

The logo for Halifax is a stylized 'H' shape composed of several overlapping triangles in various shades of blue. The word 'HALIFAX' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the top right portion of the 'H' shape.

HALIFAX

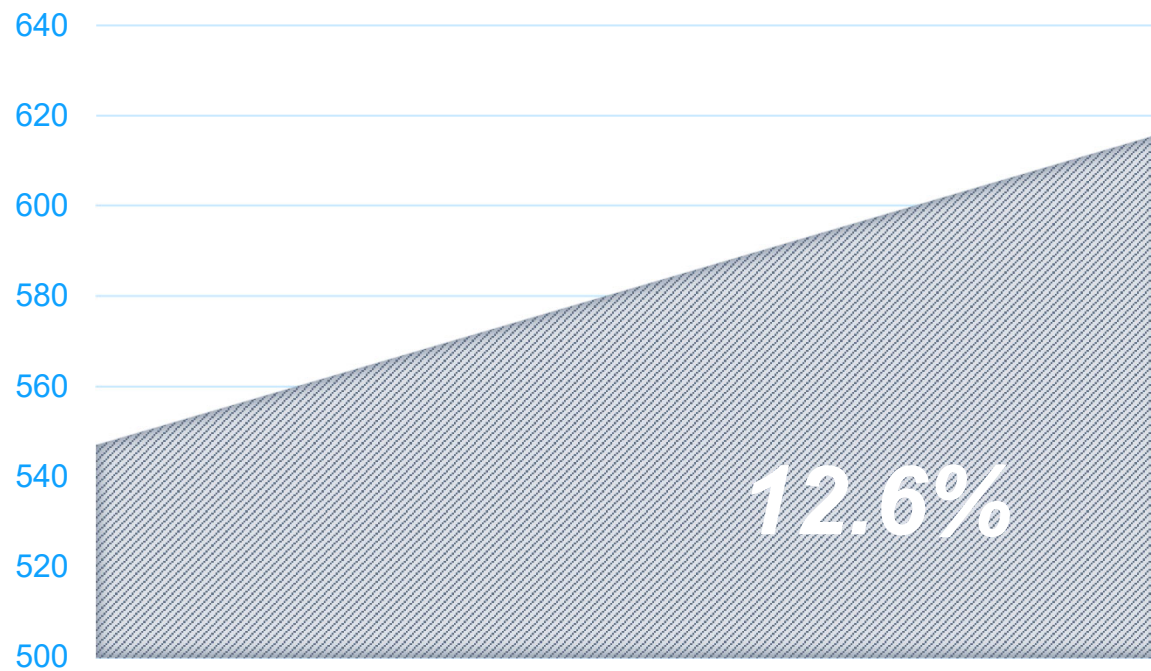
Homelessness
and Designated
Locations
Approach

Halifax Regional Council
June 14, 2022

Response to items 3 & 6

- Direct the CAO to formalize criteria and locations for the designation of overnight sheltering sites in parks consistent with the criteria and locations described in the body of the staff report dated April 28, 2022, with the removal of the one-night camping sites, and addition of those sites to the list of potential longer term camping sites if required and possible to ensure adequate supply to meet demands to be brought back to Council for consideration.
- Direct the CAO to return to Council with a subsequent report with a with additional analysis and recommendations for actions, including a timeline and plan for supporting the transition of people, education and implementation that is lead and delivered by civilian staff.

By Name List Growth: April 19-May 31, 2022



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Marginalized Overrepresented

- First Nations, Metis, Inuit or Indigenous Ancestry 22%
- African NS, Black, Caribbean, or African Descent 15%
- 2SLGBTQ+ 15%
- Former Youth in Care 27%

2022 PIT COUNT: THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN HRM

Disabilities and Health Issues

- Mental health challenges 63%
- Substance use 59%
- Physically disabled 37%
- Learning or cognitive delays 36%
- After birth brain injury 22%

2022 PIT COUNT: THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN HRM

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The Ultimate Goal

That every resident should have a home that is safe, supportive, and sustainable and that all homes should be purposely constructed for long-term human habitation, built to safety codes and standards, and be in a suitable location based on municipal planning strategies

Criteria: Locations Cannot Be:

- within 50 metres of a school, daycare, or adult care facility
- on active sports fields, dugouts, or bleachers
- within horticultural displays or gardens
- within cemeteries
- near environmentally or culturally sensitive areas
- blocking a path or right of access
- on bridges, docks, or piers
- near playgrounds, pools, or splash pads
- near skateboard parks or sports courts
- near picnic shelters, gazebos
- near recreation facilities
- in highly inaccessible spaces for individuals, services, and support providers

Considerations

- Proximity or availability of public washrooms, park washrooms, or another toilet option
- Proximity to a potable water source for drinking and handwashing
- Proximity to public transit
- Proximity to services and supports residents need
- Site safety
- Site privacy
- Site maintenance services (including vehicular access and garbage removal)
- Potential of damage to the site
- Risk of conflict with other users of space
- Any other factor the Executive Director considers relevant

Locations

1. Barrington Street Green Way between Cornwallis St. and North St. 1 in Halifax (4 – 5 sites)
2. Lower Flynn Park in Halifax (1 site)
3. Geary Street green space In Dartmouth (1 site);
and
4. Green Road Park in Dartmouth (2 sites)

Additional locations if required: other levels of government and if necessary other municipal spaces

Implementation

Learning – Collaboration – Response – Compliance Framework

- Prevention
- Identification
- Learning and education
- Collaborative support
- Intensive case management
- Compliance and enforcement
- Involuntary enforcement

Compliance and Enforcement

- Park Patrol using a staged process (in the short term this will be done by Compliance Officers)
- Role of Halifax Regional Police
 - Criminal acts and investigations
 - Last resort when all other options have been exhausted

Financial Implications

- Funding requirements associated with setting up and servicing designated sites are currently estimated at approximately \$50,000
- Funding associated with salary, benefits, training, other requirements for supervisor and 2 compliance officers is estimated at approximately \$200,000 for 2022/2023
- The uncommitted balance for Emergency Shelter Funding is \$746,987

Next Steps

- Signage needs to be posted
- Maps and information material prepared
- Some sites require light preparation
- Arranging for washrooms where required
- Arranging for potable water where required
- Arranging for other supports
- Training for compliance and enforcement
- Connect with service providers/navigators

Recommendation

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council endorse the proposed criteria and locations in municipal parks for designated camping intended for those experiencing homelessness