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Re: Item No. 9.2.2

**Halifax and West Community Council
June 28, 2016**

**Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee
September 1, 2016**

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax and West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed**
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

DATE: June 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Update on Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Long Term Plan

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

October 14 2015, Halifax and West Community Council motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts,
"THAT Halifax and West Community Council request a staff update on the review of the Point Pleasant Park comprehensive long term plan and bylaws. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Section 79(1):* Council may expend money required by the Municipality for: k) recreational programs; (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose; (y) furnishing and equipping any municipal facility; and (ah) ... trails, including trails developed, operated or maintained pursuant to an agreement made under clause 73(c), bike paths ... and other recreational facilities.
- By-law P-600, Respecting Municipal Parks

BACKGROUND

Point Pleasant Park is a 190 acre municipal park located at the south end of the Halifax Peninsula. Forested with extensive woodland trails and 1.8 km of shoreline on Halifax Harbour, the park is heavily used for walking, running, outdoor theatre, events and general community gathering. With its natural beauty, cultural assets and connection with the harbour landscape, the park is much loved and of great public importance to citizens.

Formerly part of the Halifax Defense Complex beginning during the American Revolution, the land was administered by the British Crown and then the Government of Canada. Public use as a park began in 1866 through a 999 year lease. Today, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) holds the lease for the park and is responsible for its operation. That lease is administered through Parks Canada.

In 2004, Hurricane Juan destroyed 70% of the forests within the park. That destruction was the culmination of ten years of challenges, including the Brown Long Horn Spruce Beetle (BSLB), successive ice storms, and public controversy over forest management. The hurricane created an opportunity to reset the focus of the park and implement new approaches to park management starting with the hurricane cleanup. The destruction raised the basic question of the future of the park. Public consultation on that question resulted in a significant interest in restoration of the forests of the park, but with a shift in focus to greater sustainability emphasizing:

- 1) the natural ecology within the park;
- 2) the cultural landscape of the park; and
- 3) improved services for recreational users.

In March 2006, the federal government provided \$1 million toward the reforestation of Point Pleasant Park to address the damage caused by Hurricane Juan. The funding provided opportunity for HRM to place a concerted focus on forestry management. As well, through a private donation, the Municipality developed the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan (The Plan) over a two year period beginning in 2006. The Plan focuses on the three themes outlined in the public consultation and sets direction in each. It also advocates for an adaptive management approach to its implementation. After significant public consultation, the Plan was adopted by Halifax Regional Council in 2008 as guidance for future decisions regarding the Park.

As restoration of the park is a long term endeavor, the Plan calls for a regular cycle of review. This information report is a review of the Plan's implementation to date. It does not deal with operational issues associated with day to day regulations, policing, staffing, etc.

DISCUSSION

Chapter Six: Implementation of the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan, describes the planned approach to restoring and managing the park. The proposed implementation is expected to be a long term endeavor, over a more than twenty five year period. It is a framework approach, rather than a prescription, which is in alignment with adaptive management principles. With such a long term implementation, a prioritized approach was used for implementation based on assessment of urgency first and then opportunity second. The order of priorities was:

- 1) Forest Regeneration: re-growing a sustainable forest;
- 2) Cultural Assets: stabilizing existing assets which had been left un-attended highlighting heritage assets previously largely eclipsed by the forest prior to the hurricane and bringing to light other cultural elements and opportunities;
- 3) Infrastructure: improving infrastructure to support park users; and
- 4) Programing: looking for opportunities to bring a wider segment of people into the park for longer periods of time and use the park to its potential within the parameters set under the Plan.

For consistency, staff is using the list of priorities in the order they are presented in Chapter Six of the Plan. Comments on any advancement of each priority have been provided along with an indication of

where each fell as a priority or opportunity since the Plan was adopted. Future actions and priorities are also included.

- Point Pleasant Park Cultural Resources Inventory – To date, the cultural resources inventory has focused on three areas:
 - 1) Fortifications - an inventory and assessment was conducted on the park's historic defense structures in association with Parks Canada. This led to the development of approaches for each fortification installation and allowed for their stabilization. (High Priority)
 - 2) Views - significant views have been established in accordance with the Plan. These areas are actively managed to maintain consistent views as the forest continues to grow. (Medium Priority)
 - 3) Roadways and Paths - an archeological examination of the military, settlement and farm roads in the park was undertaken through consultants and local university programs. A previously unknown historic roadway was discovered. This allowed for repair of roadways which were beginning to fail. (High Priority)
 - 4) Monuments - An inventory of monuments and memorials was completed (Medium Opportunity)

Future Actions – While this objective has been significantly advanced, the work in the various areas has not been collated into one Cultural Asset Resource Inventory. Combining these works with the archeological work and research undertaken during the Hurricane Juan clean-up would be the next step. This should then be placed at the Municipal Archives to prevent this information from being lost and needing to be repeated at some point in the future. (Medium Priority)

- Point Pleasant Park Archives – Records associated with Point Pleasant Park have been transferred to the Municipal Archives. (Medium Priority)

Future Actions – This practice will be continued on a regular basis as new information becomes available. (Medium Priority)

- Point Pleasant Park Operations Plan – This recommendation was aimed at disseminating all of the goals and objectives of the Plan into regular operational activities. No overall Operations Plan has been developed to date. Rather, implementation of the Plan has been undertaken by staff through management direction in order to complete priority actions. The goals around forestry are critical to the park and especially suited to operational planning. (Medium Priority)

Future Actions – While an operational plan is important, it will be a large endeavor in order to ensure it is comprehensive. Production of the Plan must be prioritized against other overall priorities across the Region. Therefore, development of components of an operational plan should be undertaken in preparation of the overall plan. The highest priority would be ongoing work on the forestry management plan since the forestry is the most important element for successful regeneration of the Park. Other aspects can then follow on an opportunity basis. (High Priority)

- Balmoral Pumping Station Remediation – Natural planting and landscaping has taken place to restore the disturbed areas caused by installation of the pumping station and Franklyn Street sewer pipe. Most plantings have taken and are growing. (High Opportunity)

Future Actions – Continue to monitor, manage and augment as necessary. (Medium Priority)

- Western Resource Area Improvements – An Interpretive Plan for this area with focus on presenting Mi'kmaq culture has been completed. Mi'kmaq interpretive material has been installed at the bottom of Tower Hill Road. The Mi'kmaq QR code audio installation was implemented. Other initiatives including a planned sculpture to be located in the park has lagged.(High Opportunity)

Future Actions – There is strong interest in resurrecting this cultural initiative. The proposed sculpture at the escarpment near the intersection of Maple Road and Serpentine Road is

especially of interest to both the Mi'kmaq community and the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee. The initiative could be positioned as one of a host of needed measures in line with Canada's Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples. While a potential project needs to meet both the HRM Public Arts Policy and the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan, a formal request is required from the Mi'kmaq Community for consideration of a proposed sculpture as part of the Plan's implementation. (High Priority)

- Historic Road Reconstruction – Restoration was carried out on five road sections which were failing. After being dismantled under the supervision of archeologists, they were restored using the same historic methods as the original construction, but with improved modern drainage structures. (High Priority)

Future Actions – Continuation of repairs to roadways, causeways and retaining walls in the same manner on an as needed basis. The reinstatement of the “rediscovered” historic roads at Prince of Wales and Heather roads should also be considered. (Low Priority)

- Shoreline – Shoreline storm and wave modeling was conducted through the Coldwater Study for Point Pleasant Park and the Northwest Arm. Recommendations for armoring against shoreline retreat and stabilization were created. Stabilization recommendations were implemented along the Northwest Arm shoreline at Sir Sandford Fleming Park and Point Pleasant where undercutting and slope failure was occurring. As a result, those slopes have been successfully stabilized. To date, the Eastern (Harbour) Shoreline of Point Pleasant, which is a different wave energy environment, has not been treated. It continues to erode and retreat. (High Priority)

Future Actions – A strategy regarding the erosion along the Harbour shoreline from Point Pleasant to Black Rock Beach needs to be determined as the area around Point Pleasant Battery and the search light installation will be at risk of failure at some point in the future. The strategy will determine whether to raise the ground level and stabilize the shoreline with armour stone to address sea level rise, or adapt to the impacts on the structures of a continued natural shoreline. An overall assessment of the area and proposed capital project would need to be undertaken to assist with determination of the most appropriate strategy. (High Priority)

- Forts; Tree Removal – Trees have been removed from fortifications where they were causing structural damage to cultural assets. Young trees continue to be removed as they continue to grow. (High Priority)

Future Actions - Staff will continue to monitor and remove trees as they grow back on cultural structures. (Low Priority)

- Invasive Plant Species Removal – There are three targeted species for removal in Point Pleasant Park:
 - Japanese Knotweed is highly invasive creating large groves, pushes out native species and contributes to erosion of slopes when it dies back in the winter. It occurs at several distinct areas within the park often on hills and forts. Removal by digging actually spreads the plant.
 - Himalayan Balsam is a highly invasive annual which overtakes native plants in shaded wooded areas and contributes to erosion. It occurs only in a few particular areas of the park.
 - Norway Maple is a highly invasive tree which shades out all other native species to become the dominant tree in the landscape. It occurs as mature trees in and around the forts where it was planted as a landscape tree and along Point Pleasant Drive where it has seeded in from adjacent street trees. (Medium Priority)

A pilot program was conducted on Japanese Knotweed in Point Pleasant employing eradication methods used in New York's Central Park. Black tarps were laid down to prevent sunlight from reaching the plants as they emerged in spring. Staff found the tarps had to be left in place for five

years to be effective. The practice was found to be more effective on small newly established areas of knotweed. Larger groves proved to be too robust to be effectively removed. In the last five years, there has been some success in both Europe and North America using controlled stem injection with glyphosate. While that would require a special permit, the success in other areas indicates that HRM should consider pursuing it.

Himalayan Balsam has been eradicated, but must continue to be monitored as it easily seeds from adjacent private gardens. Awareness and education towards adjacent landowners may be required if there is a reoccurrence.

While Norway Maple has been removed from several areas of the park, the approach was to leave large specimen trees in cultural areas (e.g. forts parking areas) until the forest regeneration had advanced and to remove any Norway Maple seedlings. After the native forest regeneration is well established, the large Norway Maples would then be removed eliminating the Norway Maple seed source. Some areas may reach sufficient regeneration that the mature Norway Maples could be removed in the next few years.

Future Actions – The Park will need to continue to be assessed for opportunities to carry out these actions, especially with regards to the removal of younger trees and seedlings as they pose a risk to native regeneration. Management of invasive species will need to be part of the forestry operations plan. (High Priority)

- Forest Management – Regeneration of the forest in Point Pleasant involves several initiatives including:
 - Natural Regeneration – allowing the pre-Hurricane Juan seedlings and seed stock to grow as the predominate means of regeneration.
 - Management of Woody Debris and Snags – dealing with woody debris and snags to supply organic material for regrowth, while managing for fire risk, safety and park aesthetics;
 - Spacing of Young Trees and Management of Multi Stem Regeneration – maximizing growth and shortening secondary successional stages through adequate sunlight, and managed competition for native climax species. Pruning sucker growth from hardwood stumps to produce a larger, stronger, long lived specimen sooner.
 - Species Monitoring, Selection and Augmentation – selecting a prescribed mix of native hardwoods and softwoods in order to better protect against future storms, pest and disease. Missing native species have been introduced through planting and removal of species not deemed appropriate under the Plan.
 - Planting of Areas of Low Natural Regeneration – planting where natural regeneration has failed to take hold. Sometimes, this planting includes nurse species which allow the climax forest species to then become established.
 - General Monitoring Of Forest Health – looking for signs of healthy nutrient levels, adequate water, disease and pests.
 - Human Access Control – restricting human access to the established roadways and paths. This has been achieved through education, monitoring, and enforcement, as well as denying requests for activities which would result in trampling of young trees and compaction of forest soils. Woody debris and obstacles are used to make off-path travel through the woods difficult, and new areas of the park at the forts have been opened up for use to provide alternatives for those looking to book activities. (High Priority)

A forestry management plan has been produced and implemented. As noted, HRM was supported in this area through the 2006 federal funding. Overall, the forest is regenerating remarkably well. In some areas, regeneration is well above normal growth rates. Over 103,000 trees have been used to plant non-regenerating areas and to introduce greater native species diversity. Non-native trees have been removed, however, some have been left in cultural areas where they either play a role as part of that landscape or sufficient time has not passed to allow adequate regeneration such that the non-native specimen should be removed.

Some specific updates related to the forest management include:

- The Copper (Purple) Beech, which the Plan allows as a cultural tree along designated roads, has been allowed to seed into natural areas to replace the native beech which cannot reach adequate size before dying of Beech Bark Disease.
- The southern slope at the North West Arm and at Fort Ogilvie which were drying out due to sun exposure have been planted with more tolerant species which are taking hold.
- The public have been accepting of the requirement to stay on paths and roads with fences, thickets and woody debris helping keep people out of regenerating areas.
- As the stand matures and branching gets above head height, staff is seeing evidence of the goat paths appearing where they should not be. However, steps will be needed to ensure that these do not become widely re-established as they were before the hurricane in order to retain their ecological health.
- Use of woodchips from within the park on pathways has been successful as a means of reintroducing organic material. Evidence of accelerated decay of woody debris (logs, stumps, etc) shows successful fostering of an increase in organisms associated with natural decay and movement towards a more stable ecosystem within the park.

Future Actions – The forestry framework is well established in the Plan and has been largely followed. However, the stand is reaching an age where more emphasis will need to be placed on silviculture for a few years which is the normal course of action for a stand in this condition. A specific program for this stage in the regeneration process will need to be operationalized. (High Priority)

- Point Pleasant Park Website – The pointpleasantpark.ca website was established during the cleanup and planning phases of the restoration. It was developed as a means to gather information from users and keep the public informed. The site won a communications award for the demonstrable improvement in public trust that it helped foster in regard to the park. (High Priority)

The site was established separately from the HRM website since it was not capable of hosting the needs of the Park Planning process at that time. After the Plan was adopted, the web site was maintained to provide information on the park, archive the Plan and background material and inform on events, activities topics and issues. In the last year, work on HRM's website has been initiated which will result in the re-engineering of the website and will include the Point Pleasant Park information. Therefore, the pointpleasantpark.ca website has been taken down in preparation for this work.

Future Actions – The information related to Point Pleasant Park including the Plan will be restructured within HRM's website, Halifax.ca, in the coming months. HRM's social media platform will also continue to be used to provide information on events and operations within the Park. (Medium Priority)

- Park Signage – Before the hurricane, the park had amassed a large collection of regulatory, wayfinding and interpretive signs. During the consultation on the Plan, the public expressed displeasure with the amount of signage, indicating it was inappropriate to have that many signs in a natural setting. Staff implemented the recommendations in the Plan by creating a simple system involving guideposts and kiosks which provide wayfinding, park interpretation, park artifacts, emergency communications along with park rules and regulations. As a result, the amount of signage in the Park has been dramatically reduced. (Medium Opportunity)

Future Actions – The new approach and signage system will be maintain with updated information and branding incorporated as signage needs to be replaced through ongoing maintenance. (Medium Opportunity)

- Accessibility Upgrades – With the assistance of the HRM Accessibility Committee, all new improvements to the park have been designed to meet accessibility standards. Basic services such as washrooms have also been upgraded to be more accessible. (High Priority)

Future Actions - Accessibility standards will continue to be met within the park as areas are improved. Identification and promotion of accessible routes for those with mobility challenges will be provided through program and web information. (Medium Opportunity)

- Eastern Shoreline and Bonaventure Anchor – The Plan anticipates having to move the Peacetime Sailors Memorial to a new site as the harbour shore continues to retreat. The Coldwater study prescribed an approach to armouring the point the monument sits on but that would require the entire shore to be armored as well. The Municipality has not made a decision as to how it will approach the Eastern (Harbour) Shoreline. (Medium Priority)

Future Actions – The Coldwater Study will be considered as the basis for a cost benefit analysis for armouring the Eastern (Harbour) Shoreline to reduce the erosion of the shoreline. (High Priority)

- Tower Road Entrance, Young Ave Entrance and Greenbank Multipurpose Building – The public consultation outlined a clear interest in a more appropriate entrance for the Park and improved visitor services but with no new structures within the passive and shoreline areas. The Plan calls for improvements to provide a better sense of entry, better organization and aesthetics of parking areas, as well as a place to obtain information, obtain snacks, gather, and shelter from weather. The Plan indicates that these are all to be located in parking lots and around the periphery of the park. To date, the Tower Road Entrance and parking lot has been redeveloped and improved. The Lower Parking area has been partially implemented with the second phase approved for detailed design this year. The Young Street Entrance (at Young and Point Pleasant Drive) has not been implemented. (The gates at the end of Young Ave are considered the Park Entrance Gates and Point Pleasant Drive is within the original park.) The Greenbank Visitors Building, able to provide visitor amenities and support services, is still several years from being planned. (Medium Opportunity)

Future Actions – The lower parking lot work will be completed as a capital priority for the park. The Greenbank Visitors Building will be incorporated into other initiatives such as consideration for greater program provision and visitor services in the Park as well as upcoming Cultural Spaces Inventory. Future plans to improve the Young Street Entrance will be considered as other priorities are completed. (Medium Priority)

- Point Pleasant Battery Entombment. – The battery sits on the edge of Halifax Harbour and is in a state of decay. A fence has been erected around the structure as it is not considered safe for public use. An assessment of the Battery was completed in 2009 along with the other fortifications in the park. That work, along with the Coldwater Study, indicated that retention of the entombment was only an option if the shoreline along the much of the harbour was stabilized with armour rock. The alternative would be to demolish the Point Pleasant Battery with the permission of Parks Canada. (High Priority)

Future Actions – A future decision on the Point Pleasant Battery will be included in the assessment and decision on the Harbour Shoreline. In the meantime, the perimeter fence will need to be maintained. (High Priority)

- Lower Parking Lot Washroom Upgrades -- Improvements to the washrooms at the Lower parking lot (two sites, Fort Road and the Park Place Theatre building) to meet a general public standard have been carried out. It is anticipated that the future Greenbank Building, when built, will house new public washrooms. These are also sites which have been identified for placement of public drinking fountains and water refill stations since they have access to water services. (Medium Priority)

Future Actions – Installation of public drinking and water fill stations at the two possible locations will be assessed for future capital budget priority. (Medium Opportunity)

- Cambridge Battery Area – The Plan calls for stabilization and improvements to the Cambridge Battery area. After an asset assessment by Conservationist Kelly McIvor with the aid of Parks Canada, the structure at Cambridge battery was sealed, stabilized, repaired and parts were entombed. Improvements were made to make the fortification and yard useable as an informal play space and to accommodate Shakespeare by the Sea and other performances. Views to the ocean were re-established from atop the Battery. (High Priority)

Future Actions – Staff will continue to monitor the site to improve usability, ensure select views to the Harbour are maintained, and enhance the sense of place as the forest regenerates. (Medium Opportunity)

- Black Rock Beach Upgrades – Black Rock Beach has been reinstated as a guarded public swimming beach. Swimming is somewhat inconsistent due to the impact on water quality conditions after a rain event. It is expected that the future Greenback Centre will play a role in providing support facilities for the beach. (High Opportunity)

Future Actions – Design work on the Lower Parking Lot, Green Bank Centre and Blackrock Beach will consider quality of space, programming and support amenities. (Medium Opportunity)

- Washroom Upgrades - Lodge Area, Cambridge Drive – In order to provide a good distribution of washrooms throughout the park, several of the present pit toilets will need to be replaced and new washrooms installed in specific locations. Only the Balmoral Pumping Station Washroom has been constructed since Hurricane Juan. A seasonal and accessible portable toilet has been placed in the Tower Road parking lot which has garnered positive feedback from users. The pre-existing pit facilities are still in place, largely because no water or sewer services exist in these areas of the park and the cost and disturbance to install the necessary servicing is significant. The demand for improved and increased number of facilities will increase as more people use the park for longer periods of time. (Medium Opportunity)

Future Actions – Staff will continue to monitor need for new washrooms, however any new facilities would have to be prioritized on a regional level as there are other parks elsewhere in the Municipality that have no washroom facilities. Staff are undertaking a Regional Washroom Strategy which will help address the prioritization. (Low Priority)

- Operational Area Upgrade – Minor upgrades have occurred to the buildings and improvements to the state of the work areas have been made, with vehicles stored out of site when not in use. Overall the situation has improved. (Medium Priority)

Future Actions – Major upgrades to the operational area will need to be considered during recapitalization, rather than as standalone aesthetic changes. (Medium Opportunity)

- Shoreline Upgrades – As noted in other items, the Northwest Arm Shore has been stabilized and the Eastern (Harbour) Shoreline requires a decision as to a future course of action. There are many dependencies related to this decision, including Point Pleasant Battery and the Peace Time Sailors Monument. The Coldwater Study provides the initial basis for this decision. (High Priority)

Future Actions – As noted in other items, a decision on the Eastern (Harbour) Shoreline will need to consider the impact on the related structures as well as the significant costs and implications for other park objectives. The Municipality will need to begin the analysis and decision making process within the next few years in order to have a firm course of action. (High Priority)

- Park Amenity Upgrades – Furniture, lighting and garbage cans have been improved in each of the areas which have received capital upgrades to date, predominantly at the entrances and parking lots. No program has been implemented or capital funding allocated for the interior of the park to date. (Medium Opportunity)
Future Actions – *The overall general approach to park furniture and other amenities such as drinking fountains needs to be reviewed in a similar manner as the Regional Washroom Strategy to improve the consistency and quality of assets. Point Pleasant Park is expected to be one of the considerations in developing such a program and securing Council approval. (High Opportunity)*
- Interpretive Program Implementation – Staff implemented an audio park interpretive program as recommended in the Plan. The program provides information on key topics for the park using personal smart phones and downloadable files for computers. A brochure also replicates the information for those without such devices. The benefits realized through this implementation include ease in changing content, less clutter in the park and lower maintenance requirements. The wayfinding kiosks throughout the park house artifacts and interpretive displays for visitors. Parks Canada has also installed interpretive signage at the Prince of Wales Tower (Martello Tower). (Medium Opportunity)
Future Actions – *The Municipality will continue to support the existing technology program and explore possible improvements as they arise. Recent changes in technology will allow for automatic triggers to push information to park user's devices, rather than having to use QR codes (Low Opportunity).*
- Fort Ogilvie Project – Staff has completed an asset assessment for Fort Ogilvie. Stabilization and improvements to the area have been completed to the fortifications and yard. Future stabilization and improvements may be considered for the moat. The Japanese knotweed problem will continue to be addressed to ensure stability of the fortifications slopes. (High Priority)
Future Actions – *Work on the Fort Ogilvie site will continue on an opportunity basis. (Low Opportunity)*
- Northwest Arm Battery Project – The Northwest Arm Battery project has been implemented with the yard restored, earthworks stabilized, and gun races exposed and reset. (Medium Priority)
Future Actions – *Future programming for the park should encourage use of Northwest Arm Battery as a venue for events and casual play. In keeping with the Plan, depending on the user uptake of the site, other support amenities could be considered. (Medium Opportunity)*
- Chain Rock Battery Project – Chain Rock Battery has been stabilized and re-opened to its original views. Paths to the water have been improved and audio interpretation is in place. It is located in the Mi'kmaq cultural area along North West Arm Road and implementation of an additional cultural asset (i.e. sculpture) in addition to the kiosk artifacts and audio tour is an opportunity. (High Priority)
Future Actions – *HRM will continue to implement the Mi'kmaq cultural presence in partnership with the Mi'kmaq community. (High Opportunity)*
- Lifecycle Capital Expenditures – The majority of capital and operation budgets have been shifted to one business unit, Parks and Recreation in keeping with recommendations of the Plan. Only funding related to the forestry operation remains within the Transportation and Public Works business unit in order to ensure alignment with the urban forestry portfolio. Repair of the park perimeter wall is the next priority. Repairs to the Park Place Theatre building, which was damaged by fire, are also underway. (High Priority)

Future Actions – Since Hurricane Juan, over 6 million dollars has been invested in Point Pleasant Park. While there is also a need to re-focus on other Regional Priorities, there will still need to be regular and steady investment in critical areas outlined in the Plan to ensure post Hurricane Juan challenges are not repeated in the future. (Medium Priority)

Related Items

In addition to the priorities outlined in Chapter 6 of the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Long Term Plan, there are three other significant initiatives that are related and will benefit the overall Park.

Point Pleasant Park Stone Wall – A structural assessment of the stone wall that defines a large portion of the perimeter boundary of Point Pleasant Park has been completed to determine its overall condition and identify the requirement for restoration and maintenance. In general, the work required includes repointing of stone work, replacement of damaged and missing stones, reconstruction of the concrete cap that is damaged, fractured or displaced, and in some locations, dismantling and rebuilding of sections of the wall. Sections of the wall that are no longer stable will be repaired and stabilized as a capital priority for the Park.

Prince of Wales Tower - The Prince of Wales Tower is a federal historic site, located within the boundaries of the Park. In May 2016, Parks Canada announced federal funding to improve both the tower as well as Halifax Citadel. The funding, in the amount of \$20 million, is expected to be used for site improvements, access improvements, road improvements and replacement of windows and roofing. At this point, details on the amount of funding designated to each project and the work to be completed have not been defined.

Lower Parking Lot – as per the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan, a newly designed lower parking lot is recommended. Along with improving the appearance and orientation of pathways to the park, it will also help to slow traffic. A Sunday evening car culture has been growing at the park by way of large numbers of motorists who gather to display and talk about cars. Reports of dangerous driving and alcohol consumption have also been reported. This has caused issues with park users and with EHS Life Flight's mobile critical-care ground-transfer unit because access to the helipad (adjacent to parking lot) is sometimes blocked and difficult to get to.

In order to help alleviate the Lower Parking Lot issues in the short term, Parks have employed security from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings to monitor parking lot capacity. Security will close the gate once all spots are full to prevent over populating and overwhelming the parking lot.

HRP have also launched a series of special patrols to help prevent illegal and dangerous activities. The following legislation will be enforced:

- By-Law P-600, Respecting Municipal Parks
- *Liquor Control Act*
- *Protection of Property Act*
- Criminal Code
- *Motor Vehicle Act*

This partnership with parks, Halifax Regional Police, and EHS is helping to keep the park enjoyable for all users.

General Governance

The Plan also identifies improvements to the overall administration of the Park. In keeping with the recommendations of the Plan, recent organizational changes have enabled the responsibility for the Park to now fall under one business unit, Parks and Recreation. This shift makes it easier to undertake the planning and implementation of the Plan as well as manage the operational aspects of the Park. The combined resources of this business unit also allows for greater opportunities to achieve greater public programming and use of the Park. Efficiencies have been created through the alignment of responsibilities

for Point Pleasant Park with other major municipal parks (i.e., Shubie and Hemlock Ravine). That alignment allows for improved consistency in the operation of HRM's major park network.

With the creation of the Parks & Recreation business unit, the responsibility for the administration of By-law P-600, Respecting Parks, has also been streamlined and clarified. With the single department administration, a review and update of the by-law will be able to be completed to ensure the regulations related to Point Pleasant Park along with all HRM parks are effective and current.

The ownership of Point Pleasant Park has also been simplified. The lower parking lot lands, which had been created through the infilling of the Harbour for the Hal Term Container Pier, were previously owned by the Port of Halifax. Those lands have been transferred to Parks Canada, so all lands associated with the Park are now all under the same 999 year lease. Over the last twenty years, there have been very few obstacles associated with dealing with Parks Canada as the lessor in achieving the Municipality's park goals. They have proved very responsive in considering requests and granting permissions which the municipality has required. As a result, the previous conversations regarding the potential to transfer ownership of the park to the Municipality are no longer a necessity or priority at this time. Additionally, the Municipality and the Port have worked cooperatively to ensure security for the port, development of an emergency helicopter land pad, extension of the berthing pier at the container terminal, and public access through the port lands linking Point Pleasant Park with the downtown.

Finally, the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee is now supported by the Municipal Clerk's office and deals only with one municipal service department. All meetings are a matter of public record and are available through the Municipality's web site. More subject experts are being placed on the Committee and the Committee has a greater awareness of the issues of sustainability affecting the park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this Information Report. Any projects requiring expenditures are subject to approval by Regional Council through established budgeting processes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Extensive community engagement was undertaken in the development of the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map of Point Pleasant Park

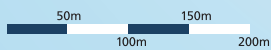
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Peter Bigelow, Manager of Policy & Planning, Parks and Recreation



Point Pleasant

P A R K



Point Pleasant Park is closed 12am to 5am
 For safety or maintenance concerns, please call 490-4000
 For more information, please visit our web site www.pointpleasantpark.ca

LEGEND

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|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Historical Tour Site | Washrooms | Main Trail (Off-leash Dog Area) | Emergency Telephone |
| 6 Cultural Tour Site | Parking | Main Trail (Dogs Must be Leashed) | No Dogs after 10am |
| 7 Ecological Tour Site | Refreshments | Secondary Trail (Off-leash Dog Area) | |

