



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Information Item No. 2
Community Planning and
Economic Development Standing
Committee
Special Meeting
January 28, 2021

TO: Chair and Members of Community Planning and Economic Development
Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: *-Original Signed-*

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development

-Original Signed-

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: September 25, 2020

SUBJECT: **Halifax Green Network Plan Annual Progress Report**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

On August 14, 2018 the following motion of Regional Council was put and passed regarding item 14.3.1:

“THAT Halifax Regional Council:

6. Request that staff provide annual progress reports on the implementation of the Green Network Plan, to Regional Council through the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.”

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, clauses 79A (1):

- 79A(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
- (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality’s operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;

Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations clauses 6 (g), 8(a), 9(f)(h), and 13(b),

- 6 A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on the use, content, development, and administration of the following:

- (g) studies to be carried out before undertaking specified developments or developments in specified areas;
- 8 A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on any of the following:
(a) municipal investment for public and private development and coordinating public programs relating to the economic, social and physical development, of the municipality;
- 9 A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on any of the following
(f) stormwater management and erosion control;
(h) identifying, protecting, using and developing any of the following
(i) lands subject to flooding,
(ii) steep slopes,
(iii) lands susceptible to subsidence, erosion or other geological hazards, and
(iv) wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas;
- 13 A municipal planning strategy may include statements of policy on any of the following:
(b) land use matters relating to the physical, economic or social environment of the Municipality not otherwise prescribed in these regulations.

Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the *Council Administrative Order*, Schedule 3, Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference, clauses 3 (a)(e):

3. The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall provide oversight of the Municipality's Regional Plan and Regional Planning Initiatives, as follows:
- (a) overseeing the Municipality's Regional Plan and Regional Planning Initiatives;
(e) overseeing the priority setting relative to the Community Visioning Program, Functional Plan Implementation and major planning projects.

BACKGROUND

The Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) defines an interconnected open space system for the entire municipality, highlights ecosystem functions and benefits, and outlines strategies to manage open space. Specifically, the HGNP provides land management and community design direction to:

- maintain ecologically and culturally important land and aquatic systems;
- promote the sustainable use of natural resources and economically important open spaces; and
- identify, define and plan land suited for parks and corridors.

On August 14, 2018, Halifax Regional Council approved the HGNP and provided direction to use the HGNP as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and Secondary Planning Strategies. As part of its approval, Council also provided direction to carry out the actions contained in the HGNP through the multi-year budgeting and business planning process.

As requested by Council, this report provides the second annual progress update on the implementation of the HGNP and summarizes the work that has taken place in 2020.

DISCUSSION

The HGNP includes direction to carry out a total of 79 actions to effectively support the Plan's vision, goals and objectives. The actions generally use one of the four implementation tools identified in Chapter 6 of the HGNP. These tools include land use planning, park management, project work and partnerships. Actions can provide general guidance, which is intended to direct municipal operations and decision-making on an on-going basis, and specific tasks, which are intended to be undertaken within an identified timeline.

There are 27 guidance actions identified by the HGNP and 24 have been used to direct work that has taken place this year.

Of the remaining 52 HGNP actions with timelines:

- 3 have been completed;
- 47 are currently in progress; and
- 2 have not yet been started as they are dependent of the completion of other actions currently in progress.

An update on the status of each of the HGNP action items is included as Attachment A. A summary of the updates based on the four implementation tools is provided below.

Land Use Planning

The Municipality has adopted a number of land use policy and regulatory documents, including the Regional Plan, the Regional Subdivision By-law, secondary plans and land use by-laws, that control development on privately-owned land. Together, these documents, among many other matters, regulate the location, shape and form of development including if and where new public roads can be constructed, the design and density of new development, parkland dedication requirements and watercourse setbacks. The HGNP recommends 27 actions that provide guidance and specific instructions on how to amend these planning documents through future project work.

The majority of these amendments will be considered as part of the Regional Plan Review, which is currently underway and anticipated to be completed in 2022, and the Plan and By-law Simplification Program, which will be completed over the next 2-7 years. The following provides a summary of the progress of land use planning initiatives related to the HGNP actions:

- Engagement for Centre Plan Package B has taken place throughout 2020 and it is anticipated that the Plan will be presented to Regional Council in 2021. The actions and guidance of the HGNP have been considered throughout the development of the Centre Plan.
- Regional Council initiated the second five-year review of the Regional Plan in February 2020. The recommended Regional Plan amendments and direction identified by the HGNP are being considered through this Review. The Regional Plan Review's "Themes & Directions" report, which will outline the initial policy approaches and areas of study for the project, is anticipated to be presented to the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED) in January 2021.
- Regional Council adopted HalifACT Acting on Climate Together (HalifACT) in June 2020. The goals of this long-term climate action plan are to reduce emissions and help communities adapt to a changing climate. The policy directions provided by the HGNP and HalifACT complement each other and a number of HGNP actions are supported by the plan.
- The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021.

Park Network Management

Municipal parkland and open space play a key role in the protection of environmental systems in HRM. There are 22 action items specific to the management of municipal parkland that support the goals and objectives set out in the HGNP. The following highlights the progress being made on aligning HRM's park network management activities with the HGNP:

- HGNP actions and guidance were followed in the development of park master plans for Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, Lake Echo District Park and Viscount Run Park, and are considered when planning for upgrades to existing parks.
- Policy recommendations regarding park management, including the adoption of a parks spectrum and an approach to the inclusion of more wilderness areas into regional parks, are being considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan Review.
- An active transportation wayfinding system has been developed and will be piloted in 2021.
- A trail etiquette signage program for AT trails in parks was approved by Regional Council.
- 24 community gardens on municipal lands have received support from HRM with new gardens added to the program each year.
- Community interest and conversations regarding the role and importance of parks and open spaces has significantly increased as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current and Future Project Work

The Municipality is continually carrying out project work on a wide variety of items. Some projects may lead to strategic investments, programs, policies or regulations. The HGNP recommends 16 actions that guide current and future project work. The following highlights project work that has been undertaken based on direction from the HGNP:

- The HGNP Database is now available on HRM's Open Data Portal for public use.
- An Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide is currently being developed to assist with the management of invasive species and other pests.
- The municipality is undertaking a variety of naturalization projects as part of a pilot program.
- Several active transportation (AT) initiatives linking outdoor recreation amenities have been completed or are underway, such as the completion of Phase 3 of the Bissett Greenway, planning for a local street bikeway between the Dartmouth Common and Shubie Canal Greenway, planning for Downtown Dartmouth AT Infrastructure Enhancements and planning for extensions to the Bedford-Sackville Greenway.
- Work is ongoing regarding floodplain studies for the Sackville Rivers Floodplain and the Shubenacadie Watershed.

Partnerships

While the Municipality is a key government body in the Region, responsibility for managing the environment is shared between multiple levels of government, including Nova Scotia Environment and the Provincial Department of Natural Resources. Universities, non-profits and community groups also bring valuable expertise, information and resources to conservation efforts. Private landowners play an integral role in stewarding natural resources and investing in sustainable development approaches. The cultivation of partnerships, therefore, is important to carrying out many of the objectives identified in this Plan. The HGNP identifies 14 partnership opportunities. The following highlights the progress being made in fostering partnerships:

- Work has been ongoing with Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Environment to support the use of green infrastructure in a number of projects, including Sawmill River daylighting and stormwater management, Spring Garden Road streetscaping and Prince Albert Road flood mitigation, and the benefits of community partnerships has been identified in the municipality's various park plans.

- Regional Council approved a contribution of \$750,000 to assist the Nova Scotia Nature Trust in its purchase of lands associated with the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area, located between two provincial protected Wilderness Areas.
- HRM has begun to participate in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network with representatives from the Province and other community groups to provide updates on connectivity initiatives across Nova Scotia.
- Regular discussions are held with provincial staff regarding coordination with respect to areas such as Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes.
- Work has been ongoing to support AT initiatives on Provincial lands, including multi-use pathways between the Chain of Lakes Trail and Walter Havill Drive, and in Sackville Lakes Provincial Park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this information report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Halifax Green Network Plan was informed by three phases of extensive engagement with residents from urban, suburban and rural communities, provincial government departments and stakeholder groups. Those consultations provided valuable insight to inform the vision, principles, objectives, and actions within the HGNP. Additional public engagement will be carried out for individual HGNP action items as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Detailed Halifax Green Network Plan Progress Update

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Kathleen Fralic, Planner III, 902.233.2501

Halifax Green Network Plan 2020 Progress Update

6.1 LAND USE PLANNING					
ACTION #	THEME	ACTION	DIRECTION	2019 UPDATE	2020 UPDATE
1	Ecology	Refine and incorporate the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35) into the <i>Regional Plan</i> and use it to guide regional planning decisions related to the location and shape of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Urban service boundaries » Rural centres » Nature parks » Conservation design developments 	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowly focused Regional Plan amendments, prior to the next Regional Plan Review, that references the HGNP Map within the Conservation Design development agreement policy criteria is targeted to be presented to Council in August, 2019. • To be further completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowly focused Regional Plan amendments to include the HGNP Ecology Map within the Conservation Design development agreement criteria adopted by Regional Council on September 24, 2019. • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be further completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
2	Ecology	Consider the following design and management guidelines when planning, maintaining and restoring essential and important corridors (Map 5 on page 35) through Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Essential corridors should ideally be greater than 1km wide and composed of intact natural habitat, wherever possible » The width of essential corridors should increase in proportion to its length (i.e. the longer the corridor, the wider it should be) » Where a 1km width is not possible for essential corridors, maintain what remains, seek opportunities to restore disturbed areas and mitigate the impacts of nearby human activity » Maintain a minimum corridor width of 100m for important corridors to connect natural habitats » Where intact important corridors are unavailable and/or not possible to restore, maintain the largest possible remnant patches and encourage best management practices in intervening areas to provide opportunities for wildlife movement between patches. 	Guidance	Guidance in use: guidelines are being used to guide master planning background studies and reviews.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • HRM has been included in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network. • Guidelines are being used to guide master planning background studies and reviews. • To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
3	Ecology	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies to clarify and ensure that environmental sensitive areas are identified and considered during the review of all discretionary planning applications (i.e. rezoning and development agreement applications).	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed within the proposed Centre Plan Package A Discretionary Approvals Policy 10.6. • To be completed for other areas as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review and on-going By-law Simplification Program. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.

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4	Ecology	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to emphasize the importance of identifying and protecting environmental sensitive areas during master neighbourhood planning exercises (secondary planning).	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
5	Ecology	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to consolidate environmental protection zones, which prohibit most forms of development, and apply these zones to areas with significantly sized vulnerable landforms, such as ravines and bluffs.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
6	Ecology	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to consolidate, clarify and refine the Municipality's variable approach to watercourse buffers. Specific measures to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consolidating environmental protection zones and applying these zones to sensitive riparian areas and wetlands, such as coastal marshlands, floodways and large wetland complexes, based on detailed mapping and analysis » Increasing the minimum required riparian buffer around drinking water supply sources, established under the Protected Water Supply Zone, from 30.5 to 100 m » Establishing a consistent watercourse buffer requirement for industrial zones and uses, which currently range from 20 to 100 m for some zones and specific uses » Increasing the standard watercourse buffer requirement from 20 to 30 m for watercourses that are greater than 50 cm wide » Maintaining a watercourse buffer requirement of 20 metres for watercourses that are intermittent or less than 50 cm wide » Maintaining special watercourse buffering requirements established for vulnerable areas, such as the special requirements that apply to Cow Bay » Removing the formula to increase the buffer requirements based on slope for inland watercourses (not marine coast), as the requirement is rarely applicable and adds unnecessary complexity to the permitting process 	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 27 and 28 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
8	Ecology	Update the landscaping requirements in the Land Use By-laws to support the implementation of the <i>Urban Forest Master Plan</i> by prohibiting the use of invasive species.	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Centre Plan Package A includes landscaping requirements that prohibited the use of invasive species. • To be completed for other areas as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification program. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program. • To be considered as part of an Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide currently being developed to assist with the management of invasive species and other pests. Anticipated to be completed in 2021.

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19	Working Landscapes	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to direct residential uses away from areas suitable for resource extraction and forestry uses. (See the Community Shaping Section for more specific direction concerning rural centres and conservation design developments).	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
20	Working Landscapes	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to provide more opportunities for uses that support primary resource industries, such as aggregate and wood processing facilities in locations with high value working landscapes (Map 7 on page 43). Specific measures to consider include providing as-of-right development opportunities (without a lengthy rezoning or development agreement process) for resource developments that locate in areas that are buffered from nearby residential areas, wildlife corridors and core areas shown on the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35).	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 25 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
21	Working Landscapes	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to limit or prohibit conservation design developments in the Agricultural Designation.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
22	Working Landscapes	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land-Use By-laws to encourage agricultural developments and supportive uses to locate and expand in agricultural areas. Specific measures to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ensuring setback and separation distance requirements are reasonable and do not unduly restrict the development or expansion of processing facilities or agricultural structures. » Reducing the size and extent of non-agricultural uses in agricultural areas to limit the loss of high quality soils to non-agricultural developments. » Ensuring permitted agricultural-related uses are inclusive of changing business practices and opportunities. 	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
24	Working Landscapes	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to encourage small-scale agriculture on private properties. Specific measures to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Removing barriers to appropriately-scaled urban agriculture and food retail on private property including, road side stands and animal husbandry » When reviewing landscaping requirements, ensure that edible landscaping, such as fruit trees and herb gardens, are permitted types of vegetation 	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Centre Plan Package A includes increased opportunities for urban agriculture, including bee keeping and the keeping of chickens (hens). Landscaping provisions will permit edible plants. On July 30, 2019, Regional Council initiated a region wide planning process to consider permitting the keeping of chickens as an accessory residential use in all parts of the Municipality. To be further advanced as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. Engagement regarding permitting the keeping of chickens as an accessory residential use in all parts of the Municipality has taken place and a recommendation report is anticipated to be reviewed by Regional Council in 2021. To be further advanced as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.

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				By-law Simplification program.	
26	Working Landscapes	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to ensure that rural industrial developments are adequately screened from scenic roads and trails.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
27	Working Landscapes	Review Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to maintain and, where needed, increase lot size and frontage requirements to prevent dense “ribbon development” along scenic routes located between rural centres.	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural development patterns research completed as part of the P&D Rural team work plan. • To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification program. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
28	Working Landscapes	Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to encourage both small- and large-scale tourism related uses in rural areas. Specific measures to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Relaxing restrictions for home-based businesses that cater to tourists, such as bed and breakfast operations, accessory cabins, tour operations, arts and crafts, farm stays, and commercial recreation (such as kayak rentals etc.) » Where not already permitted, considering the development of large-scale resorts, campgrounds, spas and hotels by rezoning or development agreement in rural areas that balance tourism opportunities with impacts on the environment and nearby residents » Enabling the development of resource-based and eco-tourism opportunities, including fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting, agriculture and forestry focused tours and experiences 	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background research is underway as part of the P&D Rural team work plan. • To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan Review and on-going By-law Simplification Program. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
29	Community Shaping	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to ensure that the Green Network map (Map 5 on page 35), is considered when reviewing changes to the Urban Service Area boundary, Urban Settlement Designation, Urban Reserve Designation, and when preparing Secondary Planning Strategies.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
30	Community Shaping	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to clarify the purpose and scope of land suitability assessments, which identify vulnerable landforms and other ecological features, as base information needed to inform the design of new mixed-use neighbourhoods and business park developments.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
31	Community Shaping	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to prioritize the redevelopment of brownfield sites and other underdeveloped urban infill sites ahead of undisturbed greenfield sites.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.

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32	Community Shaping	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> and Municipal Planning Strategies to prioritize the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula (Map 9) from the Mainland when reviewing development proposals and updating planning policies and zoning in the area. Specific connections to review and prioritize are highlighted on Map 9.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
35	Community Shaping	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to better define the size, shape and location of all rural centres in relation to natural corridors and valued open spaces.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
36	Community Shaping	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> by updating the conservation design development policies to streamline the planning process for proposed developments located within rural centres. Specific planning approaches to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Site plan approvals, which can direct development to suitable areas, without involving the lengthier development agreement process » Enabling as-of-right developments within carefully selected pre-zoned areas 	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background research is underway as part of the P&D Rural Team work plan. To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review and on-going By-law Simplification program. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
37	Community Shaping	Amend the Regional Plan conservation design development agreement policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Further focus development within rural centres » Avoid conflicts with working landscapes » Direct development to the edges of the core areas shown on the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35) » Preserve the essential and important corridors shown on the Green Network Ecology Map (Map 5 on page 35) » Take a cautious approach to development within areas of high environmental value (Map 5 on page 35) by ensuring the underlying values are investigated and conserved and any impacts from development are mitigated 	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background research is underway as part of the P&D Rural Team work plan. To be completed as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review and on-going By-law Simplification program. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review and By-law Simplification Program.
62	Outdoor Recreation	During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review, amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> concerning Regional Parks to differentiate Regional Park types with particular regard to Nature Parks - which are specially designed to protect an area of land and/or water, support natural processes, species and habitat; and where human activities are primarily passive (e.g. hiking, nature interpretation and appreciation), and do not compromise ecological function.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
66	Outdoor Recreation	During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to recognize recent land acquisitions (pending) within the Purcell's Cove Backlands as Regional Park and consider open space planning for the remainder of this area.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.

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67	Outdoor Recreation	During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to recognize community land conservation initiatives as part of the 100 Wild Islands.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. To be completed as part of the ongoing <i>Regional Plan</i> review.
73	Cultural Landscapes	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to clarify the scope and purpose of cultural landscape studies, based on the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> , as an integral component of master neighbourhood and business park planning initiatives and the identification, preservation and celebration of these landscapes.	2-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (CHPP), staff are developing a guide for completing culture and heritage assessments. The draft CHPP is targeted to be presented to CPED in fall 2019. Amendments to the <i>Regional Plan</i> will be completed as part of the upcoming <i>Regional Plan</i> review. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. To be completed as part of the ongoing <i>Regional Plan</i> review.
74	Cultural Landscapes	Amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> to include cultural landscapes as elements that must be considered when preparing conservation design development agreements.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: To be completed as part of the ongoing <i>Regional Plan</i> review.

6.2 PARK NETWORK MANAGEMENT					
ACTION #	THEME	ACTION	DIRECTION	2019 UPDATE	2020 UPDATE
23	Working Landscapes	Balanced with other open space uses, support community gardens and other forms of food production in public parks and other Municipally-owned properties.	Guidance	Guidance in use: HRM currently supports 23 community gardens on municipal lands with new gardens added to the program each year.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. HRM currently supports 24 community gardens on municipal lands with new gardens added to the program each year. A variety of vegetables and herbs are being planted at the Halifax Public Gardens. HRM has partnered with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance to develop JustFOOD: an action plan for the region. This plan will include actions to support food production and increase access to local food.

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25	Working Landscapes	Consider community gardens, fruit trees, and food supportive amenities, when preparing master plans for public open spaces.	Guidance	Guidance in use: the park master plans currently underway (Halifax Common, Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, Lake Echo District Park) consider this policy guidance.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 35 of HalifACT. • Community gardens were considered in the development of the Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, Lake Echo District Park, and Viscount Run park plans, and will continue to be a consideration in additional park plans such as those being prepared for the Halifax Common and Rehab Lands.
42	Outdoor Recreation	Promote parks and open spaces for health, well-being, sense of community and overall quality of life through improved public communication, such as through HRM's website.	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA), HRM is creating a fact sheet about the health benefits of being active in nature that will be promoted on our website and via social media. • The Active For Life Committee is producing an infographic called 'Pathways to Physical Literacy' about opportunities to be active in all outdoor spaces. 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nature fact sheet, with resources for accessing nature and learning about its benefits, is now available on HRM's website through the Outdoor Recreation section. The resource has been promoted on social media. • Community discussions regarding the importance of access to parks and open space have increased as a result of COVID-19.
43	Outdoor Recreation	Through Halifax's Community Engagement Strategy, formalize a public engagement program for the planning and stewardship of parks.	Guidance	Guidance in use: An inter-departmental working group has been formed and is considering engagement related to the planning and stewardship of parks.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 21 of HalifACT. • Inter-departmental working group is continuing to consider engagement related to the planning and stewardship of parks.
44	Outdoor Recreation	Incorporate year-round recreational infrastructure, including winter-oriented activities, when planning parks.	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued winter maintenance of walkways in Point Pleasant Park, Shubie Park and the Public Gardens. • The Adventure Earth Centre ran a Winter by the Sea program for new comers in 2018 and an outdoor survival and winter hikes program in 2019. • Park plans currently underway are considering winter activities. 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter activities held through the Adventure Earth Centre. These included snow shoe lending and a Winterfest event at Shubie Park. • Continued winter maintenance of walkways in Point Pleasant Park, Shubie Park and the Public Gardens. • Included park lighting and paved pathways in the Gorsebrook Park concept plan. • Included paved pathways in the Lake Echo District Park Plan and provided access to site electricity for events. • Included paved pathways in the Eastern Passage Commons Park Plan and

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					<p>provided access to site electricity for events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway are considering winter activities.
45	Outdoor Recreation	Enhance existing standards for the design of parks with a focus on versatile and flexible space, based on the nature of different park types and situations, that encourages participation of all ages and abilities.	Guidance	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Playbox was installed at Aberdeen Court Park to foster free and unstructured play for all. • Park plans currently underway consider this policy guidance. 	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included multifunctional spaces for unscheduled play, shelter from the sun and weather and access to washrooms in the park plans for Lake Echo District Park, Eastern Common and Gorsebrook Park. • The installation of four new Playboxes was scheduled but has been postponed until Summer 2021 as a result of COVID-19. • Park plans currently underway incorporate the use of flexible space and accessibility.
46	Outdoor Recreation	Include culture and education programs and projects, such as the inclusion of public art within parks and nature interpretation programs when planning for parks.	Guidance	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued growth of Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) day camp education programming including Eco-scientists, Geology Rocks and Outdoor Odyssey themes, as well as overnight programs, such as Explorers and Sunship Earth. • In 2019, HRM summer camp managers took an 8-hour AEC training course on reconnecting to nature. • Extensive Halifax Explosion interpretive elements in Fort Needham Park, including iconic sculptural markers, as well as other markers located in the Ferry Terminal Park and the Dartmouth and Halifax Commons. • Park plans currently underway are considering culture and public art. • On-going support of Shakespeare By The Sea and Nocturne: Art at Night, where many installations are programmed in parks. • Providing below-market lease of the Gatekeeper's Lodge in Point Pleasant Park for the Sable Island Institute to carry out research and public programs related to Sable Island using an arts-mediated environmental lens. 	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued growth of Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) day camp education programming including Try It Fishing, Try It Compass Fun, Family Campfire Fun, Guided Nature Trail, Outdoor Yoga, Earth Walk Kit Loan, Hug a Tree, Loose Parks Play, and Outdoor Cooking. • Other outdoor recreation opportunities were enhanced due to COVID-19, including establishing two Recreation Vans that travelled to parks across HRM. • Public art is considered in the development of park plans, including the Gorsebrook Park plan. • Public art and commemoration opportunities being considered as part of parks and open spaces as part of the Cogswell Interchange Redevelopment Project.

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47	Outdoor Recreation	Ensure there is a clear and consistent communication system related to accessibility and wayfinding to and within parks.	Guidance	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An active transportation wayfinding strategy for HRM is being developed that includes three pilot sites within parks. • Wayfinding signage with maps have been added to the trailheads and trail system at Hemlock Ravine Park. • Wayfinding signage has been placed at trailheads at Shubie Park. • Park ID signs with Halifax branding that identify park amenities and rules are being added to numerous parks as an on-going initiative. 	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an active transportation wayfinding system that will be piloted in 2021. Pilot locations include the Mainland North Trail and the Sackville Greenway. • Wayfinding signage with maps is being considered for the new Shaw Wilderness Park trail head. • Improved wayfinding signage is being considered for the parks around Governor's Brook which lead into the Purcell's Cove Backlands. • A trail etiquette signage program was developed and adopted by Regional Council • Trail etiquette signage is being installed at various trails to educate users on appropriate behaviour on municipal trails.
48	Outdoor Recreation	Enhance social gathering in municipal open spaces by encouraging limited private and not for profit commercial initiatives.	1-4 Years	In progress: Park plans, such as the Halifax Common Master Plan, consider this action item.	In progress: Park plans, such as the Halifax Common Master Plan, consider this action item.
49	Outdoor Recreation	During the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review introduce the Park Spectrum (Figure 6), which recognizes the Municipal role in providing the full range of outdoor recreation and ecological conservation functions and experiences of public open spaces together with Federal and Provincial parks and school grounds.	2-7 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next <i>Regional Plan</i> review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 23 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing <i>Regional Plan</i> review.
50	Outdoor Recreation	Develop service level targets for the <i>Regional Plan</i> settlement types to provide public access to the spectrum of recreation experiences (e.g. sportsfields, playgrounds, nature trails), within the Halifax park system.	1-2 Years	In progress: An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway.	In progress: An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. The analysis, together with community input, will be used to determine targets.
51	Outdoor Recreation	Revise travel time/distance tolerance targets and standards to the nearest park based on the designations in the <i>Regional Plan</i> to account for HRM's varied settlement patterns and residential densities.	1-2 Years	In progress: Preliminary spatial analysis is underway. This action is being coordinated with Action 52.	In progress: An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. The analysis, together with community input, will be used to determine targets. This action is being coordinated with Action 52.
52	Outdoor Recreation	Revise public park area per capita targets and standards based on designations in the <i>Regional Plan</i> to account for HRM's varied settlement patterns.	1-2 Years	In progress: Preliminary spatial analysis is underway. This action is being coordinated with Action 51.	In progress: An inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and spatial analysis is underway. The analysis, together with community input,

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					will be used to determine targets. This action is being coordinated with Action 51.
53	Outdoor Recreation	With the development of new parkland targets and standards, amend the <i>Regional Plan</i> and Regional Subdivision By-law to direct the acquisition, development and management of Municipal Parkland.	1-2 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review based on the results of Actions 51 and 52.
54	Outdoor Recreation	Determine service delivery gaps and overlap based on established travel time and park pressure targets (above objective) that considers the distribution of Municipal Parks together with Provincial and Federal Parks, and school grounds.	1-2 Years	This action item is dependent upon Actions 51 and 52, which are underway.	This action item is dependent upon Actions 51 and 52, which are underway.
55	Outdoor Recreation	Use the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) to evaluate existing and proposed parks for their land capability in terms of: » Identity (sense of place) » Heritage conservation » Recreation land use » Natural systems conservation » Connectivity	1-2 Years	In progress: Project planning for the next Regional Plan review is underway and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council for formal initiation in fall 2019.	In progress: • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • To be completed as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. • The Land Capability Analysis Tool is used for guidance on an on-going basis.
56	Outdoor Recreation	Develop a park performance monitoring program to regularly gather park usage data from park and recreation staff, the public, and new technology to count users.	1-2 Years	In progress: Methods for monitoring park usage are currently under review.	In progress: Methods for monitoring park usage are currently under review.
57	Outdoor Recreation	Use information gathered through the park performance monitoring program and the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) to develop an inventory of low, moderate and high performing parks.	1-4 Years	This action is dependent on action 56, which is underway.	This action is dependent on action 56, which is underway.
58	Outdoor Recreation	Prepare policies and procedures concerning parkland maintenance to incorporate naturalization and green infrastructure (ie. rain gardens and bioswales).	1-4 Years	In progress: • In January 2019, Regional Council approved the direction set out in a staff report on park naturalization. A working group with members from Parks & Recreation, TPW and Planning & Development has been established and there is a naturalization landing page on the HRM website: https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/parks-trails-gardens/park-naturalization • Park plans currently underway consider naturalization and green infrastructure.	In progress: • Supported by Actions 20, 21 and 22 of HalifACT. • Three pilot projects under the 2019 approved Naturalization Strategy were to commence this past spring. One proceeded, planting upwards of 2000 plants in a right-of-way area. The other two were delayed due to COVID-19. • Park plans, including those completed for Gorsebrook Park, Eastern Passage Common, Lake Echo District Park and Viscount Run Park consider naturalization and green infrastructure. • Park plans being developed for the Rehab

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					Lands and Halifax Common will also consider naturalization and green infrastructure.
59	Outdoor Recreation	In cases of significant service overlap and low scoring from the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B), consider the disposal of identified low performing parkland.	Guidance	Guidance not yet in use: This action is dependent upon action 54, which is not complete.	Guidance not yet in use: This action is dependent upon action 54, which is not complete.
64	Outdoor Recreation	During the next Regional Plan review assess the establishment of future Regional Parks, as identified in the Regional Plan, and their boundaries, through the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) and other criteria that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The location of any existing conceptual park boundary b. Relationship to adjacent lands and community c. The landform, ecological attributes, and cultural features of the lands including connectivity to other lands d. The presence of potential for recreational features such as existing trails and their usage e. Existing and possible access to the lands and the ability to accommodate primary or secondary trailheads f. The planning, zoning and development potential of the lands g. The interest of competing development plans and the impact that Municipality Parkland acquisition would have on them h. Acquisition models such as outright purchase or other alternatives i. Financial and budget factors. 	Guidance	Guidance not yet in use: To be considered as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23, 25 and 26 of HalifACT. • To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review.
76	Cultural Landscapes	Identify, preserve and celebrate cultural landscapes and resources when preparing master plans for publicly-owned open spaces.	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan, staff are developing a Cultural Landscape Program (Work Plan) that is expected to consider the cultural landscapes on municipally owned lands. • Extensive Halifax explosion interpretive elements have been included in Fort Needham Park. • Park plans currently underway consider cultural landscape assets. 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021. • Park plans completed for Gorsebrook Park and Eastern Passage Common highlight the historic uses and cultural aspects of the sites. • Park plans currently underway consider cultural landscape assets

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6.3 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECT WORK					
ACTION #	THEME	ACTION	DIRECTION	2019 UPDATE	2020 UPDATE
7	Ecology	Continue to implement the <i>Urban Forest Master Plan</i> .	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 7000 street and park trees have been planted since 2014 and 1500 additional trees will be planted in 2019. In 2019, Regional Council increased the budget for urban forest program from \$650,000 to \$850,000 per year. Park plans currently underway consider the Urban Forest Mast Plan. 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 20 of HalifACT. Limited plantings in 2020 as a result of COVID-19. Established a proactive cyclical pruning program to improve health and safety of mature trees in the urban forest. Undertook inventory work collecting urban forest data in District 8 and 9. Drafted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan to be included as part of an Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide anticipated to be completed in 2021.
9	Ecology	Consider the adoption of a private trees by-law to manage the removal of trees on private property within serviced (urban) areas. Specific direction to consider includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Focusing on large properties with development potential while minimizing impacts on small properties » Prioritizing the protection of trees and vegetation within the watercourse buffer » Developing an educational campaign to promote tree stewardship on private property 	1-2 Years	In progress: In December, 2018, Regional Council requested a staff report on potentially creating new development charges and/or regulating the cutting of trees on lands that are developed for residential, commercial, and institutional purposes. The pending staff report is also considering the HGNP direction and is targeted to be circulated to Regional Council in fall 2019.	In progress: The staff report responding to the request from Regional Council has been delayed as a result of COVID-19. Staff have continued to research options for managing the removal of trees on private property, including tools such as new development charges, lot grading standards or a private tree by-law, to identify an appropriate approach.
10	Ecology	When updating the <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book) consider requiring developers to install street trees in front of developments located on existing streets that do not currently contain street trees.	1-2 Years	In progress: The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2020. The requirements noted here will be considered for both the urban and rural development requirements.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 22 of HalifACT. The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2021. The requirements noted here will be considered for both the urban and rural development requirements.
14	Ecology	Continue to update the Region's flood scenario mapping and, through individual project work, prioritize the preservation and restoration of riparian	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sackville Rivers Floodplain study was completed in 2017 and is being used to 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 and 26 of HalifACT.

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		areas and shoreline vegetation as an effective method for mitigating flood impacts.		<p>updated related planning documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, the Municipality successfully applied for funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) for the Sackville Rivers floodplain to review and recommend mitigation measures that reduce flood impacts. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in summer 2019. In 2019, the Municipality also received NDMP funding to complete a floodplain study for the Shubenacadie watershed. The RFP was posted in summer 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be considered as part of the ongoing Regional Plan review. Engagement for the plan and by-law amendments to implement the recommendations of the Sackville Rivers Floodplain Study is ongoing. A review of flood impact mitigation measures for the Sackville Rivers Floodplain has been completed and is anticipated to be brought to Regional Council for review in 2021. A floodplain study for the Shubenacadie watershed has been completed and is anticipated to be brought to Regional Council for review in 2021.
15	Ecology	Consider Municipal efforts to protect and expand the Green Network when assessing Municipal contributions to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, including protection of land-based green carbon sinks and intertidal areas (e.g., saltmarshes) that act as blue carbon sinks.	Guidance	Guidance in use: Carbon sinks are being considered as part of HalifACT, a long-term climate change plan to reduce emissions and help communities adapt. The strategic plan is targeted for completion in March, 2020.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 26 of HalifACT. Partnered with Ducks Unlimited to coordinate on wetland initiatives using their Wetland Ecosystems Services Protocol.
16	Ecology	Make the Green Network Database available to all Municipal departments, as well as freely available to the public through HRM's Open Data Catalogue.	1-2 Years	In progress: The review and processing of HGNP data for public use is nearly complete and the data targeted to be released on HRM's Open Data portal in fall 2019.	Complete: the HGNP Database is now available on HRM's Open Data Portal.
17	Ecology	Explore opportunities to develop on-going partnerships with Provincial Government departments, universities and non-profits to refine, maintain and update the key datasets needed to understand the health of the Region's ecosystems, wildlife populations and wildlife movement corridors, including the spread of invasive species.	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2019, Municipal staff attended and presented the HGNP at the Canadian Maritimes Ecological Connectivity conference held at Dalhousie University. Staff are participating in the Habitat Conservation Strategy for Nova Scotia (St. Margaret's Bay to Cape Breton). As part of the 2019/20 budget process, Council approved a new Planner III position in Planning & Development to support and coordinate the implementation of the HGNP. This staff resource will be key to fostering important partnerships with other levels of government, universities and conservation groups. 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM participating in the Habitat Conservation Strategy for Nova Scotia. HRM participating in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network. An Integrated Pest Management best practices/policy guide currently being developed to assist with the management of invasive species and other pests. Anticipated to be completed in 2021.

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33	Community Shaping	Consider the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula when planning the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park.	Guidance	Guidance in use: In 2018, Regional Council provided direction to undertake the background studies needed to inform the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park. The scope of work for the background studies is under review and includes consideration of natural connections, with emphasis on connections to the Chebucto Peninsula.	Guidance in use: Natural Systems Conservation Study currently underway to inform the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park.
41	Community Shaping	When updating the <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book) consider and accommodate wildlife crossings when impacts on essential and important corridors cannot be avoided.	1-2 Years	In progress: The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2020. Wildlife crossings will be considered primarily for rural contexts.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. The Red Book update is underway and is expected to be presented to Council in early 2021. Accommodating wildlife crossings will be considered under the 2022 Red Book update. Wildlife crossings will be considered primarily for rural contexts.
60	Outdoor Recreation	Continue to study and consider the adoption of infrastructure charges to support the development and improvement of parks and recreation facilities that are needed to support new development.	1-2 Years	In progress: A staff report to Council on infrastructure charges is targeted for fall 2019.	In progress: A staff report to Council on infrastructure charges is targeted for late 2020.
69	Outdoor Recreation	Continue to implement the approved Cole Harbour Basin Open Space Plan.	1-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New AT and park pathways are being developed in the Cole Harbour Commons this year. A park plan for the former Rehab Lands will be developed as part of the 2019/20 Parks and Recreation Business Plan. 	In progress: The park plan for the former Rehab Lands is underway and is anticipated to be completed in 2021.
70	Outdoor Recreation	Use the HGNP and other municipal plans, including the AT Priority Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) to establish linkages between parks, Provincial Wilderness Areas, crown lands, fresh waterbodies and ocean fronts that are used for recreation purposes.	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sackville Greenway was completed between Glendale and Sackville Drive in 2018. Bissett Greenway Phase 3 is under construction and connects to parkland at the Rehab property. New AT and park pathways are being developed in the Cole Harbour Commons in 2019. HRM supported planning of new AT corridors through Sackville Lakes Provincial Park. Planning is underway for the Downtown 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Actions 23 and 26 of HalifACT. Bissett Greenway Phase 3 was completed between Colby Village and Cole Harbour Heritage Park/Salt Marsh Trail. Local street bikeway being planned for Dahlia Street/Oak Street between Dartmouth Common and Shubie Canal Greenway. Planning is underway for the Downtown Dartmouth Infrastructure Enhancements

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				<p>Dartmouth Infrastructure Enhancements project. This project is a combination of road, stormwater management, park, and trail upgrades. Part of the envisioned work is to implement a missing link in the Trans-Canada Trail between Sullivan's Pond and the Dartmouth Waterfront. The Trans-Canada Trail is expected to run along an 800 m corridor from Starr Park on Prince Albert Road through a newly designed intersection, along Martin's Park on Alderney Drive, and connect to the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider AT connections. 	<p>project. This project is a combination of road, stormwater management, park, and trail upgrades. Part of the envisioned work is to implement a missing link in the Trans-Canada Trail between Sullivan's Pond and the Dartmouth Waterfront. The Trans-Canada Trail is expected to run along an 800 m corridor from Starr Park on Prince Albert Road through a newly designed intersection, along Martin's Park on Alderney Drive, and connect to the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades and extensions planned for the Bedford-Sackville Greenway to access parkland and natural areas in the Sackville River watershed. • Park plans currently underway consider AT connections.
71	Cultural Landscapes	Use the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> as the guiding document for the consideration of potential cultural landscapes and the basis for a future cultural landscape program to be advanced through the <i>Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan</i> .	2-4 Years	In progress: The final phase of the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan is underway and is using the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> to guide the development of a cultural landscape workplan.	In progress: The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021.
75	Cultural Landscapes	Maintain and enrich the inventory of potential cultural landscapes identified in the <i>Cultural Landscape Framework Study</i> through planning initiatives, community engagement and other municipal initiatives.	Guidance	Guidance in use: A work plan and approach for collecting and maintaining information is being advanced through the <i>Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan</i> .	Guidance in use: A work plan and approach for collecting and maintaining information is being developed through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories). Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation and is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021.
78	Cultural Landscapes	Proactively engage and expand the inventory of cultural landscapes of interest to African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq, Acadian and immigrant communities.	2-4 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan has involved targeted engagement and establishing relationships with these under-represented communities. The cultural landscape program, being advanced through CHPP, will strive to 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently

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				<p>strengthen these relationships and enrich the inventory and understanding of cultural landscapes of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider this action item. • In 2018/19, HRM worked with the stakeholders of Africville to complete an Interpretive Framework for Africville Park. The result will be 5 interpretive elements with themes and content developed by those stakeholders so that those stories and the impact are told in the actual landscape. The conceptual design is a Corten steel panel with cut silhouettes of residents taken from archival images. The panels will tell the stories of the vibrant life in Africville and how important family and church were to the residents. 	<p>undergoing stakeholder consultation, focused on under-represented communities. It is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider this action item. • An archeological impact study of Shaw Wilderness Park was undertaken to determine the site's potential for archaeological resources. • The RFQ for fabrication of the Interpretive Framework for Africville Park was issued in August 2020, with an anticipated completion in spring 2021. • Regional Council approved the recommendations of the <i>Committee on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History</i> on July 21, 2020. Recommendations were related to changes to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets and recommendations to recognize and commemorate the indigenous history of the lands now known as the Halifax Regional Municipality.
79	Cultural Landscapes	Engage groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in planning initiatives, including African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and immigrant communities, when developing cultural landscape plans and policies.	Guidance	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of the CHPP, engagement has been carried out with Acadian and African Nova Scotia community. Consultation is in process with the Mi'kmaq community. • Requirements for engagement with under-represented communities is being considered for land suitability assessments in master planning exercises. 	<p>Guidance in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories) is expected to provide direction on the identification, prioritization and implementation of cultural landscapes. Sharing Our Stories is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation, focused on under-represented communities. It is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2020/21. • Regional Council approved the recommendations of the <i>Committee on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History</i> on July 21, 2020. Recommendations were related to changes

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					<p>to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets and recommendations to recognize and commemorate the indigenous history of the lands now known as the Halifax Regional Municipality.</p>
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6.4 PARTNERSHIPS					
ACTION #	THEME	ACTION	DIRECTION	2019 UPDATE	2020 UPDATE
11	Ecology	Work with Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Environment to establish stormwater management guidelines to improve the quality of stormwater runoff.	2-7 Years	In progress: A new by-law concerning storm water management is targeted to be presented to Council in 2020.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-law G-200 Respecting Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management Associated with Land Development received approval in September 2020. • HRM is working with Halifax Water to further define responsibilities and standards for green infrastructure in the public right-of-way.
12	Ecology	Work with Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Environment to promote green infrastructure, such as naturalized stormwater retention ponds and bioswales, as the preferred approach to managing stormwater.	4-7 Years	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New standards for green infrastructure are being considered for the updated <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book). • HRM worked closely with Halifax Water on the Sawmill River daylighting and stormwater management project. Trees removed from construction resulted in 75 new trees planted along the water way. A second phase of river daylighting will involve a similar partnership that will include landscape naturalization, a holding pond for storm water and opportunities for fish passage. • In Broad Street Park, within the West Bedford development, as an alternative to constructing a fenced serge lined stormwater detention pond, the developer constructed a bio-swale. It contains elements in the street ROW, parkland, and designated stormwater management area resulting in an open space area designed to flood in extreme events while still functioning as a park. 	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Actions 12, 13 and 14 of HalifACT. • New standards for green infrastructure will be included in updated 2022 <i>Municipal Design Guidelines</i> (Red Book) and will be further refined in future updates. • HRM worked closely with Halifax Water on the Sawmill River daylighting and stormwater management project. A second phase of river daylighting will involve a similar partnership that will include landscape naturalization, a holding pond for storm water and opportunities for fish passage. • Rain gardens are being incorporated into the Spring Garden Road Streetscaping Project to mitigate flooding and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Construction is planned for 2021. • A rain garden is being incorporated into the Prince Albert Road project to mitigate

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans currently underway consider naturalized approaches to stormwater management. 	<p>flooding and improve the quality of stormwater reaching Lake Banook. Construction is planned for 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plans completed for Lake Echo District Park and Eastern Passage Common considered naturalized approaches to stormwater management. • Future park plans will consider naturalized approaches to stormwater management.
13	Ecology	Work with Halifax Water to develop a green infrastructure specification document to guide and promote the use of low-impact design approaches to manage stormwater on private property for multi-unit residential, commercial and industrial developments.	2-4 Years	In progress: A new by-law concerning storm water management is targeted to be presented to Council in 2020.	In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. • By-law G-200 Respecting Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management Associated with Land Development received approval in September 2020.
18	Ecology	Formally request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable the Municipality to acquire sensitive environmental lands (e.g. riparian areas, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.) as an environmental reserve through the land development and subdivision process, in addition to existing parkland dedication provisions.	1-2 Years	Complete: A letter from Mayor Savage to Minister Chuck Porter, Municipal Affairs, was sent in December 2018. A letter from Minister Porter confirming receipt and future follow up by provincial staff was received in February 2019.	Complete: Discussions regarding this request ongoing with the Province.
34	Community Shaping	Work with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, as opportunities arise, to identify opportunities to construct wildlife crossings under Highway 103 and the planned Highway 113.	Guidance	Guidance not yet in use: The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen.	Guidance not yet in use: The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen.
38	Community Shaping	Work with the Province and utility companies when opportunities arise to locate trails within existing and planned transportation and utility corridors.	Guidance	Guidance in use: Trails are being considered as part of the Burnside Connector and potential Caldwell Road extension projects.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new multi-use pathway is being constructed between Chain of Lakes Trail and Walter Havill Drive. Portions of the path are located on Provincial land. • Supported a community group-led planning and design process to build a new multi-use pathway in Sackville Lakes Provincial Park.
39	Community Shaping	Work with the Province to mitigate the impacts on essential and important corridors and valued ecological open spaces when designing new regional transportation projects.	Guidance	Guidance in use: The HGNP is informing conversations with the province concerning regional transportation projects.	Guidance in use: The HGNP is informing conversations with the province concerning regional transportation projects.
40	Community Shaping	Work with the Province to reconnect fragmented landscapes with crossing structures (wildlife overpasses and underpasses) when repairing or expanding existing roads and linear infrastructure.	Guidance	Guidance not yet in use: The opportunity to discuss such wildlife crossings has not arisen.	Guidance in use: HRM participating in the Nova Scotia Connectivity Network with representatives from the Province and other

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					community groups to provide updates on connectivity initiatives, including wildlife crossings.
61	Outdoor Recreation	Formally request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable a greater range of legislative abilities, such as the ability to enact parkland dedication requirements based on density to address development that does not include the subdivision of lots.	1-2 Years	Complete: A letter from Mayor Savage to Minister Chuck Porter, Municipal Affairs, was sent in December 2018. A letter from Minister Porter that confirming receipt and future follow up by provincial staff was received in February 2019.	Complete: Discussions regarding this request ongoing with the Province.
63	Outdoor Recreation	As opportunities arise, coordinate with Provincial and Federal governments and conservation groups to establish a nature park network.	Guidance	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal 'Quickstart' funding was acquired, which helped with municipal land acquisitions at the end of 2018 to support the establishment of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Wilderness Park. A further funding application under the Federal 'Challenge' fund to help with additional land acquisitions has been submitted. In partnership with the NCC, the municipality acquired 379 acres of lands to establish the Shaw Wilderness Park in the Williams Lake area as part of the Purcells Cove Backlands. 	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 26 of HalifACT. Contributed \$750,000 to assist the NS Nature Trust in their purchase of lands in between two provincial Wilderness Areas.
65	Outdoor Recreation	For other future Nature Parks and other open spaces that are already largely in public ownership, continue to work with the Province and other stakeholders respecting their delineation of boundaries, planning and programming.	Guidance	Guidance in use: Staff continue to engage with provincial staff and stakeholders concerning the planning and programming of Nature Parks.	Guidance in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Action 23 of HalifACT. Staff continue to engage with provincial staff and stakeholders concerning the planning and programming of Nature Parks.
68	Outdoor Recreation	In conjunction with any Provincial initiative consider open space and parkland opportunities in the Wrights Lake area as they arise.	Guidance	Guidance not yet in use: The opportunity to discuss such open space opportunities has not arisen.	Guidance not yet in use: The opportunity to discuss such open space opportunities has not arisen.
72	Cultural Landscapes	Engage with the Province as they update the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> to include policies on the registration of cultural landscapes.	2-4 Years	In progress: The province continues to engage with First Nations and Stakeholders on potential amendments to the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> , and the creation of regulations for the designation of Cultural Landscapes. HRM Staff continue to correspond with their provincial counterparts in anticipation of these legislative changes.	In progress: The province continues to engage with First Nations and Stakeholders on potential amendments to the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> , and the creation of regulations for the designation of Cultural Landscapes. HRM Staff continue to correspond with their provincial counterparts in anticipation of these legislative changes.

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77	Cultural Landscapes	Work with the Province to update the accuracy and use of the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map contained in the <i>Regional Plan</i> .	4-7 Years	In progress: Staff have met with provincial staff from the Nova Scotia Special Places program to guide updates to the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map, and to coordinate the protection of important archaeological sites in the region. More specific direction will be included in the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan and implemented as part of the upcoming Regional Plan review.	In progress: Staff continue to engage with provincial staff to determine the appropriate approach to the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map to be finalized through the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (now known as Sharing Our Stories). Sharing Our Stories is targeted to be presented to Regional Council in 2021.
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