

July 4, 2018 Note from SLCA

Hello SLRPC (Sandy Lake Regional Park Coalition) members.

We are very pleased to report that the recently released Halifax Green Network Plan has given added value to the Sandy Lake area as compared to this time last year! We need your help to carry this through.

We ask you, our SLRPCoalition partners, to also mention Sandy Lake Regional Park in your letters/emails to Councillors and to the Community Planning and Economic Development committee (CPED). (Committee members are Sam Austin, Wayne Mason, Lindell Smith, Tim Outhit, Steve Craig, and David Hendsbee)

Attached is a draft letter from Our HRM Alliance which I expect you already have. In addition, here are some ideas for points about the Sandy Lake effort that you might include in your letters if you will:

- We are pleased that The Halifax Green Network Plan has recognized and given added value to the Sandy Lake area of Bedford.
- We support incorporation of Map 5 (It was map 6) in to the Regional Plan. Action 36: says to "Preserve the essential and important corridors shown on the Green Network Ecology map 5 page 35." Map 5 designates the proposed Sandy Lake Regional Park area as having several "important corridors to connect natural habitats". (note: including on lands west of Sandy Lake in the area currently designated for development.)
- We appreciate that the Plan reaffirms Council's commitment to dedicate money to land acquisition, which of course is important for all of the park lands that citizens are working to protect, Sandy Lake Regional Park definitely being one. This ecological and recreational gem will not be safe until we acquire 1000 more acres. Only 1000 acres, but they may not be not easy acres to acquire.
- We support actions to amend the MPS to identify and protect environmental sensitive areas and to use Map 5 when reviewing changes to Urban settlement & Urban reserve, Designation and preparing Secondary Planning Strategies. There would be value in reviewing and returning the lands in the Sandy Lake watershed to parkland designation.
- Page 49 Chebucto peninsula: Concerted efforts needed to avoid impacts to connectivity, or else its "wildlife and ecological health will be severely compromised". Protecting the "important corridors" of Sandy Lake and the Sackville River watershed will protect the Chebucto Peninsula. Page 51 map: Note core areas and important corridors west of Sandy Lake (and Jack Lake lands) that cross Hammonds Plains Rd. They reach toward Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes (BMBCL) as a link for wildlife between BMBCL/Chebucto Peninsula and up and out through Lower Sackville and Dartmouth and east toward Preston/mainland east. (Note: Would it not make sense to remove Urban Settlement designation from the corridors along this entire link? 4.3.3.3 seems to suggests this.)

Page 54: Outdoor Recreation: "The objectives for Regional Parks, as outlined in our Regional Plan, are to preserve significant natural or cultural resources, and to be large enough to support both ecosystem protection and human enjoyment at the same time." Map 10: Sandy/Jack lake lands owned by city are marked as HRM Regional Park and are listed as "Areas of Consideration" along with Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes, Sackville Lakes Provincial Park, Feely Lake, Porter's Lake, Crowbar lake, Purcell's Cove Backlands, Cole Harbour Open Space Plan Study Area, 100 Wild islands, and Wright's Lake area. The Sandy Lake Regional Park area was identified as one of these larger ecosystems for a very long time. We are hopeful that our city will achieve protection of these important areas for all time.

Thanks to each of you for your support, and also to Our HRM Alliance for continuing to include the proposed Sandy Lake Regional Park lands as an important area to protect.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen L.H. Robinson

Park Committee Chair, Sandy Lake Conservation Association (SLCA)

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