



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 15.2.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 28, 2022**

**TO:** Mayor Savage Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Trish Purdy, Chair, Community Planning & Economic  
Development Standing Committee

**DATE:** June 17, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Northern Suburban Area All-Weather Field Track

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**ORIGIN**

June 16, 2022 meeting of Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee, Item 10.3.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of Council, Schedule 3 Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference:

1. (1) The purpose of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee is to recommend to the Council directions to support Community and Economic life “making HRM the most livable community in which to live, work and play”.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report to advance the development of an all-weather field and running track located in the area of Lockview High School by the Municipality, as outlined in the proposal from the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, and including reviews and investigations of:
  - a. The suitability of the site;
  - b. The funding as outlined in the proposal, including that 80% the proposed funds be directly from the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, and the

**RECOMMENDATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 2**

Provincial and Federal governments;

- c. The ability to enter into suitable arrangements with the HRCE/Province of Nova Scotia;  
and
- d. Opportunities to partner with Indigenous community leadership; and

Pending the outcomes of the reviews and investigations of the suitability of developing the proposed all-weather field and running track at Lockview High School, identify the project within future capital, operational budgets and business plans and include it in Provincial and Federal funding applications.

### **BACKGROUND**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee received a presentation from Rita Nigam and Cory Bell, Representatives of the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, regarding a proposed Northern Suburban Area Outdoor Community Recreational and Teaching Facility and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee. Following discussion, members the Standing Committee moved recommendation outlined in this report.

For further information refer to the draft minutes for the June 16, 2022 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

### **DISCUSSION**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee considered the presentation from Rita Nigam and Cory Bell and discussed the feasibility of funding commitments to the proposal.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial implications will be further explored in a subsequent staff report.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

Risk consideration will be further explored in a subsequent staff report.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental implications will be further explored in a subsequent staff report.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee did not discuss alternatives.

Alternatives will be further explored in a subsequent staff report.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Extract from the June 16, 2022 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Draft Minutes.

Attachment 2 – June 16, 2022 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Item 10.3.1. Presentation from Rita Nigam and Cory Bell, Representatives of the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee.

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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.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.292.3962

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*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Standing Committee at a future meeting.*

### 10.3 Presentation

#### 10.3.1 Northern Suburban Area Outdoor Community Recreational and Teaching Facility – Rita Nigam, HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Speaker Request to Present dated May 9, 2022
- Speaker Presentation dated June 16, 2022
- Correspondence from Rita Nigam

Rita Nigam and Cory Bell, Representatives of the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, gave a presentation on the Northern Suburban Area Outdoor Community Recreational and Teaching Facility and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:**

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report to advance the development of an all-weather field and running track located in the area of Lockview High School by the Municipality, as outlined in the proposal from the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, and including reviews and investigations of:**
  - a. **The suitability of the site;**
  - b. **The funding as outlined in the proposal, including that 80% the proposed funds be directly from the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, and the Provincial and Federal governments;**
  - c. **The ability to enter into suitable arrangements with the HRCE/Province of Nova Scotia; and**
  - d. **Opportunities to partner with Indigenous community leadership; and**
2. **Pending the outcomes of the reviews and investigations of the suitability of developing the proposed all-weather field and running track at Lockview High School, identify the project within future capital, operational budgets and business plans and include it in Provincial and Federal funding applications.**

Members of Standing Committee and staff stated that it is possible that the proposed report would be consolidated with the Regional Playing Field Strategy report, though staff noted they would explore various options.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### 10.3.2 Policy Barriers to Environmental Protection – Kortney Dunsby, Sustainable Cities Coordinator for the Ecology Action Centre, & Coordinator of Our HRM Alliance

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Speaker Request to Present dated June 3, 2022
- Speaker Presentation dated June 16, 2022

Kortney Dunsby and Mary Ellen Donovan, representative of Our HRM Alliance, gave a presentation on Policy Barriers to Environmental Protection and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Item 10.3.1 Attachment 2

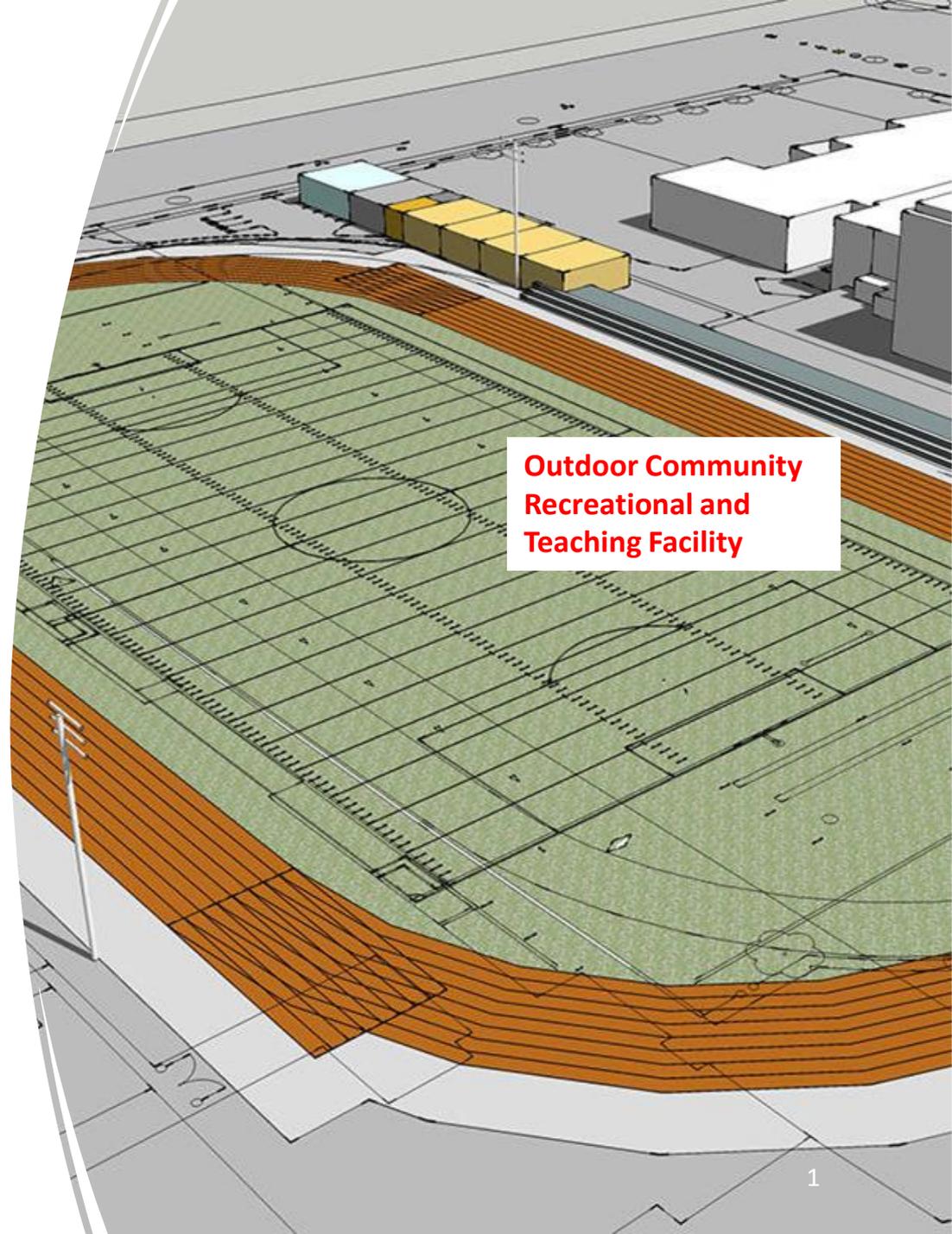
# Supporting a Healthy and Inclusive Community

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HRM Northern Suburban  
Area Community Turf  
Committee

Non-Profit Registered  
Community Organization  
(Registry ID 4360095)

June 16, 2022



**Outdoor Community  
Recreational and  
Teaching Facility**



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## Land Acknowledgment

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The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.

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Our committee acknowledges and celebrates this history with our work within the community.

# Objectives/Goals

**To promote participACTION and healthy living for all members of the community.**

We are asking for Councillors' support, at the next Regional Council meeting, to have HRM take the lead and financially support 20% of the project (852K).

The project will see the building of an outdoor community recreational and teaching facility that includes:

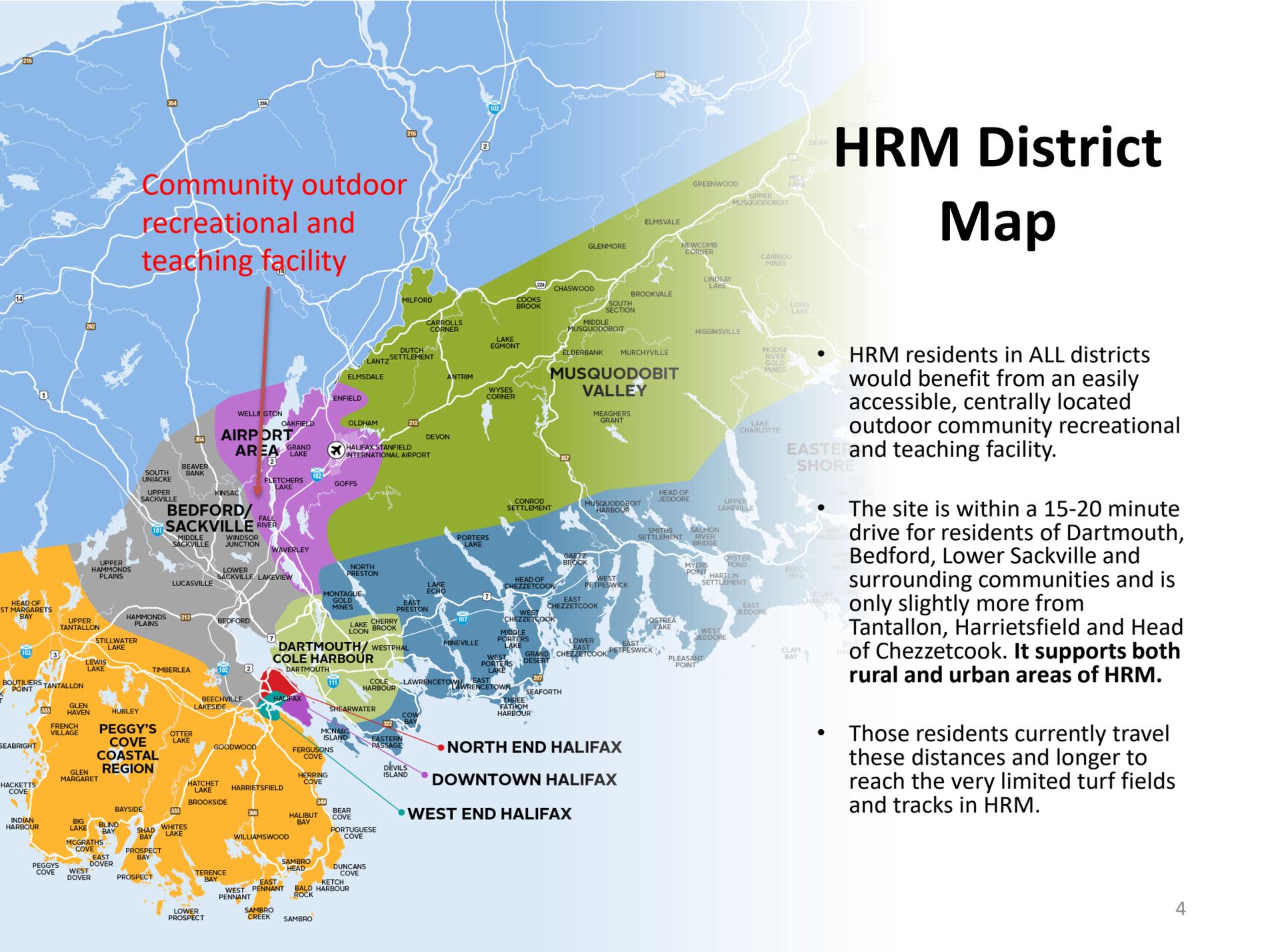
- An artificial turf field with lighting,
- training track ,
- an indigenous teaching space.

We acknowledge that HRM is preparing a Playing Field Strategy. With overwhelming support from the community and various organizations, this facility provides an early opportunity to show progress on HRM recreation goals.



# HRM District Map

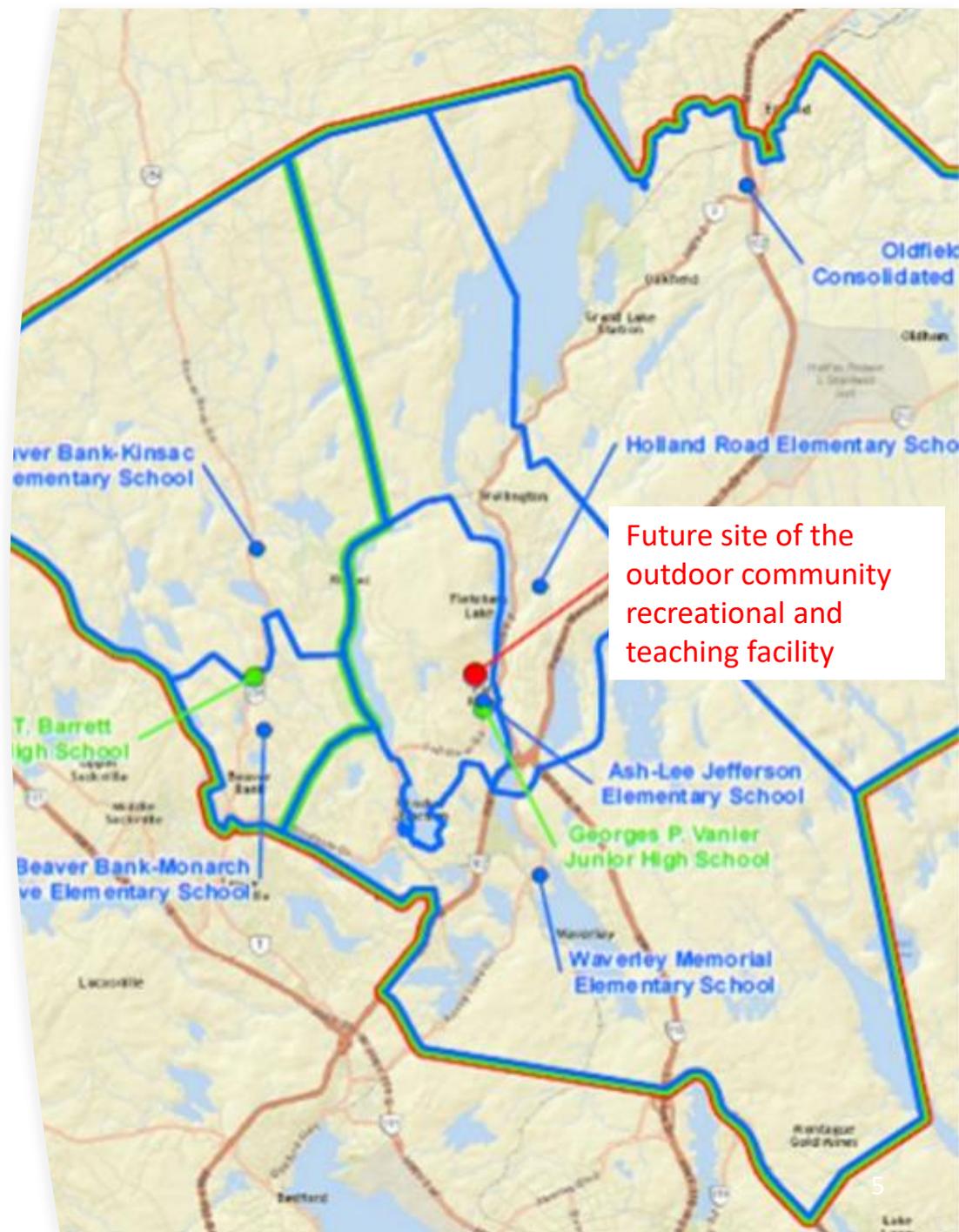
Community outdoor recreational and teaching facility



- HRM residents in ALL districts would benefit from an easily accessible, centrally located outdoor community recreational and teaching facility.
- The site is within a 15-20 minute drive for residents of Dartmouth, Bedford, Lower Sackville and surrounding communities and is only slightly more from Tantallon, Harrietsfield and Head of Chezzetcook. **It supports both rural and urban areas of HRM.**
- Those residents currently travel these distances and longer to reach the very limited turf fields and tracks in HRM.

# Significant Growth in Zone

- Map shows the riding of Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank and several connected communities.
- 2016 census data predicted a 5 yr. growth rate of 23.3% for a total population of 25,000. Since the pandemic, there has been an influx of people to the area such that Halifax is now one of the top 2 fastest growing cities in Canada.
- There are proposals for increasing housing stock of 2000 units/ 6000 residents over the next 2 years.
- **Infrastructure is required to support this growth.**
- There is no public transit in much of this area; challenging and environmentally unfriendly to access other fields.
- The project will reduce commute times for families and **support environment and climate change action.**



# Indigenous Recreation Promotion & Teaching Space

- Over 90% of residents surveyed affirmed the Indigenous project goals are crucial for past and present community engagement.
- Home to a substantial off reserve Indigenous population on lands culturally significant to the early Mi'kmaq.
- Studies show inclusive recreation is enhanced when appreciation of cultural traditions are possible.
- This innovative concept will be used by educators, community groups and participants in recreational events.
- Indigenous community members and leadership are excited by this new proposal welcoming all cultures to the field of play.





## Current Field Challenges

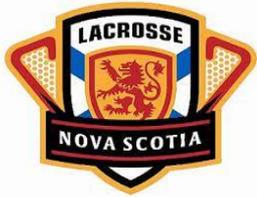
- Original construction was outside HRM or HRCE standards under P3 contract.
- Condition degraded to point where it is not used.
- No alternate field or facilities exist for formal or unscheduled recreational activity.
- 84% of residents stated field is unsafe or unfit.



# Multi Sport Artificial Turf

- COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION Plan of record is to leverage existing property and investments while upgrading field of play, amenities and install lighting.
- **Plenty of easy parking available.**
- 6 lane track for athletic training, community based running and walking clubs with an accessible activity space. One of the goals is to provide health benefits and **active senior living inclusion.**
- There is to be a transition from 2 sports fields to a multi-use playing surface available for in-demand recreational uses.
- **HRCE owns the land and supports the build of the project on the land.**

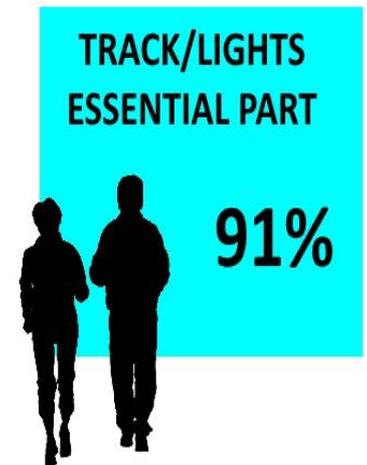
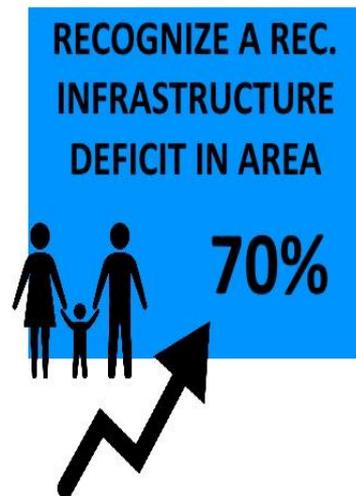
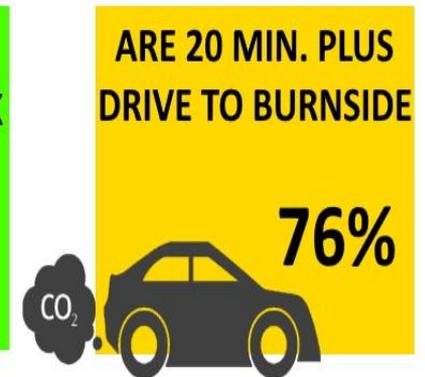
# Sport & Community Support Letters



- The combined sport membership is over **25, 825** members from many areas of municipality.
- Executive Directors of several sport associations have confirmed there is a lack of available fields during peak hours.
- All three levels of government support the project (Councillors Cathy Deagle-Gammon and Lisa Blackburn, MLA Brian Wong and MP Darrell Samson).
- Dr. Robert Strang who lives in the community supports an **accessible facility** to promote physical and mental health.
- A petition has been signed by 1700 HRM residents.
- The project will support active living for all ages, genders, abilities and ethnicities.

# Recent Community Survey Results

675 residents  
completed survey



# Financial Considerations

- **The annual cost to maintain a turf field is offset by annual revenue.\***
- The Education Act provides the opportunity for HRM to fund community enhancement projects of a school to meet community needs.

\*May 24, 2016 Halifax Regional Council report (Item 14.1.1)



<b>Class B Estimate from Lindsay Construction (10% contingency)</b>	<b>4.26 M</b>
Community & Corporate Funding support (5%)	213 K
Municipality support (20%)	852 K
Provincial support (35%)	1.49 M
Federal support (40%)	1.70 M

# Summary

This project promotes:

- Participation in physical activity for ALL ages, genders, abilities and ethnicities;
- Growth in youth and indigenous sport; and
- Community engagement and support (petition, survey and numerous letters).



# Conclusions

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- We are asking for Councillor support at the Halifax Regional Council for HRM to take the lead and financially support 20% of the project.
- The project is in alignment with the following Key Government Priorities:
  - Environment and Climate Change Action
  - Indigenous Learning and Recreation Promotion
  - Seniors Active Living Inclusion
  - Recreational facilities within easy driving distance of target residential densification areas
- Overwhelming Community Support!!



# Volunteer Committee Members

Committee	Advisor	Government
Rita Nigam, President (PhD, Clinical Research Consultant)	Cory Bell, P.Eng. President & CEO Lindsay Construction	Cathy Deagle-Gammon District 1 Councillor
Troy DeVenne, Vice President & Treasurer (CD)		Lisa Blackburn District 14 Councillor
Barbara Maclean, Corporate Secretary (P. Eng., Realtor)		Brian Wong, MLA
Barry Cox, Communication Lead (BComm, M.ScA)		Darrell Samson, MP
Peter Crowe, Member (P.Eng., Vice President Stantec Consulting Ltd., President Suburban Football Club)		Kelly Macleod, LHS Principal, HRCE
Sara Wood, Member (Bachelor of Recreation, EPA)		
Donna Huestis, Member (Senior Territory Manager NS, Campari Group)		
Tom Heighway, Fundraising Lead (BA, CSP)		
Shelly Martin, Member (B.A. Hons, M.A., L.L.B.)		
Steve MacLellan, Fundraising (P.Eng., Owner of Design Your Future Financial Services, President of FRABA)		



**Thank you !**

