



Municipality of the District of West Hants

Parks and Open Space Plan: Appendices



Avondale Wharf and Waterfront

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Appendix 6 Cover: Municipality of the District of West Hants Staff, 2016.

Appendix 1: Decision-Making Toolkit

and Suitability Framework



Municipality of the District of West Hants
Parks and Open Space Plan

St. Croix Recreation Site

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i. Introduction

Acquisition to Meet Needs and Protect Resources

This Decision Making Toolkit was developed to be used by Municipal staff. The Toolkit will guide decisions about the West Hants Parks and Open Space network to ensure decisions about parkland acquisition, divestment and development meet the needs of citizens and protect unique natural and cultural resources. Users will be able to evaluate and prioritize lands for acquisition based on four standard issues: useability, suitability, budget and urgency.

Priority land is that which provides a solution to all of the four issues. This is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

This planning toolkit includes information about acquisition methods, an acquisition flowchart, the definition of useable land, a suitability framework of park and open space criteria, opportunities for park and open space funding, scenarios outlining urgency of acquisition, and land divestment scenarios.



Figure 1: Acquisition Priority. All lands considered for acquisition must meet the basic criteria of usability and suitability, but budget and urgency will influence priority.

ii. Process to Identify Priority Lands

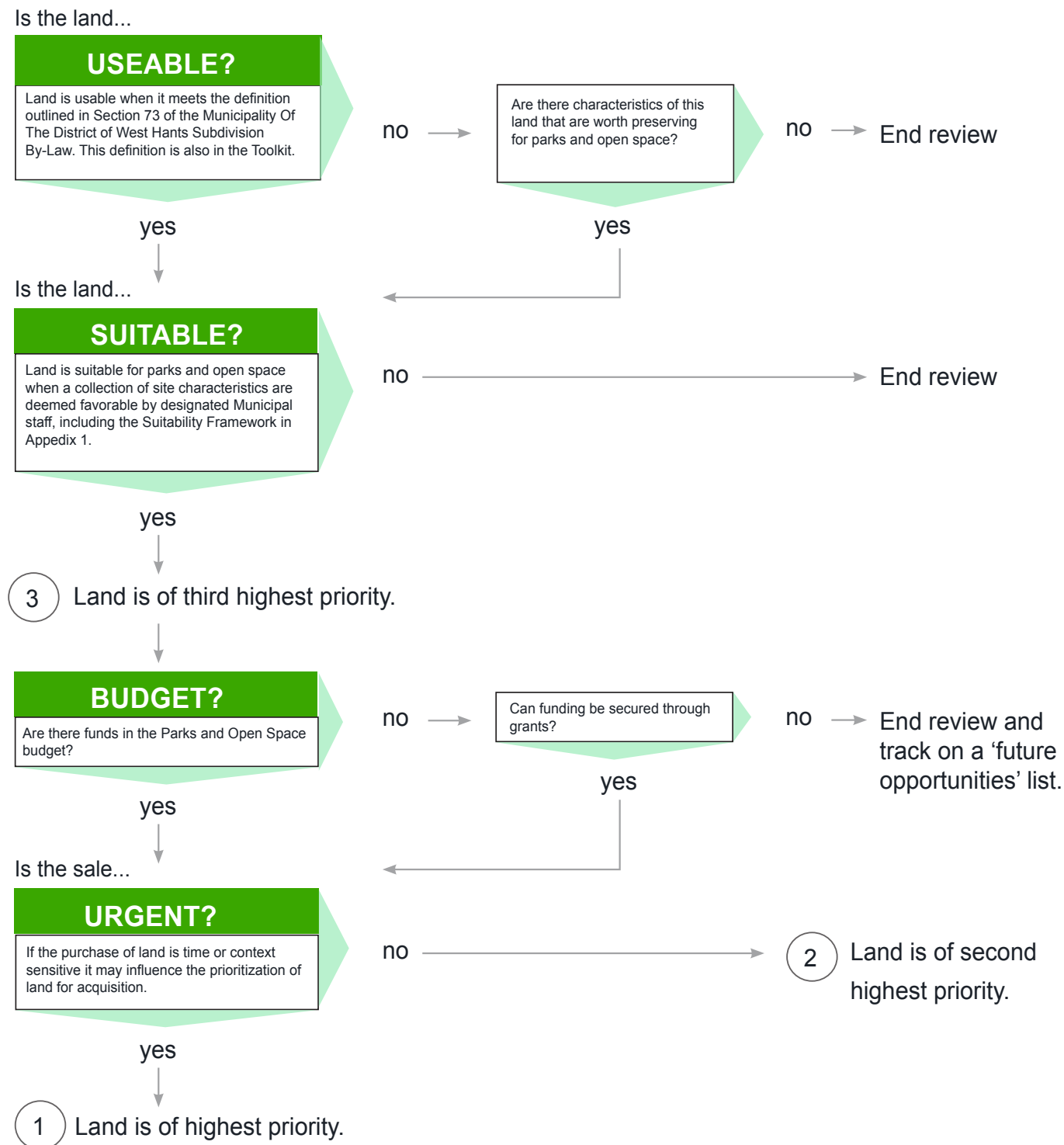


Figure 2: Acquisition Priority Flowchart.

iii. Useable Land: Definition

Useable Land

The definition of useable land differs from the suitability of land in that it describes detailed physical land characteristics that must be considered before acquiring land for parks and open space use. The definition of useable land (May 2016) in the West Hants Subdivision By-Law is:

73. (a) For the purposes of Sections 71 and 72, useable land shall be defined as land that:

- (i) has an average slope over the entire parcel of not more than fifteen percent (15%), provided that any part of the parcel with a slope of fifteen percent (15%) or more shall not exceed one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the area of the entire parcel;
- (ii) consists of a parcel having an area of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acre or more;
- (iii) is serviced by central water and sewer systems, or is capable of supporting an on-site sewage disposal system, unless the parcel is intended for recreational purposes, such as linear walking or hiking trails, which do not require an on-site sewage disposal system or services;
- (iv) is not a clearing and grubbing disposal area; (v) is not swampland or subject to flooding;
- (vi) is not an electrical transmission corridor; and
- (vii) where applicable, is able to meet the requirements for lot area and lot frontage contained in the Land Use By-law.

(b) The criteria in subsection 73(a) may be waived if the land to be transferred is considered unique by the Development Officer in that the parcel is:

- (i) land suitable for preservation as an interpretive natural reserve area based on the opinion of a qualified professional;
- (ii) land of significant historical or archeological value to the Municipality;
- (iii) land adjacent to parkland or open space owned by the Municipality;
- (iv) land deemed by the Recreation Director for the Municipality to be required for recreational purposes; or
- (v) land located in the Water Supply (W) zone.

(c) Any land to be conveyed to the Municipality other than that meeting the requirements of subsection 73(b) shall abut a public road or private road. Land to be conveyed to the Municipality pursuant to the requirements of subsection 73(b) shall be accessible by a public street or private road or by a public easement a minimum of 15.24 metres (50 feet) in width and providing a connection to a public road.

iv. Suitability Framework

Suitability Process

This 'Suitability Framework' contains criteria that can help determine what land parcels are suitable, and not-suitable, for parks and open space use. Many criteria are based in community values.¹ Best practice precedents, Municipal goals and sustainable environmental practices also form suitability criteria.

Municipal staff will use this Suitability Framework to determine whether a specific land parcel is suitable for acquisition. Ideally, these staff members would be representatives from Public Works, Recreation, and Planning, among others, who can best comment on the parks and open space criteria highlighted.

The Suitability Framework is divided into five sections:

- Guiding Principles (same Principles throughout the Parks and Open Space Plan)
- Criteria
- Available Score
- Maximum Score
- Total Score

Lands being considered for acquisition are evaluated and scored based on land characteristics matching those outlined in the Suitability Framework. Each piece of land will have a total score that will fall into the categories of low, medium, and high suitability.

¹ Values are the qualities and characteristics of parks and open space that people appreciate. Values in this plan were identified during public and stakeholder engagement sessions.

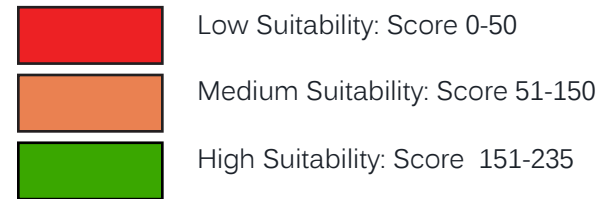


Figure 3: Traffic Light System for Land Suitability.

In addition to suitability scores, a piece of land might be considered for acquisition if it possesses outstanding ecological or cultural merit.

For example, 'Land A' is considered low priority because of its score of only 45, but it is considered to be an environmentally sensitive area that supports wildlife habitat. These qualities might warrant acquisition, if determined to be important by Municipal staff.

iv. Suitability Framework

Table 1: Suitability Framework

| Guiding Principles | Criteria | Available Score | Maximum Score | Applied Score |
|---|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Prioritize environmental protection | Environmental protection must be considered a priority in order to ensure sensitive lands, waters, and wildlife habitat are not unduly harmed by human recreation. | 20 | | |
| | Significant ecological area. | 15 | | |
| | Special natural area/ geologically significant. | 10 | 50 | |
| | Potential or need for restoration. | 5 | | |
| | Adjacent to other ecological areas. | 0 | | |
| Plan green infrastructure to adapt to climate change | Green infrastructure includes the planted and natural greenspaces within the Municipality that are used to ensure the health and safety of citizens and to adapt to a changing climate. | 15 | | |
| | Green infrastructure includes parks and open space, stormwater infiltration and street trees. Parks and open space will become increasingly important to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. These mitigative actions include carbon sequestration, stormwater capture, flood mitigation and shoreline stabilization. | 10 | 30 | |
| | Potential to intercept stormwater. | 5 | | |
| | Potential to buffer against negative effects of climate change in vulnerable areas. | 0 | | |

iv. Suitability Framework

Table 1 (continued): Suitability Framework

| Guiding Principles | Criteria | Available Score | Maximum Score | Applied Score |
|---|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Plan spaces for all ages and abilities | | | | |
| A healthy population is an active population. In West Hants, parks and open space should cater to a range of ages and abilities. Opportunities for recreation should build on already existing amenities (e.g., water and trail access for fishing, ATV'ing, biking, walking). Opportunities for passive recreation (e.g. sitting, viewing, picnicking, gathering) are valuable for personal and mental well-being and should be made accessible. | Supports or has the potential for recreational activity. | 20 | | |
| | Land is accessible to people with limited mobility. | 15 | | |
| | Land exhibits natural beauty (e.g. views, scenery). | 10 | 55 | |
| | Land supports quiet reflective spaces (i.e. for mental well-being). | 10 | | |
| | Not applicable. | 0 | | |
| Promote Community Identity and History | | | | |
| Important social elements can be promoted in parks and open spaces. Sense of identity is strengthened when the places people feel closely connected to are enhanced. Community stewardship programs play a huge role in providing events, maintenance and park identity. A community development approach is central to this plan, one that sees the community involved in the decision-making process. | Representation of local culture and identity (e.g. historical significance, archeological evidence). | 15 | | |
| | Satisfies cultural and local practices (e.g. fishing, gardening, farming, harvesting, foraging). | 10 | | |
| | Potential to support or spur local business growth. | 5 | 30 | |
| | Not applicable. | 0 | | |
| West Hants has a rich history of settlement, landscape use, agricultural production, and resource extraction. There are many park and open space uses that can foster this history and be used to educate citizens and visitors (e.g. Mi'kmaq and Acadian land works and settlements, resource production and harvesting, among others). | | 0 | | |

iv. Suitability Framework

Table 1 (continued): Suitability Framework

| Guiding Principles | Criteria | Available Score | Maximum Score | Applied Score |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Link communities to parks and open space | | | | |
| A parks and open space network relies on connections to fully satisfy social and environmental values held by the public and the municipality. Connections for people (e.g. trail system, beach access/network) and nature (e.g. wildlife corridors, plant biodiversity corridors) are considered during parks and open space management. | Satisfies a parks and open space need in an underserved area (see Gap Analysis in section 4.3). | 20 | | |
| | Provides expansion of current park or open space. | 15 | 55 | |
| | Supports the connection of existing trails. | 10 | | |
| | Enables access to water. | 10 | | |
| | Not applicable. | 0 | | |
| Evaluate and update plans over time | | | | |
| Parks and open space objectives and outcomes should be regularly evaluated in order to meet modern needs. Regular review of standardized evaluation, management and design guides, such as the Decision-Making Toolkit and Municipal regulations, is essential to being adaptive. | Potential to be modified to suit the needs of changing demographics. | 15 | | |
| | Identified in other municipal management documents as land to acquire. | 10 | 15 | |
| | Not applicable. | 0 | | |
| Comments & Actions | | | | |

- Low Suitability: Score 0-50
- Medium Suitability: Score 51-150
- High Suitability: Score 151-235

v. Budget: Funding Opportunities

Table 2: Parks and Open Space Funding Opportunities for Management (e.g. acquisition, maintenance, development).

| Funding Source | Amount | Description | Submission Requirements | Deadline | More Information |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Subdivision By-law Provision (Cash-in-lieu) | Annually generates approx. \$25,000.00 | At the discretion of the developer, required parks and open space contribution may come in the form of cash, equivalent to five percent (5%) of the market value of the land being subdivided, exclusive of streets, easements, and the residue of the land. | - | - | http://www.westhants.ca/subdivision.html |
| Donations | varies | Donations in the form of money that feed directly into a Parks and Open Space Management Fund. | - | - | |
| Fundraising | varies | Financial campaign to raise money for park and open space management (e.g. acquisition, maintenance, development). | - | - | |
| Business or corporations | varies | Advertising, sampling, and dedicated sponsorship for special events are only a few of the ways companies can receive exposure for their companies while funding open spaces. | - | - | |
| Municipal tax revenue | varies | Redistribution of tax revenue to increase parks and open space budget. | - | - | |
| Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund | varies | Predictable, long-term, stable funding for Canadian municipalities to help them build and revitalize their local public infrastructure while creating jobs and long term prosperity. | - | - | http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html |
| Debt financing | varies | Long-term or short-term debt financing can allow the Municipality to fund desirable open space acquisition and development. A loan authorization bylaw may be required and the terms must be considered by the Municipality. Consideration must be given, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the length of the loan period (when considering the life expectancy of the service) • the amount of borrowing permitted (e.g. on a per capita or annual basis). • the term of repayment | - | - | |
| Road Right-of-way dedication | varies | Easements on behalf of the Municipality, or dedication of road right of way land fee simple to the Municipality may be obtained and developed for active transportation and recreational use. | - | - | |
| Grants | | | | | |
| Environment Canada Eco-Gift Program | varies | Under this program donors receive a tax 'write-off' for the use of their lands. This may be in the form of a fee simple transaction or a conservation easement, covenant or servitude. | Apply online: http://www.ec.gc.ca/pde-egp/default.asp?lang=En&n=23F53F80-1 | Applications received throughout the year | http://www.ec.gc.ca/pde-egp/ |
| MEC | \$10,000 - \$100,000 | MEC has funds available to acquire land that is: Important for ecological significance and/or outdoor activity use; Outdoor activities must focus on one or more of the following core activities MEC supports: cycling, hiking, running, climbing, paddling, yoga, skiing, and snowshoeing; Shows the urgency of the acquisition is evident; Has a strategy in place for public engagement and/or education about the protection effort; Has demonstrated broad-based community or stakeholder support; Has investigated other sources of funding. | Complete the online application: http://www.mec.ca/AST/ContentPrimary/Community/CommunityContributions/ApplyForSupport.jsp | March and September | http://www.mec.ca/AST/ContentPrimary/Community/CommunityContributions/LandAcquisition.jsp |

v. Budget: Funding Opportunities

Table 2: Parks and Open Space Funding Opportunities for Management (e.g. acquisition, maintenance, development).

| Funding Source | Amount | Description | Submission Requirements | Deadline | More Information |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Tree Canada Edible Trees Program | up to \$4000.00 | For community-based projects that provide citizens with access to fresh fruit and nut trees while making a positive difference to the Canadian environment | Submit your application via email to info@treecanada.ca | February | https://treecanada.ca/en/programs/edible-trees/application/ |
| Go Wild Community Grants | \$1,000 to \$10,000 | To support creative ideas from Canadians on how to protect, restore, monitor, educate, and celebrate nature. | Submit your application via email to gowild@wwfcanada.org | December | http://www.wwf.ca/takeaction/gowild/ |
| Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program | Funding to a maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs. Preference given to projects requiring 1/3 funding from the program. | The Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150) supports projects that rehabilitate existing community facilities across Canada. The program is part of the Government of Canada's celebration of our country's 150th anniversary of Confederation. The program will be in effect until March 31, 2018. Projects must fall under one of the eligible project categories (including parks and recreation trails). | Contact your nearest ACOA office to discuss your project: Hants/Kings Office 80 Water Street, Suite 2 Windsor, NS B0N 2T0 | The program will be in effect until March 31, 2018. | http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/eng/lmLookingFor/ProgramInformation/Pages/Canada-150-Infrastructure-Program.aspx |
| Atlantic Lottery | | *Community Festivals and Events: Think local festivals or events featuring food, entertainment and family fun. Community celebrations let us experience all that is uniquely Atlantic Canadian. | Submissions for large events should be in to us 9-12 months in advance, and 4-6 months for small and medium sized events. The evaluating process usually takes about 6 to 8 weeks. | March for Summer events | http://corp.alc.ca/Programs.aspx?id=10065 |
| AVIVA | varies | If you're involved with a charity or community organization that's making a local difference, then we want you to submit an idea. Secure enough votes from friends, family and supporters, and your idea could make it to the Finals, where a judging panel will select the Grand Prize Winners to share \$1 million in funding. | Complete the online idea submission form https://media.avivacommunityfund.org/files/ideasubmissionguide.en.pdf and submit at avivacommunityfund.org | September to October | https://www.avivacommunityfund.org/about-the-competition |
| Canada Post | up to \$50,000 | Applications from registered charities, school programs or community organizations are invited for funding of projects consistent with the Foundation's objective to provide support for initiatives that benefit children. | Submit an online application: https://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/aboutus/cpfoundation/grants.jsf | March, closing in April | https://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/aboutus/cpfoundation/grants.jsf |
| RBC Blue Water Project: RBC Community Action Grants | \$1,000 to \$10,000 | Awarded to local or community-based organizations in Canada, the United States or the Caribbean. We have established an application deadline for Community Action Grants, rather than accepting applications year round. This will allow us to review all applications in a fair and consistent manner. | Submit an online application: http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/blue-water-project.html | February | http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/blue-water-project.html |
| RBC Blue Water Project: RBC Leadership Grants | \$10,001 to \$100,000 | Awarded to organizations that are leaders in providing programs in North America and other countries where RBC does business. | Interested organizations must submit an Expression of Interest: http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/blue-water-project.html | Annually | http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/blue-water-project.html |

v. Budget: Funding Opportunities

Table 2: Parks and Open Space Funding Opportunities for Management (e.g. acquisition, maintenance, development).

| Funding Source | Amount | Description | Submission Requirements | Deadline | More Information |
|--|------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|
| RBC Learn to Play Community Action Grants and RBC Learn to Skate Program | \$1,000 to \$10,000 | Awarded to local organizations that teach new skills or sports to kids, and/or expose them to a multiple sports or multiple skills such as swimming or skating lessons. Programs eligible for funding include those that: Provide instruction/learning of a new skill or sport that the child/youth would otherwise not have an opportunity to experience; and/or Emphasize and expose children/youth to a multi-sport or multi-skill participation experience; and/or Implement a new approach/delivery to sport and physical activity through the creation of programs recommended by Canadian Sport for Life | Submit an online application: http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/learn-to-play.html | 2016 deadline to be announced | http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/learn-to-play.html |
| The RBC–Evergreen Watershed Champions Award | \$2,500-\$3,500 | The RBC–Evergreen Watershed Champions Award recognizes classes that demonstrate learning about their local watershed and who take action to care for it. | Complete an online application: https://evergreen.submittable.com/submit/39290 | April | http://www.evergreen.ca/our-impact/children/outdoor-learning-play/watershed-champions/award/ |
| RBC Learn to Play Leadership Grants | \$10,001 to \$25,000 | Awarded to community groups that are developing or implementing action plans to transform the way sport and physical activities are planned and delivered, such as programs that makes sports available for new immigrant youth. Communities are defined as municipalities and/or a group of organizations that come together for a common purpose and share mutual objectives. Proposals that facilitate collaboration between sport, education, recreation and health sectors and align programming within the community are encouraged. | Submit an online application: http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/learn-to-play.html | 2016 deadline to be announced | http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/guidelines-and-eligibility/learn-to-play.html |
| TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Leadership Grant | up to \$5,000 | TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) recognizes that investing in talent and leadership development is integral to capacity building of small to medium-sized organizations. The TD FEF Leadership Grant program aims to enhance the organizational capacity of environmental charities by providing funding for both formal and informal training and development opportunities for leaders within these organizations. TD FEF's Leadership Grants will allow charities to move beyond day-to-day activities and build stronger, more vibrant organizations. | Submit an online application: https://fef.td.com/funding/leadership-grant/ | February and July | https://fef.td.com/funding/leadership-grant/ |
| TD Friends of the Environment Foundation | based on project costs | The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education, urban greening and enhancing biodiversity, and energy conservation. | Submit an online application: https://fef.td.com/funding/leadership-grant/ | February and July | https://fef.td.com/funding/leadership-grant/ |

*Funding deadlines and contact information is subject to change on an annual basis.

v. Budget: Funding Opportunities

Table 2: Parks and Open Space Funding Opportunities for Management (e.g. acquisition, maintenance, development).

| Funding Source | Amount | Description | Submission Requirements | Deadline | More Information |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds School Ground Greening Grants | up to \$3,500 | The Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds program helps schools create outdoor classrooms to provide students with a healthy place to play, learn and develop a genuine respect for nature. Since the program began in 2000, it has provided funds to over 3,000 schools from coast to coast, providing countless opportunities for students to engage with nature on their school grounds. | Schools in NS must arrange a design consultation site visit with an Evergreen School Ground Consultant prior to submitting an application: http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/school-ground-grants/ | September, December and March | http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/school-ground-grants/ |
| Province of Nova Scotia Funding | | | | | |
| West Hants/Uniacke Community Health Board | up to \$3000 | The Wellness Fund enables community organizations to programs, events, or to purchase equipment and supplies in pursuit of a healthy community. The Municipality can encourage groups to apply for this funding. Potential projects outlined in the Community Health Plan (http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/cobequid-community-health-board/news/community-health-plan). | Contact funding coordinator, Andrea Parker: andrea.parker@nshealth.ca | November 1 | http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/west-hantsuniacke-community-health-board/wellness-funds-formerly-community-development-funds |
| One-time Emerging Culture and Heritage Initiatives Program | up to \$10,000 | The One-Time Emerging Culture and Heritage Initiatives Program is designed for organizations that primarily focus on cultural and heritage development. This program is also available to organizations partnering with specific culture and heritage interests provided they are working to build capacity or foster innovation within Nova Scotia's culture community or that they are working in support of cultural development within diverse communities. | Contact Craig Beaton, Director, Programs Phone: (902) 424-8443 E-mail: Craig.Beaton@novascotia.ca | April | https://cch.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/documents/s4conetime-guidelines-201503pdf.pdf |
| OHV Infrastructure Fund - Trails | 50% of the total project cost, usually not to exceed \$50,000 in one fiscal year. | Goals of the OHV Infrastructure Fund (Trails) are: to provide funding for OHV trail and riding area development; to support the planning and design associated with these facilities; to provide funding to help maintain OHV accessible infrastructure. | Complete online application and send to Krista Brewer-Mackenzie PO Box 194, Lakeside, NS, B3T 1M6. | November Emergency funding available on an ongoing basis. | http://novascotia.ca/natr/ohv/fund.asp |
| Community Recreation Capital Grant Program (CRCG) | up to \$5,000 | This program assists in the development of small scale indoor and outdoor capital recreation projects, less than \$20,000. A priority of the Department of Health and Wellness is to conserve existing community recreation facilities (e.g. replacing a roof, furnace or playground component) and to develop new small-scale facilities. CRCG program funding must be used for: public, community recreation purposes; items of a permanent, non-consumable, capital nature; and projects where the need for financial assistance is demonstrated. | Contact Valley Region Representative: Mike. Trinacty@Novascotia.ca , 1-902-697-4391 | Applications received by regional representative throughout the year | http://novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/documents/Grant-Programs-Overview-(PASR).pdf |

v. Budget: Funding Opportunities

Table 2: Park and Open Space Funding Opportunities for Management (e.g. acquisition, maintenance, development).

| Funding Source | Amount | Description | Submission Requirements | Deadline | More Information |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Trail Maintenance Program | Projects that fall under the regular maintenance and aging infrastructure components will be eligible for up to 50% of the total cost of the project to a maximum of \$1,000 annually | Provides funding to community trail groups who are involved in regular and on-going maintenance on their trails, as well as emergency funding for major maintenance issues due to fire, flooding, hurricanes, etc. | Applications should be submitted to: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness Trails Consultant PO Box 488 Halifax NS B3J 2R8 | Applications received by regional representative throughout the year | http://novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/documents/Trail-Maintenance-Program.pdf |
| Community Trails Leadership Fund | Applicants are expected to contribute at least fifty per cent (50%) of the overall cost of the initiative, inclusive of contributions obtained from other sources (financial and in-kind). | Supports trail development in Nova Scotia through the provision of funds for leadership, organizational development, and capacity building to community trail groups. The fund helps organizations to offer training and educational opportunities for volunteers and the trail professionals who support them. It also helps the organizations acquire the expertise needed for specific aspects of trail projects. | Contact Valley Region Representative: Mike. Trinacty@Novascotia.ca , 1-902-697-4391 | Applications received by regional representative throughout the year | http://novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/documents/Community-Leadership-Guidelines.pdf |
| Engineering Assistance Grant Program | The contribution level depends on need and the ability of the applicant to contribute. | Designed to provide trail builders and managers with funding to help them hire engineering expertise when it is required. This could include the building of bridges or other large structures or components that require expertise to ensure they are safe and pose no risk to the environment. | Contact Valley Region Representative: Mike. Trinacty@Novascotia.ca , 1-902-697-4391 | Applications received by regional representative throughout the year | http://novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/documents/Engineering-Assistance-Grant-Guidelines.pdf |
| Recreational Facility Development (RFD) | Up to one-third of the total capital cost to a max. of \$150,000. | Facilities may include: community centres and halls, pools, arenas, athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, trails and enhanced schools for community use and other facilities that promote sport and physical recreation. | Contact the regional office in your area. | 2016-17 apps are due May 2, 2016. | www.novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/grants-and-incentives.asp |
| Regional Development Grant (RDG) and Other Provincial Grants | Contact the regional office in your area. | Regional Development Grant (RDG) is designed to partner with regional, community, local or municipal organizations involved in physical activity, sport or recreation to increase people's participation in sport. | Contact the regional office in your area. | Contact the regional office in your area. | www.novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/grants-and-incentives.asp |
| Planning Assistance Grant and Other Provincial Grants | Contact the regional office in your area. | The Planning Assistance Program assists community organizations and municipalities in obtaining professional assistance in planning, designing and researching proposed and existing sport and physical recreation facilities. | Contact the regional office in your area. | Throughout the year. | www.novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/grants-and-incentives.asp |

vi. Urgency: Priority Requests

Occasionally, lands may become available for purchase which require swift action due to time sensitivities. Other factors may also be present, such as the protection of sensitive environments or seizing a unique opportunity. Examples of urgencies include and are not limited to:

1. Limited Window of Opportunity to Purchase

Example: A private landowner offers their land to the Municipality for purchase stating they would like the Municipality to use it for park use. Otherwise, the landowner will sell on the private market.

2. Opportunity to Purchase with another Organization

Example: There may be a parcel of land available for purchase identified as important by other levels of government or other organizations. Here, the swift establishment of cost sharing may be necessary.

3. Offer of 'First Right of Refusal' on Land Available for Sale

Example: The Province of Nova Scotia has unused road right-of-way or other lands potentially useful to the Municipality and offers 'First Right of Refusal' on lands they are divesting.



Upper Burlington Planters Trail

vii. Acquisition Methods

The Municipality has a number of methods to acquire new lands for parks and open space. Most land acquisitions in West Hants will be subject to Policy Council-01-006 *Acquisition of Real Property*.² It is important to note that the Municipality does not zone private lands for parks and open space use. Some acquisition methods include, but are not limited to:

1. Donations of land

Land may be donated to the Municipality from private landowners or other government owners as long as the Municipality is considered a 'donee' by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA). The donation of real property may be subject to specific requirements of the Policy Council-01-006 *Acquisition of Real Property*.

Ecologically sensitive land may be donated through Environment Canada's 'Eco-Gift' Program (described in detail Part v. above).

2. A 'right of first refusal' or a 'first option to purchase'

A Municipality may request a 'first option' on lands strategically positioned to enhance the park and open space network. This option is conditional and contingent upon the owner's will or desire to sell.

3. Easement and/or maintenance agreement

The Municipality may request the use of Provincial, Federal, or private lands for parks or open space use through an easement or maintenance agreement. This method may transfer liability to the Municipality. In the case of Private lands see the Eco-Gift option.

4. Offer to purchase lands

Municipalities may approach or accept invitations from private landholders for the acquisition of desired open space lands using the 'willing seller, willing buyer' method.

5. Subdivision By-Law

During the creation of a subdivision of more than three lots, the Municipality currently receives land in the amount equal to 5 percent of the lots to be created, or cash-in-lieu equal to the market value of such land.

6. Land Swap

The exchange or swap of lands is a non-purchase scenario for acquiring lands in priority areas. Land swaps are common with large landholders like the Provincial and Federal governments, but can also be accommodated with other private landholders.

7. Municipal Planning Strategy

The Municipality may have policy requirements for the amount of land that must be useable for parks and open space, such as through a Development Agreement. For example, a multi-family development or development of mobile home parks.

viii. Divestment

There may be scenarios where the divestment of land is the best management option, primarily:

1. Location

There are Municipally-owned lands in the current parks and open space network that are found in areas of low population density. In addition to density, some parcels are far from main roads or are outside of well-travelled areas. Due to the remote nature, these lands see few park users, especially if they are unmanaged lots. Isolated lots may also become areas for illegal dumping and vandalism.

2. Competing Uses

In some communities, there are a number of neighbouring municipal parcels offering the same amenities or recreation opportunities. Having non-complementary parcels of land together may not be useful as a network. Here, divestment makes sense to concentrate resources into fewer parcels.

3. Useability

Subdivision development of previous decades may have resulted in land under Municipal ownership that does not meet the current definition of usable land or areas that might be considered hazardous.

4. Frequency of Use

Monitoring park use can help to decide if a piece of land is worth retaining. Under-used spaces can be a drain on resources and unsafe if there is not frequent traffic.

5. Cost of Maintenance

Divestment might be the best option when the cost of maintenance outweighs community benefit, or if redevelopment costs to make a piece of land suitable or useable are beyond the parks and open space budget.

6. Interest from Non-Profit Groups

With a well-developed business plan, non-profit groups may purchase land from the Municipality.

Broadly speaking, the divestment of Municipal property can positively influence the parks and open space network. Revenue may be used to purchase new lands suitable for parks and open space or to fund management projects; lands may be leased, sold, or transitioned to community groups; lands may be swapped for more desirable spaces.

² http://www.westhants.ca/component/com_docman/itemid,456/dir,DESC/gid,109/limit,100/limitstart,0/order,name/task,cat_view/

Appendix 3: Detailed Population Information



Municipality of the District of West Hants
Parks and Open Space Plan

Hobarts Beach

Table A3.1: 2011 Statistics Canada Census Summary for West Hants and Hantsport

| | West Hants | Hantsport | Nova Scotia |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Population and Migration | | | |
| 2011 Population | 14,165 | 1,159 | 921,727 |
| Population under 20 years (2011) | 3,230 | 245 | 195,660 |
| ...as a percent of total population | 23% | 21% | 21.2% |
| Population over 65 years (2011) | 2,255 | 275 | 153,370 |
| ...as a percent of total population | 16% | 24% | 16.6% |
| Population Growth, 2006-2011 | 2.1% | -2.7% | 0.9% |
| Total Census Families, 2011 | 4,535 | 365 | 270,065 |
| Couple Families with Children, 2011 | 1,740 | 135 | 223,330 |
| Lone Parent Families, 2011 | 590 | 55 | 46,730 |
| Immigration, % of Total, 2011 | 2.8% | 3% | 5.3% |
| Mobility (past 5 years), 2011 | 26% | 25% | 31.9% |
| Moved within Municipality | 11% | 3% | 18.2% |
| Moved from other municipality within NS | 10% | 18% | 6.0% |
| Moved from other province | 4% | 4% | 5.7% |
| Moved from outside Canada | 1% | 0% | 1.9% |
| Income, 2010 | | | |
| Median after-tax income (\$) for individuals with income | \$ 25,406 | \$ 29,134 | \$ 25,178 |
| Median after-tax household income (\$), 2010 | \$ 50,887 | \$ 44,383 | \$ 47,495 |
| Unemployment Rate, 2011 | 9.6% | 9.4% | 10.0% |
| Low Income Households, 2010 | 16.0% | 11.3% | 17.4% |
| Low Income less than 18 years, 2010 | 17.2% | 11.6% | 20.9% |
| Low Income 65 years and over, 2010 | 19.0% | 12.9% | 18.0% |
| *Based on after-tax low-income measure (LIM-AT) | | | |
| Transportation (commuting) of working adults | | | |
| Car, truck or van - as a driver | 88.7% | 82.6% | 76.7% |
| Car, truck or van - as a passenger | 6.7% | 0.0% | 7.9% |
| Public transit | 0.9% | 0.0% | 6.6% |
| Walked | 2.4% | 12.8% | 6.8% |
| Bicycle | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% |
| Other | 1.1% | 0.0% | 1.3% |

Table A3.2: Age Group as % of Total Population for West Hants and Hantsport (combined), 2001-2011

| | 2001 | | 2006 | | 2011 | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total Reporting | 14,980 | 100% | 15,075 | 100% | 15,325 | 100% |
| By Selected Age Groups | | | | | | |
| Preschool Age (< 5 yrs) | 765 | 5% | 720 | 5% | 795 | 5% |
| Elementary (5-19 yrs) | 3,070 | 20% | 2,905 | 19% | 2,680 | 17% |
| Labour Force Ages | | | | | | |
| 20-24 yrs | 695 | 5% | 655 | 4% | 710 | 5% |
| 25-44 yrs | 4,335 | 29% | 3,990 | 26% | 3,540 | 23% |
| 45-64 yrs | 4,055 | 27% | 4,570 | 30% | 5,065 | 33% |
| Seniors | | | | | | |
| 65-74 yrs | 1,175 | 8% | 1,290 | 9% | 1,565 | 10% |
| 75+ yrs | 875 | 6% | 945 | 6% | 965 | 6% |

Table A3.3: % Change in Population by Age Group for West Hants and Hantsport (combined), 2001-11

| | % Change 2001-2011 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| | MDWH | NS |
| All Age Groups | 2.3% | 1.5% |
| By Selected Age Groups | | |
| Preschool Age (< 5 yrs) | 4% | -7% |
| Elementary (5-19 yrs) | -13% | -15% |
| Labour Force Ages | | |
| 20-24 yrs | 2% | 6% |
| 25-44 yrs | -18% | -17% |
| 45-64 yrs | 25% | 26% |
| Seniors | | |
| 65-74 yrs | 33% | 28% |
| 75+ yrs | 10% | 14% |

Appendix 4: Detailed Best Practice Review

Examples of manageable precedents for use in West Hants can be found in other jurisdictions in Atlantic Canada. A review of approximately 15 municipalities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Newfoundland have resulted in four comparable municipalities: the Municipalities of East Hants, Colchester County, District of Lunenburg and District of Digby. Qualifiers for comparable municipalities were: land area, population and population density, among those municipalities that have a formal or official open space management policy. Except for the District of Digby, the comparable municipalities share a similar population density (persons per area) as found in West Hants. This is important to note as population density may influence the proportion of open space area per person and similarly, funding available to execute an open space strategy.



**Municipality of the District of West Hants
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Old Brooklyn Road

Appendix 4: Detailed Best Practice Review

| Place | Province | Population | Area (km ²) | Pop/ km ² | Policy Document | Park Types | Policies of Interest | Subdivision Dedication | Definition of Usable Land | Parkland Management Fund | Parks Budget |
|--|----------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| West Hants (Municipal District) | NS | 14,500 | 1,238 | 11.7 | West Hants Municipal Planning Strategy | N/A | Section 13.2 | Land dedicated upon subdivision is currently 5% of the land or the equivalent market value of 5% of the land in cash to the Municipality. A combination of land and cash is also permitted, as well as a transfer of land that is not a part of the proposed subdivision. | Generally, useable land is defined as land that: (i) average slope not more than 15%, no part of the parcel with a slope of 15% or more shall exceed 25% of the area of the entire parcel; (ii) consists of a parcel having an area of 1/2 acre or more; However these criteria may be waived for open space uses if so determined by the Recreation Director or Development Officer for various defined activities. | N/A | TBC |
| East Hants (Municipal District) | Central NS | 22,111 | 1,786 | 12.4 | East Hants Municipal Planning Strategy | Regional Community Neighbourhood Urban Greenspace Conservation Areas Heritage Spaces | 1. The extensive definition of usable land in the Subdivision By-Law includes a requirement for lands dedicated for open space to be capable of supporting active recreation, passive recreation and conservation uses, as determined by the Municipality. 2. The Municipality actively acquires lands in sensitive areas. | 10% of land designated for open space in serviced areas, 5% of land designated for non-serviced areas. | Fine grained example; see East Hants Subdivision By-Law Section 13: Public Open Space. | Community Park Funding, \$80,000 annual fund for park development. Groups apply for up to 50% of development costs. | Obligatory reserve, approx. \$15,000 annually. |
| Colchester County (County) | Central NS | 50,000 | 3,628 | 13.8 | Municipal Parkland Strategy | Tot Lot Neighbourhood Parks Athletic Parks: Regional and Community Regional Recreation Parks Natural Parks Garden Areas Special Purpose Trail | Due to the population size in rural areas, parkland requirements will figure no parks are required that are smaller than Regional parks that attract people from outside those communities. Neighbourhood parks, community parks, cultural parks, Active Transportation (AT) and trails should be considered in rural areas on a case-by-case basis, to meet the needs of rural communities. | Subdivision By-Law, 5% of land designated for open space or cash in lieu, 2% in rural Colchester areas not supported by the MPS. | Land donated must meet specific criteria (e.g. size, slope, frontage, usage). | Community Trail Funding, \$1million fund (over 5 years) established in 2004. Groups apply for up to 50% of maintenance and development costs. | TBC |
| Digby District (Municipal District) | Western NS | 7,460 | 1,656 | 4.5 | Open Space Strategic Plan | Places for: short repose, day use, everyday active use, sightseeing, organised sport and play, transportation, protected areas, areas of cultural significance. | Parkland Management Fund to be developed, values-based land suitability evaluation system developed. | Subdivision by-law 5% of area of new lots when 20 or more lots are created. | Average slope of 15% or less, provided the portion of land with a slope of 15% or more does not exceed 25% of the land area. Land must have frontage on a road. Is not a swampland or subject to flooding. | \$50,000 | TBC |
| District of Lunenburg (Municipal District) | South Shore NS | 25,120 | 1,760 | 14.3 | Open Space Strategic Plan | Various (not classified) | Considers future activity on various sites in the Municipality, including on private lands. | Cash in the amount of two percent (2%) of the market of all new lots created. | No clear definition. | TBC | TBC |

Appendix 5: Detailed Policy Framework



Municipality of the District of West Hants
Parks and Open Space Plan

A West Hants Beach

| Guiding Principle | Topic | Planning Document | Policy/Regulation | Description |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Place high priority on environmental protection. | Watershed Protection | West Hants MPS | Policy 9.3.2 | Limit the permitted uses in the Water Supply (W) zone to uses such as woods camps, forestry uses excluding processing structures, municipal water treatment and distribution uses, outdoor recreation uses without permanent structures, historic buildings and structures, and agricultural uses excluding dwellings, livestock operations and greenhouse operations. |
| | Watershed Protection | West Hants MPS | Policy 9.3.6 | In the Water Supply (W) zone, it shall be the policy of Council to establish a minimum lot size of 10 acres (4.05 hectares) except for municipal water treatment and distribution uses. |
| | Watercourses | West Hants MPS | Policy 4.21.1 | It shall be the policy of Council to control in the Land Use By-law the development of lands adjacent to watercourses. The purpose of such regulation is to preserve natural habitat and to limit environmental impacts such as siltation. This control shall be accomplished by establishing a minimum separation distance from watercourses. |
| | Watershed Protection | West Hants MPS | Policy 9.3.6 | ...it shall be the policy of Council to establish a minimum water frontage requirement in the Water Supply zone which shall apply to the creation of new lots abutting Mill Lake and Davidson Lake. |
| | Rezoning | West Hants MPS | Policy 5.3.7 | It shall be the policy of Council to consider Zoning land within the Three Mile Plains Growth Centre to R-3 subject to the following: ... (e) adequate open space or recreational space is provided; |
| | Rezoning | West Hants MPS | Policy 8.8.5 | It shall be the policy of Council to consider rezoning land zoned Prime Agriculture (P/Ag) to allow new Rural Residential (R-4) or Open Space (OS) uses subject to the following: (a) the development site has been determined to have little or no agricultural capability in accordance with Policy 8.6.1; (b) adequate separation distances are provided to minimize potential land use conflicts; (c) the proposed use is compatible with adjacent land uses; (d) the proposed use will not adversely affect other farms in the area; and (e) Policy 16.3.1. |
| | Environmentally Sensitive Areas | West Hants MPS | Policies 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.7, 12.1.8, 12.2.1 | Regarding environmental constraints around Dykelands and gypsum formations. |
| | Watersheds, Watercourses | Hantsport MPS | GP-7 | It shall be a policy of Council to establish in the Land Use By-law a setback from a watercourse. |
| | Environmentally Sensitive Areas | Hantsport MPS | Goal 1 | Protect the environmentally sensitive areas of the former Town of Hantsport |
| | Watersheds, Watercourses | Hantsport MPS | Goal 4 | Protect the source of the Town's water supply The following goals also fall under the other pillars of sustainability. |
| Zoning | Hantsport MPS | Policy OS-3 | It shall be a policy of Council to establish a "Conservation Open Space (COS) Zone" and to place the environmentally sensitive areas in this zone. | |
| Future Land Use | Hantsport MPS | Policy OS-1 | It shall be a policy of Council to designate the existing recreational open space and the environmentally sensitive areas as "Open Space" on the Generalized Future Land Use Map. | |
| Park development | West Hants LUB | 34.4(e) | The infilling and alteration of topography of any property in areas shown as Dykeland on Schedule A of this By-law shall not be permitted except as necessary for: construction of sports fields, golf courses, boat launches, trails and other recreational uses which require a limited amount of infilling and alteration of topography, but do not involve buildings. | |
| Hazard: Drought | MCCAP | 4.1.5 Drought Action Items | Create policy to regulate the development of municipal infrastructure and facilities in areas known to be highly susceptible to sinkholes | |

| Guiding Principle | Topic | Planning Document | Policy/Regulation | Description |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| | Hazard: Wildland Fire | MCCAP | 4.2.3 Wildland Fire Action Items | Introduce a fire risk reduction program for municipally owned property (e.g. plant only low fire risk species). |
| | Natural Systems | MCCAP | 8.1 Natural Stresses on Natural Systems | West Hants will remain attentive to sensitive habitats, ecosystems, wildlife and endangered species. |
| | Natural Systems | MCCAP | 8.1 Natural Stresses on Natural Systems | The municipality will assist the Province, however practical and possible, in the protection of Parks, Protected Areas and Sites of Ecological Interest including: |
| | Natural Systems | MCCAP | 8.1 Natural Stresses on Natural Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panuke Lake Nature Reserve: 150.9 ha (373 ac) including 47 ha (116 ac) of old growth eastern hemlock-red spruce forest • St. Croix River International Biological Program Site: mixed forest on karst topography; rare flora including Ram's-head Lady Slipper (species listed as Endangered in the Nova Scotia Species at Risk Act). • Akins Marsh: Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Site, Mount Denson. • Falls Lake Provincial Park: 4.86 ha (12 ac) on Falls Lake, Vaughan. • Smileys Provincial Park: 40.47 ha (100 ac) on Meander River, McKay Section. • Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Project: Highway 215, Cheverie |
| | Hazard: Sinkholes | MCCAP | | Partner with local industry, stakeholders and DNR to acquire mapping of karst terrain to build knowledge about sinkhole susceptibility. |
| | Watersheds, Watercourses | West Hants ICSP | Goal 1 | Protection of watercourses, shorelines, and wetland |
| | Watersheds, Watercourses | West Hants ICSP | Goal 3 | Protect the source of public water supplies |
| 2.. Plan green infrastructure to adapt to climate change. | Hazard: Coastal Erosion | MCCAP | 4.7.3 Coastal Erosion Action Ideas | Request that TIR address erosion at Cheverie causeway. |
| | Hazard: Extreme Heat Events | MCCAP | 4.8.3 Extreme Heat Event Action Ideas | Consider creating a policy addressing the safety of municipally coordinated outdoor recreation events during hot and very hot days, defined as days that are 30°C and 35°C days respectively. |
| | Areas of Increased Risk | MCCAP | (info) | [Maps were created to show a) coastal flooding b) inland flooding c) coastal erosion susceptibility] |
| | Municipal Park Maintenance | MCCAP | 7.3 Climate Change Opportunities & Challenges to Municipal Operations | The maintenance regimes of parks and all municipally maintained outdoor spaces should respect the increase in growing degree days. |
| | Municipal Park Maintenance | MCCAP | 7.3 Climate Change Opportunities & Challenges to Municipal Operations | Landscaping and maintenance choices should also take into consideration increased water deficits and fire risk. |
| | Municipal Park Maintenance | MCCAP | 7.3 Climate Change Opportunities & Challenges to Municipal Operations | Prudent property maintenance should, by design, require little to zero irrigation. |
| | Municipal Park Maintenance | MCCAP | 7.3 Climate Change Opportunities & Challenges to Municipal Operations | To manage fire risk, the location of plantings, stand thinning, and choices about what to plant are all critical. The Alberta Fire Smart program details guidelines for managing fire risk that could easily be employed by West Hants. |

| Guiding Principle | Topic | Planning Document | Policy/Regulation | Description |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| | Municipal Park Maintenance | MCCAP | 7.3 Climate Change Opportunities & Challenges to Municipal Operations | West Hants will strive to maintain natural drainage, material and nutrient flows in the parks maintained by the Municipality, which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Recreation Site • Eldridge Road Recreation Site • Irishmans Road Recreation Site • Halewood Drive (small parcel of parkland) • Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail and Causeway Trail • Armstrong Lake (small parcel of parkland) • Kempt Quarry Recreation Site • Hobarts Beach |
| 3. Plan spaces for all interests and abilities. | Future Land Use | West Hants MPS | Section 3.2 | Provide a variety of community and neighbourhood recreational sites. |
| | Parkland Dedication | West Hants MPS | Policy 5.3.9 (f) re: Manufactured Home Parks | ...a minimum of 10 percent of the total area of the park shall be devoted to parks, playgrounds and other useable recreational space, except that Council may consider reducing the required recreational space by up to five percent when the dimensions of the individual home spaces are substantially larger than the zone standard; |
| | Parkland Dedication | West Hants MPS | Policy 5.4.4 (d) Re: Multi-unit Residential Development | ...regarding Multiple Unit Residential in Falmouth Growth Centre: the gross density of the development shall not exceed 4.5 dwelling units per acre; where the gross density exceeds 3 dwelling units per acre, at least 10 percent of the total area of the property shall be dedicated to the Municipality for parkland or open space purposes; |
| | Parkland Dedication | West Hants MPS | Policy 9.1.11(f) Re: Resort Development | ...regarding Resort Development: a minimum of 25 percent of the property shall be used for parks and open space areas and active recreational facilities, of which at least half shall be allocated for active recreational facilities; |
| | Future Land Use | West Hants MPS | Policy 13.0.1 | ...establish a Community Use designation as shown on the Generalized Future Land Use Map (Map 1) to be applied to existing large-scale institutional, municipal recreation and open space uses. |
| | Zoning | West Hants MPS | Policy 13.2.1 | ...establish an Open Space (OS) zone which applies to parks and other public outdoor recreation uses, cemeteries, historic sites and similar uses. Generally, open space uses do not involve main buildings, but the zone may also be applied to certain institutional uses, such as museums and interpretive centres, which are located on large parcels of land used as parkland. |
| | Zoning | West Hants MPS | Policy 13.2.2 | Zone only public lands for open space purposes. |
| | Future Land Use | West Hants MPS | Policy 13.2.3 | It shall be the policy of Council to permit parks and playgrounds in any zone, provided accessory buildings are small scale, any signage meets the requirements of the zone and all other requirements of the Land Use By-law are met. |
| | Zoning | West Hants MPS | Policy 13.3.1 | ...establish a Recreation Commercial (RecC) zone which shall apply to existing commercial recreation facilities such as ski lodges and facilities, campgrounds, tennis and golf clubs, and similar uses which are open to the general public but are owned by private interests. |
| | Zoning | West Hants MPS | Policy 8.8.5 | ...consider rezoning land zoned Prime Agriculture (P/Ag) to allow new Rural Residential (R-4) or Open Space (OS) uses subject to the following: (a) the development site has been determined to have little or no agricultural capability in accordance with Policy 8.6.1; etc. |
| | Future Land Use | West Hants MPS | Policy 13.0.1 | It shall be the policy of Council to establish a Community Use designation as shown on the Generalized Future Land Use Map (Map 1) to be applied to existing large-scale institutional, municipal recreation and open space uses. |
| | Zoning | Hantsport MPS | Policy OS-2 | It shall be the policy of Council to establish a "Recreational Open Space (ROS) Zone and to place all of the publicly owned recreational areas into this zone. |
| | Develop a park and open space plan | Hantsport MPS | Policy ICSP-18 | It shall be the policy of Council to continue to maintain the parks within the Town and to provide recreational services for all residents. |
| | Future Land Use | Hantsport MPS | Policy GP-1 | It shall be the intention of Council to provide for the overall development of the Town in accordance with the Generalized Future Land Use Map attached as Schedule A of this document. |

| Guiding Principle | Topic | Planning Document | Policy/Regulation | Description |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| | Zoning | West Hants LUB | 33.1 | The following uses shall be permitted in the Open Space (OS) zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries • Historic sites, interpretive centres and museums • Outdoor recreation uses • Parks and playgrounds • Uses, buildings and structures necessary for the prevention of floods, soil erosion and other similar natural occurrences" |
| | Zoning | West Hants LUB | 17.1 | The following uses shall be permitted in the Recreation Commercial (RecC) zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campgrounds • Driving ranges • Golf courses and club houses • Single unit dwellings • Ski lodges and facilities • Tennis courts and club houses |
| | Zoning | West Hants LUB | 24.1 | The following uses shall be permitted in the Water Supply (W) zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural uses excluding dwellings, the keeping of livestock and greenhouse operations • Forestry uses excluding processing structures • Historic buildings and sites • Municipal water treatment and distribution uses • Outdoor recreation uses provided no permanent structures are erected • Uses, buildings and structures necessary for the prevention of floods, soil erosion and other similar natural occurrences • Woods camps |
| | Zoning | Hantsport LUB | 13.1 | Conservation Open Space (COS) Zone Permitted Uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational uses that do not involve structures other than open air structures • agricultural uses that do not involve structures other than open air structures and greenhouses |
| | Zoning | Hantsport LUB | 12.1 | Recreation Open Space Zone (OS) Permitted Uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cemeteries • pavilions, band shells • sports fields • buildings and structures accessory to the foregoing including canteens and related amenities |
| | Wetlands and Watercourses | Hantsport LUB | 5.2 | All main buildings shall be set back from a watercourse as shown on the Zoning Map a distance of 30 metres. |
| | Programming | Active Living Strategy | Engagement Outcome | Public consultation garnered citizens' desire to perform the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe roadsides/trails for walking • use of Trails • swimming • kayaking • canoeing • snowshoeing • hiking and • orienteering. |
| | Programming | Active Living Strategy | Engagement Outcome | Regarding the importance of having activities in every community. |
| | Programming | Active Living Strategy | Engagement Outcome | Regarding more public time at the KES swimming pool and Brooklyn arena. |
| | Programming | Active Living Strategy | Recreation Survey Results | Ipsos Reid Recreation Survey highlights on page 22 of Report. |
| | Active Transportation | West Hants ICSP | Goal: Promote Active Transportation (p 43) | Expanding the number of walking trails may well be an objective in a parks and open space strategy. Indoor walking trails are also important; one has been incorporated in a recently constructed civic centre. |
| | Food Security | West Hants ICSP | Goal: Encourage backyard and community gardens Support the "Buy Local Food" movement | Council will encourage the establishment of community gardens in the more urban areas of the Municipality. |

| Guiding Principle | Topic | Planning Document | Policy/Regulation | Description |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| | Tourism | West Hants ICSP | Goal: Promote Tourism (p36) | a) Council will investigate opportunities to attract more tourists to the Municipality. b) Better signage, interpretive centres, bicycle routes, salt marshes are a number of areas that may warrant further investigation to attract visitors |
| | Partnerships | West Hants ICSP | Goal: Provide recreational programs and opportunities for all residents (p 39) | Council will consider entering into partnership in the provision of recreational services. |
| 4. Link parks and open space with other places. | Water Access | West Hants MPS | Policy 4.21.2 | It shall be the policy of Council to prevent development from eliminating public access to lakes and rivers in West Hants. This will be accomplished either by the acceptance of waterfront land given under the parkland dedication provisions of the West Hants Subdivision By-law or by the purchase of such lands with the money collected in lieu of land dedication. |
| | Connections to Active Transportation | Active Transportation Plan | Section 2.9 Community Input | Connection between schools and neighbourhoods needed to allow youth to get to school/recreation by bike. |
| | Connections to Active Transportation | Active Transportation Plan | Section 3.2 Network Opportunities | Inactive rail lines owned by the Windsor to Hantsport Rail Company present another major opportunity to establish key connections within a region-wide active transportation network. |
| | Wayfinding | Active Transportation Plan | Section 4.3 Wayfinding | Improve linkages between trail or park facilities and adjacent community amenities. |
| | Wayfinding | Active Transportation Plan | Section 4.3 Wayfinding | Use off site directional signage where needed. |
| | Tourism | Active Transportation Plan | Section 2.9 Community Input | Regarding connection to blue route needed for tourism. |
| | Active Transportation | West Hants ICSP | Goal: Promote Active Transportation (p 43) | a) Council will consider amending its subdivision by-law to require sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes for new municipal public streets. b) Council will encourage the province to provide for bicycle use as part of highway renewal projects, except for controlled access highways. c) Council will explore the potential of designating a number of roads in the municipality as bicycle routes and promoting their use. |
| | Water Access | Active Living Strategy | Outdoor Recreation (p 14) | It is imperative that the Municipality maintain access along the shores of lakes and the Minas Basin waters for public use through a Parks and Open Spaces Plan. |
| 5. Showcase community identity and history. | Municipal Park Maintenance | MCCAP | 7.3 Climate Change Opportunities & Challenges to Municipal Operations | Essential to the functioning and well-being of West Hants are a variety of socially valued assets, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Centre in Brooklyn • Community Halls • Churches • Elementary Schools (Brooklyn, Summerville, Newport, Falmouth, Windsor Forks) • West Hants Middle School• Avonview High School • Windsor Elms Village• Provincial Parks located within West Hants • Municipally maintained parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. Croix Recreation Site - Eldridge Road Recreation Site - Irishmans Road Recreation Site - Halewood Drive (small parcel of parkland) - Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail and Causeway Trail and Causeway Trail and Causeway Trail, Armstrong Lake (small parcel of parkland), Kempt Quarry Recreation Site - Hobarts Beach • Avondale Wharf & Waterfront/ Museum• Commercial Districts such as in Brooklyn • Town of Windsor, particularly its grocery stores • Avon Valley Golf Course • French Mill Brook Watershed |

| Guiding Principle | Topic | Planning Document | Policy/Regulation | Description |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| | Smart Growth | Active Transportation Plan | 5.2 Policies and Planning | Siting of recreation opportunities close to existing communities is critical to maintain community feel and reduce costs |
| | Wayfinding | Active Transportation Plan | Section 4.3 Wayfinding | Improve sense of arrival by installing trailhead or park signs at entrances to AT facilities. |
| | Wayfinding | Active Transportation Plan | Section 4.3 Wayfinding | Use entrance signage to improve sense of arrival and communicate usage. |
| 6. Evaluate and update plans over time. | Future Land Use | West Hants MPS | Policy 16.1.1 | It shall be the policy of Council to review and make amendments to this Strategy... (c) when Council deems it necessary because of a change in policy intentions or the development environment. |
| | Develop a parks and open space plan | Hantsport MPS | Goal 2.4.1 (Goals) | Provide parks and recreational opportunities. |
| | Develop and parks and open space plan | Active Living Strategy | Public Lands Profile (p 12) | An analysis of [Municipal] lands (including value and liability) and development of a Parks and Open Spaces Plan is needed to identify opportunities and priorities. |
| | Develop and parks and open space plan | Active Living Strategy | GOAL 3: SUPPORTIVE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS To create, maintain and enhance physical environments, both built and natural, that support PA. | Develop and implement a Parks and Open Spaces Plan (presented to Council 2015). |
| | Develop a parks and open space strategy | West Hants ICSP | Goal: Provide recreational programs and opportunities for all residents (p 39) | Council will consider the preparation of a Parks and Open Space Strategy for the Municipality. |

Appendix 6: Policy and By-Law Changes for Plan Implementation



Municipality of the District of West Hants
Parks and Open Space Plan

Avondale Wharf and Waterfront

It is recommended that staff in consultation with the Planning Advisory Committee and Council will update relevant planning documents to enable a compatible relationship between this Parks and Open Space Plan and those planning documents. In addition to such updates some changes are identified under each planning document title below that may contribute to the successful implementation of this Plan:

West Hants Subdivision By-law

1. Part 14: Change “Parkland Dedication” to “**Parks and Open Space Dedication**”.

2. Section 71:

Prior to approval by the Development Officer of the final plan of subdivision, the subdivider shall either:

(a) transfer to the Municipality, free of encumbrances, for parks, playgrounds, and similar public purposes, an area of useable land within the area being subdivided equal to five percent (5%) of the area of the lots to be approved, as shown on the final plan of subdivision, exclusive of streets, easements, and the residue of the land of the subdivider, **or ten percent (10%) when the proposed location of subdivision is listed in growth areas identified in the West Hants Municipal Planning Strategy;** or

(b) provide to the Municipality a sum of money equivalent to five percent (5%) of the market value, as determined by an assessor, of the lots to be approved, as shown on the final plan of subdivision, exclusive of streets, easements, and the residue of the land of the subdivider **or ten percent (10%) when the proposed location of subdivision is listed in growth areas identified in the West Hants Municipal Planning Strategy;** or

...

(e) When lands to be transferred are not needed to meet the needs of people residing either full time or part time in the area, the Municipality may request the transfer of cash-in-lieu.

3. Section 73: Definition of Useable Land: Change to reflect the ideas noted below in **bold**:

(a) For the purposes of Sections 71 and 72, useable land shall be defined as land that:

(i) has an average slope over the entire parcel of not more than **ten percent (10%)** and that any part of the parcel with a slope of **ten percent (10%)** or more shall not exceed one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the area of the entire parcel;

(ii) consists of a parcel having an area of one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acre or more;

(iii) is serviced by central water and sewer systems, or is capable of supporting an on-site sewage disposal system, unless the parcel is intended for **Linear Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Cultural Parks or Preservation and Production Open Space** that do not require an on-site sewage disposal system or services;

(iv) is not a clearing and grubbing disposal area;

(v) is not swampland or subject to flooding;

(vi) is not an electrical transmission corridor;

(vii) where applicable, is able to meet the requirements for lot area and lot frontage contained in the Land Use By-law;

(viii) has a public street or private road frontage consistent with one of the following conditions:

i. Public street or private road frontage of 30.5 metres (100 feet) or more; or

(ix) achieves a moderate or high degree of Suitability (by using the Suitability Framework).

(b) The criteria in subsection 73(a) may be waived if the land to be transferred is considered unique by the **Development Officer** in that the parcel is:

(i) land suitable for preservation as an interpretive natural reserve area based on the opinion of a qualified professional;

- (ii) land of significant historical or archaeological value to the Municipality;
- (iii) land adjacent to, **or within a 500m (1,640 feet) distance of**, a park or open space owned by the Municipality;
- (iv) land deemed by the Recreation Director for the Municipality to be required for recreational purposes;
- (v) land located in the Water Supply (W) zone; **or**
- (vi) land that is outside of the subdivision area and owned by the landowner that will contribute to the parks and open space network described in the Parks and Open Space Plan or meets the needs of citizens who are underserved in terms of parks and open space.**

(c) Any land to be conveyed to the Municipality other than that meeting the requirements of subsection 73(b) shall abut a public road or private road **and contain a frontage on said public road or private road of not less than 30.48 metres (100 feet) unless a frontage of less than 30.48 m (100') is considered desirable for the future development of a Neighbourhood Park, as determined by the Development Officer in consultation with the Recreation Director.** Land to be conveyed to the Municipality pursuant to the requirements of subsection 73(b) shall be accessible by a public street or private road or by a public easement a minimum of 15.24 metres (50 feet) in width and providing a connection to a public road.

Municipal Planning Strategy for West Hants

1. Change the title at Section 13.2 “Open Space” to “Parks and Open Space” and change the word “open space” to ‘parks and open space’ where appropriate throughout the MPS;
2. Include in Section 13.2 or 16.4, policy that enables 10% Dedication in growing areas, such as: “Notwithstanding other requirements of this Municipal Planning Strategy, an amount of land, cash-in lieu of land or a combination of land and cash-in-lieu equal to 10% of the market value of lands to be subdivided shall be transferred to the Municipality if such lands fall within areas on the West Hants Generalized Future Land Use Map (GFLUM) labelled as Hamlet, Village, Village Core, Residential, and Commercial Core. These areas are generally seen as growth areas within the Municipality”;
3. Update Policy 16.4.1(c) to state: “requirements for dedication of **open space** or cash-in-lieu **for the purpose of parks and open space**; and,
4. Update the West Hants Zoning Map and Generalized Future Land Use Map (GFLUM) to reflect the parks and open space opportunities identified in this plan.
5. Include provisions to accommodate the addition of 71(e).
6. Include provisions to accommodate the addition of 73(a)(ix).
7. Include provisions to accommodate the addition of 73(b)(vi).

Municipal Planning Strategy for Hantsport

1. Update the Hantsport Generalized Future Land Use Map (GFLUM) to reflect the parks and open space opportunities identified in this plan. Of particular note are opportunities for Municipally owned lands west of the Hantsport Riverbank Cemetery (identified in ‘Area 1 Network Opportunities’) and overall roadside improvements for walking.