



## Community-Based Research (CBR) Project Proposal Form

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### U-Links Administration Only

**Project Number** (automatically generated by CBR database):

**Recommended Courses and/or Disciplines** (i.e. GEOG4030Y, FRSC4890Y, IDST3700Y/3710H/3720H, ERSC3160H, PSYCH or Alternatives):

**Recommended Faculty Advisors:**

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### PROJECT TITLE:

#### A – CONTACT INFORMATION

**Date:** November 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Contact person:** Cara Steele

**Phone:** 705 754 4769

**Email:** cara@abbeygardens.ca

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#### B – COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

**Organization's name and address:** Abbey Gardens Community Trust, 1012 Garden Gate Drive, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

- a) **Briefly state the organization's purpose and the products or services offered:**
- b) Abbey Gardens is a charitable organization with a mission to re-green a former gravel pit into a sustainable community destination that provides education, economic development, and recreation through an ecological lens.
- c)
- d) **Has an immediate supervisor or board approved this application? Yes**

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#### C - PROJECT SCOPE

- a) **Full year undergraduate CBR projects are allotted 220 hours total, per 1-2 students on a single project. The condensed hours are similar to six weeks of full-time work. Full term students would be working on this project from September to April as part of a course, while balancing work from other courses as well. Half term students will be working on this project from September - December or January to April. Does the scope of your project fit within this timeframe?**

Yes • No • Comments: There is a seasonal component to this project that must be completed during late spring, summer, or early fall.

**b) Select the theme(s) for your project:**

- Cultural
- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
- Other:

**c) Based on the timeframe and complexity of your project, please indicate the potential project scale:**

- Single year project
- Multi-year project (requiring follow up or several parts)
- Ideal for undergraduate students
- Ideal for graduate students (requires specialized knowledge/in-depth consideration of theory)

**d) Is your project appropriate for a single student or a group? Group**

**e) Describe the purpose of the project:**

Establish Permanent Sample Plots (PSP's) in representative Ecosites to facilitate the long term monitoring of changes in vegetation biodiversity on the Abbey Gardens' property. The establishment of Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) will provide AG with the ability to monitor, on a long term basis, changes in vegetation biodiversity in response to environmental restoration efforts (aggregate pits), disturbance (new or changing infrastructure or land use).

**f) How will the project benefit your organization and/or clients?** (PSPs) will provide AG with a scientifically rigorous process for monitoring changes in vegetation over time and will help guide land management decisions.

**g) How will the results of this project benefit Haliburton County?** AG is enjoyed by approximately 50,000 visitors per year- many of which come to Abbey Gardens to enjoy the natural features of the property through programs (ie. Summer camps), exploration (trail use) or recreation (disc golf).

**h) How did you hear about U-Links Centre for Community Based Research?**

Word of Mouth  Social Media  Newsletter  News Article  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**D – RESEARCH DESIGN**

**a) What are the proposed research questions to be answered?**

Where are the best locations on the property to set up PSP's?  
What is the monitoring protocol for these permanent plots?  
What are the baseline vegetative conditions at each installed PSP in 2025?

**b) What are your ideas on how these questions might be answered (i.e. survey, literature review, field work etc.)?**

Reviewing our Ecological Site Assessment to determine ecosites on the property to install PSP's  
Reviewing relevant monitoring protocol (ie. Terrestrial monitoring protocol manual) in order to develop the PSP monitoring protocol for Abbey Gardens  
Field work to set up PSP's and collect first year data

c) Do you have knowledge of or expertise with these types of research methods? Yes

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**E - SCREENING AND/OR TRAINING**

a) Do the students require any specific screening or training? (e.g. police checks, confidentiality agreements, CPR, WHMIS):

Yes  No

Comments:

*EXAMPLES: Projects involving vulnerable populations may require police checks. Some types of field work may involve WHMIS or other safety related training. Students and hosts working on boats need to understand and follow the U-Links Boat Safety Guidelines.*

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**F – RESEARCH ETHICS**

a) Does the research involve human subjects? (i.e. surveys, interviews)

Yes  No

*NOTE: If yes, the students may be required to submit an application for ethical review of the research. This process may take several weeks and will need to be taken into consideration when creating project timelines.*

b) If your project involves collecting human subject data (i.e. interview transcripts), would you like access to that “raw” data at the end of the project, in addition to receiving the “summary” of data in the final report?

Yes  No

c) Does the organization/employer have policies about research ethics approval?

Yes  No

**If yes, please explain:**

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**G – PROJECT TASKS AND TIMELINE** *(This section should be completed by the final draft)*

**a) Please outline the major tasks and timelines involved in completing the project.**

*These tasks include important information to be gathered, key stakeholders who should be involved relevant dates for your organization, and critical meetings for the student to attend. Your Coordinator can help you complete this section.*

<b>Task</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Conduct Literature Review</b>	<b>Explore relevant academic studies and monitoring protocols to guide methodology</b>	<b>Week 1-2</b>
<b>AIR/FRI Photo and Map Analysis</b>	<b>Identify representative ecosites and potential locations for Permanent Sample Plots and compare with AG data on ecosites</b>	<b>Weeks 3-4</b>
<b>Conduct Field Survey and Establish PSPs</b>	<b>Set up PSPs in representative ecosites and collect initial baseline data</b>	<b>Weeks 5-7</b>
<b>Compile and Analyze Field Data</b>	<b>Organize data into usable format and conduct preliminary analysis to establish baselines</b>	<b>Weeks 8-9</b>
<b>Draft Report</b>	<b>Provide the host organization with initial findings for feedback and revisions</b>	<b>Weeks 10-11</b>
<b>Refine Report</b>	<b>Incorporate feedback and finalize the report</b>	<b>Week 12</b>
<b>Final Report</b>	<b>Deliver completed report including all data and recommendations for ongoing monitoring</b>	<b>End of Week 12</b>

b) Indicate important start and end dates for the project, if applicable:

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## H – RESOURCES

*NOTE: All known and needed resources should be listed in this section (e.g. for project coordination, data collection and analysis, software, hardware, photocopying, office supplies, workspace, travel expenses, food and refreshments, training, etc.). Students' travel expenses are reimbursed by U-Links at the end of the term.*

a) **What resources are needed to support the research – financial or otherwise? Please indicate what, if any, resources your organization might be able to provide.**

- Ecological Site Assessment
- Materials to construct PSP's (AG can provide)- but guidance from student required for material list

b) **Do you anticipate needing funding or other types of resources? If so, please explain (including any ideas on where resourcing may be obtained):**

-No

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## I – KNOWLEDGE SHARING

*NOTE: Please note the researcher(s) will own the copyright for all work completed as part of his/her involvement, but the lead organization/group/employer may use all project outputs in whole or in part, as it sees fit as long as the researcher(s) is duly credited as the author. If work is completed collaboratively, copyright will be decided by all project participants.*

a) **How are the project results to be circulated and made useful to the broader community? Please indicate all that applies from the list below:**

- Academic article
- Conference/forum
- **Manual**
- Marketing, promotional, newsletter, outreach materials
- Policy brief
- **Report**
- Roundtable
- Video
- Workshop
- Presentation to the host organization

- Not sure of the above, let's talk some more

b) If there are special circumstances where results might not be made public, please explain:

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#### J - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

a) Are you able to credit U-Links when utilizing project results for the development of new programs, funding applications, policy, and other community endeavors? (Suggestions: cite U-Links and display our logo in your organization's printed matter and on your website, credit U-Links when speaking about your project in public and in the press, social media etc.)

Yes    No    Possibly

b) Following successful completion of the research project, with results beneficial to the goals of your organization, would you consider a financial contribution to U-Links?

Yes    No    Possibly

c) Can we highlight your project on our website and in social media?

Yes    No

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#### K – PROJECT PROMOTION

Please “insert” an image below to help promote your project proposal.



