



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 18, 2021

Saugeen First Nation (SFN)
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Economic Development Department receives grant funding to develop a Community Trails Master Plan

The following release is based on successful funding support via the Bruce Power's Indigenous Community Investment Fund.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has changed how our local community gathers and interacts - impacting our ability to stay active and enjoy outdoor recreational activities. SFN recognizes the importance of getting outdoors while appreciating and respecting our natural surroundings. Currently, many of the trails in Saugeen are either unplanned and/or undeveloped.

Overview:

Recently, the Economic Development Department (EDD), secured funding via Bruce Power's Indigenous Community Investment Fund to develop a Community Trails Master Plan. The EDD has identified that trail development will increase:

- 1) Tourism product development;
- 2) Entrepreneurial opportunities;
- 3) Engagement in active transportation and recreation for the community.

Since this is planning for future trail developments, the SFN EDD would like to see the community provide as much input as possible. The end goal for this plan is to have various identified trail sites, full costing for those trail developments, a hands-on training program, signage in two languages, detailed mapping, and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliant.

Bruce Power's Indigenous Community Investment Fund will allow the EDD to work with Wikwemikong Tourism, Quercwood Consulting and TREADscape. These three (3) organizations, combined with the EDD, will create a partnership opportunity to host a series of community discussions. The focus of these discussions will revolve around the planning of a trail system connecting the Saugeen Amphitheatre site with our Sauble Park beach area along County Road 13.

Partnerships:

Wikwemikong Tourism has been building trails both on Manitoulin Island and Point Grondine for many years. They have also assisted many other First Nation communities across Ontario with their trail development projects and trained many community members to build their own trails. Wikwemikong Tourism has been recognized as a champion in Community Tourism Development and has been awarded several industry accolades, including; the 2019 Adventure Trail Award – Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, the 2018 Indigenous Tourism Award – Tourism Industry Association of Ontario, and the 2017 Tourism Champion – Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario.

Quercwood Consulting has extensive experience in comprehensive trail planning and trail development, project management, and community consultations.

TREADscape is a professional trail building company that specializes in hand-built and mechanically built trails. TREADscape provides design, build and maintenance services.

Sincerely,

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