



REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW

Themes and Directions

Regional Watershed Advisory Committee
June 10, 2021

HALIFAX

CORE PROJECT TEAM

Emilie Pothier



Katie Fralic



Leah Perrin



Shilo Gempton



Kate Greene



Regional Plan Review Steering Committee

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning and Development
Eric Lucic, Director, Regional Planning
Peter Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Planning
Steven Higgins, Director, Current Planning
Tanya Davis, Program Manager, Transportation Planning
Shannon Miedema, Program Manager, Energy & Environment
Kenda MacKenzie, Director, Regulatory Services, Halifax Water

Key Contributors

Ayo Aladejebi
Chris Bernard
Erin Blay
Kevin Boutilier
Mary Chisholm
Mapfumo Chidzonga
Cheryl Copage-Gehue
Meaghan Dalton
Bharathi Esakkimuthu
David Espeseth
Terry Gallagher
Marcus Garnet
Ross Grant
Richard Harvey
James Hunter
Robert Jahncke
Paul Johnston
Penelope Kuhn

Thea Langille
Jillian MacLellan
Jesse Morton
Aaron Murnaghan
Taylor Owen
Samantha Page
Justin Preece
Carl Purvis
Kurt Pyle
Leen Romaneh
Cameron Robertson
Stephanie Salloum
Amy Siciliano
Ben Sivak
Leticia Smillie
Kasia Tota
Michael Wile
Jake Whalen

OVERVIEW

- »» Why are we here today?
- »» How are we engaging the public?
- »» What are the Themes & Directions?
- »» Focus on Theme 8: Environment





WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY?

We are reviewing the Regional Plan.

We are here to provide an **overview of the proposed Themes and Directions**. This is the first major deliverable of the Regional Plan Review. The Community Planning and Economic Development Committee is our primary Council advisory body. On May 20th we kicked off a month and a half long engagement period on this work.

The comment period will close on July 16, 2021.

The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) is a strategic document built on a common vision and principles for the municipality to achieve balanced and sustainable growth.

Originally adopted in 2006, the Regional Plan provided the first comprehensive guide for future growth for the entire municipality following amalgamation. It outlines where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031.

WHAT DOES THE REGIONAL PLAN DO?

- » Provides policy direction for planning at the regional and community level
- » Sets up region-wide land use by-law regulations
- » Establishes the Municipality's intent to conduct future research programs or studies
- » Identifies programming or partnership opportunities



REGIONAL PLAN TIMELINE



CURRENT RP REVIEW TIMELINE



Regional Plan Review 2020-2022

**2022 is our target for delivery of a
draft set of amendments*

Phase 1 - 2020

- Initiation
- Research
- Early Engagement

Phase 2 - 2021

- Themes & Directions Document
- Broad Engagement
- Committee Engagement



And Here

Phase 3 - 2022

- Further Research
- Draft Amendments
- Broad Engagement
- Approval Process



HOW ARE WE ENGAGING THE PUBLIC?

Virtual Tools and Community Networks.

Social media, print media and community networks will be used to **get the word out and receive feedback**. The team will be available to provide presentations to stakeholders and community groups. The team will also consult with Standing Committees of Council, Advisory Boards and Committees, and internal staff teams.

The Regional Plan Review webpage is the primary point for engagement:

www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan

Important Dates:

Overall Comment Period

May 20 – July 16

Survey

June 3 – July 16

Virtual Presentation + Q&A

Social Policy – June 11

Housing – June 14

Climate Change - June 15

Environment – June 15

Mobility – June 16

Long-Range Planning – June 16

For More Information Please
Visit [Shape Your City Halifax](#)

See: [Regional Plan Review](#)

[Home](#) » [Regional Plan Review](#)

Regional Plan Review



The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) is a strategic document built on a common vision and principles for the municipality to achieve balanced and sustainable growth. Originally adopted in 2006, the Regional Plan provided the first comprehensive guide for future growth for the entire municipality following amalgamation

This website is the place where you can access content, materials and supporting research for the Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy Plan Review. You can also find out about the project process, including public engagement

activities. We welcome your input and participation in the process. Through the Regional Plan Review we are focused on the following ideas:



WHAT ARE THE THEMES & DIRECTIONS?

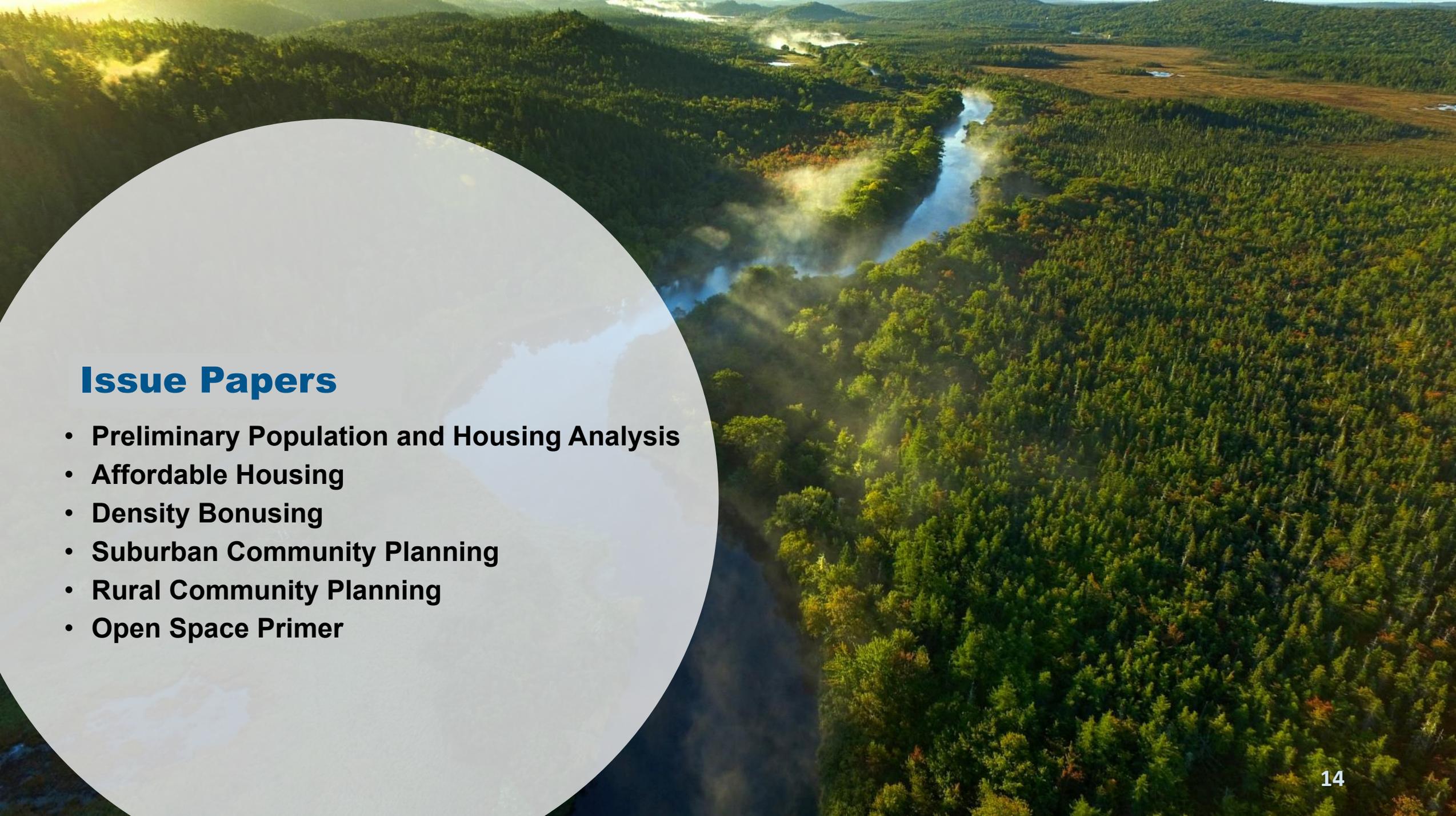
Key Ideas, Issues and Potential Changes.

The Themes & Directions document **shares ideas about key planning issues and provides details of the work** that will be completed during the Review. The purpose of this document is to demonstrate the scope of the Regional Plan Review to the public, stakeholders, Council, and ultimately to seek feedback on the content.

The feedback will help provide focus and direction for our work during the Review.

11 THEMES





Issue Papers

- **Preliminary Population and Housing Analysis**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Density Bonusing**
- **Suburban Community Planning**
- **Rural Community Planning**
- **Open Space Primer**

THEMES & DIRECTIONS

Theme 8: Enhancing Environmental Protection

- Using the Green Network Plan Ecology Map to guide planning decisions
- Reviewing interactions between land use and important ecological areas and wildlife corridors
- Continue to support naturalization and green infrastructure
- Continue to support the implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan
- Continued development of Watershed Management, Water Quality Programs
- Improved consideration of watercourses and wetlands
- Improve coastal area management



Biggest Moves:

Developing a program of study for the protection of wildlife corridors

Reviewing the Municipality's ability to protect environmentally sensitive or important lands

Improving protection for water course, wetlands and coastal areas



Planning Tools for Protecting and Conserving Land



The HRM Charter limits the Municipality's ability to completely prohibit development. However, HRM has some tools to protect the environment which include:

- Mitigating negative environmental effects of development
- Protecting lands around drinking water sources
- Purchasing lands for conservation
- Limiting sprawl through subdivision and road development controls



Protecting Natural Corridors



Natural corridors are undeveloped areas that provide linear connections between larger patches of wilderness. These corridors are extremely important as they connect habitats and help to maintain healthy and diverse wildlife populations.

The HGNP identified the need for a clear approach for protecting natural corridors as the region grows and develops.

Additional study is needed to understand how we can best protect these corridors at a regional scale while managing the impact of individual developments.



Naturalization



The Halifax Green Network Plan and HalifACT both encourage the inclusion and maintenance of natural areas and green infrastructure in communities where growth is located or planned. The Urban Forest Master Plan provides direction for planning, programming and maintaining HRM's urban forest.

Natural areas and green infrastructure help to:

- manage stormwater
- reduce the heat island effect
- improve water quality
- provide shade
- sequester carbon.

This kind of naturalization work is already being piloted in HRM to improve the environmental health in our urban areas.



Managing Water Resources

Protecting the Municipality's water resources is critical for our potable water supply, supporting wildlife and overall ecological health, recreation use and aesthetic values.

The Regional Plan Review will:

- Adopt policy to support a comprehensive water quality monitoring program
- Update policy to support ongoing work to improve stormwater management practices
- Review wetland and riparian buffer regulations
- Continue to require studies of environmental features as part of planning for future serviced communities



Coastal Protection

Sea level rise and extreme water levels, exacerbated by increasing frequency and intensity of storms, is expected to significantly impact the Atlantic Coast.

HRM can expect impacts from sea level rise and extreme water levels in coastal areas, including:

- Flooding
- Saltwater intrusion
- Coastal erosion

All of which can significantly damage infrastructure, property and natural features. Limiting damage to coastal communities and ecosystems will require carefully managing development in these areas.

HRM will continue to work with the Province to develop and adopt revised policies and regulations consistent with the Coastal Protection Act and tailored to the HRM context.

To learn more, ask questions, join the project's mailing list and make your voice heard:

Visit: www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan

Email: regionalplan@halifax.ca

Phone: 902.233.2501

Stay updated on other events and engagement opportunities by following the Halifax Regional Municipality on social media and Shape Your City.

Important Dates:

Overall Comment Period

May 20 – July 16

Survey

June 3 – July 16

Virtual Presentation + Q&A

Social Policy – June 11

Housing – June 14

Climate Change - June 15

Environment – June 15

Mobility – June 16

Long-Range Planning – June 16

For More Information Please
Visit [Shape Your City Halifax](#)

See: [Regional Plan Review](#)

[Home](#) » [Regional Plan Review](#)

Regional Plan Review



The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) is a strategic document built on a common vision and principles for the municipality to achieve balanced and sustainable growth. Originally adopted in 2006, the Regional Plan provided the first comprehensive guide for future growth for the entire municipality following amalgamation

This website is the place where you can access content, materials and supporting research for the Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy Plan Review. You can also find out about the project process, including public engagement

activities. We welcome your input and participation in the process. Through the Regional Plan Review we are focused on the following ideas: