

Municipal Update: Helping address homelessness in the Halifax region

Date of issue: August 26, 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.

Designated Outdoor Sheltering Locations

As of 11 a.m., August 22, 2022, the four designated outdoor sheltering locations were occupied as follows:

1. **Barrington Street Green Space, Halifax** – twelve tents on site; capacity for eight more tents
2. **Lower Flynn Park, Halifax** – two tents on site; capacity for two more tents
3. **Green Road Park, Dartmouth** – four tents on site; capacity for four more tents
4. **Geary Street Green Space, Dartmouth** – one tent and three structures on site; the location is fully occupied

Meagher Park

Installation of fencing

- Further to the [municipal update on August 12, 2022](#), municipal staff installed fencing around Meagher Park following confirmation, late in the day on August 11, 2022, 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.

Status of reconstruction efforts

- Since August 12, anyone who had been previously sheltering in the park were given the opportunity to advise service providers or Street Navigators that they still had belongings in the park, and then municipal staff would arrange to provide them access to their belongings. As of 8.30 a.m. on August 25, there were no requests received for access to belongings in the park.
- On August 22, municipal staff conducted an initial inspection of the park to begin an assessment of the condition of the grounds.
- On August 23, staff from Mainline Needle Exchange (a program of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre) conducted a sweep for any needles in the park.
- On August 25, municipal contractors began cleanup efforts by removing items that were unclaimed and disposed of these items.
- Once the cleanup is complete, municipal staff will begin the reconstruction work which is expected to take place over the coming months, no set timeframe has been established.

Other encampment locations

- The municipality is aware of several other outdoor locations within the region where individuals are currently sheltering, outside of the four designated locations that are being supported by municipal services.
- Efforts remain focused on assisting those who are experiencing homelessness as well as working with service providers and Street Navigators to support those individuals and encourage them to accept available options – including the support and services currently provided at the designated outdoor sheltering locations.

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Meeting with homeless serving organizations

- As per the [municipal update on August 9, 2022](#), municipal staff have recently started a dialogue with representatives from the organizations who released a 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.
- The municipality acknowledges that there is interest in designating additional outdoor locations for sheltering and efforts are currently underway to explore this further, in consultation with stakeholders and those experiencing homelessness.

For more information about ongoing efforts by the municipality to help address homelessness in our region visit halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness.