

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Notice of Motion given June 4, 2024)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: June 18, 2024		
Subject: Proactive vegetation management program		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
<p>That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report with recommendations for a proactive vegetation management program for walkways, pathways, and trails that support active transit connections within communities.</p>		
Reason:		
<p>Currently within the urban serviced boundary many trails, paths, and walkways only get vegetation maintenance and control when a complaint is submitted. In a lot of cases, we see the same areas receive complaints year after year. Some paths, trails, and walkways fall under Public Works and some under Parks and Recreation. This results in inconsistent maintenance leading to overgrown, impassable, and disconnected active transit routes. Overgrown paths, walkways, and trails:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pose visibility and safety concerns for vulnerable residents, particularly women;• Are not accessible;• Are often hotbeds for evasive species, particularly Knotweed;• Attract and gather litter and illegal dumping;• Look neglected and uncared for;• Do not support walkable communities, transit oriented communities, or active transit.		
<p>In many cases, HRM is already paying for vegetation control when a work order is created based on a complaint. The current scenario is leading to resident frustrations as the onus is upon them annually to have issues actioned. This complaint-based approach also takes up 311 resources, staff resources, and is not efficient.</p>		
<p>The goal of this motion is to ask staff to develop a vegetation management plan that is proactive, and coordinated between Public Works and Parks and Recreation. The approach should prioritize vegetation control along key paths, walkways, and trails that support connected, walkable communities, and take an integrated approach to managing HRM assets.</p>		
Outcome Sought: Staff report		
<i>Councillor Cuttell</i>	<i>District 11</i>	