funds available for all projects under the CDF – Green Initiatives Program is \$50,000. This amount will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 "Sustainability" means a broad, interconnected understanding of environmental stewardship. It is not just about preserving resources for future generations but it is also about ensuring that all life forms continue to thrive in balance.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie (the City), whose municipality is in the heart of Turtle Island within the Robinson Huron/Superior Treaty Territory, unsundered lands of the Anishinaabeg peoples, known to them as Bawating - the place of the rapids. The City was historically a centre for trade and knowledge sharing, which the City acknowledges at the start of each of its public meetings. Anishinaabe perspectives are included in the CDF Green Initiatives Program Fund terms of reference. Anishinaabeg peoples emphasize that sustainability decisions must consider the importance of the interconnectedness of all life forms, which they refer to as "relatives", including but not limited to: minerals, weather, plants and trees, fungi, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians; and arthropods¹. This total view of seeing the environment can ensure that projects aiming towards sustainability consider that the health, survival, wellbeing of all life forms and the ways they are interconnected are taken care of and maintained for present and future generations.

All applicants are encouraged to consider the interconnectedness of ecosystem and the cyclical aspects of sustainability as part of their assessment of the environmental impacts of their proposed project(s). The well-being of all beings and the elements that affect them is essential for maintaining a balanced and sustainable ecosystem, with an understanding that the health of one affects the health of all.

3.2 "Eligible Applicant" means either a:

- i. Incorporated Not-for-profit organization
- ii. Unincorporated organization/collective – must be composed of at least 2 members and have been active as a group for at least 1 year

¹ <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/5520/>

- iii. Local School or School Group / Committee
- iv. City of Sault Ste. Marie Department

- “Eligible Project” means any project or activity that demonstrates environmental benefits or improvements and is consistent with City policies, and may include, but is not limited to greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, improving water quality / aquatic habitat rehabilitation, increases to energy efficiency, improving the health and resiliency of the overall ecosystems, including habitat restoration, active transportation or waste reduction.

3.3 “Long-term impact” refers to: the lasting effects of a project on the environment, communities, and the economy, which extends beyond immediate carbon reduction. The goal is to ensure that decisions made today foster sustainable, equitable futures, with consideration for both ecological health and community well-being over the long term (e.g. assessing the sustainability of materials used, ethical practices in supply chains, environmental and social consequences or benefits, resource extraction and/or production, and the ways local businesses (e.g. goods and/or services produced in Sault Ste. Marie) are supported wherever and whenever possible).

4.0 Processing for Evaluating Proposals

4.1 The Community Development and Enterprise Services Department (CD&ES) will provide the resources to support the intake of applications and support the proponent(s) in the development of their proposal.

4.2 City Finance and CD&ES will provide recommendations regarding economic resources available and related concerns (e.g., due diligence collaboration, risk management, etc.)

4.3 Once an application has been deemed eligible and completed by City staff, applications will be reviewed with the Environmental Sustainability Committee for recommendation to City council.

4.4. All requests will be presented to Council in writing with supporting presentations by the applicant, if required. A copy of the application will be included in the Council package, which is public. Any confidential material to support the application should be contained in a separate document and marked confidential.

4.5 City Council will make the final decision regarding the approval of financial contributions.

5.0 Recommendations of Awards

5.1 Funding amounts recommended for the award are at the discretion of the ESC. The committee may recommend funding the total amount requested or a portion of the amount requested, subject to the number/volume of other applications, the strength and alignment of the proposal with ESC terms of reference, and/or scoring and quality of the application.

6.0 Accountability, Monitoring and Reporting of Results

The following will be expected from the successful applicants:

6.1 Recognition of the Community Development Fund contribution to the project in reports and appropriate marketing products, including the City logo.

6.2 Progress reports for longer duration projects as outlined in their application timetable and proposal to City Council.

6.3 A final project report containing an evaluation of the success of the initiative in meeting its goals and key performance targets as well as the benefits to the community is required within 60 days of project completion.

6.4 A complete report of all revenues and disbursements for the project within 6 months of completion of the project. The City Finance Department will require supporting financial documentation (e.g. paid invoices, etc.) and has the right to review or audit projects.

The GIPF are provided on a reimbursement basis, i.e., an organization incurs the cost, provides invoices to the City in a claim report and the City's contribution level to the project is then provided. Where other levels of government or other funding programs are involved, the City will receive claim packages as submitted to the other funding agencies and pay their proportional share of approved and eligible project costs.

Community Development Fund Application Form

Green Initiatives Program Fund

Before filling out an application, please discuss your project and/or activity with Community Development and Enterprise Services (CD&ES) staff. Contact information is available in Section 7 of the application. Staff will help guide potential applicants through the process and answer any questions regarding the program and application form.

Please fill in each of the following sections:

Section 1: Intakes

Applications will be accepted quarterly every year and recommended for Council approval by the City's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) at their quarterly meetings. Please select the intake round you wish to apply for funds.

Intake	Submission Period	Application Due	ESC and Council Review	Project Implementation
☐ Q1	January 1 – March 31	Last Friday in March of each calendar year	April	After May 1
☐ Q2	April 1 – June 30	Last Friday in June of each calendar year	July	After August 1
☒ Q3	July 1 – September 30	Last Friday in September of each calendar year	October	After November 1
☐ Q4	October 1 – October 31	Last Friday in October of each calendar year	November	After December 1

Section 2: Applicant Information

Please select which type of organization you represent:

- ☒ Incorporated Not-for-profit organization
☐ Unincorporated organization/collective – must be composed of at least 2 members and have been active as a group for at least 1 year
☐ Local School or School Group / Committee
☐ City of Sault Ste. Marie (list Department): _____

Organization/Collection/School/School Group Name: Lotus House

Address: 235 Wellington Street West

Phone Number: 705-759-4663

Fax: _____

Contact Name: Genna Patterson

Email: executivedirector@lotushousesm.ca

Phone: 705-759-4663 ext. 2

Names of Organization Officers, Directors & Principals (if applicable): _____

Board of Directors: Antoinette Blunt, Connie Raynor-Elliot, Brent Lamming, Kristy Jones, Luis Moreno, Megha Trivedi

Briefly describe the function or purpose of your organization (e.g. include a short history, mandate, goals and objectives)

Information provided on a separate word document

Contributing partners (elaborate on the partner (name), type of partnership (e.g. joint venture, in-kind organization) or proposed collaboration, and provide references): _____

Information provided on a separate word document

Section 3: Project Information

Please provide key information about your project including: project description, objectives, performance targets, impacts and limitations of project, methodology and timing (including key dates for progress reports and final grant report)

Information provided on a separate word document

Outline your communication strategy for promoting the project you are seeking GIF for (e.g., press release, social media post, community event, etc.) and any plans to ensure that the project is brought to the attention of the community. Please also include the target audience of your project and anticipated impact (e.g., education, awareness, reduced emissions, water quality improvement).

Information provided on a separate word document

Section 4: Costs and Financing

Total amount of assistance requested \$ \$10,309.97

Please specify as accurately as possible how the Green Initiatives Fund will be used if approved. Requests for capital purchases or printed material must include a minimum of one quote from a firm/business to provide the service/material.

Information provided on a separate word document

If you are a City Department, please elaborate on how you plan to use this request to build a pathway into future operating and/or capital budgets. Please also tie this into the environmental sustainability section of the corporate strategic plan.

Not Applicable

Does your organization currently receive other financial assistance from the City, either in-kind or direct funding?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

Not Applicable

Have you received Green Initiative funding from the City previously?

☒ No

☐ Yes ☐ Amount (\$) _____

Project Title / Description: _____

What was the last year received: Not Applicable (specify year)

If yes, for the last year that the grant was received, append a copy of a Post-Project Report. Please note that applicants can apply more than once a year, providing their last project post-project report has been submitted to and approved by the City. Organizations that have previously received funding in previous years, may apply for additional grants in subsequent years, provided they have submitted a complete and satisfactory post-grant report for any previous funding received. However, to ensure broad and equitable community access to funding, priority will be given to first-time applicants and new organizations.

In cases where the total funding requested exceeds the available annual budget, funding will be allocated first to eligible new applicants and organizations that have not previously received support from this program. Returning applicants may receive funding only if sufficient resources remain after new applications have been considered.

For grants given to assist in capital purchases or printed material, please append an example and/or colour photo of the item(s).

Submit the following required attachments with your application:

- i) Detailed project costs
- ii) Financing arrangements (e.g., equity, loans, etc.) and funding partners
- iii) In-kind contributions

- iv) Balance, Financial Statements, Cash flow projections (historical and projected), where appropriate
- v) Demonstrated need for assistance and supporting documentation and applications to other government assistance programs, etc.

Section 5: Environmental Benefits

Description of how the project aims towards or achieves environmental sustainability.

Information provided on a separate word document

If your project looks to replace a piece of equipment (e.g. fluorescent lighting with LED), please explain how the old materials will be disposed of, ensuring that they are decommissioned properly or recycled, if applicable.

Information provided on a separate word document

If applicable, has your project considered local, regional, and/or Provincial supply chain, such as the materials used in their production and transportation. If so please explain the ways you have considered local supply chains in the materials of the goods or products you are seeking, and their impacts on sustainability.

Information provided on a separate word document

Section 6: Community Benefits

If applicable, does your project seek to support local businesses with the purchase of goods and/or services that you are applying for funding for?

Information provided on a separate word document

Does the project complement or connect to other local initiatives? If so, how?

Information provided on a separate word document

Community Development Fund

Green Initiatives Stream

What is the anticipated short, medium and/or long-term impact on the community as a whole from your planned project? Please refer to section 3.3 of the Terms of Reference.

Information provided on a separate word document

If applicable, how does your project plan to increase environmental sustainability education and awareness in our community?

Information provided on a separate word document

Section 7

I UNDERSTAND that by signing this application, I agree that my project:

- Has a distinct start and end date within the year that the grant is provided.
- Has specific deliverables based on the project.
- Will benefit the residents of Sault Ste. Marie.
- City of Sault Ste. Marie property held by the organization must have a current and up-to-date tax payments upon the City's receipt of application. Through the grant period, tax payments must be maintained and up-to-date. Organizations whose property taxes are in arrears will not be considered for this program. Organizations who default on their property taxes through the grant period will not receive any payment from the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and the grant agreement may be terminated immediately.

I CERTIFY that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in the Green Initiatives Program Fund application is accurate and complete and is endorsed by the organization society or City department, which I represent.

DATED in Sault Ste. Marie, this 28 day of September, 2026

NAME
Genna Patterson

Title
Executive Director

Signature
Genna Patterson

Phone Number
705-759-4663 ext. 2

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND RELATED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO:

Emily Cormier
Sustainability Coordinator, Community Development & Enterprise Services
99 Foster Drive, Level 1
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6
Telephone inquiries: (705) 989-8748
Email: e.cormier2@cityssm.on.ca

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Received By: _____ Date: _____

Collection of Personal Information Notice

Personal information of the Green Initiative Fund Application is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy ACT R.S.O. 1990 m.c.M.56 and will be used solely to determine applicable information necessary for application. Questions about this collection should be directed to the address noted in the Competition Outline.

Green Initiatives Fund (City of SSM)

Section 2: Applicant Information

Names of Organization Officers, Directors & Principals (if applicable):

Lotus House Board Chair: Antoinette Blunt

Lotus House Board Director: Connie Raynor Elliot, Brent Lamming, Kristi Jones, Luis Moreno, Megha Trivedi.

Briefly describe the function or purpose of your organization (e.g. include a short history, mandate, goals and objectives)

Lotus House is a 30-bed shelter with 8 additional transitional Bridge Units that provides emergency short-term housing for youth, women, and families who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Lotus House addresses homelessness for Youth (male ages 16-17, female ages 16-21), women, and families by providing temporary emergency shelter and necessities such as food, clothing, and hygiene products. With external support, we further assist clients in securing and maintaining permanent housing.

Our shelter has 30 emergency beds for women, youth, and families, as well as 8 short-term transitional units for women. Through emergency and short-term housing, referrals, and outreach services, Lotus House will assist clients in transitioning to become stable and active members of the community.

This is accomplished by:

- Supports based on the unique needs of the individual
- Non-judgmental approach to service delivery
- A coordinated approach to service delivery
- Liaison with community resources to provide continuing support and advocacy
- Public awareness of the causes of homelessness and those at risk.

Contributing partners (elaborate on the partner (name), type of partnership (e.g. joint venture, in-kind organization) or proposed collaboration, and provide references):

This project represents a collaborative partnership between Lotus House, Phoenix Rising and the DSSMSSAB. Lotus House and Phoenix Rising organizations contributing staff expertise, programming capacity, and operational resources to support residents of the Bridge Units in achieving long-term housing stability. The partnership functions as a joint initiative, with Lotus House and Phoenix Rising each providing one dedicated staff member to deliver coordinated, housing-focused supports. These in-kind contributions include staff time, program development, supervision, case management, and the use of program space to facilitate resident learning and engagement.

Through this collaboration, residents participate in structured life skills programming designed to increase self-sufficiency and support successful transitions to permanent housing. Programming includes meal planning, grocery shopping, budgeting, food safety, healthy meal preparation, and cooking skills that are essential for independent living. With the continued rise in the cost of living and increasing food prices, financial literacy and practical food preparation skills have become critical components of housing stability and long-term well-being.

The proposed investment in modern, energy-efficient kitchen appliances and equipment will strengthen the capacity of both organizations to deliver high-quality programming. Accessible appliances, including induction cooktops, multifunction ovens, blenders, and food processors, will provide residents with opportunities for hands-on learning in a safe, supervised, and inclusive environment. These resources will support participants with varying abilities while promoting confidence, independence, and healthier lifestyle choices.

This partnership leverages the strengths and resources of both organizations to maximize the impact of the funding investment. By combining staff expertise, shared programming, and existing infrastructure, the project extends benefits beyond Lotus House residents to include Bridge Unit tenants, increasing the number of individuals who can access life skills training. Expected measurable outcomes include increased resident participation in life skills programming, improved confidence and competency in meal preparation and household budgeting, enhanced readiness for independent living, and reduced barriers to maintaining permanent housing.

In addition, the project will generate operational efficiencies through lower energy and utility costs associated with ENERGY STAR® appliances, allowing The DSSMSSAB and Lotus House to redirect savings toward enhanced client services and future programming.

The DSSMSSAB is the service manager for the administration of homelessness-related services in Sault Ste Marie and under their umbrella, Sault Ste Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) own the building at 235 Wellington out of which Lotus House operates the shelter. DSSMSSAB supports building maintenance and operations and collaborates closely with Lotus House on grants to support the mission of providing emergency shelter to women, youth and families. This collaborative approach demonstrates a shared commitment to building community capacity, improving resident outcomes, and creating sustainable supports that contribute to long-term housing success.

Section 3: Project Information

Please provide key information about your project including project description, objectives, performance targets, impacts and limitations of project, methodology and timing (including key dates for progress reports and final grant report)

Project Description

Lotus House is seeking funding to replace aging kitchen appliances with high-efficiency ENERGY STAR® appliances and other energy-efficient kitchen equipment. As a 24-hour emergency shelter, Lotus House provides three nutritious meals and one snack daily to residents while also serving as a community cooling centre during the summer and warming centre during the winter. These additional community services increase kitchen usage and energy demand throughout the year.

The project will modernize the shelter's kitchen by purchasing energy-efficient appliances, including refrigerators, freezers, induction cooktops, convection or air fryer-equipped ranges, dishwashers, and other small kitchen appliances such as blenders and food processors. Where feasible, the project may also include indoor grow towers to support fresh food production and nutrition programming. By replacing outdated equipment with ENERGY STAR-certified models, Lotus House will reduce energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve operational efficiency, and reduce ongoing utility costs.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing outdated kitchen equipment with ENERGY STAR-certified, energy-efficient appliances.

- Improve the energy efficiency of Lotus House's kitchen operations, reducing electricity and water consumption.
- Lower monthly utility and operating costs, allowing more resources to be directed toward resident supports and programming.
- Improve the quality, reliability, and accessibility of kitchen equipment used to prepare nutritious meals for residents and community members accessing warming and cooling centre services.
- Increase opportunities for residents to participate in housing-focused life skills and independent living programs through hands-on cooking and food preparation using accessible and modern appliances.
- Support healthier eating using equipment that enables the preparation of fresh, nutritious meals and snacks.

Performance Targets

The project will achieve the following outcomes:

- Replace existing inefficient kitchen appliances with ENERGY STAR-certified models where applicable.
- Reduce electricity and water consumption associated with daily kitchen operations.
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions by 5-10% resulting from energy use within the facility.
- Reduce monthly utility expenses and long-term maintenance costs by 2-5%.
- Increase resident participation with a goal of 10 shelter guests participating monthly in cooking, nutrition, and life skills programming through access to modern, accessible kitchen equipment.
- Improve the shelter's capacity to safely and efficiently prepare meals for residents and members of the community accessing emergency warming and cooling services.

Project Impacts

This project will provide both environmental and social benefits. Environmentally, the installation of energy-efficient appliances will reduce energy consumption, conserve water, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with shelter operations.

ENERGY STAR appliances typically use significantly less energy and water than conventional models while providing improved performance and longer service life.

Socially, the project will enhance the quality of services available to residents by providing a safer, more accessible kitchen environment. Modern appliances such as induction cooktops and multifunction ovens will support supervised cooking activities that help residents develop practical life skills, increase confidence, and prepare for independent living. Improved kitchen equipment will also support healthier meal preparation and strengthen Lotus House's ability to meet the nutritional needs of both shelter residents and community members accessing emergency services.

The project will also benefit the District Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) by reducing ongoing operational costs and improving the long-term sustainability of shelter operations.

Project Limitations

Project success is dependent on securing sufficient funding to purchase and install the required equipment. Installation timelines may also be affected by product availability, procurement processes, or delivery schedules. While the project will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the overall reduction will depend on the number and type of appliances replaced and future patterns of facility use.

Methodology

Upon approval of funding, Lotus House will:

1. Confirm the list of appliances and equipment to be replaced.
2. Obtain quotations and procure ENERGY STAR-certified appliances that meet operational and accessibility needs.
3. Coordinate delivery, installation, and removal or recycling of existing equipment. Using Sault Ste. Marie locally based business.
4. Train staff and incorporate new appliances into resident life skills and nutrition programming.
5. Monitor utility consumption, operational savings, and resident participation to evaluate project outcomes.
6. Prepare progress updates and complete the final project report as required by the funding program.

Project Timing

Timeline Activity

Month 1: Funding approval, procurement planning, obtain accurate quotes

Months 2-3: Purchase and install kitchen appliances and equipment

Month 3: Begin operation of new equipment and resident programming

Months 4-12: Monitor energy savings, utility costs, and program outcomes

Mid-project (or as required by funder): Submit progress report

Project completion (or as required by funder):	Submit final grant report including outcomes, expenditures, and project impacts
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Outline your communication strategy for promoting the project you are seeking GIF for (e.g., press release, social media post, community event, etc.) and any plans to ensure that the project is brought to the attention of the community. Please also include the target audience of your project and anticipated impact (e.g., education, awareness, reduced emissions, water quality improvement).

Lotus House will implement a comprehensive communication strategy to promote the project, recognize the support of the Green Initiatives Fund (GIF), and increase community awareness of the environmental and social benefits of investing in sustainable infrastructure within community support organizations.

Upon receiving funding, Lotus House will issue a press release announcing the project, highlighting the partnership with Phoenix Rising, the purpose of the funding, and the anticipated environmental and community impacts. The project will also be promoted through Lotus House's and Phoenix Rising's social media platforms, websites, newsletters, and community outreach activities. Regular updates, including photographs of the installation process and completed kitchen upgrades, will demonstrate the project's progress and showcase how energy-efficient improvements are supporting both environmental sustainability and resident programming.

The organizations will also incorporate the project into community engagement opportunities, including tours, stakeholder meetings, volunteer appreciation events, and presentations to community partners. Appropriate recognition of the Green Initiatives Fund will be included on communication materials, digital platforms, and signage displayed within the facility, in accordance with funding program requirements.

The primary target audiences include Lotus House residents, Bridge Unit tenants, community members accessing the shelter's warming and cooling centre services, local service providers, community organizations, volunteers, donors, municipal representatives, and the public. Communications will also highlight the collaborative partnership between Lotus House and Phoenix Rising and demonstrate how strategic investments in community infrastructure can strengthen local housing supports while advancing environmental sustainability.

The anticipated impacts of the communication strategy are to increase public awareness of energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives within the social services sector, educate the community about the role that ENERGY STAR® appliances play in reducing energy and water consumption, and demonstrate how sustainable infrastructure investments can improve service delivery while reducing operating costs. Communications will also showcase how the upgraded kitchen will enhance life skills programming by providing residents with opportunities to develop budgeting, nutrition, and cooking skills that contribute to greater independence and long-term housing stability.

Overall, the communication strategy will emphasize that environmental sustainability and community well-being are closely connected. By sharing measurable project outcomes—such as reduced energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, operational cost savings, and increased resident participation in life skills programming—Lotus House aims to inspire community support for future sustainability initiatives while demonstrating the positive environmental and social impacts achieved through the Green Initiatives Fund.

Section 4: Costs and Financing

Total amount of assistance requested \$10,309.97

Please specify as accurately as possible how the Green Initiatives Fund will be used if approved. Requests for capital purchases or printed material must include a minimum of one quote from a firm/business to provide the service material.

Chef Supplies Canada: OMCAN-24” Commercial 1 PH Electric Range with 4 Burners and Standard Oven-49169 = \$2,799.99

Che Supplies Canada: OMCAN-17” Slim Glass Door Black Display Freezer with 105L Capacity = \$1,884.99

Chef Supplies Canada: OMCAN-30” Glass 1 swing door black merchandiser refrigerator-50123 = \$2,334.99

Canadian Tire: Master Chef Stainless Steel Cookware \$100x2 sets = \$200

Appliance Installation provided by a local electrician: \$3,000

GFL disposal cost = \$90

Total = \$10,309.97

Section 5: Environmental Benefits

Description of how the project aims towards or achieves environmental sustainability.

The proposed project supports environmental sustainability by improving the energy efficiency of Lotus House's kitchen through the replacement of aging appliances with ENERGY STAR® certified equipment. As a 24-hour emergency shelter that prepares three meals and two snacks daily for residents, while also operating as a community warming centre in the winter and cooling centre in the summer, Lotus House has high energy demands throughout the year. Investing in energy-efficient appliances will significantly reduce the facility's environmental footprint while improving the long-term sustainability of its operations.

ENERGY STAR-certified appliances are independently certified to meet stringent energy efficiency standards and typically use 10% to 50% less energy and water than conventional models, depending on the appliance type. By reducing electricity and water consumption, the project will directly lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the shelter's daily operations. Many of the proposed appliances also incorporate advanced technologies, including energy-saving sensors, automatic shut-off features, and optimized operating cycles that minimize energy waste without compromising performance. Current kitchen appliances are estimated to be 15 years old and do not have Energy Star certification.

In addition to reducing environmental impacts, the project will generate long-term operational savings through lower utility costs and reduced maintenance requirements. These savings can be reinvested into resident programming and support services, creating a sustainable operating model that balances environmental responsibility with community impact.

The project also promotes sustainable consumption by replacing outdated, less efficient equipment with durable, high-performance appliances designed for longer service life, reducing waste associated with frequent equipment replacement. By integrating these appliances into resident life skills programming, Lotus House will also educate participants about energy-efficient cooking practices and responsible household energy use, helping to extend the project's environmental benefits beyond the shelter and into the broader community.

Overall, this initiative demonstrates that environmental sustainability and social service delivery can work hand in hand. By reducing energy and water consumption, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing waste, and promoting energy-conscious behaviours, the project contributes to a more sustainable facility while strengthening Lotus House's capacity to provide essential services for years to come.

If your project looks to replace a piece of equipment (e.g. fluorescent lighting with LED), please explain how the old materials will be disposed of, ensuring that they are decommissioned properly or recycled, if applicable.

As part of this project, Lotus House will replace aging kitchen appliances with new ENERGY STAR® certified, energy-efficient equipment. All existing appliances that are removed from service will be decommissioned and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner in accordance with applicable provincial regulations and municipal waste management practices.

Lotus House will work collaboratively with GFL Environmental to ensure that all eligible appliances are properly collected, transported, and recycled whenever possible. GFL Environmental has the expertise and infrastructure to safely manage large household and commercial appliances by recovering recyclable materials such as steel, aluminum, copper, plastics, and electronic components. Where applicable, refrigerants and other regulated substances contained in appliances such as refrigerators and freezers will be safely removed and handled by qualified personnel to prevent the release of harmful substances into the environment.

Before disposal, Lotus House will assess whether any existing equipment remains functional and suitable for reuse within the organization or through an approved community partner. Equipment that has reached the end of its useful life will be directed to GFL Environmental for recycling or environmentally responsible disposal. This approach supports the principles of waste diversion and the circular economy by maximizing the recovery of valuable materials and minimizing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

By partnering with GFL Environmental, Lotus House will ensure the replacement process aligns with the environmental objectives of the Green Initiatives Fund by reducing landfill waste, promoting responsible resource recovery, and ensuring all obsolete equipment is managed safely and sustainably. This commitment complements the project's broader goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, and demonstrating environmental stewardship throughout every stage of the project lifecycle.

If applicable, has your project considered local, regional, and/or Provincial supply chain, such as the materials used in their production and transportation. If so please

explain the ways you have considered local supply chains in the materials of the goods or products you are seeking, and their impacts on sustainability.

Lotus House has carefully considered local, regional, and Canadian supply chains in the planning of this project to maximize both environmental and economic benefits. Wherever possible, Lotus House will prioritize purchasing ENERGY STAR® certified and energy-efficient kitchen appliances from local suppliers and businesses. Procuring equipment locally helps support the regional economy while reducing transportation distances, which in turn lowers greenhouse gas emissions associated with shipping and delivery.

If the required appliances or equipment are not available through local suppliers, Lotus House will seek Canadian distributors or manufacturers that can provide products meeting the project's energy efficiency and operational requirements. The current estimates for commercial appliances are from an Ontario-based provider which would minimize shipping costs. Prioritizing Canadian suppliers helps strengthen domestic supply chains, supports Canadian businesses and jobs, and reduces the environmental impacts associated with importing products over longer distances whenever feasible.

Section 6: Community Benefits

If applicable, does your project seek to support local businesses with the purchase of good and/or services that you are applying for funding for?

In addition to sourcing equipment responsibly, Lotus House is committed to utilizing local contractors and service providers for the delivery, installation, commissioning, and removal of existing kitchen appliances. Working with local businesses minimizes transportation emissions, supports the local economy, and ensures that installation and decommissioning services are completed efficiently and in accordance with applicable environmental regulations.

The organization will also work with local waste management and recycling partners, including GFL Environmental, to ensure that replaced appliances are properly decommissioned, recycled, or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Recovering recyclable materials and safely managing regulated components further supports the project's sustainability objectives by reducing waste sent to landfill and promoting responsible resource recovery.

By prioritizing local procurement, Canadian suppliers, and local installation and recycling services, Lotus House is integrating sustainability considerations throughout the entire lifecycle of the project—from purchasing and transportation to installation and end-of-life equipment management. This approach not only reduces the project's overall

environmental footprint but also supports local economic development, strengthens regional partnerships, and demonstrates responsible stewardship of public funding.

Does the project complement or connect other local initiatives? If so, how?

The replacement of Lotus House's outdated appliances with new ENERGY STAR®-certified, energy-efficient appliances directly supports the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Community Energy Efficiency Incentives, which promote cost-effective energy efficiency improvements that help businesses reduce greenhouse gas emissions while lowering operating costs. This initiative is also a core deliverable of the Sault Ste. Marie Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan 2020–2030. In addition, Lotus House has applied to the Save on Energy Performance Program, which provides financial incentives to businesses that improve overall building energy performance through sustained energy savings. By upgrading inefficient appliances, Lotus House will complement these local and regional energy-efficiency initiatives by reducing electricity consumption, improving facility-wide energy performance, lowering long-term operating costs, and contributing to the City's broader greenhouse gas reduction goals.

What is the anticipated short, medium and/or long-term impact on the community as a whole from your planned project? Please refer to section 3.3 of the Terms of Reference.

Lotus House's planned replacement of outdated, inefficient appliances with ENERGY STAR®-certified, energy-efficient appliances is expected to create positive short-, medium-, and long-term impacts for the Sault Ste. Marie community. In the short term, the project will reduce electricity consumption and utility costs at Lotus House while immediately lowering the facility's greenhouse gas emissions. These improvements will also demonstrate a practical and achievable approach to energy efficiency for local organizations and businesses.

In the medium term, the project will contribute to broader community energy-efficiency efforts by supporting the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan 2020–2030 and its goal of reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Lower energy consumption at Lotus House will contribute to the cumulative impact of local businesses and organizations adopting more efficient technologies. The savings generated through reduced utility costs can also help Lotus House direct more resources toward its ongoing operations and services within the community.

Over the long term, the project will provide sustained energy and greenhouse gas reductions throughout the useful life of the new appliances, while reducing the demand for energy and helping advance a culture of conservation and responsible resource use in

Sault Ste. Marie. By investing in energy-efficient equipment, Lotus House is not only improving the sustainability of its own operations but also contributing to the City's broader climate and energy objectives. The project will serve as an example of how local organizations can make practical investments that reduce emissions, lower operating costs, and collectively support a more energy-efficient and sustainable community.

If applicable, how does your project plan to increase environmental sustainability education and awareness in your community?

Lotus House's project will increase environmental sustainability education and awareness by using the replacement of outdated appliances as an opportunity to educate staff, placement students, volunteers, and residents about the environmental and financial benefits of energy efficiency. Staff and volunteers will be provided with information on the energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances, as well as practical strategies for reducing electricity consumption in their daily activities. Placement students will also be encouraged to incorporate energy conservation practices into their work and interactions with residents, helping to reinforce these messages throughout the facility.

Residents will be an important focus of the project's education and awareness activities. They will learn how energy-efficient appliances can reduce electricity consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and help decrease household utility costs. Education will include practical, easy-to-apply energy-saving tips such as turning appliances off when not in use, using appropriate settings, avoiding unnecessary energy consumption, and choosing energy-efficient appliances when purchasing or replacing household equipment.

This education will have a lasting impact beyond the duration of the project. As residents transition from Lotus House to independent living, they will take with them practical knowledge about energy conservation and the financial benefits of making energy-efficient choices. This will help residents make more informed decisions when purchasing appliances, managing household energy use, and paying their own utility bills. By building energy literacy among residents, staff, placement students, and volunteers, Lotus House will help promote sustainable habits that extend into the broader community and support Sault Ste. Marie's long-term greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability goals.



Environmental Sustainability Committee
City of Sault Ste. Marie
99 Foster Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6

August 26, 2026

Dear Committee Members:

The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposal submitted by Genna Patterson, on behalf of Lotus House, to the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Green Initiatives Fund.

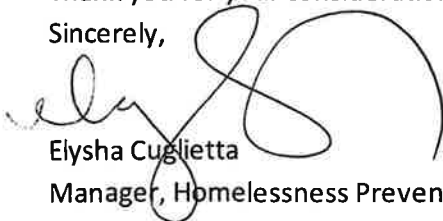
We welcome the Green Initiatives Fund's support for local non-profit organizations advancing environmental sustainability. This proposal reflects the collaborative work of Lotus House and Phoenix Rising to provide life skills programming for women, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. Lotus House operates 30 emergency shelter beds for women and youth, while Phoenix Rising supports eight short-term transitional units for women within the building at 235 Wellington St West, owned by DSSMSSAB and the Sault Ste Marie Housing Corporation. The proposed ENERGY STAR® kitchen appliances and equipment will strengthen life skills programming capacity while reducing energy consumption and utility costs.

DSSMSSAB recognizes the importance of investments that strengthen essential community services while advancing a more sustainable future for Sault Ste. Marie. By reducing operating costs and improving energy efficiency, this project will help Lotus House continue delivering safe, practical, and supportive programming for people experiencing homelessness.

We fully support Lotus House's participation in the citywide Green Initiatives Fund and their dedication to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elysha Cuglietta
Manager, Homelessness Prevention

CC' Genna Patterson, Executive Director, Lotus House

August 26th, 2026

City of Sault Ste. Marie

Green Initiative Fund Grant Program

Re: Letter of Support for the Green Initiative Fund Grant Application – Lotus House

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of **Phoenix Rising Women's Centre**, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Lotus House's application to the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Green Initiative Fund. Phoenix Rising is proud to be a collaborative partner in this project and strongly supports the proposed investment in modern, energy-efficient kitchen appliances and equipment to enhance life skills programming for residents of the Bridge Units.

This project represents a meaningful partnership between Lotus House and Phoenix Rising, with both organizations contributing staff expertise, programming capacity, and operational resources to support individuals in achieving long-term housing stability. As part of this joint initiative, each organization will provide a dedicated staff member to deliver coordinated, housing-focused supports. These in-kind contributions include staff time, program development, supervision, case management, and the use of program space to facilitate resident learning and engagement.

Through this partnership, residents will have access to structured life skills programming that promotes self-sufficiency and supports successful transitions to permanent housing. Programming will focus on practical skills such as meal planning, grocery shopping, budgeting, food safety, healthy meal preparation, and cooking. These skills are increasingly important as residents navigate rising food costs and the broader financial pressures associated with maintaining stable housing.

The proposed purchase of energy-efficient kitchen equipment will significantly strengthen our collective ability to provide accessible, hands-on programming. Equipment such as induction cooktops, multifunction ovens, blenders, and food processors will create a safe and supervised environment where residents can develop practical skills and confidence. Accessible, modern equipment will also allow participants with varying abilities to engage more fully in programming while encouraging healthier and more sustainable lifestyle choices.

Phoenix Rising recognizes the value of investing in energy-efficient equipment not only from an environmental perspective, but also as a means of creating long-term operational savings. ENERGY STAR® appliances can help reduce energy and utility costs, allowing both

organizations to direct available resources toward client services, programming, and other supports that contribute to housing stability.

Most importantly, this partnership will extend the impact of the project beyond a single organization or group of residents. By combining the expertise, staff resources, programming, and infrastructure of Lotus House and Phoenix Rising, the project will increase access to life skills training for Bridge Unit tenants and maximize the benefits of the City's investment.

We anticipate measurable outcomes including increased participation in life skills programming, improved confidence and competency in meal preparation and household budgeting, greater readiness for independent living, and reduced barriers to maintaining permanent housing. These outcomes align closely with our shared commitment to strengthening community capacity and creating sustainable supports that improve quality of life and contribute to long-term housing success.

Phoenix Rising Women's Centre is pleased to support this application and looks forward to continuing our partnership with Lotus House to deliver meaningful, practical, and sustainable programming for women and families in our community.

Thank you for considering this important investment. We believe this project is an excellent example of how community organizations can work together to achieve environmental, social, and economic benefits while supporting residents in building the skills and confidence necessary for long-term independence.

Sincerely,

Kristine Lalonde

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Lalonde".

Executive Director

Phoenix Rising Women's Centre

October 5, 2026

Subject: White Pines Trail Network – Phased Funding Approach and Continued Partnership

Dear Ms. Cormier and Members of the Environmental Sustainability Committee,

On behalf of White Pines Collegiate & Vocational School, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the City of Sault Ste. Marie's consideration of our White Pines Trail Network project. We are grateful for the opportunity to present this vision and for any level of financial support that may be available through the Community Development Fund Green Initiatives Program.

We recognize that funding requests often exceed available resources, and we want to emphasize that White Pines is fully prepared to implement the project in phases. While our long-term vision includes the development of the Connector Trail, Race Course, and Pump Track, we are open to advancing individual components as funding becomes available through various grants, community partnerships, and sponsorship opportunities. The Connector Trail, in particular, could serve as an important first phase and establish the foundation for future expansion.

The school is actively pursuing additional funding sources and in-kind support from local and regional partners. Outreach is underway to mining companies, construction firms, landscape contractors, community organizations, and other grant programs to help secure materials, expertise, and financial contributions that will move the project forward. We are committed to leveraging every available opportunity to reduce costs and maximize the impact of all funding received.

This project has been driven first and foremost by student voice. Over the past several years, White Pines students have consistently expressed a desire for expanded outdoor recreation opportunities that reflect their interests in mountain biking, trail riding, cross-country racing, and Nordic skiing. Students have identified the need for safe, accessible trail connections and purpose-built spaces that support both recreational participation and athletic development. Their passion for outdoor activity, environmental stewardship, and healthy living has been the catalyst for this vision, inspiring the school to work alongside community partners to create a trail network that responds directly to student interests while providing benefits for the broader community. We have connected with community partners including the Velorution, ABC Bicycles, Stokley, Cycling Club and Holocene Trail Builders to bring this vision to life. The Connector Trail project represents a meaningful example of student engagement translating into action, creating opportunities for leadership, recreation, and community connection that extend well beyond the school grounds.

The White Pines Trail Network represents much more than a recreation project. It is an investment in student well-being, environmental stewardship, active transportation, and community connection. The trails will provide year-round opportunities for students, families, and residents of the east end while strengthening connections with our valued partners in [Garden River First Nation](#) and [Batchewana First Nation](#). The project will create accessible outdoor learning and recreation spaces that encourage healthy lifestyles, cultural learning, and environmental awareness for generations to come.

We are grateful for any contribution the City of Sault Ste. Marie and associated funds may be able to provide toward this initiative. Regardless of the funding amount awarded, White Pines remains committed to working collaboratively with the City and community partners to advance this project and create a lasting asset that benefits students, community members, and visitors to Sault Ste. Marie.

Thank you again for your consideration and support. We look forward to continuing our partnership and discussing opportunities to move this exciting project forward at the spring submission from your suggestion.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barbeau

Principal

White Pines C.&V.S.

White Pines Intermediate

1007 Trunk Road | Sault Ste. Marie, ON | P6A 5K9

Phone: 705.945.7181

Fax: 705.945.0726

Website: <https://whitepinescvcs.adsb.on.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wpcvs/>

Instagram: @wpcvs

CDF – Green Initiatives Program Fund Terms of Reference

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Green Initiatives Program of the Community Development Fund (CDF) is to support green initiatives that result in improved environmental sustainability in Sault Ste. Marie.

2.0 Policy

The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) may recommend the allocation of funds for eligible projects or programs that support the City's environmental plans and practices, in particular the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other community environmental sustainability activities.

Funding applications will be reviewed by the ESC in accordance with the CDF – Green Initiatives Program Fund (GIPF) guidelines and will be recommended to Council for approval.

Total funds available for all projects under the CDF – Green Initiatives Program is \$50,000. This amount will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 "Sustainability" means a broad, interconnected understanding of environmental stewardship. It is not just about preserving resources for future generations but it is also about ensuring that all life forms continue to thrive in balance.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie (the City), whose municipality is in the heart of Turtle Island within the Robinson Huron/Superior Treaty Territory, unsundered lands of the Anishinaabeg peoples, known to them as Bawating - the place of the rapids. The City was historically a centre for trade and knowledge sharing, which the City acknowledges at the start of each of its public meetings. Anishinaabe perspectives are included in the CDF Green Initiatives Program Fund terms of reference. Anishinaabeg peoples emphasize that sustainability decisions must consider the importance of the interconnectedness of all life forms, which they refer to as "relatives", including but not limited to: minerals, weather, plants and trees, fungi, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians; and arthropods¹. This total view of seeing the environment can ensure that projects aiming towards sustainability consider that the health, survival, wellbeing of all life forms and the ways they are interconnected are taken care of and maintained for present and future generations.

All applicants are encouraged to consider the interconnectedness of ecosystem and the cyclical aspects of sustainability as part of their assessment of the environmental impacts of their proposed project(s). The well-being of all beings and the elements that affect them is essential for maintaining a balanced and sustainable ecosystem, with an understanding that the health of one affects the health of all.

3.2 "Eligible Applicant" means either a:

- i. Incorporated Not-for-profit organization
- ii. Unincorporated organization/collective – must be composed of at least 2 members and have been active as a group for at least 1 year
- iii. Local School or School Group / Committee
- iv. City of Sault Ste. Marie Department

¹ <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/5520/>

- “Eligible Project” means any project or activity that demonstrates environmental benefits or improvements and is consistent with City policies, and may include, but is not limited to greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, improving water quality / aquatic habitat rehabilitation, increases to energy efficiency, improving the health and resiliency of the overall ecosystems, including habitat restoration, active transportation or waste reduction.

3.3 “Long-term impact” refers to: the lasting effects of a project on the environment, communities, and the economy, which extends beyond immediate carbon reduction. The goal is to ensure that decisions made today foster sustainable, equitable futures, with consideration for both ecological health and community well-being over the long term (e.g. assessing the sustainability of materials used, ethical practices in supply chains, environmental and social consequences or benefits, resource extraction and/or production, and the ways local businesses (e.g. goods and/or services produced in Sault Ste. Marie) are supported wherever and whenever possible).

4.0 Processing for Evaluating Proposals

4.1 The Community Development and Enterprise Services Department (CD&ES) will provide the resources to support the intake of applications and support the proponent(s) in the development of their proposal.

4.2 City Finance and CD&ES will provide recommendations regarding economic resources available and related concerns (e.g., due diligence collaboration, risk management, etc.)

4.3 Once an application has been deemed eligible and completed by City staff, applications will be reviewed with the Environmental Sustainability Committee for recommendation to City council.

4.4. All requests will be presented to Council in writing with supporting presentations by the applicant, if required. A copy of the application will be included in the Council package, which is public. Any confidential material to support the application should be contained in a separate document and marked confidential.

4.5 City Council will make the final decision regarding the approval of financial contributions.

5.0 Recommendations of Awards

5.1 Funding amounts recommended for the award are at the discretion of the ESC. The committee may recommend funding the total amount requested or a portion of the amount requested, subject to the number/volume of other applications, the strength and alignment of the proposal with ESC terms of reference, and/or scoring and quality of the application.

6.0 Accountability, Monitoring and Reporting of Results

The following will be expected from the successful applicants:

6.1 Recognition of the Community Development Fund contribution to the project in reports and appropriate marketing products, including the City logo.

6.2 Progress reports for longer duration projects as outlined in their application timetable and proposal to City Council.

6.3 A final project report containing an evaluation of the success of the initiative in meeting its goals and key performance targets as well as the benefits to the community is required within 60 days of project completion.

6.4 A complete report of all revenues and disbursements for the project within 6 months of completion of the project. The City Finance Department will require supporting financial documentation (e.g. paid invoices, etc.) and has the right to review or audit projects.

The GIPF are provided on a reimbursement basis, i.e., an organization incurs the cost, provides invoices to the City in a claim report and the City's contribution level to the project is then provided. Where other levels of government or other funding programs are involved, the City will receive claim packages as submitted to the other funding agencies and pay their proportional share of approved and eligible project costs.

Community Development Fund Application Form

Green Initiatives Program Fund

Before filling out an application, please discuss your project and/or activity with Community Development and Enterprise Services (CD&ES) staff. Contact information is available in Section 7 of the application. Staff will help guide potential applicants through the process and answer any questions regarding the program and application form.

Please fill in each of the following sections:

Section 1: Intakes

Applications will be accepted quarterly every year and recommended for Council approval by the City's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) at their quarterly meetings. Please select the intake round you wish to apply for funds.

Intake	Submission Period	Application Due	ESC and Council Review	Project Implementation
☐ Q1	January 1 – March 31	Last Friday in March of each calendar year	April	After May 1
☐ Q2	April 1 – June 30	Last Friday in June of each calendar year	July	After August 1
☒ Q3	July 1 – September 30	Last Friday in September of each calendar year	October	After November 1
☐ Q4	October 1 – October 31	Last Friday in October of each calendar year	November	After December 1

Section 2: Applicant Information

Please select which type of organization you represent:

- ☐ Incorporated Not-for-profit organization
- ☐ Unincorporated organization/collective – must be composed of at least 2 members and have been active as a group for at least 1 year
- ☒ Local School or School Group / Committee
- ☐ City of Sault Ste. Marie (list Department): _____

Organization/Collection/School/School Group Name: White Pines C&VS

Address: 1007 Trunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5K9

Phone: 705-945-7181

Contact: Jennifer Barbeau, Principal

Names of Organization Officers, Directors & Principals:

Jennifer Barbeau – Principal

Tara Constable & Travis Parniak – Vice Principal

Cherie Pine – Indigenous Grad Coach

Kerri Braidon – Head of Student Services

Cole Barban, Evan McLean, Nancy Neave, Tom D'Ulisse, Chris Figures – Outdoor Learning & Mountain Bike Teachers.

Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, Pinewood Public School, east end community members – all access school campus grounds and would continue to access the school campus ground with trails, green space, pump track, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, walking etc. enhancing their experience and connecting to the reservations surrounding our school.

Briefly describe the function or purpose of your organization (e.g. include a short history, mandate, goals and objectives)

White Pines Collegiate and Vocational School (White Pines) opened in 1973 at the east-end of Sault Ste. Marie. For the 20226-27 school year we have approximately 850 students enrolled in White Pines grades 7 through 12. This has been a steady increase the since 2023 hovering around 540 students in the past.

White Pines offers programming at both the intermediate (grades 7 & 8) and secondary level (grades 9-12). This model has been designed to give students a gradual, supervised transition into secondary school within a high school setting. The grade 7 or 8 classes provide a range of diverse and engaging learning opportunities, partial rotary timetable, athletics and extra-curricular clubs, programs, and experiences both inside and outside the classroom, providing a seamless transition for students entering grade 9.

White Pines boasts a rich tradition of excellence in various fields, owing to our dedicated staff who diligently support students throughout their multifaceted learning journey. Our team comprises passionate professionals committed to continuous growth, reflected in the numerous Specialized High Skills Majors (SHSMs) available at our school. Students can choose from diverse options such as Information Communication Technology, Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, Environment, and Arts and Culture. Additionally, we proudly offer the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, which continues to expand annually, ensuring a tailored educational experience for every student. Our comprehensive programming not only nurtures academic prowess but also promotes emotional, intellectual, and social well-being as students progress through their high school years.

White Pines offers the following sports programs: Badminton, Basketball, Cross-Country Running, Cross-Country Skiing, Curling, Football, Soccer, Track and Field, Volleyball, Mountain Biking, and Wrestling. The school also offers fitness programs at lunch and after school in their workout room supported by trained teachers.

White Pines is continually evolving, with ongoing renovations and the establishment of the ADSB Technology Centre. This state-of-the-art facility provides innovative opportunities, equipping students with cutting-edge technologies. These resources prepare them for future careers in engineering, computer programming, coding, communication design, graphic arts, and various skilled trades. We are dedicated to fostering a dynamic learning environment that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

White Pines serves a geographic area encompasses communities including Sault Ste. Marie, Echo Bay and Batchewana, Rankin and Garden River First Nations.

White Pines shares the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) mission of confident learners, caring citizens. The vision for the school and board is: In partnership with our stakeholders, create a collaborative learning community where all flourish as confident learners who see themselves as capable, self-directed and open to learning and as caring citizens who value good character and contribute positively to our communities.

White Pines and ADSB value lifelong learning, empathy, ethical relationships, equity and inclusion and accountability. Through our strategic priorities of achievement, well-being and engagement, as well as character education, our students develop a sense of respect and responsibility for themselves and others while becoming caring citizens who respect diversity, contribute to society and who actively engage in making their schools and communities safe, healthy and caring places.

Our first goal at White Pines is to fill a void in the east end for community and our students. We see this as a “community need.” The east end of Sault Ste. Marie serves a diverse population that includes Indigenous youth, newcomer families, students facing socio-economic challenges, and youth with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Many families experience barriers to participation in organized sport, including:

- Program fees
- Transportation costs
- Lack of accessible outdoor infrastructure
- Limited opportunities for year-round recreation

At the same time, youth mental health concerns continue to increase, highlighting the need for accessible outdoor spaces that promote wellness, connection, and resilience. The White Pines Trail Network addresses these challenges by creating a no-cost, community-based recreation hub that is accessible throughout all four seasons.

The White Pines Trail Network will include:

Multi-Use Trail Development

- Mountain biking trails
- Cross-country ski routes
- Snowshoeing trails
- Walking and running paths
- Connections to existing municipal trail systems
- Other ideas from our community partners or suggestions from the City of Sault Ste. Marie

Accessible Recreation Features

- Adaptive trail design
- Inclusive wayfinding signage
- Rest areas and gathering spaces
- Universal access considerations

Indigenous Cultural Integration

- Ojibwe trail names
- Indigenous artwork and interpretive signage
- Elder and Knowledge Keeper consultation
- Land-based learning opportunities

Youth Leadership Opportunities

Students from LEAD, DARE and Field School, Outdoor Education, Land-Based Learning, Green Industries and SHSM programs will participate in trail building, environmental stewardship, community volunteer initiatives and outdoor leadership development.

Our second goal is to build the talent and community development pipeline for Sault Ste. Marie.

The White Pines Trail Network is more than a recreation infrastructure project, it is an investment in the future workforce, leadership capacity, and long-term prosperity of Sault Ste. Marie. By creating opportunities for students to engage in outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, sport development, tourism promotion, digital media, marketing, entrepreneurship, and community leadership, the project establishes a pipeline that supports the City's broader investments in education, economic growth, and community development.

Through White Pines' specialized programs in Film and Media Arts, Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Technology, Environmental Studies, Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM), and Outdoor Education, students will gain real-world experiences that prepare them for post-secondary education and careers within the region. These opportunities directly complement the City's ongoing investments in institutions such as Algoma University and Sault College, helping develop the next generation of skilled workers, entrepreneurs, educators, environmental leaders, recreation professionals, and community builders.

The project creates meaningful pathways for students to remain connected to Sault Ste. Marie by exposing them to local opportunities in tourism, recreation, event management, environmental sustainability, digital media, skilled trades, and community development. Students who participate in designing, promoting, maintaining, and programming the trail network can continue their education at Algoma University or Sault College and contribute their knowledge and expertise back to the community. This strengthens the local talent pipeline and supports the City's goals of attracting, developing, and retaining residents.

By investing in the White Pines Trail Network, the City is investing in a project that not only creates a lasting recreation asset but also strengthens the educational-to-employment pipeline, supports local post-secondary institutions, promotes community leadership, and develops the human capital necessary to enhance and sustain Sault Ste. Marie's future growth and success. This project represents an investment in both place and people ensuring that today's students become tomorrow's leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and advocates for Sault Ste. Marie.

Contributing partners (elaborate on the partner (name), type of partnership (e.g. joint venture, in-kind organization) or proposed collaboration, and provide references):

Current and developing partners include:

- Garden River First Nation
- Batchewana First Nation
- Indigenous Friendship Centre
- Sault Ste. Marie Bike Club
- Sault Ste. Marie Nordic Ski Club
- Holocene Trail Company
- Grocer 4 Good
- Algoma University / SKG
- Algoma District School Board
- SalDan Construction
- Avery Construction
- Outreach to: Mining Companies, local landscape companies, other construction businesses
- City of Sault Ste. Marie (we hope)

These partnerships ensure the project reflects community priorities while maximizing long-term sustainability.

Section 3: Project Information

Please provide key information about your project including: project description, objectives, performance targets, impacts and limitations of project, methodology and timing (including key dates for progress reports and final grant report)

Community Connector: The White Pines Trail Network *One Trail. Four Seasons. Endless Ways to Move.* **Project Summary**

White Pines Collegiate & Vocational School is seeking \$100,000 through the City of Sault Ste. Marie Community Development Fund to develop the White Pines Trail Network, an accessible, four-season outdoor recreation and active transportation corridor connecting Pinewood Public School, White Pines C&VS, the City's Hub Trail, and surrounding schools and neighbourhoods.

The project will provide safe and equitable access to recreation opportunities including mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, walking, running, and adaptive outdoor activities. Designed in partnership with Indigenous communities, local recreation organizations, and community agencies, the trail network will serve approximately 900 youth annually while creating lasting community infrastructure available to residents of all ages.

The project directly supports the City of Sault Ste. Marie's priorities related to Social Equity and Environmental Sustainability by:

- Removing financial barriers to recreation through free public access.
- Improving physical and mental health outcomes for youth and families.
- Increasing inclusion for Indigenous youth and individuals with disabilities.
- Encouraging active transportation and environmental stewardship.
- Supporting Indigenous cultural revitalization through Ojibwe trail naming and land-based learning.
- Creating accessible greenspace in an underserved area of the city.

Expected Outcomes:

Social Equity Outcomes

- 900+ youth served annually
- Increased participation in recreation among Indigenous youth
- Increased participation among youth with disabilities
- Reduced financial barriers to physical activity
- Improved mental health and social connectedness

Environmental Sustainability Outcomes

- Protection and enhancement of natural green space
- Increased environmental stewardship education
- Promotion of active transportation
- Reduced dependence on motorized transportation for recreation
- Increased public awareness of local ecosystems

Community Impact

The White Pines Trail Network will become a permanent community asset that: encourages year-round physical activity; strengthens connections between community, schools and neighbourhoods; creates opportunities for cultural learning and reconciliation; supports youth leadership development; enhances quality of life for residents; and contributes to a healthier, more connected Sault Ste. Marie

Outline your communication strategy for promoting the project you are seeking GIF for (e.g., press release, social media post, community event, etc.) and any plans to ensure that the project is brought to the attention of the community. Please also include the target audience of your project and anticipated impact (e.g., education, awareness, reduced emissions, water quality improvement).

A unique strength of the White Pines Trail Network is White Pines C&VS's ability to leverage its existing Film & Media Arts, Business, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Social Media, and Technology programs to support the promotion of both the project and the City of Sault Ste. Marie. Through authentic, hands-on learning opportunities, students will become ambassadors for their community while developing valuable career-ready skills.

Students enrolled in Film and Media Arts courses can produce professional-quality videos, photography, documentaries, and promotional campaigns showcasing the White Pines Trail Network, local recreation opportunities, Indigenous cultural partnerships, and the natural beauty of Sault Ste. Marie. Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Social Media students can develop targeted marketing strategies, manage digital campaigns, create visitor guides, and promote community events hosted on the White Pines grounds. These student-led initiatives provide authentic experiential learning while generating high-quality promotional content for the City and its partners. Through press releases, social media posts, and community events we will ensure the project is brought to light and the benefits to students and community members of Sault Ste. Marie are highlighted.

This approach directly supports several municipal strategic priorities:

Corporate Strategic Plan: The project develops youth leadership, fosters innovation, strengthens community partnerships, and demonstrates effective use of local assets. Students gain real-world experience while contributing to community development initiatives that improve quality of life for residents.

FutureSSM Community Development Strategy

Student-created content promotes all four FutureSSM pillars by:

- Highlighting recreation and wellness opportunities (**Social Equity**).
- Showcasing Indigenous partnerships and local community stories (**Cultural Vitality**).
- Encouraging active transportation and environmental stewardship (**Environmental Sustainability**).
- Promoting tourism, events, and local business opportunities (**Economic Growth and Diversity**).

Community Culture Plan: Through storytelling, digital media production, Indigenous content creation, and community engagement projects, students become active contributors to the cultural life of Sault Ste. Marie. The trail network itself becomes an outdoor cultural space where recreation, heritage, learning, and community connection intersect.

Tourism Development Strategy: As White Pines hosts future events such as high school mountain bike races, OFSAA Nordic Ski Championships, trail running competitions, and community festivals, students can create promotional materials that attract visitors from across Ontario. Student-produced videos, social media content, and event coverage will help showcase Sault Ste. Marie as a premier destination for outdoor recreation and sport tourism.

Economic Development Strategy: The project helps prepare future employees and entrepreneurs by providing experiential learning opportunities in marketing, communications, business development, event management, and digital media. Students gain practical skills while helping attract visitors, support local businesses, and promote economic activity generated through recreation, tourism, and community events.

Strategic Value to the City: The White Pines Trail Network is more than a recreation project. It is a community development initiative that creates a powerful partnership between education, tourism, economic development, culture, and recreation. Few projects can simultaneously create new community infrastructure, improve health and wellness outcomes, support Indigenous reconciliation, attract visitors, develop future leaders, and generate ongoing promotional content for the City at little additional cost.

By investing in the White Pines Trail Network, the City of Sault Ste. Marie invests not only in trails and recreation infrastructure, but also in a living learning laboratory where students actively contribute to the promotion, growth, and future prosperity of Sault Ste. Marie through their creativity, innovation, and community engagement. It is a great public relations opportunity for the City and brings the voice of our youth to the forefront.

Section 4: Costs and Financing

Total amount of assistance requested \$ 100,000

Please specify as accurately as possible how the Green Initiatives Fund will be used if approved. Requests for capital purchases or printed material must include a minimum of one quote from a firm/business to provide the service/material.

Proposed Budget (\$100,000)

Item	Cost
Trail design and engineering	\$15,000
Trail construction and grading	\$40,000
Pump track development	\$20,000
Accessibility features and signage	\$10,000
Indigenous cultural signage and interpretation	\$5,000
Equipment and volunteer support	\$5,000
Project management and evaluation	\$5,000
Total	\$100,000

Please see quotes attached.

If you are a City Department, please elaborate on how you plan to use this request to build a pathway into future operating and/or capital budgets. Please also tie this into the environmental sustainability section of the corporate strategic plan.

N/A

Does your organization currently receive other financial assistance from the City, either in-kind or direct funding?

- ☐ Yes
☐ **No**

**If _____ yes,
please specify: N/A**

Have you received Green Initiative funding from the City previously?

☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ Amount (\$) _____

Project Title / Description: N/A

What was the last year received: _____ (specify year)

If yes, for the last year that the grant was received, append a copy of a Post-Project Report. Please note that applicants can apply more than once a year, providing their last project postproject report has been submitted to and approved by the City. Organizations that have previously received funding in previous years, may apply for additional grants in subsequent years, provided they have submitted a complete and satisfactory post-grant report for any previous funding received. However, to ensure broad and equitable community access to funding, priority will be given to first-time applicants and new organizations.

In cases where the total funding requested exceeds the available annual budget, funding will be allocated first to eligible new applicants and organizations that have not previously received support from this program. Returning applicants may receive funding only if sufficient resources remain after new applications have been considered.

For grants given to assist in capital purchases or printed material, please append an example and/or colour photo of the item(s).

Submit the following required attachments with your application:

- i) Detailed project costs
- ii) Financing arrangements (e.g., equity, loans, etc.) and funding partners
- iii) In-kind contributions
- iv) Balance, Financial Statements, Cash flow projections (historical and projected), where appropriate
- v) Demonstrated need for assistance and supporting documentation and applications to other government assistance programs, etc. ****Please see attached school budget**

Section 5: Environmental Benefits

Description of how the project aims towards or achieves environmental sustainability.

The White Pines Trail Network is designed to create a long-term, environmentally sustainable community asset that supports active transportation, environmental stewardship, habitat protection, outdoor education, and community well-being. The project directly aligns with the objectives of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Green Initiatives Program, which identifies eligible projects as those that improve environmental sustainability through greenhouse gas reduction, ecosystem health, habitat restoration, active transportation, and environmental education.

The project will transform underutilized green space on the White Pines C&VS property into a four-season network of multi-use trails that encourage walking, running, cycling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. By providing free, accessible recreation opportunities connected to schools, neighbourhoods, and future municipal trail systems, the project promotes active transportation and reduces reliance on motorized transportation for short-distance travel and recreation. This supports the City's environmental sustainability goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while encouraging healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

Environmental stewardship is a central component of the project. Trail design and construction will prioritize the protection of existing natural features, minimize disturbance to sensitive areas, improve public access to natural spaces, and encourage responsible land use. Native vegetation enhancement, tree planting opportunities, erosion control measures, and ongoing habitat management practices will contribute to increased biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. The project recognizes the interconnectedness of all living things and reflects the sustainability principles outlined in the Green Initiatives Program Terms of Reference, including Indigenous perspectives on caring for the land for future generations.

The White Pines Trail Network will also serve as an outdoor learning laboratory for students enrolled in Outdoor Education, Environmental Studies, Green Industries, Land-Based Learning, LEAD, DARE, and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs. Students will participate in trail development, environmental monitoring, habitat restoration activities, Indigenous land-based learning experiences, and community stewardship initiatives. These experiences will strengthen environmental literacy, increase awareness of local ecosystems, and develop future environmental leaders within Sault Ste. Marie. The project supports the mission of the Algoma District School Board to develop confident learners and caring citizens through authentic learning experiences focused on achievement, well-being, and community engagement.

The project further supports the City of Sault Ste. Marie Corporate Strategic Plan by enhancing quality of life through four-season recreation opportunities, strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities, investing in sustainable community infrastructure, and creating inclusive spaces that support community health and wellness. It also advances the environmental sustainability pillar of the FutureSSM Community Development Strategy by protecting green spaces, encouraging low-carbon transportation options, promoting environmental awareness, and fostering long-term community resilience.

Through its combination of active transportation, ecosystem stewardship, environmental education, Indigenous partnerships, and long-term community use, the White Pines Trail Network will create lasting environmental benefits for students, families, and residents while helping build a healthier, greener, and more sustainable Sault Ste. Marie for future generations.

If your project looks to replace a piece of equipment (e.g. fluorescent lighting with LED), please explain how the old materials will be disposed of, ensuring that they are decommissioned properly or recycled, if applicable.

N/A

If applicable, has your project considered local, regional, and/or Provincial supply chain, such as the materials used in their production and transportation. If so please explain the ways you have considered local supply chains in the materials of the goods or products you are seeking, and their impacts on sustainability.

The White Pines Trail Network has been intentionally designed with a strong commitment to supporting local and regional supply chains wherever possible. Consistent with the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Green Initiatives Program objective of promoting long-term environmental sustainability and community benefit, the project will prioritize sourcing materials, equipment, expertise, and services from local and Northern Ontario businesses to reduce transportation emissions, strengthen the regional economy, and support sustainable development practices.

Trail planning and construction will utilize local contractors, suppliers, and tradespeople whenever feasible, including partnerships with organizations such as Holocene Trail Company, local construction firms such as SalDan and Avery, landscaping companies, aggregate suppliers, forestry professionals, and Indigenous-owned businesses identified through the project's community partnerships. Materials such as aggregates, soil, stone, lumber, signage components, and accessibility features will be sourced locally or regionally whenever available, reducing the environmental impacts associated with long-distance transportation and supporting businesses within the Algoma region.

The project has also considered the full lifecycle of materials used throughout development. Preference will be given to durable, low-maintenance, and environmentally responsible products that minimize future replacement requirements and reduce long-term resource consumption. Where possible, natural materials and existing site resources will be incorporated into trail construction and habitat enhancement activities to limit waste and disturbance to the surrounding environment. Sustainable landscaping practices, native species plantings, erosion-control measures, and habitat protection strategies will further contribute to the long-term ecological health of the site.

Indigenous cultural signage and interpretive elements will be developed in consultation with local Indigenous partners, including representatives from Garden River First Nation and Batchewana First Nation, creating opportunities to support local artists, knowledge keepers, educators, and cultural organizations while ensuring culturally meaningful and sustainable project outcomes. Our sign project will be led by students at White Pines and part of our Indigenous Youth Council in consultation with knowledge keepers and elders in our community.

In addition to reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions during construction, the completed trail network will continue to generate environmental benefits by encouraging walking, cycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other forms of active transportation and outdoor recreation. By connecting schools, neighbourhoods, and existing community infrastructure, the project supports the environmental sustainability goals identified by the City of Sault Ste. Marie Corporate Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and the FutureSSM framework through investments in sustainable infrastructure, environmental stewardship, healthy communities, and reduced dependence on motorized transportation.

Overall, the White Pines Trail Network seeks to maximize local economic benefits while minimizing environmental impacts by selecting local suppliers, reducing transportation distances, supporting Indigenous and regional businesses, utilizing sustainable materials, and creating a long-term community asset that promotes environmental responsibility, active living, and stewardship of natural spaces for future generations.

If applicable, does your project seek to support local businesses with the purchase of goods and/or services that you are applying for funding for?

Yes! The White Pines Trail Network is committed to supporting local and regional businesses whenever possible throughout the planning, construction, implementation, and ongoing development of the project. The project will prioritize sourcing goods, services, materials, equipment, and professional expertise from businesses located in Sault Ste. Marie, the Algoma District, and Northern Ontario.

The project anticipates engaging local trail design and construction specialists, including Holocene Trail Company, as well as local contractors, construction firms, landscaping companies, aggregate suppliers, signage manufacturers, and equipment providers. Partnerships with organizations such as SalDan Construction, Avery Construction, and other local businesses are being explored to maximize community economic benefits while ensuring high-quality project delivery.

The White Pines Trail Network will also create opportunities for Indigenous partners, artists, knowledge keepers, and local cultural organizations to contribute to Indigenous trail naming, interpretive signage, land-based learning spaces, and cultural education components. This approach supports both economic development and reconciliation through meaningful local collaboration.

By investing in local suppliers and service providers, the project helps keep funding within the community, supports employment opportunities, reduces transportation-related emissions associated with importing materials from outside the region, and strengthens the local economy. This approach aligns with the goals of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Green Initiatives Program, which encourages long-term environmental sustainability and community benefit, while also supporting the City's broader strategic priorities related to community development, economic growth, and sustainable infrastructure.

Beyond the initial construction phase, the completed trail network is expected to generate ongoing economic benefits by attracting residents, schools, recreation groups, visitors, and future sporting events that support local tourism, hospitality, retail, and recreation-related businesses. Our hope is to host an OFSAA Nordik Skiing Skate competition in the near future, promote the use to our student-athletes as they prepare for Mountain Bike races across Ontario, build a younger generation of bikers through our Riding for Focus program and host local trail competitions for grades 7 and 8. It would be amazing if we can, in the end, connect the Hub Trail to both Batchewana First Nation and Garden River First Nation via our school campus property. As a result, the White Pines Trail Network represents both an environmental investment and an economic investment in the future vitality of Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding region.

Does the project complement or connect to other local initiatives? If so, how?

The White Pines Trail Network is an exceptional candidate for Community Development Fund support because it is one of the rare projects that simultaneously advances all four FutureSSM pillars while creating a permanent, highly visible community asset. Unlike a short-term program, this project leaves a lasting legacy that will serve students, families, community organizations, Indigenous partners, tourists, and residents throughout all four seasons.

The project:

- Serves approximately 900 youth annually while remaining accessible to the broader community.
- Creates equitable access to recreation regardless of financial circumstances.
- Supports Indigenous cultural inclusion and reconciliation efforts.
- Encourages environmental stewardship and healthy lifestyles.
- Enhances Sault Ste. Marie's reputation as a leader in outdoor recreation and active tourism.
- Provides a foundation for future expansion, including pickleball courts, tennis courts, baseball facilities, outdoor learning spaces, and additional community recreation infrastructure.
- Creates opportunities to host local, regional, provincial, and potentially national sporting events that generate economic impact and community pride.

Most importantly, the White Pines Trail Network transforms an existing educational property into a year-round community recreation destination, ensuring that municipal investment produces long-term social, environmental, cultural, and economic returns for the residents of Sault Ste. Marie.

The White Pines Trail Network represents an innovative community investment that combines recreation, accessibility, Indigenous cultural connection, environmental stewardship, and youth development into one transformational project. By creating a free, inclusive, four-season recreation corridor, the City of Sault Ste. Marie will help remove barriers to participation, strengthen community well-being, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Beyond serving local students and residents, the long-term vision for the White Pines property at 1007 Trunk Road is to establish a premier community recreation and event destination. The trail network will create opportunities to host regional and provincial events such as Ontario high school mountain bike competitions, OFSAA Nordic Skiing Championships, cross-country running meets, cycling festivals, and community wellness events. As the site continues to develop, White Pines plans to expand its recreational offerings to include additional amenities such as pickleball courts, tennis courts, baseball facilities, outdoor learning spaces, and other community-focused recreation infrastructure. These enhancements will increase tourism, attract visitors to Sault Ste. Marie, generate economic activity, and further position the city as a leader in outdoor recreation, sport development, and healthy active living.

This project strongly aligns with the Community Development Fund's goals of advancing both Social Equity and Environmental Sustainability while supporting the future growth, vitality, and health of our community. The White Pines Trail Network is more than a trail system. It is a catalyst for community connection, recreation, education, tourism, and long-term economic and social development for Sault Ste. Marie.

What is the anticipated short, medium and/or long-term impact on the community as a whole from your planned project? Please refer to section 3.3 of the Terms of Reference.

The White Pines Trail Network will create a four-season multi-use trail system connecting White Pines C&VS, Pinewood Public School and future connections to the Hub Trail. The project includes a 405m Connector Trail, Race Course, and Pump Track designed with Holocene Trail Co. Our project aligns with City priorities and supports Social Equity, Environmental Sustainability, Cultural Vitality and healthy communities through free recreation access, Indigenous partnerships, accessibility and active transportation. It also can have a huge impact on the community in general by serving approximately 900 youth annually including Indigenous youth, students with disabilities, newcomers and low-income families that live around and access our school campus grounds.

White Pines Collegiate & Vocational School requests your partnership in an exciting initiative that aligns with our shared vision for community engagement and wellness. As part of our five-year improvement plan, we aim to re-energize the east-end community by transforming the White Pines campus into a vibrant hub for recreation, learning, and connection. We want to provide:

- Bike Trails connecting to the city-wide Hub Trail and to Rankin and Garden River
- Cross-Country Ski Trails within the forested area south of the school
- A pickleball/ tennis court as well as a baseball diamond and accessible playground equipment

These additions will benefit not only White Pines students but also families and residents across the east end. Many community members already use our grounds for walking, basketball, soccer, and pet exercise. Expanding these amenities will amplify those opportunities and create a safe, inclusive space for all ages.

Why this matters:

- Health & Wellness: Encourages physical activity and mental well-being
- Community Building: Fosters social interaction and neighborhood pride
- Economic Impact: Enhances property values and supports local businesses
- Environmental Sustainability: Promotes green spaces and active transportation
- Youth Development: Provides safe, structured spaces for sports and leadership growth
- Accessibility: Connects residents to city trails and inclusive recreation options

In addition to fitness-related improvements, our school's "5 year plan" includes a Greenhouse and Wellness Pod, an Exterior Patio for our Bistro, and green initiatives such as tree planting, bee hives, and mulch areas—all integrated into curriculum and new Tech and Green Industries courses.

To make this vision a reality, we hope to collaborate with City Hall, ADSB, and Garden River & Batchewana First Nations and apply for the this grant. The City's partnership would be instrumental in securing funding and ensuring these enhancements serve the entire east-end community.

If applicable, how does your project plan to increase environmental sustainability education and awareness in our community?

The White Pines Trail Network has been intentionally designed to serve as a living outdoor classroom and community environmental learning hub. Beyond creating new recreation infrastructure, the project will provide meaningful opportunities for students, families, and community members to develop a greater understanding of environmental sustainability, conservation, and stewardship. The project directly supports the environmental education objectives of the Green Initiatives Program Fund by increasing public awareness of local ecosystems, promoting sustainable practices, and encouraging long-term stewardship of natural spaces.

Students enrolled in Outdoor Education, Environmental Studies, Green Industries, Land-Based Learning, LEAD, DARE, and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs at White Pines C&VS will participate in hands-on learning experiences that include trail development, habitat restoration, invasive species management, native tree and pollinator plantings, environmental monitoring, and stewardship projects. These authentic learning opportunities will help students develop environmental literacy while becoming active contributors to the health and sustainability of their community.

The project will also incorporate Indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship through partnerships with Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous community organizations. Ojibwe trail names, interpretive signage, cultural teachings, and land-based learning activities will help educate visitors about the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of caring for the land for future generations, reflecting both Indigenous teachings and the sustainability principles identified within the Green Initiatives Program.

Interpretive signage throughout the trail network will highlight local ecosystems, biodiversity, wildlife habitats, forest ecology, pollinators, climate action, active transportation, and environmental best practices. Residents and visitors will be encouraged to learn about the environmental value of the natural spaces they are enjoying and the role they can play in protecting them. This project extends our first phase of opening a Greenhouse, a Little Forest, and improving the school grounds to include greater and more accessible access to community members.

A unique strength of the project is the ability to leverage White Pines' Film and Media Arts, Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Technology programs to promote environmental awareness. Students will create videos, digital content, social media campaigns, photography projects, and community presentations that showcase local environmental initiatives, sustainable recreation opportunities, and stewardship activities occurring on the site. These student-led communications will amplify environmental education beyond the school grounds and engage the broader Sault Ste. Marie community.

In the long term, the White Pines Trail Network will become a community destination that inspires residents to connect with nature, choose active transportation, participate in conservation initiatives, and take an active role in protecting local green spaces. By combining recreation, education, Indigenous knowledge, and environmental stewardship, the project will help cultivate a culture of sustainability that supports the goals of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Corporate Strategic Plan 2024-2027, the FutureSSM Environmental Sustainability pillar, and the mission of the ADSB to develop confident learners and caring citizens.

Section 7

I UNDERSTAND that by signing this application, I agree that my project:

- Has a distinct start and end date within the year that the grant is provided.
- Has specific deliverables based on the project.
- Will benefit the residents of Sault Ste. Marie.
- City of Sault Ste. Marie property held by the organization must have a current and up-to-date tax payments upon the City's receipt of application. Through the grant period, tax payments must be maintained and up-to-date. Organizations whose property taxes are in arrears will not be considered for this program. Organizations who default on their property taxes through the grant period will not receive any payment from the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and the grant agreement may be terminated immediately.

I CERTIFY that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in the Green Initiatives Program Fund application is accurate and complete and is endorsed by the organization society or City department, which I represent.

DATED in Sault Ste. Marie, this 25th day of September, 2026.

NAME: Jennifer Barbeau

Title: Principal White Pines C&VS / White Pines Intermediate

Signature 

Phone Number: 705-945-7181

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this initiative further if you like. Please let us know a convenient time to connect. Together, we can create a space that promotes health, learning, and community pride for generations to come. Thank you for considering this partnership and our grant application.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND RELATED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO:

Emily Cormier
Sustainability Coordinator, Community Development & Enterprise Services
99 Foster Drive, Level 1
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6
Telephone inquiries: (705) 989-8748
Email: e.cormier2@cityssm.on.ca

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Received By: _____ **Date:** _____

Collection of Personal Information Notice

Personal information of the Green Initiative Fund Application is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy ACT R.S.O. 1990 m c.M.56 and will be used solely to determine applicable information necessary for application. Questions about this collection should be directed to the address noted in the Competition Outline.

Dear Jennifer Barbeau,

I am writing to you today to propose an exciting partnership opportunity with Holocene Trail Co. to develop a series of all-season, multi-use recreational and educational trails that will benefit both White Pines and Pinewood Schools.

Attached below, are three detailed quotes outlining the scope and cost for the three proposed trail sections: the **Connector Trail**, the **Race Course**, and the **Pump Track**.

Our vision is to create an accessible outdoor learning environment that extends beyond physical education. These trails are specifically designed for year-round use by students, accommodating activities such as mountain biking, fat biking, strider bikes, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and adventure skiing.

The three proposed trails include:

1. **Connector Trail (405m)**: A gentle, rolling trail running along the northern edge of the property, designed to be accessible for all skill levels and create loop opportunities for racing and events.
2. **Race Course (597m)**: A more dynamic loop featuring fun bermed corners, pump-track-like rollers, and moderate, low-risk features, all with optional ride-arounds.
3. **Pump Track (120m)**: Located in the South field with natural shade, this track will feature a large starting hill and varied rollers, designed to minimize hazards while engaging both beginners and experts.

Please note that the attached prices reflect the cost of purchasing all necessary materials outright. Holocene Trail Co. Looks forward to collaborating with White Pines High School to provide information and project management of ADSB approved material donations from organizations and companies. This would be very helpful with the creation of the Pump Track as all materials will need to be purchased and brought in in order to complete this project.

We are enthusiastic about the prospect of working with Holocene Trail Co. and look forward to discussing these quotes and the project logistics with you soon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Foster
Holocene Trail Builders

White Pines

Adventure Trails

Legend

- Connector Trail
- Pump Track
- Race Course

Sault Community Theatre Centre

Deanna Seaton - Your VA 4 Today

Pinewood P.S.

Google Earth

© 2025 Google

100 m



HOLOCENE TRAIL CO.	Project Name - White Pines Race Course			
	Address			
	Contact			
	Date of site visit			
Site description - 597 m trail along the Southeast of the current running track. This trail would feature fun burmed corners, pump track like rollers and some moderate level low risk features with the option to ride around. This trail would be suitable for mountain bikes, fatbikes, snowshoes and adventure skis. Features can be changed upon agreement by both parties.				
Other info - Blue track on map.				
	Unit Price	Unit	Required	Total
Construction Type - A D E F G (\$23.50 - \$127.00)	\$23.50	l.m	597	\$14,029.50
Features: Berm (B)				
Small (0.5m)	\$850.00	each	3	\$2,550.00
Medium (1.0m)	\$1,300.00	each	5	\$6,500.00
Large(1.5m)	\$1,800.00	each		\$0.00
Features: Rollers (R)				
Small (0.5m)	\$400.00	each		\$0.00
Medium (.8m)	\$600.00	each	3	\$1,800.00
Large(1.0m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Features: Table Top (TT)				
Small (0.5m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Medium (.8m)	\$1,000.00	each	2	\$2,000.00
Large(1.0m)	\$1,200.00	each		\$0.00
Features: Wooden Features (WF_)				
Log ride	\$60.00	l.m.	3	\$180.00
Small drop (0.5m)	\$600.00	each	2	\$1,200.00
Medium drop (0.8m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Raised boardwalk (0.9m wide)	\$400.00	l.m.		\$0.00
Features: Technical Trail Feature (TTF)				
Native rock slab/roll with soil/rock ramps	\$600.00	each	1	\$600.00
Rock Retaining < 30 cm high	\$120.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Retaining 30 - 60cm high	\$250.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Retaining 60-100 cm high	\$410.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Armored Dip (expected 1.2m long)	\$400.00	each	1	\$400.00
Rock Armored Dip additional length beyond 1.2 m	\$333.00	l.m		\$0.00
Other Expenses				
Non-native rock / armour / fill / fosiliferous limestone	\$75.00	sq.m.		\$0.00
Mobilization / accomodation / security / signage				\$0.00
Summary:		Holocene Trail Building Co.		
Subtotal	\$29,259.50	128 Fish Hatchery Rd,		
HST 13%	\$3,803.74	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, P6A6J8		
Total Amount	\$33,063.24	HST # 732174206RT0001		
		build@holocenetrails.com 705 254 9819		

HOLOCENE TRAIL CO.	Project Name - White Pines Connector Trail			
	Address			
	Contact			
	Date of site vist			
Connector Trail- 405m trail along the northern edge of the property from roughly Queen St the open field by the track. Trail can continue further if required. This trail would feature gentle rolling features suitable for stryder bikes, mountain bikes, fatbikes, snowshoes, cross country skis and adventure skis. It could parallel existing trails to create a loop for bike races and ski events. Features can be changed upon agreement by both parties.				
Other info - Red track on map.				
	Unit Price	Unit	Required	Total
Construction Type - A D E F G (\$23.50 - \$127.00)	\$23.50	l.m	405	\$9,517.50
Features: Berm (B)				
Small (0.5m)	\$850.00	each	3	\$2,550.00
Medium (1.0m)	\$1,300.00	each	5	\$6,500.00
Large(1.5m)	\$1,800.00	each		\$0.00
Features: Rollers (R)				
Small (0.5m)	\$400.00	each		\$0.00
Medium (.8m)	\$600.00	each	2	\$1,200.00
Large(1.0m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Features: Table Top (TT)				
Small (0.5m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Medium (.8m)	\$1,000.00	each	2	\$2,000.00
Large(1.0m)	\$1,200.00	each		\$0.00
Features: Wooden Features (WF_)				
Log ride	\$60.00	l.m.	6	\$360.00
Small drop (0.5m)	\$600.00	each		\$0.00
Medium drop (0.8m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Raised boardwalk (0.9m wide)	\$400.00	l.m.		\$0.00
Features: Technical Trail Feature (TTF)				
Native rock slab/roll with soil/rock ramps	\$600.00	each		\$0.00
Rock Retaining < 30 cm high	\$120.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Retaining 30 - 60cm high	\$250.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Retaining 60-100 cm high	\$410.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Armored Dip (expected 1.2m long)	\$400.00	each		\$0.00
Rock Armored Dip additional length beyond 1.2 m	\$333.00	l.m		\$0.00
Other Expenses				
Non-native rock / armour / fill / fosiliferous limestone	\$75.00	sq.m.		\$0.00
Mobilization / accomodation / security / signage				\$0.00
Summary:		Holocene Trail Building Co.		
Subtotal	\$22,127.50	128 Fish Hatchery Rd,		
HST 13%	\$2,876.58	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, P6A6J8		
Total Amount	\$25,004.08	HST # 732174206RT0001		
		build@holocenetrails.com 705 254 9819		

HOLOCENE TRAIL CO.	Project Name - White Pines Pump Track			
	Address			
	Contact			
	Date of site visit			
Site description - 120 m pump track in the South corner of the open field. Site would offer shade from the sun with the ability to hook into existing trails for events and races. Features would include a large starting hill on the North end, double and tripple rollers that can be rolled or gapped. Hazards will be minimized making it safe for beginners and experts alike. Features can be changed upon agreement by both parties. Prices reflect the cost of all materials being purchased and brought on site. Holocene will work with White Pines and donating organizations / companies to aquire appropriate materials through donation to reduce costs.				
Other info - Green track on map.				
	Unit Price	Unit	Required	Total
Construction Type - A D E F G (\$23.50 - \$127.00)	\$127.00	l.m	120	\$15,240.00
Features: Berm (B)				
Small (0.5m)	\$850.00	each	0	\$0.00
Medium (1.0m)	\$1,300.00	each	6	\$7,800.00
Large(1.5m)	\$1,800.00	each	3	\$5,400.00
Features: Rollers (R)				
Small (0.5m)	\$400.00	each		\$0.00
Medium (.8m)	\$600.00	each	3	\$1,800.00
Large(1.0m)	\$800.00	each	2	\$1,600.00
Features: Table Top (TT)				
Small (0.5m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Medium (.8m)	\$1,000.00	each	2	\$2,000.00
Large(1.0m)	\$1,200.00	each	1	\$1,200.00
Features: Wooden Features (WF_)				
Log ride	\$60.00	l.m.		\$0.00
Small drop (0.5m)	\$600.00	each		\$0.00
Medium drop (0.8m)	\$800.00	each		\$0.00
Raised boardwalk (0.9m wide)	\$400.00	l.m.		\$0.00
Features: Technical Trail Feature (TTF)				
Native rock slab/roll with soil/rock ramps	\$600.00	each		\$0.00
Rock Retaining < 30 cm high	\$120.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Retaining 30 - 60cm high	\$250.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Retaining 60-100 cm high	\$410.00	l.m		\$0.00
Rock Armored Dip (expected 1.2m long)	\$400.00	each		\$0.00
Rock Armored Dip additional length beyond 1.2 m	\$333.00	l.m		\$0.00
Other Expenses				
Non-native rock / armour / fill / fosiliferous limestone	\$75.00	sq.m.	230	\$17,250.00
Mobilization / accomodation / security / signage				\$0.00
Summary:		Holocene Trail Building Co.		
Subtotal	\$52,290.00	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, P6A6J8		
HST 13%	\$6,797.70	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, P6A6J8		
Total Amount	\$59,087.70	HST # 732174206RT0001		
		build@holocenetrails.com 705 254 9819		



**SAULT
STE. MARIE**

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 13, 2026; 12:00 – 1:30 PM

****NB: ESC meetings are fast paced. Please come prepared by reviewing the materials in advance.***

9. Staff Update

- On August 31, City council approved the [Sault Ste. Marie Charging Infrastructure Roadmap](#) as a planning document (See page 90-94 for Council Report, page 95-112 for Presentation, and page 113 – 320 for the full study). It identifies a pathway for electrifying the City's light-duty fleet with estimated savings of \$8.2 million to \$11.8 million over 15 years compared with continuing to operate gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles.
- On August 31, 2026 City Council received as information the [Home Energy Loan Program Design Study](#) (see page 324 – 334). The Program Design Study concludes that a Home Energy Loan Program could provide homeowners with a supported pathway to complete energy efficiency and climate resilience upgrades through a combination of financing, energy coaching, outreach, and administration.

At this time, staff are not recommending implementation of the full program, as external funding and partnership commitments required to launch the program have not yet been secured. The study also identifies lower-cost actions that can be advanced ahead of a full program launch. These include promoting existing utility and government incentives, improving homeowner awareness through workshops and outreach, supporting contractor training opportunities, and using online tools such as the [Climative](#) platform to help residents understand retrofit options, climate resilience measures, incentives, and available contractors. Staff intend to pursue these lower-cost measures as resources permit while monitoring future funding opportunities and partnership options.

- On August 31, 2026, the City of Sault Ste. Marie launched the engagement portion of the City's first Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The City of Sault Ste. Marie is developing a Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan (the Plan) to understand how changing weather and extreme weather events are affecting our community and what we can do to prepare.

The Plan will identify practical actions the City and community can take to reduce the impacts of extreme weather, protect the things we value, and make Sault Ste. Marie more resilient for the future. The actions identified through the Plan can be considered as part of future City planning, programs and decision-making. To learn more about the project, visit the [webpage here](#). An open house will take place at City Hall on Thursday November 12 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. A press release will be issued soon.

- This year the City's Summer Students Green Team met with local businesses to understand what they do to be more sustainable. Check out the highlights for this project [here](#).

9. Staff Update

- BNZ Project Update: Work continues on the City's green development standard project. With the business case complete, training opportunities are now underway and will be coordinated with City building department officials in due course.
- Transit Depot Solar Roof Project (WIP)
- Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (WIP)
- Deep Energy Retrofit Accelerator RFI – reviewing bids (WIP)
- Urban Tree Management Plan Project
- Local Blue Economy Growth Fund Project (WIP)
 - To pilot innovative technology that detects, filters, and monitors microplastics in municipal stormwater, helping to better understand and reduce pollution in local waterways. If approved, the project will generate baseline data, evaluate the effectiveness of new clean technology solutions, and strengthen collaboration between municipal, academic, and industry partners while supporting more resilient freshwater management.
- Tree Project – will double City's tree planting budget – (900 trees over 3 years)
- 11 Corporate Energy Retrofits Underway - including John Rhodes GICB Project (LED Lighting, Roof Replacement, Accessibility Bleachers, Heat Recovery, Queen E Field B LED Conversion) (WIP)

9. Staff Update

Community Engagement

- Wednesday, August 5, 2026: City of Sault Ste. Marie Sustainability Activity / Presentation at Childcare Algoma Nature Explorers Week
- Engagement for Climate Adaptation Plan
 - Online Community Survey open Sep 1 – October 2
 - 1:1 Consults (Sept 1 – Oct 1) SAH, GHC, BFN, SKG, Healthcare, Industry, Sault College, ADSB, HSCDSB, SSMCOC, SSMRCA, SSMIC, Sault Airport, Algoma University, GLM Homes, Arauco, Tenaris, Algoma Steel, Heliene, Sault Climate Hub, Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy, SSM DSSAB, Community Living Algoma, Central Algoma Land Trust, Clean North, Habitat for Humanity, CDC and more
 - October 1 Virtual Meeting / Risk Activity with City Staff
 - Plans for in-person meetings in November 2026
- October 2, 2026: Greenwood Public School Wishart Park / City Environment Presentation
- October 8, 2026: City Sustainability Portfolio Presentation to Algoma University CSD Students: Environment and Community Resilience

10. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, November, 3, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Regular Meeting – Hybrid (In-person and virtual)



Thank You. Questions?