

# Municipal Update: Helping address homelessness in the Halifax region

Date of issue: August 12, 2022

*The Halifax Regional Municipality's priority has been, and continues to be, treating those experiencing homelessness with dignity – and continuing to work with community partners to find ways to provide support to them within our organization's capacity and scope. The following is an update on ongoing efforts to help address homelessness in our region.*

## **Meagher Park**

### **Installation of fencing**

- Late in the day on August 11, 2022, municipal staff received confirmation that the remaining individuals who had been sheltering in Meagher Park had either accepted an offer of temporary housing or had moved to one of the designated outdoor sheltering locations. Municipal staff also received confirmation that these individuals had taken all of their belongings with them.
- Therefore, early in the morning of August 12, 2022, municipal staff installed fencing around Meagher Park. [HRP officers were on hand for support and assistance.](#)

### **Next steps**

- Over the past several weeks, in numerous municipal updates, briefings and discussions with various stakeholders, the municipality has made it clear that once vacated, Meagher Park would be fenced so that reconstruction work can be completed – returning the park to its original state.
- Since everyone had moved from the park to alternative housing or sheltering, because of the previously described safety and security concerns and in order to enable the cleanup and reconstruction of the site, the decision was made to fence immediately.
- Assessment of the condition of the park will begin immediately and reconstruction efforts will start in due course.
- If anyone who had been previously sheltering in the park advises service providers or Street Navigators that they still have belongings in the park, municipal staff will arrange to provide them access to their belongings.
- The municipality acknowledges that there is interest in designating an additional outdoor location for sheltering and efforts are currently underway to explore this further, in consultation with stakeholders and those experiencing homelessness.
- Municipal staff have recently started a dialogue with representatives from the organizations who released the statement on August 5, 2022, with recommendations for resolving the situation at Meagher Park. The municipality is looking forward to additional meetings with the service providers and continued dialogue on how the community can work together to assist those experiencing homeless in the Halifax region.
- In terms of the upcoming reconstruction of Meagher Park, over the coming months, following an assessment of the condition of the park, work will begin to clean the area and resod the grass.

**For more information about ongoing efforts by the municipality to help address homelessness in our region visit [halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness](https://halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness).**