

HALIFAX

Park Lighting Strategy

Women's Advisory Committee
January 12, 2023

Parks & Recreation
Policy & Planning

2023-01-10

Origin

June 8, 2021 motion of Halifax Regional Council (Item Number 11.7.1) MOVED by Councillor Austin; seconded by Councillor Mancini; THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report on developing a park lighting strategy. The strategy should consider the need for policy changes around park usage, conditions/criteria in which lighting is needed, and a capital program for park upgrades.

Origin

On August 23, 2022, staff recommended: that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report and park lighting strategy to guide the design and implementation of walkway, facility, and decorative/placemaking lighting, pursuant to the scope of work as outlined within this report.

Background

- More than 900 parks within the municipality.
- Urban, suburban, and rural settings.
- Parks are used for recreation and leisure, but also operate as social spaces and main travel routes.
- Currently there is no formal process to consider lighting or where it may occur in parks.
- Regional Council raised several issues, including unsafe and anti-social behaviour, prioritizing parks, how Parks Bylaw 600 can reflect the use of park spaces after dark.

Park Lighting Situations



Pathways in Parks



Park Facilities



Placemaking/
Decorative

Project Contributors

Internal	External
Parks & Recreation	Business Improvement Districts
Diversity & Inclusion	Build Nova Scotia
Public Safety Office	HRCE
Active Transportation	RCMP, HRP
Facility Design and Construction	Public
Environment & Climate Change	

Tentative Agenda

- Informal discussion to explore how lighting can influence the look, feel, and experience of park spaces after dark.
- Note: There may other physical characteristics of parks that could be changed to influence the look, feel, and experience, however, our conversations will be limited to lighting.



Potential questions:

1. How should lighting for safety and security look and feel in a park setting?
2. Are there specific lighting situations/examples that you consider to be good or bad?
3. What does it mean to create equitable lighted access to parks?
4. How should parks be prioritized for lighting? Should there be criteria or weighting?

Next Steps

- Gauge the public's response for how lighting can make park spaces safer and more enjoyable after dark.
- Continue to meet with internal and external stakeholders.
- Possible changes to Parks By-law P-600, respecting nighttime use will be assessed.
- Finalize a report and present to Regional Council, late 2023 or early 2024.