



OP 06: Land Use Policy

Effective Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

1.0 Policy Statement

Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) affirms that land is a living relation central to Anishinaabe identity, knowledge systems, and future generations. All land under the stewardship, use, or care of SKG shall be governed in a manner that reflects Anishinaabe aadziwin, institutional integrity, and long-term sustainability.

SKG is committed to ensuring that land use decisions are:

- culturally grounded and guided by Anishinaabe knowledge systems.
- environmentally responsible and regenerative.
- aligned with institutional priorities and community responsibilities; and
- accountable through transparent governance processes.

Land use at SKG shall directly support and be evaluated against the Seven Strategic Pathways, ensuring that every decision contributes to the holistic development of the institution and the wellbeing of learners, communities, and the land itself.

2.0 Purpose

This policy establishes a formal framework for the planning, approval, use, protection, and stewardship of SKG lands. It ensures that all land use activities:

- Uphold cultural protocols and responsibilities.
- Support teaching, learning, ceremony, and community engagement.
- Protect ecological and culturally significant areas; and
- Aligning with SKG's strategic vision and governance structures.

3.0 Scope

This policy applies to:

- all lands owned, leased, licensed, or otherwise occupied by SKG;
- all indoor and outdoor spaces, including undeveloped lands;
- all SKG employees, students, contractors, partners, and visitors;
- all activities, developments, and uses occurring on SKG lands.

4.0 Guiding Framework: Alignment with SKG's Seven Strategic Pathways

All land use decisions must demonstrate alignment with the following pathways:

4.1 IDENTITY – Anishinaabe Aadziwin

Land use shall:

- center Anishinaabe worldview, teachings, and relationships to land;
- prioritize land-based learning, language revitalization, and cultural transmission.
- support ceremonial, spiritual, and cultural practices in accordance with protocol.

4.2 GOVERNANCE – Accountability and Self-Determination

Land use shall:

- be guided by SKG governance structures, including Board oversight and leadership accountability.
- incorporate Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community voices where appropriate.
- reflect Indigenous self-determination in decision-making processes.

4.3 LAND – Stewardship and Sustainability

Land use shall:

- protect ecological integrity and biodiversity.
- prioritize conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.
- recognize land as a relative, not a resource.

4.4 COMMUNITY – Relationships and Responsibility

Land use shall:

- support community access, engagement, and benefit.
- reflect reciprocal relationships with First Nations and partner communities;
- ensure inclusive, safe, and welcoming spaces.

4.5 PARTNERSHIPS – Collaboration and Shared Purpose

Land use shall:

- enable partnerships that align with SKG values and priorities;
- support community-based programming, placements, and shared initiatives;
- be governed through clear agreements and mutual accountability.

4.6 LANGUAGE – Revitalization and Presence

Land use shall:

- support the visibility and use of Anishinaabemowin on the land;
- incorporate language into signage, spaces, and programming;
- enable immersive language learning environments.

4.7 COMMUNICATIONS – Storytelling and Transparency

Land use shall:

- reflect SKG’s identity through design, signage, and space use;
- communicate purpose, meaning, and protocols of spaces clearly;
- ensure transparency in land use decisions and planning.

5.0 Permitted Land Uses

Subject to approval processes, SKG lands may be used for:

5.1 Academic and Educational Activities

- land-based learning and experiential education;
- classroom extensions and field-based instruction;
- research aligned with SKG ethics and Indigenous data governance.

5.2 Cultural and Ceremonial Activities

- ceremonies, teachings, and gatherings;
- medicine harvesting, fires, and cultural practices (with appropriate protocols);
- Elders and Knowledge Keeper-led activities.

5.3 Student and Community Wellbeing

- wellness programming and student supports;
- community gatherings and cultural camps;
- safe, inclusive gathering spaces.

5.4 Operational and Infrastructure Use

- buildings, facilities, maintenance, and access routes;
- infrastructure development aligned with institutional planning.

5.5 Approved Partnerships

- community-based programming;
- placements, practica, and collaborative initiatives;
- shared use agreements aligned with SKG priorities.

6.0 Restricted and Prohibited Uses

The following are prohibited unless formally approved:

- environmental degradation, pollution, or habitat destruction;
- unauthorized construction, excavation, or alteration of land;
- misuse of sacred or ceremonial spaces;

- unapproved commercial activities;
- unsafe or disruptive activities;
- unauthorized harvesting, fires, or motorized use.

SKG may designate areas as:

- Sacred/ceremonial zones
- Environmentally protected areas
- Restricted access zones

7.0 Land-Based Learning and Cultural Protocols

SKG affirms land-based learning as foundational.

All such activities must:

- follow Anishinaabe cultural protocols;
- involve Elders/Knowledge Keepers where appropriate;
- consider safety, accessibility, and environmental impact;
- align with institutional quality assurance and program delivery standards.

8.0 Development and Infrastructure Planning

All development or site alteration requires formal approval of the President and Chief Academic Officer. For infrastructure development over \$100,000 requires the approval of the Board of Directors.

8.1 Approval Considerations

- alignment with Seven Strategic Pathways;
- impact on cultural and sacred spaces;
- environmental sustainability;
- accessibility and safety;
- long-term institutional needs and financial sustainability.

8.2 Examples Requiring Approval

- new construction or structures;
- land clearing or grading;
- installation of signage or infrastructure;
- creation of ceremonial or teaching spaces.

9.0 Environmental Stewardship

All users of SKG land must:

- protect water, plants, wildlife, and ecosystems;
- minimize waste and environmental impact;
- support restoration and sustainable practices;
- report environmental concerns.

10.0 Cultural and Sacred Spaces

SKG shall formally recognize and protect spaces of cultural and ceremonial importance.

These spaces shall:

- be governed by cultural protocols;
- be guided by Elders/Knowledge Keepers;
- have restricted or protocol-based access where appropriate.

11.0 External Use of Land

External requests must:

- align with SKG's mission and Seven Strategic Pathways;
- be approved through formal processes;
- include agreements addressing liability, protocols, and responsibilities.

12.0 Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Directors

- approves policy and major land use decisions.

President & Chief Academic Officer

- ensures alignment with institutional vision and strategic pathways.

Administrative Lead (Infrastructure/Operations)

- manages implementation, approvals, and oversight.

Elders and Knowledge Keepers

- provide cultural guidance and protocol oversight.

Employees and Students

- comply with policy and respect land use expectations.

External Users

- adhere to agreements and institutional requirements.

13.0 Decision-Making and Approval Authority

Land use decisions shall follow a tiered approval process based on:

- scale and impact;
- cultural sensitivity;
- environmental implications;
- strategic alignment.

Certain decisions may require:

- Elder/Knowledge Keeper consultation.
- leadership approval.
- Board approval (for major developments).

14.0 Compliance and Enforcement

Non-compliance may result in:

- suspension or termination of land use.
- disciplinary action.
- restoration or remediation requirements.
- termination of agreements.

15.0 Related Policies

- Facilities Use Policy
- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Indigenous Knowledge & Cultural Protocols Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Research Ethics Policy
- Capital Planning Policy

16.0 Definitions

Land Use: Any activity or function associated with land occupancy or stewardship.

Land-Based Learning: Education grounded in relationships with land and Indigenous knowledge systems.

Cultural Protocols: Practices guiding respectful conduct in cultural and ceremonial contexts.

Sacred Space: Areas designated for spiritual or ceremonial use.

17.0 Review Cycle

This policy shall be reviewed every **three (3) years** or as required.