

December 14, 2023

Rural Recreation Strategy Overview

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing
Committee

Origin and Context

Community Facility Master Plan 2 (CFMP2) is a framework for municipal decision-making regarding recreation facilities.

The Halifax Rural Recreation Strategy (Strategy) is the Municipality's first comprehensive examination of recreation service delivery and equitable access to parks and recreation services and assets in rural communities and it builds on the themes identified in the CFMP2.



The Meaning of Recreation in Rural HRM

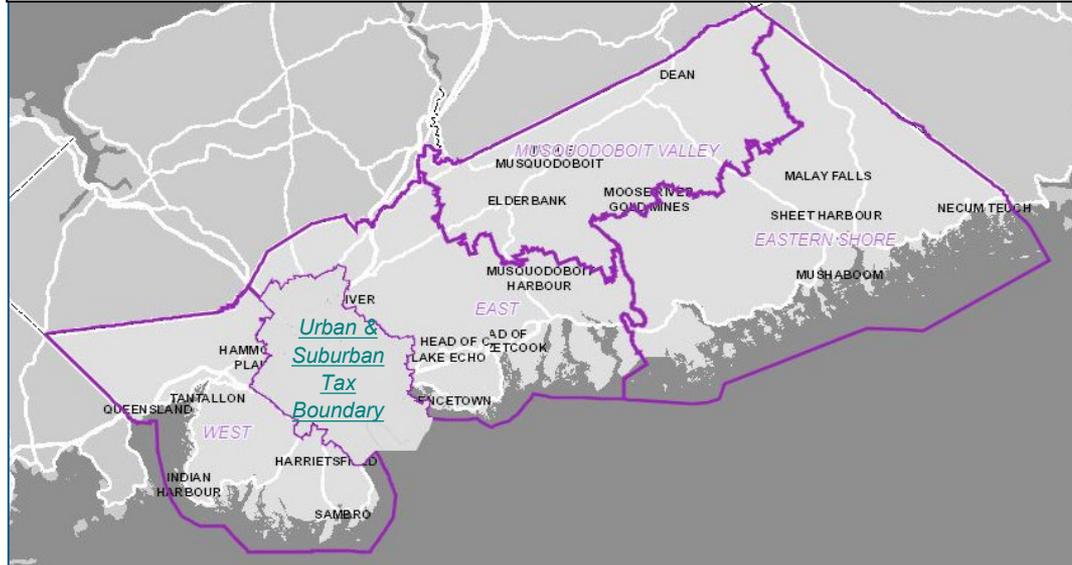


What and Where is Rural Recreation

Activities, places & spaces, outside the Urban & Suburban Tax Boundary



Rural Areas of Halifax Regional Municipality



Description: The Rural Recreation Strategy considers all areas outside the urban and suburban tax boundaries as rural. Further, rural HRM is divided into four distinct areas: Commuter West, Commuter East, Musquodoboit Valley, and Eastern Shore.



Approach

PHASE 1| FOUNDATIONS

Trends & Best Practice Analysis

Internal Staff & Rural Councillor Interviews

Community & Organization Engagement

Recreation Stakeholder Consultation

Defining Rural Recreation

PHASE 2| PLAN DIRECTIONS

Pop-Up Engagement

Create Rural P&R Maps

Identify Key Themes

Rural Recreation Strategy – What We Heard Report (WWH)

CPED Presentation of the WWH

PHASE 3| FINAL PLAN

Develop Strategy

Create Action Items

Staff Review

Finalize Strategy

CPED/Regional Council

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Vision and Principles

Vision	Principles
For rural residents to have equitable and ample access to recreation services and assets;	Rural Lens for Recreation Service Delivery
For volunteer-based organizations that provide leisure, recreation, and sport opportunities to have the supports needed to be sustainable, relevant, and vibrant;	Asset-based Community Development
To work with partners regularly, collaborating on programming, venues, cross-promotion, and future plans that will impact recreation in rural areas of the municipality.	Building Partnerships

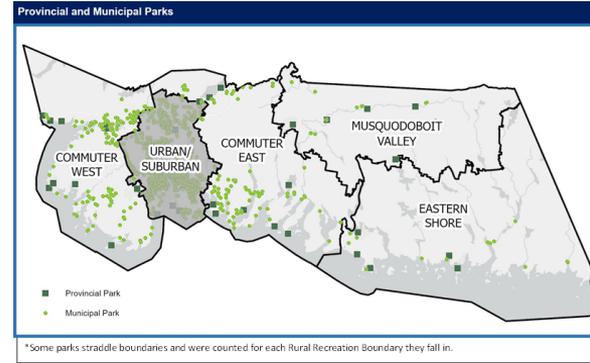
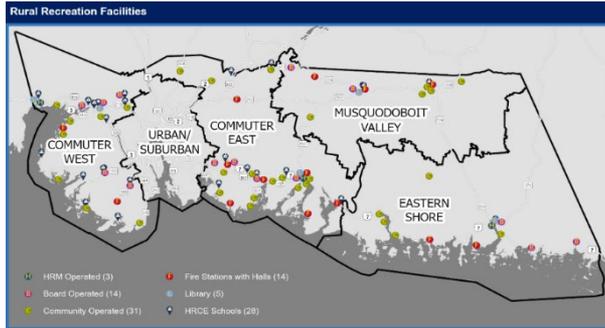
Themes

60 Strategic Actions



Equitable Access to Indoor Facilities

Objective: to make indoor recreation facilities available to all rural residents regardless of location, population, or socioeconomic factors



Equitable Access to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Objective: to provide equitable, safe, accessible, programmable, and clearly identified access to the variety of outdoor recreation assets throughout rural HRM.

Volunteer Support

Objective: to provide the supports needed for volunteer-based organizations providing recreation opportunities to rural communities to continue to strengthen and thrive.

Programming that Meets Rural Needs

Objective: to provide residents with access to a variety of programs and opportunities that meet local needs and interests.

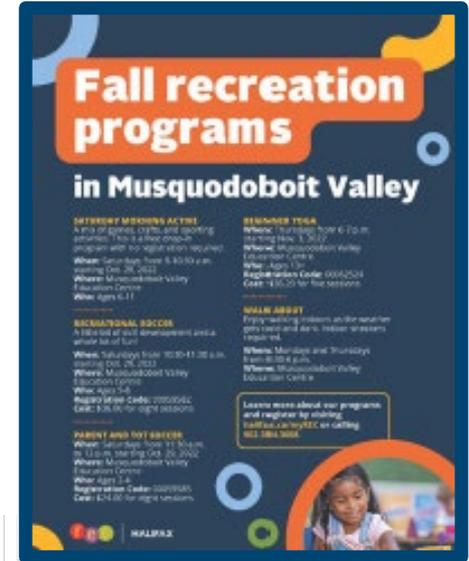


Inter-Departmental & Inter-Governmental Partnerships

Objective: to provide assets and programming related to recreation in collaboration and coordination with other government entities.

Advertising & Communications that Reflect Rural Communities

Objective: to reflect the culture and communication needs of rural communities in the municipality's marketing material and communication strategies.



Implementation

- Short Term Recommendations (0-1 years)
- Medium Term Recommendations (2-3 years)
- Long Term Recommendations (4-5 years)



Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve the Rural Recreation Strategy (Attachment 1);
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the actions contained in the Rural Recreation Strategy as part of the multi-year budgeting and business planning process;
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Regional Council with a progress report within three years of the adoption of the Rural Recreation Strategy.

Thank you for your time. Questions?



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