



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
January 14, 2020

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Councillor Matt Whitman, Chair, North West Community Council

DATE: December 16, 2019

SUBJECT: Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate Request – Highland Park Rate Payer’s Association

ORIGIN

December 9, 2019 meeting of North West Community Council, Item No. 7.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, section 25 (f) which states: “The powers and duties of a community council include making recommendations to the Council on any matter referred to it by the Council”.

RECOMMENDATION

North West Community Council recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Authorize a one-time contribution of \$25,000 from the Hammonds Plains Area Rate surplus to the Highland Park Rate Payer’s Association to complete the development of Timberlane Terrace Park; and
2. Authorize an additional one-time contribution of \$25,000 from the Hammond Plains Area Rate surplus to the Highland Park Rate Payer’s Association for capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail.

BACKGROUND

On June 19, 2018, Halifax Regional Council approved the Area Rates for fiscal 2018-19 and directed staff to update and combine the current Recreation Area Rate Policy and Interim Area Rates Guidelines into New Area Rate Administrative Order for 2019-2020. Administrative Order #2019-005-ADM, Respecting the Establishment and use of Community Area Rates in HRM, was approved by Regional Council on August 13, 2019. As part of the review, Council also directed the discontinuance of the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate levied on each of the taxable residential and resource property assessments and that staff return with recommendations on the existing surplus. In the meantime, interested non-profits are able to apply for funding for community projects from the surplus. Note: funds from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate can only fund projects that benefit the catchment area (see Attachment 2).

In consultation with staff, and in keeping with past practice, requests for funding from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate surplus may be considered by North West Community Council with a recommendation for funding subject to Halifax Regional Council.

For further information, please refer to the Business Plan and Funding Request from the Highland Park Rate Payer's Association.

DISCUSSION

North West Community Council considered the funding request from the Highland Park Ratepayer's Association at its meeting held on December 9, 2019 and forwarded the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate (C170) current balance, less commitments is \$ 173,368. There are sufficient funds for the payment of \$50,000. As all funding is from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate (i.e. no transfers from the general tax rate), there would be no impact on the HRM General Operating Budget.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

North West Community Council meetings are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Community Council for up to five minutes at the end of each meeting during Public Participation. The agenda, reports, and minutes of North West Community Council are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

North West Community Council did not discuss alternative recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Business Plan and Funding Request from the Highland Park Rate Payer's Association.
 2. Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate Catchment Area.
-

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Liam MacSween, A/Deputy Clerk, 490.6211

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Request for North West Community Council Consideration

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor</p> |
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Date of Meeting: December 9, 2019

Subject: Timberlane Terrace Park and Grant Line Trail Area Rate Request

Motion for North West Community Council to Consider:

That North West Community Council:

- 1. Waive section 63 (3) of Administrative Order One respecting notice of motion for a motion of Rescission;**
- 2. Rescind the November 4, 2019 motion of North West Community Council recommending that Halifax Regional Council authorize a one-time contribution of \$25,000 from the Hammonds Plains Area Rate surplus to the Hammonds Plains Rate Payers Association to complete the development of Timberlane Terrace Park and capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail;**
- 3. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**
 - **Authorize a one-time contribution of \$25,000 from the Hammonds Plains Area Rate surplus to the Highland Park Rate Payer's Association to complete the development of Timberlane Terrace Park; and**
 - **Authorize an additional one-time contribution of \$25,000 from the Hammond Plains Area Rate surplus to the Highland Park Rate Payer's Association for capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail**

Reason:

On June 19, 2018, Halifax Regional Council approved the Area Rates for fiscal 2018-19 and directed staff to update and combine the current Recreation Area Rate Policy and Interim Area Rates Guidelines into New Area Rate Administrative Order for 2019-2020. This policy is expected to return to Council for consideration in 2019. As part of the review, Council also directed the discontinuance of the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate levied on each of the taxable residential and resource property assessments and that staff return with recommendations on the existing surplus. For further information please refer to the following:

February 12, 2018 staff report – Area Rate Review – June 19, 2018 Halifax Regional Council:
<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180619rc1416.pdf>

June 19, 2018 Halifax Regional Council Meeting Minutes:
<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/c180619minutes.pdf>

In June 2019, the Highland Park Rate Payer's Association submitted a business plan and proposal for the development of Timberlane Terrace Park and capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail. A contribution of \$50,000 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate (\$25,000 for each project) is being requested.

In consultation with staff, this proposal may be considered by North West Community Council with final approval at Regional Council, as a recommendation for funding from Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate surplus.

On November 4, 2019, North West Community Council approved a recommendation to Halifax Regional Council to authorize a one-time contribution of \$25,000. This recommendation did not fully contemplate the request for a \$25,000 contribution for each project, the development of Timberlane Terrace Park (\$25,000) and capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail (\$25,000) as detailed in the proposal from the ratepayer's association (attachment 1).

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Business Plan and Proposal from Highland Park Rate Payer's Association
Attachment 2: Balance of Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate

Outcome Sought:

To rescind the November 4, 2019 motion of North West Community Council and recommend approval of a one-time \$50,000 contribution from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to the Highland Park Ratepayer's Association to complete the development of Timberlane Terrace Park and capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail.

Councillor Matt Whitman

District 13

REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Timberlane Terrace Park and Grant Line Trail

Executive Summary

The Highland Park Rate Payer's Association requests a financial contribution from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to complete the development of Timberlane Terrace Park and capital improvements to the Grant Line Trail.

Tricia Murray-d'Eon, Treasurer

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Community Benefit and Impact

The Highland Park Rate Payer's Association (HPRPA) is requesting a two-part financial contribution from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to complete the construction and capital improvements to the Timberlane Terrace Park and Grant Line Trail. This project is approved by the HRM Parks and Recreation Department for construction this year.

We are hereby requesting a \$25,000.00 contribution to complete the construction of the Timberlane Terrace Park, and \$25,000.00 to complete the capital improvements to the existing informal trail from Timberlane Terrace to Hummingbird Lane.

The Timberlane Terrace Park and Grant Line Trail capital improvements have been designed in collaboration with, and approved by the HRM Parks and Recreation Department, for development by March 2020. The park will be located on Timberlane Terrace and will connect to the current tennis/basketball courts on Sylvania Terrace, via the existing informal Grant Line Trail, previously an old road corridor. This park and trail system will provide year-round recreation and education opportunities in a historically significant, natural environment. The HPRPA expects this park and trail will increase activity levels by offering:

- new and exciting play challenges;
- passive and active sport opportunities;
- encourage community development and interaction;
- update and improve the layout of the existing infrastructure to make it more user-friendly for all ages and abilities.

The Highland Park Subdivision is located in Hammonds Plains, near the end of Hammonds Plains Rd. towards Upper Tantallon. Bounded by the communities of Yankeetown, Stillwater Lake, Westwood, and Haliburton Hills, it is approximately 25 kms from the Halifax city limits and 12 kms to Bedford. This vibrant, growing community includes 764 households with 2087 residents. The population is a mix of senior and retired long-term residents with a steadily growing number of young families moving into the area and getting involved. The HPRPA has been in discussion with residents, and has received strong support from community members for the development of Timberlane Terrace Park and capital improvements for the Grant Line Trail.

The HPRPA was formed in 1977 with the primary objective to bring together the members of the Highland Park Community, for the purpose of promoting community betterment. We strive to provide support and enhancement to our subdivision as an information hub and advocacy group. This association is available to all residents of the Highland Park Subdivision. The board members and volunteers of the HPRPA are continually working to bridge the voices within our community, via active social media sites and a community mailing list. The spring annual meeting provides opportunity to inform the community of any changes, issues, or updates to current projects, and open dialogue between the HPRPA and residents. The annual spring clean-up, community yard sale, Family Day, movie night, and skating party are examples of the ongoing activities we facilitate in our vibrant community.

Needs Assessment and Project Planning

An HRM Parks Capital Projects Planner has been assigned to manage the implementation of this project for 2019. A land assessment and functional analysis have been completed, and the concept plans have been developed. Our HRM planner has confirmed the construction for the park will commence in early summer 2019. We currently have \$75,000.00 of the expected \$100,000.00 cost for the Timberlane Terrace Park construction. We are requesting the final \$25,000.00 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate.

The Timberlane Terrace Park Project will be completed by March 2020. A park path will be cleared and grubbed with a surface of crusher dust, over a layer of gravel. In the park property line, buffers will respect neighbouring properties. Benches will be installed as rest areas, for residents to socialize and enjoy the surroundings. The pathway will have a flat, uniform surface in a circular pattern to maximize accessibility and inclusivity for the residents. This open section will narrow to a “pinch point” at the southern corner of the park, connecting to the existing HRM tennis courts on Sylvania Terrace.

The two sections of the park will be connected by the existing Grant Line Trail, an old road corridor, which is currently used as an informal trail. The approximately 0.55 km trail will be cleared of brush (and grubbed as needed) to a width of 1.5 metres (5 feet) with a base gravel layer for drainage, and crusher dust layered on top. If further drainage is required, small PVC pipe will be installed as needed. We are requesting \$25,000.00 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to complete these trail capital improvements.

Equity and Accessibility

The park and trail system will be accessible to accommodate all ages and abilities, with active and passive leisure and activity areas. The park will include flat, uniform surfaces in a circular pattern to maximize the accessibility for seniors with dementia, special needs residents, wheelchairs or strollers, and young children. Benches will be installed throughout the park to

enhance the active spaces and greatly improve accessibility. The trail will include flat, uniform surfaces to maximize its accessibility for all ages and abilities. Our primary goal is to increase the social and activity levels in our community in new and exciting ways, while creating a safe and accessible gathering space for all to enjoy.

Long Term Sustainability

We are working with Alex Quinn, Construction Engineer for HRM Parks Capital Projects, to design and implement this capital project. Mr. Quinn is working with us to create a design that meets the needs of our community, utilizes space appropriately, and offers accessibility. All components of the park will be installed and maintained by the Halifax Regional Municipality to ensure long-term sustainability. The HRM has a dedicated Operations department which receives funding every year to maintain outdoor, HRM-owned facilities.

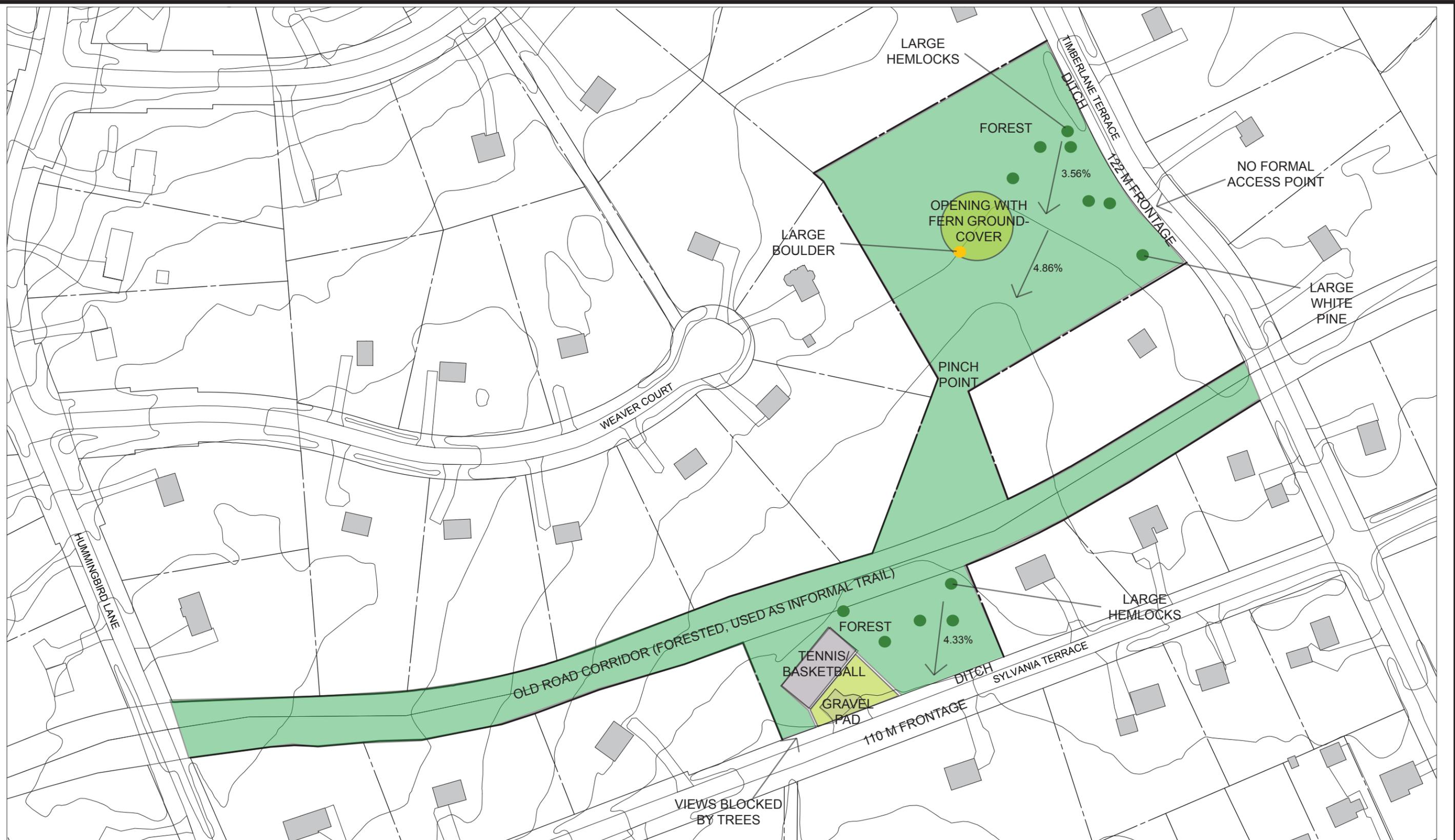
Safe and Secure Environments

The Highland Park Subdivision is a safe community with robust, actively monitored social media sites. These sites are used by the residents to inform each other of wild animal sightings, traffic violations, minor infractions, or any issue that may disrupt a peaceful coexistence in the community. There is an RCMP headquarters less than 5km from the Timberlane Terrace Park location.

The park and trail will be easily accessible from Timberlane Terrace, Sylvania Terrace, and Hummingbird Lane. There are street lights along the bordering roadways. There will be a level, uniform pathway and trail system with benches available for sitting or gathering.

Commitment by Applicant

We are requesting this funding from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to enable us to meet our goals for this valuable two-part community project. With your financial contribution, the co-operation of the HRM, and our long-established Highland Park Rate Payer's Association, we can see this plan through to completion, and thereby greatly benefit our growing community.



TIMBERLANE TERRACE PARK

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

PARKS AND RECREATION | POLICY AND PLANNING

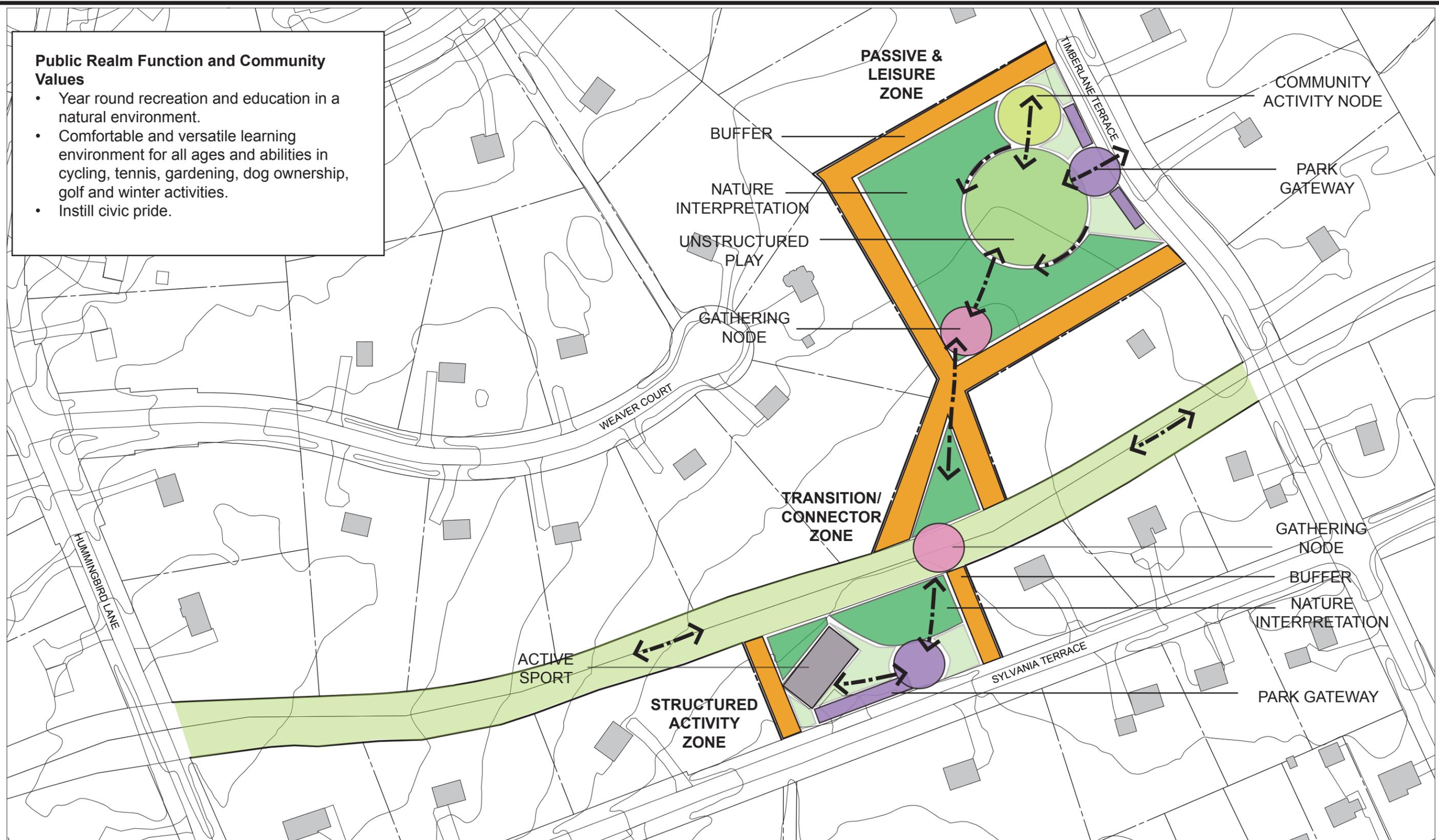
OCTOBER 2017

HALIFAX



Public Realm Function and Community Values

- Year round recreation and education in a natural environment.
- Comfortable and versatile learning environment for all ages and abilities in cycling, tennis, gardening, dog ownership, golf and winter activities.
- Instill civic pride.



TIMBERLANE TERRACE PARK

CONCEPT PLAN

PARKS AND RECREATION | POLICY AND PLANNING
OCTOBER 2017

HALIFAX



Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate

Opening Balance - 01 April 2019

Date	Amount	Association	Project
1-Apr-19	\$ 393,932		
4-Jun-19	<u>(36,794)</u>	HP Consolidated School	Landscaping
31-Oct-19	\$ 357,138		
29-Jan-19	(33,500)	Glen Arbour HOA	1/2 Basketball Court - Glen Arbour Way
21-May-19	(150,000)	HP Community Centre	Capital improvements

\$ 173,638 Available as of 31 Oct 19

Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate Catchment Area

