



INTEGRATED MASTER PLAN



CONNAUGHT BATTERY PARK



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Connaught Battery Park Integrated Master Plan

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Prepared for: The Working Group for the Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's
Cove Neighbourhood Associations

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Executive Summary

PARK OVERVIEW

Connaught Battery Park is a 21.7 acre coastal property in the Ferguson's Cove community of Halifax Regional Municipality. With exceptional views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach, the park is a relic of the city's military past and a cherished open space enjoyed by the residents of the Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove communities.

Connaught Battery Park presents a valuable opportunity to enhance public access to the coast. The elevation and orientation of the site afford a unique view shed that includes a comprehensive picture of forts in the Halifax Defence Complex. As a cultural landscape the park provides a window onto part of the city's historical identity.

The park also provides an excellent resource for both passive and active recreational use for the neighbouring communities of Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove. The site was first developed as a park in the 1990s after years of neglect following the land transfer from the federal to provincial government. Since 1996 the municipality has leased the land for use as a community park, investing in substantial site preparation and development of recreation facilities. Park development has occurred largely on an ad hoc basis. A long-term planning framework to guide the acquisition, management and further investment in Connaught Battery Park is desirable.

In response to a request by the Joint Working Group for the Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove Neighbourhood Associations a group of Master of Planning students from Dalhousie University have prepared this Integrated Master Plan for Connaught Battery Park.

Recognizing the park's importance as a community recreation amenity and a site that provides public access to the coast through exceptional views, the Integrated Master Plan provides a long-term vision and directions for planning and design of Connaught Battery Park.

PLAN PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The plan has the following objectives:

- To create a site design for Connaught Battery Park by situating it within an open space planning framework.
- To include meaningful community participation in setting park priorities and contributing to the site design process.
- To encourage HRM's long-term interest in Connaught Battery Park as a community open space resource.

The Integrated Master Plan responds to the intent of the District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula) Municipal Planning Strategy to create a master plan for Connaught Battery Park. Policy recommendations are written to amend the District 5 Municipal Planning Strategy, situating the master plan in an existing planning framework. The master plan considers the design proposal within the existing open space network in the area. The Integrated Master Plan includes:

- Background analysis of the community and open space context.
- Results of a community survey, design workshop and open house.
- Site inventory and analysis.
- Site design proposal.
- Policy and management recommendations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Creating a clear vision and relevant plan for Connaught Battery Park relies on an engaged community. Community consultation for the Integrated Master Plan draws on three sources of community participation:

- Community initiated survey conducted in 2010.
- Design workshop conducted in February, 2011.
- Project open house held in March, 2011.

Community survey results reported park use habits of 93 households and identified positive and negative experiences of

park elements. The design workshop provided an opportunity for residents of Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove to set principles and objectives to guide new park designs. The open house allowed community members to view and comment on the design concepts developed in the master plan. Sixteen community members attended the design workshop and thirty visited the open house. Comments offered at the open house were overwhelmingly positive.

SITE ANALYSIS

Through site visits and Geographic Information Systems mapping, site analysis considers three major themes: (1) Property, land status and access; (2) cultural interpretation and; (3) natural environment. Site analysis conclusions are summarized below:

Property, Land Status and Access

- Given HRM's short term lease of the property and substantial investment in recreational facilities in the park, a more permanent form of municipal administration is desirable in order to further enhance the park's recreational potential.
- The park lacks accessible road frontage and no signage locates the park. There are limited opportunities to bring the park up to HRM criteria with respect to parking and accessibility.
- Due diligence regarding the possible need to assess the

environmental conditions of the park will have to be resolved between the province and the municipality.

- Formalizing several existing trails could enhance access and pedestrian movement.

Cultural Heritage

- The location, elevation and orientation of the site make Connaught Battery Park a unique cultural landscape. The sight lines provide an opportunity for cultural interpretation of the historical Halifax Defence Complex
- The Federal Government has not shown interest in maintaining or supporting Connaught Battery as an historic site.
- The Middle Road trail has historic public significance and presents an opportunity to enhance passive recreation with formalized resting areas overlooking the coast.
- The poor condition of parts of the battery as well as abandoned infrastructure in the wooded area of the site highlight liability issues and the need to consider safety in and around these structures.

Natural Environment

- Numerous small wetlands in the southwest corner of the site provide natural habitat and community amenity. The wetlands should be officially recognized by the District 5 Land Use By-Law.

- High elevation and a steep eastern slope creates exceptional coastal views. Selective cutting and pruning of deciduous trees along the eastern edge of the park would improve views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach.
- A shallow ravine in the northwest corner of the site limits access and usability of this area.

CONCEPT PLAN

The site design objectives and actions are based on the background analysis, community consultation and site analysis:

(1) Conserve the natural environment

- Minimize tree removal in trail design and park development.
- Protect wetland areas in the southern portion of the park.

(2) Enhance opportunities for historical interpretation

- Enhance the views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach from the battery and Middle Road through selective cutting and pruning.
- Provide access to viewing points from the battery.
- Provide signage that describes the history of the park and its relationship to the Halifax Defence Complex.
- Mitigate safety issues around historic structures.

(3) Improve on and create additional opportunities for passive recreation

- Develop a looped trail network that builds on existing trails, in particular Middle Road.
- Incorporate seating areas throughout the park that take advantage of park assets such as views.
- Create a picnic area.

(4) Improve active recreation opportunities

- Create a formal seating area around the pond.
- Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities to include adult exercise stations.

(5) Encourage the use of the park for community events

- Emphasize the park as a connecting space between Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove.
- Create opportunities for community activities by providing appropriate park space and furniture.

(6) Improve user access to the park

- Provide on-site parking for vehicles and bicycles along or near Purcell's Cove Road.
- Improve pedestrian access to the park.
- Ensure pedestrian safety along access routes.
- Locate signage to identify park location.



Section 8 of the plan details elements of the proposed design concept for the park.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Interated Master Plan recommends policy directives to further recreation policies in the District 5 Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS). Recommended policies identify land use priorities related to long-term administration of the site and its connection with nearby open space.

The policies intend to establish a municipal commitment to the land used for Connaught Battery Park and to improve open space linkages for recreational purposes.

Implementation relies on both municipal and community initiatives. Recommendations are organized into decisions and actions that the municipality can address through policy and those that the community can initiate.

Policy recommendations build on existing policy in the District 5 MPS and address three main areas:

- Establishing a municipal intention to negotiate with the provincial Department of Natural Resources for long-term land acquisition.
- Recognizing and protecting valuable wetland areas within the park.
- Working with the community to establish formal access to points of interest in the Herring Cove Backlands.

Connaught Battery Park and its surrounding area have long been important community recreational assets. The history of the park demonstrates the importance of community involvement in initiating park planning actions.

This Integrated Master Plan highlights the special opportunities of Connaught Battery Park as a public open space on the coast as well as its role as a valued local community asset. The plan can serve as a roadmap to initiate an informed dialogue between HRM and the local communities to determine the best direction for the park's long-term future.

Concept Plan for Connaught Battery Park



Points of Interest in the Herring Cove Backlands



The Old Military Road has the advantage of crossing mostly provincial land, but lacks a proper trailhead at Purcell's Cove Road.

1.0 Introduction



Connaught Battery Park is a 21.7 acre community park located along Purcell's Cove Road between the communities of Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), Nova Scotia. Residents of these two communities use the park as a local amenity for passive and active recreation. While much of the park remains in a natural state, it includes several recreational facilities including a tennis court, basketball court, playground and a large open field. In addition to these facilities, residents use a small seasonal pond on the site for skating in the winter and enjoy the exceptional views of the Halifax harbour approach afforded by the site's elevation and coastal proximity.

The park is located in Ferguson's Cove in Planning District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula)¹ on the border with the Halifax Mainland South Planning District. The park's southern boundary adjoins several private residential properties. Its northern boundary adjoins a parcel of land owned by the Department of National

Defence (DND) and operated as a marine sound range testing facility. The eastern and western edges of the site border Ferguson's Cove Road and Purcell's Cove Road, local and arterial roads respectively.

Historically Connaught Battery Park was the site of an early 20th Century military battery and barracks. The fort was constructed between 1913 to 1916 as part of a upgrading program for the Halifax Defense Complex and was manned and operational during both World Wars. Named after the Duke of Connaught, the fort included the battery, which housed three 4.7 inch quick-fire guns, harbour searchlights and a barracks. Shortly after World War II the wooden barracks on the site was removed and the battery was abandoned. The area was then used as an illegal dumping site for old vehicles until 1972 when the land was transferred to the provincial Department of Public Works. At this time the derelict vehicles were removed; however, many of the concrete military structures remained in a state of disrepair.

In reaction to the derelict state of the historic structures, the Ferguson's Cove Residents' Association created a proposal in 1992, to designate the site as a recreation area. The group was successful in having the municipality lease the land and invest in several improvements including infilling part of the historic battery and constructing the recreational facilities. Following amalgamation, the Halifax Regional Municipality has continued to maintain the park and has short-term lease of the land with the Provincial Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

¹The Integrated Master Plan refers to this planning area as District 5

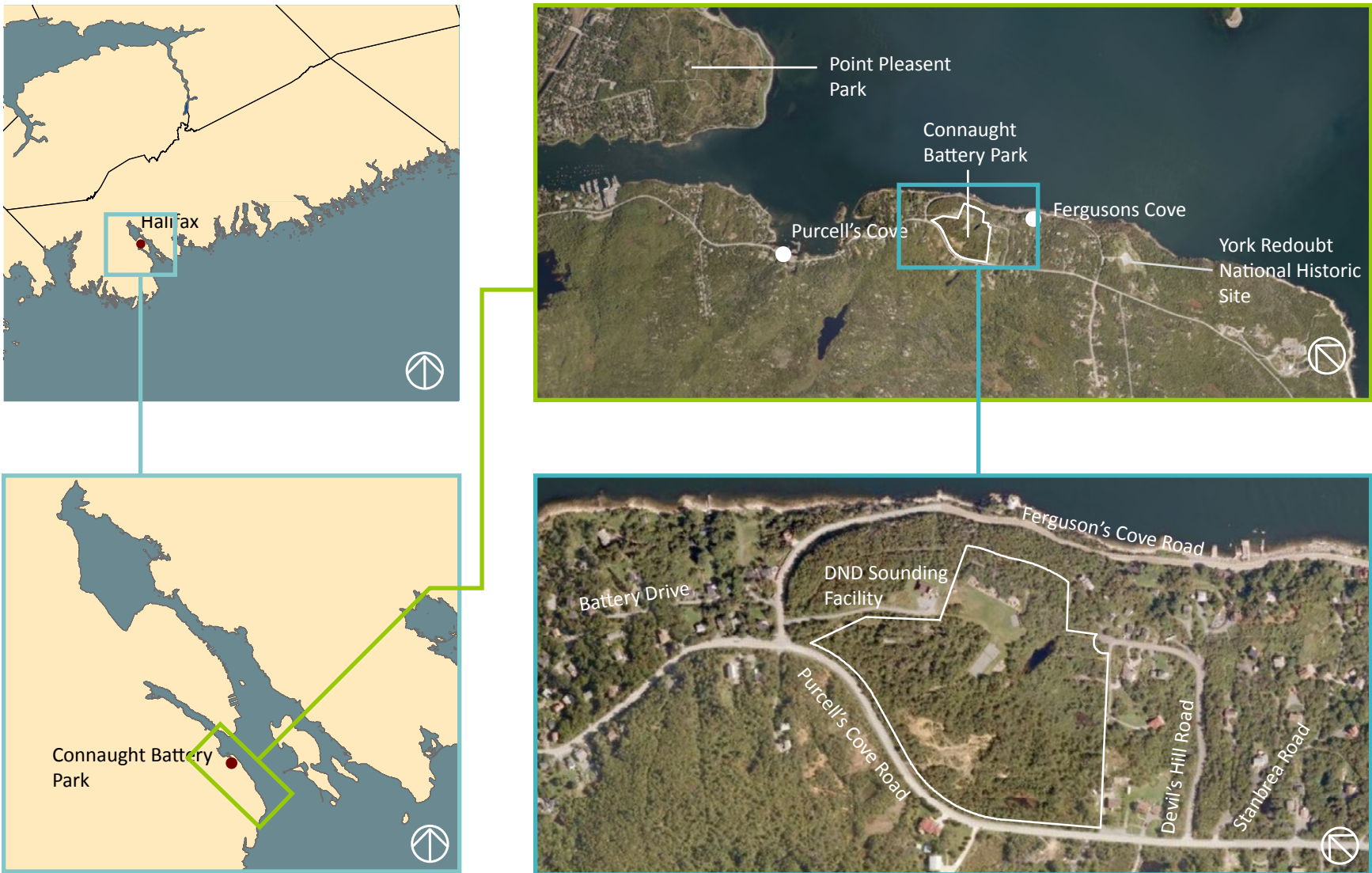


Figure 1.1 Location of Connaught Battery Park

Source: (top and bottom left) Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010; (top and bottom right) Bing Maps, 2011

2.0 Integrated Master Plan for Connaught Battery Park

2.1 PLAN PURPOSE

In 2010 the Joint Working Group for the Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove Residents' Associations submitted a request for a long-term plan for Connaught Battery Park. The communities value the park for its unique natural and cultural features and are passionate about preserving the park as a local recreational amenity.

This Integrated Master Plan is a response to the communities' request and establishes a framework to guide decisions about the park's future use, administration and management. The plan includes a comprehensive site analysis and considers local community needs and priorities within a larger open space network and policy framework.

This plan has the following objectives:

- **To create a site design for Connaught Battery Park by situating it within an open space planning framework.**



Aerial View of Connaught Battery Park showing the historic battery, open field and adjacent DND property (on left) (PHOTO: Bing Maps, 2011)

This objective relates to the physical design of the park. Fulfilling this objective requires careful examination of the community context and the open space context in order to determine the most suitable design elements over the long-term. The proposed design responds to community characteristics, the open space context and the unique characteristics of the site.

- To encourage HRM's long-term interest in Connaught Battery Park as a community open space resource.

This objective acknowledges the uncertain future of Connaught Battery Park from an administrative and management perspective given that HRM does not currently own the land. To fulfill this objective the park design must meet HRM park planning criteria, and a range of ownership and management options should be explored. Charting the future of Connaught Battery Park relies on an informed and engaged dialogue between the local communities and HRM.

- To include meaningful community participation in setting park priorities and contributing to the site design process.

This objective aims to understand how the park is currently used and what values stand out as possible guiding principles for the design work. Engaging the primary park users in the design process will help ensure that plans for future investment remain relevant to the values and preferences of the local communities.



View of the field at Connaught Battery Park showing the historic battery

2.2 PLAN SCOPE

This plan is an Integrated Master Plan for Connaught Battery Park. The basis for the master plan is set out in the District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula) Municipal Planning Strategy (District 5 MPS) (HRM, 1995). The District 5 MPS recognizes Connaught Battery Park as valuable community resource for outdoor recreation. Prior to HRM's initial land lease, policy directives in the District 5 MPS called for a master plan for the park. Policy PK-2 states:

PK-2 *It shall be the intention of Council to encourage the development of Connaught Battery as a day-use park and to encourage public consultation during the development of a master plan for the site.*

The Integrated Master Plan for Connaught Battery would appropriately nest within the District 5 MPS. By situating the master plan in the District 5 MPS, recommendations for design, administration and management have a sound policy context to gain traction in municipal decision making. The master plan is also integrated within a wider open space network. The HRM Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) recognizes the need for an open space function plan to create a well connected, environmentally and economically sustainable and equitable distribution of parks and open spaces. Although this functional plan is not complete, the Connaught Battery Integrated Master Plan anticipates objectives of the functional plan by considering the park in the context of neighbouring coastal and inland open space resources. Details of the regional approach to open space are discussed in Section 3.0 of this document.

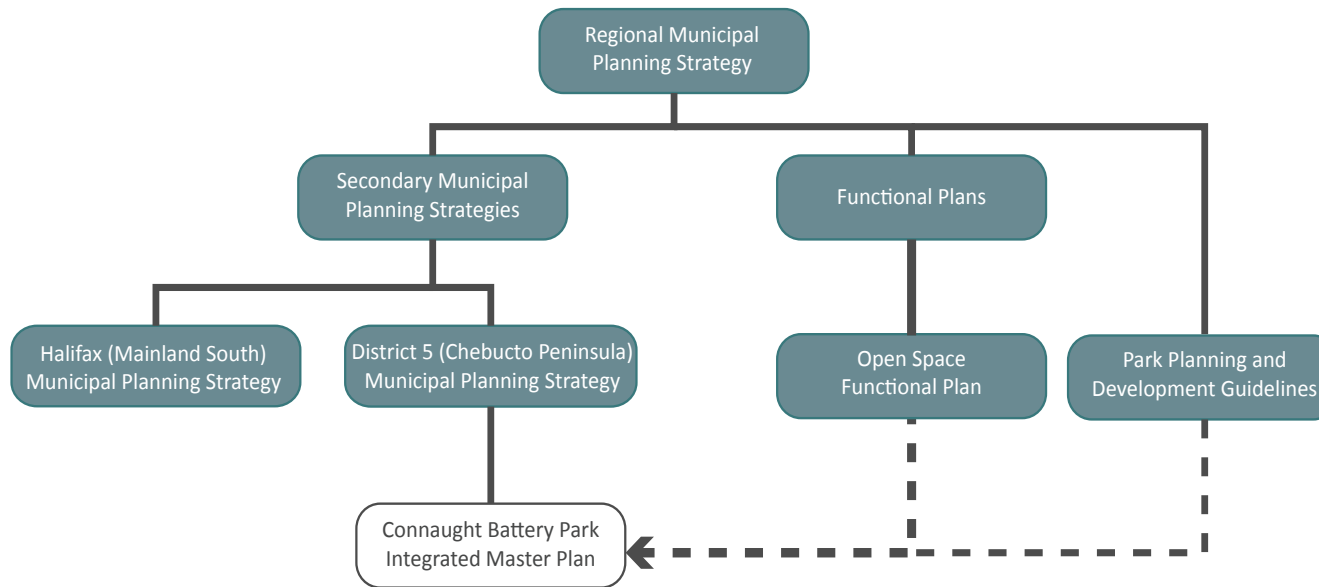


Figure 2.1 Policy Context for the Connaught Battery Park Integrated Master Plan. Dashed lines indicate the influence of other important HRM planning initiatives.



Map 2.1 Plan Area (Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010; Bing Maps, 2011)



The Integrated Master Plan includes background analysis, park design recommendations and policy recommendations for the plan area. The plan area includes Ferguson's Cove, Purcell's Cove, and part of the Herring Cove Backlands. The design plan improves existing features and adds new elements that focus on passive recreation, enhancing harbour views and preserving the natural environment. The plan considers land ownership

and management options for the park. Policy recommendations refer to park administration and to establishing connections with neighbouring open spaces. These recommendations build on existing policies in the Planning District 5 MPS.

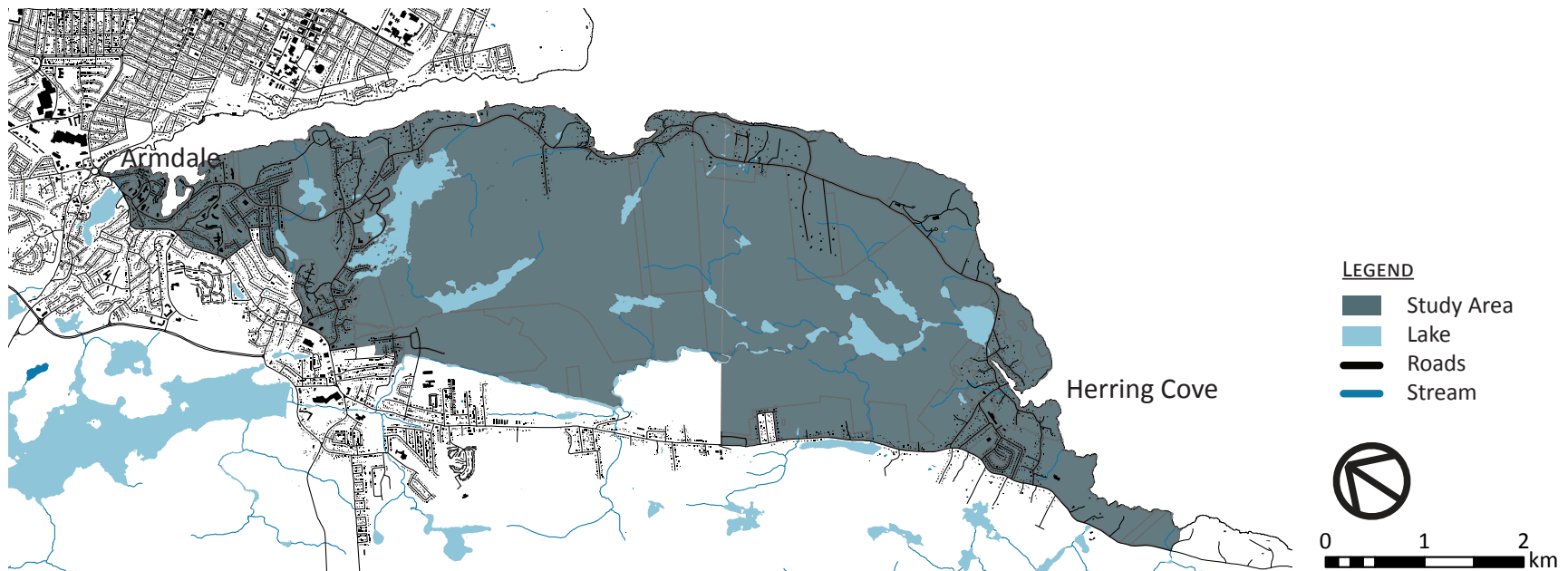
2.3 STUDY AREA

A broader study area provides a context in which to understand community and open space characteristics. The Purcell's Cove Road corridor acts as a distinct geographic unit with few connections to neighbouring communities. From its origin in Armdale to its ending point at Herring Cove, only Williams Lake Road provides a through corridor to Spryfield.

Purcell's Cove Road connects communities along the Northwest Arm to the headlands at Herring Cove. Several significant features of Halifax's cultural heritage exist along this corridor;

including Sir Sandford Fleming Park, Purcell's Cove and Fort York Redoubt National Historic Site. In addition to significant coastal settlements and cultural features, the corridor is also adjacent to a vast area of publicly and privately owned inland open space. Trails and natural features are important environmental, recreational and heritage assets in the area.

The Corridor extends into two planning districts, Halifax Mainland South and District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula). Considering Connaught Battery Park within an open space planning framework for the Purcell's Cove Road corridor will facilitate design and plan considerations that take into account the unique cultural heritage and open space assets of the area.



Map 2.2 Study Area Map created with Census Canada dissemination area boundaries (Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010)

2.4 PLAN METHOD

This plan employs a three part method to achieve the project objectives. (1) an open-space inventory and analysis for the plan area; (2) a community engagement strategy, and; (3) a site inventory and analysis of existing conditions for Connaught Battery Park. These components form the basis for decision-making and design recommendations for the park.

Open-Space Inventory and Analysis

To place Connaught Battery Park in the context of a greater open space system the plan includes an inventory of open-space, recreational facilities and demographics from the larger Purcell's Cove Road corridor. Specifically, the plan looks at population density, age characteristics, household size and school enrollment in the area to understand current recreational needs and how these needs may change in the future. The plan includes a detailed inventory of nearby open space and recreational facilities in the study area.

Community Engagement Strategy

Park users and the neighbouring community associations aspire to develop a comprehensive site plan for Connaught Battery Park. The success of a site design and development strategy relies on a clear vision of the future. Establishing a vision for Connaught Battery Park will require community involvement early and throughout the process of plan development. Community participation in the site planning process is a key element of this plan. The engagement strategy has three primary components: a community administered survey of resident's views on the park,



Design workshop, February 2011



Community Openhouse, March 2011

a community design workshop and a community open house. The Ferguson's Cove Neighbourhood Association administered the survey to residents of Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's Cove in April 2010 while Bluestone team members conducted the collaborative design workshop in early February 2011. The open house, presenting the background research and design concepts, took place in late March, 2011.

Site Inventory and Analysis

The plan extensively maps elements of Connaught Battery Park. The inventory sections focus on three primary areas: (1) property, land status and access; (2) cultural heritage and; (3) natural environment.

2.5 PLAN STRUCTURE

The Integrated Master Plan for Connaught Battery Park is organized into eleven sections. Sections 3 and 4 describe the policy context that affects the site design of Connaught Battery Park. Section 5 provides a general needs assessment for the study area and plan area, including a open space inventory and demographic analysis.

Section 6 details the results of the community consultation. Section 7 provides a detailed site analysis of Connaught Battery Park. Sections 3 to 7 end with a summary of implications that provide a basis for the design concept and policy recommendations.

Section 8 details the design objectives that are used to inform the park design process and explores the design possibilities for Connaught Battery Park. Sections 9 and 10 discuss the implementation strategy, presenting policy amendments and considerations for moving forward.

3.0 Regional Policy Context

3.1 OPEN SPACE

The Regional Plan (2006) sets out broad goals and objectives to guide planning and development throughout the municipality. Among the broad planning themes that the regional plan covers, the natural environment and open space network stand out as topics of significant planning interest. Protecting the natural setting is a priority for maintaining ecological integrity as well as enhancing quality of life, community identity and recreational opportunities. Over the long run, the Regional Plan aims to establish a comprehensive open space network designed to protect ecosystem functions while providing an equitable distribution of outdoor amenities for all residents.

Defining Open Space and Parks

HRM defines open space in the Regional Plan as:

“Publicly or privately owned, undeveloped land or water, intended to be preserved for agricultural, forest, community form, ecological, historical, public safety, or recreational purposes. It consists of lands for natural resources, agriculture, recreation, environmentally sensitive areas, hazard prone lands, cultural heritage landscapes, natural corridors and trails and preservation areas for potable water and waste/resource management”.

Planning an integrated open space network means recognizing the need to plan for a range of land use functions simultaneously, and understanding that several land use functions may be coordinated on one site. Many parks in HRM preserve natural corridors and cultural heritage while providing recreational opportunities and aesthetic enjoyment. Planning a network of open space is a significant undertaking aimed to strengthen connections to protect environmental systems, enhance recreational opportunities and retain community heritage and identity.

The HRM Regional Plan includes a typology of open space land uses and a park classification system for the municipal park system to provide a framework for open space and recreational planning. To strengthen connections between open spaces for both natural and social purposes, the regional plan identifies areas that comprise an Open Space and Natural Resource Designation. This designation includes open space lands that serve regionally significant natural, recreational, cultural and economic functions. Open Space and Natural Resource Designations include: Natural Resource; Agriculture; Recreation; Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Natural Corridors; Hazard Lands, Preservation; Cultural Heritage Landscapes, and; Community Form. Definitions for these designations can be found in Appendix B.

Park Classifications

Through the subdivision process, HRM acquires land or an equivalent cash value for park land dedication. Capital and operating costs depend on a combination of park classification, intensity of use and the recreational needs of communities.

Park classifications describe the typical or intended functions and design features of parks provided within HRM. Designations refer to the size, intended population served and typical recreational facilities. Regional Parks may include federal or provincially owned lands, while the other park classifications are municipally owned. All parks in HRM are classified as one of the following:

- Neighbourhood Park
- Community Park
- District Park
- Regional Park

The park classifications are used as a framework for planning a park system that meets the needs of all residents. Park classification aims to assist land use planning decisions by providing a framework for efficient asset management and equitable service delivery as the region grows and demand for parks increase. Park classification definitions are shown in figure 3.1.

While the recommended criteria provide important guidelines for allocating and developing public parks, they may not account for all community contexts. Some parks may fulfill roles for more than one classification due to the presence of unique natural and cultural features as well as surrounding land use and population patterns. As a result, hybrid classifications are possible and should be appropriately designed, built and operated (HRM Community Development, 2010).

Figure 3.1 Park Classification as defined by the Regional Plan, 2006

| Park Type | Park Function |
|---------------------|--|
| Neighbourhood Parks | Neighbourhood Parks are primarily designed to provide unorganized play activities for children, quiet seating or rest areas and/or linear linkages between other municipal parks or open spaces. These parks typically provide centrally located recreational services for neighbourhoods of 80 - 120 households. |
| Community Parks | These parks may be designed for organized youth and recreational adult level sports but may also include facilities for play by children. These areas may also be designed for passive recreation and left in a predominantly natural state. Community Parks are primarily intended to serve the recreation needs of a community comprised of three or four neighbourhoods with a population in the range of 1200 persons. |
| District Parks | District Parks are primarily intended to serve the recreation needs of several communities with a population in the range of 10 000. District Park facilities may provide a range of recreational uses including, but not limited to, walking and cycling trails, sports fields, picnic areas, supervised beaches, and play facilities for children. |
| Regional Parks | District Parks are primarily intended to serve the recreation needs of several communities with a population in the range of 10 000. District Park facilities may provide a range of recreational uses including, but not limited to, walking and cycling trails, sports fields, picnic areas, supervised beaches, and play facilities for children. |

Design Standards

When designing parks and public spaces, HRM employs crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) standards. All new parks are developed with CPTED principles in mind. HRM park planning and design methods use the National Crime Prevention Institute's definition of CPTED as: *"The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement of the quality of life"* (Anstey, 2007). CPTED relies on four main design tenets:

- Access Control
- Surveillance
- Territorial Reinforcement
- Lighting

Each principle aims to create spaces that encourage public visibility and contact. Providing clear and well-lit entrances connected to public areas helps manage pedestrian access and passage. Providing opportunities for surveillance limits the potential for illicit activities. Natural surveillance techniques are encouraged through open visual corridors and landscape designs that encourage easy public observation. Territorial reinforcement refers to the design and maintenance of spaces that impart a sense of proprietorship. It also emphasizes the creation of clearly visible nodes and destinations to serve as points of focus for pedestrians. Lighting should be designed intelligently within the landscape to clearly illuminate pathways, entrances and parking areas.

Towards an Open Space Functional Plan

The Regional Plan establishes the need for thematic functional plans to guide decisions about development, management and delivery of services. Rather than setting land use policy, functional plans represent HRM's intent to create detailed management guidelines to help implement planning goals. The Regional Plan identifies over twenty functional plans.

The functions of many parks and open spaces do not adhere to planning district boundaries. Ecosystem functions have no administrative reference, and user groups may be attracted to parks and open spaces from various parts of the community. It is important to coordinate open space planning efforts through appropriate types of plans. According to the regional plan, the Open Space Typology and Park Classification System should guide the development of an open space functional plan to ensure a well connected, environmentally and economically sustainable and equitable distribution of parks and open spaces.

E-19 HRM shall prepare an Open Space Functional Plan to determine an economically and environmentally sustainable strategy for the equitable maintenance and distribution of parks and open space throughout the Municipality.

A regional open space functional plan will fulfill an important role in coordinating land use planning decisions and integrating parks and open space throughout the municipality. To date the open space functional plan remains a work in progress as key studies are being conducted for extensive natural areas that are cornerstones of the plan. The recently completed Master Plan for the Western Common, an extensive natural area located

between Highway 103 and Prospect Road, contributes a major piece to the open space function plan (EDM, 2010). A draft management plan for Long Lake Provincial Park (Department of Natural Resources, 2008) represents another effort to support a comprehensive Open Space Functional Plan. Ongoing interest in developing a trail system along McIntosh Run, the outflow from Long Lake, should lead to a management plan for the protected area between Spryfield, Ferguson's Cove and Herring Cove that includes McIntosh Run.

The HRM Active Transportation Plan (SGE Acres, 2006) is also relevant to open space connections in the study area. The plan recommends Purcell's Cove Road as a primary bicycle route. To date bicycle lanes have been provided on sections of Purcell's Cove Road as far as the Purcell's Cove community. The route provides access to parks, lakes and coastal areas and is popular among cyclists in part because of its proximity to the city.

3.2 SETTLEMENT DESIGNATIONS

The communities along the Purcell's Cove Road corridor range from established suburbs to semi-rural residential areas. The Armdale and Jollimore communities are established residential neighbourhoods within HRM's Urban Settlement designation. These areas are not designated as focal points of future development, although there is some potential for infill development. Population densities in the study area are highest in these communities.

The area to the south, beyond Williams Lake up to the Purcell's Cove community, is designated as Urban Reserve. This designation recognizes land with potential for future municipal central services beyond the twenty-five year horizon of the Regional Plan. In the meantime, these lands may experience limited low density residential development.

Ferguson's Cove is included in the Rural Commuter designation. This designation refers to areas characterized by low density residential settlement within commuting distance of the regional centre. The intent of the Rural Commuter designation is to protect the character of rural communities and conserve open space and natural resources. Residential uses require large lots for onsite servicing.

HRM plans to focus future development within a hierarchy of settlement centres to foster efficient municipal service delivery and promote growth patterns that support enhanced transit opportunities and provision of community amenities. The Herring Cove community is designated as a Suburban Local Centre. The Regional Plan intends Herring Cove to develop with

a concentration of low to medium density residential uses with improved transit opportunities.

Section 3 Implications

- Providing a well-connected and accessible network of open space and parks is central to creating healthy communities with opportunities for recreation and connection to nature.
- Design plans for Connaught Battery Park should recognize the significance of providing public coastal access and possible connections to the wilderness area of McIntosh Run, which the Regional Plan designates as a key natural corridor with potential for passive recreation.
- Park design should apply CPTED principles to reflect best practices for comfort and safety in public open space development.
- Park design should aim to fulfill HRM park planning criteria based on the classification system established in the Regional Plan. Flexibility may be considered depending on community needs, recreational resources and unique site characteristics.

4.0 Secondary Municipal Planning Context

The Regional Plan recognizes the diversity of open space functions and the significance of open space connections. It establishes core principles and guidelines for considering the best use of open space resources through the open space typology and park classifications. The municipal planning strategies for Halifax Mainland South and District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula) provide more specific policies to guide decisions about open space and recreational needs for their respective communities.

4.1 DISTRICT 5 (CHEBUCTO PENINSULA) MPS

The District 5 MPS recognizes opportunities for open space connections and establishes policy directives to promote recreation opportunities. The plan underscores the preservation of natural wilderness, lakes, trails and public access to oceanfront areas as priorities for open space protection and passive recreation.

Specifically, the plan directs Regional Council to support community development of a recreation and open space plan that provides for a variety of recreational opportunities and

physical connections. In addition to maintaining existing park land, trails and swimming and skating places, the plan encourages inventories of public rights of way and traditional trails that provide public access to conservation and park lands.

4.2 HALIFAX MAINLAND SOUTH MPS

The Halifax Mainland South MPS includes policy objectives that aim to enhance the provision of recreational facilities in the Mainland South area. In particular, the plan recognizes the environmental, historical and recreational significance of the Northwest Arm and protected areas adjoining the McIntosh Run. Recreational policies aim to enhance passive recreational opportunities and improve public access to open spaces and connections between them. Establishing continuous access along the Northwest Arm by way of land acquisition or dedication through the subdivision process is stated as a plan priority. Overall the plan seeks to develop a continuous open space network in the Mainland South area, giving particular attention to the Northwest Arm, major lakes and McIntosh Run.

Section 4 Implications

- The District 5 MPS directly calls for a master plan for Connaught Battery Park.
- The District 5 MPS recognizes the need to create a recreation and open space plan to establish a connected open space network that focuses on existing trails, lakes and coastal sites.
- The Integrated Master Plan for Connaught Battery Park contributes to the future open space plan by establishing a basis for municipal commitment to the site as a key recreational asset, an opportunity for public coastal access and connection to conservation land trails including part of the McIntosh Run watershed.

| Figure 4.1 Selected policies from the District 5 MPS |
|---|
| REC-2 it shall be the intention of Council to acquire parkland which is consistent with the current recreation department guidelines, including prime recreation lands and the acquisition of river, lake and ocean frontage in the Plan Area. |
| REC-7 It shall be the intention of Council to request that the Department of Natural Resources negotiate crown land transfers, or establish public rights-of-way or develop trails, along or near the following properties and watercourses: McIntosh Run..... |
| REC-9 It is appropriate that given the level of concern over public use and access to various sites, that HRM work with the community to carry out an inventory of existing facilities, identify deficiencies and seek opportunities for improvements. This may include identifying additional lands for acquisition, or use of Crown land. |
| REC-10 The HRM shall work with the community to develop a recreation and open space plan providing for a variety of recreational opportunities and for open space linkages between community facilities and related uses. |
| REC-11 The recreation and open space plan shall include existing parklands, trails, and swimming and skating places. |
| REC-12 The recreation and open space plan shall include pathways for access to recreational facilities including existing parklands, swimming and skating places, and wilderness trails. |
| REC-13 The HRM shall initiate a trail study to identify public rights-of-way and traditional trails and shall work with the community to propose a trail system and means to provide community access to conservation and parklands. |
| REC-22 The HRM should negotiate to acquire coastal heritage sites (monuments) for use as park. |

5.0 Recreational Needs Assessment

In order to create the most relevant and effective design for Connaught Battery Park it is important to understand the recreational needs and priorities of the community. Assessing the community's recreational needs depends on population density and demographic characteristics, available open space resources and the preferences and priorities of park users. This section includes an inventory and analysis of open spaces in the study area, an analysis of the population characteristics and summarizes the results of a community engagement session held with residents of Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's Cove.

5.1 POPULATION DENSITY AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Census counts in 2006 at the community level show varied population characteristics for the study area. The Armdale-Northwest Arm census boundary¹ has an average population density of 946 people per square kilometer. This density represents a 10% change from the density in 1996. The Herring Cove census boundary² has a population density of only 71 people per square kilometer, representing a 5% increase from

1996 (Nova Scotia Community Counts, 2010). The varied density is clearly visible in satellite images of the study area. Although Purcell's Cove is included in the Armdale-Northwest Arm census boundary, the settlement pattern is more characteristic of the Herring Cove example.

Park planning goals are best achieved when park distribution and design features consider the changing needs of the communities they intend to serve. Different age groups require appropriate recreational opportunities. Balancing the needs of today's communities with anticipated community needs over time requires attention to current population characteristics and awareness of the potential for future changes.

Figure 5.2 shows the distribution of population by age categories for the communities along the Purcell's Cove Road corridor. According to the 2006 census, a relatively mature population characterizes the communities along the corridor. This dynamic is not surprising given the societal shift toward an aging population. Compared with the entire population of HRM, the corridor communities have a significantly wider gap between mature adults and children (Figure 5.1). A higher proportion

¹This boundary includes: Armdale, Boulderwood, Cowie Hill, Jollimore, Melville Cove and Purcell's Cove.

²This boundary includes: Ferguson's Cove, Herring Cove, Bear Cove, Halibut Bay, Portugeuse Cove

of seniors than the HRM average also characterizes the study area population. The 2006 census shows a significantly lower proportion of teenagers and young children.

Census information at the community level indicates a generally declining youth population. For the Armdale-Northwest Arm census boundary the number of people under 19 years of age declined by over 30% between 1996 and 2006. The number of children less than five years of age decreased by nearly 25% during that period. Similarly for communities included in the Herring Cove census boundary, the number of people under 19 years of age decreased 25% between 1996 and 2006. The number of children under five years of age decreased nearly 30% over that period.

School enrollments are a useful indicator of changing population trends. The study area includes two elementary (John W. MacLeod-Fleming Tower Elementary School and William King Elementary) and two Junior High Schools (Cunard Junior High School and Herring Cove Junior High School). With the exception of John W. MacLeod, school enrollments since 2006 have declined (Figure 5.3) (Halifax Regional School Board, 2010). John W. MacLeod's more urban catchment area may account for its relatively stable enrollment.

A community initiated survey was distributed to households in Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove in 2010 regarding their use of Connaught Battery Park. From the 93 households that responded, the survey indicates at least 38 children aged 15 years or less currently living in the area. The community survey is discussed further in Section 6.

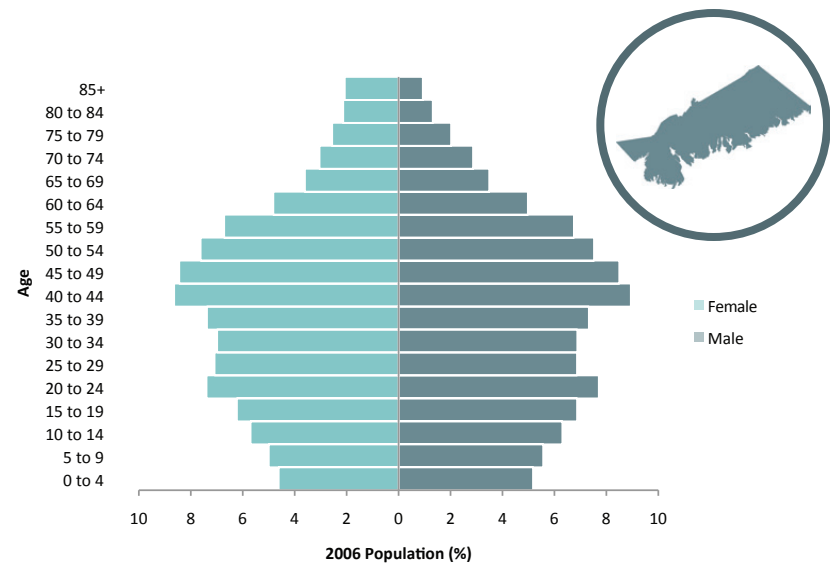


Figure 5.1 Population Pyramid, HRM, 2006 Census

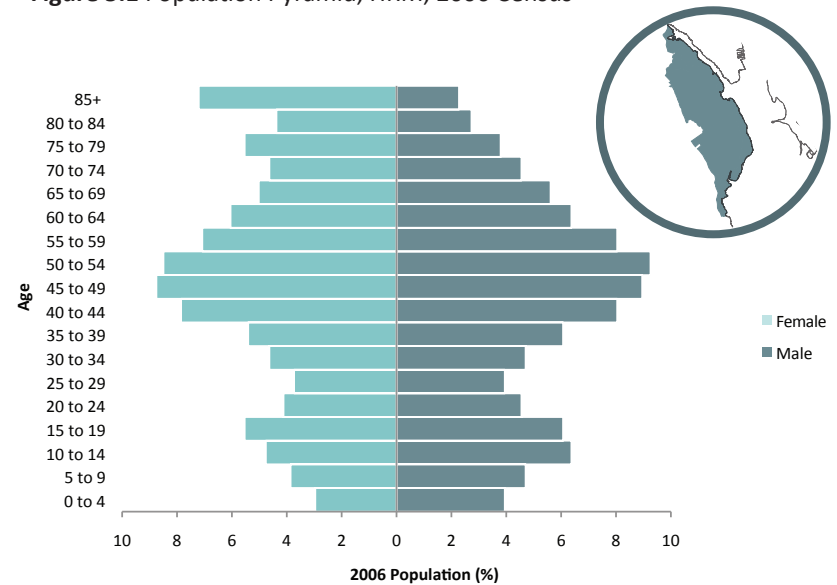


Figure 5.2 Population Pyramid, Study Area, 2006 Census. Census data by Dissemination Area. (Source: Canadian Census Analyser, 2010)

Section 5.1 Implications

- With limited development potential in the Urban Reserve and Rural Commuter designations, the low residential densities will continue to characterize the study area.
- Population levels are not likely to change substantially. An enduring low density pattern means that future recreational needs will depend less on population pressure than on other community characteristics.
- The much higher proportion of adults and seniors than children in the study area imply that recreational services should support opportunities for an older population in addition to children. Finding the right balance of recreational opportunities depends on available parks and recreational features in the area as well as community preferences.

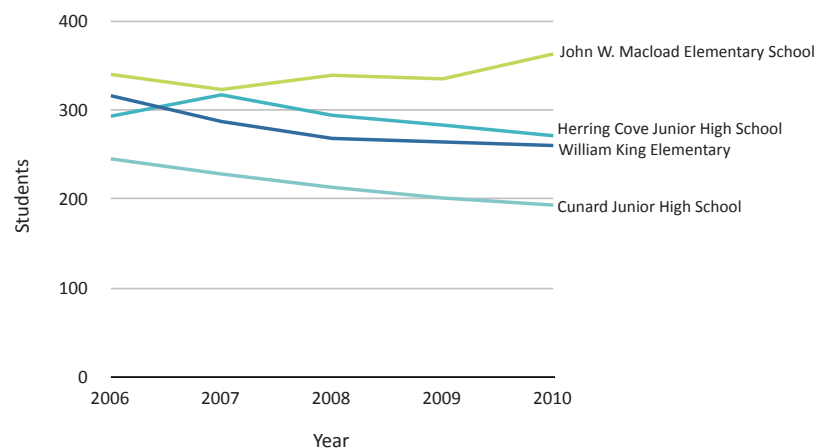


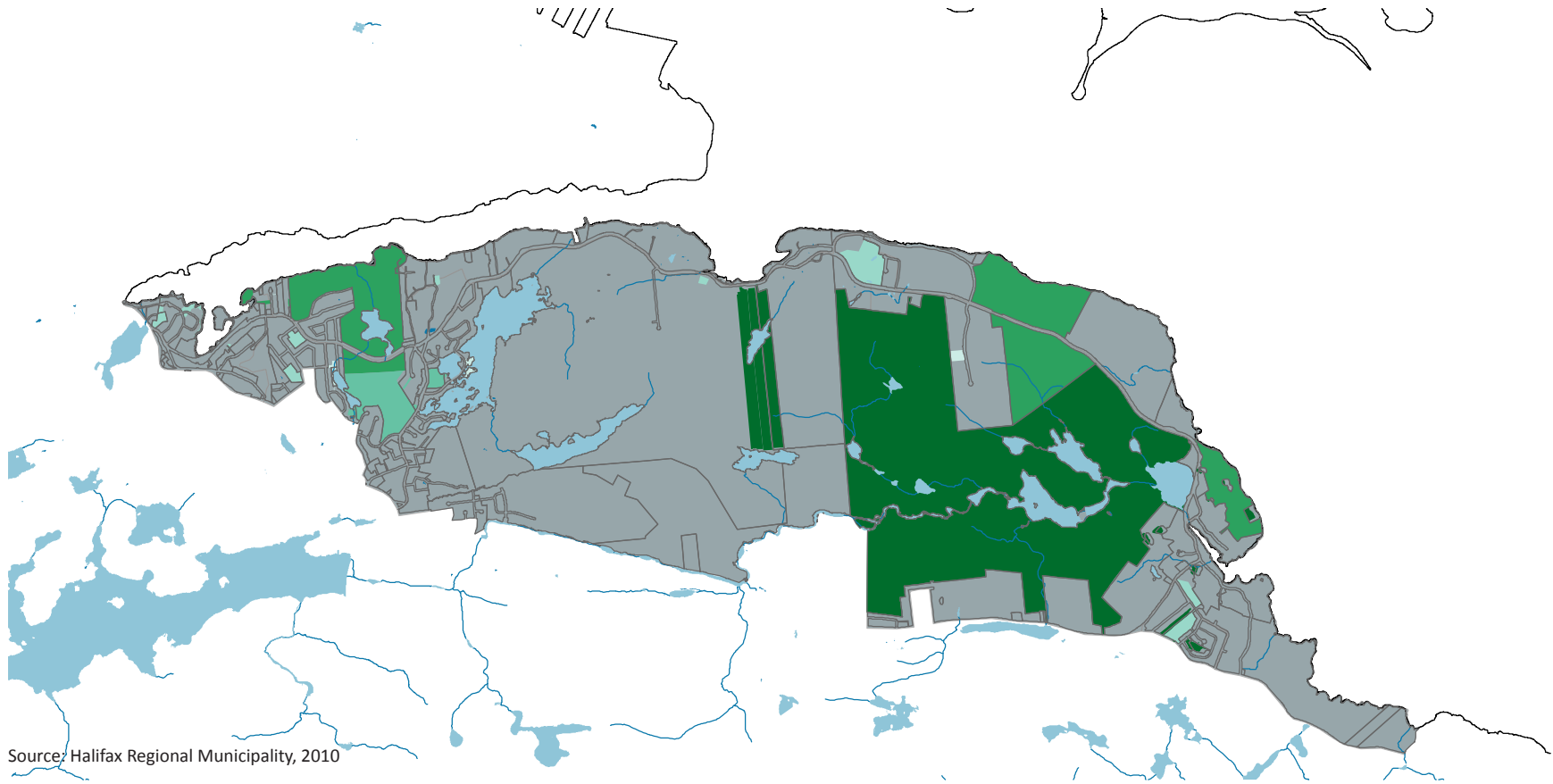
Figure 5.3 School Enrolments 2006-2010
(Source: Halifax School Regional Board, 2010)

5.2 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The hierarchy of park types aims to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for populations of various densities and sizes. It also takes into account unique natural and cultural features and neighbouring land use. Communities along the Purcell's Cove Road corridor enjoy a range of open space and park resources. Map 5.1 shows the lands that currently hold an open space designation. These include lands zoned and designated for park use as well as natural open space. The open space system in the study area is composed either of land zoned for parks and classified as one of the four park types, or zoned as Protected Area.

The study area includes a variety of passive and active recreation opportunities, from programmed sports to coastal hiking and historical interpretation. The distribution and character of the open space and park resources reflect the settlement pattern of the Purcell's Cove Road corridor. The northern end of the corridor along the Northwest Arm has a higher concentration of people and a wide range of recreational opportunities. Various park types and recreational features are in close proximity to residents. The southern end of the corridor is markedly more rural in character.

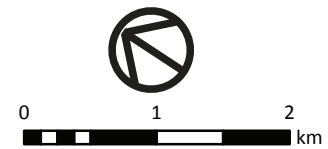
Map 5.1 Open Space Classification in the Study Area



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Neighbourhood Park |  Plan Area |
|  Community Park |  Lake |
|  District Park |  Stream |
|  Regional Park | |
|  Protected Area | |



Neighbourhood Parks

The study area includes three open spaces classified as Neighbourhood Park. Figure 5.4 shows the names and features of these parks. Only Mabou Park is currently developed. Mabou Park is a small open space fronting Mabou Avenue, with secondary pedestrian access from Inverness Avenue. The park is adjacent to Whimsical Lake and includes a playground facility.

Pine Island Bluff is a small, forested peninsula on the shore of Williams Lake adjacent to Wyndrock Drive. Aaron's Way Park is an undeveloped 2.5 acre parcel acquired through the subdivision process in the recently developed neighbourhood along Aaron's Way. The parcel is a low lying area abutting the extensive protected area under provincial ownership.



Mabou Park

Figure 5.4 Recreational Inventory of Neighbourhood Parks

| Park name | Area (Acres) | Playground | Parking | Tennis court | Basketball court | Basketball Hoop | Community center | Trails (km) | Beach | Sports Field |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| Mabou Avenue Park | 1.5 | x | x | | | | | | | |
| Pine Bluff Island Park | 0.1 | | | | | | | < 1 | | |
| Aarons Way Park | 2.5 | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Average Size in HRM</i> | 1.8 | | | | | | | | | |



Reserved parkland on Aaron's Way

Community Parks

The study area includes eight parks classified as Community Park. Four of these parks are part of elementary or Junior High School sites. Figure 5.5 shows the names and features of the Community Parks in the study area. Many of these parks include sports facilities in addition to playground structures. Only Regatta Point Park and Jollimore Park do not have active recreation elements beyond playground facilities. Based on its size, location and features, Jollimore Park is more fitting as a Neighbourhood Park.



Basketball Courts at the Old Dalhousie School Site, Purcell's Cove

Figure 5.5 Recreational Inventory of Community Parks

| Park name | Area (Acres) | Playground | Parking | Tennis court | Basketball court | Basketball Hoop | Community center | Trails (km) | Beach | Sports Field |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| Regatta Point Park | 2.5 | x | x | | | | | < 2 | | |
| John W Macleod Elementary School Park | 3.4 | x | x | x | x | | | | | x |
| Fleming Tower Elementary School Park | 3.7 | x | x | | | | | | | x |
| Jollimore Park | 0.6 | x | | | | | | | | |
| Old Dalhousie School Site | 1 | x | x | x | x | | | | | |
| Connaught Battery Park | 21.7 | x | | x | x | | | < 1 | | |
| William King Elementary School park | 7.1 | x | x | | | x | | | | |
| Herring Cove Jr. High School Park | 7.6 | | x | | x | | | | | |
| <i>Average Size in HRM</i> | 5.7 | | | | | | | | | |



Connaught Battery Park

As a Community Park, Connaught Battery Park stands out for its substantially large size, four times the average HRM Community Park, and for its lack of accessible frontage and parking. The recreational features in Connaught Battery Park are representative of the Community Park classification and they are concentrated within an area of only a few acres. These include a basketball court, a tennis court, a playground and an open field used for informal play. These facilities were constructed in 1998 by HRM with support from the Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's Cove communities and are beginning to show wear. A seasonal pond, located south of the batteries, is used for skating and hockey during the winter.



Top: Basketball and tennis courts
Bottom: Playground

District Parks

Two District Parks, Ravenscraig Drive Park and Cunard Junior High School include substantial active recreation opportunities. Ravenscraig Drive Park has a new high quality sports field, playground facility and washrooms. The park also has a walking trail that connects to a subdivision on the hill to the north of the site. Cunard Junior High School also has outdoor sports facilities. The two parks are both abutting Williams Lake Road. Together they provide a central focus of active recreation with capacity for sports programming.

Figure 5.6 Recreational Inventory of District Parks

| Park name | Area (Acres) | Playground | Parking | Tennis court | Basketball court | Basketball Hoop | Community center | Trails (km) | Beach | Sports Field |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| Ravenscraig Dr. Park | 45.5 | x | x | | | | | | | x |
| Cunard Jr. High School Park | 4.8 | | x | x | | x | | | x | x |
| <i>Average Size in HRM</i> | 24 | | | | | | | | | |



Ravenscraig Drive Park

Regional Parks

The study area includes four open spaces classified as Regional Park. The regional classification accommodates the widest range of open space characteristics and facilities. The treatment of the Regional Parks depends on the unique cultural and natural features present. Deadman’s Island provides access to a coastal heritage resource on the Northwest Arm.

Sir Sandford Fleming Park has a range of historic and recreational features. With a seawall walkway and beach, the park also has a large playground facility and a variety of trails through woodland landscapes. The trail system connects to Frog Pond, providing an opportunity for a continuous passive recreation experience. All paths are well maintained and are connected creating loops. Trail maps and markers are available to assist park users.

York Redoubt National Historic Site is situated on the coast in Ferguson’s Cove and managed by Parks Canada as one of several major installations in the Halifax Defence Complex. The site provides an opportunity for cultural interpretation of several periods of military history. York Redoubt is a popular destination for visitors as well as for local residents. The Fort receives over 40,000 visitors annually and provides recreational opportunities for local residents with its wooded areas, trails and coastal access (Parks Canada, 2009).

Herring Cove Provincial Park Reserve provides extensive coastal access and scenic views of the ocean. The reserve provides an opportunity for informal coastal hiking within twenty minutes of downtown Halifax.



York Redoubt National Historic Site

Figure 5.7 Recreational Inventory of Regional Parks

| Park name | Area (Acres) | Playground | Parking | Tennis court | Basketball court | Basketball Hoop | Community center | Trails (Km) | Beach | Sports Field |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| Deadman’s Island Park | 2.2 | | | | | | | < 1 | | |
| Sir Sandford Fleming Park | 100.8 | x | x | | | | | 4 | x | |
| York Redoubt National Historic Site | 92 | | x | | | | | | | |
| Herring Cove Provincial Park Reserve | 44 | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Average Size in HRM</i> | 30 | | | | | | | | | |

Protected Areas

The Regional Plan recognizes the critical importance of maintaining natural open space corridors and linkages for preventing habitat fragmentation and protecting natural landscape functions as the regional population grows. The primary purpose of the natural corridor network is to conserve environmentally sensitive lands for wildlife habitat and, in some cases, to conserve recreational and cultural lands (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006).

The extensive landscape of public lands, the Herring Cove Backlands, extends between Purcell's Cove Road and Herring Cove Road at the southern end of the study area. The municipality has zoned the provincially owned portions of this land as Protected Area. The Herring Cove Backlands are proposed as a Wilderness Area under provincial designation (Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition, 2006). Two parcels intersecting with Purcell's Pond were donated by private land owners for protection by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. Together, the protected areas represent over 1,100 acres conservation lands.

The Herring Cove Backlands form an essential part of the regional open space system and serve important natural and cultural functions. The McIntosh Run water course and trail system passes through the provincially owned land, providing key ecosystem functions as well as providing connections to nature and passive recreation opportunities. The Regional Plan identifies the Backlands as part of HRM's designated system of interconnected natural areas and trails (See Appendix A for Regional Plan Maps 3). An historic trail, known locally as

Old Military Road, passes through part of the Herring Cove Backlands. This cultural artifact was once a main route from the coast to inland settlements along what is now Herring Cove Road.

Informal access points for hiking tend to cross privately owned land. An extensive trail system crosses the Backlands providing hiking and mountain biking opportunities, and access to lakes and scenic views. In particular the Old Military Road trail and Piggy Mountain present opportunities for open space linkages and recreational assets. Piggy Mountain is rock outcrop at the end of a short linear trail that rewards hikers with spectacular views of the Halifax Harbour and Backlands (Gray, 2005).



Figure 5.2 Major Trail Corridor through the Herring Cove Backlands (Source: Gray, 2005; Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010; Bing Maps, 2011)

Section 5.2 Implications

- The land leased for Connaught Battery Park is substantially larger than HRM criteria set out for parks classified as Community Park. At market value acquiring the full parcel is an expensive proposition.
- To facilitate permanent municipal commitment to the park, decisions about land acquisition through either ownership or long term lease should address the unique characteristics of the site and its recreational potential.
- The service areas for Old Dalhousie School Site and Connaught Battery Park overlap. Each provides opportunities for active recreation for the residents of Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove. Although their service areas overlap, having only one park would result in a deficiency of accessible park space.
- The location and landscape of Connaught Battery Park presents opportunities to enhance passive recreation and ensure public access to a unique cultural landscape with impressive views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach.
- The extensive protected area to the west of Purcell's Cove Road provides contact with nature, access to lakes and light hiking. Connection between the Ferguson's Cove area and points of interest in the Backlands could be enhanced for recreational purposes.
- Piggy Mountain is a priority candidate as a recreational point of interest due to its elevation, unobstructed view and proximity to Ferguson's Cove.
- Old Military Road is a priority candidate trail. Trail development will require formal agreement with public and private land owners. Its advantages include:
 - (1) Already existing trail
 - (2) Connection between coastal communities and inland communities with possible integration with the McIntosh Run Trail Project
 - (3) Mostly crosses provincial land

6.0 Community Consultation



The plan considers input from community members through three means: (1) a community survey conducted by the Ferguson’s Cove Neighbourhood Association; (2) a community design workshop, and; (3) a community open house.

Community Survey

In April 2010, the Ferguson’s Cove Neighbourhood Association distributed a survey to residents in Ferguson’s Cove and Purcell’s Cove to canvas perceptions of the park, current use and opportunities for improvement. The survey was distributed to 267 households in both communities with 93 households responding (a response rate of 35%). A summary of the results is given in the following tables and graphics.

| Figure 6.1 What do you like most about the park? | |
|--|-----|
| Passive Recreation & Qualities | |
| quiet/peaceful/secluded/uncrowded | 33% |
| open space | 17% |
| view | 12% |
| natural setting | 9% |
| trails/walking | 8% |
| Active Recreation | |
| sports facilities | 17% |
| safe play area | 12% |
| dog run/walk | 9% |
| skating pond | 7% |
| Other | |
| fortifications/history | 8% |
| location/proximity to home | 7% |
| cleanliness | 3% |
| very few dogs | 3% |
| no answer | 15% |

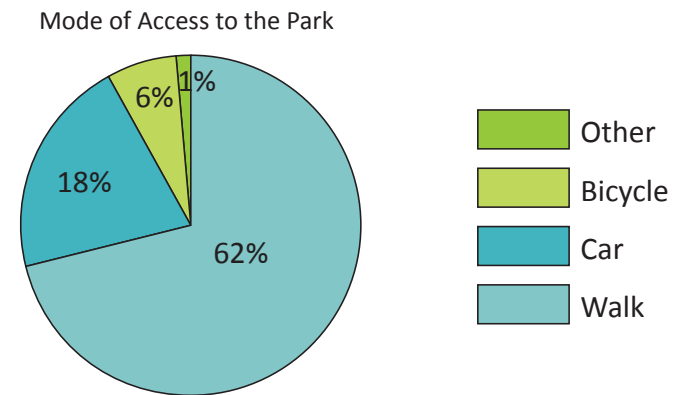
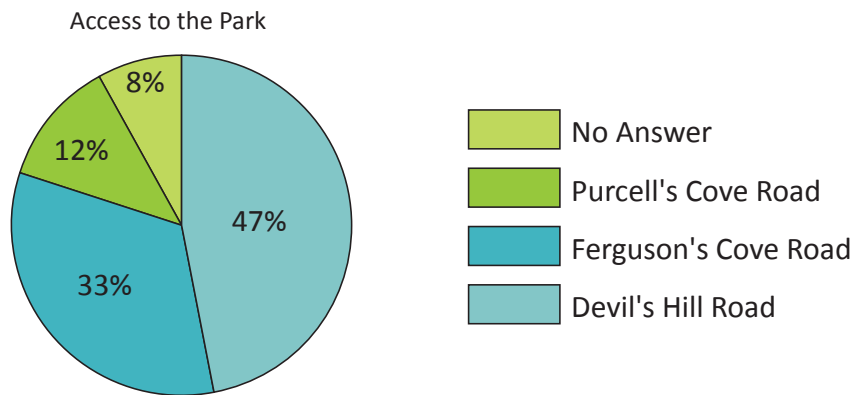
*Miscellaneous answers included: “good place to meet neighbours”, “shelter”, “knowing it is there”, “hearing children play”, “wildlife”

Figure 6.2 What do you not like about the park?

| Access | |
|---|-----|
| access/path from Devil's Hill Rd. | 24% |
| lack of parking | 5% |
| Access from Ferguson's Cove Rd. (unclear rights of way) | 5% |
| lack of signage | 3% |
| Conditions | |
| graffiti | 8% |
| broken glass/safety around fortifications | 7% |
| condition of field | 6% |
| dead trees/fire hazard | 3% |
| Other | |
| nothing/leave it alone | 12% |
| too isolated/safety concerns | 3% |
| no organized events | 3% |
| no answer | 14% |

Based on the survey and discussions with the community representatives from the Working Group, the park is well used and enjoyed by residents of the neighbouring communities mostly for passive recreation. Site visits and discussions with a community representative indicated that the skating pond is the main active winter recreational use with the tennis courts frequently used during summer months.

The survey identified access from Ferguson's Cove Road, which is currently controlled by the Department of National Defence, and site maintenance including safety around the deteriorating fortifications as primary concerns. Discussion with a community representative pointed to changing uses and additional concerns. A community representative indicated that the Department of National Defence has also used the park for military drills, noting that their vehicles caused damage to portions of the field. The diversity of park uses suggests a need for better planning and coordination of activities over the long-term.



Design workshop

On February 8, 2011 the Bluestone Planning team hosted a community design workshop for residents of Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove. Sixteen residents collaborated on developing priorities and concept designs for the park. The workshop consisted of two activities aiming to:

- (1) define guiding principles or themes to inform the park design.
- (2) explore a range of design options that apply the key themes.

The first activity intended to find common ground between the participants through prioritizing the issues and needs related of the site. The issues and needs listed in this activity were built on the residents' survey results. The participants were encouraged to add new ideas and emerging issues. Each group expressed and shared key principles or themes to guide the future of this park. The results of the exercise are summed below (Figure 6.4).

| Figure 6.3 Rating the importance of suggested improvements | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | # positive responses (total responses) | % positive responses | % responses consider "very Important" |
| picnic tables | 52 (80) | 65% | 25% |
| improved walking access | 62 (78) | 79% | 46% |
| seating areas | 64 (81) | 79% | 37% |
| walking trails | 65 (79) | 82% | 44% |
| community gardens | 51 (78) | 66% | 19% |
| wheelchair access | 49 (75) | 65% | 21% |
| swings | 52 (80) | 65% | 31% |

Preserving the natural environment and enhancing the natural beauty of the site were the most common priorities. Residents ranked the sports facilities highly and expressed the desire to maintain existing facilities. One group emphasized the park as a location for dog training.

In the second activity residents created different design options for the site. The participants worked in groups and created design concepts with each group sharing their design ideas.

| Figure 6.4 Summary of Workshop Priorities | | Votes |
|---|--|-------|
| Natural Environment | | 35 |
| Communities Events | | 20 |
| Connections to Open Spaces | | 19 |
| Sports Facilities | | 18 |
| Dog Training | | 17 |
| Play ground | | 16 |
| Unique Harbour Views | | 14 |
| Public Art | | 10 |
| Historical Interpretation | | 10 |
| Community Garden | | 5 |
| Parking | | 4 |
| ATV Use | | 0 |



The major design ideas resulting from this activity are summarized below:

- Improve the existing trail network and emphasize connections with other open space resources in the area.
- Upgrade the play ground infrastructure by adding swings and maintaining the open field.
- Provide benches and tables for rest and picnicking that are durable and not easily damaged.
- Prohibit ATV use on the site.
- Improve access and usability of the skating pond.
- Create a space to host local community events.
- Provide historic interpretation signs and boards.
- Provide senior's exercise equipment.
- Design accessible harbour viewing areas.
- Improve park lighting.
- Provide limited parking.

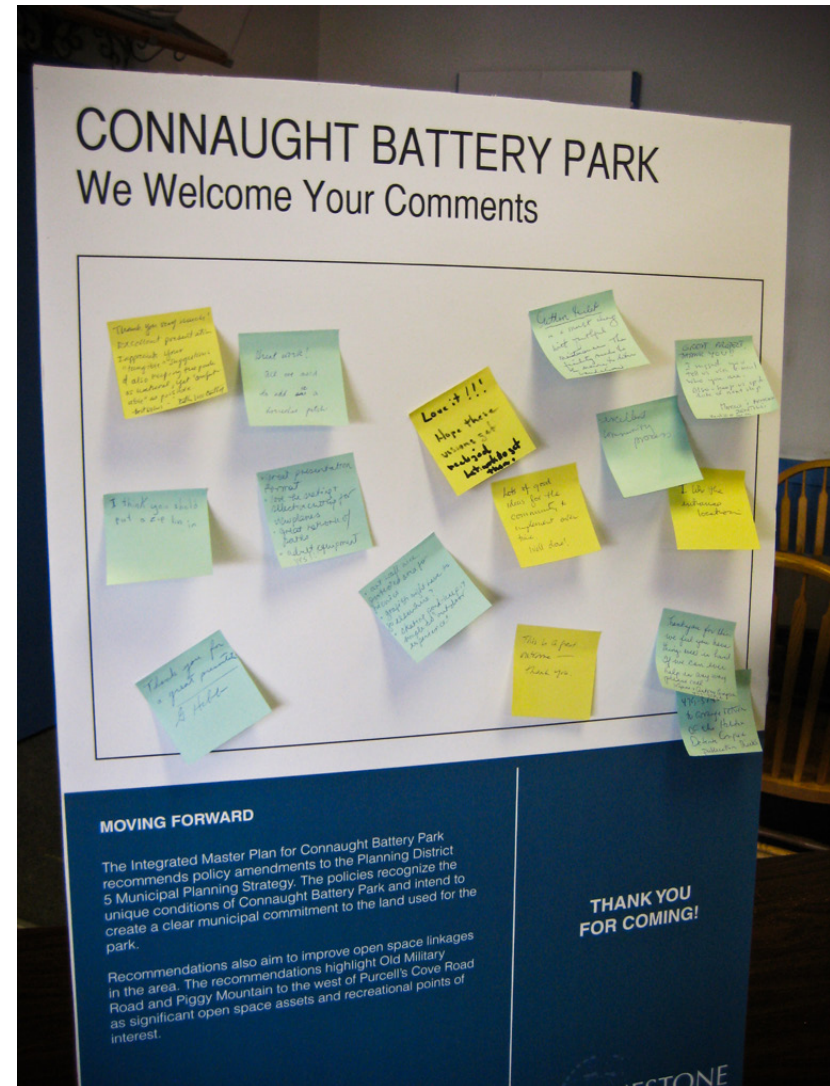
Design Workshop, February, 2011

Community Open House

On March 26, 2011, the project team organized and hosted a community open house for residents of Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove. The open house provided community members the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed concept plan for Connaught Battery Park. The project team presented the plan along with background information of the park on several posters and discussed the plan with community members. In total, 30 people attended and the feedback and comments were overwhelmingly positive (See Appendix D).



Community open house, March, 2011



Open house comments board

7.0 SITE INVENTORY

7.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Constructed between 1913 and 1916, Connaught Battery was the first Canadian-built addition to the Halifax Defence Complex following the transfer of responsibilities over harbour fortifications from the British Army to the Canadian Government in 1905-1906. The construction was part of a larger program to update Halifax's harbour fortifications at a time when coastal military defence technology was changing rapidly. The battery is significant not only as one of the Canadian government's first investments in the Halifax Defence Complex but also as marking a transition from focusing harbour defence on defending against an attack from the United States to protecting North Atlantic shipping lanes to Europe (Sarty and Ellis, 2009)¹.

A Canadian Addition to the Defence Complex

By the time British troops departed Halifax, new long-range guns rendered many inner-harbour fortifications obsolete and defence installations were moved to the outer harbour. To modernize the defence complex, the military determined that a new battery should be constructed near Falkland Village, now Ferguson's Cove. In 1912 the federal government expropriated the needed land; however, budget limitations during initial construction slowed progress. By early 1914 available funds were consumed in



Aerial view of Connaught Battery, 1944 (PHOTO: CFJIC RE 84-178, from Sarty and Ellis, 2009)

excavating the granite at the site. Excavations were required to accommodate the concrete structures of the battery itself and also for a wooden barracks located to the rear of the battery.

¹This section relies extensively on the work of Sarty and Ellis (2009). Interested readers are directed to their article.



Excavating granite bedrock for the construction of the military barracks (PHOTO: CFJIC RE 84-171, from Sarty and Ellis, 2009)

World War I

Work on the battery did not resume again until the outbreak of World War I when funds were made available to continue construction. During the winter of 1915-16 construction hastened but severe weather and limited war-time building supplies slowed progress. By January 1916 three 4.7-inch quick-fire (QF) guns arrived to the site and in August of that year a ceremony marked Connaught Battery's official opening. The Duke of Connaught, serving at the time as Governor-General, had been particularly interested in Halifax's defences and attended the inauguration ceremony. The Duke demonstrated his particular interest in the new fortifications by allowing it to be named after him, thus giving the battery the name that it still carries today.



Connaught Battery showing mounted gun, 1916 (PHOTO: CFJIC RE 84-175, from Sarty and Ellis, 2009)

Connaught Battery, like other harbour fortifications, was kept at a high-level of readiness during World War I. While German U-boats inflicted damage to Atlantic shipping lines, neither Connaught Battery nor the Halifax Defence Complex engaged enemy ships. Following the war, Connaught battery began to take on less importance in harbour defence as ammunition and anti-submarine nets were moved to other forts such as York Redoubt. In 1938 the QF guns were removed as part of preparations to defend the Maritimes in the event of another European war.



Workers moving granite along the harbour face of the battery, circa. 1916 (PHOTO: CFJIC RE 84-179, from Sarty and Ellis, 2009)

World War II and Decommission

With the outbreak of World War II Connaught Battery again played an important role, albeit more limited role, in harbour defence. The battery was operational from 26 August 1939 to spring 1941. As the guns had been removed, the battery mainly functioned in providing search-lights for the harbour and temporary accommodation for artillery units. In the years following the war, the military used buildings at the battery as married quarters but in 1953 the wooden structures on the site were declared surplus and dismantled.

After 1953 Connaught Battery was largely abandoned and was subsequently used as a dumping yard for old vehicles. Steel fixtures from the remaining concrete buildings were also removed both damaging and greatly undermining their structural integrity. In 1970, the land was transferred to Crown Assets and then to the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works in 1972.



Aerial Photo of Connaught Battery in 1944 with Purcell's Cove in the distance (PHOTO: From Sarty and Ellis, 2009)

During this period the abandoned vehicles were removed while many of the concrete structures remained dangerous and in a state of disrepair. The Federal Department of National Defence acquired a 5.5 acre parcel of land on the northern portion of the site to construct a sound range facility. The sounding facilities include a utility tunnel that connects the building with the harbour.



Connaught Battery before infilling of the field (PHOTO: J. Doucet)



Deteriorating military buildings around battery (PHOTO: J. Doucet)

Community Involvement

Connaught Battery Park's use as a community park demonstrates a history of community involvement in the area. In 1992, in response to deteriorating conditions of the battery and related safety issues, the Ferguson's Cove Neighbourhood Association convinced the municipal government to lease the park from the province. The group was successful in their efforts at having the municipality lease the land and invest in several park improvements including infilling part of the historic battery to create the field and building the tennis court, basketball court and children's play area. Following amalgamation HRM has continued the maintenance of the park and maintains a short-term lease with the provincial Department of Natural Resources. At the request of nearby residents HRM has recently upgraded

the access path from Devil's Hill Road in addition to cutting a drainage channel to direct pond water overflow.

Because HRM has a short-term lease of the land, residents are encouraging the municipality to buy the land. An important goal of this plan, therefore, is to create a long-term vision for the park that can garner HRM's long-term interest in maintaining the site as a valuable community park.

7.2 SITE INVENTORY

This section of the plan summarizes Connaught Battery Park's existing natural, recreational and historical features. The inventory is completed through site visits and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and analysis. The analysis described in this section leads to project design objectives and informs the development of the design concepts for Connaught Battery Park.

7.3 PROPERTY, LAND STATUS & ACCESS

Connaught Battery Park has a total property area of 21.7 acres. DND owns a 5.5 acre parcel on the northern edge of the property while lands to the west and south are privately owned. From 1996 to 2006 HRM leased the park land from the Department of Natural Resources at a favorable rate. HRM has indicated that the lease has been extended on an annually renewing basis (Charles, 2011).

Despite the park's historic use as a military fort and subsequent use as a disposal site for derelict vehicles, there is no evidence that the environmental impacts of these uses have been studied. Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992), decommissioned defence sites require a comprehensive environmental study before being transferred. The transfer of lands between the federal and provincial governments predates the environmental assessment regulations.



Park entrance off Devil's Hill Road



DND access road



Middle Road Trail

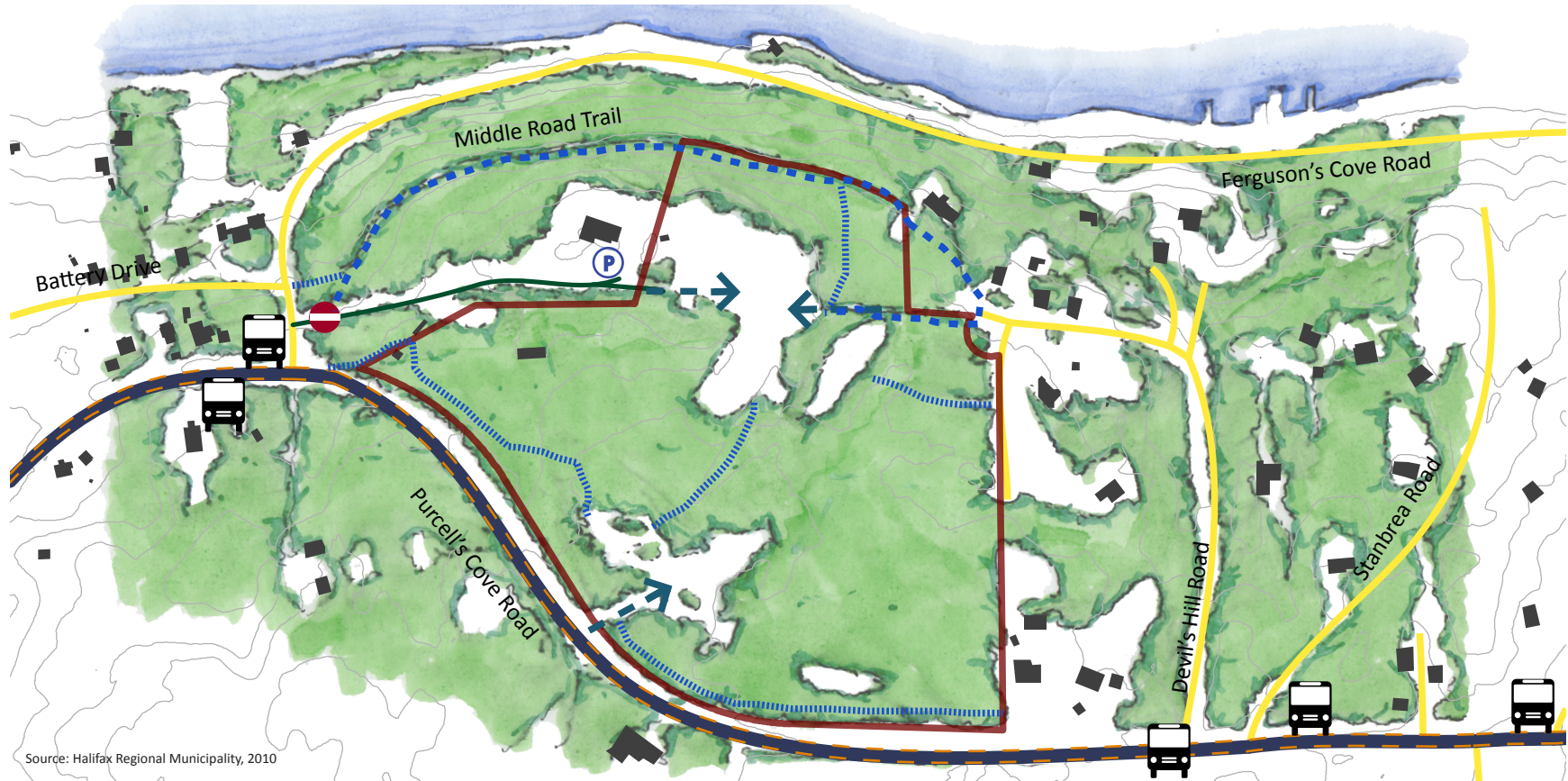
The property is zoned as P-3 (Park) and designated as a Community Park according to the HRM Park Classification System. As a Community Park, Connaught Battery Park does not meet HRM criteria for access and parking. While the property has substantial frontage on Purcell's Cove Road, an arterial road, the grade and curve of the road limit opportunities to provide direct access. The only feasible access point along Purcell's Cove Road is disconnected from the developed areas of the park.

Devil's Hill Road, a local road serving the community of Ferguson's Cove, provides access to the park from the south with limited on-street parking. A pedestrian path at the end of Devil's Hill Road provides the primary access to the park. There is no signage indicating the access to the park on either this road or Purcell's Cove Road.

Several trails run through Connaught Battery Park. The most significant is Middle Road, an historic public diversion road, that runs along the park's eastern slope (see Section 7.4). The Middle Road trail crosses the DND parcel and a private lot at the end of Devil's Hill Road. There is an informal trail connecting Middle Road to the open field south of the battery and another informal trail connecting the active recreation facilities to the access point along Purcell's Cove Road.

Connaught Battery Park has limited pedestrian and vehicular access. DND restricts vehicle access from Ferguson's Cove Road and only allows access for HRM park maintenance and military personnel who operate the sounding facility. DND maintains a small parking lot adjacent to the sounding facility but the park itself has no on-site parking.

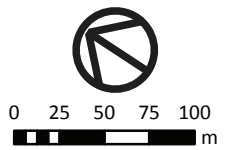
Map 7.1 Access Map



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

- Established Pedestrian Access
- Informal Trail
- Formal Trails
- Arterial
- Local Street
- Bus Stop
- Park Boundary
- Bus Route
- Contours 5m
- Restricted Access
- DND Parking





HRM maintenance vehicles access the park via the DND driveway

Access and Ownership Implications

- Given HRM's short-term lease of the property and substantial investment in recreational facilities in the park, a more permanent form of municipal administration is desirable.
- Due diligence regarding the possible need to assess the environmental conditions of the park will have to be resolved between the province and the municipality.
- There are limited options to bring the park up to HRM park criteria with respect to parking and accessibility.
- Vehicle access and parking off Ferguson's Cove Road would need to be negotiated with DND.
- Signage should be located along Purcell's Cove Road to improve knowledge of access to the park.



Concrete structures in variable states of decay.

7.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE

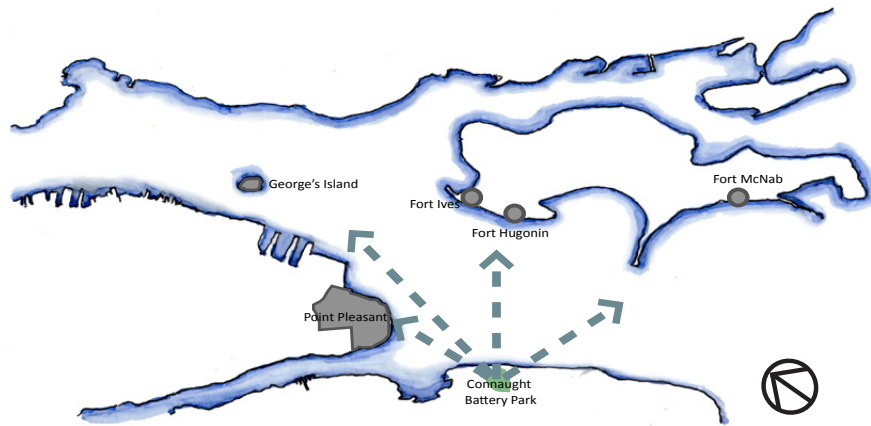
The Connaught Battery Park site includes numerous historical structures. The condition and location of the structures present both issues and opportunities for public open space use.

The most notable historic structure in the park is the military battery. The concrete in the battery is deteriorating in several places but the structure still allows access to a higher elevation, providing excellent views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach.

An historic road, known locally as Middle Road, runs along the eastern slope of the park property. Historical aerial photos show the road's existence at least to the 1940s. Park users use the pathway as trail. The pathway is 4.5 metres wide but vegetation encroachment has decreased the trail to 2 metres at the

southern end. The trail is in good condition and overlooks the harbour. The trail crosses Department of National Defence land at the northern end and private property at the southern end. Property plans included in the provincial land registry indicate that the road was a public diversion road, likely to provide a public route around the military base. The historical evidence suggests the pathway has an existing and long standing public easement. This should be confirmed with records from the Department of Transportation.

In 1965, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada conducted an extensive survey of the Halifax Defense Complex and determined that the federal government would not be justified in taking action to preserve or protect Connaught Battery having already identified other historic sites within the complex to maintain (Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, 1993). The Park's Canada Management Plan for the



Visible historic forts from Connaught Battery Park

Halifax Defence Complex focuses on other key forts around the Halifax Harbour including York Redoubt which has more substantial fortifications and a longer historical presence.

Connaught Battery Park offers harbour views that differ substantially from nearby York Redoubt, which is oriented away from the harbour. The site's elevation and orientation allow for impressive and unique views of the Halifax Harbour with sight lines that include George's Island, Point Pleasant Park and McNabs Island. The vistas offer an opportunity for cultural interpretation of key forts that form part of the Halifax Defence Complex.

Several remnant structures from the site's military era present public safety issues. Remains of buildings and infrastructure, including foundations, unsealed wells and sewers, are scattered in the wooded area in the northwest corner of the site. Remaining steel fixtures in an abandoned military structure are heavily rusted and structurally unsound.



Cultural Heritage Implications

- The location, elevation and orientation of the site make Connaught Battery Park a unique cultural landscape. The sight lines provide an opportunity for cultural interpretation of the Halifax Defence Complex.
- Middle Road trail presents an opportunity to enhance passive recreation by connecting to other potential park trails and accommodating quiet resting areas overlooking the water.
- The conditions of parts of the battery as well as abandoned infrastructure in the wooded area highlight liability issues and the need to consider safety in and around these structures in park designs.
- The Federal Government has not shown interest in maintaining or supporting Connaught Battery as an historic site.

7.5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Geology, Soils & Vegetation

Like other parts of Halifax, the Halifax Formation bedrock at Connaught Battery Park was scoured clean by pleistocene glaciations (Province of Nova Scotia, 2003). Thin soils and rock outcroppings characterize the park with exposed bedrock occurring in elevated areas as well as along steep slopes and cliffs particularly on the eastern edge of the park.

Thin soils hamper the ability for trees to establish deep root systems which make them susceptible to wind throw. In 2003, Hurricane Juan caused damage to trees in the park, particularly in the elevated area to the west of the DND sounding facility (Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, 2004).

Connaught Battery Park has primarily natural mixedwood vegetation growth. The exception is the wetland area located in southwest corner of the site which is characterized by low-lying shrubs and includes several berry producing plant species. The dominant tree species include Red Maple, White Birch, Balsam Fir, Black Spruce, Jack Pine and Eastern Larch (Keys et al., 2007).

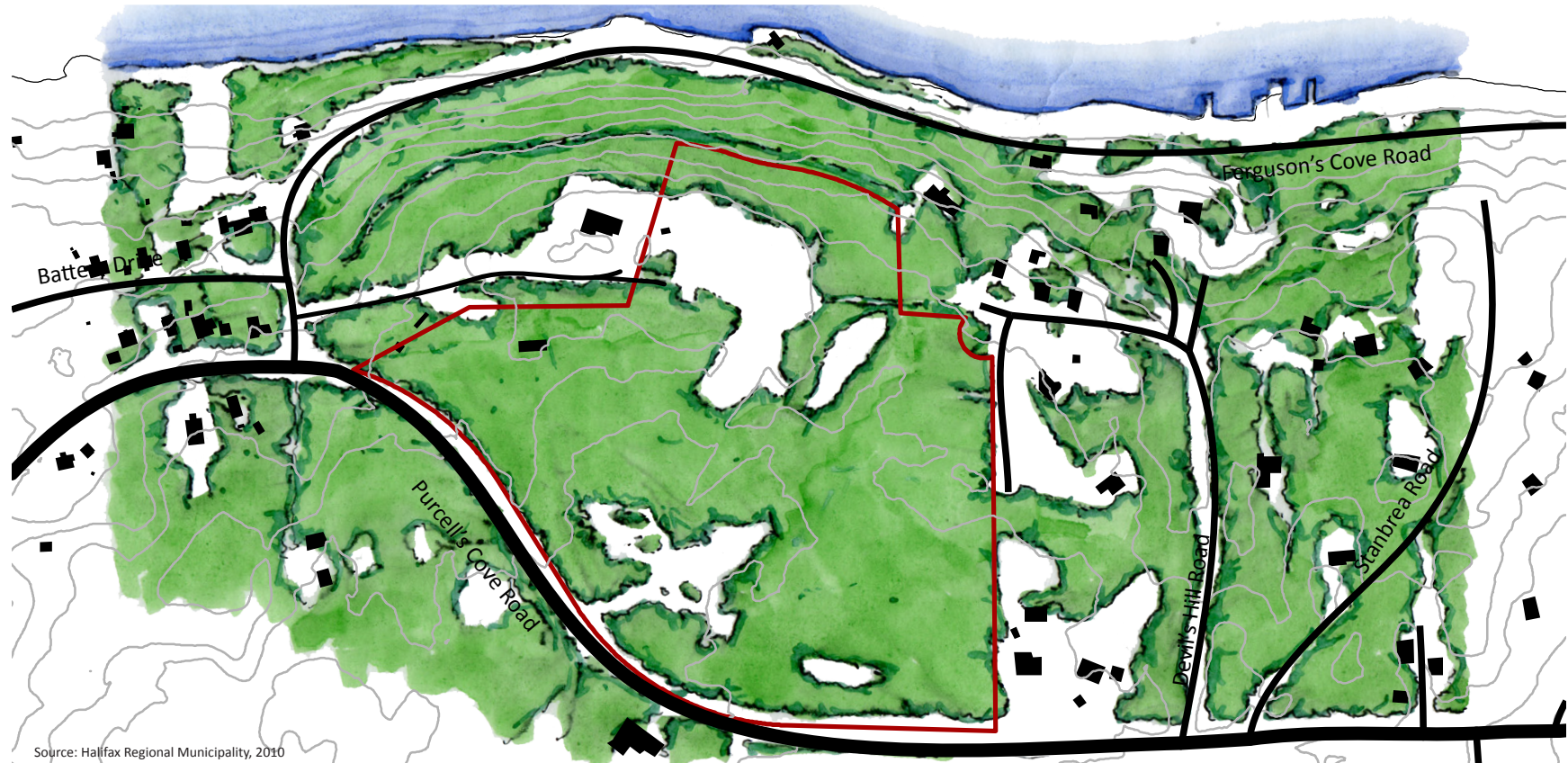
The construction of the DND sounding facility in the 1990s resulted in significant tree removal to make way for the new building and utility tunnel connecting to the harbour. Vegetation has since grown back; however, DND maintains a tree cut along the length of the tunnel. This cut allows for views of McNabs Island from Middle Road. The thin soils and motorized vehicle disturbance hamper tree growth in the sparsely wooded area adjacent to Purcell's Cove Road.



Geology, Soils & Vegetation Implications






- Due to thin soils, existing vegetation should be conserved with limited park development in wooded areas.
- The largely undisturbed wetland area to the southwest should be protected.
- Selective pruning of deciduous trees along the eastern edge of the park would contribute to improved views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach.

Map 7.2 Vegetation Cover

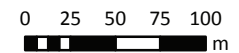


Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

-  Vegetation
-  Buildings
-  Contours
-  Park Boundary
-  Roads

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010



Topography, Slope & Aspect

Connaught Battery Park rises approximately 45m above sea level occupying an elevated ridge on the coast. Elevation within the park varies ranging from approximately 32m at its lowest point to 56m at its highest. Elevation generally decreases from west to east while ridges run from north to south. The ridge along the eastern edge of the park (where the historic batteries are located) offer exceptional views of McNabs Island, Eastern Passage, parts of Dartmouth and the Halifax Peninsula as well as other parts of the Halifax Harbour.

The terrain in the eastern part of the park slopes dramatically towards Ferguson's Cove Road and the coast. Slopes in this part of the park exceed 30 degrees. The steep slopes provide opportunities for scenic vistas along the historic Middle Road trail. Natural slopes on either side of this trail are quite steep and an historic retaining wall runs parallel with the batteries above. Vegetation on the eastern portion of the site aids in preventing erosion on the steep slopes.

The terrain in other parts of the park is relatively flat with most slopes less than 10 degrees. The exception is a small ridge located west of the tennis court where slopes exceed 30 degrees. The exposed rock face along this ridge is the result of excavation work done in the early 20th century as part of the battery's construction. A valley formation in this area, accommodates the informal pathway to Purcell's Cove Road.

The north-west corner of the park has several slopes greater than 30 degrees. This area of the site can be characterized as a shallow ravine.

Topography, Slope & Aspect Implications:

- High elevation in combination with the steep harbour slopes present exceptional opportunities to view the Halifax Harbour that are unmatched by other nearby parks.
- Given the site's steep slopes, trail and park development opportunities are limited along the park's eastern edge as well as areas west of the existing recreational facilities.
- The shallow ravine in the north-west corner of the park, limits access and usability of this area.

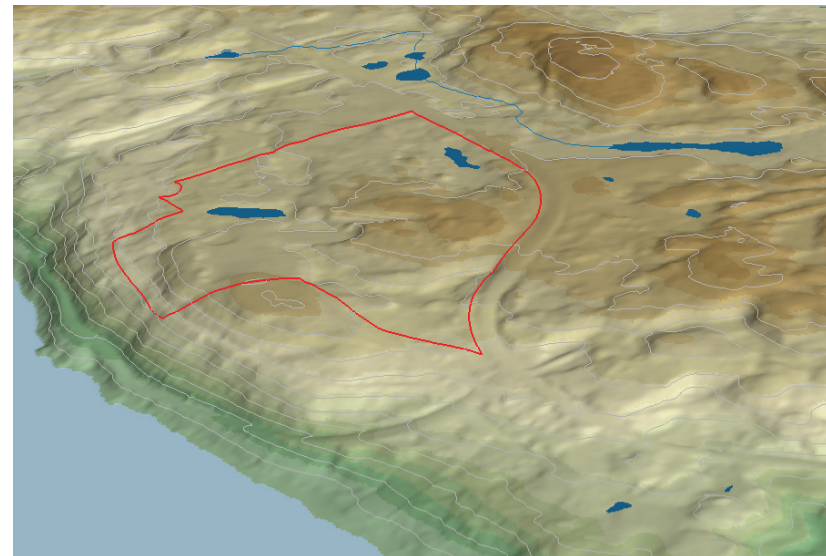
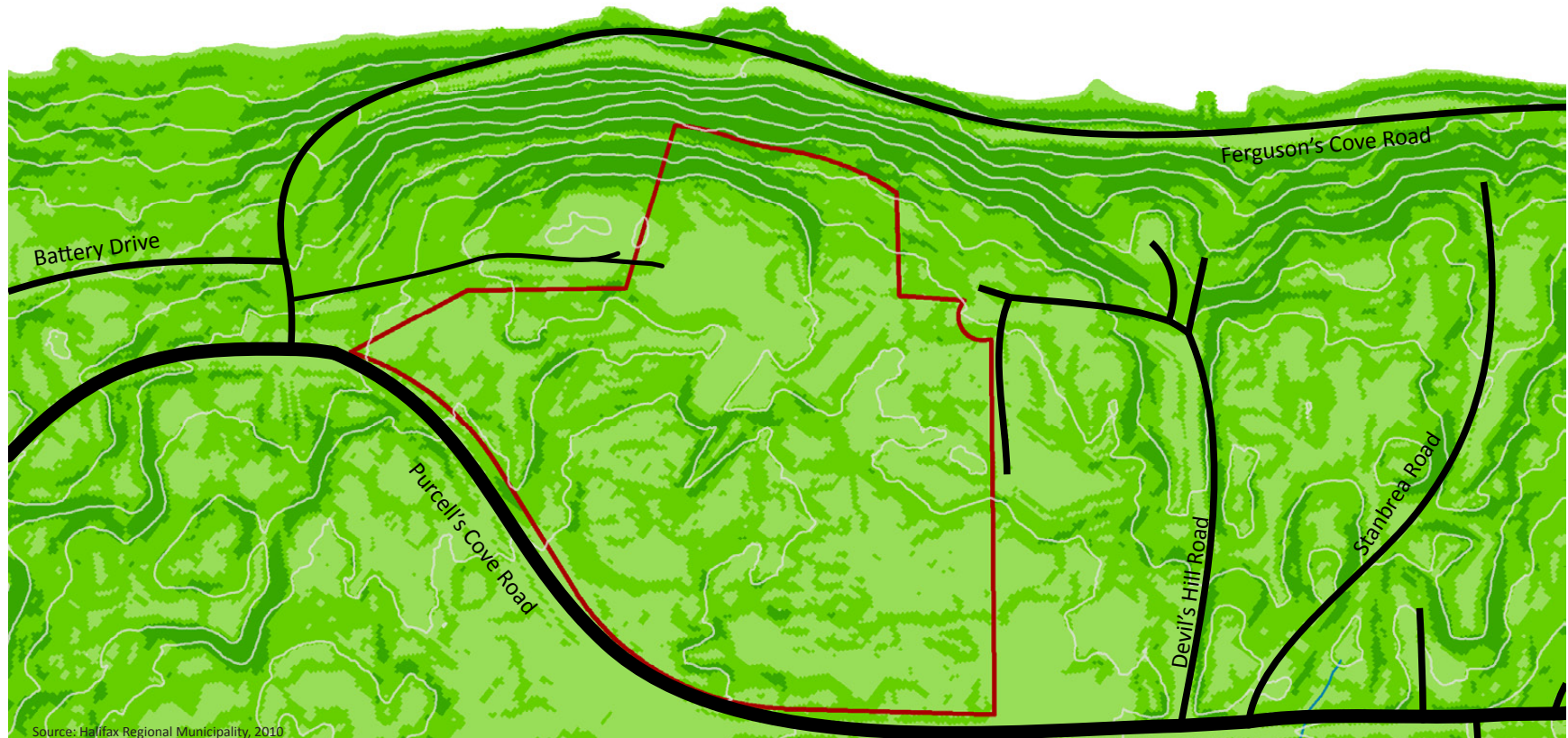


Figure 7.1 3D Topographic Representation of Connaught Battery Park




Map 7.3 Steep Slopes





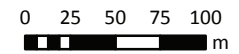
Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

Slope

-  0% - 10%
-  10% - 30%
-  Greater than 30%

-  Road
-  Park Boundary





Connaught Battery Park has several wetlands and numerous vernal pools.

Freshwater Hydrology

Purcell's Pond, the largest permanent water body near the park, drains into Purcell's Cove. Restricted drainage from Duck Pond forms a series of wetlands in low lying areas to the west of Purcell's Cove Road. Both water bodies are located in conservation lands. Purcell's Pond is also a popular area for hiking and swimming.

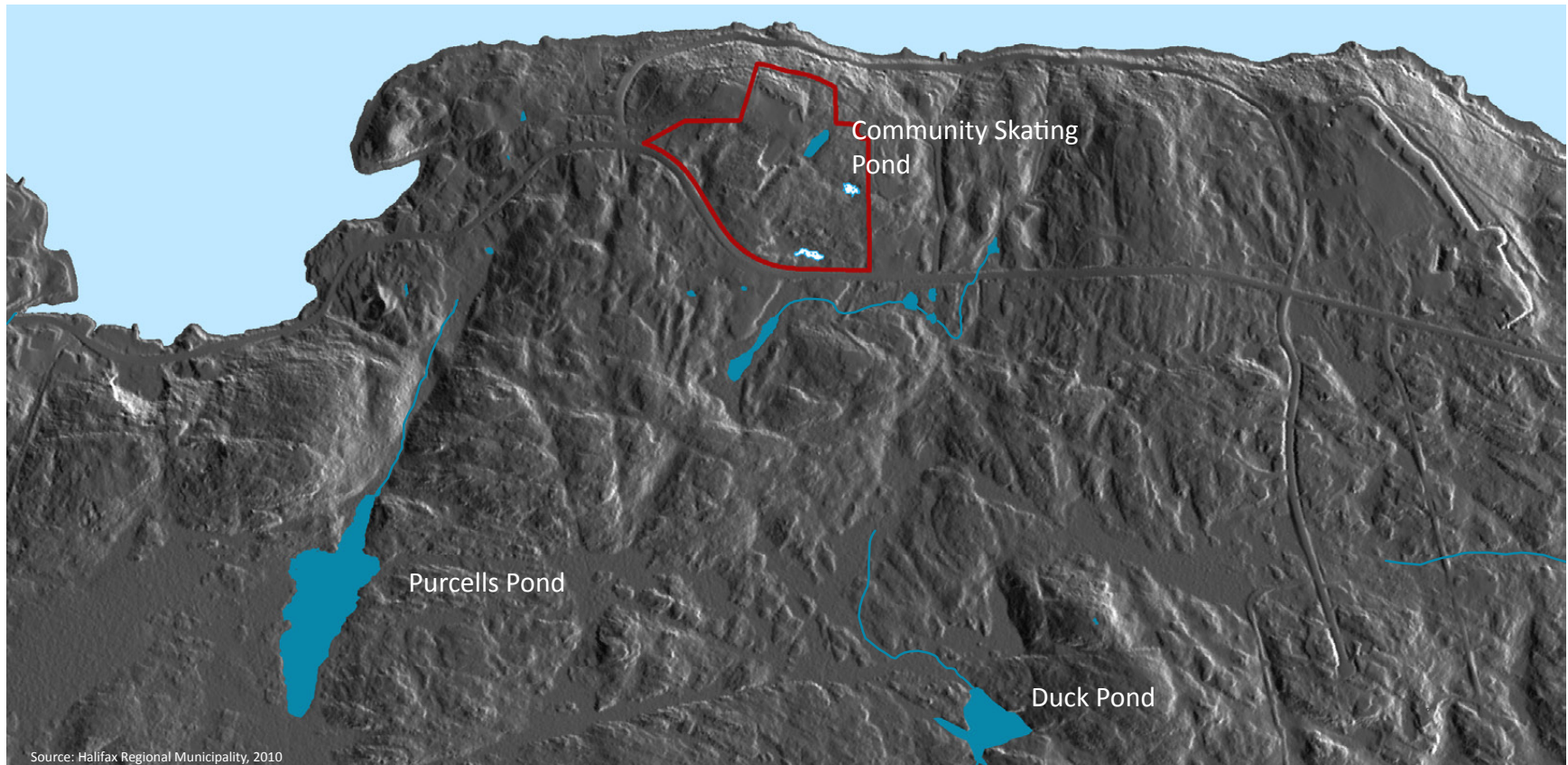
There are several freshwater seasonal ponds in Connaught Battery Park. Local residents use the largest pond, located near the open field, for skating in the winter. Overflow from the pond frequently causes washout problems on the adjacent park walkway.

On-site water tends to move toward the southwest corner from the centre of the site. Much of the southwest corner is

characterized by a wetland bog landscape. Bogs are the most common type of wetland in the province. They develop on open terrain with restricted drainage and receive water supply almost exclusively from precipitation. The resulting surface landscape becomes scattered with small ponds and vegetation adapted to acidic soils with poor drainage. Typical vegetation includes a dwarf shrub layer of Black Spruce and Larch, as well as several berry-producing herbaceous shrubs (Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1996).






Vernal pools that form on the surface provide critical habitat for frogs, salamanders and insects. They also provide important feeding and drinking sites for birds, mammals, turtles and other wildlife (Nova Scotia Department of Environment, 2009).

Figure 7.6 Hydrology

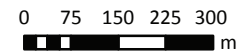


Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

-  Halifax Harbour
-  Lake
-  Stream
-  Seasonal Waterbody
-  Park Boundary

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010



Under regulation of the Nova Scotia Environment Act wetlands two hectares or larger in area must undergo an environmental assessment before they can be modified. The District 5 Land-Use By-Law (Halifax Regional Municipality, 1995) prohibits development on wetlands greater than 2,000 square metres, following policy directions from the Regional Plan.

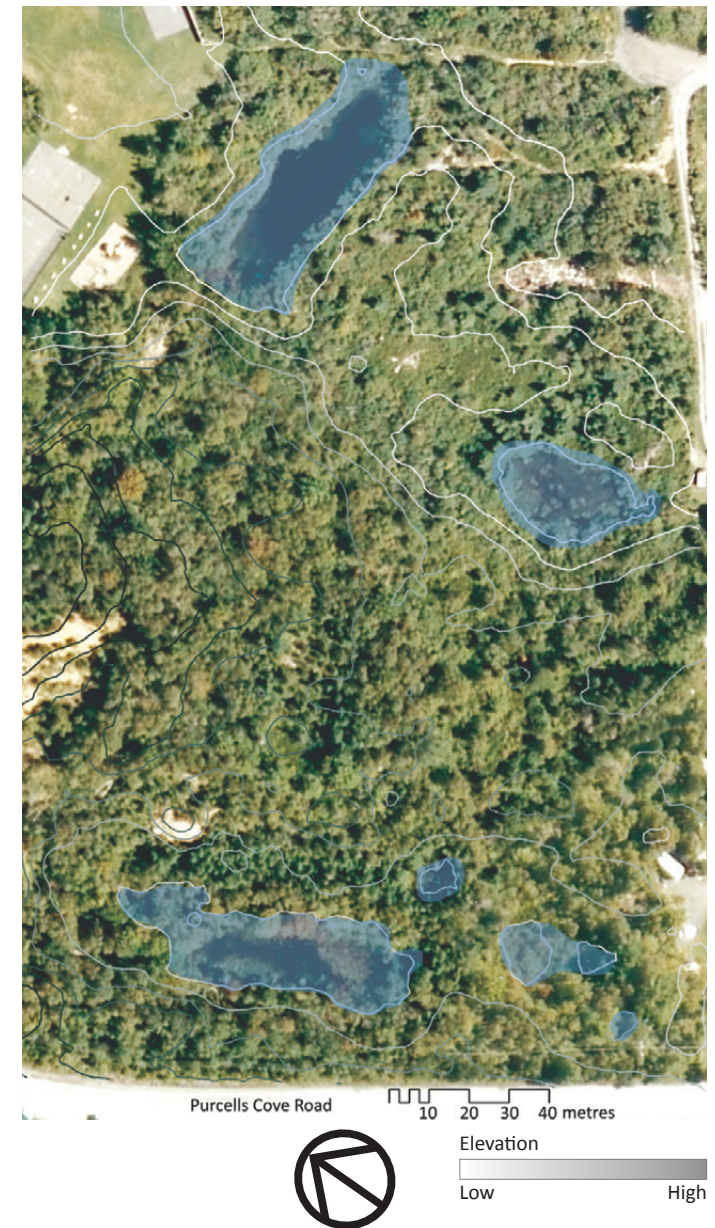
Small wetlands are often not officially recognized as environmental or community assets. Local communities may perceive small urban wetlands as important neighbourhood amenities that can provide routine contact with natural processes (Manuel, 2003). Residents who regularly use Connaught Battery Park have highlighted their enjoyment of berry-picking in the wetland area.

The province is preparing more stringent policy related to wetland preservation, conservation and stewardship. A draft 2009 Nova Scotia Environment policy applies to wetlands greater than 100 square metres (Nova Scotia Department of Environment, 2009).

Freshwater Hydrology Implications

- The wetland bog area presents a valuable micro-environment and community amenity that could be protected for public enjoyment. Schedule C of the District 5 Land-Use By-Law, which identifies protected wetlands, could include the Connaught Battery Park wetlands.

Figure 7.5 Wetland Areas



8.0 Concept Plan

8.1 DESIGN OBJECTIVES

This section describes the design objectives that form the basis of the proposed site plan for Connaught Battery Park. The objectives flow from the physical inventory and analysis presented previously as well as the community consultation and survey. In total, six design objectives were developed. Each objective includes actions that indicate specific elements to be addressed. Sections 8.2 and 8.3 present detailed design concepts and renderings while Section 9 discusses implementation.

The site design objectives and actions are as follows:

(1) Conserve the natural environment

Actions

- Minimize tree removal in trail design and park development.
- Protect wetland areas in the southern portion of the park.

(2) Enhance opportunities for historical interpretation

Actions

- Enhance the views of the Halifax Harbour and harbour approach from the battery and Middle Road through selective cutting and pruning.



Middle Road Trail

- Provide access to viewing points from the battery.
- Provide signage that describes the history of the park and its relationship to the Halifax Defence Complex.
- Mitigate safety issues around historic structures.

(3) Improve on and create additional opportunities for passive recreation

Actions

- Develop a looped trail network that builds on existing trails, in particular Middle Road.
- Incorporate seating areas throughout the park that take advantage of park assets such as views.
- Create a picnic area.

(5) Improve active recreation opportunities

Actions

- Create a formal seating area around the pond.
- Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities to include adult exercise stations.

(5) Encourage the use of the park for community events

Actions

- Emphasize the park as a connecting space between Purcell's Cove and Ferguson's Cove.
- Create opportunities for community activities by providing appropriate park space and furniture.

(6) Improve user access to the park

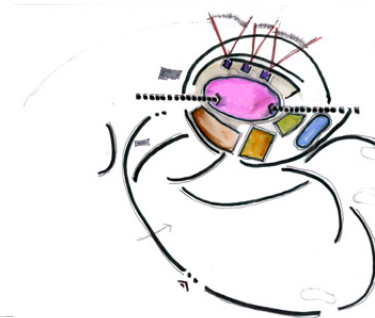
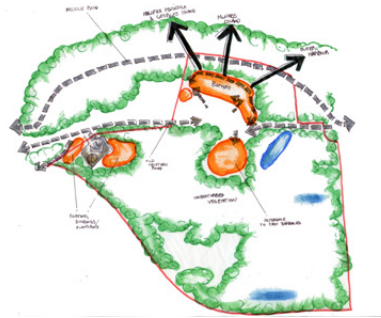
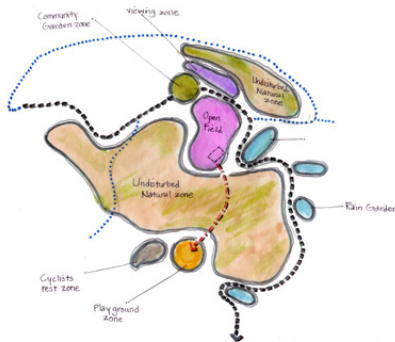
Actions

- Provide on-site parking for vehicles and bicycles along or near Purcell's Cove Road.
- Improve pedestrian access to the park.
- Ensure pedestrian safety along access routes.
- Locate signage to identify park location.

8.2 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

The design process explored several themes before developing the final concept. Each theme emphasized particular design possibilities for Connaught Battery Park. The final concept plan represents the most relevant ideas from each theme that respond to the design objectives. The guiding themes were:

- Environmental sustainability
- Historical interpretation
- Passive recreation
- Active recreation
- Community Events
- Access, movement and safety



Concept development sketches emphasized different themes

8.3 CONCEPT PLAN

The concept plan developed for Connaught Battery Park responds to the unique natural, historic and recreational assets of the site. The recreational needs assessment and priorities set in the community design workshop also inform the design. The plan enhances existing facilities and emphasizes new opportunities for passive recreation, protection of natural spaces and interpretation of cultural landscapes. The plan attempts to create a more accessible and comfortable park experience and highlights special site characteristics.



CONCEPT PLAN FOR CONNAUGHT BATTERY PARK

8.4 ENVIRONMENT

Environmental preservation and sustainability are at the forefront of the park's design. Wetlands, located in the southwest corner of the site, remain undisturbed. The addition of new trails as well as passive and active recreational features of the park are in locations that require minimal or no environmental disturbance.

Additional planting is recommended for the northern end of the open field adjacent to the DND facility. Planting conifer trees and native woodland groundcover to extend the existing spruce stand will help create a more aesthetic border that screens the DND facility and related chain link fence.

Water run-off tends to flow across the open field from north to south toward the low-lying area where the playground is located. The run-off often creates wet conditions on the field. Planting at the northern end of the field will help reduce the amount of run-off. Additional planting beds of ground covers and low shrubs located at the southern end of the field will help mitigate wet conditions near the playground.

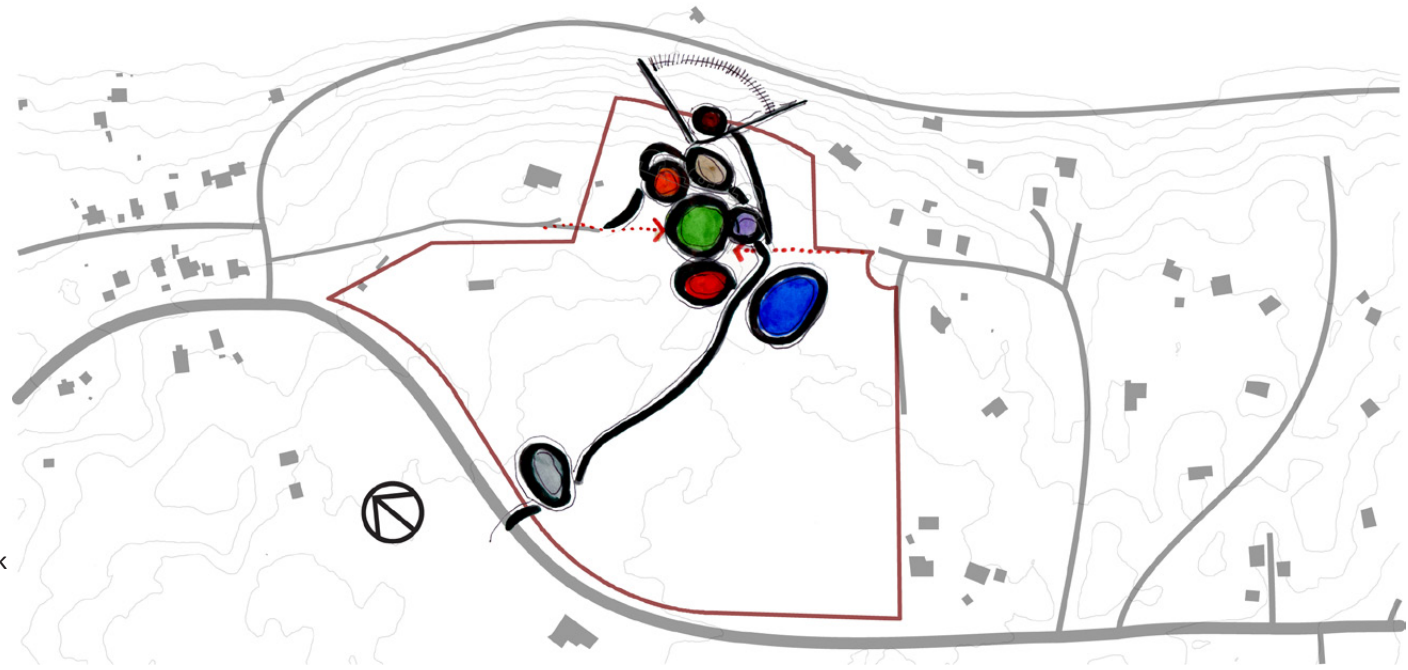
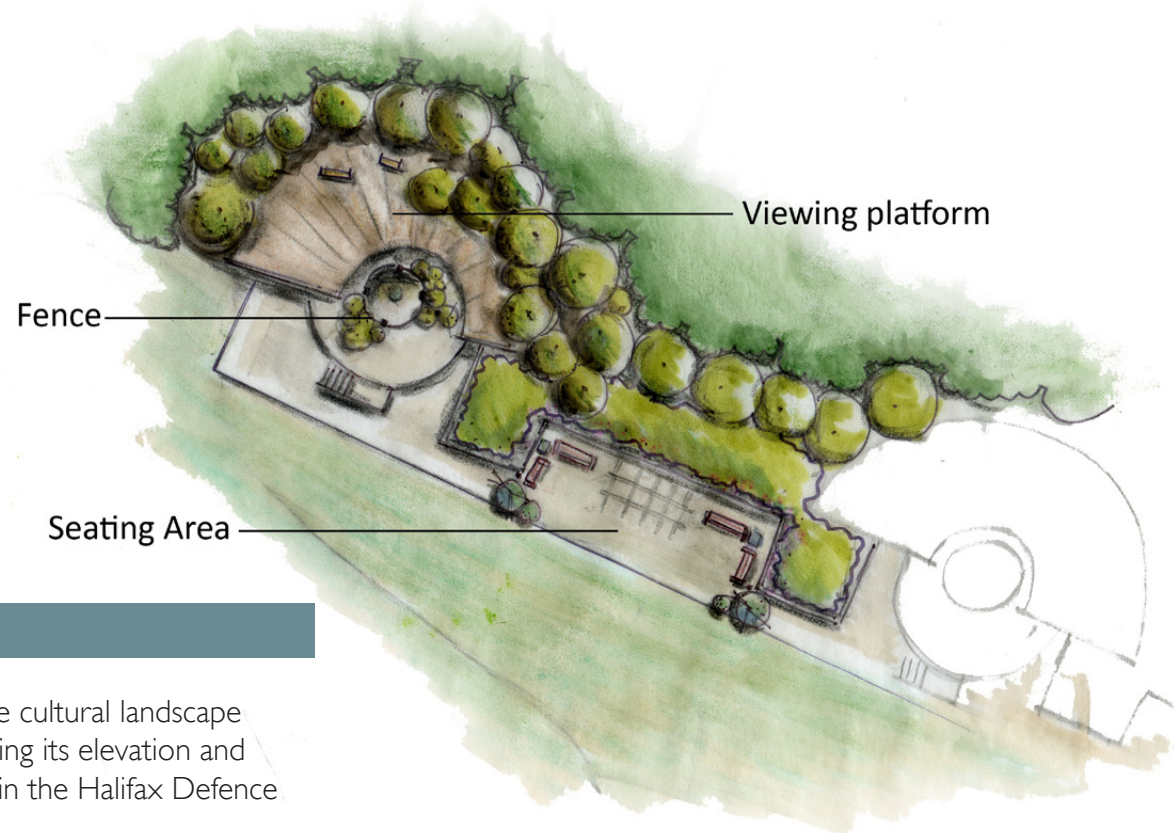


Figure 8.1 Concept diagram showing concentration of park activity space with a primary connection to Purcell's Cove Road.

OPTION A

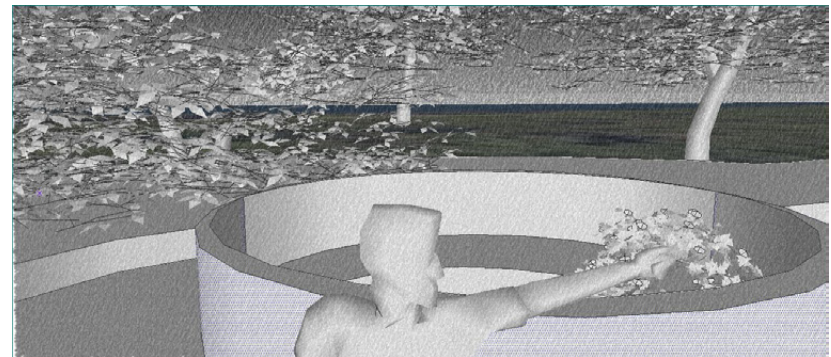


8.5 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

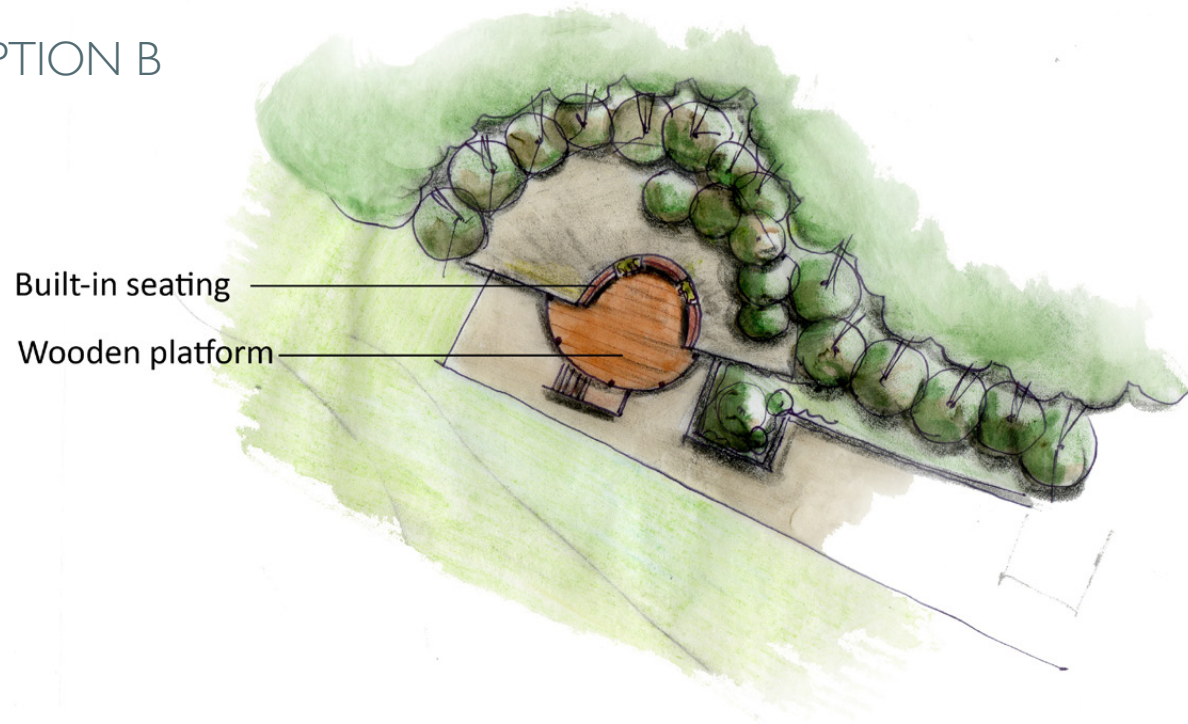
The concept design highlights the unique cultural landscape of Connaught Battery Park by emphasizing its elevation and visual connection to other coastal forts in the Halifax Defence Complex.

The battery is the ideal location for a proposed viewing platform overlooking the harbour approach. From atop the historic Connaught Battery park visitors could experience the impressive views toward the Halifax Harbour and McNabs Island. Selective tree removal and pruning is necessary to open up view sheds.

The plan offers two options for the viewing platform. Option A envisions a wooden platform on the harbour side of the battery above the gun emplacement. This would require more extensive platform construction because of the sloping concrete base. Railing would also be needed to ensure safety.

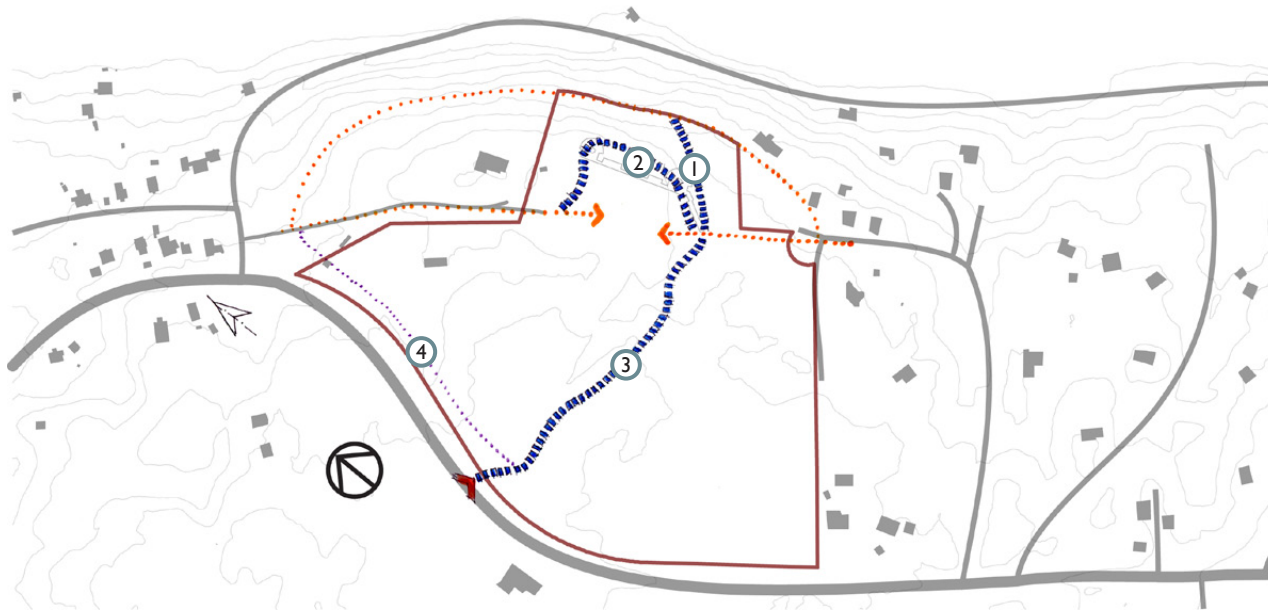


OPTION B



Option B, which locates the platform on top of one of the gun emplacements, is recommended for its smaller scale, greater accessibility and cost-effectiveness. Proposed historical signage located on the viewing platform could narrate the history of Connaught Battery Park and provide way-finding map of the Halifax Defence Complex.





8.6 PASSIVE RECREATION

The concept plan builds on the passive recreational assets of Connaught Battery Park by enhancing existing features and highlighting the site's unique opportunities.

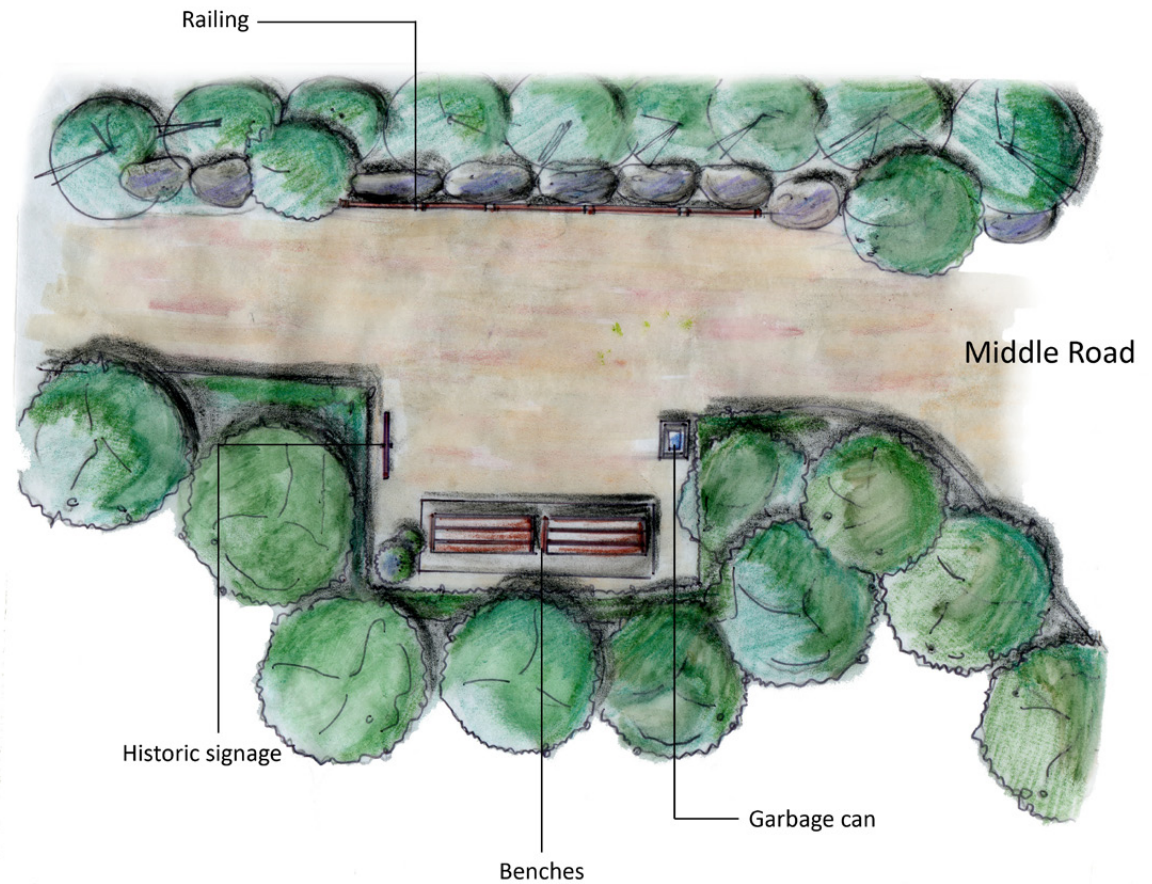
Trails

The plan improves connections to the park's trail system. Taking advantage of existing informal trails minimizes the need for tree removal and path grading and reduces costs for trail development.

Four existing trails are formalized:

- (1) Connecting the Middle Road trail to the main park space
- (2) Providing comfortable access around the top of the battery
- (3) Connecting the active recreation facilities to proposed parking area on Purcell's Cove Road
- (4) Connecting the proposed parking area to the Middle Road trail entrance, completing a potential loop.

The additional trail from Middle Road to the park allows pedestrians to return to the park without exiting across an abutting private lot at the site's southeastern corner.

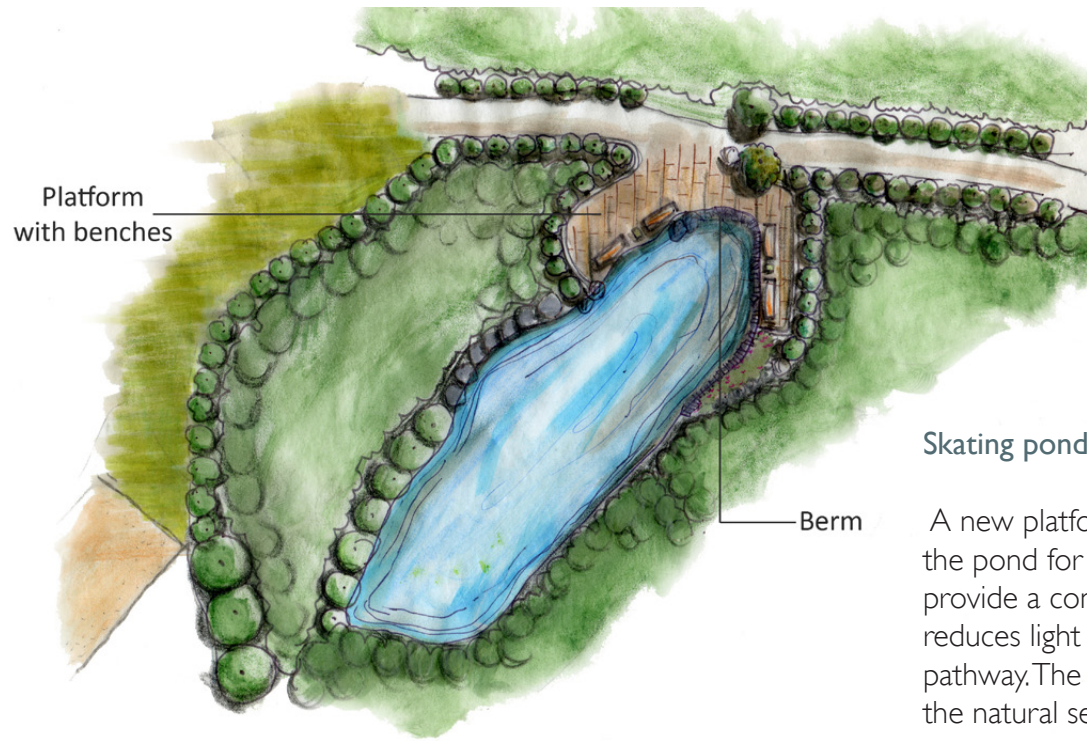


Middle Road Seating Area

A seating area is proposed for the Middle Road trail that offers park users a moment of rest and a chance to view the harbour approach. The proposed seating area is set back from the trail with the original stone wall retaining the battery as a backdrop. Some clearing of falling trees will be necessary. Durable metal benches are recommended for the seating area. A safety rail is proposed along the southern end of Middle Road where the harbour side of the trail is exposed to a vertical drop.

8.7 ACTIVE RECREATION

The concept plan builds on the existing active recreational assets of the site and focuses on the skating pond and updating the playground area.

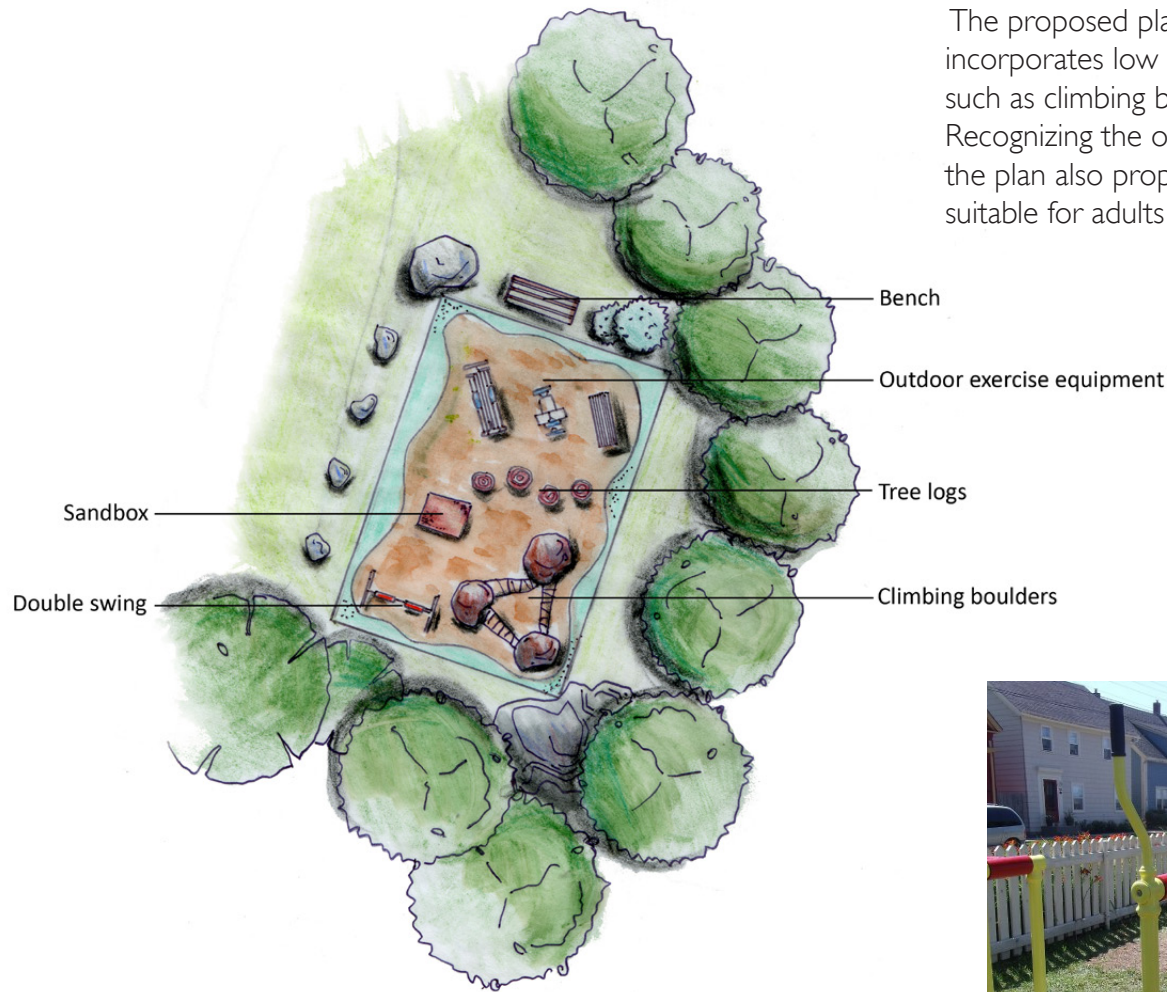


Skating pond

A new platform provides park users with improved access to the pond for skating in the winter. Benches on the platform provide a comfortable seating area, while improved lighting reduces light pollution and improves access from the adjacent pathway. The platform should be designed to minimize impact on the natural setting of the pond area.

Playground

The proposed playground replacement for the park incorporates low maintenance, naturalized play structures such as climbing boulders and tree logs and a two bay swing. Recognizing the older demographic characteristics of the area, the plan also proposes outdoor exercise equipment that is suitable for adults and seniors.



Top: Glazed boulders in Boulder, CO
 Bottom left: Adult exercise equipment, Dartmouth, NS
 Bottom right: Balance logs, Halifax, NS

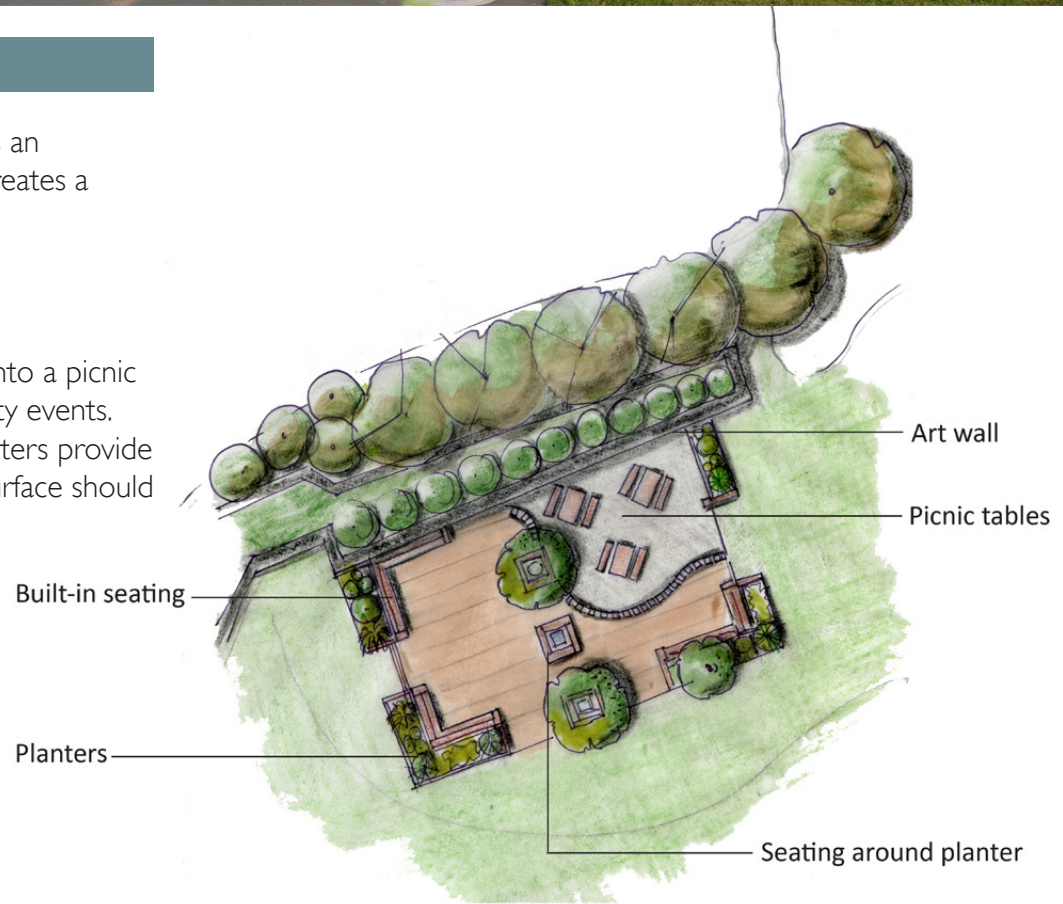


8.8 COMMUNITY EVENTS

A central seating area located near the field provides an opportunity to view informal play on the field and creates a space that can be used for community events.

Picnic Area

The plan proposes redesigning the graffiti wall area into a picnic space that could potentially accommodate community events. Metal benches provide formal seating and stone planters provide informal seating and tabletops. The existing asphalt surface should be replaced with a granular surface.





The plan recommends commissioning a mural on the wall to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the park and to create an opportunity for community engagement in developing the space.

Community Garden

In response to interest from some community members, a community garden is proposed on the upper end of the open field. This location takes advantage of positive drainage and full sun exposure. The community garden offers an opportunity for community interaction and encourages environmental stewardship.

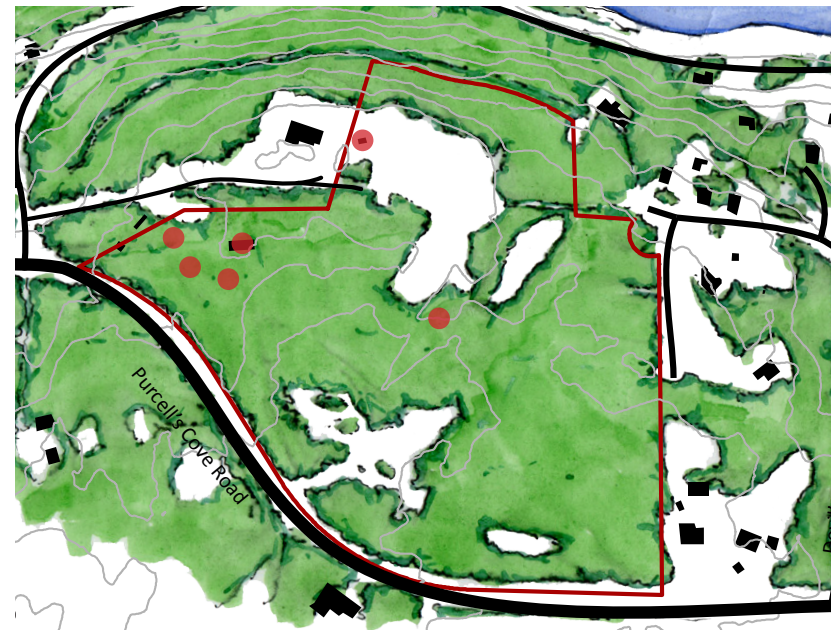
8.9 ACCESS AND SAFETY

In order to bring the park up to HRM standards with respect to accessibility, the plan proposes a future parking area of no more than 10 vehicles as a primary entrance along Purcell's Cove Road. This entrance could enhance Purcell's Cove Road as a major active transportation corridor by including bicycle racks to accommodate and invite passing cyclists. The parking area should be bounded with a low wooden railing that allows pedestrian access only to the connecting pathway. Signage that identifies the location of the park is recommended for the proposed entrance on Purcell's Cove Road.



Secondary pedestrian entrances from Ferguson's Cove Road and Devil's Hill Road should include boulders to mark site entrances and to prevent motorized vehicle access into the park.

Site visits recorded exposed wells and abandoned structures from the site's military era. These present immediate safety concerns for park users. The plan recommends filling in open wells and sewers in the wooded area with gravel and demolishing the two remaining structures. One structure is located in the open field adjacent to the DND facility and the other more substantial structure is located in the northwest corner of the site in the wooded area.



Locations of abandoned military structures (in red) that present safety concerns

8.10 GENERAL DESIGN CRITERIA

Trails

Connaught Battery Park's trail network should incorporate HRM trail design standards. The proposed trail from the parking area to the main park space should conform to HRM criteria for secondary trails:

Clearance width of 3 - 4 metres
Tread width of 1.5 – 2.0 metres
Gravel surface

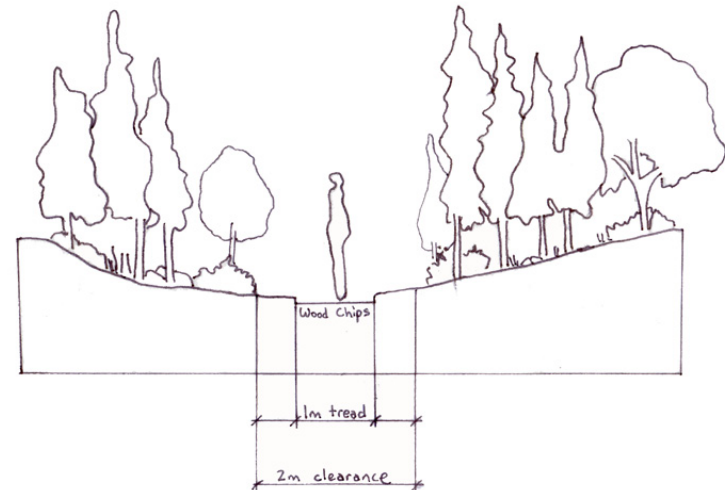
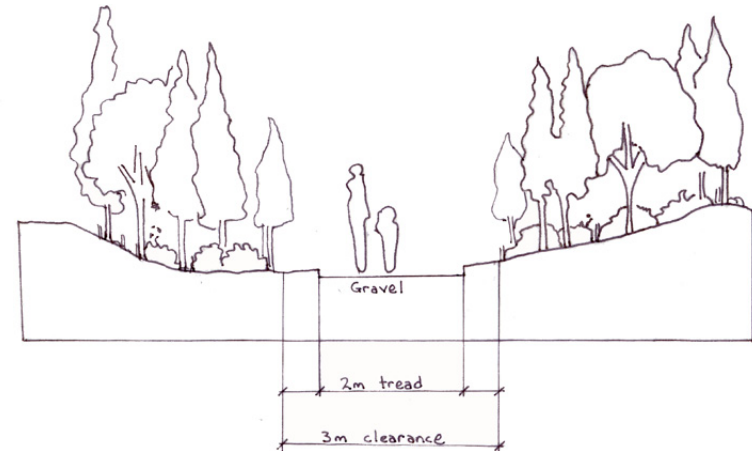
Other formalized trails should conform to HRM criteria for tertiary trails:

- Clearance width of 2 - 3 metres
- Tread width of 1 metre
- Bark mulch or woodchip surface
- Minimal impact of the natural environment

As an historic public road, the existing Middle Road trail is stable and even. The natural surface should remain unchanged.

Landscaping

Vegetative species chosen for planting should be native to the area or well adapted to local conditions and have seasonal variety of colour and form.



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Due in part to its limited access and visibility, Connaught Battery Park has attracted vandalism and subversive behaviour. CPTED design standards aim to deter criminal activity through controlled access, natural surveillance and by creating a strong sense of proprietorship by park users. The site design addresses CPTED principles by:

- Creating comfortable routes for pedestrians while preventing unauthorized motorized vehicle access to pathways.
- Creating a sense of ownership of the space through the community art wall.
- Using only deciduous trees and low shrubs and groundcovers for picnic area landscaping to ensure clear visual lines between park activity nodes.
- Creating clear access points that include a primary entrance on Purcell's Cove Road.

9.0 Implementation



This section recommends policy directives to amend the District 5 Municipal Planning Strategy and makes recommendations to guide community initiated actions. The policies identify land use priorities related to the site and its integration with nearby open spaces. The policies intend to establish a municipal commitment to the land used for Connaught Battery Park and to improve open space linkages for recreational purposes.

Implementation of the Integrated Master Plan relies on both municipal and community initiated actions. Recommendations in this section are organized into decisions and actions that the municipality can address through policy and those that the community can initiate.

9.1 DISTRICT 5 MPS POLICY AMENDMENTS

Policy recommendations build on existing policies in the District 5 Municipal Planning Strategy and contribute to fulfilling the intent of several recreational policies from that strategy. This Integrated Master Plan recommends that the municipality initiate the following policy actions:

(1) Connaught Battery Park has limited access that does not meet HRM park planning criteria. Lack of visible and convenient access contributes to a relatively isolated public space.

In the interest of bringing the park up to HRM standards for accessibility and to deter vandalism, this Integrated Master Plan recognizes the importance of acquiring sufficient land to

Map 9.1 Minimum Land Acquisition



accommodate thirty metres of frontage for an entrance along Purcell's Cove Road as illustrated on the design plan.

This Integrated Master Plan recognizes the importance of permanent municipal administration of the site, but the expense may deter municipal interest in purchasing the parcel in whole. Due to the site's previous uses, transferring the land to the municipality will require the administrative procedure of due diligence regarding an environment study of the site to determine the possibility of site contamination.

The following policies respond to the need to address questions of property ownership and administration.

Policy PK-2 of the District 5 MPS intends to establish Connaught Battery Park as a day-use park and calls for a master plan for the site. In the long-term interest of maintaining and enhancing Connaught Battery Park, a more permanent form of municipal administration is desirable. The following policy intends to amend the District 5 MPS.

PK -2a *It shall be the intention of Council to negotiate with the Department of Natural Resources a means for determining the need for an environmental assessment of the property in order to facilitate a permanent land transfer.*

PK -2b *Further to Policy PK-2 in the District 5 Municipal Planning Strategy it shall be the intention of Council to acquire the permanent use of Connaught Battery Park by:*

- a) Purchasing the land in whole or in part,*
 - b) Negotiating a long-term lease with the Department of Natural Resources in whole or in part, and/or*
 - c) Requesting that the Department of Natural Resources negotiate Crown land transfers in exchange for other municipal resources.*
- In the case of purchasing or leasing the land in part Council shall acquire a parcel that includes but is not limited to the boundaries shown on Map 9.1.*

The Department of National Defence land holding immediately adjacent to Connaught Battery Park is an ideal location for future park development that extends public access to valuable recreation lands on the coast.

PK-2c *It shall be the intention of Council to request that the federal government respect the intention of the municipality to develop the Department of National Defence property adjacent to Connaught Battery Park as park land should it be released or declared surplus.*

Map 9.2 Wetland Areas



(2) The southwest corner of Connaught Battery Park contains numerous wetlands not officially identified by the municipality. In the interest of protecting the wetland area as an important habitat and neighbourhood amenity, this area should remain in public ownership, be preserved in its natural state, and utilized for limited future recreational uses such as trail expansions in the park.

Policy E-1 of the Regional Plan recognizes wetlands as natural environments that may receive Open Space designation. The plan recognizes the ecological and aesthetic importance of wetlands in communities, but does not specify required land characteristics for receiving the designation.

Through Policy E-9, the Regional Plan requires that land use by-laws establish a Wetlands Schedule as a reference in determining wetlands larger than 2000 square metres. Through this schedule by-laws prohibit development on wetlands of this size. The Wetlands Schedule for District 5 Land Use By-Law does not recognize the wetlands on the Connaught Battery Park parcel.

The following policy recommendation recognizes the wetlands on site and recommends their protection.

It shall be the intention of Council to consider amending Schedule C (Wetlands) of the District 5 Land Use By-law to include the wetlands identified on Map 9.2 pending an ecological assessment to appropriately determine their boundaries.

(3) The Herring Cove Backlands to the west of Connaught Battery Park warrant special attention in considering opportunities for open space integration. An existing heritage trail and natural points of interest foster open space linkages, contact with nature and recreational benefits. The Regional Plan identifies the Backlands as a natural corridor with potential to conserve habitat as well as recreational and cultural lands. Recreational policies in the District 5 MPS intend to establish an open space network that includes public access to traditional trails.

The Backlands have a great variety of informal trails near lakes and along the McIntosh Run. Gray (2005) has produced a comprehensive inventory of the trails in this area. The Old Military Road presents an opportunity to create a main trail corridor that integrates public coastal lands at Connaught Battery Park to the watershed of McIntosh Run. This trail could eventually link to the McIntosh Run Trail at Roach's Pond.

REC-23 Further to policies REC 10 and REC 13 of the District 5 Municipal Planning Strategy, in order to improve open space linkages between Ferguson's Cove and adjacent crown lands, Council will negotiate with the Department of Natural Resources and private land owners to establish public access to the Old Military Road trail shown on Map 9.3.

The District 5 MPS calls for the municipality to work with community groups in establishing an open space network and proposing a trail system. This Integrated Master Plan focuses that intent by specifying Old Military Road as a candidate trail of special importance and Piggy Mountain as a unique point of interest with special scenic value.

REC 24 Council will work with the Department of Natural Resources and local community groups to create a development plan for a recreation trail that connects Old Military Road to the McIntosh Run trail as shown on Map 9.3. The development plan should include a route to Piggy Mountain.

9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Municipal Initiatives

Municipal initiatives with respect to the recommended elements of the park design include:

- Upgrading the active recreation facility to include adult exercise equipment
- Constructing picnic and seating areas
- Landscaping
- Formalizing pathways
- Working with the province to address safety issues regarding abandoned military infrastructure
- Constructing the viewing platform on the battery
- Developing a parking lot and main entrance on Purcell's Cove Road

The proposed parking lot on Purcell's Cove Road is an important consideration not only for establishing better accessibility to Connaught Battery Park, but also for integrating the park with the proposed Old Military Road trail connection. Without a clear and accessible trailhead at Purcell's Cove Road, the Old Military Road trail project would benefit from a parking area within less than 500 metres.

Map 9.3 Old Military Road Trail



The Piggy Mountain outcrop has the advantage of being close to Ferguson's Cove, providing a recreational destination for a short hike. The trail to Piggy Mountain involves only provincial Crown land. Since the trailhead to Piggy Mountain departs from Old Military Road, negotiating public access across the private holding at Purcell's Cove Road should precede formal trail development to Piggy Mountain. Once land agreements are formalized for accessing the trail, proper signage could direct hikers from the parking area to the trailhead.

Community Initiatives

Several areas of the recommended site design rely on community initiative. This section presents special considerations, recommendations and resources for community action.

Art wall

Community members expressed interest in taking ownership of the wall that is often used as a canvas for graffiti. Coordinating and commissioning a mural on the wall has several potential benefits:

- Enhances the aesthetic quality of the space.
- Engages community members in a collaborative project.
- Supports Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.
- Provides an opportunity for historical and/or community interpretation of the site and local area.



Commissioning a mural would provide a colourful backdrop for the proposed picnic area. A community-based public art project involving adults and youth has the potential to support community development through interaction among a cross section of the community.

HRM has community resources to support such a project. This plan recommends that interested community members initiate a community-based public art project by seeking support in the community and approaching HRM staff through the Good

Neighbours Great Neighbours community development initiative. HRM offers support for community art projects through a municipal grant program. Interested community members should contact the Community Arts Facilitator (Appendix C).

Community garden

Community gardens offer many benefits. They promote active living, community engagement and environmental stewardship as well as creating natural beauty. HRM will assist community groups interested in using public land for a small-scale volunteer run community garden project. HRM has policy, initiatives and strategic goals that lend support to the development of community gardens on public land.

A standard operational procedure and application process is in place to help community groups plan a garden project and seek assistance from the municipality through access to land and local gardening resources. Community groups are responsible for maintaining, managing and operating a garden site. Appendix C includes contact information for accessing the complete list of procedural requirements and the application form.

Community consultation for this Integrated Master Plan showed a mixed response to developing a community garden on the park site. Many households have spacious lots and substantial private gardens. The idea of a common garden received general support but some community members expressed concern about regular maintenance and management.

This plan recommends that interested community members consider a low maintenance garden design that includes herbs and native ornamental plants or those well adapted to the local conditions. A small-scale and low maintenance garden may be more suitably sited around the picnic area.

Maintenance

Some community members expressed a willingness to participate in seasonal park clean up. Community involvement in basic maintenance work imparts a sense of ownership and is an effective way of managing park cleanliness. The Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's Cove neighbourhood associations could organize annual park clean up activities in partnership with the municipality.

Old Military Road trail

A trail development plan for the Old Military Road would require a detailed plan proposal and a coordinated effort between the province, the municipality and local community groups. Community interest is essential to the success of trail development. Trail development projects often rely on the sustained interest of community groups to champion the project. Registering as a non-profit community group is an important step in beginning a trail development plan. Access to many funds and grants requires formal incorporation as a non-profit group.

Support for trail development plans are available through funds, grants and foundations related to recreation, culture, environment, and community development. The Environmental Funding Guide (1995) provides a list of possible funding sources

in the Atlantic Region, including grants through federal, provincial and municipal government departments. In order to protect the life of a trail and the grant investments involved, development plans must include formal land access agreements.

The Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition proposes the province adopt the Herring Cove Backlands as a Wilderness Area designation. Military Road and Piggy Mountain present unique opportunities for developing recreational access to a exceptional natural area close to the city. Partnering with community groups, private land owners, the municipality and the province is necessary to create a successful trail development plan.

The Old Military Road and Piggy Mountain trails have the advantage of crossing mostly provincial Crown land, though parts do cross private land as well. The trailhead at Purcell's Cove Road in particular would require the establishment of formal access. Provincial policy supports the development, operation and management of trails on Crown and private land through the Nova Scotia Trails Act. The Nova Scotia Trails Federation identifies several ways of gaining access to land for trail development. These include:

- purchase
- donation
- cooperative agreement
- lease

For the trails proposed in this plan the most cost effective and feasible method is establishing land access agreements with both private landowners and the province. Section 1.5 of the Nova

Scotia Trails Manual (Nova Scotia Trails Federation, no date) provides details on key elements of a land access agreements and best practices for approaching both private and public landowners.

The Old Military Road trail crosses an extensive natural environment that includes several wetlands. A trail development plan would need to give special consideration to limiting impact on the wetlands while providing comfortable access for trail users. Section 3.8 of the Nova Scotia Trails Manual evaluates various techniques for crossing wetlands and watercourses.

As an established trail, Old Military Road presents a unique opportunity to develop a multi-use trail corridor with several trail connections. Appropriate design and use should be determined in a future study of the recreational potential of the Herring Cove Backlands.

Figure 9.4 Summary of Implementation Initiatives and Preliminary Costing

| Municipal Initiatives | | |
|--|---|--|
| Action | Policy Support | Preliminary Costing |
| Policy | | |
| Negotiate a land acquisition agreement | Policy PK-2 (District 5 MPS) | HRM Staff time |
| Amend Wetland Schedule in District 5 Land Use By-Law | Policies E-1 and E-9 (Regional Plan); Draft provincial wetland policy | HRM Staff time |
| Negotiate future park land acquisition if DND land becomes surplus | RMPS and District 5 MPS intention to enhance public coastal access | HRM staff time |
| Negotiate formal public access to the Old Military Road trail from Purcell's Cove Road | REC 10 and REC 13 (District 5 MPS); Nova Scotia Trails Act | HRM Staff time |
| Connaught Battery Park Design | | |
| Upgrade recreation facilities | Integrated Master Plan | \$1,000 - 2,000 (swing set); \$500 - \$1,500 (per unit adult facility); labour cost for naturalized playscape ¹ |
| Picnic/seating areas | Integrated Master Plan | \$1,000 (per bench) ² + resurfacing as needed |
| Landscaping | Integrated Master Plan | Project dependent |
| Viewing platform | Integrated Master Plan | Project dependent |
| Pond platform | Integrated Master Plan | Project dependent |
| Pathways (tertiary trail standard) | Integrated Master Plan | + / - \$55 (per linear metre) ³ |
| Pathway (secondary trail standard) | Integrated Master Plan | + / - \$55 (per linear metre) ³ |
| Parking lot | Integrated Master Plan | \$15,000 (10 car gravel lot) ⁴ |

¹ Swing set estimated per unit cost from United States distributor (<http://www.detailedplaypro.com/swing-sets.htm>); adult exercise facility per unit cost from United States distributor (<http://www.outdoor-fitness.com>)

² HRM Park Planning Guidelines (2010)

³ Personal communication with Infrastructure and Asset Management staff, Halifax Regional Municipality, 2011

⁴ Adapted from HRM Park Planning Guidelines (2010)

10.0 Conclusion



Connaught Battery Park and its surrounding area have long been important community recreational assets. The history of the park demonstrates the importance of community involvement in initiating park planning actions.

This Integrated Master Plan highlights the special opportunities of Connaught Battery Park as a public open space on the coast as well as its role as a valued local community asset. The plan can serve as a roadmap to initiate an informed dialogue between HRM and the local communities to determine the best direction for the park's long-term future.

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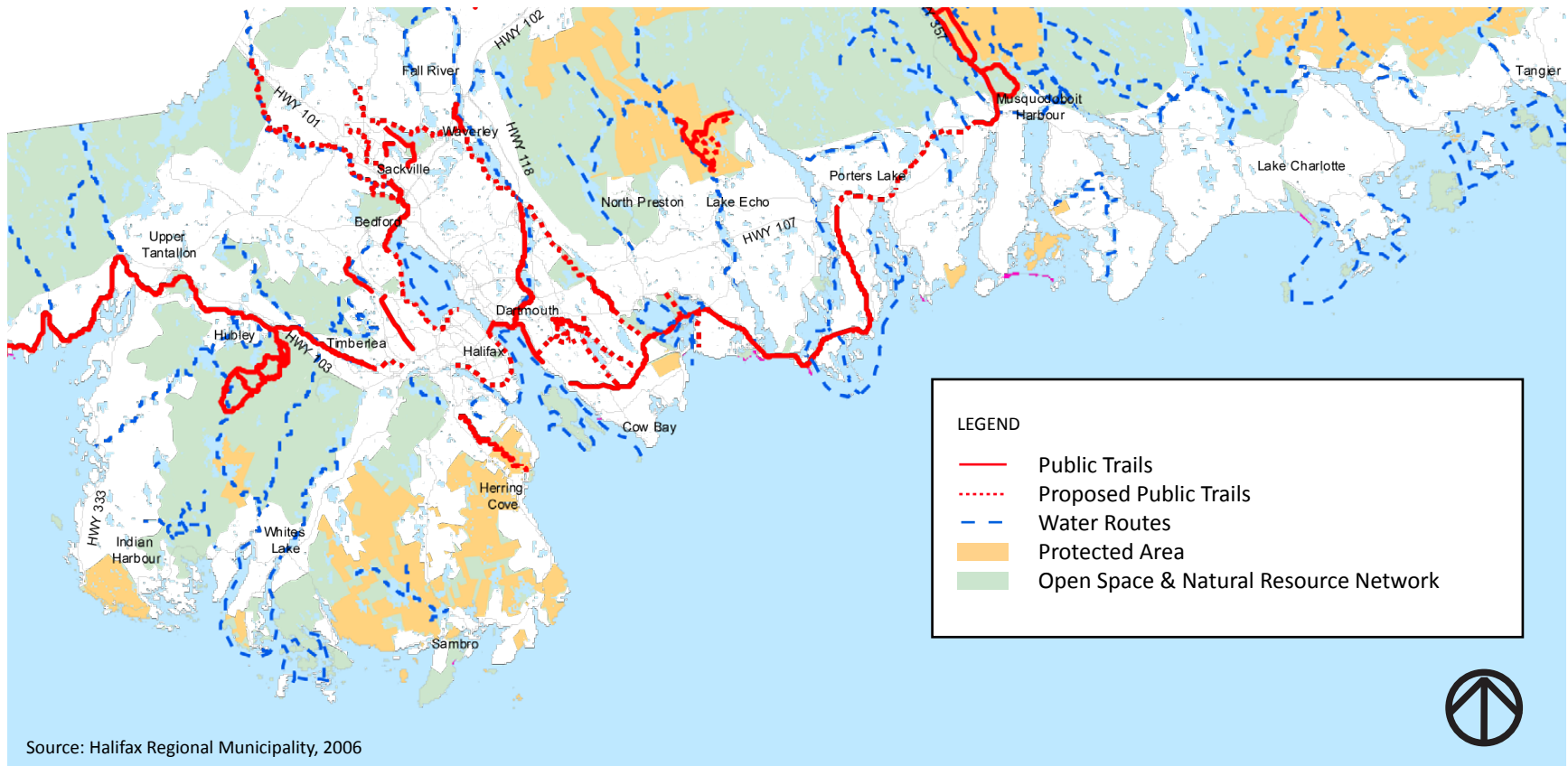
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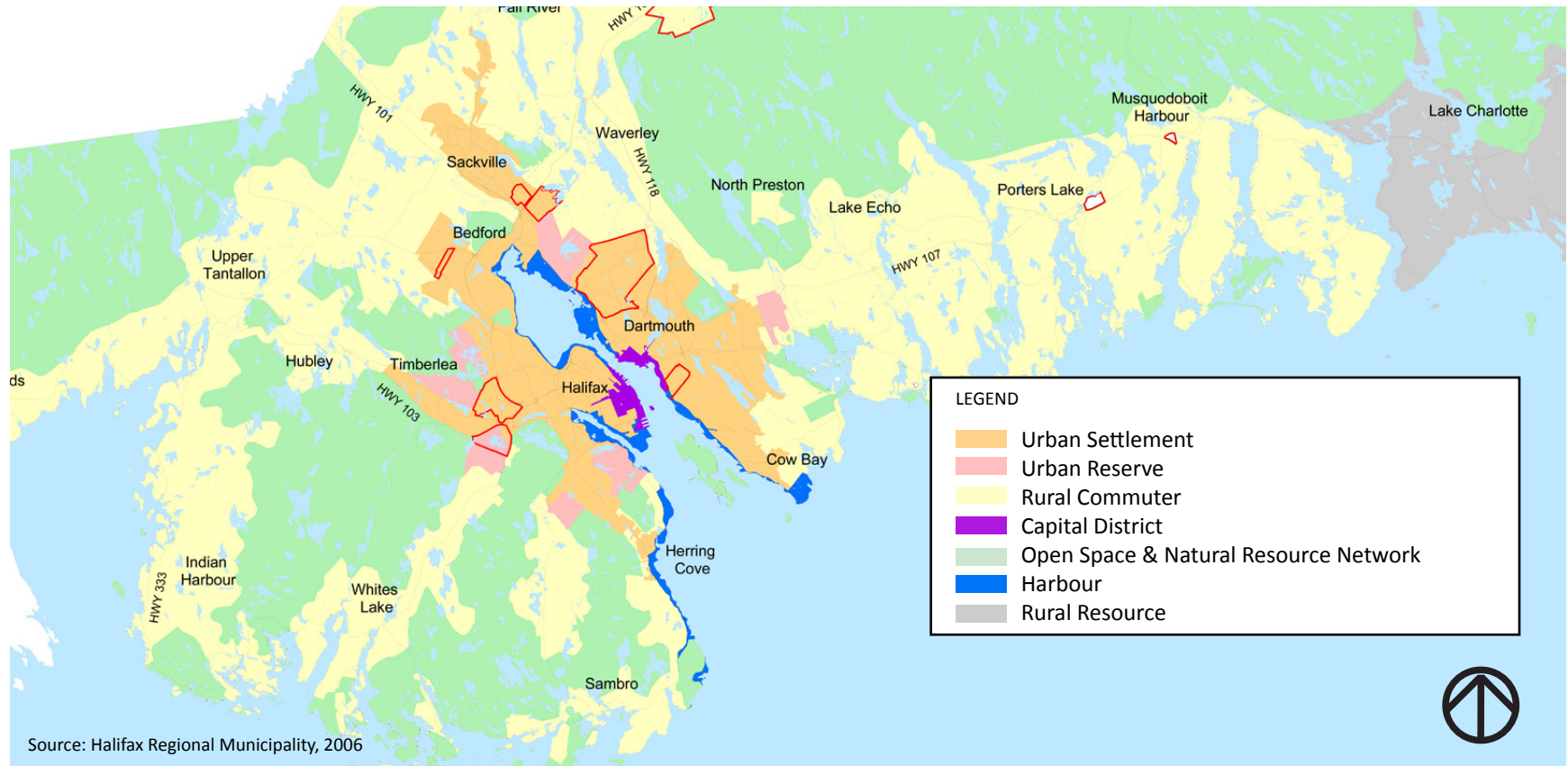
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Appendix A: Maps

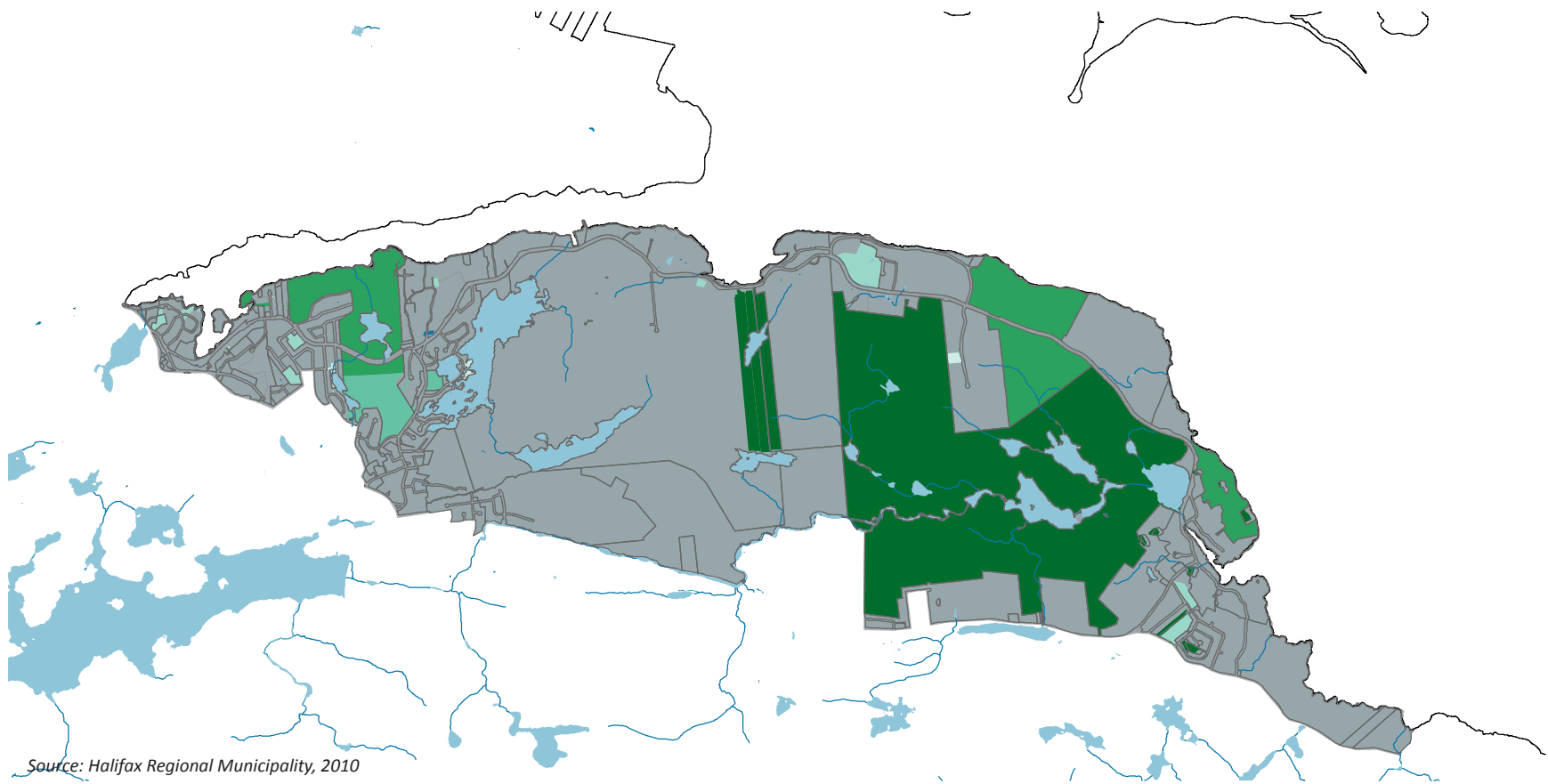
Regional Plan Map 3 TRAILS & NATURAL NETWORKS



Regional Plan Map 2 Generalized Future Land Use



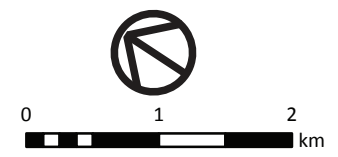
Map 5.1 OPEN SPACES IN STUDY AREA



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Neighbourhood Park |  Plan Area |
|  Community Park |  Lake |
|  District Park |  Stream |
|  Regional Park | |
|  Protected Area | |

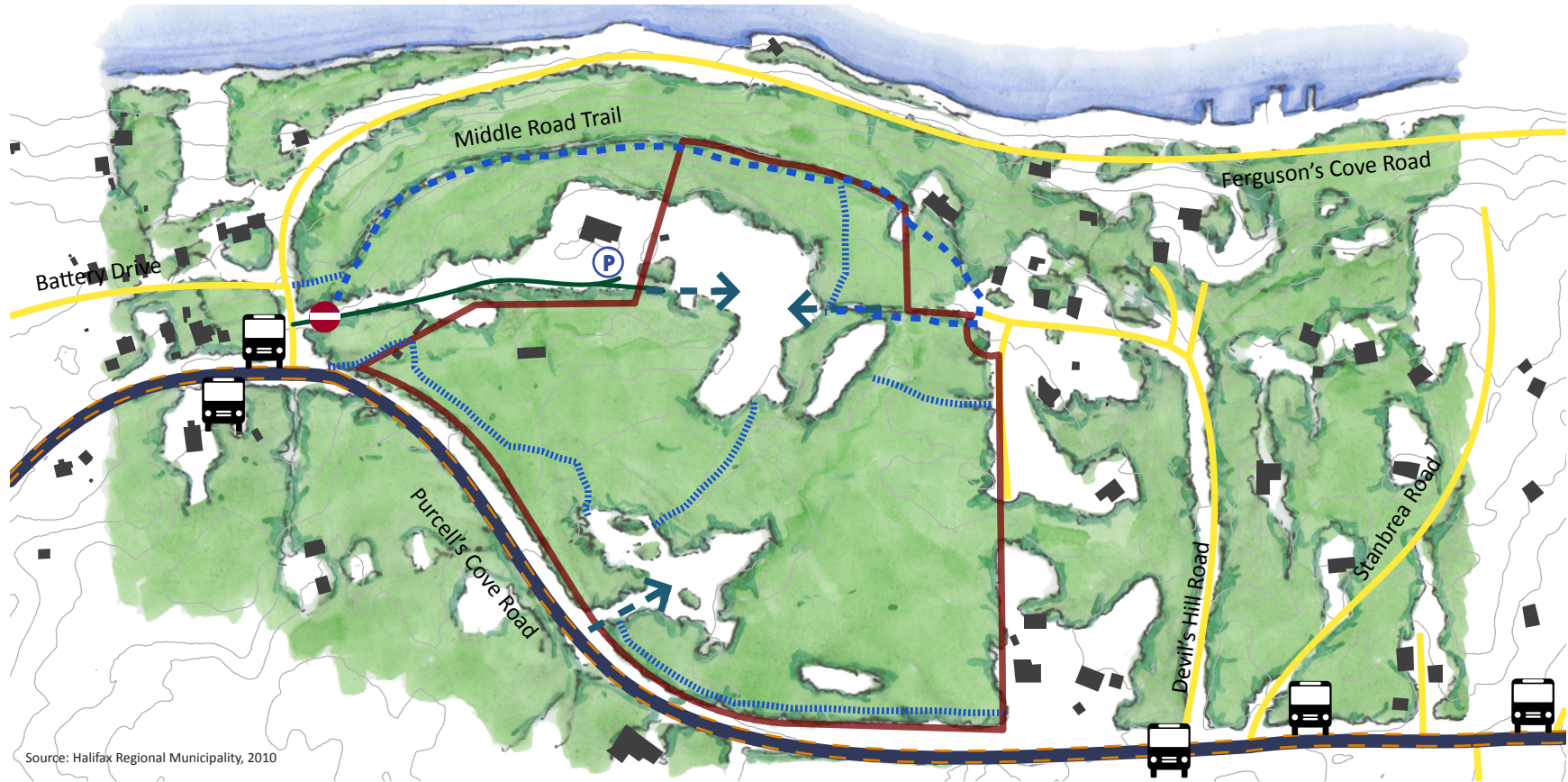


Map 5.2 HERRING COVE BACKLANDS AND OLD MILITARY ROAD



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010; Bing Maps, 2011; Gray, 2005

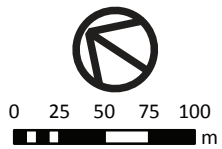
Map 7.1 PARK ACCESS AND TRAILS



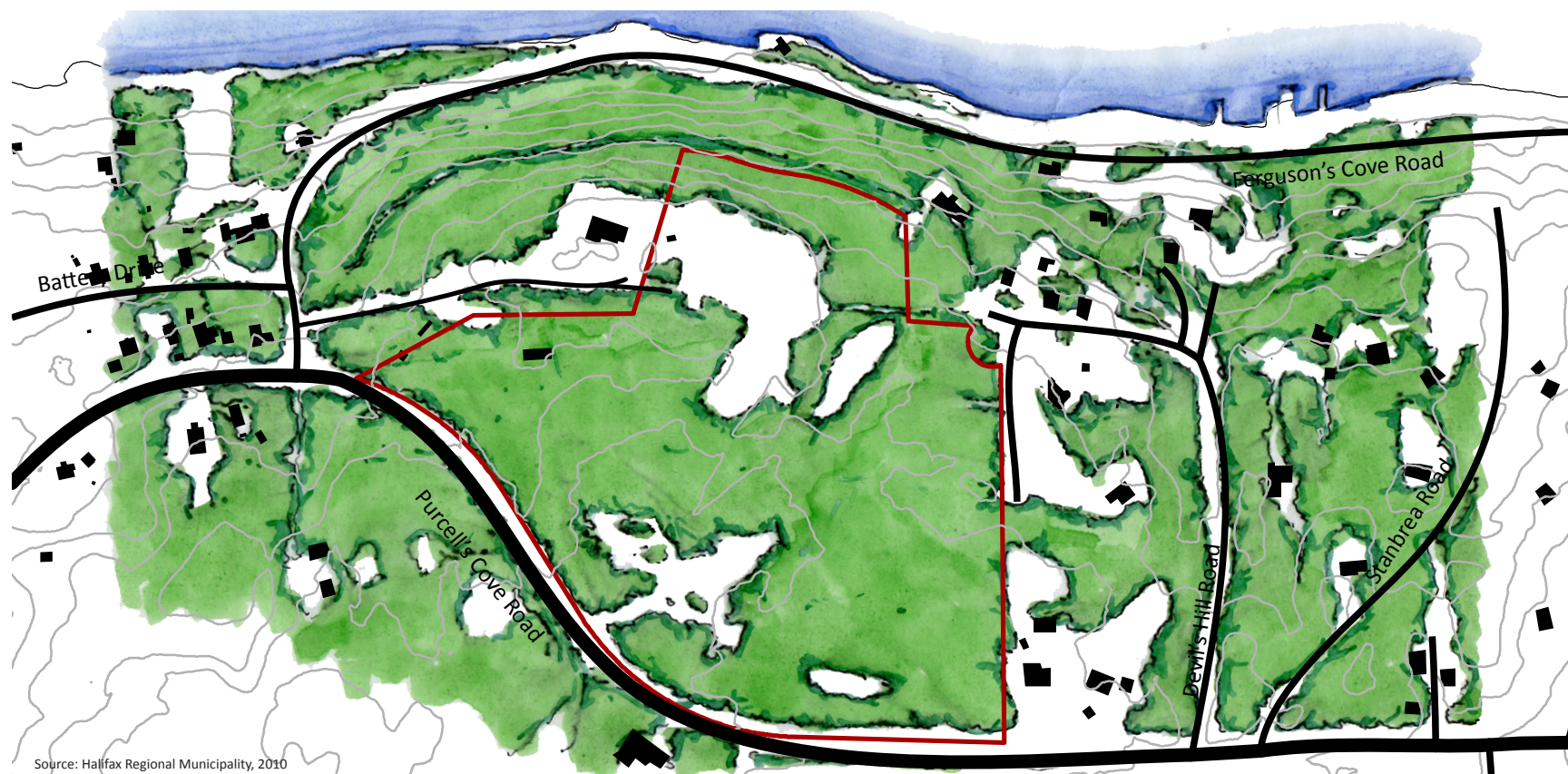
Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

- - - - - Established Pedestrian Access
- Informal Trail
- - - - - Formal Trails
- - - - - Arterial
- - - - - Local Street
- Bus Stop
- Park Boundary
- - - - - Bus Route
- Contours 5m
- ⊘ Restricted Access
- Ⓟ DND Parking



Map 7.2 VEGETATION COVER

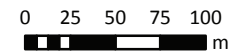


Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

- Vegetation
- Buildings
- Contours
- Park Boundary
- Roads

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010



Map 7.3 STEEP SLOPES



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

Slope

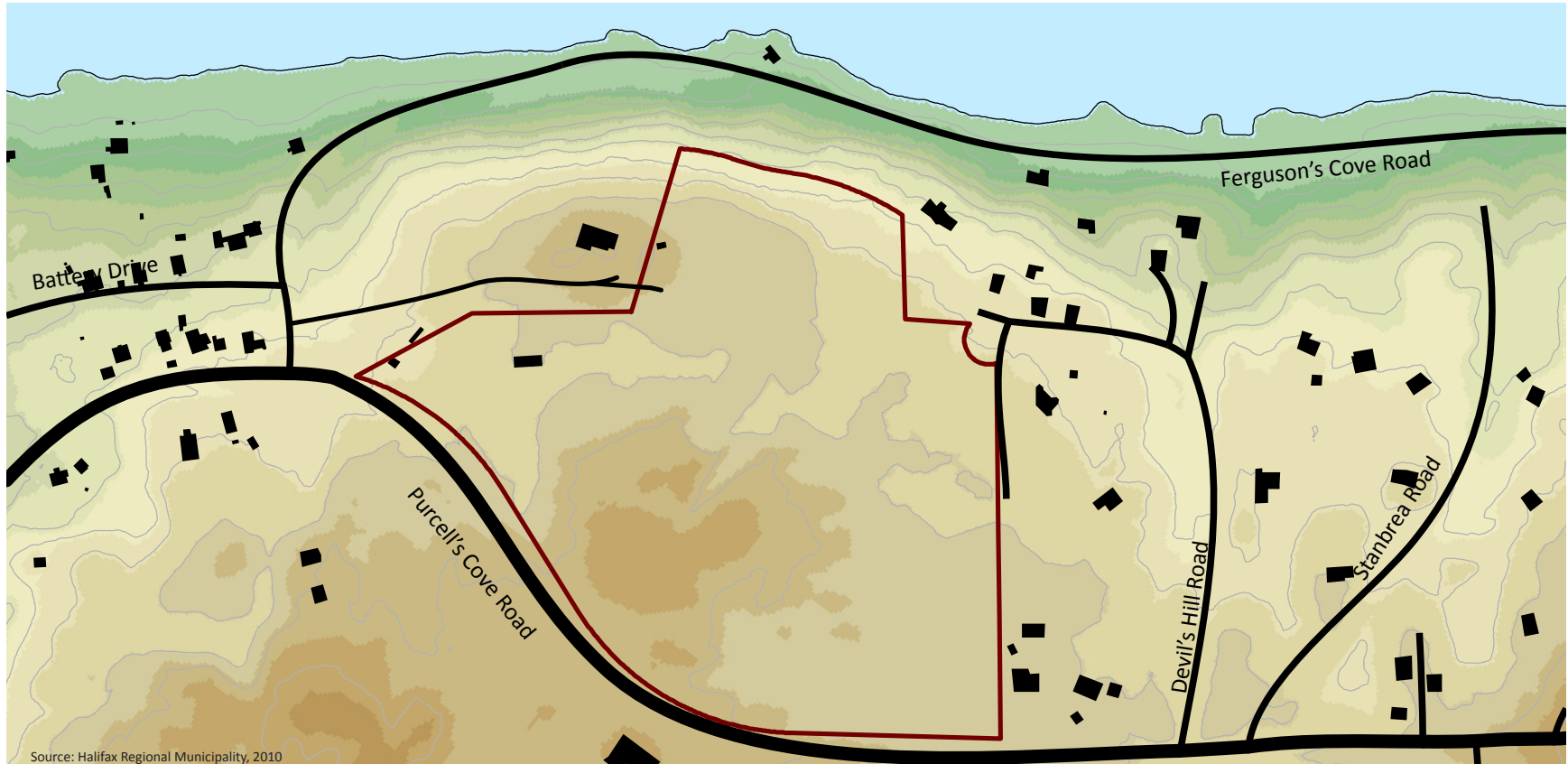
- 0% - 10%
- 10% - 30%
- Greater than 30%

- Road
- Park Boundary



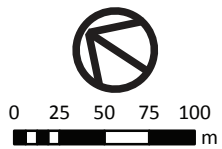
0 25 50 75 100
m

Map 7.4 TOPOGRAPHY

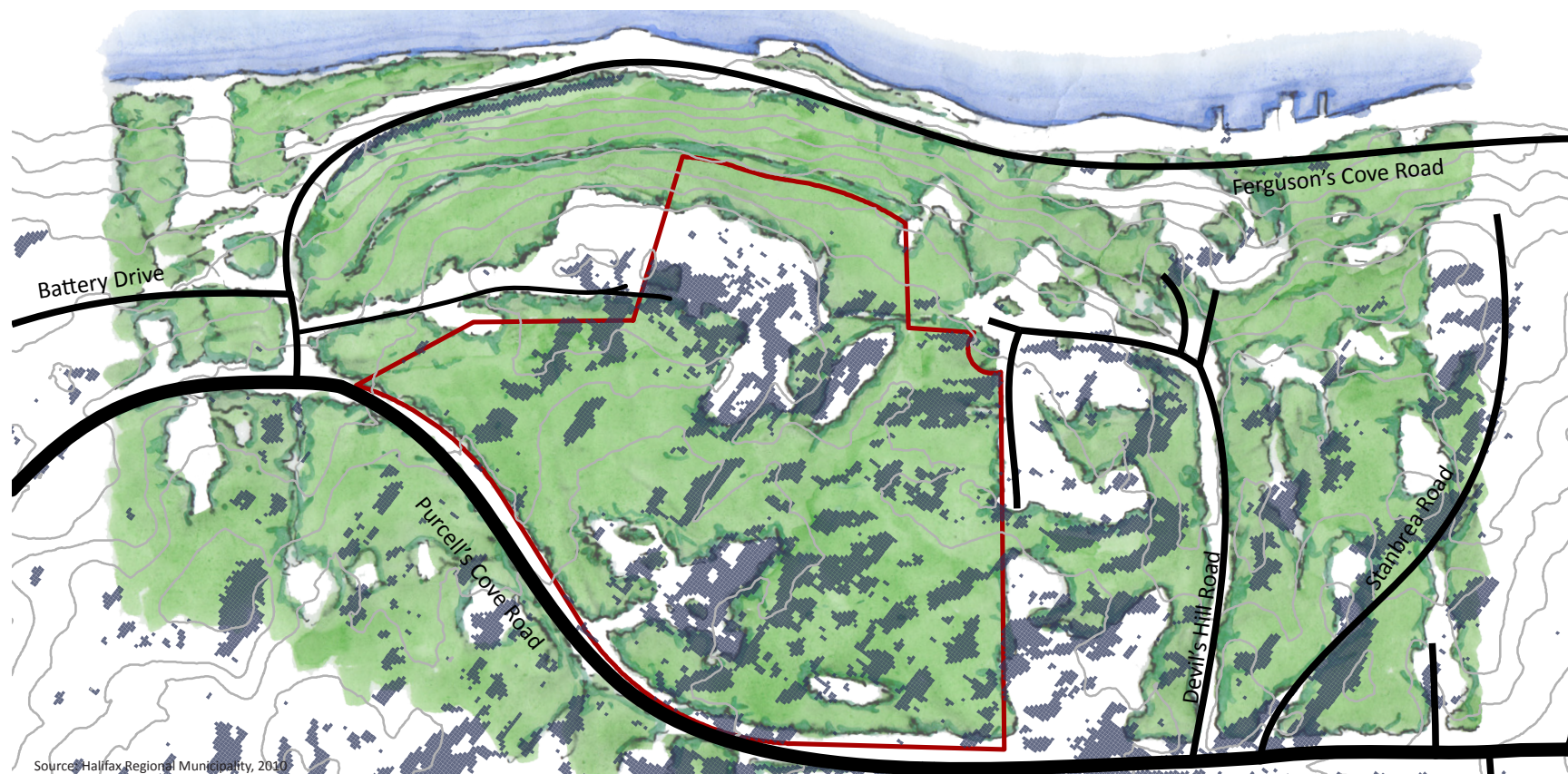


LEGEND

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Elevation (m) | | 27 - 31 | | 57 - 60 |
| | 0 | | 32 - 36 | |
| | 1 - 8 | | 37 - 41 | |
| | 8 - 13 | | 42 - 45 | Buildings |
| | 14 - 17 | | 46 - 49 | Road |
| | 18 - 22 | | 50 - 52 | Park Boundary |
| | 23 - 26 | | 53 - 56 | |








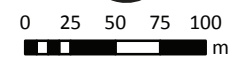
Map 7.5 SOUTH FACING SLOPES



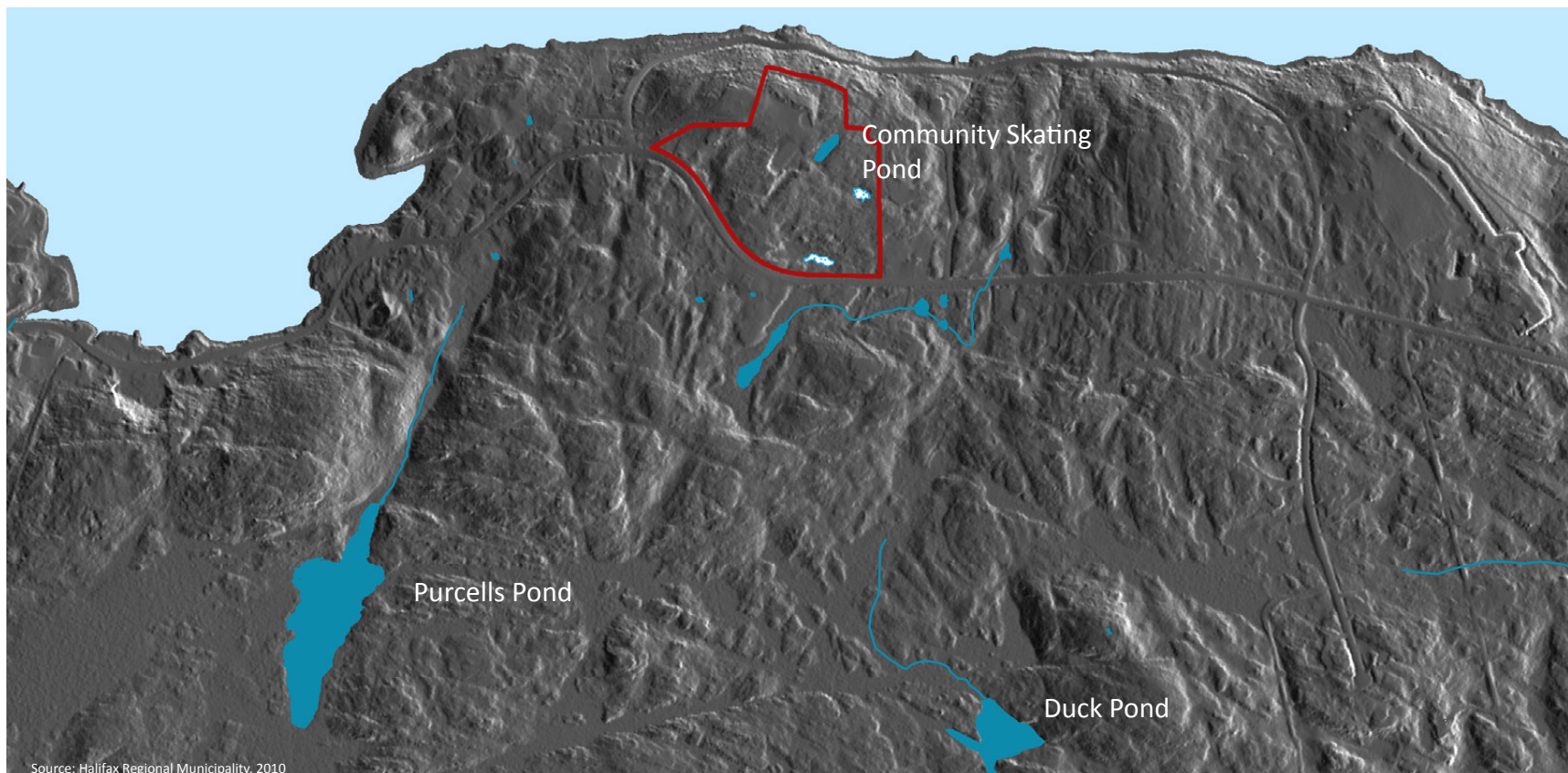
Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

-  South Facing Slopes
-  Vegetation
-  Contours
-  Park Boundary
-  Roads



Map 7.6 HYDROLOGY



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010

LEGEND

- Halifax Harbour
- Lake
- Stream
- Seasonal Waterbody
- Park Boundary

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010



0 75 150 225 300
m

Map 7.7 WETLANDS AREAS



Source: Bing Maps, 2011

Map 9.1 MINIMUM LAND ACQUISITION



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010; Bing Maps, 2011

Map 9.3 OLD MILITARY ROAD TRAIL



Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2010; Bing Maps, 2011; Gray, 2005

Appendix B: Regional Open Space Designations

| Definitions of open space designations (from the Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, 2006) | |
|--|---|
| Land Use Type | Land Use Function - All of these open spaces include, but are not limited to, the following functions: |
| Natural Resource | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas important for the sustainable production of minerals or fibre, such as, forest and mineral lands. • Areas required for ground water recharge. • Bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams important for the management of commercial fisheries and aquaculture. • Areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality and the reduction of greenhouse gases. |
| Agriculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas important for the sustainable production of food. |
| Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of outstanding scenic, historical and cultural value. • Areas suited for passive and active recreation. • Federal, provincial and municipal parks. • Wilderness areas. • Public access to coastal and lake shores, beaches, rivers and streams. • Areas which serve as links between recreation and open space lands, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, water trails, and scenic road corridors. |
| Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life. • Habitats for fish and wildlife species. • Areas required for ecological and other scientific purposes. • Rivers, streams, bays, estuaries and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams and watershed lands. |
| Natural Corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturally vegetated or potentially re-vegetated lands that connect, link or border critical ecological attributes and functions and also provide ecological functions such as habitat, migration routes, hydrological flows, connections or buffering from adjacent impacts. These include such components as woodlands, waterbodies, watercourses, valley lands, riparian zones, and shorelines. |
| Hazard Lands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas requiring special management or regulations, e.g. steep slope areas, floodplains, wetlands, watersheds, geo-hazards. |
| Preservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas required for the protection of potable water quality and water reservoirs. • Areas required for the protection of past, current and future sanitary landfill operations. |
| Cultural Heritage Landscapes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic cultural and natural resources, such as, civic squares, town centres, heritage parks, farmlands, woodlands and open water which provide an open space context to the built heritage of a community. |
| Community Form | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas which can be used to separate, shape and define compact urban and rural developments. |

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Email: ea@gov.ns.ca

Department of Natural Resources Park and Recreation Division

Tel: 662-3030

Nova Scotia Trails Federation

Tel: (902) 425-5450 ext. 325

Recreation Nova Scotia

Tel: (902) 425-1128

Email: info@recreationns.ns.ca

NON-PROFIT GROUPS

Ecology Action Centre

<http://www.ecologyaction.ca/>

Tel: (902) 442-5008

Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition

c/o Ecology Action Centre

McIntosh Run Watershed Association

<http://www.mcintoshrun.ca/>

Recreation Nova Scotia

Tel: (902) 425-1128

Email: info@recreationns.ns.ca

Appendix D: Community Consultation Material

Written Comments from the Open House

The following are comments about the site design presented to community members in March, 2011. In total, 30 people attended the open house.

- Great presentation format. Love the seating and selective cutting for viewplanes. Great network of paths. Adult equipment, Yes!!!
- Thank you very much! Excellent presentation. I appreciate your tangible suggestions and also keeping the park as natural, yet comfortable as possible.
- Lots of good ideas for the community to implement over time. Well done!
- Great project, thank you!!
- Excellent community process.
- Love it!!! Hope these visions get realized. Let's work to get them.
- Great work! All we need to add is a horse-shoe pitch.
- I like the entrance location.
- Thank you for a great presentation.
- This is a great outcome. Thank you
- Art wall nice protected area for picnics. Graffiti might have to go elsewhere? Skating pond - keep it simple for outdoor experience.
- Thank you for this. We feel you have things well in hand. If we can ever help in anyway please call.
- Outdoor toilet is a must, along with faithful maintenance. The facility needs to be secured to deter vandalism.
- I think you should put a zip line in.

Neighborhood Survey about Connaught Battery Park

Connaught Battery Park is a 21.7 acre park in Ferguson's Cove. It was developed in the mid-1990s as a collaborative project between the local residents and the former Municipality of the County of Halifax to create a safe play area on the site of the former Connaught Battery.

A group of residents from both Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's Cove is working with HRM staff to develop an action plan for the present and future uses for this park. As the first step in this process we are seeking out the ideas and interests of local residents in this regard.

Please take ten minutes to answer the following few questions. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

1. Do you know about Connaught Battery Park?

Yes___ No___

2. If you now use the Park, how do you get there:

- a) walk ___
- b) bicycle ___
- c) car ___
- d) other _____(please specify)

3. When you do use the Park, which entrance do you normally use:

- a) Devil's Hill Road _____
- b) Ferguson's Cove Road _____
- c) Purcell's Cove Road _____

4. How often do you use the Park:

- a) never ___
- b) weekly ___
- c) monthly ___
- d) other _____(please specify)

5. What do you like most about the Park:

6. What do you not like about the Park:

7. What changes would you like to see made to the Park:

8. Please rate the importance of the following to you from 1 to 5: (Note: 1 denotes not important at all; 5 denotes very important)

- a) picnic tables: 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.
- b) improved walking access 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.
- c) seating areas 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.
- d) walking trails 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.
- e) community gardens 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.
- f) wheelchair accessibility 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.
- g) swings 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__.

9. How many individuals in each of the following age groups live in your household:

- a) pre-school ____
- b) elementary ____
- c) junior high ____
- d) high school ____
- e) post high school ____
- f) adults ____
- g) seniors ____

10. Would you be willing to occasionally help take care of the park?

Yes ____ No ____

11. If so, how may we contact you? (please give us your name , address, phone number, e-mail address)

Please return this survey in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt. This project is sponsored by the Ferguson's Cove Neighborhood Association. For further information contact Michael Marentette at 477-5400.

Thank you for your time and co-operation.

Connaught Battery Park Survey Results June, 2010

On Saturday April 24, 2010, six Katimavik Volunteers assisted by five Ferguson's Cove Residence Association members delivered the Connaught Battery Park Survey to 267 residences in Ferguson's Cove and Purcell's Cove. To our knowledge all residences received a copy of the survey.

At the time of the drafting of the results of the survey, 93 had been returned in the stamped, self-addressed envelopes provided at the time of distribution. This represents a 35% return of the questionnaires.

Survey Results

I. Knowledge of the park:

Respondents were asked: Do you know about Connaught Battery Park?

Results: 76% of respondents were familiar with the park either because of current use or because of previous use when their children were younger.

13% indicated no knowledge of the park. Several were very interested and asked where it was.

11% did not answer this question.

2. Access:

Respondents were asked: How do you get there?

Results: walk – 62%
car – 18%
bicycle – 6%
other – 1%

Note: several respondents indicated more than one way of getting there.

3. Entrance Way:

Respondents were asked: Which entrance do you normally use?

Results: Devil's Hill Road – 47%
Ferguson's Cove Road – 33%
Purcell's Cove Road – 12%
no answer – 8%

Note: 1. Several respondents indicated more than one way of entering the park.

4. Frequency of use:

Respondents were asked: How often do you use the park?

Results: Weekly – 31%
Monthly/bi-monthly – 29%
Occasionally or infrequently – 16%
Never - 12%
No answer – 12%

Note: "Weekly" includes those who use the park more than once a week.

5. Like most:

Respondents were asked: What do you like most about the park?

Results:

- quiet/peaceful/secluded/uncrowded – 33%
- open space – 17%
- sports facilities – 17%
- the view – 12%
- safe play area – 12%
- natural setting – 9%
- trails/walking - 8%
- fortifications/history – 8%
- dog run/walk – 9%
- skating pond – 7%
- location/ proximity to residence – 7%
- cleanliness – 3%
- very few dogs – 3%
- no answer – 15%

Note: there were a number of individual miscellaneous respondents including:

- good place to meet your neighbour
- shelter (no explanation given)
- knowing that it is there
- hearing children play
- wildlife

6. Don't like:

Respondents were asked : What do you not like about the park/

Results:

- access/path from Devil's Hill Road – 24%
- nothing/leave it alone - 12%
- graffiti – 8%
- broken glass/safety around old fortifications – 7%
- condition of field/ ruts – 6%
- lack of parking – 5%
- access off Ferguson's Cove Road/ unclear rights of passage – 5%
- lack of signage re: location – 3%
- no organized events – 3%
- too isolated/safety concerns – 3%
- dead trees in forest/fire hazard – 3%
- no answer 14%

7. Recommended changes:

Respondents were asked: What changes would you like to see made to the park?

Results:

- maintenance - 29% including:
 - pond clean-up
 - playground equipment and courts
 - fortifications
 - remove graffiti
 - add garbage cans
 - more lighting and improvements to existing
- improved access by foot and bicycle – 16%
- benches/picnic tables/facilities – 13%
- walking trails - 10%
- historical signage – 8%

8. Please rate the importance of the following to you from 1 to 5:

(Note: 1 denotes not important at all; 5 denotes very important)

| Numbers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| a) picnic tables | 17 | 11 | 20 | 12 | 20 | 80 |
| b) improved walking access | 10 | 6 | 14 | 12 | 36 | 78 |
| c) seating areas | 13 | 4 | 18 | 16 | 30 | 81 |
| d) walking trails | 10 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 79 |
| e) community gardens | 17 | 10 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 78 |
| f) wheelchair accessibility | 14 | 12 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 75 |
| g) swings | 16 | 12 | 16 | 11 | 25 | 80 |

| Percentages | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| a) picnic tables | 21% | 14% | 25% | 15% | 25% |
| b) improved walking access | 13% | 8% | 18% | 15% | 46% |
| c) seating areas | 16% | 5% | 22% | 20% | 37% |
| d) walking trails | 13% | 5% | 19% | 19% | 44% |
| e) community gardens | 22% | 13% | 26% | 21% | 19% |
| f) wheelchair accessibility | 19% | 16% | 24% | 20% | 21% |
| g) swings | 20% | 15% | 20% | 14% | 31% |

9. Households:

Respondents were asked to identify the demographics of those presently living in their households:

Results:

- a) pre-school – 6
- b) elementary – 23
- c) junior high – 9
- d) high school – 5
- e) post high school – 4
- f) adults – 118
- g) seniors – 48

Numerous people indicated their willingness to help look after the Park and left their contact information. This information will be compiled into a list.