

Item 12.1.2

HALIFAX

Halifax Common Master Plan Presentation

Community Planning & Economic Development
Standing Committee

December 8, 2021

Halifax Common Master Plan

A guiding document for the planning, development, and management of open space within the Halifax Common.



Master Planning Process

- Began in the Fall of 2017
- Wide range of perspectives including recreation, cultural heritage, integrated mobility, the environment and urban planning
- Consultation with institutional stakeholders
- Technical team of staff from other business units
- Fundamental aspects retained from the 1994 Halifax Common Plan
- Affirm the guiding principles reflect present day conditions
- Align with Municipality's strategic initiatives and values
- Identify reinvestment priorities and long-term objectives for parkland



Community Engagement

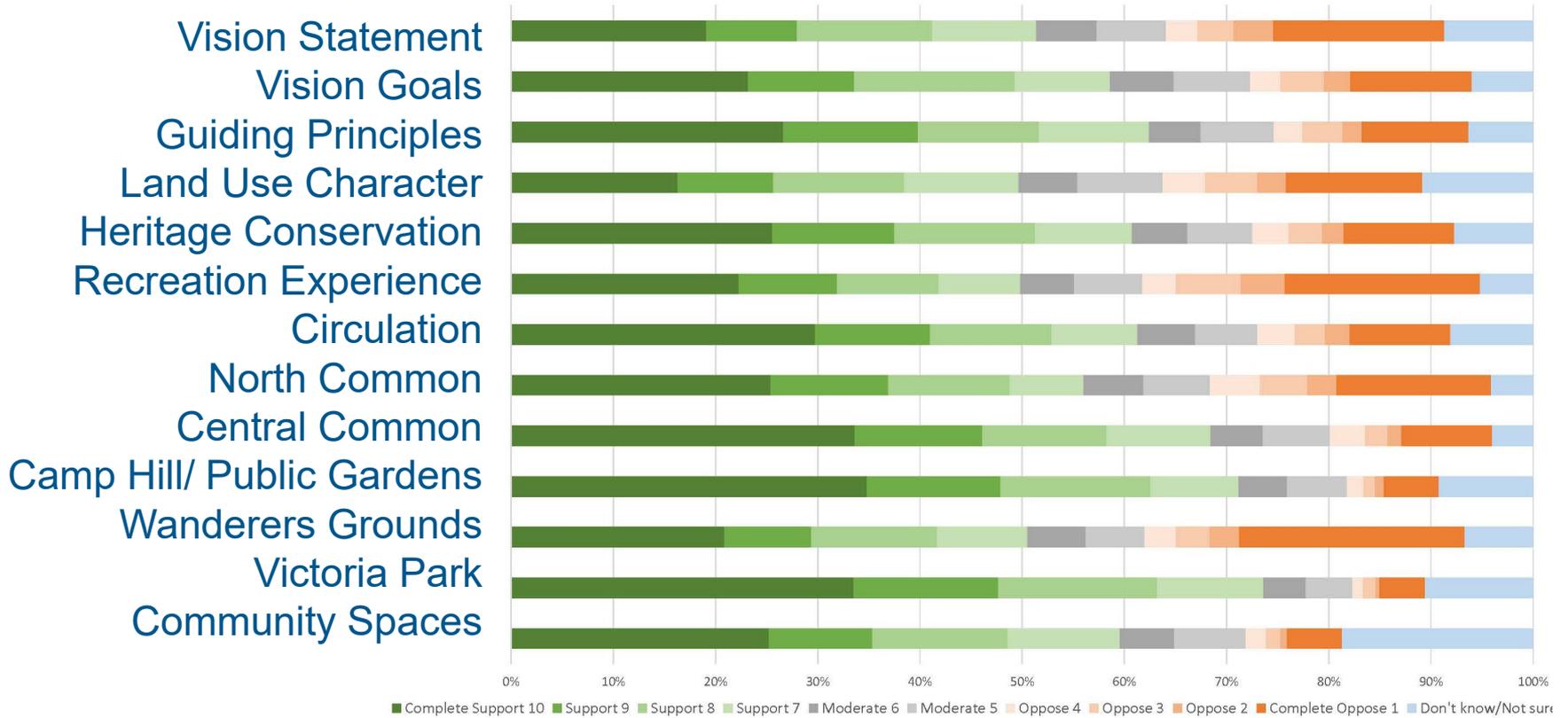
Involved over 3,000 people throughout the process:

- Four public meetings
- Pop-up session
- Two on-line surveys
- Youth focus group
- Stakeholder and community organization focus groups



www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/halifax-common-master-plan

2019 Online Survey: Support/ Oppose Rating Summary



Master Plan Contents and Approach

Policy Directions		Guiding Statements to be considered in evaluating or undertaking projects
Actions		Outline how policies may be implemented. Direct programs or projects to improve open space
Design & Program Guidance		Recommendations for future capital improvements and considerations for further investigations
Illustrative Plans		Aids to visualize prospective improvements to Municipal open space

Vision Statement

The Halifax Common will be a vital public space that will strengthen Halifax's identity as a welcoming place.

Its open spaces, public uses and special character are to be protected for future generations, while being flexible and adaptable to meet evolving needs.



Vision Goals

- ❖ To strengthen the shared sense of place, protect the unique character and foster a cohesive identity
- ❖ To broaden the range of leisure and recreation spaces and activities, to ensure more people can enjoy experiences on the Halifax Common
- ❖ To improve the mobility network with accessible, comfortable and convenient connections that encourage active transportation
- ❖ To enrich public life, in the way people use public spaces, and in how those spaces are planned, implemented and maintained
- ❖ To support human health and wellbeing with an open space system that minimizes environmental impacts and improves resilience to climate change
- ❖ To protect and celebrate significant cultural and historic elements of the Halifax Common

Guiding Principles

>> Coherent

The Halifax Common is understood as one distinct place by being integrated, legible and orderly

>> Enduring

The heritage of the Halifax Common is safeguarded for future generations to enjoy

>> Connected

The Halifax Common links people and places through active mobility choices

>> Open

Free and accessible open space is safeguarded

>> Diverse

The variety of activities, character and functions reflect the diverse needs of the community

>> Inclusive

The Halifax Common's public spaces are for the enjoyment of everyone

>> Versatile

Public spaces are efficient, adaptable and multi-functional

>> Green

Park and open spaces are supported by infrastructure that incorporates sustainable and resilient living systems and processes

>> Participatory

The community is engaged in the planning, care and animation of the public spaces

Master Plan Highlights



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Halifax Common District

Need for Joint Planning

Mobility Planning

Less Structured Recreation

Wanderers Block

Heritage Planning



Municipal Land Strategies



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North Common

- The “*Common Green*” great lawn for more unstructured greenspace
- Revitalize the Centennial Fountain area
- More trees, naturalization and communal gardens

Central Common

- Outdoor Aquatic Facility replacement
- Playground replacement
- Skatepark redesign
- Convert ball diamond for slo-pitch
- Improve sport field, add drop-in programming





Wanderers Grounds

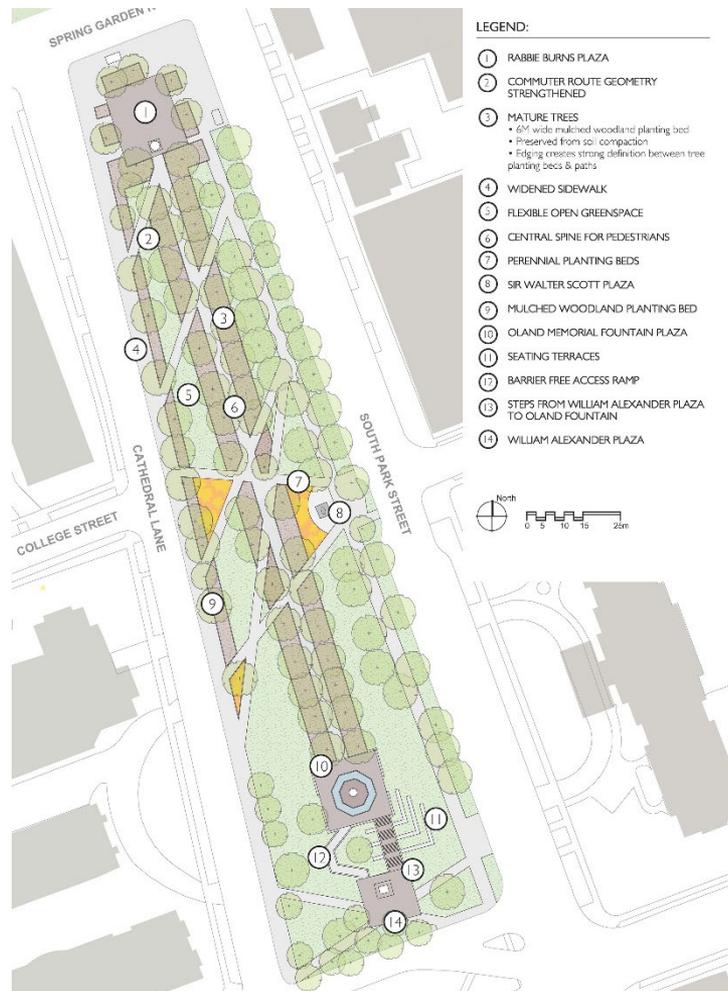
- Further collaborative planning required
- Place an emphasis on the public use
- Modernize greenhouses and consolidate parks depot yard and offices
- Update recreation club facilities
- Consolidate parking and circulation

Camp Hill Cemetery



Halifax Public Gardens





Victoria Park

- Circulation and accessibility improvements
- Revitalize fountain area
- Tree lawn and planting bed improvements
- Festive winter lighting
- Entrance plaza treatments

Recommendation

It is recommended that Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

1. Repeal the 1994 Halifax Common Plan and adopt the Halifax Common Master Plan (Master Plan) as contained in Attachment A, as a guiding document for open space planning, management, and development within the Halifax Common; and
2. Direct the CAO to undertake periodic reviews at least every five years of the Master Plan for any updates.



Thank You

**Strategic Planning & Design
Parks & Recreation**

HALIFAX