

December 3, 2025

Item 13.1.1
HALIFAX

Lake Banook Coordination Plan

Community Planning and Economic
Development Standing Committee

Origin

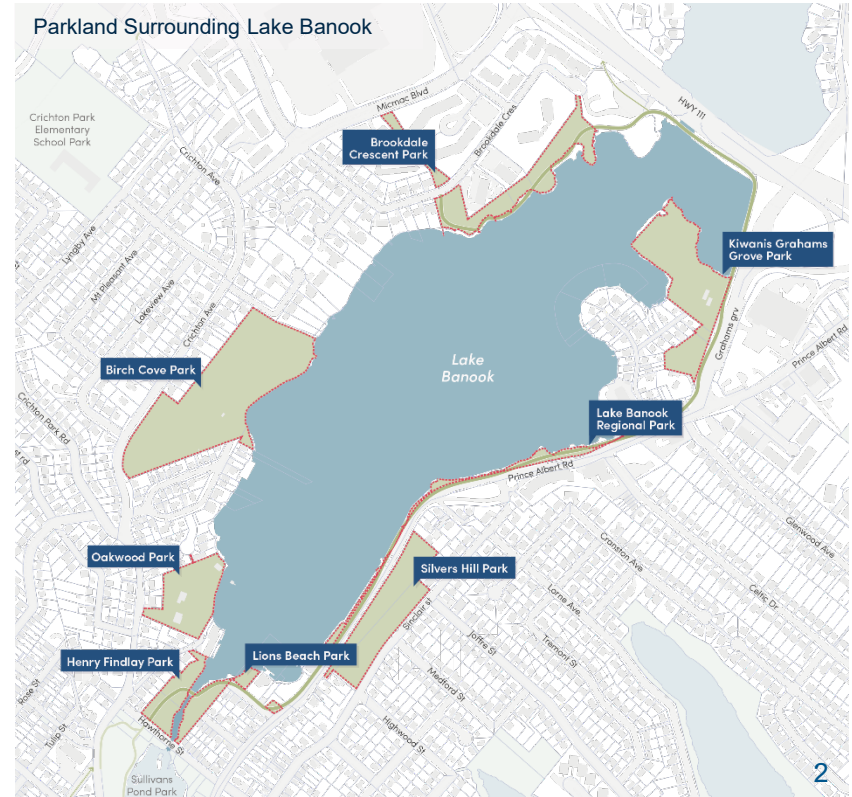
March 5, 2024 – Regional Council Motion:

- THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Coordination Plan as outlined in the staff report dated July 17, 2023 and return to Regional Council with a staff report.

HALIFAX

Background

- Lake Banook is freshwater lake located in Dartmouth
- Host venue for 1989, 1997, 2009, and 2022 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Sprint World Championships
- Improvements may be required to maintain its consideration as a host venue



Plan Development

- Development included several rounds of engagement with internal and external organizers:
 - Internal Engagement – Winter 2022
 - Recommendation to Council – Winter 2024
 - Draft Coordination Plan – Summer to Winter 2024
 - Additional Engagement – Spring 2024 – Winter 2025

HALIFAX

Key Findings

- Recommendations from previous plans remain relevant, but there is a need for a document that consolidates outstanding improvements
- Improvements must balance community and ICF uses
- Athletes' village relocation requires programming changes to Henry Findlay Park and Birch Cove Park
- Maintaining water quality, trail connectivity, and the existing multi-use pathway identified as top priorities

Lake Banook Coordination Plan

- Identifies outstanding improvements from previously completed plans
- Recommendations have been evaluated for their budget and maintenance feasibility
- Ensures improvements are implemented in a cohesive, effective manner
- Identifies how improvements can be coordinated based on phasing, capital projects, and future ICF events

Lake Banook Coordination Plan



Common Park Improvements



Birch Cove Park



Henry Findlay Park – Community Use



Oakwood Park



Henry Findlay Park – ICF Use

Lake Banook Coordination Plan



Implementation

- The plan identifies three improvement categories:
 - **ICF Improvements:** High priority items that support ICF events
 - **General Improvements:** Improve parks' ability to accommodate large spectator events and enhance long-term community use
 - **Supplementary Improvements:** Serve a similar purpose as those identified in the General Improvements category
- These improvements should only be considered alongside other Capital projects

Implementation

- **Henry Findlay Park:**
 - Playground recapitalization
- **Naturalization initiatives:**
 - Projects to be identified in future Business Plans
- **Active Transportation:**
 - Projects to be identified in future Business Plans
- **Recapitalization assessment**
 - Lake Banook Regional Park: Judges' towers, wooden platforms, and the remaining unimproved portions of the boardwalk
 - Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park: 1000m judges' tower
 - Silvers Hill Park: Staircase