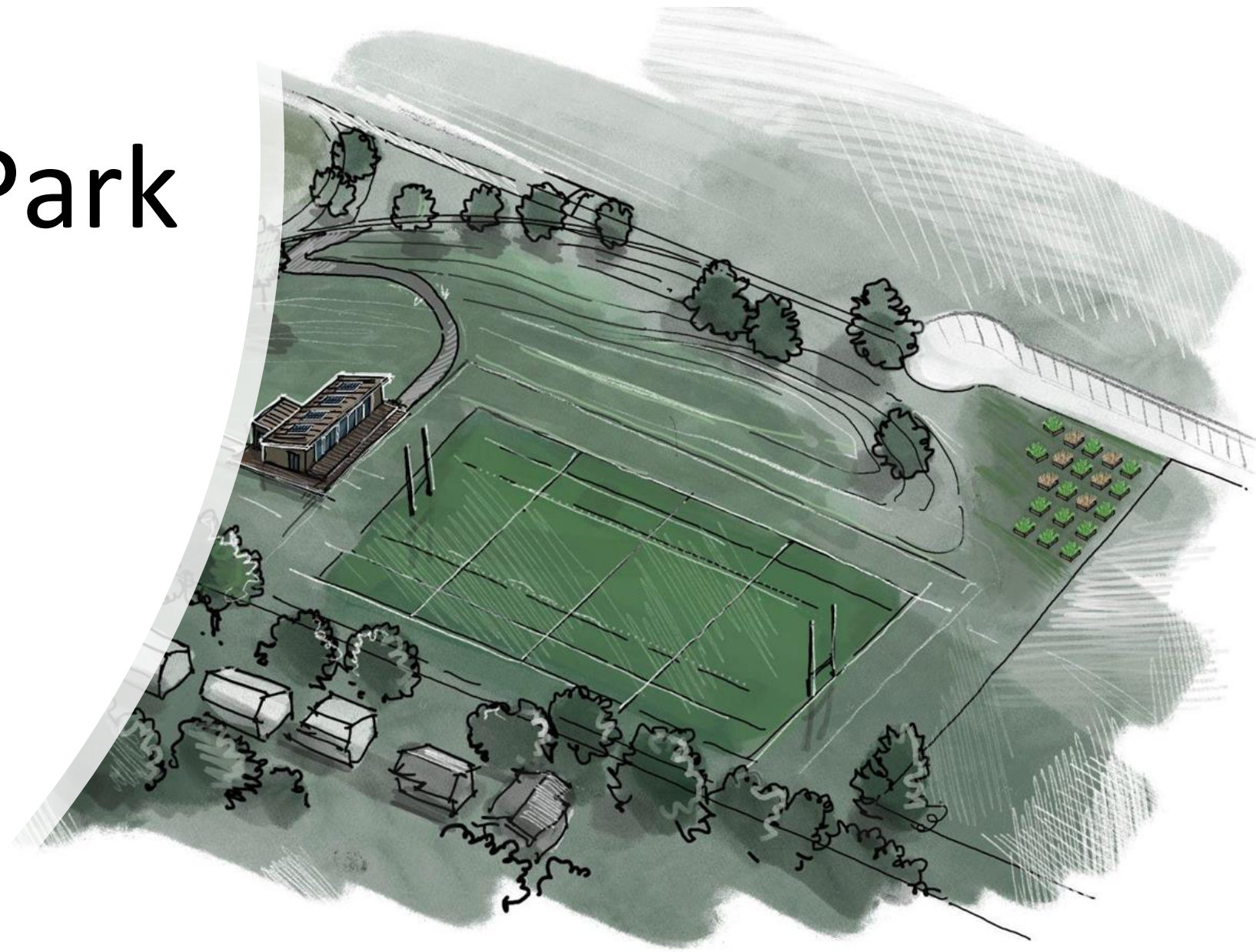


# Gorsebrook Park Clubhouse Project



Presentation to Halifax's Community Planning and Economic Development  
Standing Committee



- East end of Sports Field
- Public Washrooms
- Change rooms/showers
- Community space
- Viewing Deck
- Equipment storage



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# What we're asking for

## Now:

Staff collaboration in:

- Community Engagement Phase
- Project scoping and planning

## Future:

Support for the project



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# History

- Founded **1958**
- **Oldest** continuously operating Rugby Club in Nova Scotia
- Longest running **Women's** rugby program



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# Leona and Maggie

(Mother and Daughter)

“The Club has been a big part of over half of my life. Maggie joined the junior women’s squad **as soon as she could**”

- Leona Burkey (Former player)



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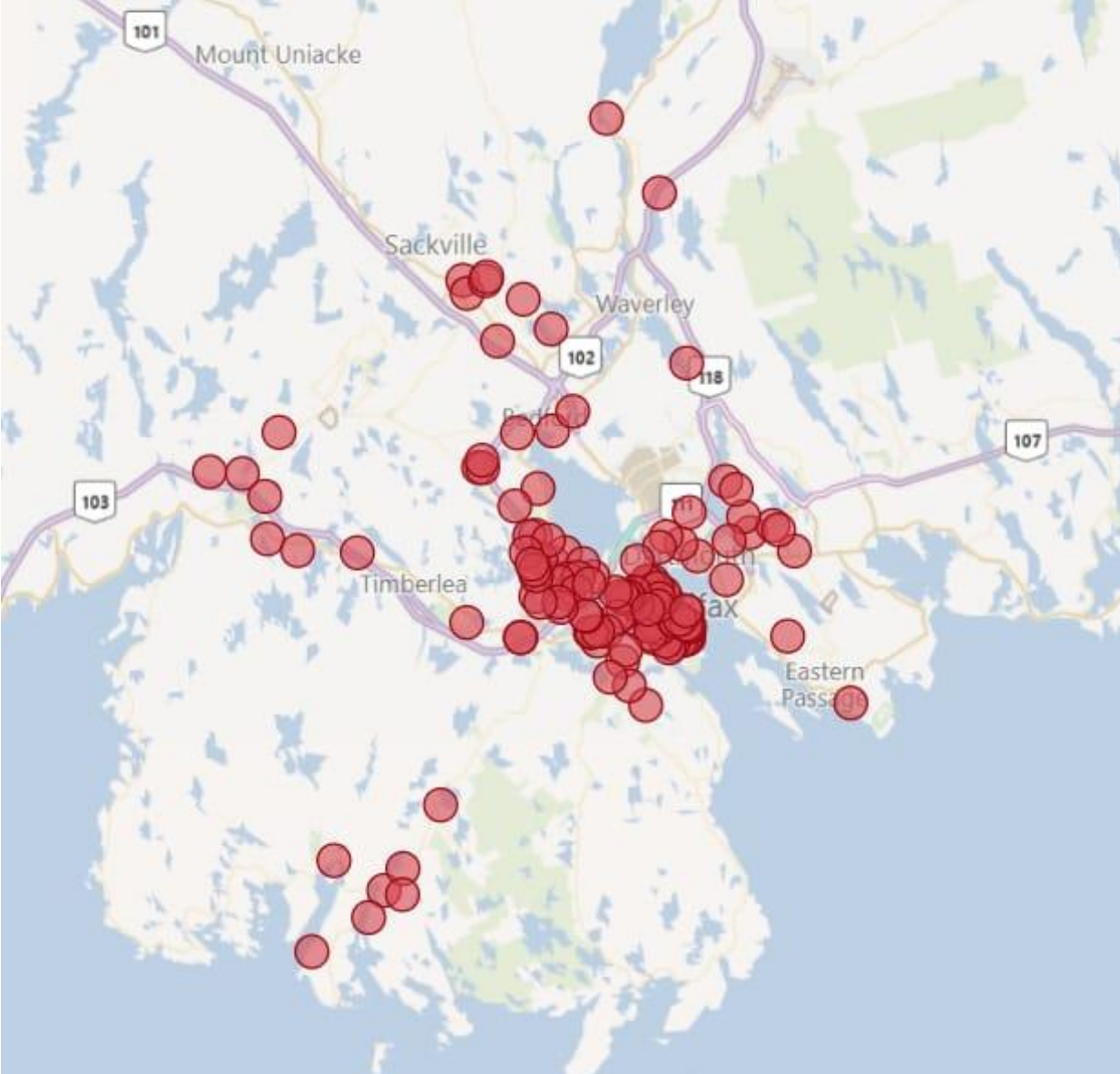
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# Geography

Home field: Gorsebrook Park

Only downtown-based  
rugby club

Members from **all over**  
**HRM**



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# “One Big Club”

(Our Values)

- Inclusive
- Diverse
- Welcoming



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# Rookie Rugby

“She is a quiet and timid kid; “I have never seen her more welcomed into a sport”

- Sophie & Adam Russel (Rookie Rugby Parents)



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# Megan

**“Everyone has a place,  
both in the game and in  
the community”**

- Megan Dunn,  
Junior Women’s Player



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# 183 Current Members

## Including:

- Contact Players
- Non-contact players
- Coaches
- Social members (alumni, families and supporters)



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# Programs

## Senior Rugby

Women's 1st Division  
Men's 1st & 2nd Division

## Pride Rugby

For LGBTQ2S+ athletes

## Junior Rugby

Junior Women's

## Rookie Rugby

Ages 4-13



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# Myles

“As someone on the Autism Spectrum, it’s hard to be yourself and fit in with sports. **The club welcomes you with open arms and never judges anyone.**”

- Myles Knight  
Senior Men’s Player



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# Rugby Builds Community

In our club you're instantly part of a community



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New Canadians

# “Taps” (Zimbabwe)

“I have made some good friends who have **become family.**”

- Tapiwa Munyanyi,  
Senior Men’s Player



Taps, the day he became a  
Canadian Citizen



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New Canadians

# “The Breeze” (Italy)

“It made me feel **part of a community** and helped me to integrate“

- Fabrizio Contini  
Senior Men’s Player



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New Canadians

# Yoshi (Japan)

**“This team made me love Halifax.”**

**“If I hadn't joined the club, I would have found Halifax boring and **would have moved to Toronto or Vancouver.**”**

- Yoshiki Takamiya  
Halifax RFC, 2022



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# Why a Clubhouse?

- Public Washrooms
- Change rooms/showers
- Equipment storage
- Viewing Deck
- Community space



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# Emma

"Every club I've played for overseas had a clubhouse.  
**That's how the sport builds community"**

- Emma Taylor,  
Veteran of Canada's National team  
Halifax RFC member since 2012



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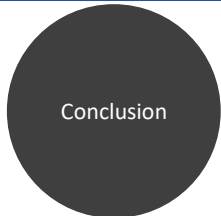
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# Potential Sport Users

- Lacrosse
- Ball Hockey
- Baseball
- Disk Golf
- Ultimate Frisbee
- + More



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200+ children and  
their parents!

“I would like to express our **strong support**...A clubhouse, as proposed by Halifax Rugby, will allow Ball Hockey to continue to grow while creating a **dynamic addition to our local community.**”

Louis Brill  
Halifax Minor Ball Hockey League  
Founder and Managing Director



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# Project Values

- Community/ Club Development
- Sustainability
- Inclusivity
- Respect for the neighbourhood
- Accessibility



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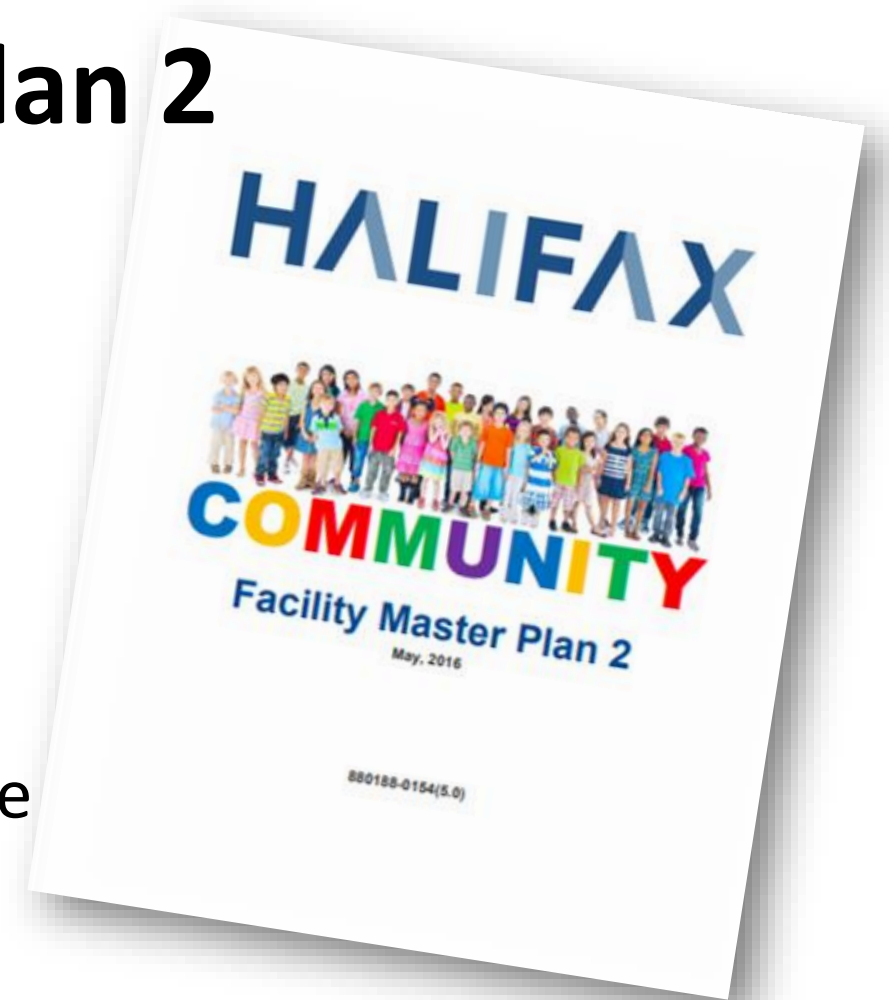
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# Community Facility Master Plan 2

- ✓ **Accessibility** and universal design
- ✓ Ensuring **inclusivity** for new Nova Scotians.
- ✓ Developing **healthy citizens** and children.
- ✓ Attracting and retaining **new Canadians**
- ✓ **Partnerships** help to build capacity, promote diversity



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# Green Network Plan (2018)

“**Incorporate year-round recreational infrastructure**, including winter-oriented activities, when planning parks.”

“**Enhance social gathering** in municipal open spaces by encouraging limited private and not for profit commercial initiatives.”



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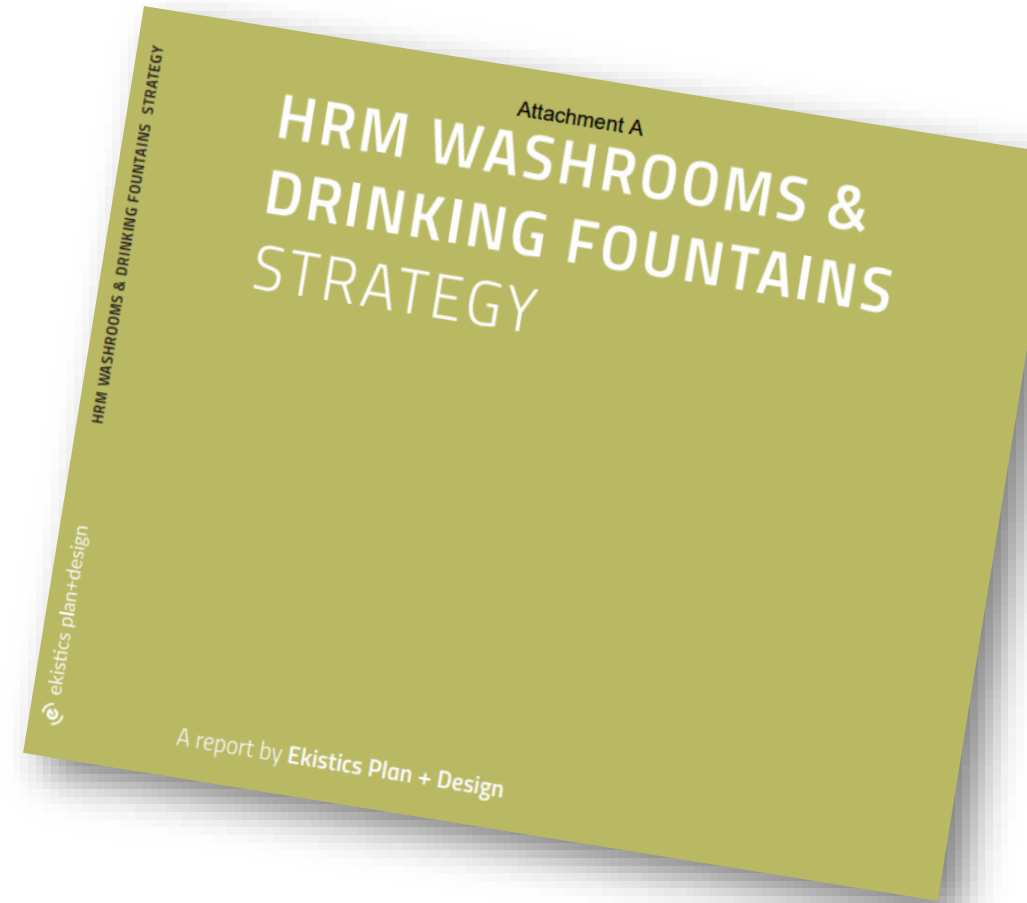
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# Washroom & Drinking Fountain Strategy (2020)

Gorsebrook is **identified**  
as a **'high-need park'** for  
a public washroom



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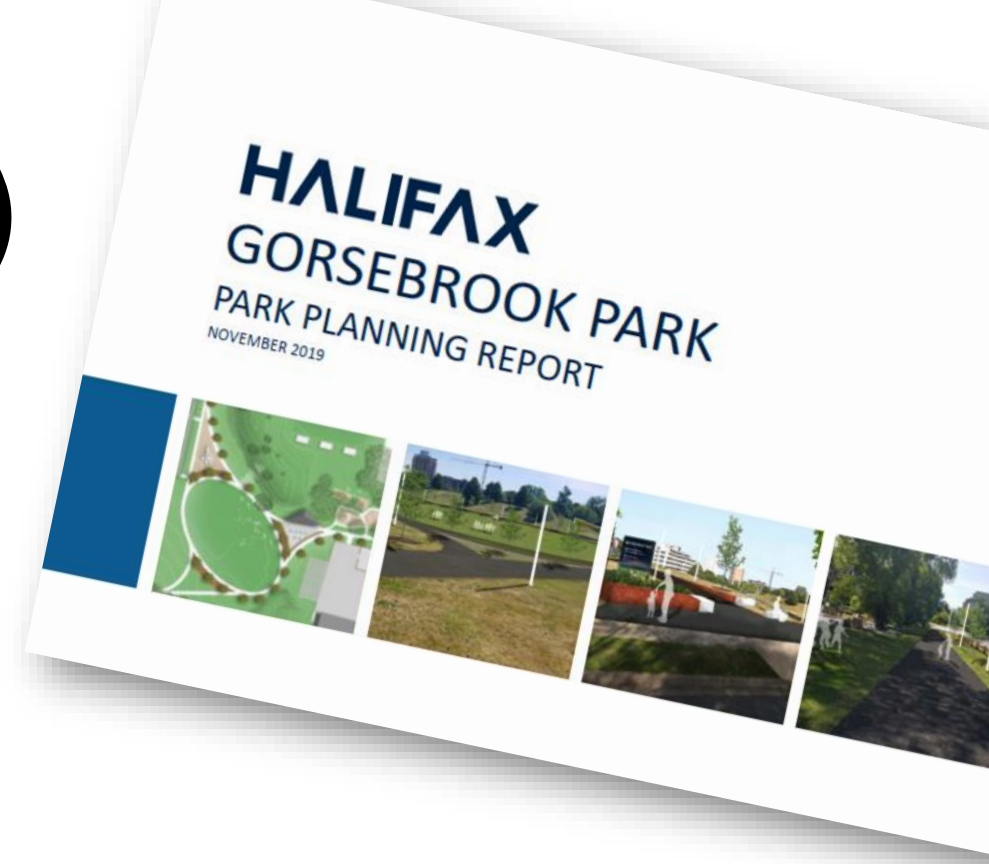
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City priorities and plans

# Gorsebrook Park Plan (2019)

“The lack of publicly accessible washrooms and drinking water prevent the use of the park as a destination.”



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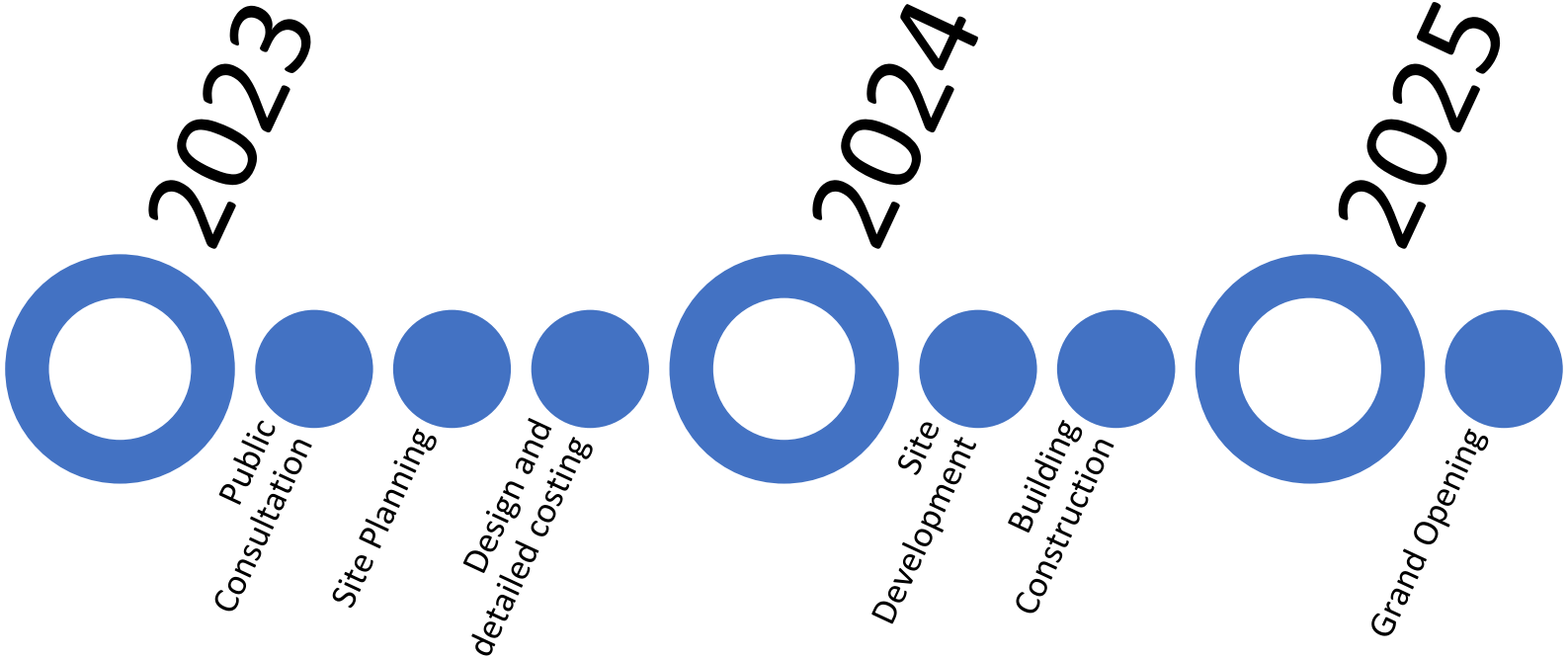
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# Timeline



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# We have support



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# Thank You, any questions?



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