Halifax Green Network Plan

Planning and Implementation Directions

Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee

April 05, 2017

Project Overview

- The Project Team
  - Cross-functional, led by Planning & Development & Parks & Recreation
  - O2 Planning + Design Consultants
- The Stakeholders
  - HRM residents & open space users
  - Government partners
  - Industry (forestry, mining, agriculture, tourism)
  - Land-owners & developers
  - Community organizations & stewardship groups

Project Overview

- Phase 1 Foundations (*values, existing state*)
  - Engagement and information gathering
  - State of the Landscape Report
- Phase 2 Planning Directions (*future state*)
  - Engagement and information gathering
  - Network scenarios and impact assessment
  - Objectives and core concepts
  - Primer Report
- Phase 3 Final Halifax Green Network Plan

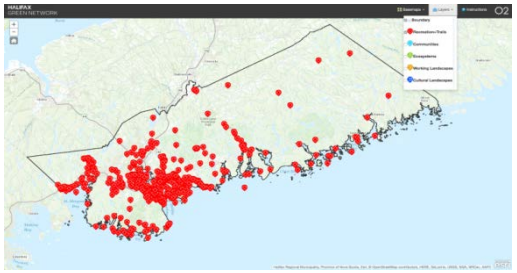
Plan Purpose

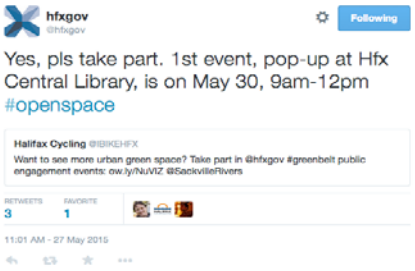
- To develop a decision-making framework for planning and managing open space as an interconnected and interdependent system to:
  - Maintain important land and aquatic systems
  - Assist in the sustainable use and conservation of natural resource lands and economically important areas
  - Study, define and plan for lands suited for parks, corridors and public greenspaces

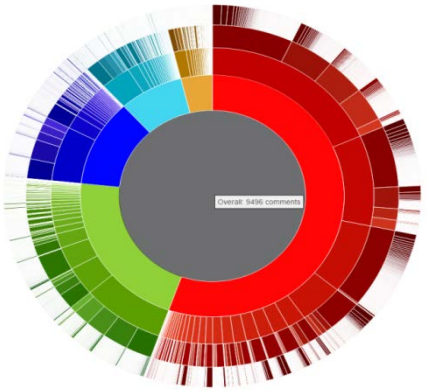
Planning Context

- Municipal open space management framework
  - Public service delivery
  - Resource conservation
  - Community-shaping
- Integrated municipal planning & programming
- Public lands + private land-use planning
- Balanced conservation & development
- Cross-jurisdictional landscape planning

www.halifax.ca/HalifaxGreenNetwork







How Will the Plan be Used?

- Decision-making framework for parks and open space planning and land management
  - Data, mapping & direction to inform regional and local planning strategies, land-use and subdivision by-laws
  - Criteria & direction to inform parks and public open space planning & programming
  - Organizing framework & direction to integrate Municipal lands planning with Green Network objectives
  - A resource to guide voluntary collaboration with other levels of Government

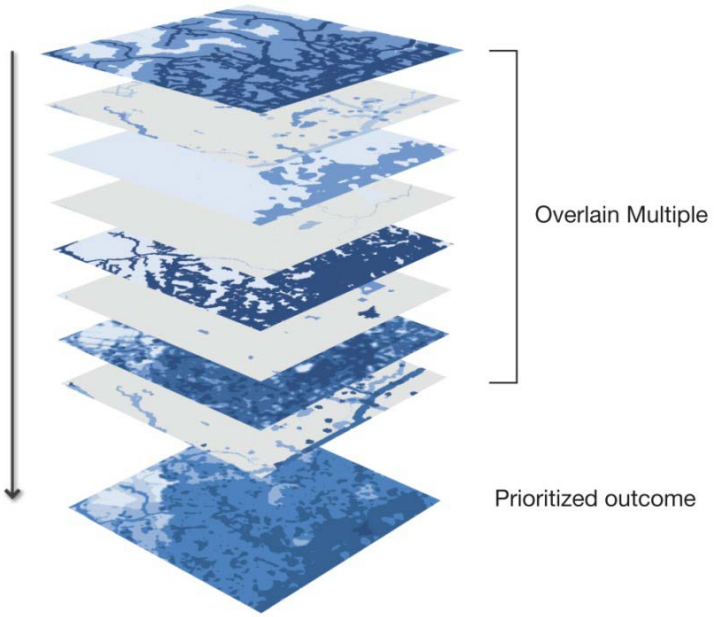
Landscape Values & Principles

Guiding Principles:

- Interconnected
- Grounded in science
- Sustainable & context sensitive
- Equitable & inclusive
- Versatile
- Coordinated
- Stewardship

Method & Evidence

- Open space values & issues
- Data collection & analysis
  - 75 + data elements
  - Interacting set of maps
  - High value areas
- Scenarios & Impacts
  - Development impacts
  - Social and cultural impacts
  - Economic impacts
- Geo-Design – creating the preferred network scenario



Values - Ecology

Map 2: Ecological Landscape Values

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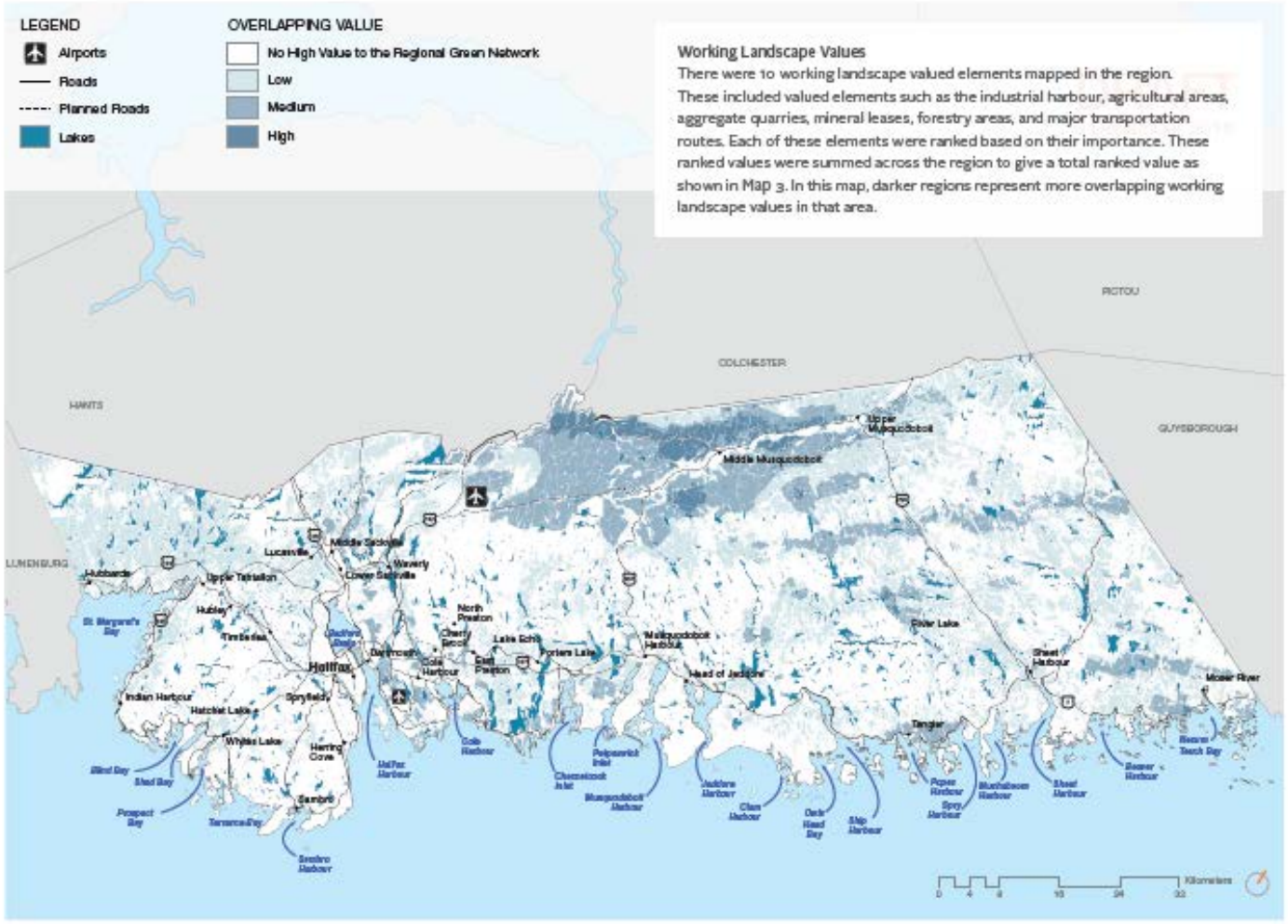
Values – Working Landscapes

Map 3: Working Landscape Values



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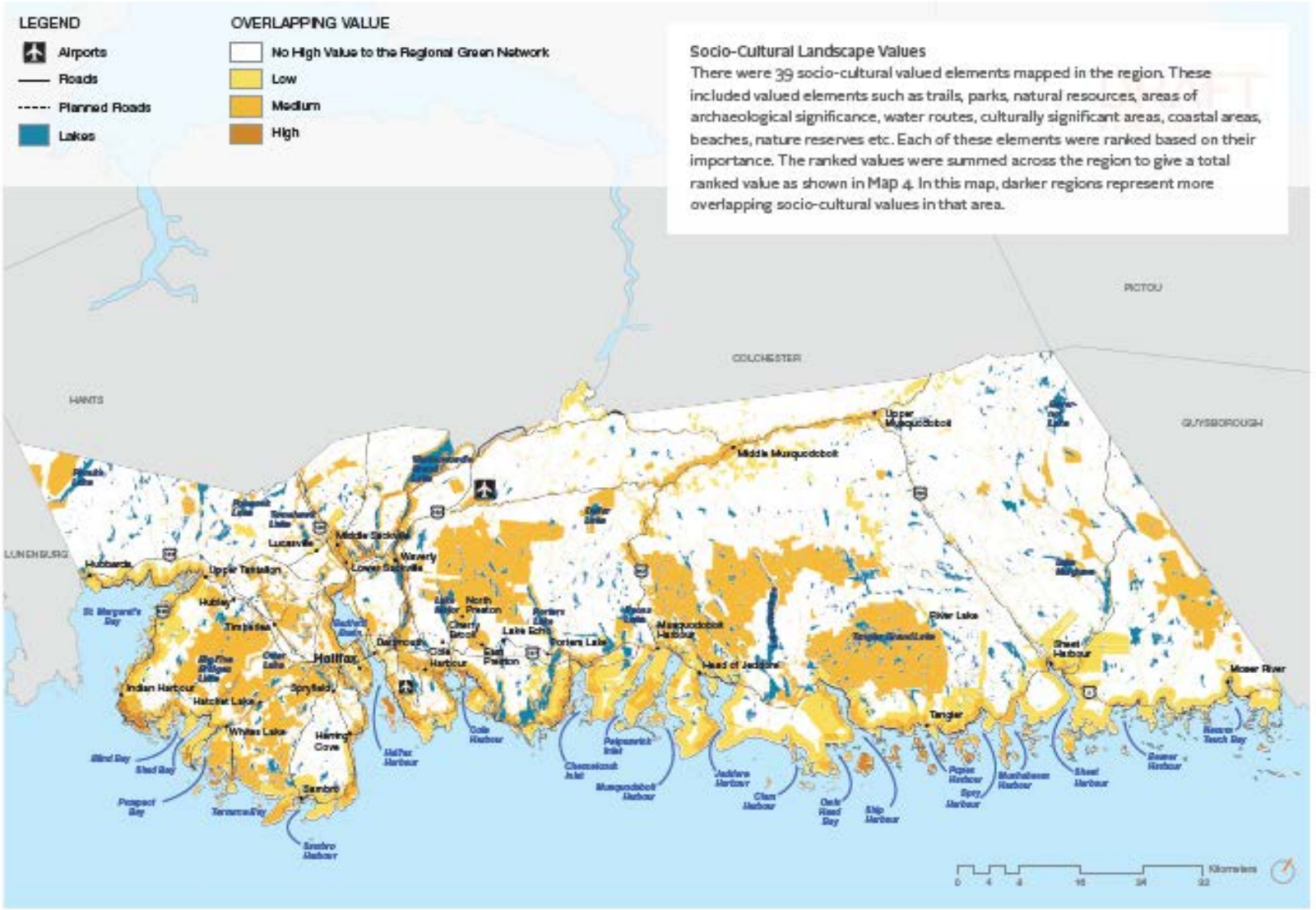
Values – Socio-cultural

Map 4: Socio-Cultural Landscape Values



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Core Planning Concepts & Functions

- Regional Landscape Planning
  - Multiple interacting elements & processes
  - Local planning within the broader landscape context
  - Regional Plan implementation

Core Planning Concepts & Functions

- Landscape Patterns Shaping Ecology
  - A Landscape structure that supports healthy ecological processes and biodiversity
  - Protects vital environmental resources

Landscape Patterns Shaping Ecology: Regional Scale

ECOLOGY - ESSENTIAL CONNECTIVITY AREAS

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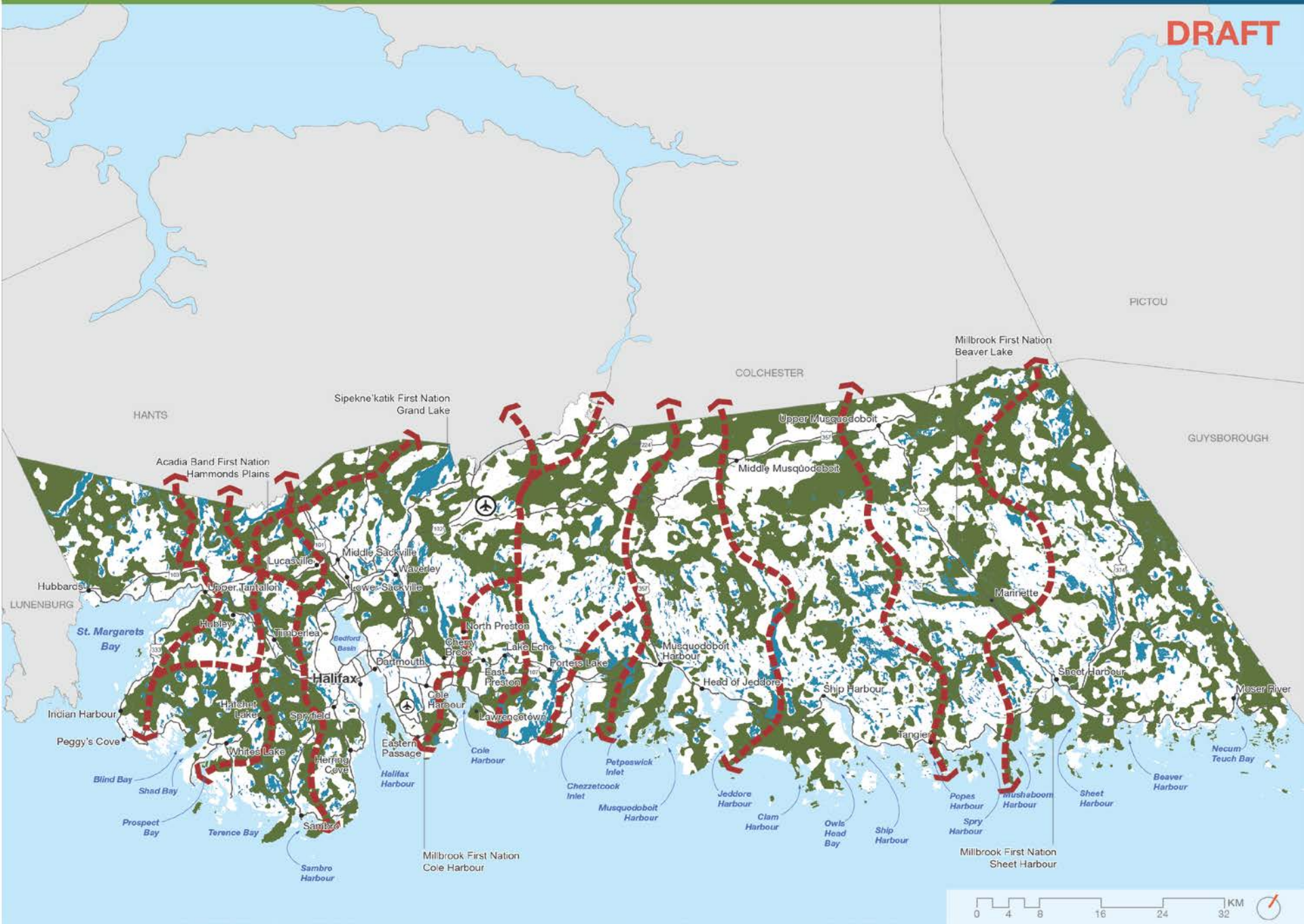
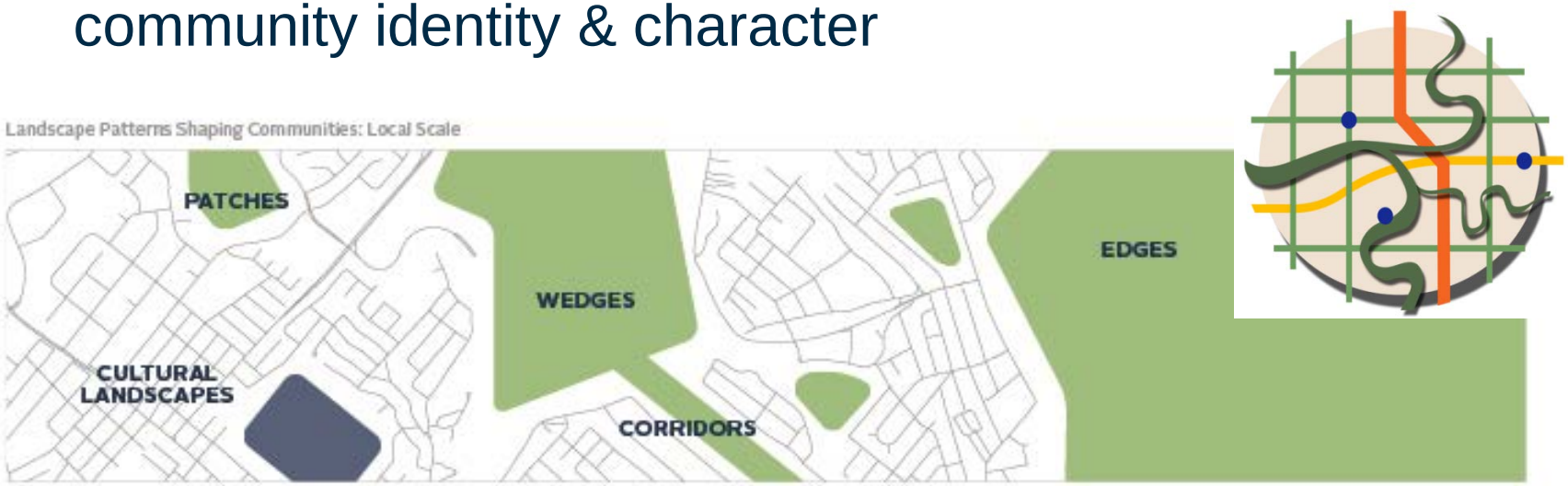


Core Planning Concepts & Functions

- Landscape Patterns Shaping Communities
  - Sustainable growth & enhancement of settlement & developed areas
  - Conservation of landscape features that provide community identity & character



Core Planning Concepts & Functions

- Community Resilience
  - Limiting environmental impact
  - Climate change adaptation & mitigation
  - Building economic resilience

Core Planning Concepts & Functions

Interconnected & Multifunctional Spaces

The Green Network Directions

- Ecology

Careful planning and management to balance ecosystems health and human activity through essential landscape patterns and connectivity

- Working Landscapes

Sustainable natural resource development and protection of landscapes that support economic development

The Green Network Directions

- Recreation + Mobility

A more interconnected and sustainable parks and open space system to meet HRM's recreational needs and to connect its communities

- Community-Shaping

Inclusion of open space areas that shape community identity and character and desired growth patterns

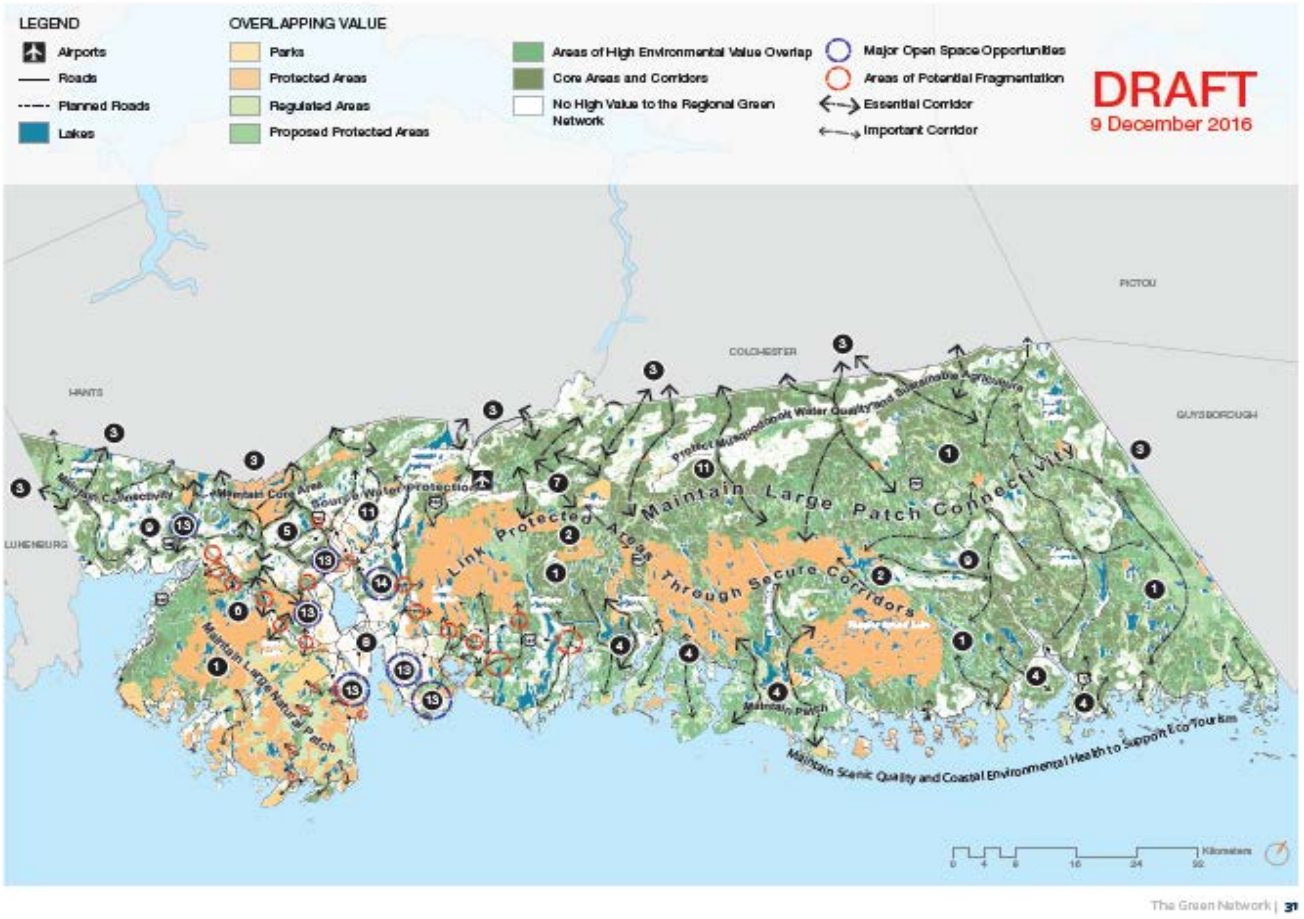
The Green Network Directions

- Cultural Landscapes

Identification and conservation of landscapes that reflect the unique culture of HRM's people and their connection to the land

The Green Network Directions

Map 6: Green Network Component: Ecological Areas



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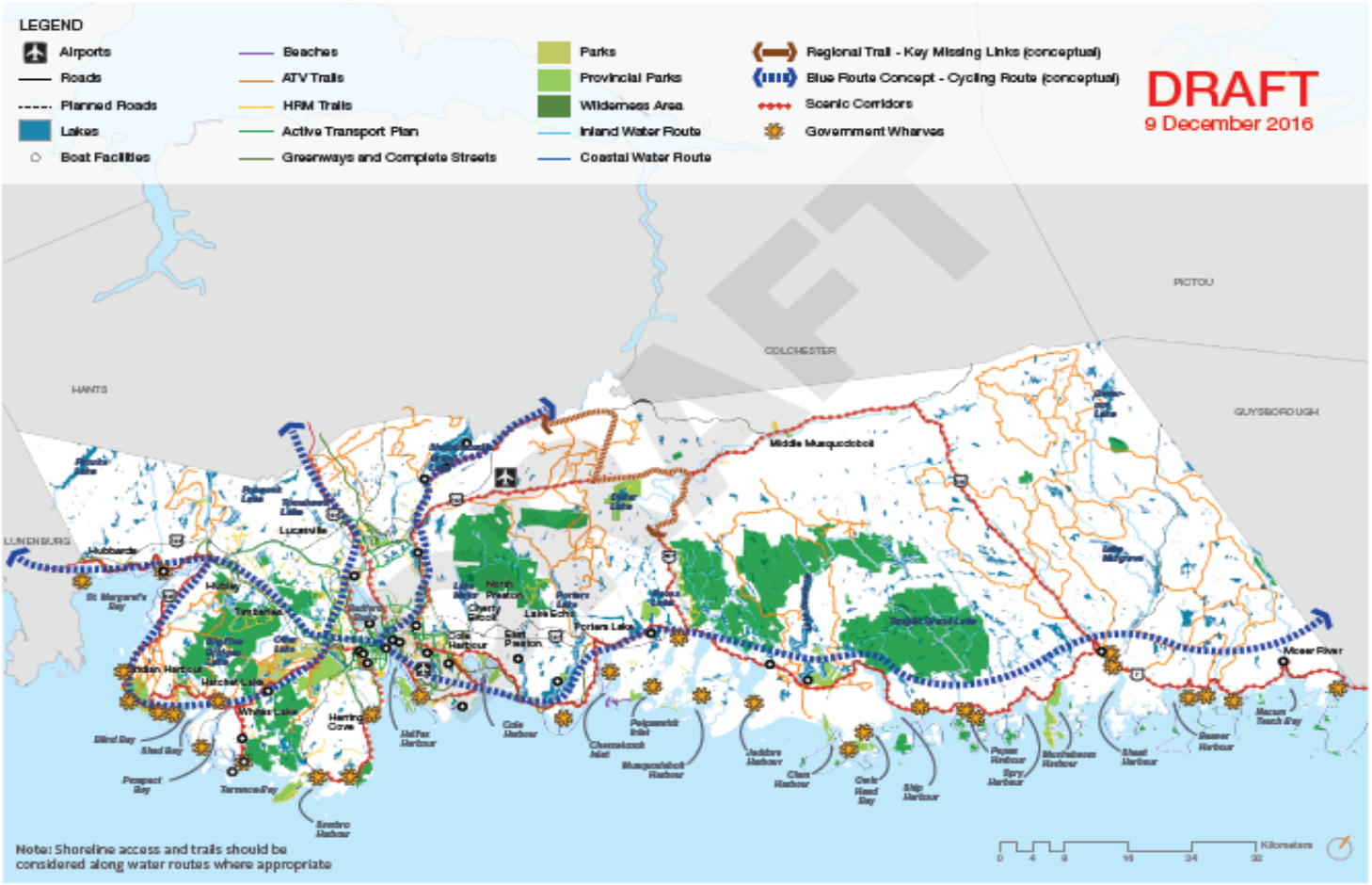
The Green Network Directions

Map 8: Green Network Component: Recreation + Mobility Network



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Plan Completion & Next Steps

- CPED & Regional Council endorsement
  - Primer + next steps
- Community & stakeholder engagement
  - May (open houses, stakeholder meetings, on-line)
- Implementation actions & tools
  - April/May/June
- Final consolidated Plan
  - June/July