

Hiking the Greenbelt: How the Halifax Green Network benefits people and planet



Item 10.3.3

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Who is EAC?

- Environmental non-profit based in Mi'kmaki
- A bridge between residents and decision-makers
- My Role:
 - Built Environment Team Lead
 - Coordinator of Our HRM Alliance
 - Run “Hike the Greenbelt”



Brief History of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP)

- Municipal framework guiding HRM's conservation and urban planning
- Goals:
 - Protect natural spaces/ ecological integrity
 - Sustainable growth
- Supported by 79 actions to protect our Greenbelt



What is Hike the Greenbelt?

- Campaign to engage the public in HRM's Greenbelt through hikes/events
- Environmental Education
 - Native ecology
 - Ecosystem functions
 - Rare and unique species
- Promoting environmental advocacy through connection to nature



HTG 2024: Our Impact

- 14 events in summer/fall 2024
 - Halifax Backlands
 - Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes
 - Sandy Lake
- **42%** of participants visited these spaces for the first time on our hikes
- **96%** of participants felt their knowledge of our native ecology improved
- **94%** of participants felt more confident in their ability to take action



How HTG Aligns with HGNP

- Educating residents on local ecology and conservation needs
- Engaging the public in conversations about sustainable development
- Advocating for the protection and expansion of HRM's green space



What Residents Valued

- Increased ecological awareness
- Empowerment in environmental advocacy
- Personal connection to nature
- Access to community recreation
- Appreciation of knowledgeable leadership/programming



Working together for a Greener HRM

- Recognition of the unique balance of green space in the HRM
- HRM's Greenbelt protected and expanded
- Incorporate the HGNP into the Regional Plan
- Support green spaces through adequate funding and policy action



Thank you! Questions?

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