

Staff Report to Council

Title: Great Lakes Local Action Fund

Report Number: Parks & Facilities-2024-21

Director: Community Services

Manager: Manager.

Meeting Date:

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council approve a submission to the Great Lakes Local Action Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for the purposes of enhancing Station Beach boardwalk area.

Executive Summary:

Staff is seeking approval to apply for funding through the Great Lakes Local Action Fund to assist with improvements to climate change resiliency through ecosystem protection and restoration as well as protect and improve water quality. This project will align with the proposed upgrades with the boardwalk at Station Beach anticipated for completion in 2025.

Strategic Priorities:

B.6-Protect and preserve our environment

Financial Considerations:

The plans for the Boardwalk at Station Beach are being solidified and will be considered as part of the 2025 budget deliberations for construction of a new walkway. Additional components will include sand mitigation opportunities that have been experienced due to climate change. Staff would like to apply to the Great Lakes Local Cation Fund in the amount of \$100,000 to assist with financing some of the measures that will need to be considered as part of the overall design.

At this point, staff do not have a total of the overall cost of the proposed full build of the new boardwalk, however those amounts will be available closer to budget deliberations.

Policy:

N/A

Context and Background Information:

Staff will be presenting boardwalk construction at Station Beach as part of the 2025 budget deliberations. Recently the Great Lakes Local Action Fund was recently launched.

To continue supporting community efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes, the Ontario government, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is investing \$1.8 million in the Great Lakes Location Action Fund. Funding will support community-based projects that increase climate change resilience and protect or improve water quality in the Gret Lakes ecosystem in 2025.

Generally, applications may apply for \$50,000 or for lesser amounts. Applicants for amounts greater than \$50,000 and up to \$100,000, may be considered for projects that clearly demonstrate very high value in terms of environmental benefit to the Great Lakes and/or their connecting rivers, along with significant and broad community engagement and benefits, and strong project design.

Staff feel this would be a worthy project to apply for up to the \$100,000 amount to support the ongoing mitigation proposals.

Consultation Overview:

Staff continue to work with GM BluePlan/GEI Consultants for the final design concept for Station Beach Boardwalk and have engaged a multitude of key stakeholders to ensure everyone has a voice in regard to the final design of the boardwalk.

Origin:

Great Lakes Local Action Fund

Implementation Considerations:

Successful applications must be constructed between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. If approved in 2025 budget, these timelines are in alignment with boardwalk construction.

Risk Analysis:

An unsuccessful grant application may delay some aspects of the project as it pertains to sand mitigation as to when potential partnerships can be secured for construction.

Attachments: None

Prepared by: Jayne K. Jagelewski, Director of Community Services

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