

Township of South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Grant Program Policy

1. Purpose

This policy is to establish a grant process that supports and encourages the preservation, restoration, monitoring and analysis of lake ecosystems within the Township of South Frontenac.

2. Policy

The Township on a yearly basis will solicit applications from non-profit organizations for projects that support the purpose of this grant policy. The total amount available within a calendar year will be based on what has been set within the year's operating budget. Individual allocations to organizations will be based on a pre-determined structure. Being approved in one year does not guarantee funding in the following year.

3. Definitions

Buffer zone: A corridor of mostly undisturbed, permanently vegetated areas of land. They are transitional areas that reduce the impact of development and site alteration on adjacent natural features such as a lake.

Lake ecosystem: Lakes are inland bodies of water that lack any direct contact with an ocean. Lake ecosystems include living plants, animals and micro-organisms, as well as non-living physical (e.g. light, temperature and wind) and chemical reactions.

Non-profit organization: a not for profit organization including unincorporated groups or registered charitable organizations that:

- has an interest in lake ecosystems within the geographic boundaries of the Township of South Frontenac,
- has the ability to show long-term sustainability through a robust volunteer base and stable financial governance, and
- can demonstrate a long-term commitment to lake stewardship.

Wildlife habitat: means areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations.

4. Guidelines

a. Funding Priorities

Priority will be given to those projects that have the greatest positive impact on the health and welfare of lake ecosystems. Projects could impact an entire lake, but could

also include another lake or other upstream or downstream components. Projects should incorporate one or more of the following objectives.

- A. Reduces or limits diffuse or point source runoff primarily caused by human disturbance of the land
- B. Creates or increases buffer zones along the lakeshore and/or banks of creeks and streams that drain into the lake
- C. Protects or enhances wildlife habitat
- D. Enables or performs monitoring and/or inventories of the lake environment and its contributing watershed in order to fill knowledge gaps

Projects that do not directly incorporate one or more of the above objectives will also be accepted for consideration.

b. Project Scope

This grant program is designed to fund projects up to \$10,000. On an exceptional basis, larger requests will be considered. There is no minimum value for a project.

5. General Criteria for Grant Recipients and Submissions

All grant recipients and their submissions must meet the following criteria.

1. Submissions must have a well-defined plan with measurable results and take place/be completed within 12 months of receiving the grant.
2. The organization must be able to fund 25% of the total project requirements.
3. Grant recipients will receive 75% of their allotted funds at the beginning of the project and the remainder upon receipt of the final report.
4. Submissions must incorporate an outreach component to educate the community and build awareness of the key learnings and results of the project.
5. Final reports from any previous year's funding must have been received in order to be considered for the current year for a new or different project.
6. Financial statements from the previous calendar year should be included with the applicant's Letter of Intent, along with a list of current officers.
7. Unspent funds must be returned to the Township following completion of the project.
8. Applicants cannot be in receipt of other program-specific Township funding for the proposed project.

6. Review Process

Following the deadline for applications, staff will review them and rate them on their positive impact on the health and welfare of lake ecosystems. Should multiple projects meet the application requirements and goals of the program, and the total requests exceed the total funding available, a fixed amount may be granted to each organization with any remaining funding allocated based on the percentage applied for.

Staff may recommend that submissions that go beyond the scope of this grant process be presented for separate consideration to Council in advance of the next operating budget review.

Applicants whose projects are selected for a grant will need to sign a grant agreement. They will be required to submit a final report upon completion of the project in order to receive the last 25% installment of the grant. The final report is intended to summarize results and key learnings regarding a project and to help the Township evaluate the effectiveness of grants in supporting positive impact on the health and welfare of lake ecosystems.

7. Annual Reporting

Development Services staff will provide Council an annual report summarizing the results and key learnings of each completed project that received funding through the Lake Ecosystem Grant.