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Item No. 12.1.2

**Environment and Sustainability
Standing Committee &
Community Planning and Economic Development
Standing Committee**

November 3, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
Chair and Members of the Community Planning and Economic Development
Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 28, 2022

SUBJECT: Halifax Green Network Plan 2021 Progress Report

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

On August 14, 2018 the following motion of Regional Council was put and passed regarding item 14.3.1:

“THAT Halifax Regional Council:

6. Request that staff provide annual progress reports on the implementation of the Green Network Plan, to Regional Council through the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.”

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, clause 79A(1)(a), and subsection 229(1)

79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if

(a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality’s operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;

229 (1) A municipal planning strategy must include statements of policy respecting

(e) any other matter prescribed by the regulations.

Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations, clauses 6 (g), 8(a), and 9(f), (h)

- 6 A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on the use, content, development, and administration of the following:
 - (g) studies to be carried out before undertaking specified developments or developments in specified areas;
- 8 A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on any of the following:
 - (a) municipal investment for public and private development and coordinating public programs relating to the economic, social and physical development of the municipality;
9. A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on any of the following:
 - (f) stormwater management and erosion control;
 - (h) identifying, protecting, using and developing any of the following:
 - (i) lands subject to flooding,
 - (ii) steep slopes,
 - (iii) lands susceptible to subsidence, erosion or other geological hazards, and

Administrative Order One, *the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order*, Schedule 3, Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference, clauses 3 (a)(e), and section 7:

3. The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall provide oversight of the Municipality's Regional Plan and Regional Planning Initiatives, as follows:
 - (a) overseeing the Municipality's Regional Plan and Regional Planning Initiatives;
 - (e) overseeing the priority setting relative to the Community Visioning Program, Functional Plan Implementation and major planning projects.
7. The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be determined by the Council.

BACKGROUND

The Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) defines an interconnected open space system for the entire municipality, highlights ecosystem functions and benefits, and outlines strategies to manage open space. Specifically, the HGNP provides land management and community design direction to:

- maintain ecologically and culturally important land and aquatic systems;
- promote the sustainable use of natural resources and economically important open spaces; and
- identify, define and plan land suited for parks and corridors.

On August 14, 2018, Halifax Regional Council approved the HGNP. This approval included direction to use the HGNP as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and Secondary Planning Strategies and to carry out the actions contained in the HGNP through the multi-year budgeting and business planning process.

As requested by Council, this report provides the third annual progress update on the implementation of the HGNP and summarizes the work that has taken place in 2021 and early 2022.

DISCUSSION

The HGNP includes direction to carry out a total of 79 actions to effectively support the Plan's vision, goals and objectives. The actions generally use one of the four implementation tools identified in Chapter 6 of the HGNP. These tools include land use planning, park management, project work and partnerships. In 2021 and early 2022:

- 24 of the 27 actions identified as "Guidance" (to be used on an ongoing basis) were used to direct municipal operations and decision-making.
- 5 recommended actions with identified timelines have been completed.
- 46 recommended actions with identified timelines are in progress. Many of these actions were intended to be considered through multi-year projects that were already planned or underway at the time of the adoption of the HGNP, such as the Regional Plan Review, Plan & By-law Simplification Program, Municipal Design Guidelines (Red Book) Update, and ongoing park planning initiatives. Work on these various projects continued to move forward in 2021 and the recommendations of the HGNP have continued to inform their direction.
- One recommended action with an identified timeline has not yet been initiated. This action is dependant on the results of other actions currently in progress.

An update on the status of each of the HGNP action items is included as Attachment A. A summary of the updates based on the four implementation tools is provided below.

Land Use Planning

The HGNP recommends 27 actions that provide guidance and specific instructions on amendments to the Municipality's various planning documents, including the Regional Plan, the Regional Subdivision By-law, and the various secondary plans and land use by-laws. The majority of these amendments were identified for consideration as part of the Regional Plan Review, which is currently underway and anticipated to be completed in 2023, and the ongoing Plan and By-law Simplification Program.

The following provides a summary of the work completed in 2021 on the land use planning initiatives related to HGNP actions:

- Centre Plan Package B was approved by Regional Council on October 26, 2021. The recommendations of the HGNP were considered during the development of the Centre Plan. The approved Plan includes policies for the Regional Centre that identify wetlands, establish standard watercourse setbacks and coastal elevations, identify landscapes of cultural significance, establish shadow performance standards for identified parks, require a land suitability and parkland analysis for Future Growth Nodes, consolidate park policies and zones, permit the keeping of hens and urban agriculture in all zones, permit edible landscaping, prohibit certain invasive and highly toxic species, and identify a need for the Regional Centre Park and Open Space Plan.¹
- The Regional Plan Review's Themes & Directions Report was released on May 20, 2021. The Report shared ideas about key planning issues and provided details of the work that will be completed during the Review. This included outlining the proposed approach to how the recommendations of the HGNP will be considered as part of the Regional Plan Review. Public engagement opened following the release of the report and ran until July 16, 2021. A What We Heard Report providing an overview of the feedback reviewed and next steps for the Review was released on December 14, 2021.² The Phase 3 Report was released on July 12, 2022 and includes

¹ More information on the Regional Centre Plan is available at <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/community-plan-areas/regional-centre-plan-area>

² More information on the Regional Plan Review is available at <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan>

proposed amendments that will require the policies and principles of the HGNP to be considered during discretionary planning applications and during plan amendment processes.³

- The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public engagement. The draft includes actions related to the prioritization and protection of cultural landscapes and archaeological resources. It is anticipated that Sharing Our Stories will be considered by Regional Council in 2022.⁴

Park Network Management

There are 22 actions related to park management that support the HGNP's goals and objectives. The following highlights examples of how the HGNP is being integrated into municipal programs and projects:

- HGNP guidance was used in the development of park plans, such as the inclusion of food supportive amenities (community gardens and others), year round recreation opportunities, public art, and wayfinding. This guidance was considered in plans for the Halifax Common, Rehab Lands, and Bedford West and upgrades to existing parks.
- Policy recommendations regarding park management, including the adoption of a parks spectrum, which reflects the Municipality's role in providing a full range of outdoor recreation experiences, and an approach to the protection of wilderness areas, are being considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan Review.
- Asset registry work is underway to identify outdoor recreation assets. Standards, including distance to functional parkland by geographies as identified in the HGNP are being developed.
- Public engagement regarding the Active Transportation Wayfinding Pilot Program is ongoing.
- HRM currently supports 25 community gardens on municipal lands, including two locations with year-round greenhouses and one location with a community oven. Utilizing municipal assets, such as land and facilities, to promote food production and literacy is a key objective of JustFOOD Action Plan for the Halifax Region.⁵

Current and Future Project Work

The HGNP recommends 16 actions that guide current and future project work. The following highlights project work that has been undertaken based on direction from the HGNP:

- Updates to the Municipal Design Guidelines (Red Book) were approved on November 9, 2021, including requirements for planting street trees in front of developments. Additional HGNP actions will be considered in the 2022 Red Book update.
- HRM Urban Forestry planted their largest annual number of street and park trees, approximately 3100, and received grant funding to continue to increase the capacity of the Urban Forest Master Plan and Tree Planting Program.
- The National Disaster Mitigation Program Project identified flood mitigation strategies (including planning policy, drainage studies, new infrastructure) for the top ten flood sites in the municipality. These strategies will be presented to Halifax Regional Council for consideration.
- HRM staff participated in the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust Wildlife Corridor Design Charette and are reviewing the report produced as part of the Regional Plan Review.

Partnerships

The HGNP recommends 14 actions related to partnerships with other levels of government, universities, non-profits, community groups and private landowners to support environmental protection and management. The following highlights some of the work undertaken in 2021 based on the recommendations of the HGNP:

³ https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/220712rc15113_0.pdf

⁴ More information on Sharing Our Stories is available at <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/regional-plan/sharing-our-stories>

⁵ More information on JustFOOD is available at <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/foodaction>

- The Municipality continued to work with partners to support the use of green infrastructure in the public right-of-way and in specific stormwater management projects, including the Sawmill River Daylighting Project, Spring Garden Road Enhancement and Prince Albert Road Diet.
- The Municipality is advancing regional park planning and development, including Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, which is a project formally supported through a Statement of Collaboration between Parks Canada and HRM.

Additional Resources and Coordination

There is additional work needed to improve and coordinate staff efforts to implement the HGNP and other Council Priority Plans that support environmental planning, including the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) and HalifACT. These programs are currently managed through a decentralized model, with more focused teams assigned to the IMP and HalifACT.

On January 25, 2022, Regional Council passed the following motion:

THAT Halifax Regional Council recommend that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to prepare a staff report outlining an overall policy and process to coordinate the work of the departments of Planning and Development and Parks and Recreation. The aim is to ensure council can effectively implement HalifACT, IMP and the Green Network Plan. The staff report should consider the need for a coordinator to lead the Green Network Plan and an updated parks strategy, in light of the following:

- 1. The current Parks Canada urban park planning process for Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes,*
- 2. The pending Sandy Lake study,*
- 3. Recently identified key wildlife corridors,*
- 4. HRM's natural asset inventory, and*
- 5. Housing development pressures.*

Staff anticipate this report will be brought forward later in 2022. The report will outline how current work is organized, identify any gaps, and outline a proposed approach for ongoing implementation as part of the budget and business planning process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this information report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Halifax Green Network Plan was informed by three phases of extensive engagement with residents from urban, suburban and rural communities, provincial government departments and stakeholder groups. Those consultations provided valuable insight to inform the vision, principles, objectives, and actions within the HGNP. Additional public engagement will be carried out for individual HGNP action items as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A

Detailed Halifax Green Network Plan 2021 Progress Update

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.

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Attachment A – Detailed Halifax Green Network Plan 2021-22 Progress

Update

| 6.1 LAND USE PLANNING | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| ACTION # | THEME | ACTION | DIRECTION | 2019 UPDATE | 2020 UPDATE | 2021-22 UPDATE |
| 1 | Ecology | Refine and incorporate the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35) into the <i>Regional Plan</i> and use it to guide regional planning decisions related to the location and shape of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Urban service boundaries » Rural centres » Nature parks » Conservation design developments | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowly focused Regional Plan amendments, prior to the next Regional Plan Review, that references the HGNP Map within the Conservation Design development agreement policy criteria is targeted to be presented to Council in August, 2019. • To be further completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowly focused Regional Plan amendments to include the HGNP Ecology Map within the Conservation Design development agreement criteria adopted by Regional Council on September 24, 2019. • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be further completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of Phase 4¹ of the Regional Plan Review, Regional Plan policy will be amended to require that the Green Network Ecology Map is used to help guide regional planning decisions. • The HGNP and the Green Network Ecology Map is currently being used as staff consider site-specific requests for amendments to planning policy. |
| 2 | Ecology | Consider the following design and management guidelines when planning, maintaining and restoring essential and important corridors (Map 5 on page 35) through Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Essential corridors should ideally be greater than 1km wide and composed of intact natural habitat, wherever possible » The width of essential corridors should increase in proportion to its length (i.e. the longer the corridor, the wider it should be) » Where a 1km width is not possible for essential corridors, maintain what remains, seek opportunities to restore disturbed areas and mitigate the impacts of nearby human activity » Maintain a minimum corridor width of 100m for important corridors to connect natural habitats » Where intact important corridors are unavailable and/or not possible to restore, maintain the largest possible remnant patches and encourage best management practices in intervening areas to provide opportunities for wildlife movement between patches. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines are being used to guide master planning background studies and reviews. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • HRM has been included in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network. • Guidelines are being used to guide master planning background studies and reviews. • To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines are being used to guide master planning background studies and reviews. • HRM staff took part in a Wildlife Corridor Landscape Design Charrette with local community groups and scientists in November 2020 and received a Summary Report in March 2021. On April 5, 2022, Regional Council directed staff to prepare a report on incorporating these findings into the Green Network Plan. • During Phase 4 of the |

¹ Note: Regional Council endorsed the Regional Plan Review Work Plan on January 25, 2022. The remaining work will be brought forward in three phases:

- Phase 3: Quick Adjustments: return to Regional Council in May 2022 with quick amendments and adjustments to the Regional Plan that align with Regional Council's goals, as a rapid response to current housing conditions;
- Phase 4: Draft Regional Plan: return to Regional Council in December 2022 with the remaining policy framework; and
- Phase 5: Future Growth Planning: create a work plan and begin analysis of additional lands to be considered for expansion in anticipation of continued growth to be brought forward for Regional Council's consideration in 2023/2024.

More information is available on the Regional Plan Review project website: <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan>

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| | | | | | | Regional Plan Review, staff will develop a regional approach to the protection of natural corridors which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Directs how natural corridors should be delineated at the regional and individual site level; ○ Prioritizes wildlife connections to the Chebucto Peninsula; ○ Includes clear policy direction for developing wildlife crossings through major infrastructure like highways and utility corridors and coordinating this work with the provincial government, utilities and other relevant stakeholders. |
| 3 | Ecology | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies to clarify and ensure that environmental sensitive areas are identified and considered during the review of all discretionary planning applications (i.e. rezoning and development agreement applications). | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed within the proposed Plan Package A Discretionary Approvals Policy 10.6. • To be completed for other areas as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review and on-going By-law Simplification Program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Regional Plan policy amendments as part of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan Review will require Council to consider the policies and objectives of the HGNP during discretionary planning applications. • As part of Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review, Regional Plan policy will be amended to include guidance for environmental considerations during policy-enabled discretionary planning applications. • Centre Plan Package B was approved by Regional |

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| | | | | | | Council on October 26, 2021. It identifies wetlands in the Regional Centre and carries forward policies from Package A including watercourse setbacks, coastal elevations, and land suitability assessment in the planning of Future Growth Nodes. |
| 4 | Ecology | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to emphasize the importance of identifying and protecting environmental sensitive areas during master neighbourhood planning exercises (secondary planning). | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HGNP is currently being used as staff consider site-specific requests for amendments to planning policy, and environmental background studies are required as part of master planning projects. Proposed Regional Plan policy amendments as part of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan Review will require Council to consider the policies and objectives of the HGNP as part of secondary planning. Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will revise Regional Plan policy to ensure that secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws include appropriate development regulations in important ecological areas and corridors and directs development away from hazardous locations. |
| 5 | Ecology | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to consolidate environmental protection zones, which prohibit most forms of development, and apply these zones to areas with | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will continue to apply |

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| | | significantly sized vulnerable landforms, such as ravines and bluffs. | | underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>the Open Space and Natural Resource designation to recognize the value of the Green Network and revise the designation's boundaries to reflect the core areas and corridors shown on the Green Network Ecology Map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre Plan Package B was approved by Regional Council on October 26, 2021. It consolidates park policies and zones in the Regional Centre under the Park and Community Facilities Designation. Further work to consolidate environmental protection zones will be completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 6 | Ecology | <p>Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to consolidate, clarify and refine the Municipality's variable approach to watercourse buffers. Specific measures to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consolidating environmental protection zones and applying these zones to sensitive riparian areas and wetlands, such as coastal marshlands, floodways and large wetland complexes, based on detailed mapping and analysis » Increasing the minimum required riparian buffer around drinking water supply sources, established under the Protected Water Supply Zone, from 30.5 to 100 m » Establishing a consistent watercourse buffer requirement for industrial zones and uses, which currently range from 20 to 100 m for some zones and specific uses » Increasing the standard watercourse buffer requirement from 20 to 30 m for watercourses that are greater than 50 cm wide » Maintaining a watercourse buffer requirement of 20 metres for watercourses that are intermittent or less than 50 cm wide » Maintaining special watercourse buffering requirements established for vulnerable areas, such as the special requirements that apply to Cow Bay | 2-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 27 and 28 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will review and revise existing regulations protecting wetland and riparian areas in HRM land use by-laws to ensure greater protection for these features and ensure standards regulations are adopted across the region. |

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| | | » Removing the formula to increase the buffer requirements based on slope for inland watercourses (not marine coast), as the requirement is rarely applicable and adds unnecessary complexity to the permitting process | | | | |
| 8 | Ecology | Update the landscaping requirements in the Land Use By-laws to support the implementation of the <i>Urban Forest Master Plan</i> by prohibiting the use of invasive species. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Centre Plan Package A includes landscaping requirements that prohibit the use of invasive species. To be completed for other areas as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. To be considered as part of an Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide currently being developed to assist with the management of invasive species and other pests. Anticipated to be completed in 2021. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will ensure Regional Plan policy supports the ongoing implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan. Centre Plan Package B was approved by Regional Council on October 26, 2021. It includes landscaping requirements that prohibit the use of invasive species. An Integrated Pest Management Strategy was approved by Regional Council on July 12, 2022 to assist with the management of invasive species and other pests. |
| 19 | Working Landscapes | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to direct residential uses away from areas suitable for resource extraction and forestry uses. (See the Community Shaping Section for more specific direction concerning rural centres and conservation design developments). | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will establish land use policy direction to mitigate potential conflicts between residential uses and rural industrial, resource extraction and forestry uses. To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 20 | Working Landscapes | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to provide more opportunities for uses that support primary resource industries, such as aggregate and wood processing facilities in | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 25 of HalifACT. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will establish policy |

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| | | locations with high value working landscapes (Map 7 on page 43). Specific measures to consider include providing as-of-right development opportunities (without a lengthy rezoning or development agreement process) for resource developments that locate in areas that are buffered from nearby residential areas, wildlife corridors and core areas shown on the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35). | | underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>intent for future land use regulations to support primary resource industries and agricultural uses within high value working landscapes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 21 | Working Landscapes | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to limit or prohibit conservation design developments in the Agricultural Designation. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be brought forward for consideration as part of Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review. |
| 22 | Working Landscapes | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land-Use By-laws to encourage agricultural developments and supportive uses to locate and expand in agricultural areas. Specific measures to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ensuring setback and separation distance requirements are reasonable and do not unduly restrict the development or expansion of processing facilities or agricultural structures. » Reducing the size and extent of non-agricultural uses in agricultural areas to limit the loss of high quality soils to non-agricultural developments. » Ensuring permitted agricultural-related uses are inclusive of changing business practices and opportunities. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon completion of the JustFOOD: Action Plan for the Halifax Region, Regional Plan policy will be amended to ensure alignment with its goals and recommendations To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 24 | Working Landscapes | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to encourage small-scale agriculture on private properties. Specific measures to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Removing barriers to appropriately-scaled urban agriculture and food retail on private property including, road side stands and animal husbandry » When reviewing landscaping requirements, ensure that edible landscaping, such as fruit trees and herb gardens, are permitted types of vegetation | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Centre Plan Package A includes increased opportunities for urban agriculture, including bee keeping and the keeping of chickens (hens). Landscaping provisions will permit edible plants. On July 30, 2019, Regional Council initiated a region | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. Engagement regarding permitting the keeping of chickens as an accessory residential use in all parts of the Municipality has taken place and a recommendation report is anticipated to be reviewed by Regional Council | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments to the Regional Plan and all land use by-laws outside of the Regional Centre to allow the keeping of hens as an accessory residential use were adopted by Regional Council on October 5, 2021. Centre Plan Package B was approved by Regional |

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| | | | | <p>wide planning process to consider permitting the keeping of chickens as an accessory residential use in all parts of the Municipality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be further advanced as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification program. | <p>in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be further advanced as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>Council on October 26, 2021. It permits the keeping of hens and urban agriculture in all zones and contains landscaping requirements that permit edible landscaping and prohibit certain invasive and highly toxic species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway on a staff report to consider amendments to HRM land use by-laws to allow agricultural uses and the sale of produce in more areas of the municipality. Upon completion of the JustFOOD: Action Plan for the Halifax Region, Regional Plan policy will be amended to ensure alignment with its goals and recommendations. To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 26 | Working Landscapes | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to ensure that rural industrial developments are adequately screened from scenic roads and trails. | 2-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will establish policy intent for future land use regulations to manage rural industrial development. To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 27 | Working Landscapes | Review Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to maintain and, where needed, increase lot size and frontage requirements to prevent dense “ribbon development” along scenic routes located between rural centres. | 2-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural development patterns research completed as part of the P&D Rural team work plan. To be completed as part of | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will confirm the Regional Plan’s intent to direct intensification to existing rural communities |

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| | | | | the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification program. | Simplification Program. | that act as important service centres and have the potential to be complete communities and protect rural landscapes as critical to the region’s natural and open space network. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 28 | Working Landscapes | Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to encourage both small- and large-scale tourism related uses in rural areas. Specific measures to consider include: » Relaxing restrictions for home-based businesses that cater to tourists, such as bed and breakfast operations, accessory cabins, tour operations, arts and crafts, farm stays, and commercial recreation (such as kayak rentals etc.) » Where not already permitted, considering the development of large-scale resorts, campgrounds, spas and hotels by rezoning or development agreement in rural areas that balance tourism opportunities with impacts on the environment and nearby residents » Enabling the development of resource-based and eco-tourism opportunities, including fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting, agriculture and forestry focused tours and experiences | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background research is underway as part of the P&D Rural team work plan. To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification Program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will establish policy direction for future land use policy and regulations to support large and small-scale tourist operations, including home-based businesses and eco-tourism opportunities. To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 29 | Community Shaping | Amend the Regional Plan to ensure that the Green Network map (Map 5 on page 35), is considered when reviewing changes to the Urban Service Area boundary, Urban Settlement Designation, Urban Reserve Designation, and when preparing Secondary Planning Strategies. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HGNP and the Green Network Ecology Map is currently being used as staff consider site-specific requests for amendments to planning policy. Proposed Regional Plan policy amendments as part of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan Review will require Council to consider the policies and objectives of the HGNP as part of secondary planning and discretionary planning |

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| | | | | | | applications. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 5 of the Regional Plan Review will use the concepts of the Halifax Green Network Plan to assess and consider ecological connectivity and value when identifying lands for future serviced development. |
| 30 | Community Shaping | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to clarify the purpose and scope of land suitability assessments, which identify vulnerable landforms and other ecological features, as base information needed to inform the design of new mixed-use neighbourhoods and business park developments. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental background studies are currently required as part of the master planning process. Proposed Regional Plan policy amendments as part of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan Review will require Council to consider the policies and objectives of the HGNP as part of secondary planning. |
| 31 | Community Shaping | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to prioritize the redevelopment of brownfield sites and other underdeveloped urban infill sites ahead of undisturbed greenfield sites. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing Regional Plan uses growth management policies to limit the amount of greenfield expansion and directs most growth to the existing serviced area. Phase 5 of the Regional Plan Review will consider how continued population growth can be accommodated. This will involve analysis of lands needed for expansion, and ways to encourage additional infill development. |
| 32 | Community Shaping | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> and Municipal Planning Strategies to prioritize the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula (Map 9) from the Mainland when | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM staff took part in a Wildlife Corridor Landscape |

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| | | reviewing development proposals and updating planning policies and zoning in the area. Specific connections to review and prioritize are highlighted on Map 9. | | underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>Design Charrette with local community groups and scientists in November 2020 and received a Summary Report in March 2021. On April 5, 2022, Regional Council directed staff to prepare a report on incorporating these findings into the Green Network Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review, staff will develop a regional approach to the protection of natural corridors which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs how natural corridors should be delineated at the regional and individual site level; Prioritizes wildlife connections to the Chebucto Peninsula; Includes clear policy direction for developing wildlife crossings through major infrastructure like highways and utility corridors and coordinating this work with the provincial government, utilities and other relevant stakeholders. |
| 35 | Community Shaping | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to better define the size, shape and location of all rural centres in relation to natural corridors and valued open spaces. | 2-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will confirm the Regional Plan's intent to direct intensification to existing rural communities that act as important service centres and have the |

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| | | | | | | <p>potential to be complete communities and protect rural landscapes as critical to the region’s natural and open space network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be further completed as part of the on-going By-law Simplification Program. |
| 36 | Community Shaping | <p>Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> by updating the conservation design development policies to streamline the planning process for proposed developments located within rural centres. Specific planning approaches to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Site plan approvals, which can direct development to suitable areas, without involving the lengthier development agreement process » Enabling as-of-right developments within carefully selected pre-zoned areas | 2-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background research is underway as part of the P&D Rural Team work plan. To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review and on-going By-law Simplification program. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phases 4 of the Regional Plan Review will revise conservation design development policies to streamline the development process within rural service centres. |
| 37 | Community Shaping | <p>Amend the Regional Plan conservation design development agreement policies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Further focus development within rural centres » Avoid conflicts with working landscapes » Direct development to the edges of the core areas shown on the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35) » Preserve the essential and important corridors shown on the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35) » Take a cautious approach to development within areas of high environmental value (Map 5 on page 35) by ensuring the underlying values are investigated and conserved and any impacts from development are mitigated | 2-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background research is underway as part of the P&D Rural Team work plan. To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review and on-going By-law Simplification program. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current Regional Plan requires conservation design developments to consider that “connectivity of natural networks, including trails, is maintained with any open space on adjacent parcels as generally illustrated by the Important and Essential Corridors shown on Map 5, Green Network Ecology Map, contained in the Halifax Green Network Plan”. Proposed amendments for Phase 3 of the Regional Plan include minor revisions to the Conservation Design Development policy to improve interpretation and implementation. Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will further revise |

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| | | | | | | conservation design development policies. |
| 62 | Outdoor Recreation | During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review, amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> concerning Regional Parks to differentiate Regional Park types with particular regard to Nature Parks - which are specially designed to protect an area of land and/or water, support natural processes, species and habitat; and where human activities are primarily passive (e.g. hiking, nature interpretation and appreciation), and do not compromise ecological function. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will incorporate the park spectrum into the Regional Plan. |
| 66 | Outdoor Recreation | During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to recognize recent land acquisitions (pending) within the Purcell's Cove Backlands as Regional Park and consider open space planning for the remainder of this area. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review redesignate and rezone the Shaw Wilderness Park lands to Open Space and Natural Resources Designation and the Regional Park Zone; re-designate and rezone other publicly-owned lands and private conservation lands to the Open Space and Natural Resource Designation and the Protected Area Zone; and consider re-designating and rezoning the remaining privately-owned lands currently zoned and designated Urban Reserve to an alternative designation and zone that recognizes the environmental and cultural importance of the Purcell's Cove Backlands. |
| 67 | Outdoor Recreation | During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to recognize community land conservation initiatives as part of the 100 Wild Islands. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of Phase 4 of the Regional Plan review. |

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| | | | | fall 2019. | | |
| 73 | Cultural Landscapes | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to clarify the scope and purpose of cultural landscape studies, based on the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> , as an integral component of master neighbourhood and business park planning initiatives and the identification, preservation and celebration of these landscapes. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (CHPP), staff are developing a guide for completing culture and heritage assessments. The draft CHPP is targeted to be presented to CPED in fall 2019. Amendments to the Regional Plan will be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and contains direction on identifying and prioritizing cultural landscapes. The Plan is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. Upon completion of Sharing Our Stories, the Regional Plan will be amended to use the recommendations of Sharing Our Stories and the Halifax Green Network Plan to direct how the Municipality will collaborate with residents and stakeholders to identify, prioritize, and protect potential cultural landscapes, and continue to work with the Province to support the development of regulations for cultural landscapes under the Heritage Property Act. Centre Plan Package B was approved by Regional Council on October 26, 2021. It identifies landscapes of cultural significance in the Regional Centre, and shadow performance standards for identified parks. |
| 74 | Cultural Landscapes | Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to include cultural landscapes as elements that must be considered when preparing conservation design development agreements. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon completion of Sharing Our Stories, the Regional |

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| | | | | underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | review. | Plan will be amended to ensure alignment with its recommendations regarding cultural landscapes. |

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| 23 | Working Landscapes | Balanced with other open space uses, support community gardens and other forms of food production in public parks and other Municipally-owned properties. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM currently supports 23 community gardens on municipal lands with new gardens added to the program each year. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. HRM currently supports 24 community gardens on municipal lands with new gardens added to the program each year. A variety of vegetables and herbs are being planted at the Halifax Public Gardens. HRM has partnered with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance to develop JustFOOD: an action plan for the region. This plan will include actions to support food production and increase access to local food. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM currently supports 26 community gardens on municipal lands with new gardens added each year. Two locations have year-round greenhouses, and one location has a community oven. Herbs and vegetables continue to be planted at the Halifax Public Gardens. Utilizing municipal assets like land and facilities to promote food production and literacy is a key objective of JustFOOD: Action Plan for the Halifax Region. JustFOOD will create strategies and resources to support this. Phase 1 of JustFOOD engagement identified the positive impact of community gardens on food sovereignty and community capacity, and the need for more access to land for small scale agriculture. |
| 25 | Working Landscapes | Consider community gardens, fruit trees, and food supportive amenities, when preparing master plans for public open spaces. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park master plans currently underway (Halifax Common, Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. Community gardens were considered in the | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan |

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| | | | | Lake Echo District Park) consider this policy guidance. | development of the Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, Lake Echo District Park, and Viscount Run park plans, and will continue to be a consideration in additional park plans such as those being prepared for the Halifax Common and Rehab Lands. | includes directions to consider communal gardening opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturalization with edible landscape plantings is being considered through the Rehab Lands park plan. • JustFOOD will consider how all municipal assets can be maximized for food access and production. |
| 42 | Outdoor Recreation | Promote parks and open spaces for health, well-being, sense of community and overall quality of life through improved public communication, such as through HRM's website. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA), HRM is creating a fact sheet about the health benefits of being active in nature that will be promoted on our website and via social media. • The Active For Life Committee is producing an infographic called 'Pathways to Physical Literacy' about opportunities to be active in all outdoor spaces. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nature fact sheet, with resources for accessing nature and learning about its benefits, is now available on HRM's website through the Outdoor Recreation section. The resource has been promoted on social media. • Community discussions regarding the importance of access to parks and open space have increased as a result of COVID-19. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-ran the Benefits of Nature social-media campaign in Fall 2021, directing residents to the nature fact sheet and resource webpage. • The Findlay Community Centre shifted 60% of its summer camps to rain or shine summer nature camps in Shubie Park after a successful pilot in 2020. In response to demand, staff have successfully extended this camp style programming on weekends through fall, winter and spring. • Open Air Yoga programs were introduced at community centres and park in Summer 2021. • Free birdwatching equipment loans were established at the Findlay Community Centre. • Free snowshoe equipment loans were established at several community centres. • New "Explore Your Parks" videos were created for four local parks. |

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| 43 | Outdoor Recreation | Through Halifax’s Community Engagement Strategy, formalize a public engagement program for the planning and stewardship of parks. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inter-departmental working group has been formed and is considering engagement related to the planning and stewardship of parks. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 21 of HalifACT. Inter-departmental working group is continuing to consider engagement related to the planning and stewardship of parks. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Council has directed staff to consider a park stewardship program and a Regional Parks Advisory Committee. Work to respond to this request is ongoing. |
| 44 | Outdoor Recreation | Incorporate year-round recreational infrastructure, including winter-oriented activities, when planning parks. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued winter maintenance of walkways in Point Pleasant Park, Shubie Park and the Public Gardens. The Adventure Earth Centre ran a Winter by the Sea program for new comers in 2018 and an outdoor survival and winter hikes program in 2019. Park plans currently underway are considering winter activities. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter activities held through the Adventure Earth Centre. These included snow shoe lending and a Winterfest event at Shubie Park. Continued winter maintenance of walkways in Point Pleasant Park, Shubie Park and the Public Gardens. Included park lighting and paved pathways in the Gorsebrook Park concept plan. Included paved pathways in the Lake Echo District Park Plan and provided access to site electricity for events. Included paved pathways in the Eastern Passage Commons Park Plan and provided access to site electricity for events. Park plans currently underway are considering winter activities. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the planning of park facilities for Bedford West, existing sledding hills have been identified and will be incorporated into future park planning. The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan includes policy directions and design guidelines for all-season recreational use. Options for winter activities, such as snow shoeing, sledding, and skating, are being considered through the ongoing Rehab Lands park planning. The Municipality provides winter pathway maintenance within several parks and assesses these on a regular basis. Held winter activities through the Adventure Earth Centre, including snowshoe lending and winter guided hikes at Shubie Park and Fleming Park. |

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| 45 | Outdoor Recreation | Enhance existing standards for the design of parks with a focus on versatile and flexible space, based on the nature of different park types and situations, that encourages participation of all ages and abilities. | Guidance | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Playbox was installed at Aberdeen Court Park to foster free and unstructured play for all. • Park plans currently underway consider this policy guidance. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included multifunctional spaces for unscheduled play, shelter from the sun and weather and access to washrooms in the park plans for Lake Echo District Park, Eastern Common and Gorsebrook Park. • The installation of four new Playboxes was scheduled but has been postponed until Summer 2021 as a result of COVID-19. • Park plans currently underway incorporate the use of flexible space and accessibility. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A park facilities plan is being developed for Bedford West. A key principle that is being suggested is that parks should be sized to allow a co-location of park facilities, and include multifunctional spaces that can accommodate a variety of play opportunities. • The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan directs the aquatic facility and playground to be designed for accessibility and inclusion. • Accessible trail standards are being considered as part of the Rehab Lands park planning. • A playbox program was initiated with boxes deployed to Shubie Park and Fleming Park in Fall 2021. |
| 46 | Outdoor Recreation | Include culture and education programs and projects, such as the inclusion of public art within parks and nature interpretation programs when planning for parks. | Guidance | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued growth of Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) day camp education programming including Eco-scientists, Geology Rocks and Outdoor Odyssey themes, as well as overnight programs, such as Explorers and Sunship Earth. • In 2019, HRM summer camp managers took an 8-hour AEC training course on reconnecting to nature. • Extensive Halifax Explosion interpretive elements in Fort | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued growth of Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) day camp education programming including Try It Fishing, Try It Compass Fun, Family Campfire Fun, Guided Nature Trail, Outdoor Yoga, Earth Walk Kit Loan, Hug a Tree, Loose Parks Play, and Outdoor Cooking. • Other outdoor recreation opportunities were enhanced due to COVID-19, including establishing two Recreation Vans that travelled to parks | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art is considered in parkland development projects, such as the new Halifax Common aquatic facility. • The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan includes recommendations for the inclusion of public art. • The REC Van operated two vans during Summer 2021. • Continuation of Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) day camp |

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| | | | | <p>Needham Park, including iconic sculptural markers, as well as other markers located in the Ferry Terminal Park and the Dartmouth and Halifax Commons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway are considering culture and public art. • On-going support of Shakespeare By The Sea and Nocturne: Art at Night, where many installations are programmed in parks. • Providing below-market lease of the Gatekeeper’s Lodge in Point Pleasant Park for the Sable Island Institute to carry out research and public programs related to Sable Island using an arts-mediated environmental lens. | <p>across HRM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art is considered in the development of park plans, including the Gorsebrook Park plan. • Public art and commemoration opportunities being considered as part of parks and open spaces as part of the Cogswell Interchange Redevelopment Project. | <p>education programming including Try It Fishing, Try It Compass Fun, Family Campfire Fun, Guided Nature Trail, Outdoor Yoga, Earth Walk Kit Loan, Hug a Tree, and Loose Parks Play. Expanded programming to include an Outdoor Cooking and Fire Building program for youth at Shubie Park, Acadia Park and Fleming Park as a pilot program in Fall 2021. Initiated engagement to inform a strategic planning process for their outdoor programming (to be completed in Winter 2022).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art and commemoration opportunities are being considered as part of parks and open spaces in the Cogswell Interchange Redevelopment Project. |
| 47 | Outdoor Recreation | Ensure there is a clear and consistent communication system related to accessibility and wayfinding to and within parks. | Guidance | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An active transportation wayfinding strategy for HRM is being developed that includes three pilot sites within parks. • Wayfinding signage with maps have been added to the trailheads and trail system at Hemlock Ravine Park. • Wayfinding signage has been placed at trailheads at Shubie Park. • Park ID signs with Halifax branding that identify park amenities and rules are being added to numerous parks as | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an active transportation wayfinding system that will be piloted in 2021. Pilot locations include the Mainland North Trail and the Sackville Greenway. • Wayfinding signage with maps is being considered for the new Shaw Wilderness Park trail head. • Improved wayfinding signage is being considered for the parks around Governor’s Brook which lead into the Purcell’s Cove Backlands. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public engagement regarding the Active Transportation Wayfinding Pilot Program was initiated and is ongoing. • Trail etiquette signage was added in nine parks. • Included park signage and trail wayfinding as a recommended action in the draft park facilities plan for Bedford West. |

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| | | | | an on-going initiative. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trail etiquette signage program was developed and adopted by Regional Council Trail etiquette signage is being installed at various trails to educate users on appropriate behaviour on municipal trails. | |
| 48 | Outdoor Recreation | Enhance social gathering in municipal open spaces by encouraging limited private and not for profit commercial initiatives. | 1-4 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park plans, such as the Halifax Common Master Plan, consider this action item. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park plans, such as the Halifax Common Master Plan, consider this action item. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan includes policies that support commercial activities that enhance the use of the Halifax Common open spaces. Hosted free summer concert series Grand Oasis Stage in Grand Parade and the Sunshine Series in Ferry Terminal park. Other outdoor events such as Clam Harbour Beach Festival and Natal day resumed after a COVID hiatus. reimagined approach to Canada day KANA'TA developed with Diversity & Inclusion staff and Mi'kmaq partners. |
| 49 | Outdoor Recreation | During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review introduce the Park Spectrum (Figure 6), which recognizes the Municipal role in providing the full range of outdoor recreation and ecological conservation functions and experiences of public open spaces together with Federal and Provincial parks and school grounds. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will incorporate the park spectrum into the Regional Plan. |

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| ACTION # | THEME | ACTION | DIRECTION | 2019 UPDATE | 2020 UPDATE | 2021-22 UPDATE |
| 50 | Outdoor Recreation | Develop service level targets for the <i>Regional Plan</i> settlement types to provide public access to the spectrum of recreation experiences (e.g. sportsfields, playgrounds, nature trails), within the Halifax park system. | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. The analysis, together with community input, will be used to determine targets. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset registry work is underway within HRM to reflect outdoor recreation assets. This work is still in progress. |
| 51 | Outdoor Recreation | Revise travel time/distance tolerance targets and standards to the nearest park based on the designations in the <i>Regional Plan</i> to account for HRM's varied settlement patterns and residential densities. | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary spatial analysis is underway. This action is being coordinated with Action 52. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. The analysis, together with community input, will be used to determine targets. This action is being coordinated with Action 52. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM's Strategic Plan includes KPIs related to park performance. Current metrics include distance to functional parkland by geographies as identified in the HGNP. This work is still in progress. |
| 52 | Outdoor Recreation | Revise public park area per capita targets and standards based on designations in the <i>Regional Plan</i> to account for HRM's varied settlement patterns. | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary spatial analysis is underway. This action is being coordinated with Action 51. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. The analysis, together with community input, will be used to determine targets. This action is being coordinated with Action 51. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM's Strategic Plan includes KPIs related to park performance. Current metrics include parks per capita (functional parkland) by geographies as identified in the HGNP. This work is still in progress. |
| 53 | Outdoor Recreation | With the development of new parkland targets and standards, amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> and Regional Subdivision By-law to direct the acquisition, development and management of Municipal Parkland. | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning for the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed as part of the ongoing <i>Regional Plan</i> review based on the results of Actions 51 and 52. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 of the <i>Regional Plan</i> Review will include work to develop Level of Service Standards based on the recommendations of the Halifax Green Network Plan, public engagement and spatial analysis mapping of parkland and outdoor recreation amenities and future growth. Once developed, the <i>Regional</i> |

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| | | | | | | Subdivision By-law will be amended to reflect the identified standards. |
| 54 | Outdoor Recreation | Determine service delivery gaps and overlap based on established travel time and park pressure targets (above objective) that considers the distribution of Municipal Parks together with Provincial and Federal Parks, and school grounds. | 1-2 Years | This action item is dependent upon Actions 51 and 52, which are underway. | This action item is dependent upon Actions 51 and 52, which are underway. | See updates in Actions 51, 52, and 53 above regarding work in progress, asset registry and current metrics. |
| 55 | Outdoor Recreation | Use the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) to evaluate existing and proposed parks for their land capability in terms of: » Identity (sense of place) » Heritage conservation » Recreation land use » Natural systems conservation » Connectivity | 1-2 Years | In progress: • Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019. | In progress: • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. • The Land Capability Analysis Tool is used for guidance on an on-going basis. | In progress: • The Land Capability Analysis Tool is used for guidance on an on-going basis.. |
| 56 | Outdoor Recreation | Develop a park performance monitoring program to regularly gather park usage data from park and recreation staff, the public, and new technology to count users. | 1-2 Years | In progress: • Methods for monitoring park usage are currently under review. | In progress: • Methods for monitoring park usage are currently under review. | In progress: • Trail counters purchased in Fall 2021 will be used to better understand user access and inform park planning. |
| 57 | Outdoor Recreation | Use information gathered through the park performance monitoring program and the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) to develop an inventory of low, moderate and high performing parks. | 1-4 Years | This action is dependent on action 56, which is underway. | This action is dependent on action 56, which is underway. | This action is dependent on action 56, which is underway. |
| 58 | Outdoor Recreation | Prepare policies and procedures concerning parkland maintenance to incorporate naturalization and green infrastructure (ie. rain gardens and bioswales). | 1-4 Years | In progress: • In January 2019, Regional Council approved the direction set out in a staff report on park naturalization. A working group with members from Parks & Recreation, TPW and Planning & Development has been established and there is a naturalization landing page on the HRM website: | In progress: • Supported by Actions 20, 21 and 22 of HalifACT. • Three pilot projects under the 2019 approved Naturalization Strategy were to commence this past spring. One proceeded, planting upwards of 2000 plants in a right-of-way area. The other two were delayed | In progress: • Evaluation of several naturalization initiatives is now complete and will inform a recommended approach for an expanded program in a forthcoming staff report. • Park plans being developed for the Rehab Lands, Halifax Common and Bedford West, will also consider naturalization |

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| | | | | https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/parks-trails-gardens/park-naturalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider naturalization and green infrastructure. • | due to COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans, including those completed for Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, Lake Echo District Park and Viscount Run Park consider naturalization and green infrastructure. • Park plans being developed for the Rehab Lands and Halifax Common will also consider naturalization and green infrastructure. | and green infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2022 Regional Council approved an expansion to the naturalization pilot to a municipal-wide program, including \$150,000 in the 2023/24 operating budget for Regional Council's consideration to support the program. |
| 59 | Outdoor Recreation | In cases of significant service overlap and low scoring from the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B), consider the disposal of identified low performing parkland. | Guidance | This action is dependent upon action 54, which is not complete. | This action is dependent upon action 54, which is not complete. | This action is dependent upon action 54, which is not complete. |
| 64 | Outdoor Recreation | During the next Regional Plan review assess the establishment of future Regional Parks, as identified in the Regional Plan, and their boundaries, through the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) and other criteria that includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The location of any existing conceptual park boundary Relationship to adjacent lands and community The landform, ecological attributes, and cultural features of the lands including connectivity to other lands The presence of potential for recreational features such as existing trails and their usage Existing and possible access to the lands and the ability to accommodate primary or secondary trailheads The planning, zoning and development potential of the lands The interest of competing development plans and the impact that Municipality Parkland acquisition would have on them Acquisition models such as outright purchase or other alternatives Financial and budget factors. | Guidance | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be considered as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 4 of the Regional Plan Review will continue to apply the Open Space and Natural Resource designation to recognize the value of the Green Network and revise the designation's boundaries to reflect the core areas and corridors shown on the Green Network Ecology Map. • In November 2021, Regional Council directed staff to engage a consultant to identify an optimal conceptual park boundary for the Sandy Lake Regional Plan based on the protection of water quality, old growth forests, species at risk habitat and wildlife corridors. The Sandy Lake Ecological Features Assessment report was presented to Regional |

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| | | | | | | <p>Council on July 12, 2022 and Regional Council directed that the study be used in the planning and development of Sandy Lake Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM is actively working with the Province, Parks Canada and non-government organizations for the planning of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Park. |
| 76 | Cultural Landscapes | Identify, preserve and celebrate cultural landscapes and resources when preparing master plans for publicly-owned open spaces. | Guidance | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan, staff are developing a Cultural Landscape Program (Work Plan) that is expected to consider the cultural landscapes on municipally owned lands. Extensive Halifax explosion interpretive elements have been included in Fort Needham Park. Park plans currently underway consider cultural landscape assets. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. Park plans completed for Gorsebrook Park and Eastern Passage Common highlight the historic uses and cultural aspects of the sites. Park plans currently underway consider cultural landscape assets. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and contains direction on identifying and prioritizing cultural Landscapes. The Plan is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. Park plans currently underway consider cultural landscape assets. The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan includes policy directions and actions for the conservation of heritage properties and resources. |

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| 7 | Ecology | Continue to implement the <i>Urban Forest Master Plan</i> . | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 7000 street and park trees have been planted since 2014 and 1500 additional trees will be planted in 2019. In 2019, Regional Council increased the budget for urban forest program from \$650,000 to \$850,000 per year. Park plans currently underway consider the Urban Forest Mast Plan. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 20 of HalifACT. Limited plantings in 2020 as a result of COVID-19. Established a proactive cyclical pruning program to improve health and safety of mature trees in the urban forest. Undertook inventory work collecting urban forest data in District 8 and 9. Drafted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan to be included as part of an Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide anticipated to be completed in 2021. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 3100 street and park trees will be planted by season end in 2021, which significantly exceeds the number of trees planted in previous years. HRM Urban Forestry received grant funding from the MITACS Accelerate Program to increase capacity of the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Tree Planting Program. HRM Urban Forestry received a CN Eco Connections Grant to facilitate the replanting of street trees in Sheet Harbour. Replanted areas disturbed during the realignment of the Bedford-Sackville Connector Greenway Trail. Urban trees are prominently featured in the designs for the Spring Garden Road Enhancement and Cogswell District. |
| 9 | Ecology | Consider the adoption of a private trees by-law to manage the removal of trees on private property within serviced (urban) areas. Specific direction to consider includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Focusing on large properties with development potential while minimizing impacts on small properties » Prioritizing the protection of trees and vegetation within the watercourse buffer » Developing an educational campaign to promote tree stewardship on private property | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December, 2018, Regional Council requested a staff report on potentially creating new development charges and/or regulating the cutting of trees on lands that are developed for residential, commercial, and institutional purposes. The pending staff report is also considering the HGNP direction and is targeted to be circulated to Regional Council in fall 2019. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff report responding to the request from Regional Council has been delayed as a result of COVID-19. Staff have continued to research options for managing the removal of trees on private property, including tools such as new development charges, lot grading standards or a private tree by-law, to identify an appropriate approach. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff report responding to the request from Regional Council is in progress and is anticipated to be brought forward in 2022. Staff have continued to research options for managing the removal of trees on private property. |

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| 10 | Ecology | When updating the <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book) consider requiring developers to install street trees in front of developments located on existing streets that do not currently contain street trees. | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2020. The requirements noted here will be considered for both the urban and rural development requirements. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 22 of HalifACT. The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2021. The requirements noted here will be considered for both the urban and rural development requirements. | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These requirements have been captured in the update to the <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book), which was approved by Regional Council on November 9, 2021. |
| 14 | Ecology | Continue to update the Region's flood scenario mapping and, through individual project work, prioritize the preservation and restoration of riparian areas and shoreline vegetation as an effective method for mitigating flood impacts. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sackville Rivers Floodplain study was completed in 2017 and is being used to updated related planning documents. In 2019, the Municipality successfully applied for funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) for the Sackville Rivers floodplain to review and recommend mitigation measures that reduce flood impacts. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in summer 2019. In 2019, the Municipality also received NDMP funding to complete a floodplain study for the Shubenacadie watershed. The RFP was posted in summer 2019. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 and 26 of HalifACT. To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. Engagement for the plan and by-law amendments to implement the recommendations of the Sackville Rivers Floodplain Study is ongoing. A review of flood impact mitigation measures for the Sackville Rivers Floodplain has been completed and is anticipated to be brought to Regional Council for review in 2021. A floodplain study for the Shubenacadie watershed has been completed and is anticipated to be brought to Regional Council for review in 2021. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phases 4 and 5 of the Regional Plan Review will update Regional Plan policy and land use regulations as additional studies are completed (including extreme water level projections; and coastal, fluvial, pluvial flood hazard maps). The National Disaster Mitigation Program Project identified flood mitigation strategies (including planning policy, drainage studies, new infrastructure) for the top ten flood sites in the municipality. These strategies will be presented to Halifax Regional Council for consideration. Engagement for the plan and by-law amendments to implement the recommendations of the Sackville Rivers Floodplain Study is ongoing. A floodplain study for the Shubenacadie watershed has been completed and is anticipated to be brought to |

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| | | | | | | Regional Council for review in 2022. |
| 15 | Ecology | Consider Municipal efforts to protect and expand the Green Network when assessing Municipal contributions to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, including protection of land-based green carbon sinks and intertidal areas (e.g., saltmarshes) that act as blue carbon sinks. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon sinks are being considered as part of HalifACT, a long-term climate change plan to reduce emissions and help communities adapt. The strategic plan is targeted for completion in March, 2020. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 26 of HalifACT. Partnered with Ducks Unlimited to coordinate on wetland initiatives using their Wetland Ecosystems Services Protocol. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM participated in the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative, which identified natural assets. Next steps involve incorporating them into asset management processes. Continued to work with Ducks Unlimited to support assessments for 45 wetlands in HRM, including three Wetlands of Special Significance. |
| 16 | Ecology | Make the Green Network Database available to all Municipal departments, as well as freely available to the public through HRM's Open Data Catalogue. | 1-2 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review and processing of HGNP data for public use is nearly complete and the data targeted to be released on HRM's Open Data portal in fall 2019. | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HGNP Database is now available on HRM's Open Data Portal. | Complete |
| 17 | Ecology | Explore opportunities to develop on-going partnerships with Provincial Government departments, universities and non-profits to refine, maintain and update the key datasets needed to understand the health of the Region's ecosystems, wildlife populations and wildlife movement corridors, including the spread of invasive species. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2019, Municipal staff attended and presented the HGNP at the Canadian Maritimes Ecological Connectivity conference held at Dalhousie University. Staff are participating in the Habitat Conservation Strategy for Nova Scotia (St. Margaret's Bay to Cape Breton). As part of the 2019/20 budget process, Council approved a new Planner III position in Planning & Development to | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM participating in the Habitat Conservation Strategy for Nova Scotia. HRM participating in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network. An Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide currently being developed to assist with the management of invasive species and other pests. Anticipated to be completed in 2021. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal staff participated at the NS Crown Share Land Legacy Trust Wildlife Corridor Design Charrette. Municipal staff contributed a piece regarding the Halifax Green Network Plan in the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) Occasional Paper No. 22 "Implementing Connectivity Conservation in Canada." |

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| | | | | support and coordinate the implementation of the HGNP. This staff resource will be key to fostering important partnerships with other levels of government, universities and conservation groups. | | |
| 33 | Community Shaping | Consider the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula when planning the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park. | Guidance | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, Regional Council provided direction to undertake the background studies needed to inform the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park. The scope of work for the background studies is under review and includes consideration of natural connections, with emphasis on connections to the Chebucto Peninsula. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Systems Conservation Study currently underway to inform the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Natural Systems Conservation Study was completed and the scope of work for the remaining studies to support the initiation of secondary planning for the Ragged Lake Business Park is under review, with an emphasis on connections to the Chebucto Peninsula. |
| 41 | Community Shaping | When updating the <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book) consider and accommodate wildlife crossings when impacts on essential and important corridors cannot be avoided. | 1-2 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2020. Wildlife crossings will be considered primarily for rural contexts. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2021. Accommodating wildlife crossings will be considered under the 2022 Red Book update. Wildlife crossings will be considered primarily for rural contexts. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodating wildlife crossings will be considered under the 2022 Red Book update. Wildlife crossings will be considered primarily for rural contexts. |
| 60 | Outdoor Recreation | Continue to study and consider the adoption of infrastructure charges to support the development and improvement of parks and recreation facilities that are needed to support new development. | 1-2 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A staff report to Council on infrastructure charges is targeted for fall 2019. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A staff report to Council on infrastructure charges is targeted for late 2020. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A staff report to Council on infrastructure charges is targeted for 2022. |

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| 69 | Outdoor Recreation | Continue to implement the approved Cole Harbour Basin Open Space Plan. | 1-7 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New AT and park pathways are being developed in the Cole Harbour Commons this year. A park plan for the former Rehab Lands will be developed as part of the 2019/20 Parks and Recreation Business Plan. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park plan for the former Rehab Lands is underway and is anticipated to be completed in 2021. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rehab Lands park planning project has completed the second phase of community engagement and is anticipated to be completed in Q4 of 2021/22. |
| 70 | Outdoor Recreation | Use the HGNP and other municipal plans, including the AT Priority Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) to establish linkages between parks, Provincial Wilderness Areas, crown lands, fresh waterbodies and ocean fronts that are used for recreation purposes. | Guidance | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sackville Greenway was completed between Glendale and Sackville Drive in 2018. Bissett Greenway Phase 3 is under construction and connects to parkland at the Rehab property. New AT and park pathways are being developed in the Cole Harbour Commons in 2019. HRM supported planning of new AT corridors through Sackville Lakes Provincial Park. Planning is underway for the Downtown Dartmouth Infrastructure Enhancements project. This project is a combination of road, stormwater management, park, and trail upgrades. Part of the envisioned work is to implement a missing link in the Trans-Canada Trail between Sullivan's Pond and the Dartmouth Waterfront. The Trans-Canada Trail is expected to run along an 800 m corridor from Starr Park on | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 26 of HalifACT. Bissett Greenway Phase 3 was completed between Colby Village and Cole Harbour Heritage Park/Salt Marsh Trail. Local street bikeway being planned for Dahlia Street/Oak Street between Dartmouth Common and Shubie Canal Greenway. Planning is underway for the Downtown Dartmouth Infrastructure Enhancements project. This project is a combination of road, stormwater management, park, and trail upgrades. Part of the envisioned work is to implement a missing link in the Trans-Canada Trail between Sullivan's Pond and the Dartmouth Waterfront. The Trans-Canada Trail is expected to run along an 800 m corridor from Starr Park on Prince Albert Road through a newly designed intersection, along Martin's | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local street bikeway on Dahlia Street/Oak Street between the Dartmouth Common and Shubie Canal Greenway was partially built, including improved AT facilities in Sullivan's Pond Park. The Municipality is supporting AT facility development that better connects the community to and through the Sackville Lakes Provincial Park. The Halifax Common Master Plan, former Rehab lands planning and the West Bedford Plan consider both existing and future AT connections. Park plans currently underway consider AT connections. |

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| | | | | Prince Albert Road through a newly designed intersection, along Martin’s Park on Alderney Drive, and connect to the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider AT connections. | Park on Alderney Drive, and connect to the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades and extensions planned for the Bedford-Sackville Greenway to access parkland and natural areas in the Sackville River watershed. • Park plans currently underway consider AT connections. | |
| 71 | Cultural Landscapes | Use the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> as the guiding document for the consideration of potential cultural landscapes and the basis for a future cultural landscape program to be advanced through the <i>Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan</i> . | 2-4 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final phase of the <i>Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan</i> is underway and is using the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> to guide the development of a cultural landscape workplan. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan</i> (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. <i>Sharing Our Stories</i> is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and contains direction on identifying and prioritizing cultural Landscapes. The Plan is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. |
| 75 | Cultural Landscapes | Maintain and enrich the inventory of potential cultural landscapes identified in the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> through planning initiatives, community engagement and other municipal initiatives. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A work plan and approach for collecting and maintaining information is being advanced through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A work plan and approach for collecting and maintaining information is being developed through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories). <i>Sharing Our Stories</i> is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. Future development of a cultural landscape program will draw heavily from the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i>. |

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| 78 | Cultural Landscapes | Proactively engage and expand the inventory of cultural landscapes of interest to African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq, Acadian and immigrant communities. | 2-4 Years | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan has involved targeted engagement and establishing relationships with these under-represented communities. The cultural landscape program, being advanced through CHPP, will strive to strengthen these relationships and enrich the inventory and understanding of cultural landscapes of interest. • Park plans currently underway consider this action item. • In 2018/19, HRM worked with the stakeholders of Africville to complete an Interpretive Framework for Africville Park. The result will be 5 interpretive elements with themes and content developed by those stakeholders so that those stories and the impact are told in the actual landscape. The conceptual design is a Corten steel panel with cut silhouettes of residents taken from archival images. The panels will tell the stories of the vibrant life in Africville and how important family and church were to the residents. | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation, focused on under-represented communities. It is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. • Park plans currently underway consider this action item. • An archeological impact study of Shaw Wilderness Park was undertaken to determine the site's potential for archaeological resources. • The RFQ for fabrication of the Interpretive Framework for Africville Park was issued in August 2020, with an anticipated completion in spring 2021. • Regional Council approved the recommendations of the <i>Committee on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History</i> on July 21, 2020. Recommendations were related to changes to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on | <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. One of the main objectives of the Plan is supporting equity in cultural and heritage programs for traditional underrepresented communities. • In May 2021, the Africville Park Interpretive Framework project was completed, and 5 interpretive elements, consisting of Corten steel and didactic panels were installed in Africville Park. • The Halifax Common Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The plan includes policy directions to include more perspectives and diversity in sharing the culture and history of the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, Acadian and other less-represented groups. |

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| 6.3 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECT WORK | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|--|
| ACTION # | THEME | ACTION | DIRECTION | 2019 UPDATE | 2020 UPDATE | 2021-22 UPDATE |
| | | | | | municipal assets and recommendations to recognize and commemorate the indigenous history of the lands now known as the Halifax Regional Municipality. | |
| 79 | Cultural Landscapes | Engage groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in planning initiatives, including African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and immigrant communities, when developing cultural landscape plans and policies. | Guidance on migrant | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In support of the CHPP, engagement has been carried out with Acadian and African Nova Scotia community. Consultation is in process with the Mi'kmaq community. Requirements for engagement with under-represented communities is being considered for land suitability assessments in master planning exercises. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation, focused on under-represented communities. It is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2020/21. Regional Council approved the recommendations of the <i>Committee on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History</i> on July 21, 2020. Recommendations were related to changes to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets and recommendations to recognize and commemorate the indigenous history of the lands now known as the Halifax Regional Municipality. | <p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. One of the main objectives of the Plan is supporting equity in our cultural and heritage programs for traditional underrepresented communities. |

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| ACTION # | THEME | ACTION | DIRECTION | 2019 UPDATE | 2020 UPDATE | 2021-22 UPDATE |
| 11 | Ecology | Work with Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Environment to establish stormwater management guidelines to improve the quality of stormwater runoff. | 2-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new by-law concerning storm water management is targeted to be presented to Council in 2020. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-law G-200 Respecting Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management Associated with Land Development received approval in September 2020. HRM is working with Halifax Water to further define responsibilities and standards for green infrastructure in the public right-of-way. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM is working with Halifax Water to further define responsibilities and standards for green infrastructure in the public right-of-way. |
| 12 | Ecology | Work with Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Environment to promote green infrastructure, such as naturalized stormwater retention ponds and bioswales, as the preferred approach to managing stormwater. | 4-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New standards for green infrastructure are being considered for the updated <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book). HRM worked closely with Halifax Water on the Sawmill River daylighting and stormwater management project. Trees removed from construction resulted in 75 new trees planted along the water way. A second phase of river daylighting will involve a similar partnership that will include landscape naturalization, a holding pond for storm water and opportunities for fish passage. In Broad Street Park, within the West Bedford development, as an alternative to constructing a fenced serge lined stormwater detention pond, the developer constructed a bio-swale. It | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 12, 13 and 14 of HalifACT. New standards for green infrastructure will be included in updated 2022 <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book) and will be further refined in future updates. HRM worked closely with Halifax Water on the Sawmill River daylighting and stormwater management project. A second phase of river daylighting will involve a similar partnership that will include landscape naturalization, a holding pond for storm water and opportunities for fish passage. Rain gardens are being incorporated into the Spring Garden Road Streetscaping Project to mitigate flooding | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM worked closely with Halifax Water on the Sawmill River daylighting and stormwater management project. A second phase of river daylighting will involve a similar partnership that will include landscape naturalization, a holding pond for storm water and opportunities for fish passage. Preliminary planning is underway and construction is expected for 2023. Rain gardens included in the design of the Spring Garden Road Enhancement and the Prince Albert Road - Road Diet. HRM is working with Halifax Water to further define responsibilities and standards for green infrastructure in the public right-of-way. |

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| | | | | contains elements in the street ROW, parkland, and designated stormwater management area resulting in an open space area designed to flood in extreme events while still functioning as a park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider naturalized approaches to stormwater management. | and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Construction is planned for 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rain garden is being incorporated into the Prince Albert Road project to mitigate flooding and improve the quality of stormwater reaching Lake Banook. Construction is planned for 2021. • Park plans completed for Lake Echo District Park and Eastern Passage Common considered naturalized approaches to stormwater management. • Future park plans will consider naturalized approaches to stormwater management. | |
| 13 | Ecology | Work with Halifax Water to develop a green infrastructure specification document to guide and promote the use of low-impact design approaches to manage stormwater on private property for multi-unit residential, commercial and industrial developments. | 2-4 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new by-law concerning storm water management is targeted to be presented to Council in 2020. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • By-law G-200 Respecting Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management Associated with Land Development received approval in September 2020. | Complete |
| 18 | Ecology | Formally request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable the Municipality to acquire sensitive environmental lands (e.g. riparian areas, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.) as an environmental reserve through the land development and subdivision process, in addition to existing parkland dedication provisions. | 1-2 Years | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from Mayor Savage to Minister Chuck Porter, Municipal Affairs, was sent in December 2018. A letter from Minister Porter confirming receipt and future follow up by provincial staff was received in February | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions regarding this request ongoing with the Province. | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions regarding this request are ongoing with the Province. |

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| | | | | 2019. | | |
| 34 | Community Shaping | Work with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, as opportunities arise, to identify opportunities to construct wildlife crossings under Highway 103 and the planned Highway 113. | Guidance | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen. | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are preparing a report to Council on the status of plans for the proposed Highway 113, as well as any potential impacts on the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area and its role as a potential Nation Urban Park. |
| 38 | Community Shaping | Work with the Province and utility companies when opportunities arise to locate trails within existing and planned transportation and utility corridors. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails are being considered as part of the Burnside Connector and potential Caldwell Road extension projects. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new multi-use pathway is being constructed between Chain of Lakes Trail and Walter Havill Drive. Portions of the path are located on Provincial land. Supported a community group-led planning and design process to build a new multi-use pathway in Sackville Lakes Provincial Park. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructed the Dunbrack Connector Greenway, which is partially on provincial right-of-way and Halifax Water lands. An AT corridor is being designed in East Preston that is currently on a provincial trunk highway. |
| 39 | Community Shaping | Work with the Province to mitigate the impacts on essential and important corridors and valued ecological open spaces when designing new regional transportation projects. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HGNP is informing conversations with the province concerning regional transportation projects. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HGNP is informing conversations with the province concerning regional transportation projects. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM is working with the Province as a stakeholder on the Highway 102 Corridor Study, initiated in November 2021. Staff will provide input to ensure that HRM's priorities plans related to mobility and ecology are considered in the study. |
| 40 | Community Shaping | Work with the Province to reconnect fragmented landscapes with crossing structures (wildlife overpasses and underpasses) when repairing or expanding existing roads and linear infrastructure. | Guidance | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM participating in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network with representatives from the Province and other community groups to provide | Guidance not in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen. |

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| | | | | | updates on connectivity initiatives, including wildlife crossings. | |
| 61 | Outdoor Recreation | Formally request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable a greater range of legislative abilities, such as the ability to enact parkland dedication requirements based on density to address development that does not include the subdivision of lots. | 1-2 Years | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter from Mayor Savage to Minister Chuck Porter, Municipal Affairs, was sent in December 2018. A letter from Minister Porter that confirming receipt and future follow up by provincial staff was received in February 2019. | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions regarding this request ongoing with the Province. | Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions regarding this request are ongoing with the Province. |
| 63 | Outdoor Recreation | As opportunities arise, coordinate with Provincial and Federal governments and conservation groups to establish a nature park network. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal 'Quickstart' funding was acquired, which helped with municipal land acquisitions at the end of 2018 to support the establishment of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Wilderness Park. A further funding application under the Federal 'Challenge' fund to help with additional land acquisitions has been submitted. In partnership with the NCC, the municipality acquired 379 acres of lands to establish the Shaw Wilderness Park in the Williams Lake area as part of the Purcells Cove Backlands. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 26 of HalifACT. Contributed \$750,000 to assist the NS Nature Trust in their purchase of lands in between two provincial Wilderness Areas. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM is actively working with the Province, Parks Canada and non-government organizations for the planning of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Park. HRM is collaborating with the McIntosh Run Watershed Association on new trail development and restoration in the McIntosh Run Regional Park. |
| 65 | Outdoor Recreation | For other future Nature Parks and other open spaces that are already largely in public ownership, continue to work with the Province and other stakeholders respecting their delineation of boundaries, planning and programming. | Guidance | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff continue to engage with provincial staff and stakeholders concerning the planning and programming of Nature Parks. | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. Staff continue to engage with provincial staff and stakeholders concerning the | Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff continue to engage with provincial and federal staff, and stakeholders concerning the planning and programming of Nature Parks. |

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| | | | | | planning and programming of Nature Parks. | |
| 68 | Outdoor Recreation | In conjunction with any Provincial initiative consider open space and parkland opportunities in the Wrights Lake area as they arise. | Guidance | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such open space opportunities has not arisen. | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such open space opportunities has not arisen. | Guidance not yet in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to discuss such open space opportunities has not arisen. |
| 72 | Cultural Landscapes | Engage with the Province as they update the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> to include policies on the registration of cultural landscapes. | 2-4 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province continues to engage with First Nations and Stakeholders on potential amendments to the <i>Heritage Property Act</i>, and the creation of regulations for the designation of Cultural Landscapes. HRM Staff continue to correspond with their provincial counterparts in anticipation of these legislative changes. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province continues to engage with First Nations and Stakeholders on potential amendments to the <i>Heritage Property Act</i>, and the creation of regulations for the designation of Cultural Landscapes. HRM Staff continue to correspond with their provincial counterparts in anticipation of these legislative changes. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province has completed their engagement with external stakeholders and municipalities on proposed amendments to the Heritage Property Act but have yet to table the amendments for consideration. Municipal Staff continue to correspond with their provincial counterparts to inquire about the status of the amendments. |
| 77 | Cultural Landscapes | Work with the Province to update the accuracy and use of the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map contained in the <i>Regional Plan</i> . | 4-7 Years | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff have met with provincial staff from the Nova Scotia Special Places program to guide updates to the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map, and to coordinate the protection of important archaeological sites in the region. More specific direction will be included in the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan and implemented as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff continue to engage with provincial staff to determine the appropriate approach to the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map to be finalized through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories). Sharing Our Stories is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of Sharing Our Stories is currently being prepared for public consultation and is expected to be considered by Regional Council in 2022. Municipal staff continue to work with the Province to implement working solutions to identifying and preserving archaeological resources. |