



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

COUNCIL REPORT

June 2, 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: Strathclair Capital Funding Reallocation

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval to reallocate funds from the Strathclair fence project to support the addition of solar lighting in the Strathclair parking lot.

Background

The Strathclair Sports Complex is located at 639 Black Road. The complex is 86.99 hectares and includes:

- 5 slo-pitch diamonds
- 5 senior soccer fields
- 3 intermediate soccer fields
- 6 junior soccer fields

The Strathclair Sports Complex was allocated capital funding in 2023 to install a chain-link fence around the perimeter of the soccer fields. The project was completed under budget. Staff are requesting that the funding be reallocated to support the installation of solar lighting in the parking lot.

Analysis

Strathclair Sports Complex is immediately adjacent to Sinclair Yards and is the most heavily used Sports Complex scheduled by the City. Staff have reviewed the action items identified in the parks and Recreation Master Plan 2024-2034, specifically focusing on Strathclair Sports Complex action items.

Action item PT50 recommended staff to “conduct a lighting audit to identify priority areas (e.g., parking lot, dog park), and add lighting at Strathclair Park.”.

As part of the 2025 budget Council approved funding to support the installation of lighting at the Strathclair Dog Park.

Staff are requesting that the remaining \$77,477 in funding be reallocated to support the installation of solar lighting in the parking lot.

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This reallocation, even though it is within the CAO's approval limit, is required as the project is a change in scope.

Financial Implications

There is \$77,477 remaining from the 2023 approved capital budget for the Strathclair Sports Complex chain link fence installation, which may be utilized for the requested increase in scope for the 2025 approved capital budget for the Strathclair Dog Park Lighting.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This report is linked to the Quality of Life focus area: Invest in recreational infrastructure.

Climate Change

Transferring capital funds from the Strathclair fence project to solar lighting in the parking lot supports the City's Corporate Strategic Plan commitment of increasing sustainable infrastructure and reducing emissions. Solar lighting will increase reliance on renewable energy sources and reduce the City's carbon footprint.

This aligns with actions under the Sault Ste. Marie Community GHG Reduction Plan: 2020–2030, specifically in the areas of Corporate Energy. Investing in solar technology also supports the City's long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture dated June 2, 2025 concerning Strathclair Capital Funding Reallocation be received and that the scope of the 2025 Strathclair lighting be changed to include the Strathclair Sports Complex parking lot with a budget increase of \$77,477 funded from the remaining 2023 capital budget for the Strathclair fence project.

Respectfully submitted,

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