

Re: Item No. 15.1.9

July 9, 2024

HALIFAX

Item 15.1.9:

Homelessness Update July 2024

Current State

- By Name List: 1,326 and continuing to grow
- 4 Designated locations: 30 spaces, 85+ people
- Non designated locations growing into larger encampments, i.e. Northbrook Park 13 tents, Grafton Street Park 9 tents

Need for Additional Locations

- Overcrowding with significant impacts on surrounding residents and businesses.
- Negative impacts escalating for both for individuals sleeping rough and surrounding communities with rising numbers of those sleeping rough.
- People sheltering in higher risk situations.

Bancroft and Marketplace update

- New site will provide 3000 m² of space for encampment and space for porta potties and garbage.
- Site will be fenced on three sides.
- Vegetative buffers to provide privacy for the site and businesses that are nearby.
- Ready in September or October 2024.

Grafton Street Park Update

- The site has been signed no camping for months and is not a designated location.
- 9 tents on the site with more people planning on moving there.
- Notices issued July 2nd informing people they must relocate by July 15th.
- Space is available at the Forum and the designated location at the Barrington Greenway.
- Follow similar process as used in February and March to close Grand Parade and Victoria Park.

Northbrook Park Update

- Northbrook Park is not a designated location.
- 13 tents in the space currently with regular reports of late-night partying, vandalism, verbal and physical threats.
- Park is unusable by others and some adults, families, and staff have been chased out of the park.
- Once a new designated location is identified, staff will require individuals to relocate following a similar process to earlier this year.

Additional Designated Locations

- Review of 900+ park spaces
- Eliminated those that do not meet the 2022 criteria, rural locations, beaches, other culturally sensitive sites, planned capital projects, and those more than 500m from transit.
- Consider needs of persons experiencing homelessness in terms of location and supports as well as park amenities to the surrounding community.

Potential Designated Locations

Parks in Halifax	Parks in Dartmouth
Bayer's Road Windsor Street Park	Bisset Road
BiHi park	Farrell Street Park
Chain Lake Park	Starr Park
Cogswell Park	
Glebe Street Park	
Halifax Common (berm)	
Point Pleasant Park	

Former De-designated Sites

While staff have not recommended re-opening de-designated locations, based on the technical review of park spaces in HRM, these would score as some of the best locations to be used.

Parks in Halifax	Parks in Dartmouth
Beaufort Park	Geary Street Green Space
Saunders Park	

Recommended Ranked Site List for Designation

- Cogswell Park (Halifax)
- Farrell Street Park (Dartmouth)
- Glebe Street Park (Halifax)
- Halifax Commons Berm (Halifax)
- Starr Park (Dartmouth)

Changes to Prohibited List

- Beaches
- Former de-designated locations such as Victoria Park and Grand Parade