



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No.**  
**Halifax and West Community Council**  
**April 17, 2018**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Halifax and West Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Original Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** March 26, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Point Pleasant Park Weekend Bicycle Access

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

- December 16, 2015 – Motion of Halifax and West Community Council:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts:

That Halifax and West Community Council request a staff report to examine the possibility of weekend bicycle access to Point Pleasant Park and to discuss the matter with the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

- September 13, 2016 – Motion of Halifax and West Community Council:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that:

Halifax and West Community Council direct staff to:

1. Undertake a public survey using the Halifax Opinion Panel regarding weekend bicycle access at Point Pleasant Park; and
2. Launch a pilot program in the spring/summer of 2017 if the survey results support weekend bicycle access.

#### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

By-law P-600 – Respecting Municipal Parks

Vehicles in Parks

10. (1) No person shall operate any vehicle within a park except wheelchairs, bicycles, Municipal or utility vehicles, unless otherwise posted, or by permission.
- (2) No person shall ride a horse or bicycle in a park except on paths therefor.
- (3) No person shall ride a horse or a bicycle within a park where a sign prohibiting the same has been posted.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2015, Halifax & West Community Council requested a staff report to examine the possibility of weekend bicycle access to Point Pleasant Park and to discuss the matter with the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. In the fall of 2016, Community Council directed staff to undertake a public survey using the Halifax Opinion Panel regarding weekend bicycle access at Point Pleasant Park, and to launch a pilot project if the survey results supported weekend bicycle access. In the spring of 2017, a pilot program was initiated in Point Pleasant Park to allow bicycles in the main trail area on weekends and holidays. Staff committed to following up with an additional survey in the fall of 2017 to determine if the pilot program would be expanded on a permanent basis.

## **DISCUSSION**

Response to the Weekend Bike Access Project was very successful and only three complaints were logged regarding weekend bicycle access throughout the pilot project. Also, the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee advised they found no negative impact of the bicycles pilot project.

The recent survey undertaken in the fall of 2017 indicated that 89% of people surveyed felt that weekend and holiday bike access should either be trialed for another season, have permanent seasonal access, and/or expanded to permanent all year access. Feedback from the survey noted that many residents and parks users were excited to see safe bike access expanding throughout Point Pleasant Park.

As a result of the pilot's success, holiday and weekend bicycle access will remain permanently at Point Pleasant Park in the main trail area. This will be communicated through traditional social media outlets via Corporate Communications. All pilot project route signage will remain in place.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Halifax Opinion Panel and on-line survey.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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