



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

COUNCIL REPORT

April 29, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Virginia McLeod, Manager of Recreation and Culture
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: Pointe des Chenes Disc Golf Course Expansion

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval to expand the Disc Golf Course at Pointe des Chenes.

Background

In 2016, the City of Sault Ste. Marie worked with the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore to install a 12-hole beginner disc golf course in Penhorwood Park. In 2021, the City followed up with an intermediate-level, nine-hole course at Pointe des Chenes. Since installing the courses, the Sault Disc Golf Association (SDGA) has seen impressive growth in new and returning players.

Disc golf is typically an environmentally friendly sport. Courses like Penhorwood Park and Pointe des Chenes weave their way through natural landscapes, around trees and other obstacles, through grass, fields, and the forest. Therefore, the impact of a disc golf course on the surrounding area is minimal.

The SDGA approached the City in 2024 requesting an expansion to the Pointe des Chenes Disc Golf Course to 18 holes. The new holes would flow with the existing nine, ensuring the design would allow for a safe and smooth layout. The unique opportunity of using the space previously occupied by the campground has allowed the Sault Disc Golf Association members to develop a course layout, which they are confident will make Pointe des Chenes one of the most attractive and enjoyable courses in all of Ontario.

City staff met with a member of the SDGA to walk Pointe des Chenes in the fall of 2024. Since the meeting, City staff and the SDGA have refined the layout and worked to determine funding sources.

Analysis

Disc golf has seen explosive growth in Sault Ste. Marie over the last seven years. The Sault Disc Golf Association would like to begin hosting regional tournaments. An 18-hole course is a minimum requirement for SDGA to be able to host C-tier tournaments as defined by the Professional Disc Golf Association, which is the

Pointe Des Chenes Disc Golf Course Expansion

April 29, 2025

Page 2.

governing sports body. Further, the expansion will have a positive economic impact, as it will draw players and tourists to the community to support local businesses, lodging, and attractions while they are in the area to play.

Accessible and environmentally friendly outdoor activities such as disc golf allow Saultites to engage with each other and the outdoors in a way that promotes community health. This request aligns with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Action Item PT20: Give preference to projects/amenities/initiatives, etc., that will increase opportunities for free, unstructured outdoor recreation.

The course has been designed to take advantage of the existing layout with minimal impact on the former campground. If Council recommends changing how the space is utilized in the future, the baskets can be relocated. The proposed layout is attached.

Sault Disc Golf Association has committed \$3,000 towards the project costs and is applying to the Tourism Development Fund to help support the costs required to purchase the new baskets. In addition, SDGA will seek sponsors for each tee to help support the costs associated with the project. City staff can accommodate the installation of the baskets, prepare the tee pads, and install the required signage within their operating budget.

Financial Implications

In-kind service amounting to \$3,000 from the Public Works Parks Division is being requested for installation.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This item supports the Corporate Strategic Plans Focus Area:

- Quality of Life: Maintain an affordable community with exceptional four-season recreational opportunities and invest in recreational infrastructure.
- Infrastructure: Ensure community parks, green spaces and recreational needs are met.
- Service Delivery: Build collaborative relationships to enhance service delivery options.

There are no climate change impacts associated with this request.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture dated April 29, 2025 concerning the Pointe des Chenes Disc Golf Course Expansion be received and that the course expansion from twelve to eighteen holes be approved.

Pointe Des Chenes Disc Golf Course Expansion

April 29, 2025

Page 3.

Respectfully submitted,

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