

April 13, 2022 – BMBCL Virtual Public Meeting Questions and Answers**General (Q1 - Q7)****Q1: Is there a list of the “Key Participants” available?**

A: A list of key participants was provided to Stantec by HRM. This list was used to invite identified representatives associated with different organizations / key stakeholder groups, for the session held in March and an updated list will be used in later sessions. The original list included representatives from the following organizations:

- Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Ecology Action Centre
- Halifax Field Naturalists
- Nature NS
- Sierra Club
- Leave No Trace Canada
- Bird Friendly Halifax
- Nature Conservancy Canada-NS
- Hike NS
- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO)
- BLT Rails to Trails
- Halifax North West Trails Association
- Maskwa Aquatic Club
- Kingswood Ratepayers Association
- Haliburton Highbury Homeowners Association
- NS Crown Share Land Legacy Trust
- NS Trails Federation
- Recreation NS
- Canoe Kayak NS
- Immigrant Settlement Association NS
- NS Communities Culture & Heritage (Parasport NS)
- Diversity with Nature (Dalhousie Univ)
- Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP)
- Nova Scotia Power
- Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre
- Confederacy of Mainland Mi'Kmaq
- Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Q2: Will the interim report be made public?

A: Yes, reports will be made available through the BMBCL Homepage.

April 13, 2022 – BMBCL Virtual Public Meeting Questions and Answers**Q3: Is there going to be a discussion about what we wish for the future for this park?**

A: The national urban park project is in the pre-feasibility assessment phase and the current scope of work being undertaken by Stantec is to collect background information to inform further planning efforts within the study area. Stakeholder and public engagement on specific proposals identified with park development would potentially occur in subsequent phases of the national urban park initiative if there was a decision to proceed.

Q4: Will there not be another public session to look at the feedback and report?

A: For this stage of the pre-feasibility assessment, another general public session is not planned. The report will be made available on the BMBCL Homepage. Feedback can be submitted through the contact provided on the webpage.

Q5: Will these links be shared in a follow-up, not possible to copy URL.

A: Participants of the public meeting have received a follow-up email the following day with the links provided.

Q6: Will the presentation slides be available online?

A: Yes, presentation slides are available on the BMBCL Homepage.

Q7: What is the timeline for releasing your study results? Will this be a public document?

A: The complete background report is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2022. Yes, the study results will be a public document, made available on the BMBCL Homepage.

Recreation (Q8-Q11)**Q8: Why is hiking not on the list?**

A: This was an oversight, and hiking has since been added to the list of recreational activities.

Q9: You made a comment about looking for other trails, rather than sanctioned trails. You do realize that there are NO official trails anywhere in BMBCL. Every existing trail needs to be carefully evaluated by certified trail planners and many will need to be closed off as they are creating huge environmental damage.

A: Yes, it is understood that there are no official trails within the BMBCL study area. Trail planning is outside of the scope of the work being completed by Stantec; however, the existing environment information being collected will help inform future park planning.

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Q10: What is the purpose of each question - This question will not capture what the public is doing and because no actual trails then certainly a lot of the public may want to use this nature area but can't due to mobility or access issues.

A: Stantec has developed questions around each of the pillars being considered in the background report, including recreation, environment, culture, land use and governance. Information provided in response to these questions will help inform the background conditions in the area as well as focus efforts for future exploration.

Q11: The activities that take place are knowable from many web sites - why would the knowledge of guests in this meeting have any value?

A: Information is being collected from a variety of sources to gain a holistic understanding of the current use of the BMBCL area. This includes online resources, engagement with key participants, as well as field data collection and mapping. The objective with carrying out a workshop open to all members of the general public was to provide an opportunity for individual feedback which may not necessarily get captured through the identified stakeholder organizations.

Environment/Ecological (Q12-Q13)

Q12: Where is DECC's Protected Areas and Nova Scotia Nature Trust? NS Environment own most of the land and the Nature Trust has and continues to play a significant conservation role.

A: These parties are both identified as key participants. Along with Parks Canada, the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Kwi'mu'kw Maw-klusuagn Negotiation Office, the Province through DECC (Department of Environment & Climate Change) are involved in the pre-feasibility assessment, and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust have been invited to be involved in meetings to date. The following map identifies current provincial parks, wilderness areas and nature reserves:
<https://www.novascotia.ca/parksandprotectedareas/plan/interactive-map/>.

Q13: What are the intentions of BCBL in regard to the backcountry still owned privately?

A: It is Stantec's understanding that no decisions with respect to BMBCL backcountry have been made at this time.

Cultural/Archaeological (Q14-Q17)

Q14: Where will you be doing the testing (e.g., shovel testing)?

A: A field reconnaissance (archaeological survey or "walkover") of the Study Area will be undertaken in any potential areas of archaeological sensitivity or areas of elevated archaeological potential identified during the course of the historical background study and areas of modern disturbance within the Study Area. All work will be completed in compliance with Nova Scotia's Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment (Category C) Guidelines (2014) as well as the *Special Places Protection Act* (Chapter 438 of the Revised Statutes, 1989).

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Q15: Re: “Are there known important / sensitive cultural elements that you would identify within the Study Area?” – Do historical areas count?

A: Yes.

Q16: Will you be consulting with Parks Canadas Indigenous stakeholders / Will more specific Mi'kmaq consultation happen after this public project?

A: Parks Canada is reaching out to local Indigenous communities to explore interests and opportunities to collaborate on the national urban parks program.

Additionally, prior to any designation of any candidate sites, a formal consultation process will also be implemented to ensure Indigenous people are partners in the designation process.

Q17: Can you expand on what you mean by cultural elements? How are you defining culture?

A: Cultural elements, or cultural resources, as defined in the Parks Canada Resource Management Policy means “a human work, an object, or a place that is determined, on the basis of its heritage value, to be directly associated with an important aspect or aspects of human history and culture. The heritage value of a cultural resource is embodied in tangible and/or intangible character-defining elements”.

Land Use (Q18-Q19)

Q18: Does 'land use' include both pre- and post-colonial use?

A: The focus of the pre-feasibility study with respect to land use will be on current land use, including both developed and undeveloped land, and of settlement types in the Study Area and vicinity.

Q19: Will the Province and Halifax put the so called "shovel ready 2022" housing development on the Hwy 102 corridor on hold until this study and consultation are completed?

A: This is one area that has been selected for a study under the recent provincial announcement. Further determinations are to be about such studies.