

August 21, 2025

Park Stewardship Program

Community Planning and Economic
Development Standing Committee

Origin

June 8, 2021, Meeting of Regional Council motion (Item 11.7.2)

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report on a park stewards program to facilitate citizen volunteering in HRM parks.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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Background

- Regional Council motion to consider the development of a park stewardship program to facilitate community involvement in the care of parks
- To be less formal than maintenance / service delivery arrangements with community groups that exist in certain instances within HRM

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Findings

- While some local volunteer initiatives exist, including naturalization and community gardening programs, and occasional community park cleanups, the municipality does not have a formal framework for coordinating citizen involvement in park stewardship
- A review of other Canadian cities found that many have successful park stewardship programs

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Findings

- Modest improvements, under the umbrella of a Park Stewardship Program, can be made that could yield significant improvements

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Adopt-a-Park

- The establishment of an Adopt-a-Park program whereby community groups could register to steward a park for a minimum of two years is recommended
- At a minimum, this would involve a commitment to undertaking park clean-ups and oversight
- Such groups would be recognized by the municipality

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Single Event Park Clean-ups

- Single park clean-up events are already occurring in the municipality, through the provincial Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up program

Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway

The NS Adopt-A-Highway program gives volunteers the opportunity to adopt a section of a roadway for a three-year period. During this time, volunteers agree to complete two clean-ups per year, usually one in the spring and one in the fall. After three years, you can renew your contract or disband your group. Signage is also given to our volunteer groups at either end of their adopted section after two clean-ups have been completed.



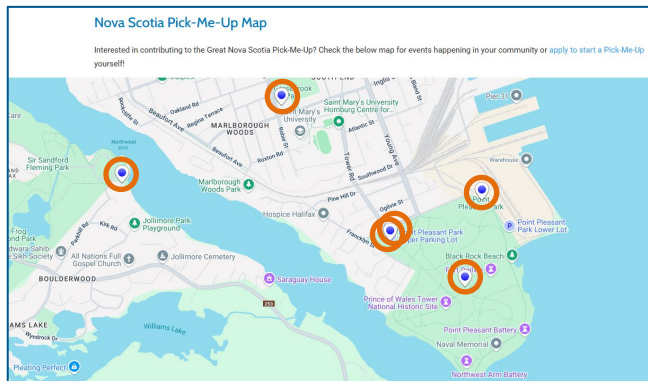
[Register Today!](#)

Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up

The Great NS Pick-Me-Up program is a one-time litter facilitation program. You register a clean-up for an approved roadway, beach, shoreline, park, trail, or community of your choosing, complete the clean-up, and are in no way obligated to do it again in the same location. You can register for as many or as few clean-ups throughout the province as you'd like.



[Register Today!](#)



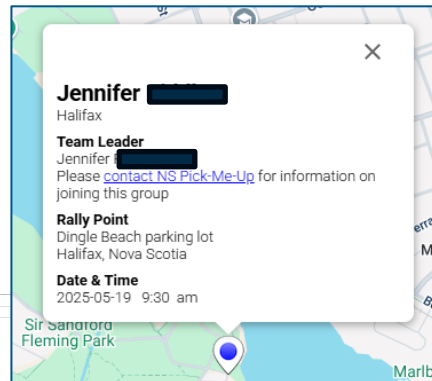
Jennifer [REDACTED]

Halifax

Team Leader
Jennifer [REDACTED]
Please [contact NS Pick-Me-Up](#) for information on joining this group

Rally Point
Dingle Beach parking lot
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Date & Time
2025-05-19 9:30 am



Naturalization

- With the introduction of the Adopt-a-Park Program and promotion of the Park Clean-up Program, the Naturalization Program would be included and enhanced
- This would primarily involve the creation of a registration / intake system to organize volunteers and promote the program

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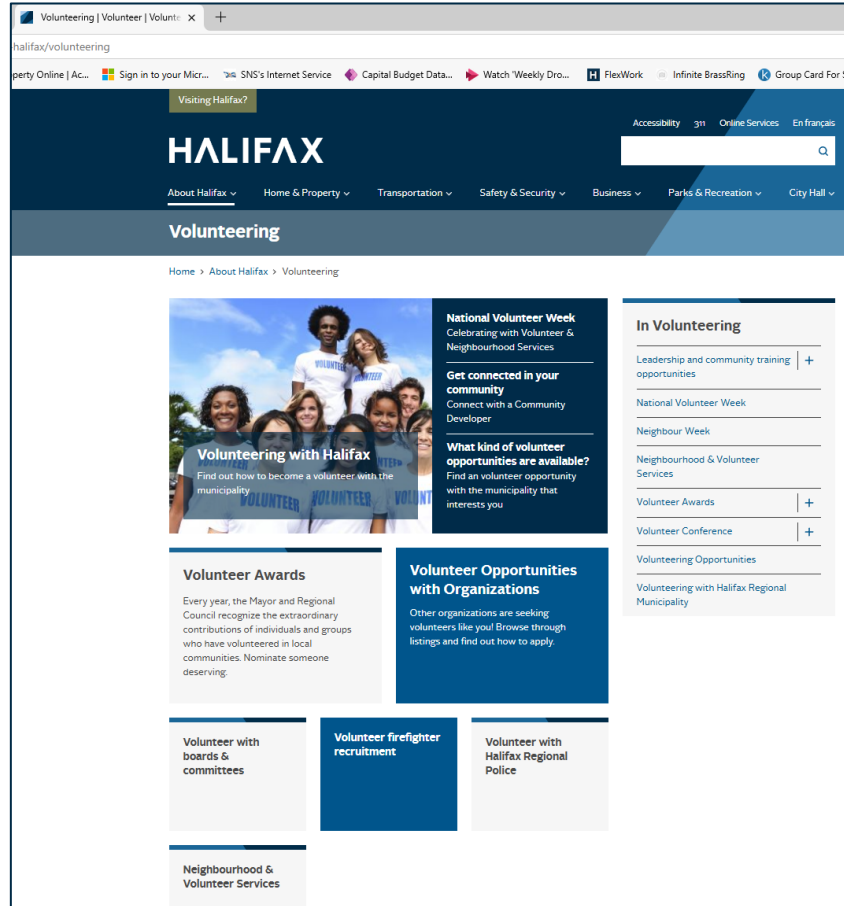
Community Gardening

- The Community Gardening program would be identified with the other programs and further promoted with possible small improvements such mapping to identify locations

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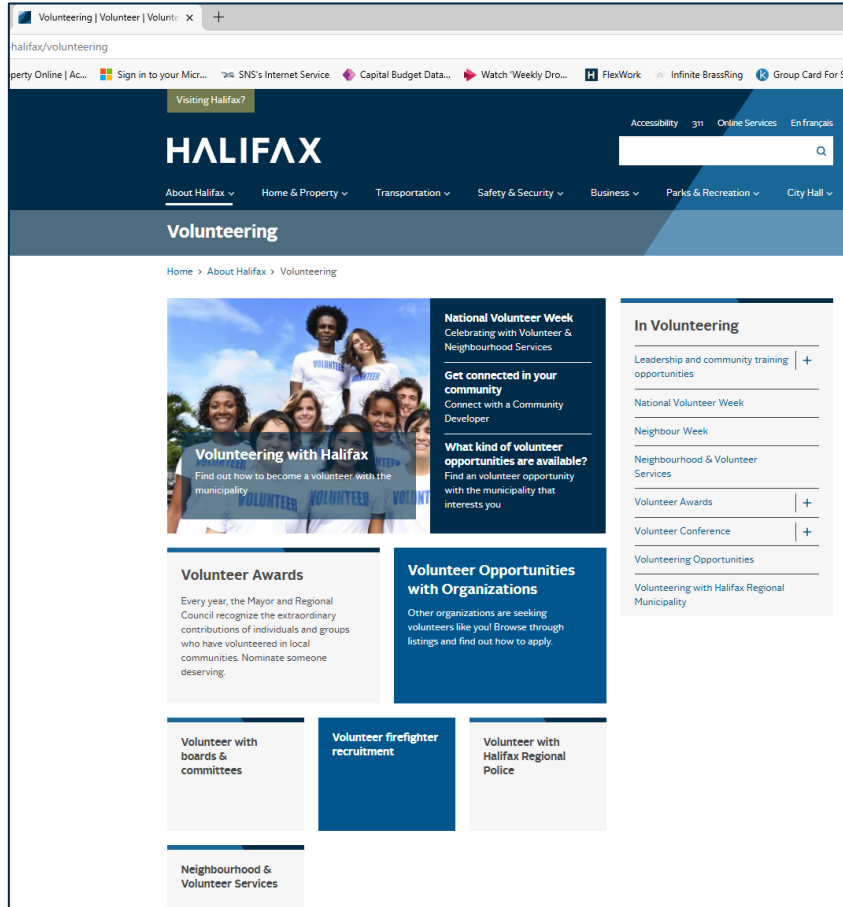
Website Updates

Park Stewardship framework can be primarily be implemented with organization and promotional improvements, starting with our website



Website Updates

Improvements are already being made

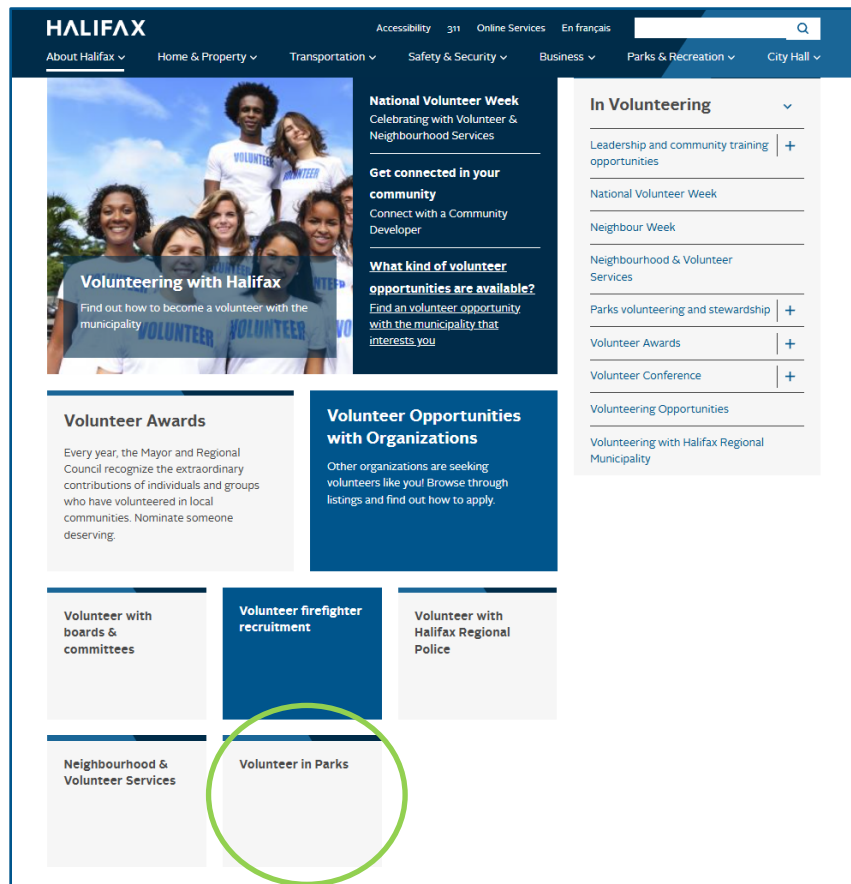
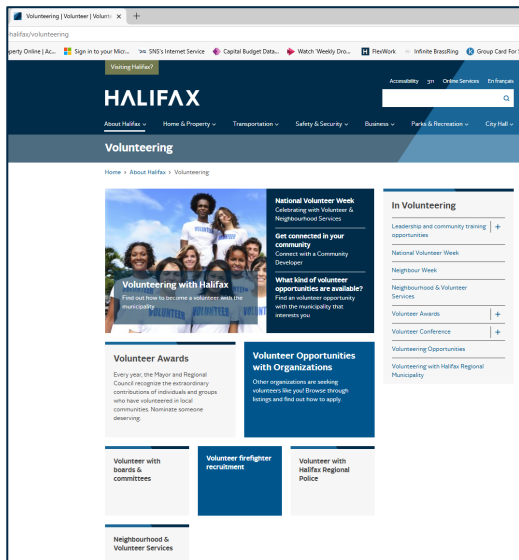


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Park Stewardship

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Website Updates



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Website Updates

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Accessibility 311 Online Services En français

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City Hall

[Home](#) > [About Halifax](#) > [Volunteering](#) > Parks volunteering and stewardship

Parks volunteering and stewardship

Interested in stewardship and volunteer opportunities in municipally owned parks? Residents are encouraged to explore the options listed below:

[Parks Cleanup Program](#)

- Ideal opportunity for community organizations, neighbourhood groups, local companies, school groups and individuals.


[Naturalization](#)

- Ideal opportunity for groups or individuals interested in environmental sustainability.


[Community Gardens](#)

- Ideal opportunity for community organizations to support food security or individuals to join an existing organization.


Related Links



Parks Cleanup Program



Naturalization



Community Gardens

In Volunteering

Leadership and community training opportunities

National Volunteer Week

Neighbour Week

Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services

Parks volunteering and stewardship

Park Cleanup Program

Volunteer Awards

Volunteer Conference

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering with Halifax Regional Municipality

Park Stewardship

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Next Steps

- With CPED recommendation and Regional Council approval, the Park Stewardship Program would incorporate the Adopt-a-Park program
- Promotion including through social media and further improvements

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