



STAFF REPORT

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with information regarding the Healthy Communities Initiative Grant through the Community Foundations of Canada.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report of the Community Development Officer dated May 17, 2021 be received;

AND THAT Council approve the application to the Healthy Communities Initiative for \$250,000 for the project of accessibility upgrades to walking trail from Spruce Beach to Elliot Lake Boardwalk as recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda Roy
Community Development Officer

Reviewed by

Ashten Vlahovich
Economic Development Coordinator

Approved by

Daniel Gagnon
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

The Healthy Communities Initiative supports communities as they create and adapt public spaces, and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. The Healthy Communities Initiative encourages community-level innovation and improvements in the quality of life for residents.

Healthy Communities Initiative themes include:

- Safe and vibrant public spaces
- Improved mobility options
- Digital solutions

The proposed project, based on ideas from the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the 2020-2025 City of Elliot Lake Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Age Friendly Action Plan is as follows:

- Accessibility upgrades to the walking trail from Spruce Beach to the Elliot Lake Boardwalk.

This is round two for this funding. The deadline for this grant is June 25, 2021.

ANALYSIS

The inspiration for this project came from the Accessibility Advisory Committee, but it also ties into the City's Age Friendly Action Plan, the 2020-2025 Accessibility Plan, and the Strategic Plan. Because of COVID-19 community members have been enjoying the outdoors even more than normal all year round, the trail along Elliot Lake is no exception, however not everyone can enjoy that walking trail as there are many things such as terrain, slope, and trail width, that make it not accessible. Almost half the population of Elliot Lake are seniors and a good portion of the population have accessibility issues. As a community always working towards being more Age Friendly and more inclusive on all platforms this project is just another step in that direction of being more accessible and inclusive. This project also aligns with the funding themes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The minimum funding amount is \$5,000 and the maximum funding amount is \$250,000 for each project and will support up to 100% of the total eligible project costs.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through;

- Economic Development and Diversification, Stabilization, and Investment Readiness
 - Continue to foster retirement opportunities
- Strong Municipal Corporate Administration and Governance
 - Customer Service Excellence
- Health and Community Wellness



- Develop an Aging in Place Strategy
- Develop an Accessibility Action Plan

SUMMARY

As an Age Friendly Community taking steps to become more accessible and inclusive, it is recommended that Council approve the project suggested by the Accessibility Advisory Committee in order to apply for the Healthy Communities Initiative by June 25, 2021.

