



HALIFAX

Green Network Plan Update

November 3, 2022

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Actions

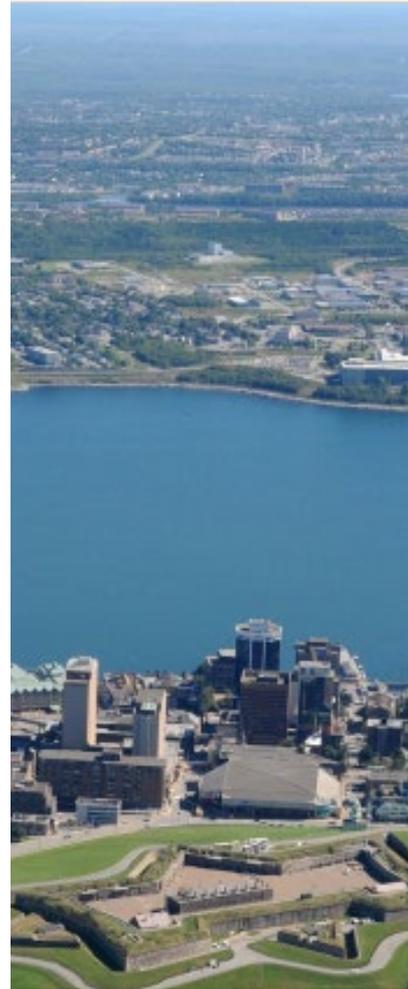
The HGNP includes direction to carry out a total of 79 actions (guidance and specific tasks). The actions generally use one of four implementation tools:

- Land Use Planning
- Park Management
- Project Work
- Partnerships



Land Use Planning

- Centre Plan Package B was approved in October 2021 and included policies implementing the recommendations of the HGNP.
- Regional Plan Review Phase 3 was approved in October 2022 and included a requirement to consider the policies and objectives of the HGNP during secondary planning and discretionary applications.
- The Regional Plan and land use by-laws were amended to allow keeping hens as an accessory residential use.
- Work on Regional Plan Review Phase 4, Plan & By-law Simplification Program and Sharing Our Stories continued.



Park Network Management

- Implemented the recommendations of the HGNP through completed and ongoing master plans, including the Halifax Common, Rehab Lands and Bedford West.
- Supported 26 community gardens on municipal lands and began to develop strategies to further support the implementation of JustFOOD recommendations.
- Continued to offer new and existing outdoor programming.
- Continued asset registry work to reflect outdoor recreation assets in HRM.



Project Work

- Completed the Africville Park Interpretive Framework project.
- Continued work with Ducks Unlimited to assess 45 wetlands.
- Participated in initiatives to identify and protect natural assets, including:
 - The National Disaster Mitigation Program Project
 - The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative
 - The NS Crown Share Land Legacy Trust Wildlife Corridor Design Charrette.
- Increased the number of street and park trees through:
 - Grant funding to enhance the HRM Urban Forestry Program
 - Prominently including street trees in the design of major street enhancement projects
 - Updating the Red Book to require developers to install street trees
- Completed or continued work on active transportation initiatives, including trail, connection and facility projects.



Partnerships

- Continued to work with Halifax Water to define responsibilities and standards for green infrastructure in the public right-of-way.
- Working with Parks Canada and non-government organizations on planning for Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area and its consideration as a potential National Urban Park.
- Worked with the Province to construct the Dunbrack Connector Greenway.



Update Regional Council Motion – January 25, 2022

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



Priority Plans

- 2014 Regional Plan identified several Priority Plans to be completed
- They are primarily Management Plans containing detailed actions to carry out the policy directive of the plans
- Can direct land use, regulations, programs, or partnerships
- Range in duration, also have associated budgetary and personnel requirements
- Strategic in nature, help in aligning interdepartmental work programs
 - **Completed Priorities Plans:** Integrated Mobility Plan, Green Network Plan, People Planet Prosperity, HalifACT
 - **Priorities Plans Currently Underway:** Sharing Our Stories
- These documents will be used to inform the Regional Plan Review currently underway



Implementation Structure

- **Integrated Mobility Plan**

- Owner of Plan - Strategic Transportation Manager – 14 employees
- Cross-Functional Working Group – 18 employees
- Senior Leadership Team - Directors and Executive Directors from Planning and Development, Transit and Public Works

- **Green Network Plan**

- Owner of Plan – Regional Policy Principal Planner – 5 employees
- Dedicated staff – 1 employee



Regional Plan

- **Green Network Plan**

- Land use changes have been directed to the Regional Plan for implementation
- Significant topic of discussion and advocacy during the Regional Plan process
- Created 2 new policies during Phase 3 amendments to address concerns that the Priorities Plans were not being used.
- [Regional Plan Review Work Plan](#) identifies policy actions that will be taken during the review



Regional Plan G-14A

- G-14A In considering development agreements or amendments to development agreements, or any proposed amendments to the Regional Plan, secondary planning strategies, or land use by-laws, in addition to the policies of this Plan, HRM shall consider the objectives, policies and actions of the priorities plans approved by Regional Council since 2014, including:
 - (a) The Integrated Mobility Plan;
 - (b) Halifax Green Network Plan;
 - (c) HalifACT;
 - (d) Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022-2027; and
 - (e) any other priority plan approved by Regional Council while this policy is in effect.

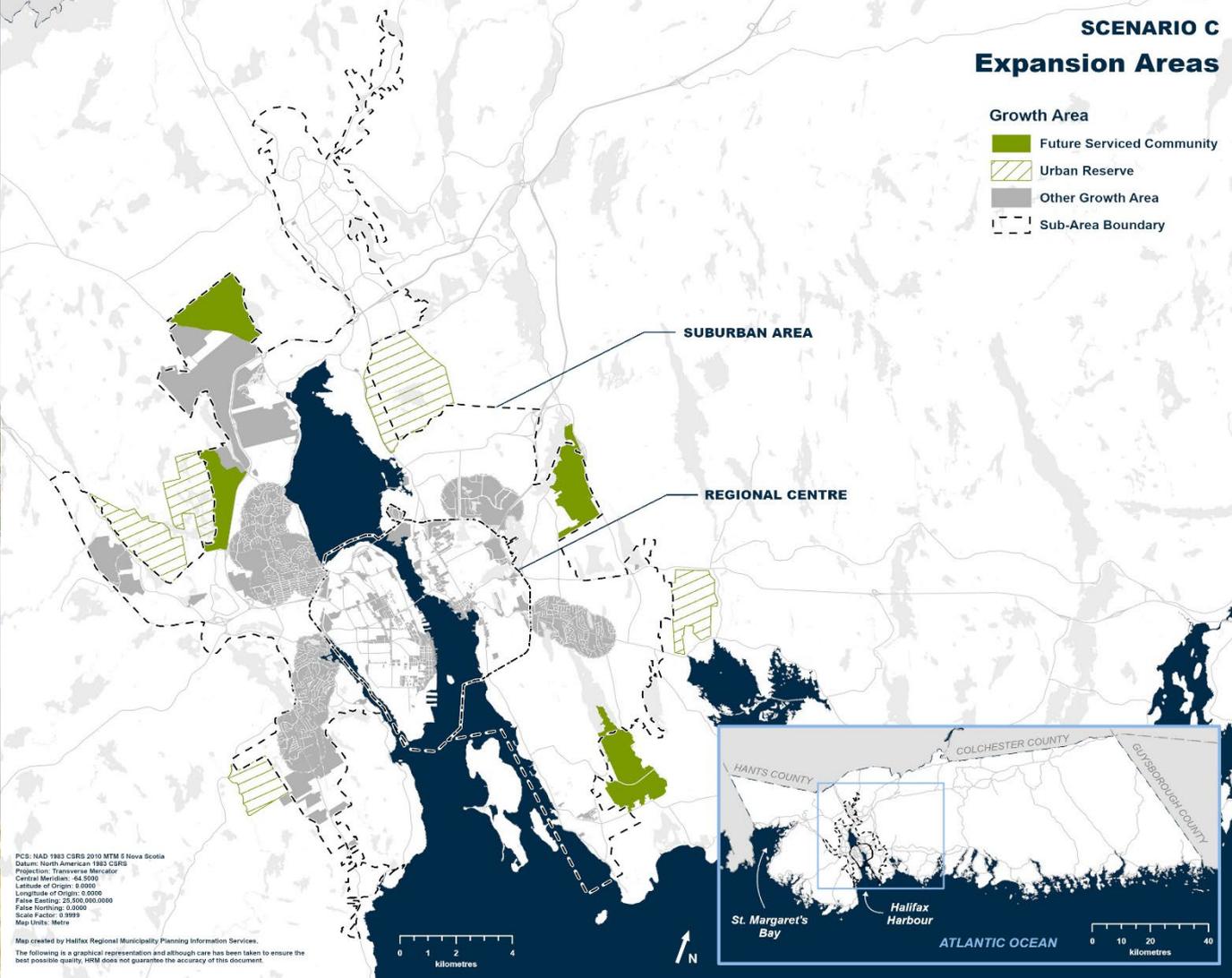


Regional Plan S-2

S-2 Where requests are received to initiate secondary planning for any of the areas identified above as potential growth areas, consideration shall be given to:

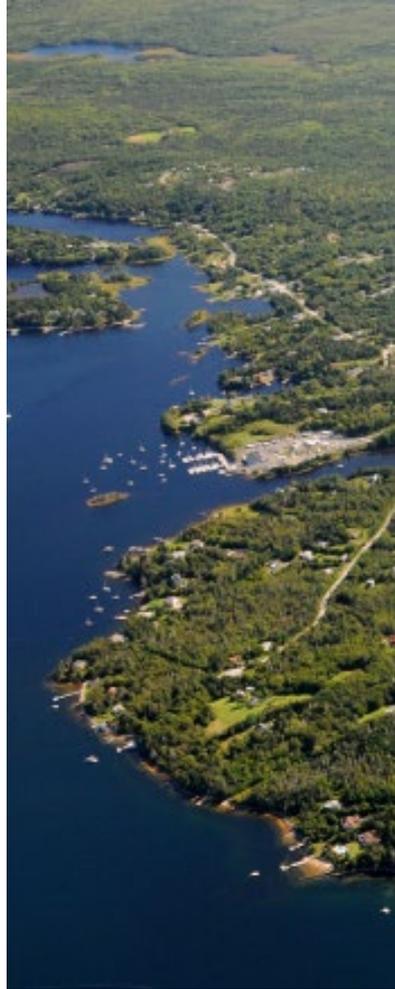
- (a) the need for additional lands and the fiscal implications to HRM and Halifax Water and their capacity to meet additional financial commitments; and
- (b) the implications for achieving the HRM growth targets.; and
- (c) the future organization of land use and management of land, including the scale, location, density and form of development, so that:
 - (i) the protection of environmental or cultural features of significance on the lands is considered, including wildlife corridors, the urban forest, wet areas, wetlands and watercourses;
 - (ii) the integrity of regional parks or federal and provincial wilderness areas adjacent to the lands are maintained, including the functioning of shared environmental, recreational or cultural features;
 - (iii) the movements of pedestrians and transit service are prioritized over car-oriented design, including the connections to surrounding community; and
 - (iv) the design includes community-scale or site-level green infrastructure, renewable energy and other climate mitigation design elements.





Future Serviced Communities

- RFP 22-373 Future Serviced Communities Background Studies
- Landscape Connectivity
 - Review the Halifax Green Network Plan, specifically the objectives outlined in Section 4.1.3.1 and 4.1.3.3, to determine if any Important and Essential corridors have been identified in the study areas. Using GIS Layers and biophysical surveys, identify, assess and inventory any wildlife corridors within the study areas that allow for movement locally and at a regional scale.
 - Complete an analysis of open space that would need to be maintained to preserve the use of the areas as wildlife corridors.



Moving Forward

- Green Network Plan has now been integrated as a key consideration in any discretionary approval processes
- Working with HalifACT group to identify a shared resource that would assist with coordination of the Green Network Plan
- Once this position is established, will begin working towards a structure similar to the Integrated Mobility Plan process

