

Item 10.3.2

Advancing the Halifax Green Network Plan

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Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
November 20, 2025

Who is Our HRM Alliance?

The organization

- Coalition of 64 organizations in HRM
- Advocating for expansion and protection of local greenspace
- Supporting the building of complete communities

Involvement in the HGNP

- Advocated for the establishment of the HGNP
- Consulted in the creation of the plan's actions/objectives
- Continued advocacy for implementing the plan

Overview of the HGNP

Purpose of the Plan

Outline strategies for managing open space in consideration to ecosystem functions, benefits and connectivity.

1. Maintain ecologically/culturally important land and aquatic systems
2. Promote sustainable use of natural resources and economically important open spaces
3. Identify, define and plan land suited for parks and corridors

Why the HGNP matters

- **Priority Plan for HRM**
- **Goals of the HGNP supports all other HRM priority plans**
- **Only official document directing environmental land-use planning – timely for HRM**
- **Acknowledges and emphasizes importance of green space function**

Barriers to HGNP's progress

- **HGNP Progress Report delayed – again!**
- **Lack of grounding in land-use policies/by-laws**
- **No tangible, time-bound metrics; no order of priority**

Recommendations

1. Expedite and prioritize the release of the HGNP Progress Report.

Suggestion(s):

- Determine cause for delay, work with staff to move forward with release.
- Publicly establish a fixed date for the release of the report.

Recommendations

2. Start progressing tangible, achievable actions within the HGNP.

Suggestion(s):

- **Request report from HGNP Staff to **1)** develop an action priorities list with community and staff, **2)** set timelines for plan actions, and **3)** create metrics to evaluate progress and monitor outcomes.
- Have staff person from all relevant HRM staff teams be responsible for the advancement of the HGNP's goals through their work.





Recommendations

****3. Prioritize actions focused on conserving our wildlife corridors.**

Suggestion(s):



- Council must put forward policies on conserving wildlife corridors.
 - Greenbelt zoning, incentives for landowners, easements, land acquisition, etc.
 - Create policies that establish an order of prioritization for land development based on the HGNP.
- Establish pilot area to test policies, new zoning, or other conservation measures.
 - **Consider Chebucto Head connectivity for pilot location.**

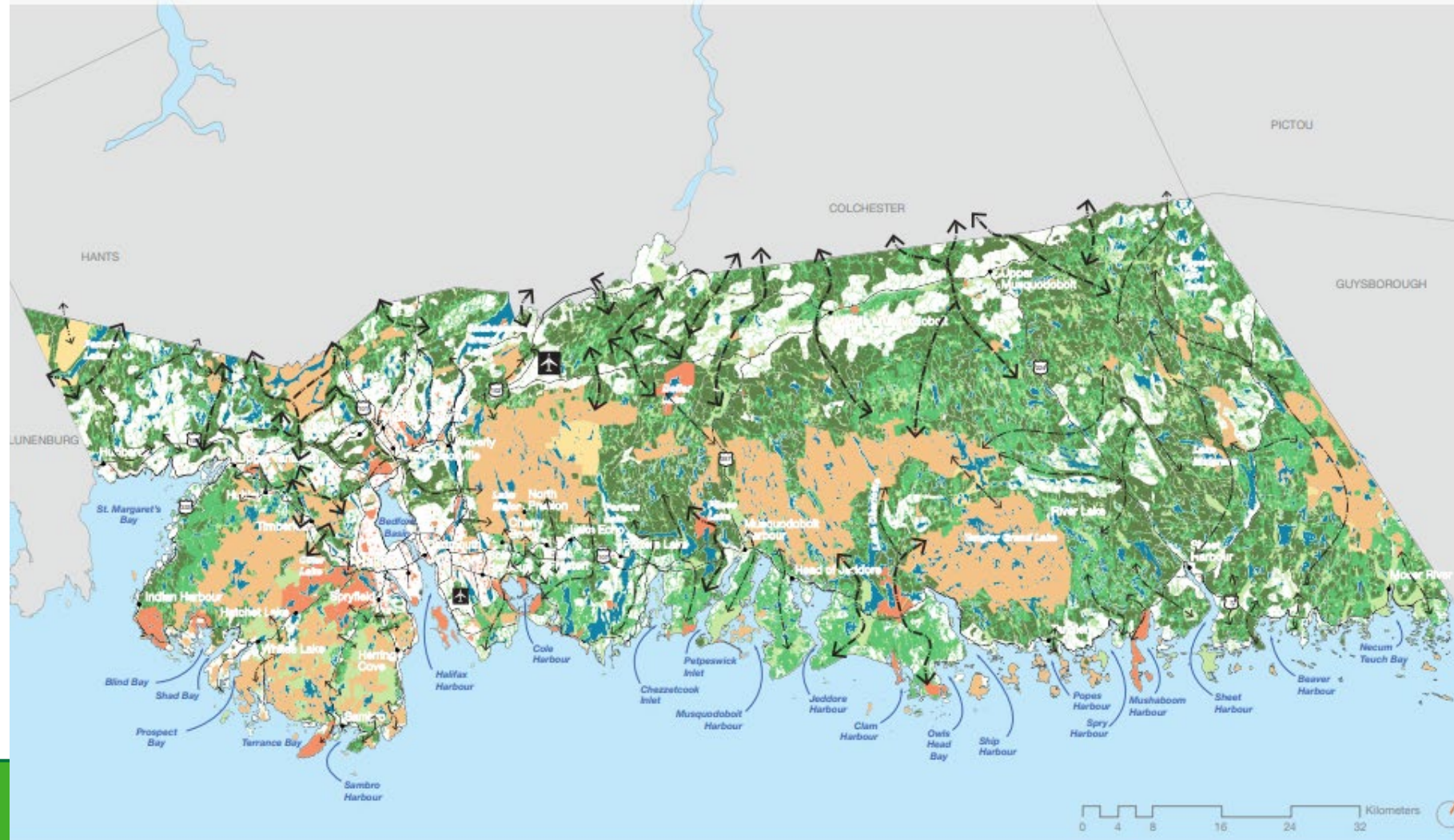
LEGEND

 Airports
 Roads
 Planned Roads
 Lakes

 Parks
 Protected Areas
 Proposed Protected Areas

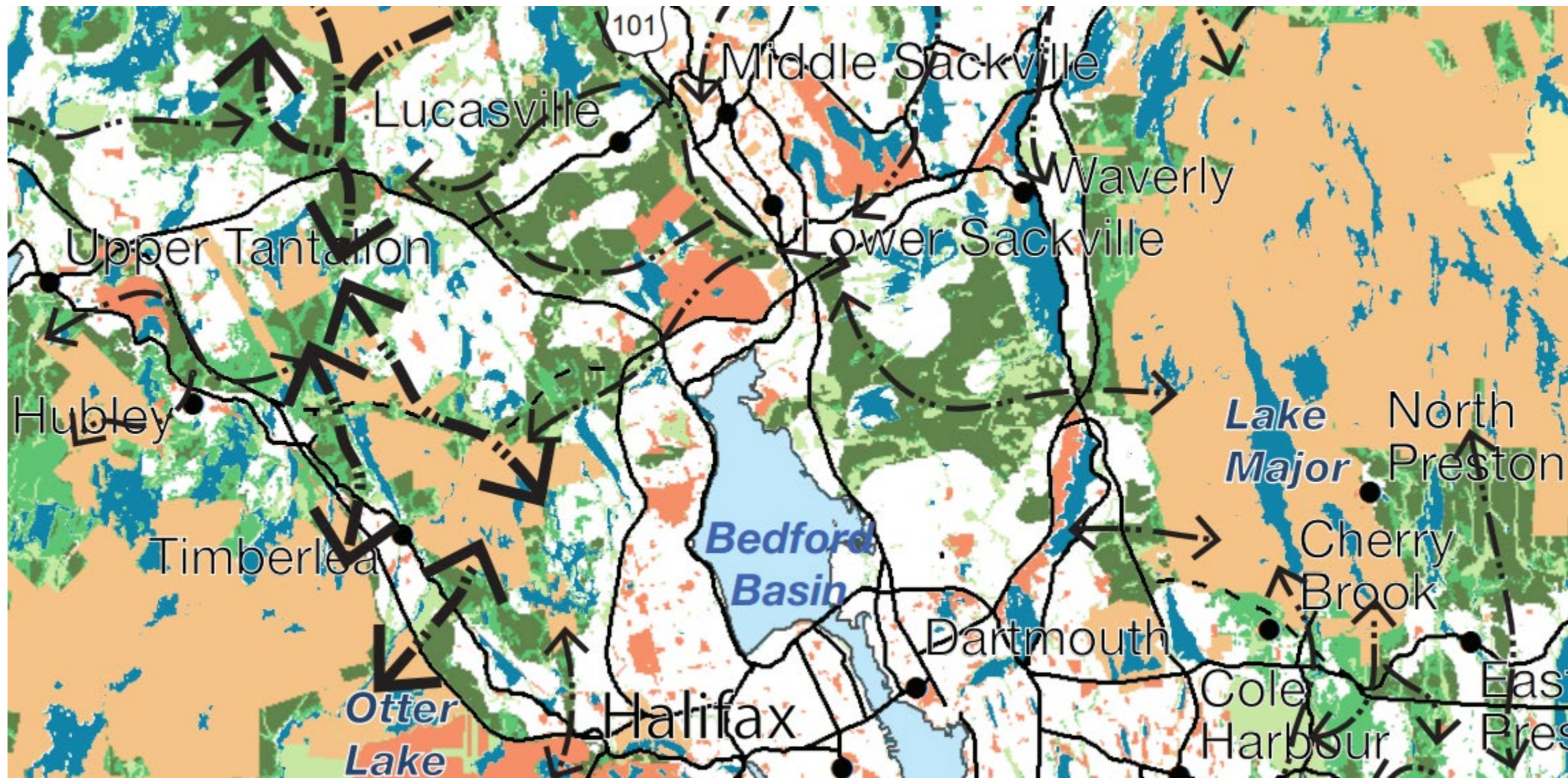
 Regulated Areas
 Areas of High Environmental Value Overlap
 Core Areas and Corridors
 Minimal Value to Regional Green Network

 Essential Corridor
 Important Corridor



Map 5: GREEN NETWORK ECOLOGY MAP





Supporting HGNP Action Items

Action 1

Refine and incorporate the Ecology Map into the Regional Plan and use it to guide the regional planning decisions related to the location and shape of the urban service boundary, rural centres, nature parks, conservation development designs.

Action 18

Formally request the Province amend the HRM Charter to enable the municipality to acquire sensitive environmental lands as environmental reserve through the land development and subdivision process, in addition to existing parkland dedication provisions.

Action 32

Amend the Regional Plan and MPS to prioritize the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula from the Mainland when reviewing development proposals and updating planning policies and zoning in the area.

Sandy Lake



Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes



Halifax Backlands

