

**Item No. 6**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 15, 2013**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, Director of Community & Recreation Services

**DATE:** January 7, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Eastern Passage Recreation Needs Assessment

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

- April 2012 announcement by the Minister of Education for the construction of an Alterations and Additions project for the Eastern Passage High School, with the project completion set to open in September 2014.
- April 17, 2012 Motion of Council that: “Staff prepare a report regarding the recently announced high school project in Eastern Passage including any needs for community enhancement in the area, potential partnerships with the Province and possible infrastructure funding opportunities.”
- April 24, 2012 Motion of Council that: “Staff undertake a site development planning process for the Eastern Passage Common, formerly known as the lands at Elkins Barracks (A23).”

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

- *HRM Charter*, Section 79 (1) including:
  - (k) recreational programs; and
  - (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose.
- Community Facility Master Plan, approved by Regional Council on May 27, 2008.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Province of Nova Scotia recently announced a new high school project in Eastern Passage. As a result, Regional Council directed staff to complete a Recreation Needs Assessment for that area. This needs assessment would determine whether recommendations would be forthcoming to Regional Council regarding potential community enhancements to the school project. Due to the timeline for the construction of the school by 2014, HRM must immediately advise the Province whether there is interest in any potential enhancements.

In order to provide Regional Council with adequate assessment for consideration of facility related development in the Eastern Passage community at this time, staff have completed the following:

- development of a community profile
- data research and analysis
- community consultations
- interviews with key stakeholders
- review of previous data and consultations

The Recreation Needs Assessment has resulted in some recommendations for current and future consideration by Regional Council. They are:

1. Enhance the new school gymnasium for community benefit from 8400 sf to 10,500 sf, and enter into a Joint Use Agreement with the Halifax Regional School Board to ensure appropriate community access;
2. Recapitalize and refurbish the Tallahassee Community Centre to ensure the asset does not depreciate in value and use; and
3. Improve transportation routes and transit service to enable easier commutes to recreation facilities.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Additions and Alterations Project – New Eastern Passage High School**

In April 2012, the Minister of Education announced an Additions and Alterations Project that would result in a new high school in Eastern Passage, to be completed in September 2014. Further, the existing Seaside Elementary School was selected by the Province in September of 2012 as the site for the project. This has been announced as a large (\$15M) renovation of the existing school. The announcement of this project resulted in HRM staff being directed to complete a Recreation Needs Assessment in order to identify whether benefits exist for a potential partnership with the Province to expand the school with a community enhancement.

In order to meet the provincial schedule for the Eastern Passage School project, HRM must immediately advise the province if the interest exists to participate in the project with a community enhancement of the school. Originally, the Province requested a response by the end of December 2012, but agreed to an extension to the first regularly scheduled Council meeting in January.

The recreation needs assessment was advanced in the Eastern Passage community by Regional Council as a result of the school project and a potential community enhancement at that school. This information was required to supplement the CFMP which did not provide sufficient detail to determine potential community needs associated with a new school or other community facilities in the Cole Harbour area. Assessment and consultation took place in order to determine whether there are currently mandate specific services and programs not available in the community. The recreation needs assessment, carried out between August and November 2012, included: development of a community profile, data research and analysis, community consultations and interviews with key stakeholders.

### **Community Facility Master Plan**

In May 2008, Regional Council approved in principle the Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP). The CFMP analyzed demand for recreation facilities in HRM and compared it to the existing facility inventory. The resulting planning document incorporated previous plans and presented guiding principles and implementation models for making decisions about existing and future facilities. The CFMP discusses HRM's relationship with HRSB including joint opportunities to deliver programs and operate facilities.

The CFMP also recommends HRM build upon the past successful relationship with the HRSB and explore joint project opportunities where new school facilities are being planned. The CFMP further outlines the need to ensure that, when new or replacement facilities are developed, the facilities are placed in the most relevant locations and are consistent with other planning documents such as the Regional Plan and Transportation Plan.

In addition to the Citadel Community Centre enhancement in 2008, HRM successfully collaborated with the HRSB in 2010 for a community enhancement to the new elementary school in Porter's Lake, and in 2011 in the communities of Bedford and Hammonds Plains to enhance the new Charles P Allen High School.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Community Profile**

Based on the 2006 Census of Population, Eastern Passage has a total population of 11,017 which is 15% higher than in 1996. In 2006, 24.2% of the population was under the age of 20 and 14.5% was 65 years or older. Population total as of 2011 census is 11,470, a slight overall increase in population of almost 500 residents.

The community of Eastern Passage is suburban in nature with a mix of low to medium density residential and convenience commercial uses. The community was identified in the 2006 HRM Regional Plan as an Urban Settlement area and classified as a Growth Centre. Future planning consideration will take place related to the development of a secondary plan regarding mixed-used transit-oriented communities, to accommodate a mix of housing types, office, retail and institutional uses in addition to parks, trails, community gardens and safe public open spaces.

## **Data Research and Analysis**

Recent Analysis undertaken related to community needs includes:

- a) In 2010, an Eastern Passage Recreation Survey was conducted by the HRM and encouraged public discussion regarding the usage and effectiveness of existing community indoor and outdoor facilities, as well as programs and services. This process included online survey, open public meetings, focus group meetings and key stakeholder interviews. Response to this process was moderate and there were no conclusive gaps to service delivery identified at that time.
- b) An ongoing community analysis “Eastern Passage Common District Site Inventory,” began in April 2012. The intent of this study is to collect information for discussion and consideration prior to the commencement of formal master planning on the Eastern Passage site.
- c) There are two major housing developments in progress: a 166-unit project that includes single condos, semi-detached condos, three-unit condos and 10 homes to be completed by 2014 and a development of 65 lots.
- d) A partnership proposal was recently submitted for consideration from a group that would like the Municipality to construct a competition venue for BMX bikes on the Eastern Passage Common. This project has not yet been endorsed as a priority by the Provincial sport agency or Regional Council.

## **Recreation and Community Services**

Eastern Passage is very engaged in “community pride” initiatives. It is a vibrant and engaged community with access to many diverse recreational opportunities offered by both municipal service providers and private service providers. The on-line survey, undertaken for this needs assessment, indicated that 97% of respondents consider recreation programs “*an enhancement to their quality of life*”. There were 82% of households who participated in a recreation program or sport group using a gymnasium within the past year.

Municipal recreation programming and service delivery in this community is carried out primarily through four groups:

- a) HRM Community Recreation Services (over 80+ programs offered each year), primarily offered at the Tallahassee Community Centre.
- b) Community Scheduling and Events (booking and scheduling of sport and athletic fields, school gymnasiums).
- c) Halifax Regional Library, with over 100+ general interest programs offered each year, has regional services available for Eastern Passage at any of three locations:
  - a) Woodlawn Public Library; b) Cole Harbour Public Library; and c) Alderney Gate Public Library. The Public Library service also provides a “Books by Mail” service and an electronic “e’book” service for residents.
- d) The Dartmouth Sportsplex and Cole Harbour Place Multi-District Facilities are both within the standard 20 minute drive-time for residents in Eastern Passage and have

various and numerous recreation, sport, leisure, wellness and community programs and services available at their locations.

As well, other Community Service Providers provide additional programming, including:

- a) Provincial Sport Organizations, utilizing municipal fields and facilities, sponsor several local minor sport groups in the Eastern Passage area. These groups offer specific sport experiences to all minor ages and level, ranging in size from 30 – 600 participants. These organizations include: Eastern Passage “Tigers” Minor Basketball Association, Dartmouth Whalers Minor Hockey Association, Dartmouth Ringette Association, Eastern Passage Soccer, and Eastern Passage Minor Baseball Association.
- b) CFB Shearwater is a large military base with a variety of recreation and sport venues on site. Citizens are able to utilize the facility but the primary constituent user group for the facilities is military personnel.

### **Facilities Inventory**

Currently, residents of Eastern Passage have local access to the Tallahassee Community Centre which is a modest sized facility that serves the local population with a variety of programs and services. Opened in 1995, this municipally operated facility, offers traditional preschool, child, youth and adult programming including such things as dance programs, crafts, basketball, guitar, cheerleading, karate, zumba, yoga, stretch and tone. As well, the facility is equipped with basic fitness and weight equipment. There is access to this centre during daytime, evening and weekend hours with special seasonal programming taking place during in-service days, school holidays and summer breaks. There is a large gymnasium at the Tallahassee Community Centre that can be used as two separate gymnasias. While one is utilized by the elementary school during the weekdays, the other is available anytime for community programming. In addition, the community has access to three other school gymnasiums.

Current outdoor facility inventory in Eastern Passage consists of 4 natural turf sport fields, 4 natural turf ball diamonds, 10 playgrounds, 1 tennis court, 6 outdoor basketball courts and 1 skateboard park.

In addition, Dartmouth Sportsplex and Cole Harbour Place Multi-District Facilities are both within the standard 20 minute drive-time for residents, however, are not considered convenient due to lack of direct transportation routes and transit service. As well, CFB Shearwater has a variety of recreation and sport venues on site.

### **Gymnasias**

The majority of gymnasias in HRM are owned by the Province of Nova Scotia or Private Partners (P3 schools) and operated by the Halifax Regional School Board. Some (6) have been co-funded by the municipality as community enhancements and have “assured access” through Joint Use Agreements. The School Board is responsible to create the policies and usage guidelines for their facilities and HRM scheduling staff, through a formal Service Exchange Agreement with

HRSB, provides scheduling services to community users. . The priority for after school access at existing schools without joint-use agreements is given to school usage which results in approximately three times as much time allocated to school usage compared to community usage. In facilities with a Joint-Use agreement, a higher percentage of after school gym usage is available for HRM programming needs and community groups.

There are several factors that influence gym usage in the municipality. There are various rental costs and requirements for staffing depending on whether the school is a provincially owned school, a P3 school or a municipally enhanced community school. Some gymnasiums have available prime time that is not utilized because of the pricing structure at the school. Citizens involved with minor sport and non-profit organizations in particular note that the cost of the gymnasium is as important a consideration as the actual location or availability of the space.

Community sport and non-profit groups, citizens, and respondents to online surveys and previous public consultation note that there is currently insufficient gymnasium space or access to gymnasium space in the Eastern Passage area. Current waitlists and the data assessment as outlined in the attached Recreation Needs Assessment (Attachment 1) support that claim.

### **Community Consultations and Key Stakeholders Interviews**

In order to supplement data review and analysis with feedback from citizens, several avenues for consultation were offered. These included:

1. Public Meetings (2)
2. Online Survey (Halifax.ca)
3. Direct email address for written commentary (CFMP@halifax.ca)
4. Direct phone number for verbal commentary (490-5713)
5. Facebook
6. Twitter account

The public Meetings, held over two weeks on different nights, were well attended with 57 participants.

On-line survey results indicated 32% of respondents stated that “they were unable to participate in an organized sport group, 44% were unable to participate in cultural, art or drama activities, 30% were unable to participate in special community events, and 48% in general recreational activities” due to lack of available recreation space. The majority of respondents (79%) were from a household comprised of a couple with children and 98% were between the ages of 20-60 years old. The majority of respondents (82%) did indicate that they had participated in community recreation within the past year. Only 2% of the respondents were over the age of 60 years.

### **Site Considerations:**

The Eastern Passage High School project is taking place on existing provincial lands as a redevelopment of a current elementary school. As a result of limited space, topographical

realities, and neighboring housing and roadway complexities, there is limited availability for enhancement development at the school. The Halifax Regional School Board has indicated some challenges related to the project that include sizes of the existing rooms, size of the existing gymnasium, and available footprint for expansion. It is unknown at this time if the site or existing building footprint will accommodate any community enhancements.

### **Eastern Passage Common**

On April 24, 2012, Regional Council directed staff to undertake a site planning process for the Eastern Passage Common. This work is ongoing and was considered during the needs assessment since Seaside Elementary School is located within the Eastern Passage Common. However, the overall site planning process could not be completed within the timeline required for the Eastern Passage High School project. The opportunity to partner with the Province on the high school project is specific to the building, therefore, a decision on the school project does not impede opportunities associated with the Eastern Passage Common site planning process. Real Property staff will complete the work for the Eastern Passage Common and return to Regional Council for consideration.

### **Assessment Findings**

Key findings from the attached Eastern Passage Recreation Needs Assessment include:

1. The Community of Eastern Passage/Cow Bay is very engaged in “community pride” initiatives.
2. The factors of the time of day, programming, size of play surface, accessibility, travel distance and cost all ranked very high or high in the usage of both the gymnasiums and playing fields.
3. Presently the school recreation facilities which are administered by a Service Exchange Agreement with HRSB are not effectively accessible to the community/sport groups. If HRM enters into a monetary partnership to enhance the Seaside School gymnasium, a Joint Use Agreement would be developed that clearly defines community usage based on HRM recreational need. Feedback was also provided that indicated that increased community usage is desired in schools without Joint Use Agreements. Staff will continue to work on improvements in the Service Exchange Agreement in order to increase community access to all schools.
4. The usage, lack of access, and community/stakeholder feedback data supports the partnership with HRSB to create additional gymnasium space. Therefore, the development of community gymnasium space is recommended. An enhancement of the redevelopment of the Seaside School is seen to be the most cost effective and appropriate mechanism to construct additional space of this type at this time. This would provide a full-sized gymnasium (suitable for curtailed separation) for both school and community use, would ensure appropriate community access through the administration of a Joint

Use Agreement for that site with the Halifax Regional School Board, and will allow the municipality to construct the enhancement at a reduced capital and operating cost.

5. The rating of the sports fields (“B” rating”) indicates that the community is well serviced and does not require an upgrade to an artificial field or an increase to the size and condition of existing fields.
6. The community has access to many diverse recreational opportunities as compared to many communities within HRM: tennis courts, outdoor rink, Skate Park, outdoor gym, walking path at Fisherman’s Cove and community garden.
7. Access to existing Regional Recreation Facilities is not convenient due to lack of direct transportation routes and transit service. This will be forwarded to Metro Transit for consideration in future planning.
8. The Tallahassee Community Centre plays a key role in the provision of recreation services for the community. Due to its age and extensive use, recapitalization and refurbishment is needed in order to ensure the asset does not depreciate in value and use.
9. There is no identified need for the development of a BMX Race Track in Eastern Passage at this time.

In addition, feedback was received on matters that fall outside the scope of the recreation needs assessment including consideration of a library for the Eastern Passage area, upgrading of the cafeteria to a cafetorium in the Eastern Passage school, a direct transit route to Cole Harbour, and extension of the road network to connect Eastern Passage to other HRM communities. This feedback has been forwarded to the respective HRM departments and HRSB for consideration.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of expanding the gymnasium are provided in the staff recommendation report dated January 7, 2013 titled “Eastern Passage School Enhancement”. Other initiatives will be brought forward to Regional Council for discussion in future.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

HRM staff provided Eastern Passage community members a variety of feedback methods to ensure their voice was heard: on-line survey, Facebook, twitter, HRM dedicated phone number, HRM dedicated e-mail and 2 Community Consultations. The consultations were held at the New Eco Tourism Service Centre on October 11 and 17, 2012 with the focus on what is currently working well in terms of community use of indoor and outdoor recreation space and how an improvement to the current space could impact community recreation needs.



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None indicated.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Eastern Passage Recreation Needs Assessment

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Original Signed

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# Eastern Passage Recreation Needs Assessment

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the individuals and groups for bringing their subject knowledge to the table and for their ability to contribute both personally and as representatives of important stakeholder groups.

Citizens of Eastern Passage  
District 3 Councilor Bill Karsten  
Former District 3 Councilor Jackie Barkhouse  
Capital Health – Anna Jacobs  
Girl Guides of Canada  
Boy Scouts of Canada  
Eastern Passage Buffalo Club  
Eastern Passage Lions Club  
CFB Shearwater  
Business members of Fisherman's Cove  
HRM staff  
HRSB staff  
Sport Nova Scotia Groups:   Badminton  
  Basketball  
  Football  
  Rhythmic Gymnastics  
  Soccer  
  Tennis  
  Volleyball  
  Special Olympics

## Introduction

On April 17, 2012 Regional Council approved a motion directing staff to prepare a report regarding the recently announced high school in Eastern Passage including any needs for community enhancement in the area, potential partnership with the Province and possible infrastructure funding opportunities.

## Purpose and Rationale of the Recreation Needs Assessment

Regional Council approved in principle the Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP) in May of 2008. The CFMP presents guiding principles, implementation models for making decisions about existing and future facilities and site-specific recommendations. This plan is built on several key themes:

- Integrated Planning – to serve the needs of the citizens the work is done collaboratively with the community, Council and other HRM Business Units
- Distribution of Facilities – facility planning and development that takes into account the needs of the population and its distribution within HRM
- Activity Coverage – provision of a range of recreation opportunities for HRM residents and design facilities that promote participation
- Community based arts and culture – ensure program opportunities are built into facilities whenever feasible
- Communities building through asset management – strongly recommend models other than municipally operated recreation facilities
- Balance new assets against lifecycle obligations – balance between investing in new assets and existing facilities

The CFMP discusses HRM's relationship with the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) and joint opportunities to deliver programs and operate facilities. Recommendation #53 expands on this by recommending HRM build upon the past successful relationship with the HRSB on the development and operation of the Citadel Community Centre attached to Citadel High School and the expanded gymnasium facilities. The CFMP recommends HRM explore further opportunities to do joint projects whenever new school facilities are being planned.

The Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) *Imagine Our Schools* 10 year plan recommends enhancement opportunities for community-centred schools with a commitment to exploring partnerships and joint-use agreements. As a result HRM has partnered with the HRSB to develop and complete 2 joint-use projects: Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre and Porters Lake Community Centre.

HRM is granted permission under the Provincial Education Act to partner with the Province to enhance the Seaside Elementary school project if there is a community recreational need. Therefore, a comprehensive recreation needs assessment ensued to review the existing recreational opportunities for the Eastern Passage community, to identify gaps in service delivery and to determine if the potential HRSB partnership is a recommended course of action.

## Framework and Methodology of the Recreation Needs Assessment

The focus of the Needs Assessment was to investigate how effective and efficient the provision of HRM mandated services are delivered in the Eastern Passage community. The geographical area under review is based on the HRM Regional Plan and 2011 Census Community definition: Cow Bay, Devils Island, Eastern Passage, Mynas Island, Rainbow Haven, Shearwater, and South East Passage.

The following analysis was completed to develop the contents of this Recreation Needs Assessment.

1. Demographic of community
  - a. Total population, percentage growth, new housing stats, employment
  - b. Development of “community profile” using several years of comparative data
2. Inventory of facilities
  - a. Identification of existing community / private recreation / community facilities in community, and
  - b. Services provided, services required or wanted, cost structures
3. Community Consultation – Engagement with the Citizens

A discussion was held with community regarding what is currently working well or is challenging with recreation service delivery and what improvements would a community enhancement offer the community. The goal was to gain the appropriate community perspective, context and commentary to help craft staff recommendations.

  - a. Email, phone, Facebook, twitter, on-line survey, community consultations and evaluation feedback from the consultations
4. Interviews with Stakeholder Groups
  - a. Sport Nova Scotia Groups: Badminton, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Special Olympics, Tennis
  - b. HRM Community Recreation Staff at Tallahassee Community Recreation Facility
  - c. Shearwater Sports Centre
  - d. Members of the HRSB Site Selection Committee
  - e. District Councillor Bill Karsten
  - f. Fisherman’s Cove Business members
  - g. Eastern Passage Buffalo Club
  - h. Eastern Passage Lions Club
  - i. Former District Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
  - j. HRM Staff
5. Inventory and understanding of level of usage at existing facilities:
  - i.e. # of hours per week
  - wait listed programs or activities

- Evidence that there is not capacity in the community to provide mandate specific services.

## Background Documents

The following items were used as background:

- Community Facilities Master Plan 2008
- HRM Regional Plan
- Community Counts Census Data
- HRM Recreation Blueprint
- Eastern Passage Common District Park Site Inventory
- HRSB *Imagine Our Schools*
- HRM Facility and Field Booking CLASS documents (2009-2012)
- On-Line Survey Analysis
- Public Engagement Evaluation Forms
- HRM Rec Program Catalogue
- HRM Building Permits data

## Data Research and Analysis

Recent Analysis undertaken related to community needs includes:

- a) In 2010, an Eastern Passage Recreation Survey was conducted by the HRM and encouraged public discussion regarding the usage and effectiveness of existing community indoor and outdoor facilities, as well as programs and services. This process included online survey, open public meetings, focus group meetings and key stakeholder interviews. Response to this process was moderate and there were no conclusive gaps to service delivery identified at that time.
- b) An ongoing community analysis “Eastern Passage Common District Site Inventory,” began in April 2012. The intent of this study is collect information for discussion and consideration prior to the commencement of formal master planning on the Eastern Passage site.
- c) There are two major housing developments in progress: a 166-unit project that includes single condos, semi-detached condos, three-unit condos and 10 homes to be completed by 2014 and a development of 65 lots.
- d) A partnership proposal was recently submitted for consideration from a group that would like the Municipality to construct a BMX race track located somewhere on the Eastern Passage Common. This project has not yet been approved.

## Community Profile

The demographics of the Eastern Passage community is evolving, however the Regional Plan review(RP+5) indicates lower growth patterns than initially projected for a variety of reasons:

- Shearwater airspace zoning height constraint on development
- noise impact constraints on residential areas

- Irving refinery explosions constraint on development
- existence of flood plain and existing capacity of the tertiary treatment plant

The 2006 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy identified Eastern Passage as a Suburban Local Centre and one of a number of HRM growth centres in which a Community Visioning exercise will be undertaken. There are 2 major developments in progress;; a 166-unit project that includes single condos, semi-detached condos, three-unit condos and 10 homes to be completed by 2014 and a separate development of 65 lots.

Based on the 2011 Census of Population, the HRM's District 3 (Woodside - Dartmouth South - Eastern Passage/Cow Bay) has a population of 27,230 which is 18.9% higher than in 2001. In 2011, 24.1% of the population was under the age of 20 and 14.6% was 65 years or older.

Based on the 2011 Census of Population, Eastern Passage has a population of 11,740 which is 13.5% higher than in 2001. In 2011, 26.4% of the population was under the age of 20 and 9.3% was 65 years or older.

In comparison, Nova Scotia has a population of 921,725 which is 1.5% higher than in 2001. 21.2% of the population was under the age of 20 and 16.6% was 65 years or older.

**Chart 1: Population by Age Cohort by Aggregate of District 3**

Age Group	Age	Population	Percentage of Population
Preschool	0-4	1627	6.0%
Elementary/Secondary	5-19	1946	18.2%
	20-34	4988	18.3%
Labour Force Ages	35-54	8486	31.2%
	55-64	3155	11.6%
	65-74	2052	7.5%
Older Adults	75+	1918	7.0%
Total		27,230	100%

- *Please Note:*  
*With the Government of Canada's cancellation of the long-form portion of the Census in 2011, Census data is now very limited compared to what it was in 2006 and all of the data that was collected from the short-form of the Census in 2011 has not yet been released by Statistics Canada. Household data will be released at the community level on November 21<sup>st</sup> and posted by the end of December 2012. As for income, employment and other population characteristics, this was collected under a brand new survey Statistics Canada introduced called the 'National Household Survey'. Data from this survey will not be available until May 2013*



*Consequently, the 2006 Census Data will be used for a detailed community profile.*

**Chart 2: Eastern Passage Socio-Demographic Indicators**

	1996	2001	2006	HRM 2006
<b>Population Characteristics</b>				
Population Base	9,562	10,346	11,017	372,679
School Population	2,190	2,461	2,452	66,320
				17,370
Lone Parent Families	297 (10.9%)	441 (14.7%)	528 (16.3)	(16.5%)
	20-34	35-54	35-54	
Largest Age Cohort	(28.2%)	(33.9%)	(33.3%)	35-54 (32%)
Immigration Population	289 (3.1%)	263 (2.6)	358 (3.3%)	27,405 (7.4%)
<b>Income Characteristics</b>				
Median Income - All Households	\$47,033	\$54,720	\$63,783	\$54,129
Median Income - Individual	\$23,323	\$25,027	\$32,835	\$28,531
<b>Household Ownership</b>				
Owned	80.7%	80%	83.6%	64%
Rental	19.5%	20%	16%	36%
<b>Unemployment Rate - 15 years and over</b>				
	6.5%	4.9%	4.4%	6.3%

In 2006, for Eastern Passage, total census families increased 15.2% to 3,241. Married families increased by 6.5% while common law families increased 59.7% and lone-parent families increased 77.8%. Lone female parent families were 12.3% of all families while lone male parents were 4.3% of all families.

In Nova Scotia, total census families increased 5.3% to 267,415. Married families increased by - 1.4% while common law families increased 43.2% and lone-parent families increased 14.1%. Lone female parent families were 13.9% of all families while lone male parents were 3.0% of all families.

Compared to Nova Scotia, Eastern Passage has a relatively low immigrant population. In 2006, there were 358 immigrants which is 3.3% of the population compared to 5% immigrants for Nova Scotia. In Eastern Passage, 99.5% of people were Canadian citizens compared to 98.3% for Nova Scotia.

The median income for individuals in Eastern Passage was \$32,835 a year, compared with the median of \$24,030 for Nova Scotia. Families in Eastern Passage had a median income of \$63,783, compared with the median of \$55,412 for Nova Scotia.

In 2006, the average income for individuals in Eastern Passage was \$35,210 a year, compared

with the average of \$31,795 for Nova Scotia. Families in Eastern Passage had an average income of \$68,976, compared with the average of \$66,032 for Nova Scotia.

The employment rate for Eastern Passage residents aged 25 and over increased by 2.2 percentage points to 71.9% between 1996 and 2006 and there were 1,024 more employed workers. Nova Scotia's employment rate experienced an increase by 3.6 percentage points to 58% between 1996 and 2006 and there were 46,050 more employed workers, during this same period.

The employment rate in Eastern Passage for residents aged 15-24 years decreased by 1.4 percentage points, to 51% between 1996 and 2006 and there were 164 more employed workers. Nova Scotia's employment rate experienced an increase by 7.1 percentage points to 52.9% between 1996 and 2006 and there were 62,287 more employed workers.

In 2006, 83.6% of the population of Eastern Passage owned their dwellings and 16% rented, this compared with 72% and 27.6% for Nova Scotia respectively. In Eastern Passage, 37.2% of dwellings required either major or minor repairs in 2006, as compared to 38.2% in 1996. The average value of dwellings in the area increased 100.1% between 1996 and 2006 to \$145,933. The average major monthly payment for homeowners was \$874 in 2006 compared with \$667 in 1996. Average monthly rent in Eastern Passage decreased from \$549/month in 1996 to \$432/month in 2006.

## Assessment of Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Eastern Passage

There is a 29 ha District Park known as the Eastern Passage Common with three HRSB elementary schools, a HRM Community Centre, a community garden and picnic area, outdoor gym, skate park, playground, tennis court in the summer converted to an outdoor rink in the winter and various sports fields located within its boundary.



Figure 1: Eastern Passage Common

## Indoor Facilities

The majority of gymnasia in HRM are owned by the Province of Nova Scotia or Private Partners and operated on their behalf by the Halifax Regional School Board. Six have been co-funded by the municipality as community enhancements and have “assured access” through Joint Use Agreements. The School Board is responsible to create the policies and usage guidelines for their facilities and HRM scheduling staff, through a formal Service Exchange Agreement with HRSB, provide scheduling services to community users. The priority for access to these gymnasia is given to school usage. This utilization pattern is different in the co-funded Joint Use Agreement facilities, where a higher percentage of gym usage is available to community groups and programming.

There are several factors that influence gym usage in the municipality. There are various rental costs and policies for staffing in place, depending on whether the school is a provincially owned school, a P3 school or a municipally enhanced community school. Some gymnasiums have available prime time that is not utilized because of the pricing structure at the school. Citizens involved with minor sport and non-profit organizations in particular note that the cost of the gymnasium is as important a consideration as the actual location or availability of the space.

The HRM Tallahassee Community Recreation Facility is attached to the Tallahassee Community School. In addition, the Department of Education has approved the renovation of the Seaside Elementary school, which is also located in the area known as the Eastern Passage Common, as

the site for the new high school.

The size dimensions of the gymnasiums available to rent at Seaside Elementary and Oceanview Elementary work well for children and some youth activities, but are challenging, and are the wrong field of play requirements for adult usage, and for high school or provincial competition. The Tallahassee gymnasium is adequate in size for all uses but is booked to capacity with a waiting list for usage.

The waiting list consists of:

- 100 youth participants in Metro Volleyball
- 100 youth/child participants in Dartmouth Storm indoor soccer
- 50 youth/child participants in Indoor Eastern Passage Baseball
- 30 adult/youth participants in Badminton
- 30 child/youth participants in Eastern Passage Basketball.

Chart 3 provides an overview of the type of activities which are currently offered in the Eastern Passage area:

## Chart 3: Indoor Facility Programs

### Tallahassee Recreation Centre

Sports/Fitness Activities	Group Programs	General Services for Centre
Basketball	Crafts for Kids	Youth Drop-in Centre
Indoor Soccer	Parent and Tot	Pre-School Usage
Indoor Baseball	Guitar	Birthday Parties
Volleyball	Summer Rec	Dances
Fitness Classes	Programs	Community Special Events
Karate	Red Cross Training	
Cheerleading	Scouts/Girl Guides	
Yoga		

### Oceanview School

Sports/Fitness	Group Programs	General Services for Centre
Volleyball	Scouts	
Basketball	Arts	
Fitness Classes		

## Seaside Elementary

Sports/Fitness	Group Programs	General Services for Centre
Indoor Baseball Basketball Fitness Classes Volleyball		Community Special Events

HRM staff is responsible to book both the gymnasiums and fields of schools under the HRSB and only the field under the P3 system. The individual schools provide the HRM staff with their time requirements and the remaining time is filled by community/sport groups through the application process. The current practice is to give preference to groups who had access in previous years; this does create an accessibility challenge to those groups who have not historically had access as often times the gyms will be booked to capacity using this “grandfathering” system. The following displays the total hours of gym usage:

<b>Chart 4 HRM and Community Gymnasium Rental Hours</b>			
	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Tallahassee Recreation Centre:			
North Gym	762	1,242	1,323
South Gym	31	107	103
Oceanview School	295	317	249
Seaside Elementary	758	644	675
Eastern Passage Education Centre (P3)	170	120	60

<b>Chart 5: HRM and Community Gymnasium Rental Hours Breakdown</b>			
	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Tallahassee Rec Centre North Gym	22 – Basketball 46 – Meeting 668 – Preschool 2 – Registration 15 – School Usage 9 – Special Events	38 – Indoor Baseball 3 – Birthday Party 30 – Fitness 80 – Indoor Soccer 1091 - Preschool	18 – Indoor Baseball 18 – Basketball 10 – Fitness 7 – Indoor Soccer 1216 – Preschool 3 – Registration 14 – School Usage 24 – Volleyball



			13 – Youth Activity
Tallahassee Rec Centre South Gym	6 – Preschool 19 – Registration 2 – School Usage 4 – Special Events	20 – Dance 77 – Indoor Soccer 10 - Preschool	17 – Basketball 33 – Fitness 13 – Indoor soccer 8 – Preschool 14 – School Usage 2 – Volleyball 16 – Youth Activity
Oceanview School	101 – Arts 194 – Basketball	271 – Basketball 34 – Fitness 12 – Volleyball	3 – Indoor Baseball 190 – Basketball 6 - Scouts
Seaside Elementary	10 – Indoor Baseball 704 – Basketball 27 – Fitness 3 – Special Events 13 Volleyball	14 – Indoor Baseball 630 - Basketball	675 - Basketball

The Tallahassee Community Centre plays a key role in the provision of recreation services for the community. Due to its age and extensive use, recapitalization and refurbishment is needed in order to ensure the asset does not depreciate in value and use.

## Other Facilities Available to Eastern Passage Community Members

### Shearwater Fitness and Sport Facility

This facility is geographically convenient for the community members of Eastern Passage;, however, many parameters are set by the Canadian Forces that make it challenging for non-military members to utilize. Membership is a “Four Tier” system with preference to members of the military and DND employees. The general public is classified as Tier IV and must have a member of the military sponsor them for a membership or sign for drop in privileges. The public can attend fitness classes as long as there are more than 50% military personnel in the group. The facility does rent the gymnasium to local groups as long as it does not interfere with their primary client.

The type of programming offered at the facilities includes:

Sports/Fitness	Group Programs	General Services for Centre
Basketball	Swim Lessons	Weight Room
Badminton	Spin Cycle Classes	Cardio Room
Indoor Soccer	Pilates	Bowling Alley
Floor Hockey	Yoga	Community Special Events
Volleyball		Youth Programs
Aquatics		

Currently the community access to Shearwater is:

- 26 hours per week for gymnasium floor
- 20 hours per week for arena
- 6 hours per week for pool

## Cole Harbour Place

Both Cole Harbour Place and Dartmouth Sportsplex are within the CFMP 20-minute drive-time standard for service provision for the Eastern Passage community. In particular, Cole Harbour Place offers programming and services for the Eastern Passage community. However, although this facility is close in distance, there are transportation challenges in accessing it. There is no dedicated Metro Transit bus to travel directly from Eastern Passage to Cole Harbour nor a direct driving connection, thus making the commute to this facility a more lengthy travel in both time and mileage. Therefore, due to transit schedules and road layout, access is not convenient and therefore, there is a perceived lack of local service delivery.

## Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Current outdoor facility inventory in Eastern Passage consists of 4 natural turf sport fields, 4 natural turf ball diamonds, 6 outdoor basketball courts, 1 tennis court (converted to an outdoor rink in winter), 10 playgrounds and 1 skateboard park.

HRM staff is responsible to book all the outdoor facilities including the Eastern Passage Education Centre (P3 school). The following is a breakdown of 2011/12 usage and the respective Service Standard level for each field:

### Diamonds:

Bob Hilchie - 'B' - 141 hours

Dennis Naugle - 'A' with lights - 436 hours

R.O.S.T. - 'D' - 124 hours

Tallahassee - 'D' - \* was decommissioned as a diamond years ago \*

Tommy Davies - 'B' - 99 hours

### Sport Fields:

Eastern Passage Education Centre - 'B' - 101 hours

Oceanview - 'B' - 199 hours

Seaside Elementary - 'B' - 377 hours

Tallahassee - 'B' - 113 hours

*See Schedule "A" for HRM Field Service Standards*

Chart 6 outlines a summary of field inventory and recommended field supply as per the CFMP:

*Chart 6 Field Supply per Population	Natural Turf Soccer Fields	Natural Turf Football Fields
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------

Total Eastern Passage Fields	4	0
CFMP Recommendation	1 field per 2,750	1 field per 25,000
Eastern Passage total Population 11,700	1 field per 2,925	**
<b>Total Regional HRM Current Inventory</b>	<b>1 field per 3,480</b>	<b>1 field per 31,640</b>

\*Eastern Passage is currently well served, with all 4 sport fields are rated as “B” quality fields. The highest rating is “A”.

\*\*Currently, residents in Eastern Passage who wish to participate in minor football do so as part of the Dartmouth Minor Football Association.

Chart 7 outlines of the annual usage at the 4 Eastern Passage sport fields:

<b>Chart 7 Annual Usage per Natural Turf Field</b>		<b>2012</b>
		<b>Hrs/Yr</b>
1	Eastern Passage Education Centre “B”	101
2	Oceanview “B”	199
3	Seaside Elementary “B”	377
4	Tallahassee “B”	113

Chart 8 outlines a summary of ball diamond inventory and recommended field supply as per the CFMP:

<b>Chart 8 Ball Diamond Supply per Population</b>	<b>Natural Turf ball diamonds</b>
Total Eastern Passage Fields	4
CFMP Recommendation	1 field per 3,350
Eastern Passage total Population 11,700	1 field per 2,925
<b>*Total Regional HRM Current Inventory (201 diamonds)</b>	<b>1 field per 1,942</b>

\*Based on 2011 Census population for HRM of 390,308

The current supply of ball diamonds per population in Eastern Passage is higher than the recommended standard in the CFMP by approximately 16%. This is consistent, however, with the oversupply of ball diamonds throughout the municipality which is currently 66% higher than the service standard recommended in the CFMP.

Based on this data, there is no evidence at this time that the Eastern Passage community would benefit from additional or upgraded natural turf sport or ball diamond facilities

## Consultations with Stakeholder Groups

Community groups, Sport Nova Scotia groups, District 3 former and current Councillor and HRM



Eastern Passage Recreation professionals were consulted to identify gaps and opportunities in the provision of HRM mandated recreational services.

*See Schedule “B” for a complete listing*

The various sport and community groups expressed a level of frustration about the lack of equitably access for field and gym times. The “grandfathering” methodology of bookings teams who have had past access inhibits the available play time and growth of sport groups whom have not had access in the past (Badminton, Tennis, Gymnastics, Ball Hockey, Lacrosse, Special Olympics, Boys and Girls Club, Football). For example, Football Nova Scotia has moved their indoor play area to East Hants due to lack of access in HRM. It was also noted on several occasions that the gymnasium space was not used in the most effective manner due to rentals to non-sport groups. Also, it was noted that some sport groups dominate the usage of better quality and/or lit fields as well as access the prime times for their membership’s age groups.

The basketball community has no alternative but to use the Elementary school gymnasiums, however, the hoops are fixed at 10 feet which is too high for their mini groups and the floor space is too small for play standards for older participants. There are agreements in place between the Basketball Nova Scotia and HRSB but often times the gym access is denied due to school activities, Professional Development days and school holidays.

The Non-profit groups such as the Provincial Special Olympics fall under the HRM non-profit cost structure that would not charge for usage but they cannot access the gymnasiums due to the full usage by other groups. These groups require larger gym spaces as there are participant safety concerns when using the smaller elementary gyms.

A recent Capital Health community health plan, Our Healthy Future...Realizing Our Promise: A Community Health Plan for 2010-2013 identified issues such as physical activity, healthy weights and access to facilities. The focus was placed on all age groups from youth to seniors and the lack of available opportunities within HRM. Citizen feedback indicates physical inactivity, poor nutrition and obesity are their key health concerns. Citizens want help to remove roadblocks like lack of money, opportunity, information, encouragement, time or motivation. Although the roadblocks are different for each person, everyone is telling them they want the healthy choice to be the easy choice. (The entire report is located at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/cobequid-community-health-board/health-and-wellness>).

## Community Consultations

Citizens in Eastern Passage were provided with a variety of feedback methods including:

- on-line survey
- Facebook
- Twitter
- HRM dedicated phone number
- HRM dedicated e-mail
- Two structured public meetings

The public meetings were held at the Eastern Passage New Eco Tourism Service Centre on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and asked for feedback regarding programming and services that are currently working well in terms of community use of indoor and outdoor recreation space and ideas regarding what improvements are necessary or desirable.

Commentary from citizens at both public sessions and other forums indicated the community members have a desire for additional gym space. There were few comments about the outdoor recreation facilities. Most participants rated the sport field conditions as fairly good but the seasons were short due to the weather conditions in the community. The ball field access and condition was rated as fair but did note the Triple A teams could not use due to dimensions. A few citizens did express the desire for either an upgrade to an artificial turf or at minimum increase the size and condition of an existing field to increase the available usage hours.

*See Schedule "C" Notes from Eastern Passage Community Meetings*

The on-line survey results indicated that 97% of respondents consider recreation programs an enhancement to their quality of life. There were 82% of households who participated in a recreation program or sport group using a gymnasium within the past year. Almost 50% of respondents indicated a very high/high level of satisfaction with the availability of gymnasiums space in the Tallahassee Community School whereas the HRSB's school gymnasiums rated low or very low.

This current needs assessment produced commentary from citizens to support the need for additional gymnasium space. Specific needs assessment and analysis related to indoor arenas has recently been completed and approved in principal by Regional Council (August 2012). This recreation needs assessment confirmed that an additional ice surface is not required in Eastern Passage, as per the standards of service provision outlined in the Long Term Arena Strategy, at this time.

*See Schedule "D" Summary of Survey Results*

## **Relevant Findings not in Scope**

During both the Stakeholder and Community Consultations there were several points consistently mentioned which should be addressed by other HRM Business Units or HRSB. The following items will be sent to the respective staff to action as appropriate:

1. Consideration of a Library located in the Eastern Passage area either as a stand-alone facility or partner with the HRSB during the Seaside School renovations.
2. Request that the HRSB consider an auditorium as part of the cafeteria in the high school for the community to celebrate heritage, arts, culture and theatre.
3. Consideration of a direct metro transit route to the Cole Harbour Community
4. Consideration of the extension of the roadway network to connect the HRM communities.

## Findings

1. The Community of Eastern Passage/Cow Bay is very engaged in “community pride” initiatives.
2. The factors of the time of day, programming, size of play surface, accessibility, travel distance and cost all ranked very high or high in the usage of both the gymnasiums and playing fields.
3. Presently the school recreation facilities which are administered by a Service Exchange Agreement with HRSB are not effectively accessible to the community/sporty groups. If HRM enters into a monetary partnership to enhance the Seaside School gymnasium, a Joint Use Agreement would be developed that clearly defines community usage based on HRM recreational need. Feedback was also provided that indicated that increased community usage is desired in schools without Joint Use Agreements. Staff will continue to work on improvements in the Service Exchange Agreement in order to increase community access to all schools.
4. The usage, lack of access and community/stakeholder feedback data supports the partnership with HRSB to enhance the gymnasium. Therefore, the development of community gymnasium space is recommended. An enhancement of the redevelopment of the Seaside School is seen to be the most cost effective and appropriate mechanism to construct additional space of this type at this time. This would provide a full-sized gymnasium (suitable for curtailed separation) for both school and community use, would ensure appropriate community access through the administration of a Joint Use Agreement for that site with the Halifax Regional School Board and will allow the municipality to construct the enhancement at a reduced capital and operating cost.
5. The rating of the sports fields (“B” rating”) indicates that the community is well serviced and does not require an upgrade to an artificial field or an increase to the size and condition of an existing field.
6. The community has access to many diverse recreational opportunities as compared to the majority of communities within HRM, tennis courts, outdoor rink, Skate Park, outdoor gym, walking path at Fisherman’s Cove and community garden.
7. Access to existing Regional Recreation Facilities is not convenient due to lack of direct transportation routes and transit service. This will be forwarded to Metro Transit for consideration in future planning.
8. The Tallahassee Community Centre plays a key role in the provision of recreation services for the community. Due to its age and extensive use, recapitalization and refurbishment is needed in order to ensure the asset does not depreciate in value and use.
9. There is no identified need for the development of a BMX Race Track in Eastern Passage at this time.

## *Schedule "A"*

Maintenance Activity	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Grass Cutting	Min hgt 2.5" Max hgt 4"	Min hgt 2.5" Max hgt 4"	Min hgt 2.5" Max hgt 4"	Min hgt 2.5" Max hgt 4"
Line marking	Once per week	Every second week	Every second week	Groups to maintain
Litter pick-up	3 times per week	2 times per week	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> week
Field Repairs	Checked 3 times per week	Checked weekly	Checked every 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	Users to repair
Goal Posts	Place in Spring remove at end of season	Supply in spring and remove in fall	Supply in spring and remove in fall	May be available, not guaranteed
Opening date	May 25	May 29	June 2	June 2
Closing Date	End of season	End of season	End of Season	End of season
Aerating	Up to six times per year	Four times per year	Twice per year	Twice per year
Lighting	As required	Not available	Not available	Not available
Rest periods	Every Friday including nights	None	None	None
Uses	Games only – No practices or camps	Games and practices	Games and/or practices and/or camps	Games and/or practices and/or camps

The above table illustrates the difference in each category; many other service standards are applicable for the HRM Municipal Operations staff to maintain the sports fields and baseball diamonds.

## *Schedule "B"*

Organization	First Contact	Second Contact	Meeting Date	Attendance/Response
<b>Sport Groups</b>				
Athletics NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Badminton NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Separate Meeting
Ball Hockey NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Evening meeting
Basketball NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Met
Dance sport NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Fencing NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Not attending
Field Hockey NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Football NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Met
Gymnastics NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Judo NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Karate NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Lacrosse NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Rhythmic Gymnastics	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	E-mail data
Rope Skipping	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Rugby	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Soccer	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Will attend
Softball	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Tennis	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Met
Volleyball	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Met

Organization	First Contact	Second Contact	Meeting Date	Attendance/Response
Blind Sports	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Nova Scotia Deaf Sport	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	No response
Special Olympics	Sept 25	Sept 30	Oct 2	Phone interview
<b>Community Groups</b>				
Anna Jacobs – Capital Health				Separate meeting
Girl Guides	Sept 25	Sept 30		Spoke at community meeting
Scouts	Sept 25	Sept 30		Spoke at community meeting
East Dartmouth Boys and Girls	Sept 25	Sept 30		No response
EP Buffalo Club	Sept 25	Sept 30		Represented at community meeting
Eastern Passage Fire	Sept 25	Sept 30	465-8016	No response
Legion EP	Sept 25	Sept 30	465-3700	No response
Lions Club EP	Sept 25	Sept 30	461-8442 Denton Rock	Discussed at monthly meeting
<b>Churches</b>				
St. Johns United	Sept 25	Sept 30		No response
Hillside Wesleyan	Sept 25	Sept 30		Meeting cancelled
St. Andrews Parish	Sept 25	Sept 30		No response
Eastern Passage Baptist	Sept 25	Sept 30		Cancelled scheduled phone interview

Organization	First Contact	Second Contact	Meeting Date	Attendance/Response
Recreation				
Eastern Passage HRM Rec			Oct 4 9:30	Met
Shearwater			Sept 27	Met

## *Schedule “C”*

### **Eastern Passage Community Meetings**

Halifax Regional staff held two community meetings in the Eastern Passage New Eco Tourism Service Centre in order to provide the public another feedback choice regarding the potential community enhancement of the renovated Sea Side Elementary. Each session began with a brief presentation explaining the background legislation that allows HRM an opportunity to explore the potential community enhancement to the school, what types of community enhancements could occur, the process for developing and presenting staff recommendations to Regional Council and the next steps if the potential community enhancement is approved.

Each session had a question and answer component as well as a small group exercise in which the participants replied to two questions.

Question 1: What is currently working well in terms of community use of indoor and outdoor recreation space?

Question 2: How could an improvement to the current space impact your community recreation needs?

### **October 11, 2012 Meeting**

**Number of Participants: 46**

### **Question and Answer Segment:**

All questions were addressed by staff in regard to the potential community enhancement to the Sea Side Elementary School. However; other questions were asked which were out of scope for response but important to record for future action.

- What is the probability of a Library being constructed in Eastern Passage either as a stand-alone building or attached to the school?
- Why is there no Metro Transit bus route directly connecting Eastern Passage/Cow Bay to Cole Harbour Place?
- The existing service agreements for maintenance of the fields need to be reviewed.
- A therapy pool would enhance recreation in the area.
- A comprehensive needs assessment should occur to look at a Multi-Purpose centre much like the Mainland Common.
- Is there fundraising opportunities to build more than what may be recommended to Regional Council or to use the funds to pay off the “community share” of the enhancement?



- Could Oceanview Manor be expanded to provide recreation, arts, music and culture opportunities
- Will the current recreation facilities be maintained when the students are relocated during the School Board construction phase.
- Additional partnership with Public Health, Continuing Care, Capital Health, IWK for a Wellness Centre

## Question 1:

What is currently working well in terms of community use of indoor and outdoor recreation space?

### Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
HRM Tallahassee Rec Centre	2
Quality of HRM programming in the available space	5
Recreation fields working well	7
Skate park is working well	2
Access to Tallahassee for Scouts and Girl Guides	2
Baseball fields	1
Beautiful walking trails and boardwalk	2
Existing playgrounds are used	1
Life guarded beach at Rainbow Haven	1
Surf Park at Rainbow Haven	2
Tennis Court	1

### Not Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
Cost of rooms for non-profits or large families too expensive	2
Lack of access to local gym space for adult and senior programs	6
Limited recreation space for non-traditional sport such as BMX or open gym nights to expose children to different sports	3
No municipal golf course	1
Lack of public Library	6
Lack of access to Shearwater facilities	4

Existing field house is destroyed	1
No place for arts and culture – cafetorium would work	6
Need a dedicated bike and walk way	1
No pottery studio	1
Outdoor basketball areas are in very poor condition	1
Current school gym too small for large tournaments	1
No safe place for roller blading	1
Track and field needed	5
Lack of recreation space for both indoor and outdoor hockey	4
Lack of lighting on soccer and football fields	1
Large playground with water park	1
Need pool	5
No outdoor facilities for winter sports or skills programs – lighted areas for coasting	3
HRM community programs need to be expanded	1
Only Tallahassee has spectator areas	1
Lack of appropriate regulation sized gyms – basketball	1
Ball fields do not accommodate seasoned (Triple A) older programs	1
Short seasons for current fields due to fog and wet weather	2
Lack of connections to bike trails	1
Rugby, field hockey and football have difficulty accessing the field time	2
Need better fitness equipment ( rowing machines, stationary bikes, etc.)	3
Poor service agreements for field maintenance	1
Lack of high school sport team facilities	1
No climbing wall	1
No wellness centre	5
More parking will be required	1
Racquet ball and squash courts	1

## Question 2:

How could an improvement to the current space impact your community recreation needs?

Response	Number of Occurrences
Gym with bleachers would allow players to be supported by their community	1

Auditorium would celebrate heritage, arts, culture, theatre	6
C@p site for community	1
Less travel time	1
Alternate available activities for teens	6
The cost of new facilities or fields may be too high for community to pay	1
Provide economic growth and property values	2
Change perceptions of community	1
Share stories	1
Promote healthy living due to more access	6
Pool with therapeutic temperature to provide wellness for seniors and residents with disabilities	1
Rink to enhance ice sports access and usage; allow Canada's winter sports to be celebrated in the community	3
Library to promote literacy, e-book rentals and access to needed resources	5
Facility with storage for community sports	1
Yearlong multi-purpose field would permit community to participate and support outdoor sporting activities	1
Promote community pride – community facilities for community organizations	9
Greater sense of ownership for the youth	1
Safer if there was a track to walk or run as opposed to no sidewalks	3
Swimming pool for open swims, family swims, diving, rowing – especially since community is a seaside	3
Wellness centre	1
Continuing education space – teen, adult and senior	1
Make recreation more accessible to all – diverse opportunities to appeal to a broader spectrum of community members	2
Indoor/outdoor soccer turf	1
Less leasing	1
Develop and enhance athletic skills	1

## October 17, 2012 Meeting

**Number of Participants: 11**

### Question and Answer Segment:

All questions were addressed by staff in regard to the potential community enhancement to the Sea Side High School. However; other questions were asked which were out of scope for response but important to record for future action.

- Is there fundraising opportunities to build more than what may be recommended to Regional Council or to use the funds to pay off the “community share” of the enhancement?
- Why is there no Metro Transit bus route directly connecting Eastern Passage/Cow Bay to Cole Harbour Place?
- What is the probability of a Library being constructed in Eastern Passage either as a stand-alone building or attached to the school?
- Need School Board to ensure there is an access area to the school sport field
- There should be an affordable housing complex in the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay area.
- School Board should ensure there is a biology and chemistry lab as well a larger gym with seating not HRM.
- Is the French Immersion needs being addressed in this community?

### Question 1:

What is currently working well in terms of community use of indoor and outdoor recreation space?

#### Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
Sufficient grass fields for Under 10	1
Field condition fairly good	1

#### Not Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
Fields are booked to teams outside the community which causes Eastern Passage/Cow Bay residents to travel outside the area	1
Need a larger cafeteria so all students can use it at one time	1

Not enough access to current gyms	2
No seating for spectators	1
No library	3
Need more recreational programming for seniors	2
Non-accessible pools	1
Cannot access local rinks	1

## Question 2:

How could an improvement to the current space impact your community recreation needs?

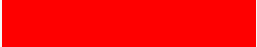

Response	Number of Occurrences
Turf for high school sports – others could contribute to rental	1
Access would be addressed if public transit route existed	1
Arts, culture, theatre would be celebrated with a cafetorium	2
Family recreation - Expanded green space	1
Library to promote reading	3
Spectators can become more involved	1
Promote healthy living through track and field with lighting for safety	2
Community multi-purpose facility	1

## Schedule "D"



### Summary Report

(Completion rate: 90.2%)



1. Please indicate the importance of recreation programs to your quality of life.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Very high		65%	126
High		31%	59
Low		4%	8
Very low		0%	0
Total Responses			193

2. Please indicate if you or anyone in your household has participated in a community recreation program or sport group using a gymnasium within the past year.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		82%	157
No		18%	35
Total Responses			192

3. Please indicate if you or anyone in your household has participated in a community recreation program or sport group using a playing field within the past year.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		77%	145
No		23%	44
Total Responses			189

4. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the current availability of gymnasium space in each of the following locations:

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	N/A	Total Responses
Ocean View Elementary	4 (2%)	15 (8%)	62 (34%)	38 (21%)	61 (34%)	180
Seaside Elementary	6 (3%)	14 (8%)	66 (36%)	39 (22%)	56 (31%)	181
Tallahassee Community School	16 (9%)	72 (40%)	53 (29%)	15 (8%)	26 (14%)	182
Shearwater Fitness and Sport Centre	7 (4%)	32 (18%)	47 (26%)	36 (20%)	57 (32%)	179
Eastern Passage Education Centre	14 (8%)	24 (13%)	48 (27%)	27 (15%)	66 (37%)	179
Other - please specify below	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	99 (93%)	106

Name of the "Other" gymnasium space listed above

The 8 response(s) to this question can be found in the appendix.

5. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the current availability of playing field space in each of the following locations:

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	N/A	Total Responses
Bob Hilchie	3 (2%)	25 (16%)	33 (21%)	7 (4%)	90 (57%)	158
Dennis Naugle	5 (3%)	30 (19%)	32 (20%)	6 (4%)	85 (54%)	158
R.O.S.T.	3 (2%)	14 (9%)	35 (22%)	7 (4%)	98 (62%)	157
Tommy Davies	3 (2%)	22 (14%)	35 (22%)	8 (5%)	88 (56%)	156
Eastern Passage Education Centre	11 (7%)	33 (20%)	41 (24%)	13 (8%)	70 (42%)	168
Ocean View	7 (4%)	44 (26%)	55 (32%)	13 (8%)	51 (30%)	170
Seaside Elementary	5 (3%)	32 (19%)	53 (32%)	28 (17%)	50 (30%)	168
Tallahassee	16 (9%)	65 (38%)	38 (22%)	11 (6%)	41 (24%)	171
Other, please specify below	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	82 (88%)	93

Name of the "Other" playing field listed above

The 8 response(s) to this question can be found in the appendix.

6a. Rate the importance of each of these factors to your household members for gymnasium usage:








	Very high	High	Low	Very low	N/A	Total Responses
Time of day	89 (49%)	78 (43%)	6 (3%)	1 (1%)	7 (4%)	181
Programming	95 (53%)	69 (39%)	7 (4%)	1 (1%)	7 (4%)	179
Size of play surface	71 (40%)	74 (42%)	22 (12%)	3 (2%)	8 (4%)	178
Accessibility	81 (46%)	54 (30%)	30 (17%)	6 (3%)	7 (4%)	178
Travel Distance	97 (55%)	49 (28%)	20 (11%)	3 (2%)	7 (4%)	176
Cost	102 (57%)	54 (30%)	15 (8%)	0 (0%)	7 (4%)	178

6b. Rate the importance of each of these factors to your household members for playing field usage:

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	N/A	Total Responses
Time of day	82 (47%)	66 (38%)	11 (6%)	1 (1%)	16 (9%)	176
Programming	75 (43%)	62 (36%)	17 (10%)	2 (1%)	17 (10%)	173
Size of play surface	68 (39%)	72 (41%)	16 (9%)	2 (1%)	17 (10%)	175
Accessibility	73 (43%)	51 (30%)	27 (16%)	5 (3%)	15 (9%)	171
Travel Distance	82 (47%)	54 (31%)	19 (11%)	2 (1%)	16 (9%)	173
Cost	88 (51%)	51 (30%)	14 (8%)	2 (1%)	17 (10%)	172



7. Please select the activities you have not been able to participate in due to lack of available recreational space within the past year.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Special community events		30%	54
Participation in an organised sport group such as basketball or volleyball		32%	57
Cultural, art or drama activities		44%	78
General recreational activities		48%	85
I have been able to participate in everything I wanted		17%	31
N/A I have not wished to participate in anything		9%	16
Other:		12%	21
Total Responses			178






8. Please indicate your level of support for more gymnasium space within your community.

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	Total Responses
Support for more gymnasium space	120 (65%)	53 (29%)	11 (6%)	1 (1%)	185

9. Please indicate your level of support for more playing fields within your community.

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	Total Responses
Support for more playing field space	90 (50%)	53 (29%)	35 (19%)	3 (2%)	181

10. Please indicate which of the following funding types you would be willing to participate in to support gymnasium and playing field enhancements in your area.





Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
User fees (people who use the facility pay all costs in their hourly rental fees)		28%	50
Increase general HRM taxes (everyone in HRM pays a small amount to fund the cost of the additional facilities)		4%	8
Create an "area rate" (residents who are most likely geographically to use a facility pay an amount to help build the facility)		4%	7
Combination of the above		52%	93
None of the above		12%	22

Total Responses	180
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## 11. Any other information you would like to share with us?

The 69 response(s) to this question can be found in the appendix.





## 12. Please tell us about your household...are you:

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
A couple with children		79%	143
A couple without children		9%	17
A single parent		6%	11
One or more single adults		6%	10
Total Responses			181

## 13. What are the first 3 digits of your postal code?

The 181 response(s) to this question can be found in the appendix.

## 14. Please select your age category:

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Under 19 years old		1%	2
20 – 40 years old		58%	106
41 – 60 years old		40%	73
61 and older		1%	2
Total Responses			183

## Appendix

Name of the "Other" gymnasium space listed above |

#	Response
1.	Dartmouth
2.	The Shearwater Sports and fitness facility is for Canadian Force members to maintain fitness levels. Though it is open to the public, its primary purpose is to serve Canadian Force Personnel and should not be included in this survey.
3.	No gymnasium space for walking inside for Eastern Passage at all -- a lot of people use boardwalk in summer but have no place to walk in the cold and rainy weather to keep healthy. Sure could use this for health. Early morning or early evening would be great to walk in a gym.
4.	EPEC
5.	Currently my son takes Kung Fu at the Fire hall in Eastern Passage
6.	N/a
7.	A high school in EP is a terrible idea. Just sayin' - 21 yr old former CHDHS student/EP resident
8.	Dartmouth Sportsplex

Name of the "Other" playing field listed above |

#	Response
1.	Woodside
2.	Deyoung dr play park is very unkempt and badly in need of repair and renovation. Rosewood lane play park is non-existent and the space where the equipment was removed is dangerous.
3.	Didn't even realize you could book fields for personal or group use as they are always so busy.
4.	Tallahassee
5.	n/a
6.	Tallahassee Ball Diamond
7.	limited availability of Indoor hockey rink
8.	A high school in EP is a terrible idea. Just sayin' - 21 yr old former CHDHS student/EP resident

11. Any other information you would like to share with us? |

#	Response
1.	hi! Great job on the survey....please build us more stuff!!
2.	This is a wonderful idea and I think that it should be something HRM proceeds with.
3.	We need a library and a pool as well. We find it hard to have to travel to Cole Harbour and Woodside if you do not have access to a car. Also Shearwater should not have been on this survey as it is DND and the public can be restricted from using it at any time.
4.	Have more tournaments and events to drive people to EP to raise money
5.	A Pool would greatly be appreciated as I have a special-needs child that I would like to put in swimming lessons. I would not like to travel outside of my community to do so.

6.	Facilities need to be staffed throughout the day and with earlier start times. Community pool and youth activities are greatly needed in our community.
7.	I am tired of living in a community that does not have its own recreational facility...we need more and we have been saying it for way too long...
8.	Sounds to me like we have a few facilities that are being underutilized due to lack of awareness. Perhaps marketing campaign
9.	We'd like to see more discounts for families with multiple children. With five children, recreation is extremely important but fees can be unobtainable when discounts are not provided.
10.	I think that in addition to have a rec centre that could have more programme available I believe that a library where it would be used by the people and the school could be very beneficial ex have hours where the library would be open to the public from 1 pm to 7 pm in the week
11.	I see no reason why Eastern Passage does not have a hockey rink. The age-old argument was that Shearwater had an ice surface 10 minutes away. Well they don't even allow minor hockey to be played in Shearwater anymore and Parents are forced to drive their children to The Shannon Park Arena and the Grey Arena, both of which are at least 25 minutes away in Downtown Dartmouth. I'm not sure why it's not recognized that Eastern Passage has approx. 12,000 residents and we deserve facilities just as much as other communities with similar numbers. There are rural communities with a mere 1,000 people throughout NS with hockey rinks. There are hundreds of children in Eastern Passage who play hockey and hundreds more who would play if they weren't forced to drive across Dartmouth to play. I'm also sure that the community would be willing to contribute to the cost as well. It is because of our lack of facilities and opportunities for children, the main one being hockey, that people are choosing to move elsewhere to Cole Harbour, Bedford, Sackville etc. I am just curious if this has ever been discussed and if it is even remotely possible. I am an officer in the Canadian Forces and would be more than willing to head this operation if you think it would at all attainable.
12.	A playing field and gym should be an integral part of a school. The cost should be borne by the province as they are building the new school. What we really need is a library and other city services that are not available without a 20+ minute drive.
13.	It is nice to say that we have "available access to the Shearwater Fitness and Sports Centre", however, there is in fact a "user fee" and the majority of time there is no space available as it is sooo busy with military personnel working out with their daily fitness routines. There is no access to the school gymnasiums and I strongly feel that with the amount of personnel living in an area such as Eastern Passage, that is growing so, so quickly, there is a definite requirement to have a facility here for the personnel who are committed to our community.
14.	I would like to prioritize a pool and a running track and a library for Eastern Passage, we are a huge and growing community and are the only of our size that does not have a pool.
15.	We need a pool and library
16.	I'd love to see a pool in the Eastern Passage Area.
17.	A pool would be a great asset to our community. A larger gym space with a fitness facility for the community to access.
18.	I travel to Cole Harbour now to use the facility there, would be so much more convenient to have a facility closer to home
19.	The survey seems limited in its scope. Fitness facilities (non field or gym) and cultural are also needed. The results are unfairly weighted toward gyms and fields only.
20.	There is a lack of recreational program in E.P. because of a lack of facilities. Compare EP to some other facilities. I have had to travel out of EP to use other facilities---just not acceptable!!! There have to be more programs especially for seniors.

21.	We need a lighted football facility in the Eastern Passage/ Cole Harbour area for games -- an all-weather field would be great!
22.	We would love a pool. We would love a public library. We would love a hockey arena, indoor and outdoor. Plus general space for arts and crafts.
23.	Boardwalk is best thing for health in Eastern Passage. We also need a place to walk inside because of weather issues. I think this is very important to senior's heart, weight, fitness, recovering from operations, social, etc.  I sure hope you take this into consideration.
24.	I would also like to have the following: - pool - indoor/outdoor hockey rink - running track (indoor and outdoor) - arts and crafts dedicated REC room....such as pottery and such
25.	EP has been in need far too long... fitness pool, hockey rink, library, dedicated arts/crafts type room, conference facilities, arena etc...
26.	I am most concerned with keeping the current capacity of gymnasium space and playing fields during the planning & building of Eastern Passage's upcoming high school.
27.	my issues is not that there is not only ENOUGH recreational spaces it's that there are less programs and development projects within our community PER CAPITA for our proportion of HRM tax dollars compared to other communities. There are over 15000 people in EP and Cow Bay and HRM does little to NO awareness or recreational development programming in our community in comparison to other HRM communities MUCH smaller than ours.
28.	- Pool - indoor and outdoor hockey arena - running track - library
29.	I believe that a multi plex sport facility including ice surfaces and pools are essential to the area. Indoor facilities protected from weather interference
30.	I feel the community needs more that gymnasiums, we do not have local access to a pool, rink or gym(to work out) in the community. My children are involved in ringette and hockey and we have to travel for ice time. Eastern Passage does not have anywhere to bring a family for a skate or swim. As a non-military family we do not have access to the Shearwater gym.
31.	Eastern passage is lacking space and current fields and gyms are needing enhancements or renovations to keep within the needs of the growing population.
32.	We need a library closer than Woodside or Cole Hbr, now that the book mobile is gone.
33.	Need a full service Library, which could even help to facilitate some of the programs we all would like to have access to.
34.	I think gymnasium space and ball fields fall short of the real need for Eastern Passage. We need a large scale venue with conference space, an ice rink, hospitality considerations and meeting rooms. Our community needs a 'theatre style' auditorium to support local artists, hosts symposiums, etc. Our community base whole heartedly would support such a venture and if we had adequate facilities we could hold community based fundraisers IN OUR COMMUNITY!!!

35. the prices for some programs are ridiculously high

36.	I would love to have a pool in the community with late hours so people who work late hours or shifts can still enjoy the pool
37.	We need the new school and a swimming place
38.	Being a new mom and new to the area a program that I could take my baby that was close to home would be great. It isn't always easy to get out the door and go somewhere, especially if there is a commute involved. It would be great to meet other moms in the area and have some "friends" close by. It would also be great when my daughter gets older it will be even greater to have things close by to go with her friends while I don't have to worry as I know where she is, I know she is safe and its close to home. I hope you take this into great consideration when deciding what to do as I am sure I am not the only parent that feels this way!
39.	There is a lack of accessible and appropriate activities for youngsters and adults with special needs in our area. Families have to travel outside of the community to access appropriate programs and facilities. Seniors have moved out of the area due to the lack of programming and facilities in our area. We have a large number of children with disabilities who play sledge hockey, floor hockey and take part in therapeutic swimming and this has been very costly to families plus further isolates them from their community which should be supporting them. For most families they cannot afford the time or cost of travel to these programs. We have a huge number of families that do not take part in winter sports such as skating due to lack of facilities - Shearwater has open skate on Sunday afternoons only which limits most families and if there is a tournament this option is not available. The lack of public transit in Cow Bay affects residents as they are unable to travel to most areas.
40.	It would be amazing to have a facility that includes a pool and fitness facilities. Our family loves to go swimming and would definitely benefit from a fitness facility that were closer to home.
41.	We need a facility we can use for swimming, hockey, Fitness center, community events. Something in the order of Cole Harbour Place, not as big but something similar.
42.	I did not see an inquiry about a swimming pool? This is something that could really benefit the Eastern Passage community.
43.	We pay the same taxes as other communities in HRM (Sackville, Spryfield, etc.) however we do not have the same facilities, our bus service is bad, we have no skating rink, community pool, library and the programs offered at our rec facility are very limited. We should have access to the same services or we should be paying significantly lower taxes.
44.	I would like to see a functional performance space in the area.
45.	Recreational facilities such as a gym with workout equipment or a yoga studio-style space would also be great!
46.	I feel it is necessary to have a gym and sports fields in a new high school. It is important in fulfilling school sports teams and recreation for the kids while attending school. It would be nice to see our community be able to participate in high school sports competitions without going outside the community to join other teams.
47.	Most fields are looked after well. Some are not serviced at all and could be used to reduce congestion on fields.
48.	Shearwater gym should be open to all residents so that kids have a place to go that doesn't take them outside their area by bus. Their arguments that non-military persons damaged property doesn't seem like a good enough reason. We pay the taxes for the base, so we should be able to use it without having to buy a yearly membership. Investing in health and mental well-being pays off for everyone.
49.	Would love to have access to community pool.
50.	user fees for adults not kids sports
51.	I feel there is enough field SPACE in the area, as indicated in the survey. However, the fields available could be improved to make them more useable. They are not well prepared or maintained. Gymnasium space is DEFINITELY needed. A large gymnasium with bleachers for spectators would be ideal.

52. Pool access in very limited in our community.

A climbing wall @ a gym would greatly benefit our community for health and fitness .

A Rink is needed in the community. Hockey takes part outside the community which means many families travel long distances .

53. With the Eastern Passage population increasing, such an infrastructure investment is long overdue. Please follow through on this initiative.

BtW it appears that on a handheld device your survey website is not fully visible (e.g. Only choices were highest importance &/or satisfaction which sometimes was not the case).n

54. It would be great to have a swimming pool and arena in Eastern Passage, a larger recreation facility for the children in the community to access.

55. A high school in EP is a terrible idea. Just sayin' - 21 yr old former CHDHS student/EP resident

I suggest doing a survey with current and past Eastern Passage residents attended/ing CHDHS to have a more accurate collection of information.

Ps: the following question indicating age, the age range is too big, information collected won't be as credible.

56. We support the BMX track in Eastern Passage

57. I fully support a high school in EP

58. This area needs a rink. Our kids should not have to travel to BMO center for practice or any other rink in Bedford.

Dartmouth/Cole Harbour area needs another turf area for field sports

59. I would prefer we get a swimming pool or library.. Shearwater has one but the water is too cold all the time to want to swim in it.

60. Pool inside, rink inside, inside and outside running track, tennis courts, splash pad or outside pool.

61. A running/walking track would benefit all ages in the community. It is a Liz cistern sport that is easy to maintain.

62. We pay high user fees for fields but the level of service given by HRM seems to have decreased.

63. Would like to see the following in a new space:

- pool
- workout rooms
- larger gymnasium for school and community use
- library
- rental rooms
- 

64. The sports fields (i.e. "the commons" behind seaside / ocean view) seemed to be lacking in general service and maintenance - not mowed regularly. An artificial surfaced, lighted field would be useful.

An ice rink (indoor) in the area should be considered.

65. A pool and a rink are desperately needed in our community.

66. A local inside pool would be awesome. The only ones around here are Cole Harbour place which after getting two planter's warts while walking from the pool to my locker I haven't been back in years. The Sportsplex is a pain to get around & the staff are not friendly



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67. An indoor pool would be welcomed here.

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68. We have a shortage of availability of gymnasium space as it is and with seaside becoming a high school we will have 1 less space for the current children.

Our fields in the common area behind Seaside, Oeanview and Tallahassee need improvements which would be more important (in my opinion) than adding fields. i.e. an artificial surface (we have many weather cancellations - more than other Dartmouth sites), lighting, a running track surrounding a field (like the one at Beasley) would be amazing additions to what is already there. The fields are not currently serviced well. The grass is often too long for decent play!

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69. I think it's really important to ensure there are positive activities for youth and adults to do. If you keep youth active in positive ways, they will be less likely to partake in negative activities. It's also important that there be a wide range of activities, athletics and arts. This helps to nourish well-rounded children and gives everyone a chance to excel at something and feel good about themselves. Keeping fit through fun activities and sports is integral to healthy individuals and healthy communities.

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13. What are the first 3 digits of your postal code? |