

Item 15.1

HALIFAX

Bedford West Park Facilities Plan

Community Planning & Economic Development
Standing Committee
November 17, 2022

2022-11-16

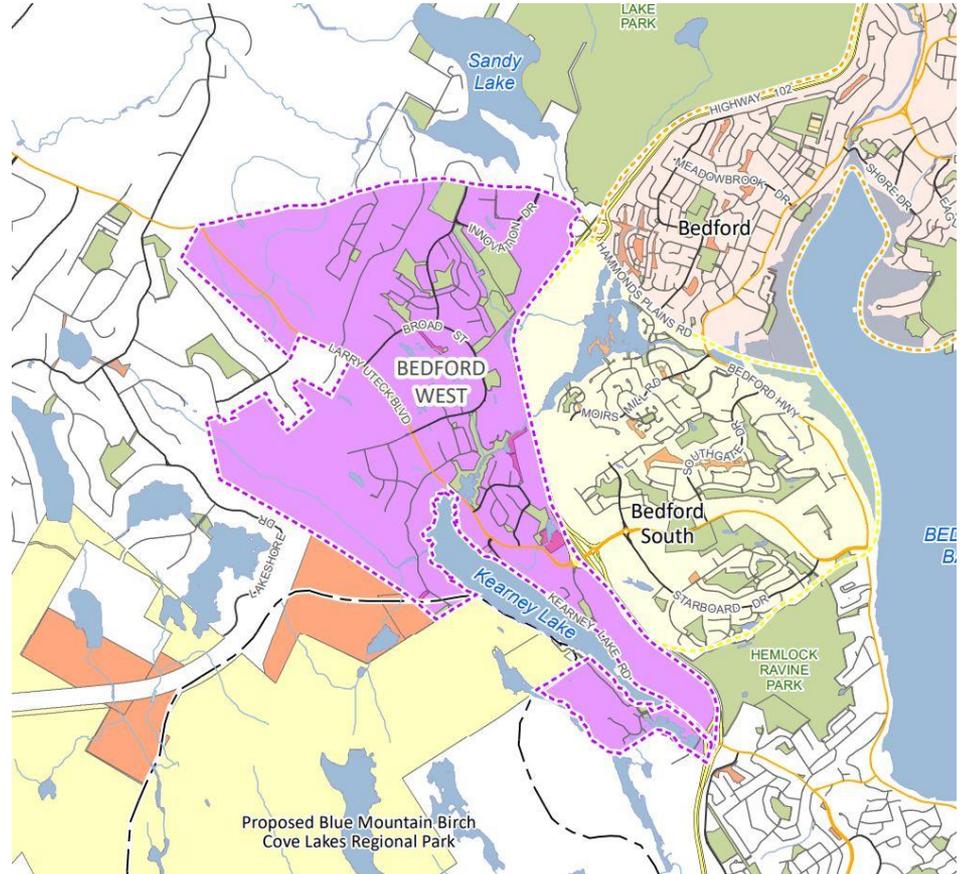
Origin

- 2018 sport court analysis.
- 2020/21 Parks & Recreation Budget and Business Plan.



Bedford West

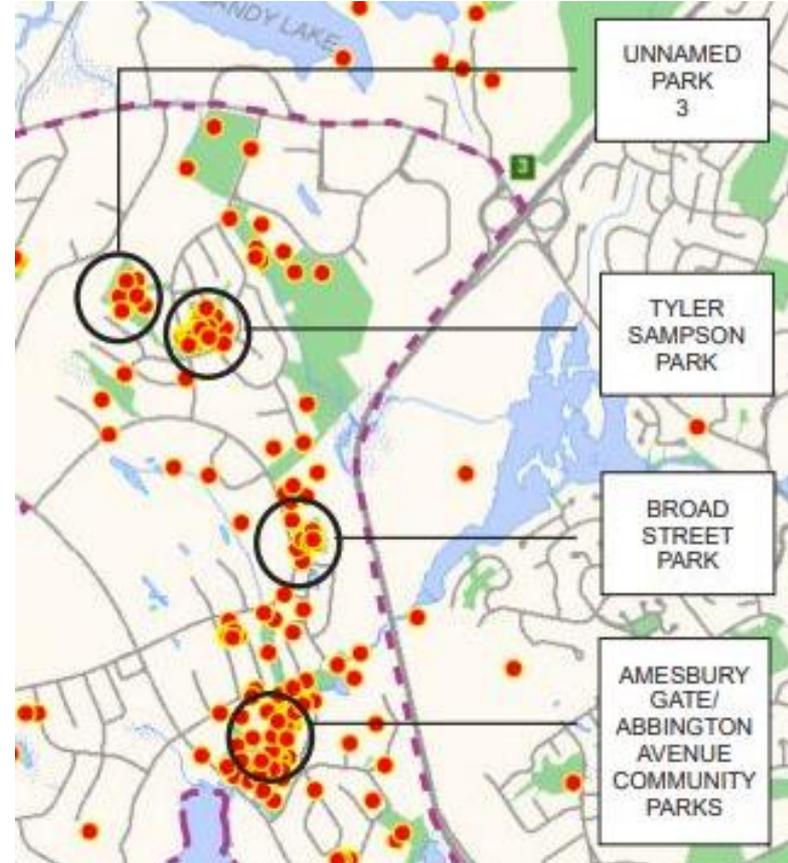
- Mixed use community
- Relatively high density, fast rate of growth, a variety of housing types.
- 28 Park and Open Space parcels, many 'pad-ready' or undeveloped.



Assessment of Park Need

An assessment of park needs was conducted with an evaluation of:

- physical park condition
- land ownership
- existing park facilities
- community growth
- guiding municipal plans and policy
- public engagement



Engagement Findings

Park Issues

- Connectivity
- Investment in Parks
- Active Open Space
- Maintenance
- Wayfinding & Signage
- Overuse of Parks
- Road Safety
- Dogs-off-leash
- Park Safety
- Development Pressure
- Parking

Park Opportunities

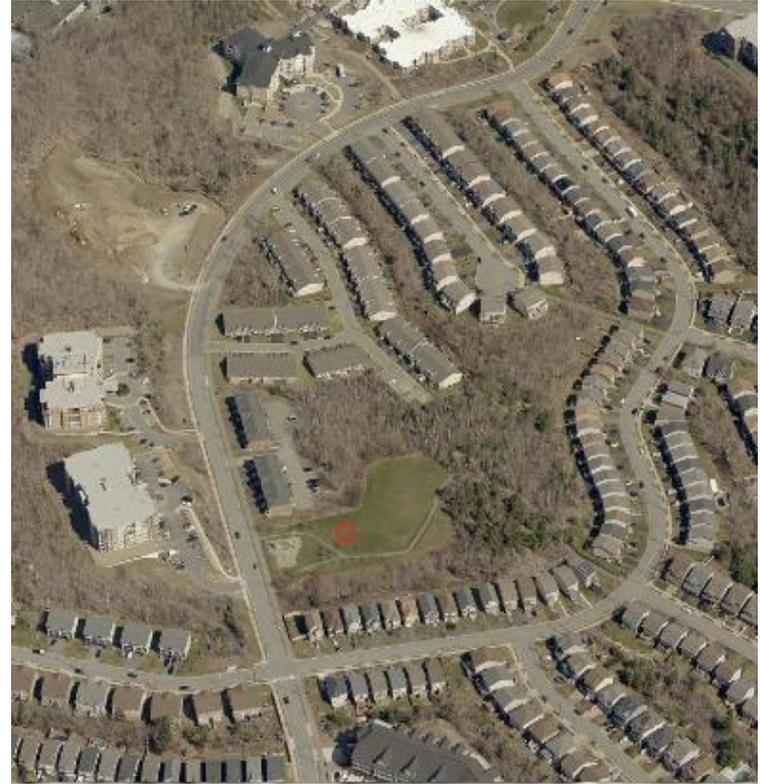
- Park Development
- Sport Courts
- Preservation of Natural Lands
- Water Access
- Interactive Water Play
- Trail Development
- Dog-Off-Leash Areas
- Winter Recreation
- Playgrounds
- Regional Active Space
- Field Sports

Park Priorities

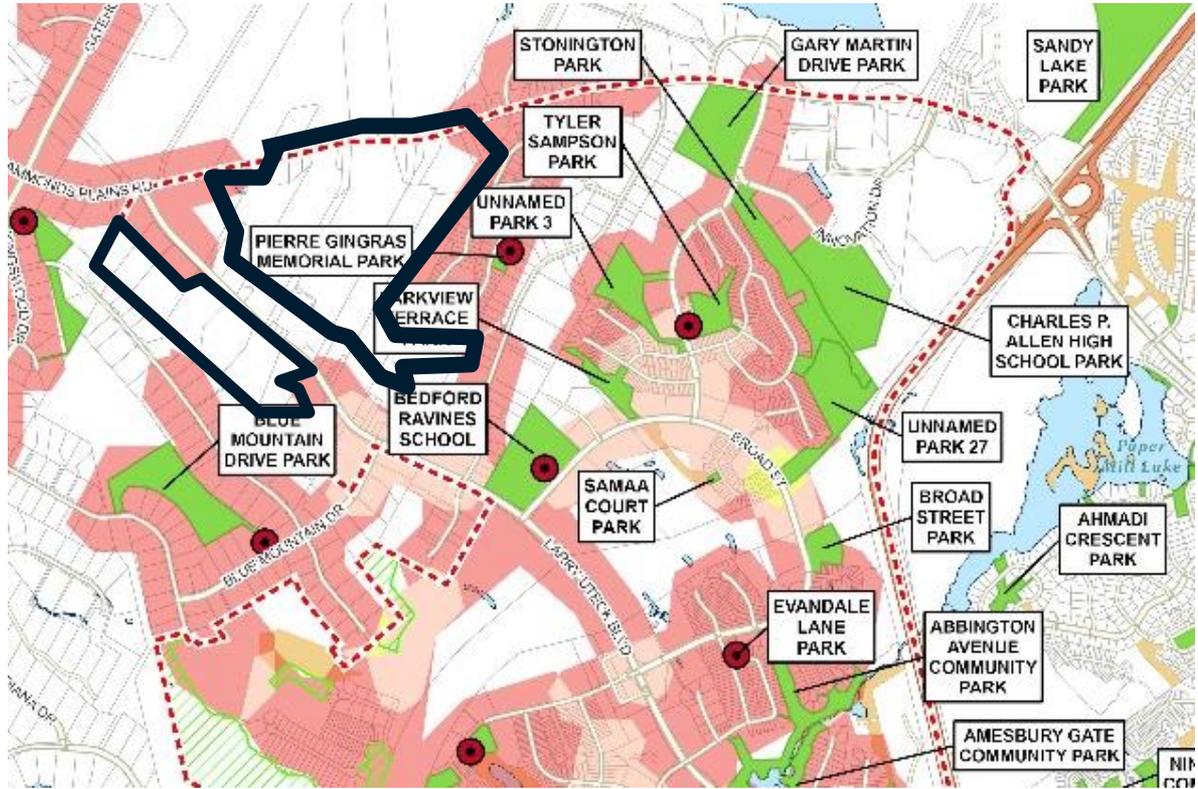
- Trail Development
- Off-leash Dog Park
- Tennis Courts
- Swimming Pool
- Splash Pad
- Playground
- Protection of Natural Lands
- Lake Access
- Tree Planting
- Skate Park

Assessment of Park Need

- Partially determined by settlement patterns.
- Park service delivery targets had not previously been developed for Bedford West.
- Given the residential density, benchmarks similar to the Regional Centre have been developed.

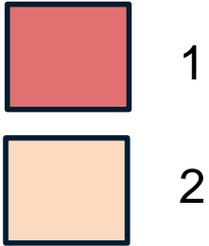


Assessment of Park Need



Example: Access to playgrounds, 1000 m.

Number of playgrounds within catchment



Findings

- Parkland is normally undeveloped through the subdivision process, which is challenging in dense, fast growth areas.
- Some discrepancies between public expectation and anticipated needs.
- Many parks have a single use or limited range of recreation opportunities. Interest to see more variety.
- Community interest in hands-on park development.
- Designated access to water is limited.
- Overuse of some parks limits the sustainability and comfortable use.



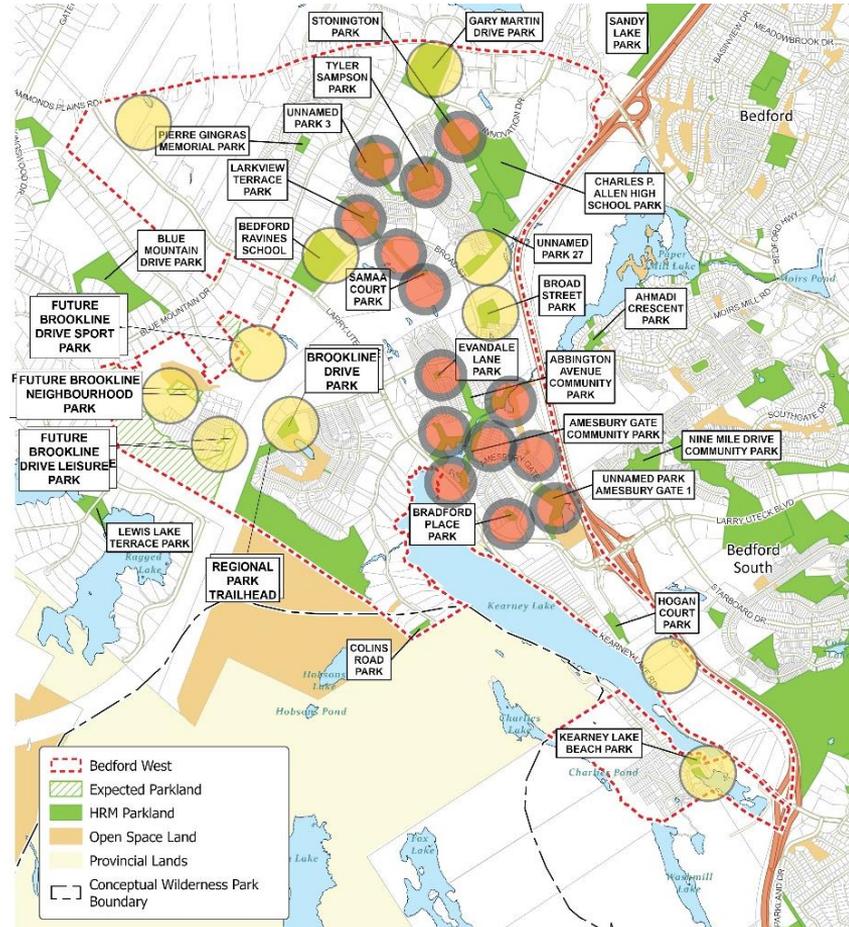
Findings

- Land ownership and maintenance responsibilities are not clearly distinguished.
- Dogs off-leash in parks are problematic.
- Movement between some parks is a challenge.
- Park safety and accessibility need greater attention.
- There are few mechanisms to acquire new parkland from development without the subdivision of land.



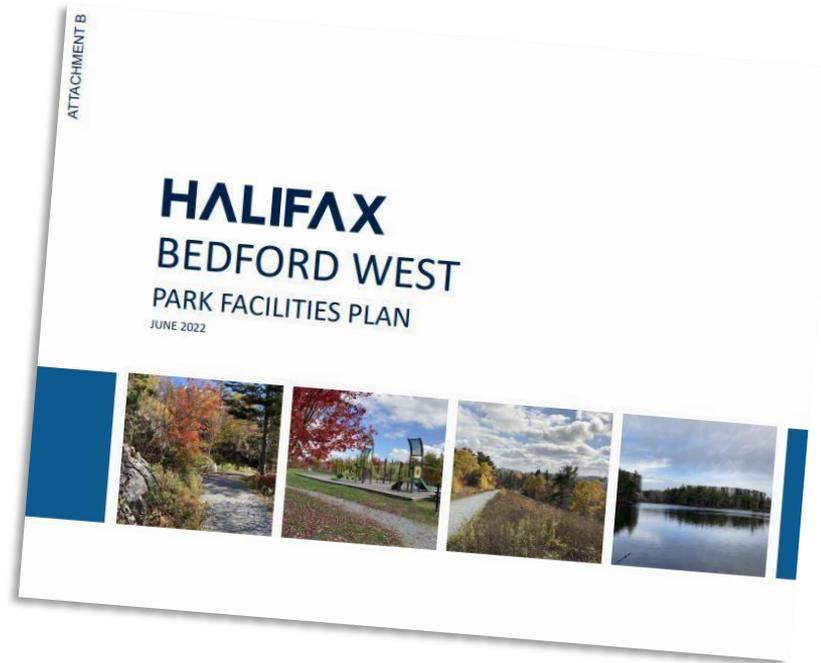
Plan Highlights

- 14 park enhancements 
- Park signage, seating, trail development/connections, tree planting, water access, park shelter.
- 11 major park opportunities 
- Park plan development, collocated sport facility/day-use park development, regional specialized facilities.



Capital Budget Planning

- The Park Facilities Plan would become a guiding document for park improvements.
- No immediate financial implications.
- Capital expenditures to be considered in future budget and business plans.
- Capital improvements to be phased over time.



Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt the Bedford West Park Facilities Plan as set out in Attachment B as a guiding document for future park improvements in the Community of Bedford West.