

February 8th, 2024

HALIFAX

African Nova Scotian Community Action Program

ANS Road to Economic Prosperity (REP)

- 2018-2020, REP Action Plan owned by ANS Communities in conjunction with Halifax Partnership.
- 30 actions endorsed by HRM Regional Council in Sept 2020.
- Build community capacity and mobilization.
- Increase collaboration between ANS communities and partners.
- Address issues related to land ownership & environmental racism.
- Revitalize & invest in ANS communities
- Increase ANS labour force

REP Actions: HRM

Many of the actions in REP's plan are HRM-specific:

12. Explore Community Benefits Agreements in ANS communities

13. Identify and address legislation and land use bylaws that impact ANS communities

16. Review the naming, boundaries, and zoning of historic ANS communities, and zoning affecting ANS communities

Beechville

- 2017: ANS community of Beechville deeply upset with new development displacing historic residents.
- HRM directed staff to work with Beechville to address immediate planning concerns.
- Beechville requested a long-term project by staff to address historical concerns.

HALIFAX

Beechville

- 2019-2020: Beechville builds a **Strategic Plan** that outlines challenges and opportunities.
- HRM staff created a **Community Action Plan** to address items that are in the municipality's jurisdiction.
- Long-term planning in Beechville from 2017-present.

BCDA Quality of Life/Recreation

Mandate

To: create opportunities for healthy, cultural, leisurely and educational experiences for all residents, descendants and adherents of the Beechville Community as part of the 1-5-year plan/s.

To: identify possible opportunities funding, resources and partnerships related to quality of life and recreation



"Acts of reconciliation and reparations, both symbolic and substantial, are critical to our collective emancipation and the ability to live peacefully and sustainably on this land."

	Background/context	What is needed	Expected outcomes
1.	<p>The quality of life of the Beechville Community is dependent on revitalizing our culture through many programs and activities. The lack of access to community space and green space that we control is an impediment to this progress. Historically we have had those places and spaces, which resulted in producing many accomplished professionals. We have been in the queue for over 200 years, in this Decade for people of African Descent we must make significant and immediate progress.</p>	<p>We need to develop a task force made of levels of government (along with us) that can resolve the following challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Revitalization of our community centre as an historical hub and tourist attraction, ✓ Identification of land for new facility, for community events, green space and educational activities. ✓ Formal relationship with HRM Recreations services to design specific services and programs for the community. 	<p>A task force will be formed no later than April 2020</p> <p>Financial Support for Community Centre- \$400,000</p>
2.	<p>As you well know the community of Beechville is over 200 years old. The boundaries have changed without conversation or consultation. <i>This year we are planning a parade from the entrance to Bayer Lake Park to Munroe Subdivision. We are inviting ANS and neighbouring communities to participate. This Show of Presence, does not just pay homage to our ancestors, put will be inspirational for our youth.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Signs acknowledging Beechville as a Historical Community ✓ Beechville community signs and Banners along the St. Margaret's Bay Rd, that will stay after the parade and the community celebration. ✓ Support from local police to block the highway for ½ hour during the parade. We have seen this done for other communities. 	<p>Immediate conversation with folks in recreation and planning March 2020</p> <p>Financial resources for Beechville Days and parade 20,000.</p>
3.	<p>Beechville has a small but significant population of seniors and youth. Ensuring healthy programs are reintroduced in our daily lives is critical. Historically we had those programs, through lack of resources those programs have ended.</p>	<p>To ensure we can implement healthy lifestyle programs we need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross walks and sidewalks ✓ Traffic Impact assessment (present traffic flow is concerning) 	<p>Development of a comprehensive strategy to look infrastructure design and development for the Beechville Community and all other African Nova Scotian communities. \$20,000</p>

New changes put Beechville development in hands of historic Black community

Properties have been re-zoned and a new development district brought in

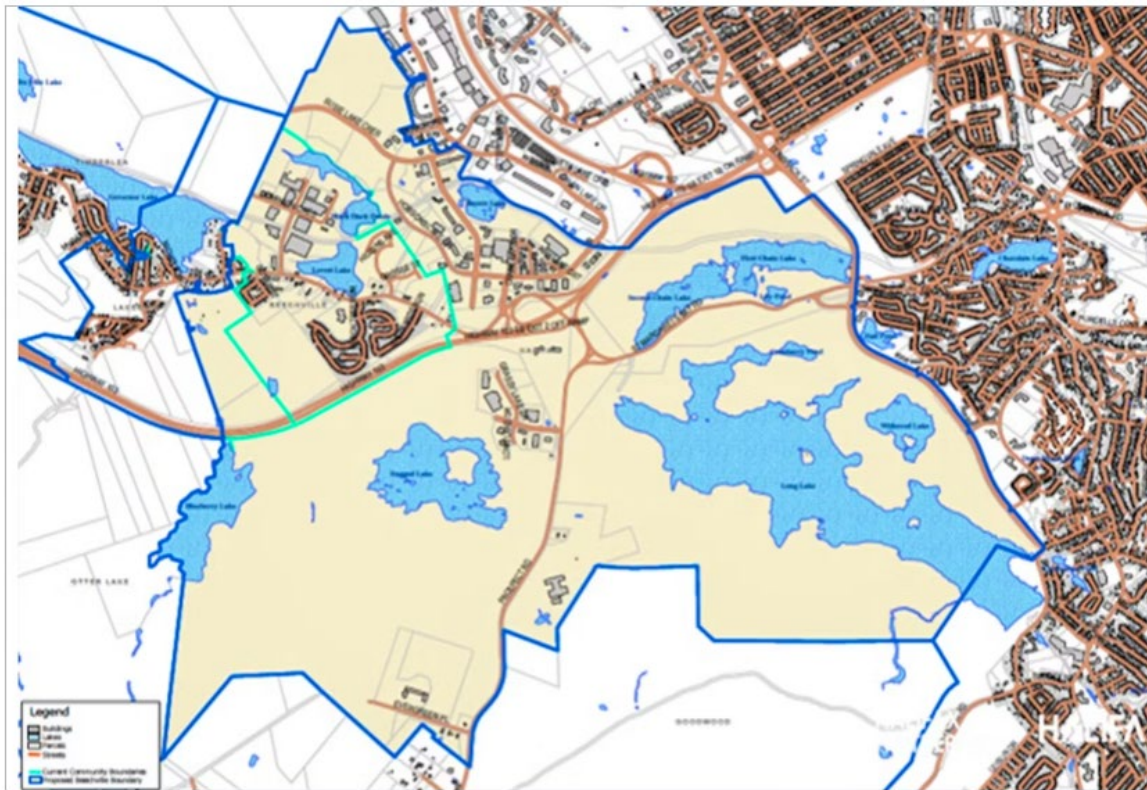


[Haley Ryan](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jul 12, 2023 9:23 AM ADT | Last Updated: July 12, 2023



New zoning and development changes passed by Halifax council will require projects to follow criteria defined by the community. (CBC)

HALIFAX



In June, Halifax Regional Council approved the expansion of Beechville's boundaries from the area outlined in green to the new boundaries shaded beige, making the community six times larger. PHOTO CREDIT: Halifax Regional Municipality

African Nova Scotian Community Action Program (ANSCAP)

- REP and Beechville highlighted the need for long-term planning in ANS communities.
- ANSCAP established in October 2023 to begin community action programming in other ANS communities.
- Currently team of 2, expanding to 5 throughout 2024.

Community Strategic Plan (REP)

- Community-led process aided by REP.
- Community builds capacity and organizes itself to address challenges.
- Residents identify strengths and weaknesses and develop a multi-year strategy to address them.
- Strategic Plan developed and formalized by the community.

Community Action Plan (ANSCAP)

- HRM takes the community Strategic Plan and identifies actions under its jurisdiction.
- Confirms actions with community and identifies other projects that HRM can help develop.
- Actions are organized by priority with community and established into a Community Action Plan.
- HRM writes **Staff Report** to formalize Community Action Plan

Community Action Plan

- Actions are organized by department.
- Nearly every department in HRM could have actions
- ANSCAP will be responsible for tracking actions and advocating internally for their completion
- ANSCAP regularly updates and takes direction from community.

HALIFAX



2 Steps to Community Action Planning

Planning Actions

- Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw Review (MPS & LUB)
- Community Boundary Review
- Heritage Commemoration and Conservation.

Municipal Actions

- Transit Routes and Services
- Infrastructure and public works (paving roads, crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.)
- HRM Land Transfers to Community organizations
- Environment & Climate Action

Next Steps

- Beginning community action planning with Upper Hammonds Plains.
- Early conversations with Lucasville and East Preston (awaiting Strategic Plan).
- Hiring has started for more planners in the ANS Planning Team.
- Regular check-ins with communities as the program evolves.

Contacts

Devon Parris

Miles Agar

devon.parris@halifax.ca

agarm@halifax.ca

C: 782-641-0139

C: (902) 292-3436

HALIFAX