



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

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

June 23, 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: Licence to Occupy Agreement – Etienne Brule Community Garden

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval to enter into an agreement with Save Our Young Adults to manage the Étienne Brulé Community Garden.

Background

In 2015, the Canal District Community Garden opened at the Étienne Brulé site, a new Hub Trail spoke was added, and an urban orchard was planted. An agreement was developed with the Algoma District School Board (ADSB). The City took responsibility for maintaining the above community assets as well as the playground and basketball courts.

The Community Garden is located on ADSB property and consists of 22 individual 4-foot by 8-foot raised garden beds separated by pathways and surrounded by a fence.

The previous agreement was between the City of Sault Ste. Marie, ADSB, and Sault Ste. Marie Police Services (SSMPS). Save Our Young Adults (SOYA) has stepped forward to run the community garden, and a new agreement is required.

Analysis

City staff have met with Algoma District School Board (ADSB) to review the agreement. ADSB is supportive of the request with the City of Sault Ste. Marie maintaining the community garden and bringing forward the SOYA as the group to perform the task on behalf of the city.

SOYA intends to partner with Clean North, which is involved with several community garden projects and will provide expertise in community gardening. To support operating and maintaining the garden, SOYA has many volunteers and skilled community partners to assist. SOYA applied to the Environmental Sustainability Committee for funds to rebuild the 22 garden beds, which have

reached the end of their lifespan, repair the perimeter fence to protect the garden beds, and purchase tools and amenities for the garden. A report authored by the Sustainability Coordinator regarding Community Development Fund – Green Initiatives Program Applications 2025 Q1 Intake is elsewhere on the June 23, 2025 City Council agenda.

The project will provide valuable educational opportunities, teaching community members about sustainable gardening practices, healthy eating, and the importance of environmental stewardship. Many residents, particularly those who may not have had the chance to learn about gardening, will gain hands-on experience and knowledge that can be applied in their own lives. Additionally, the garden will help address food insecurity by providing access to fresh, locally grown produce and offering healthier food options to those who may not have easy access.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This item supports the Corporate Strategic Plans Focus Area:

Infrastructure: Environment – Seek opportunities to implement sustainable solutions.

Service Delivery: Build collaborative relationships to enhance service delivery options.

The project is expected to have a positive impact on both the local environment and community. The project promotes biodiversity, increasing local food production, and reducing carbon emissions through sustainable gardening practices.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

The relevant By-law 2025-103 is listed under item 12 of the Agenda and will be read with all by-laws under that item.

Respectfully submitted,

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