



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

**C O U N C I L   R E P O R T**

March 17, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council

AUTHOR: Travis Anderson, Director Tourism & Community  
Development

DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services

RE: NOHFC Conditional Contribution Agreement – Wishart  
Park Project

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to sign a conditional contribution agreement from NOHFC for a project in Wishart Park.

**Background**

Tourism Sault Ste. Marie (TSSM), in collaboration with the City, is enhancing Wishart Park by adding outdoor recreation play equipment, interpretative signage, boardwalks for wildlife viewing, and a recreation bridge and multi-use path.

TSSM applied to NOHFC to assist with the project costs and was notified on February 19, 2025 that it was successful.

Although not listed in the application, NOHFC determined that the City was a co-signatory to the agreement as the project is occurring on City property.

**Analysis**

Tourism Sault Ste. Marie successfully secured funding through the NOHFC Community Enhancement Program to support enhancements at Wishart Park, including a pedestrian bridge and approximately five kilometers of multi-use recreational trails.

The estimated cost of the project is \$1.9 million, with NOHFC covering 50% and Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, as the applicant, is contributing the remaining 50%. Tourism Sault Ste. Marie is also responsible for any cost overruns.

The City's role is limited to providing park access and will bear no financial responsibility. While not responsible for costs outlined in the contribution agreement, the City is listed as a co-signatory as the property owner.

Staff recommend that Council sign the agreement as a partner with Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, recognizing the project's benefits. While the City bears no financial responsibility, it will gain from enhanced recreational opportunities and increased tourism spending. As the property owner, the City's involvement supports improved quality of life for residents and visitors. Signing the agreement formalizes this partnership and ensures the successful implementation of the Wishart Park enhancements.

**Financial Implications**

This report does not have financial implications, as Tourism Sault Ste. Marie will provide all matching funds for the project.

**Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact**

This item supports the Corporate Strategic Plans Focus Area:

- Community Development and Partnership focus of Maximizing Economic Development and Investment with the commitment to maintain financial viability.
- Community Development – Develop partnerships with key stakeholders and reconciliation.

There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

**Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

The relevant By-law 2025-41 is listed under item 12 of the Agenda will be read with all by-laws under that item.

Respectfully submitted,

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