

Item No. 7
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: Cole Harbour Recreation Needs Assessment

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- April 2012 announcement by the Minister of Education for the construction of an Alterations and Additions project for the Cole Harbour District High School, with the project to be completed by September 2014.
- April 17, 2012 Motion of Council that: “Staff prepare a report regarding the recently announced high school project in Cole Harbour including any needs for community enhancement in the area, potential partnerships with the Province and possible infrastructure funding opportunities.”

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 major redevelopment for the Cole Harbour District High School. 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 Cole Harbour 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 a number of staff recommendations:

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. Include construction of a regulation size artificial turf community sport field in capital budget deliberations for prioritization with other capital submissions. Upon completion of the field, decommission the existing Cole Harbour High “C” sport field and the existing “C” Bell Annex field; and
3. Consider development of an indoor walking track at Cole Harbour Place in capital budget deliberations for prioritization with other capital submissions.

BACKGROUND

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 with the existing facility inventory. The resulting planning document incorporated previous plans and presented guiding principles and implementation models for decisions regarding existing and future facilities. The CFMP discusses HRM’s relationship with the Halifax Regional School Board (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 when 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 the communities of Bedford and Hammonds Plains to enhance the new Charles P Allen High School in 2011.

Additions and Alterations Project: Cole Harbour District High School

In April 2012, the Minister of Education announced an Additions and Alterations Project for the existing Cole Harbour District High School to be completed in September 2014. The announcement of this large renovation 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 Cole Harbour School project, HRM must immediately advise the province if there is interest 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 Cole Harbour 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.

DISCUSSION

Community Profile

Based on the 2006 Census of Population, Cole Harbour has a total population of 25,935 which is 3.8% higher than in 1996. In 2006, 27.5% of the population was under the age of 20 and 7.8% was 65 years or older. Population total as of 2011 census is 25,344, a slight overall reduction in population of almost 600 residents.

The community of Cole Harbour is suburban in nature with a mix of low to medium density residential and convenience commercial uses. It includes established neighbourhoods with regular transit connections to the Regional Centre and other communities.

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 2009, a “Cole Harbour Place Needs Assessment” was conducted by the Cole Harbour Place Board to explore a potential expansion of that facility. There were more than 50 local groups that participated; non-ice and ice sport groups, field sport groups, community groups, non-profit groups, churches, seniors groups, accessibility organizations and schools as well as members of the general public. There were several outcomes of this needs assessment including overwhelmingly popular requests for a gymnasium, an indoor walking track, an artificial turf and an additional ice surface.
- b) An ongoing community analysis, “Open Spaces: Cole Harbour Basin Planning Project,” began in November 2011. The intent of this study is to prepare a document to guide HRM investments in public open spaces in the community.
- c) A current approved housing development in the Cole Harbour community is the Colby South Expansion. This development is expected to take place over the next two years and result in 80 new single family homes with approximately 40 homes built in each of the next two years.
- d) A proposal completed in August 2011 by a community Not-for-Profit group to acquire the surplus Gordon Bell School was submitted to HRM and reviewed by Real Estate and Grants staff. This group completed a large amount of community consultation related to non-municipal mandate service provision, and secured support from various elected officials and community leaders for their proposed project.

Recreation and Community Services

Cole Harbour is a vibrant and engaged community with various recreational programs and services offered to citizens by both municipal service providers and private service providers. Both indoor and outdoor facility inventory is available in the community, although there are some groups that indicate that they are underserved. The on-line survey, undertaken for this needs assessment, indicated 93% of respondents stated that “*the importance of recreation programs to their quality of life*” was either high or very high. The majority of respondents (81%) participated in a community recreation or sport group 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 100+ programs offered each year with annual programming revenues in excess of \$110,000.00).

- b) HRM Community Scheduling and Events (booking and scheduling of municipal arenas, sport and athletic fields, school gymnasiums).
- c) Cole Harbour Place (municipally owned and managed by Cole Harbour Community Builders with hundreds of programs, services and membership options available annually and annual revenues in excess of \$3,450,000.00).
- d) Cole Harbour Library (over 100+ general interest programs offered each year).

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

- a) Provincial Sport Organizations, utilizing municipal fields and facilities, sponsor many local minor sport groups in the Cole Harbour area. These groups offer specific sport experiences to all minor ages and levels, and range in size from 300 – 1000 participants. These organizations include: Cole Harbour Rockets (Basketball), Cole Harbour Minor Hockey Association, Cole Harbour Ringette Association, Cole Harbour Destroyers (Football) and Cole Harbour Soccer.
- b) In addition, there is currently a very active Boys and Girls Club in Cole Harbour (circa 1970) and the Dartmouth Dance Academy.

Facilities Inventory

Indoor Facilities

One of the five CFMP defined municipal Category 2, or Multi-District facilities, is located in the community of Cole Harbour. The CFMP defines these facilities as “MDF facilities are large entities with “attraction” and “draw” capabilities due to more extensive array of facility amenities located under one roof. They serve as community gathering place and become natural hubs of activity. These facilities, (of all facility types), attract and retain the largest number of participants each year.”

Cole Harbour Place, with annual revenues in excess of \$3M, and gross square footage of over 190,000, is located in the core of this community. The facility includes: two arenas, multi-pool complex, squash courts, group fitness, dance and studio spaces, cardio and weight training studios, community meeting rooms, community services, a library, canteen and catering capacity, a lifestyle and preventive medicine centre, CAP site, job search centre and Integrated Health. Public aquatic, fitness, lifestyle, and recreational programming needs are adequately provided to the community through this hub facility.

Additional community programs and services delivered by both municipal recreation staff in the Cole Harbour office and municipal library services provide a slate of opportunities to the community of Cole Harbour and beyond.

The needs assessment carried out in 2009 by the volunteer management Board at Cole Harbour Place identified the following facility types as desired by community: gymnasium, indoor walking track, artificial turf field, auditorium, arena, as well as storage space for minor sport and community groups.

This current needs assessment produced evidence and commentary from citizens to support the need for additional gymnasium space and artificial turf field while other commentary agreed with the 2009 comments regarding the desire for an indoor walking track. Needs assessment and analysis related to indoor arenas has recently been completed and approved in principal by Regional Council (August 2012). That assessment confirmed that an additional ice surface is not required in Cole Harbour at this time.

Gymnasia

The majority of gymnasia 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 Cole Harbour area. Current waitlists and the data assessment as outlined in the attached Recreation Needs Assessment (Attachment 1) support that claim.

Outdoor Facilities

Current outdoor facility inventory in Cole Harbour consists of 12 natural turf sport fields, 18 natural turf ball diamonds, 13 outdoor basketball courts, 27 playgrounds, 4 tennis courts and 1 skateboard park.

Summary of field inventory and recommended field supply as per the CFMP is as follows:

*Chart 1 Field Supply per Population	Natural Turf Soccer Fields	Natural Turf Football Fields
Total Cole Harbour Fields	12	1
CFMP Recommendation	1 field per 2,750	1 field per 25,000
Cole Harbour total Population 25,344	1 field per 2,112	1 field per 25,344
Total Regional HRM Current Inventory	1 field per 3,480	1 field per 31,640

*Data included in the CFMP assumes that the sport fields are supplied at a reasonable standard of usage. Currently, one field is rated as an “A” quality, 2 are rated at “B” level, 6 are rated at “C” level, and 2 are rated at “D” level.

Chart 2 provides a summary of ball diamond inventory and recommended field supply as per the CFMP:

Chart 2 Ball Diamond Supply per Population	Natural Turf Ball diamonds
Total Cole Harbour Fields	18
CFMP Recommendation	1 field per 3,350
Cole Harbour total Population 25,344	1 field per 1,408
Total Regional HRM Current Inventory (201 diamonds)	1 field per 1,538

Based on the current data and CFMP recommendations, Cole Harbour is very well served by ball diamonds and is adequately served by natural turf fields.

Artificial Turf

The Community Facility Master Plan supports the development of an artificial turf in Cole Harbour based upon the community demand for field access. The CFMP states: “That three additional artificial turf fields be constructed (in the municipality) to meet the increasing demand for outdoor field sports.” Since the approval of the CFMP, one new artificial turf field has been approved and is currently under construction in Bedford/Hammonds Plains. The football community in particular struggles with adequate access and is currently utilizing the Scotia 1 field, a “D” rated facility. Recent athletics upgrades to the Beazley field have reduced access to that multi-use field for football so the football community is no longer able to utilize that field.

In addition, the CFMP states that, “Artificial turf fields receive substantially more use than any other type of field. It is not uncommon for an HRM artificial turf field to host in excess of 1,250 hours of use per year. Providing an additional three artificial turf fields will effectively reduce the stress on some B and C classified fields while also reducing the required usage of D fields. Maintenance can be reduced by eliminating the poorest quality D fields”. Further cost efficiencies can be realised by eliminating or converting for other uses lower rated fields in this community. Overall annual maintenance costs for replacement of lower rated fields with an artificial turf would be in the range of \$ 15, 000 per annum and over 550 employee hours.

Gordon Bell Annex

The decision of the Halifax Regional School Board to relocate their staffing groups from the Gordon Bell Annex resulted in the building being transferred to HRM. This transfer has allowed HRM to determine whether the facility provides any opportunity for enhanced service provision in the community.

The building is large at approximately 70,000 square feet over 2 and 3 stories, on an overall lot size of 7.60 acres. The building is circa 1980 and includes numerous rooms and a small gymnasium. The gymnasium is approximately 5,400 square feet in area and has a tile on concrete floor. It is not of a size and condition to meet requirements for municipal recreation purposes. Current utility costs are in excess of \$90k per year and are in addition to other operating costs.

Based on the Needs Assessment, facility condition and operating costs, the building is not required for any mandated municipal need at this time. However, it is recommended that the Gordon Bell Annex field remain operational for municipal purposes as it is well utilized by community and sport groups. Availability of this field will be critically relied upon when the Cole Harbour High School field is temporarily out of operation during renovations to the school. Based upon current field usage data, staff recommend retaining the Bell Annex field until an artificial turf or alternate field(s) is constructed in the community. Staff will assess the impact of retaining this field and its associated public access upon the future disposition of the entire Gordon Bell property, and recommendations will be provided in a future report to Council.

Community Consultations and Key Stakeholders Interviews

In order to supplement data review and analysis with citizen feedback, 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

Public meetings, held over two weeks on different nights, were well attended, with meeting #2 being particularly well attended by members of the local football association. These citizens, along with representatives from soccer, basketball, hockey, tennis, and community at large wanted to ensure that HRM representatives were aware of their frustration regarding field availability, gym availability and access to meeting rooms in general. There were also comments at these sessions regarding the need for support for a not-for-profit group who want the Gordon Bell Annex made available for broad community usage.

Online survey results indicated 61% of respondents stated that “they were unable to participate in an organized sport group and 35% in general recreational activities” due to availability of recreation space. The majority of respondents (76%) were from a household comprised of a couple with children and 97% were between the ages of 20-60 years old. The majority of respondents (81%) did indicate that they had participated in community recreation within the past year. Only 4% of the respondents were over the age of 60 years.

Community Meeting and Programming Space

Commentary with citizens, key stakeholders, and community groups indicate that there is limited access in Cole Harbour for community meeting and programming space. For the most part, these types of activities fall outside of the municipal mandate for recreation, sport, leisure service provision but are nevertheless important to the quality of life of residents.

Assessment Findings

Key findings from the attached Cole Harbour Recreation Needs Assessment include:

1. The development of community gymnasium space is recommended. An enhancement of the redevelopment of the Cole Harbour High School is seen to be the most cost effective and appropriate mechanism to construct additional space of this type at this time. It is proposed that a gymnasium enhancement of 2,100 sf be approved in order to construct a 10,500 sf gymnasium (8,400 sf of which is to be constructed by the Province for the school). This will provide a full-sized gymnasium (suitable for curtained separation) for both school and community use, will 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.

Based on the size of the enhancement, HRM would pay 20% of the cost of the new gymnasium. The savings from combining a new community component with the school project arise from reduced exterior wall construction, reduced footprint and reduced land development costs for site development and parking. Community enhancement spaces would be owned by the Province but are governed by Joint Use Agreements with the Halifax Regional School Board.

These proposed enhancements are representative of community need, are supported by both analytical review and community consultation and are consistent with other planning documents for the region.

2. The development of an artificial turf field in the Cole Harbour area is recommended. The recreation needs assessment analysis and public commentary indicates that there is potential for a high level of benefit to the community with a redevelopment of a field from natural turf to artificial turf. This location is convenient for community users and convenient for varsity usage by Cole Harbour High. It is recommended that the redevelopment be included in Capital Budget planning for consideration and prioritization with other capital projects.

The most convenient and frequently requested area for this to be built is as a redevelopment of the current Scotia 1 field. However, Scotia 1 field is situated in the Cole Harbour Common area which is a floodplain designed to reduce flooding in the Cole Harbour area. Therefore, further analysis and engineering review is required to determine an appropriate site as a viable location for an artificial turf facility.

3. The development of an indoor walking track at Cole Harbour Place is recommended for consideration with other capital project priorities in the Capital Budget planning process.
4. The existing Gordon Bell Annex building is not required for municipal mandated services at this time. However, access to the Gordon Bell Annex field is required until such time as an artificial turf or alternate field(s) is approved and constructed in the community. Staff will assess the impact of retaining this field and its associated public access upon the future disposition of the Gordon Bell property, and recommendations will be provided in a future report to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Citizens in Cole Harbour were provided with a variety of feedback methods such as; on-line survey, Facebook, twitter, HRM dedicated phone number, HRM dedicated e-mail and two structured public meetings. The public meetings were held at Cole Harbour Place on October 10 and 15, 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 identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Recreation Needs Assessment - Cole Harbour

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

Report Prepared by: Betty Lou Killen, Regional Recreation and Culture 490-4833
Cathy Nearing, Regional Recreation and Culture 490-6542

Original Signed

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Cole Harbour Recreation Needs Assessment

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank all the following 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 Cole Harbour
District 4 Councilor Lorelei Nicoll
Capital Health – Anna Jacobs
Girl Guides of Canada
Boy Scouts of Canada
Cole Harbour Boys and Girls Club
Cole Harbour Place Board and General Manager
Members of Connection Cole Harbour
HRM staff
HRSB staff
Sport Nova Scotia Groups: Badminton
 Basketball
 Football
 Rhythmic Gymnastics
 Soccer
 Tennis
 Volleyball
 Special Olympics

Introduction

On April 17, 2012 a Motion of Council stated that: “Staff prepare a report regarding the recently announced high school project in Cole Harbour including any needs for community enhancement in the area, potential partnerships 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 enhancing 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 Cole Harbour High school project if there is a community recreational need. Therefore, a comprehensive recreation needs assessment was carried out from August to November 2012 to review the existing recreational opportunities for the Cole Harbour 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 Cole Harbour community. The geographical area under review is based on the HRM Regional Plan and 2011 Census Community definition: Cherry Brook, Colby Village, Cole Harbour, Forest Hills, Highland Acres, Humber Park, Lake Major, Sunset Acres, and Willowdale.

The following were 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

Discussion held with community regarding what is currently working well or 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 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
 - c. Cole Harbour Place
 - d. Halifax Regional School Board
 - e. Capital Health
 - f. Non-profit Community Groups
 - g. District Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
 - h. HRM staff

**Schedule “A” identifies organizations who were contacted, date of contact and response*

5. Inventory and understanding of level of usage at existing facilities:
 - # 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
- Open Spaces: Cole Harbour Basin Planning Report
- HRSB *Imagine Our Schools*
- HRM Facility and Field Booking CLASS documents (2009-2012)
- HRM On-Line Survey Analysis
- Public Engagement Evaluation Forms
- HRM Rec Program Catalogue
- HRM Building Permits data
- Capital Health: Our Healthy Future...Realizing Our Promise: A Community Health Plan for 2010-2013

Data Research and Analysis

Recent Analysis undertaken related to community needs includes:

- a) In 2009, a “Cole Harbour Place Needs Assessment” was conducted by the Cole Harbour Place Board to explore a potential expansion of that facility. There were more than 50 local groups that participated; non-ice and ice sport groups, field sport groups, community groups, non-profit groups, churches, seniors groups, accessibility organizations and schools as well as members of the general public. There were several outcomes of this needs assessment including overwhelmingly popular requests for a gymnasium, an indoor walking track, an artificial turf, and an additional ice surface.
- b) An ongoing community analysis, “Open Spaces: Cole Harbour Basin Planning Project,” began in November 2011. The intent of this study is to prepare a document to guide HRM investments in public open spaces in the community.
- c) A current approved housing development in the Cole Harbour community is the Colby South Expansion. This development will take place over the next two years and will result in 80 new single family homes with approximately 40 homes built in each of the next two years.
- d) A proposal completed in August 2011 by a community Not-for-Profit group to acquire the surplus Gordon Bell School was submitted to HRM and reviewed by Real Estate and Grants staff. This group completed a large amount of community consultation related to non-municipal mandate service provision, and secured support from various elected officials and community leaders for their proposed project.

Community Profile

The community of Cole Harbour is Suburban in nature with a mix of low to medium density residential and convenience commercial uses. It includes established neighbourhoods, regular

transit connections to the Regional Centre and other communities and street or side yard parking for pedestrian-oriented retail.

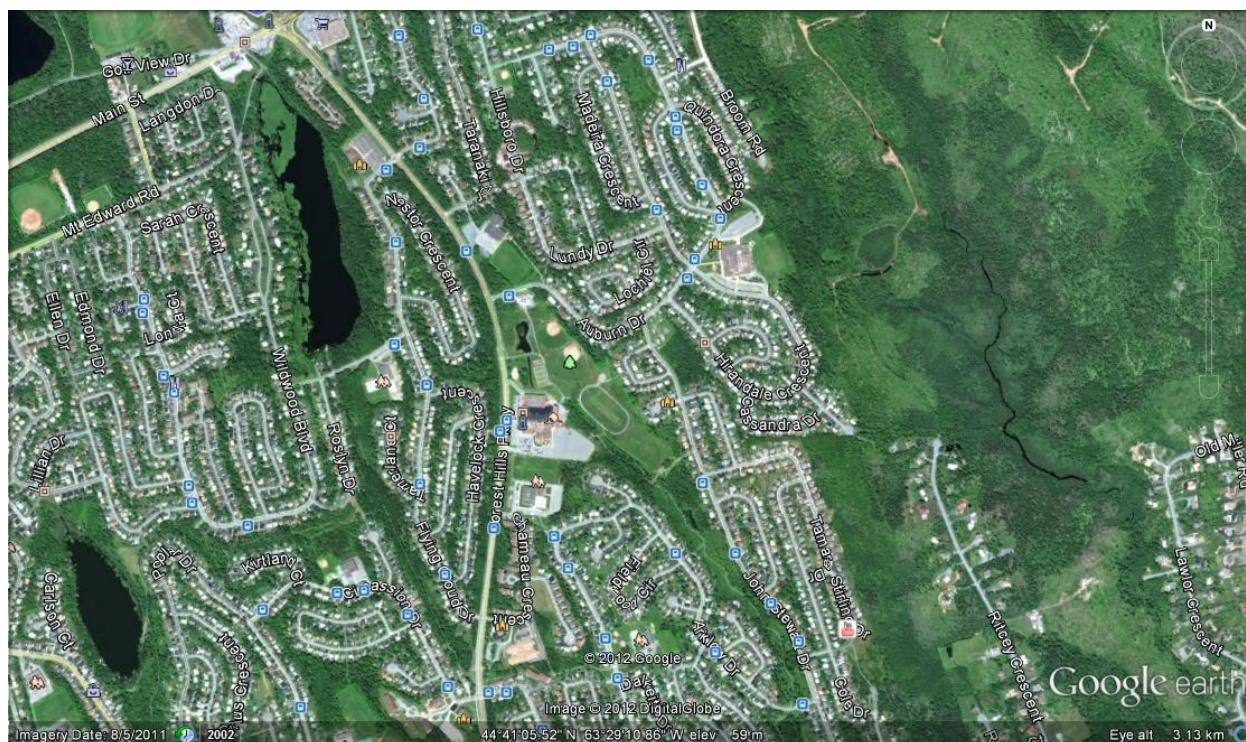


Figure 1: Cole Harbour Map

The Regional Plan has identified Cole Harbour as a Growth Centre. These centres include lands suitable for significant residential growth that are already, or will become, focal points for varying levels of service, amenity and employment for the surrounding communities. The vision for these centres is that they will be well designed, safe and comfortable communities which build on their historical foundations. A high quality public realm featuring public squares and parks, community gardens, public art, and a comfortable and safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists will be components for achieving the design concept for these centres.

Chart 1: Population Density

HRM (Cole Harbour - Westphal)	2001	2006	2011	% change 2001-2011
Total Reporting	25230	26048	25344	0.5
Land Area (sq km)	32.3	32.3	32.3	
Population per sq km	782.3	807.7	785.9	0.5
Roads (km)	135.1	135.1	135.1	
Population of Road (per km)	186.8	192.9	187.7	0.5

This community may be designed through Community Visioning exercise and a secondary plan developed to review processes such as 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. The Community Visioning exercise is

currently on hold pending the outcome of the Regional Plan+5 (a review of the plan to ensure it is up to date with the changing priority of Council) As a result an ongoing study Open Spaces: Cole Harbour Basin Planning Project began in November 2011 to prepare a plan that has been influenced and impacted by the public voice and opinion of the Cole Harbour Basin Communities in order to guide HRM decisions of investments in public open spaces in the community and region.

Current development in the Cole Harbour Community that is approved and underway is the Colby South Expansion. This will take place over the next two years and include 80 new single family homes with about 40 home built each year. The HRM Strategic Planning groups have anticipated 500 new dwellings in the Cole Harbour area by 2036.

Chart 2: Percentage Comparison of Population

Age Group	District 4	Nova Scotia
Under 20	25.2%	21.2%
20 – 34	17.4%	17.7%
35-54	32.6%	29.5%
55-64	14.5%	7.0%
65+	10.1%	16.6%
Total	100%	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 21st 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

Based on the 2006 Census of Population, Cole Harbour had a population of 25,935 which was 3.8% higher than in 1996. In 2006, 27.5% of the population was under the age of 20 and 7.8% was 65 years or older.

In comparison, Nova Scotia had a population of 913,465 which was 0.5% higher than in 1996; 22.8% of the population under the age of 20 and 15.1% 65 years or older.

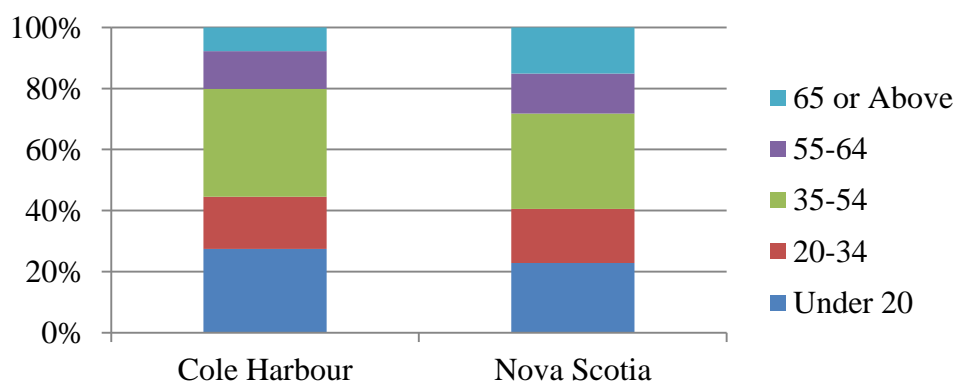


Figure 2: Population Comparison

In Nova Scotia, family structure had shifted from the traditional larger married families to smaller married families and an increase in both common-law and lone-parent families.

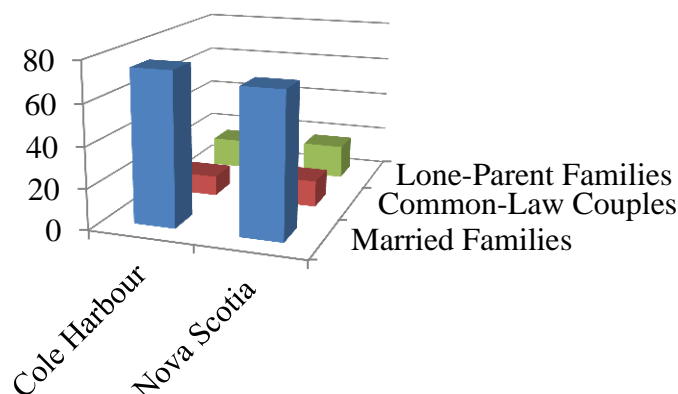


Figure 3: Family Structure

In 2006, for Cole Harbour, total census families increased 3.8% to 7,900. Married families increased by 4.7% while common law families increased 87.3% and lone-parent families increased 30.0%. Lone female parent families were 11.8% of all families while lone male parents were 2.5% 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, Cole Harbour had a relatively low immigrant population. In 2006, there were 1,227 immigrants which were 4.7% of the population compared to 5% immigrants for Nova Scotia. In Cole Harbour, 98.7% of people were Canadian citizens compared to 98.3% for Nova Scotia.

In 2006, the median income for individuals in Cole Harbour was \$32,549 a year, compared with the median of \$24,030 for Nova Scotia. Families in Cole Harbour had a median income of \$75,494, compared with the median of \$55,412 for Nova Scotia.

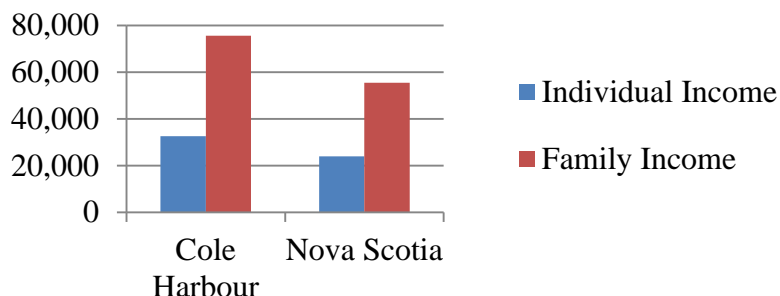


Figure 4: Income Comparison

In 2006, the average income for individuals in Cole Harbour was \$37,686 a year, compared with the average of \$31,795 for Nova Scotia. Families in Cole Harbour had an average income of \$79,862, compared with the average of \$66,032 for Nova Scotia.

In 2006, 87.2% of the population of Cole Harbour, age 20 and over had a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. In Nova Scotia, 77.1% had completed a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. At the same time, 12.9% had no certificate, diploma or degree and 22.9% of Nova Scotia had no certificate, diploma or degree.

In 2006, 88.2% of the population of Cole Harbour owned their dwellings and 11.6% rented, this compared with 72% and 27.6% for Nova Scotia respectively.



Figure 5: Home Ownership Comparisons

The average value of dwellings in the area increased 78.5% between 1996 and 2006 to \$182,712. The average major monthly payments for homeowners were \$985 in 2006, compared with \$838 in 1996. Average monthly rent in Cole Harbour decreased from \$585/month in 1996 to \$315/month in 2006.

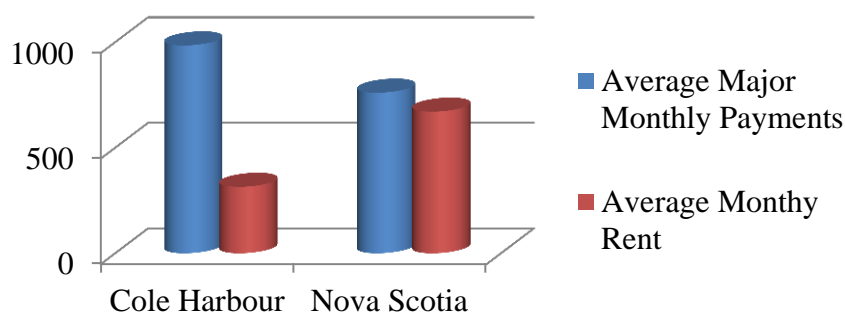


Figure 6: Monthly Housing Costs

In Nova Scotia, the average value of dwellings in the area increased 82.5% between 1996 and 2006 to \$158,000. Average major monthly payments for homeowners were \$761 in 2006, compared with \$562 in 1996. Average monthly rent in Nova Scotia increased from \$538/month in 1996 to \$671/month in 2006.

The employment rate for Cole Harbour residents aged 25 and over decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 72.2% between 1996 and 2006 and there were 1,635 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 Cole Harbour for residents aged 15-24 years increased by 8.7 percentage points, to 59% between 1996 and 2006 and there were 361 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.

Chart 3: Key Socio-Demographic Indicators and Comparisons

Indicators	District 4	HRM	Nova Scotia
Population	26,048(2006)	372,679 (2006)	913,462(2006)
Elementary/Secondary School Age (5-19)	5,835 (22.4%)	66320 (18%)	165,830 (18%)
Largest Age Cohort	35-54 (35.2%)	35-54 (32%)	35-54 (31%)
Population Change	4.10%	8.70%	0.50%
Income Characteristics			
Median Family income - all households	\$73,081	\$66,881	\$55,412
Median Individual Income	\$32,547	\$28,531	\$24,030
Household Ownership			
Owned	87.6%	64%	72%
Rented	12%	36%	27%

Unemployment Rate 15 yrs and over	5.5%	6.3%	9.1%
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Assessment of Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Cole Harbour

The Cole Harbour community residents have access to a variety of indoor recreation facilities including school gymnasiums and the facilities at Cole Harbour Place Cole Harbour Place. This facility has annual revenues in excess of \$3M, gross square footage of over 190,000, and is located in the centre of this community. The facility includes: two arenas, multi-pool complex, squash courts, group fitness, dance and studio spaces, cardio and weight training studios, community meeting rooms, community services, a library, canteen and catering capacity, a lifestyle and preventive medicine centre, CAP site, job search centre and Integrated Health.

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

- a) HRM Community Recreation Services (over 100+ programs offered each year with annual programming revenues in excess of \$110,000.00)
- b) HRM Community Scheduling and Events (booking and scheduling of municipal arenas, sport and athletic fields, school gymnasiums)
- c) Cole Harbour Place (municipally owned and managed by Cole Harbour Community Builders with hundreds of annual programs and services resulting in annual revenues in excess of \$3,450,000.00)
- d) Cole Harbour Library (over 100+ general interest programming offered each year)

Other Community Service Providers exist and provide additional programs and services including:

- a) Provincial Sport Organizations, utilizing municipal fields and facilities, are proud sponsors of many local minor sport groups in the Cole Harbour area. These groups offer specific sport experiences to all minor ages and levels, and range in size from over 1000 participants, to 300. Depending on the season, these groups are working with their participants on skill development, leadership and teambuilding, and much more. They are:
 - Cole Harbour Rockets (Basketball)
 - Cole Harbour Minor Hockey Association
 - Cole Harbour Ringette Association
 - Cole Harbour Destroyers (Football)
 - Cole Harbour Soccer
- b) In addition, there is currently a very active Boys and Girls Club in Cole Harbour (circa 1970) and the Dartmouth Dance Academy.

Gymnasia

The majority of gymnasia in HRM are owned by the Province of Nova Scotia or Private Partners (P3 schools) and operated 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, provides scheduling services to community users. The priority for access for 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. This access 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 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.

The analysis of the 2012/2013 year indicates that all the available gym rentals are booked and a long waiting list has been created for those groups who did not get access. Chart 4 outlines the groups on the current waiting list.

Chart 4: Gym Waiting List

Organization Name	# of Participants	Age Range
Dartmouth Whalers Bantam AAA	25	13-14
Ringette NS - U14AA Regional Team	17	12-13
Fusion Baton Club	20	5-14
Cole Harbour Minor Basketball	10-12 per team	5-17
Dartmouth Lakers Basketball Club	10-20 per team	5-18
Dartmouth Volleyball Club	15-20	14-18
Halifax Sport and Social Club	1500-2000/season	19-45
ABA Celtics Basketball	n/a	n/a - youth
Atlantic Stars Academy	12-20 per location	4-12
Cole Harbour Minor Soccer	25 per team	n/a - youth
NS Baton	24	6-18
Whalers Peewee AA Female	17	11-12
Dartmouth United Soccer	16 per team	7-18
Cole Harbour Minor Hockey Peewee A	17	12-13
Whalers Bantam B	17	13-14
Cole Harbour Bel Ayr Minor Hockey	14	11-12

HRM staff book community gymnasium usage based on the available hours once each school has

booked the time they require for school related sport activity. The current booking method allows for “grandfathering” groups who have had access in the past years and then booking the remaining (if any) for the new applicants.

**see Schedule “A” for the breakdown by program in each gymnasium*

The gymnasium availability was very limited in 2011/2012 due to both Dartmouth High and Prince Andrew High gyms being renovated and under construction. The following is a breakdown of the current usage of the schools in the Cole Harbour area:

Chart 5: Hourly Gymnasium Usage

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Auburn High	263	283	283
Cole Harbour District High	103	55	86
Dartmouth High - Old Gym	197	106	n/a
Dartmouth High New Gym	127	56	n/a
Prince Andrew High - Gym 1	71	7	95
Prince Andrew High - Gym 2	29	7	n/a

The schools that are accessible to the citizens of Cole Harbour do not have a joint use agreement with HRM; this was a common point of conversation during the Community Consultations and a challenge for HRM gymnasium booking staff. Without confirmed community space allocations, there is not enough community and sport group usage time available to meet their demands.

Chart 6: Non-Joint Use School Usage

NON Joint Use Schools	Gymnasium Annual Usage by School Programs (Approx.)	Gymnasium Annual Usage by Community(Approx.)
Cole Harbour District High (sf for gym 6768)	1650	680
Auburn High School (sf for gym 10278)	1520	670
Astral Drive Elementary	1400	500
Bell Park Academic Centre	145	220
Caldwell Road Elementary	830	350
Colby Village Elementary	1450	390
Joseph Giles Elementary	1450	300
Humber Park Elementary	22	180
Graham Creighton Junior High	480	725
Atlantic View Elementary	92	0
Colonel John Stuart Elementary	652	58
George Bissett Elementary	1450	500
Nelson Whynder Elementary	1330	255
Robert K. Turner Elementary	1410	175
Ross Road School (P-9)	895	333

Sir Robert Borden Junior High	222	310
Total annual usage by category	14,998	5,646

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Current outdoor facility inventory in Cole Harbour consists of 12 natural turf sport fields, 18 natural turf ball diamonds, 13 outdoor basketball courts, 27 playgrounds, 4 tennis courts and 1 skateboard park.

The field bookings are also booked by HRM. Analysis of usage determined that they are full to capacity and teams are in the queue for times. Each HRM field is rated based on usage and condition; many of the fields in the Cole Harbour area can only be used by mini groups or for practice. There are few fields that have the right field of play requirements for adult usage, and for high school or provincial competition.

**see Schedule "B" for athletic field service standards*

Summary of field inventory and recommended field supply as per the CFMP is as follows:

*Chart 7 Field Supply per Population	Natural Turf Soccer Fields	Natural Turf Football Fields
Total Cole Harbour Fields	12	1
CFMP Recommendation	1 field per 2,750	1 field per 25,000
Cole Harbour total Population 25,344	1 field per 2,112	1 field per 25,344
Total Regional HRM Current Inventory	1 field per 3,480	1 field per 31,640

*Data included in the CFMP assumes that the sport fields are supplied at a reasonable standard of usage. Currently, in Cole Harbour, one field is rated as an "A" quality, 2 are rated at "B" level, 6 are rated at "C" level, and 2 are rated at "D" level.

Field Usage by Hour

Cole Harbour High Sport Field ('C') -

2010 - 593 (390 soccer; 172 football; 31 special event)

2011 - 437 (200 soccer; 207 football; 30 special event)

2012 - 314 (202 soccer; 112 football as of Oct 2012)

Clients - Cole Harbour Soccer Club; Cole Harbour District High School

BJ Higgins - Lighted Diamond ('A') -

2010 - 589 (423.3 baseball; 30 football; 130 tournament)

2011 - 393 (247.3 baseball; 36 football; 79.3 tournament)

2012 - 476 (264 baseball; 212 tournament as of Oct 2012)

Clients - Cole Harbour Minor Baseball; Dartmouth Arrows Minor Baseball; Westphal Port Wallis Minor Baseball; Humber Park Minor Baseball; Woodlawn Minor Baseball; Nova Scotia Senior

Women's Baseball; Dartmouth mixed recreational Ball League

John Russell Diamond - ('B') -

2010 - 416.3 (266.6 baseball; 144 tournament; 5.3 cross country)

2011 - 276 (175 baseball; 71 tournament; 30 special event)

2012 - 324 (Oct/Nov - 166.3 baseball; 66.3 tournament as of October 2012)

Clients - Metro High School Girls Fastball; Cole Harbour Minor Baseball; Dartmouth Arrows Minor Baseball

Scotia Sport Field - ('D') -

2010 - 129.3 (73 football; 11.3 cross country; 45 special event)

2011 - 220.3 (159 football; 4.3 cross country; 57 special event)

2012 - 249 (204 football; 45 special event as of October 2012)

Clients - Dartmouth Minor Football; Glo Parties/Dexter Const.; Community Festival

Wagner Sport Field - ('B') -

2010 - 168 (107.3 soccer; 11.3 cross country; 49 special event)

2011 - 157.3 (96 soccer; 4.3 cross country; 57 special event)

2012 - 247 (202 soccer; 45 special event as of October 2012)

Clients - Cole Harbour Soccer Club; Graham Creighton Junior High; Glo Parties/Dexter Construction

Bell Annex - ('C') -

2010 - 359.3 (203.3 soccer; 126 football; 30 special event)

2011 - 344 (314 soccer; 30 special event)

2012 - 478 (as of October 2012 Oct/Nov - 316 soccer; 162 Auburn High School)

Clients - Cole Harbour Soccer Club; Auburn High School

A summary of this annual usage information is provided in Chart 8:

Chart 8 Annual Usage per Natural Turf Field				
		2010	2011	2012
		Hrs/Yr	Hrs/Yr	Hrs/Yr
1	Cole Harbour High Sports Field (C)	593	437	314
2	Scotia 1 Sport Field (D)	129.3	220.3	249
3	Wagner Sport Field- Scotia 2 (B)	168	344	478
4	Bell Annex (C) **	359.3	344	487
5	Astral Dr Jr. High (C)	282	410	208
6	Auburn Dr (A)	354.15	276	281.3
7	Colby Village Elementary (C)	239	377	365
8	Joseph Giles (D)*	8	28	0
9	Graham Creighton Jr. High School (C)*	25	134	107
10	Ross Rd Elementary/ Jr. High School (B)*	42	192	61.3
11	Sir Robert Borden (C)*	210	161.3	150
12	George Bisset (green space only – not for scheduled play)	n/a	n/a	n/a

*small fields used primarily for practice

**small field used primarily for Cole Harbour High practices and private soccer usage.

Chart 9 provides a summary of ball diamond inventory and recommended field supply as per the CFMP:

Chart 9 Ball Diamond Supply per Population	Natural Turf Ball diamonds
Total Cole Harbour Fields	18
CFMP Recommendation	1 field per 3,350
Cole Harbour total Population 25,344	1 field per 1,408
Total Regional HRM Current Inventory (201 diamonds)	1 field per 1,538

Based on the current data and CFMP recommendations, Cole Harbour is very well served by ball diamonds and is adequately served by natural turf fields.

The majority of sport fields that are located in the community are categorized as “B” or less which indicates that the community does not have access to a well maintained and multi-use field. Consequently, many of the sport groups travel outside of their community to access “A” rated fields. This does not mean that the existing field inventory is not useful to the community, only that there is a need for fields at a higher standard to provide more play hours and access to a variety of activities.

The HRM Municipal Operations Supervisor indicated that the quality of the fields in the Cole Harbour community has been an on-going complaint to his department.

Artificial Turf

The Community Facility Master Plan supports the development of an artificial turf in Cole Harbour based upon the community demand for field access. The CFMP states: “That three additional

artificial turf fields be constructed (in the municipality) to meet the increasing demand for outdoor field sports.” Since the approval of the CFMP, one new artificial turf field has been approved and is currently under construction in Bedford/Hammonds Plains. The football community in particular struggles with adequate access and is currently utilizing the Scotia 1 field, a “D” rated facility. Recent athletics upgrades to the Beazley field have reduced access to that multi-use field for football so the football community is no longer able to utilize that field.

In addition, the CFMP states that, “Artificial turf fields receive substantially more use than any other type of field. It is not uncommon for an HRM artificial turf field to host in excess of 1,250 hours of use per year. Providing an additional three artificial turf fields will effectively reduce the stress on some B and C classified fields while also reducing the required usage of D fields. Maintenance can be reduced by eliminating the poorest quality D fields”. Further cost efficiencies can be realised by eliminating or converting for other uses lower rated fields in this community.

Chart 10 illustrates the cost effective and usage capacity of artificial turf:

Chart 10 Artificial Turf vs Natural Turf (CFMP 3.4.2 Fields, pg 22)			
	Annual Cost per Field	Average Usage/Yr/Field	Maintenance Cost/Hour
Artificial Turf	\$3,500.00	1,145 hours	\$2.92
Natural “A” Fields	\$11,500.00	160.75 hours	\$71.54
Natural “B” Fields	\$8,000.00	252 hours	\$31.75
Natural “C” Fields	\$6,000.00	209.88 hours	28.59
Natural “D” Fields	\$2,500.00	161.75	15.45

Based on these costs, overall annual maintenance costs for replacement of lower rated fields with an artificial turf would be in the range of \$ 15, 000 per annum and over 550 employee hours.

The most convenient and frequently requested area for this to be built is as a redevelopment of the current Scotia 1 field. However, Scotia 1 field is situated in the Cole Harbour Common area which is a floodplain designed to reduce flooding in the Cole Harbour area. Therefore, further analysis and engineering review is required to determine an appropriate site as a viable location for an artificial turf facility.

Other Facilities Available to the Cole Harbour Community

Cole Harbour Place

The facilities at Cole Harbour Place include a pool, ice surface, fitness room, dance studio, wellness centre, and various child/youth/adult and senior program rooms. The 2012 program statistics are:

Athletic Programming:

Dance instructional classes – 96 classes

Kids Program (Athletics) – 32

Young Teen Programs includes summer day camp offerings: 43

Adult Athletic Programming – 28

Aquatic Programming:

Preschool – 380 classes

Youth Learn to Swim – 381

Teen Aquatic Programming – 44

Adult Aquatic Programs – 9

Private Swim Classes – 551

In 2009, a Cole Harbour Place Needs Assessment was conducted to explore a potential enhancement. There were more than 50 local groups that participated; non-ice and ice sport groups, field sports, community groups, non-profit groups, churches, seniors groups, accessibility organizations, schools as well as members of the general public. There were several outcomes of this needs assessment but one that is pertinent to this report is the overwhelming request for a gymnasium, walking track and an artificial turf.

There was a resounding request for another ice surface from Cole Harbour Minor Hockey, CHBA Minor Hockey Dartmouth Skating Club, Cole Harbour Ringette Association, SEDMHA Minor Hockey Tournament, Skate Canada NS, and the local elementary, junior high and high schools. Needs assessment and analysis related to indoor arenas has recently been completed and approved in principal by Regional Council (August 2012). That assessment confirmed that an additional ice surface is not required in Cole Harbour at this time.

Consultations with Stakeholder Groups

Community groups, , Sport Nova Scotia representatives, Capital Health, District 4 Councilor Lorelei Nicoll, the General Manager of Cole Harbour Place and HRM Recreation professionals were consulted to identify gaps and opportunities in the provision of HRM mandated recreational services.

See Schedule “C” 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, Basketball, Tennis, Gymnastics, Ball Hockey, Lacrosse, Special Olympics, Boys and Girls Club, Football). 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 other groups will use fields that have drainage issues, unlit or not regulation size, thus are unable to hold tournaments and train their elite teams.

The football community in particular struggles with inadequate access to sport fields and is currently utilizing the Scotia 1 field, a “D” rated outdoor facility. Recent athletics upgrades (concrete pad for shot put and discus) to the Beazley field have reduced access to that multi-use field by football, which is no longer able to utilize that field. Football Nova Scotia is currently relocating the sport central facility to East Hants due to lack of accessibility in HRM.

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.

Sport groups such as tennis, badminton, and volleyball are interested in promoting their respective sports but cannot at this point due to lack of available gym space.

The soccer community does have excellent access to both outdoor and indoor facilities in the Cole Harbour community; however, the opportunity for sport growth is limited as the existing fields are used to capacity.

The local community groups such as the Boys and Girls Club offer before and after school programs to engage the youth through sport and recreation to 60 children ages 5-12 that have no access to gymnasium space in the Cole Harbour area. They use recreation space that inhibits the groups to fully achieve their recreation needs.

The Non-profit groups like 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.

Churches in the Cole Harbour community stated they would like access to a gymnasium to run some of their activities as opposed to renting or building a facility. Also, a number of Senior Groups expressed an interest in using a gymnasium as a safe place to be active.

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. (entire report is located at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/cobequid-community-health-board/health-and-wellness>).

Community Consultations

Consultations with HRM recreation staff echoed the comments from both the community and sport groups. Their clients often state there is a definite lack of available gymnasium and field space.

Citizens in Cole Harbour 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 Cole Harbour Place on October 10th and 15th 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. As well, there was support noted for the development of an artificial turf field in the community.

**see Schedule “D” – Notes from Public Consultations*

The on-line survey results indicated 61% of respondents stated that “*they were unable to participate in an organized sport group and 35% in general recreational activities*” due to lack of available recreation space. The majority of respondents (76%) were from a household comprised of a couple with children and 97% were between the ages of 20-60 years old. The majority of respondents (81%) participated in a community recreation or sport group within the past year. The on-line survey results indicated 93% of respondents stated that “*the importance of recreation programs to their quality of life*” was either high or very high.

**see Schedule “E” for on-line survey results*

Community Meeting and Programming Space

Commentary with citizens, key stakeholders, and community groups indicate that there is limited access in Cole Harbour for community meeting and programming space. For the most part, these types of activities fall outside of the municipal mandate for recreation, sport, leisure service provision but are nevertheless important to the quality of life of residents.

Gordon Bell Annex

The recent decision of the Halifax Regional School Board to relocate their staffing groups from the Gordon Bell Annex to the newly renovated HRSB offices in Burnside has provided an opportunity for HRM to determine whether the facility provides any opportunity for enhanced mandate service provision in the community. The circa 1980 building is large with approximately 70,000 square feet over 2/3 stories located on an overall lot size of 7.60 acres (331,056 SF). The facility includes a small gymnasium and several rooms. The gymnasium is approximately 5,400 square feet in area and contains a tile on concrete floor. Current annual utility costs are approximately \$90,000 and are in addition to other facility operating costs. Based on the Needs Assessment, the current size, condition and configuration of the facility does not meet requirements for municipally mandated programs and services. It should be noted that the gymnasium in the building is not of a size and condition to meet requirements for municipal purposes.

Community consultations revealed there are several groups in the community indicating they are struggling to find suitable space. Interest was brought forward from a community not-for-profit

group to HRM regarding the potential retention of the facility for community purposes. There were representatives from this community not-for-profit group in attendance at the October 10th meeting. This group has a number of Business and Community leaders that joined together to respond to the Request For Proposal for the Gordon Bell Building.

Based upon current field usage data, all existing fields in the Cole Harbour community, including the Bell Annex field, are required for municipal purposes until an artificial turf or alternate field(s) is constructed. Staff will assess the impact of retaining the Bell Annex field and will provide recommendations regarding the future disposition of the entire Gordon Bell Annex property in a future report to Regional Council.

Findings

1. The majority of Cole Harbour citizens who provided feedback rate the importance of recreation programs as a high aspect to a good quality life.
2. More than 80% of citizens and groups that participated in the HRM feedback opportunities stated dissatisfaction with the current availability of both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.
3. The factors of time of day, size of play surface, accessibility, travel distance and cost are equally important in determining the use of recreation facilities.
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 Cole Harbour High 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 curtained 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. Presently the school recreation facilities are administered by a Service Exchange Agreement with HRSB which contains a prescribed formula for community access. If HRM enters into a monetary partnership to enhance the Cole Harbour High 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.
6. The rating of the existing sports fields in the community (two are “C” and one is “D”) defines the lack of quality, inappropriate size for most sport usage and potential safety concerns during play. Therefore, there is potential for a high level of benefit to the community with a redevelopment of a field from natural turf to artificial turf. The development of an artificial turf field in the Cole Harbour area is recommended and will be included in future Capital Budget planning for consideration and prioritization with other capital projects.

7. There are a variety of challenges such as access to free gym space for non-profit groups, meeting rooms, storage space and senior related activities. HRM staff will work with the Community groups and Sport Nova Scotia to attempt to find solutions to those items.
8. The development of an indoor walking track at Cole Harbour Place is recommended. It is recommended that the project be included in Capital Budget planning for consideration and prioritization with other capital projects.
9. Until construction of a future artificial turf field or alternate field(s), all existing fields in the community, including the Bell Annex field, are required for municipal purposes based on the current usage data. Staff will assess the impact of retaining the Bell Annex field upon the future disposition of the entire Gordon Bell Annex property, and will provide recommendations in a future report to Regional Council.

Schedule "A"

Cole Harbour District High School	
Year	Hours of Usage
2009/2010	Fitness: 90 Special Events: 13
2010/2011	Fitness: 50 Special Events: 5
2011/2012	Indoor Baseball: 4 Fitness: 75 Indoor Soccer: 7
Auburn High School	
Year	Hours of Usage
2009/2010	Church events: 187 Skipping: 3 Special Events: 18 Volleyball: 55
2010/2011	Church events: 203 School events: 16 Volleyball: 64

2011/2012	Church events: 211 Volleyball: 59 Badminton: 13
Prince Andrew High School	
Year	Hours of Usage
2009/2010	School Events: 29 Special Event: 41
2010/2011	Special Events: 7
2011/2012	Basketball: 39 Special Events: 56
Dartmouth High School – Old Gymnasium	
Year	Hours of Usage
2009/2010	Basketball: 70 Fitness: 68 School events: 9 Indoor Soccer: 49 Total: 196
2010/2011	Basketball: 32 Fitness: 42 Indoor Soccer: 32 Total: 106
2011/2012	n/a
Dartmouth High School: New Gymnasium	
Year	Hours of Usage
2009/2010	Basketball: 61 School usage: 21 Special Events: 2 Volleyball: 42 Total: 127

2010/2011	Basketball: 29 Indoor Soccer: 12 Volleyball: 15 Total: 56
2011/2012	n/a

Schedule "B"

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 nd week	Every 2 nd week
Field Repairs	Checked 3 times per week	Checked weekly	Checked every 2 nd 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 "C"

Organization	First Contact	Second Contact	Attendance/Response
Athletics NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Badminton NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Ball Hockey NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Basketball NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	e-mail/phone interview data
Dance sport NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Fencing NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Field Hockey NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Football NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Gymnastics NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	e-mail data
Karate NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Lacrosse NS	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Rhythmic Gymnastics	Sept 25	Sept 30	e-mail data
Rugby	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Soccer	Sept 25	Sept 30	Phone Interview
Softball	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Tae Kwon Do	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response

Tennis	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Volleyball	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Wrestling	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Special Olympics	Sept 25	Sept 30	Phone interview
Anna Jacobs – Capital Health			Met
Organization	First Contact	Second Contact	Attendance/Response
Cole Harbour Parks and Trails	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Cole Harbour Heritage	Sept 25	Sept 30	Not applicable
Girl Guides	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Scouts	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Cole Harbour Boys and Girls	Sept 25	Sept 30	Met
Cole Harbour Fire	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
St. Johns United	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Forest Hills United	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Woodlawn United	Sept 25	Sept 30	No response
Cole Harbour HRM Rec			Met
Cole Harbour Place			Met

Schedule “D”

Cole Harbour Community Meetings

Halifax Regional staff held two community meetings in the Westphal Room at Cole Harbour Place in order to provide the public another feedback choice regarding the potential community enhancement of Cole Harbour High School. 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 10, 2012 Meeting

Number of Participants: 12

Question and Answer Segment:

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

- What is the status of the Gordon Bell Building RFP and how will this impact the community recreational needs
- Why HRM staff is not conducting a “full needs assessment” of the Cole Harbour area?

- Need to reach out to local sport teams as opposed to only speaking with the Provincial Representative groups (Sport Nova Scotia)
- Parking and safety concerns during the construction phase of the renovation of Cole Harbour High School.
- The impact to the current users of the existing gym in Cole Harbour High School during the construction phase.

Question 1:

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

Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
Tennis Courts at Cole Harbour Place	1
Soccer field at Gordon Bell	1
Landscaping company maintains fields	3
Dance studio	1
Swimming at Cole Harbour Place	1
Scheduling through HRM	3

Not Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
No inside running track	1
No outdoor adult gym	1
No gravel track or trails	2
Scotia field is in disrepair, not lit, drainage issues, no washroom facilities, no clubhouse	6
No support for cultural activities	1
No support for volunteer groups	1
New community gym will require additional parking	1
Gordon Bell access for community recreation and groups	6
Need 1 complete plan: 2-3 options for land use	1
Current ball and playing field floods	3
Need additional gym space due to lack of availability	4

Lack of refuse containers on outdoor field	1
Fields work well with younger age group	1
Football NS moved to East Hants due to shortage of fields and facilities	1

Question 2:

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

Response	Number of Occurrences
Provide a place to promote recreation programs through HRM Cole Harbour Recreation	1
Lighting would mean more usage	2
Dry land training	1
Running track	1
Potential indoor tennis	1
More gym space means more access for existing and new sports or cultural opportunities – all year	3
Artificial turf – more usage, access for all sports – safer	4
Focus on adult recreation as well – outdoor gym, facility access	4
Mel Braine field – add running track, wasted space could be used	2
All enhancements should not be tied to an area rate	1
Centralized booking for both fields and gyms as opposed to grandfathering sport groups, more access for basketball and other sport groups	4
Could provide additional fundraising opportunities	2
Improved facilities: Cost kept low due to more usage and sport growth	2

October 15, 2012 Meeting

Number of Participants: 74

Question and Answer Segment:

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

- Will the Bowles arena be closed and is it due to the BMO Centre's alleged debt?
- How come we are only addressing Cole Harbour needs and not spreading the school funds throughout the district?
- How much HRM funds are available?
- Basketball nets are too high in the elementary schools for the younger teams
- Beazley field shot put concrete pad inhibits field usage and lack of lighting impedes the use of the walking/running track
- Teams forced to use BMO Centre as no access in Cole Harbour
- Safety is an issue on the current fields – conditions, lack of lighting and inaccessible to emergency vehicles
- Ice time – Cole Harbour Place cannot accommodate all requests so other arenas are used – also difficult for figure skating and ringette due to grandfathering hockey teams
- Ice sports are suffering due to lack of available ice time

Question 1:

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

Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
Swimming pools	2
HRM staff booking fields and indoor times are excellent	6
Baseball, soccer and hockey well served	1
Cost of gym when available are reasonable	1
Lining of the fields	1
Variety of HRM recreation programs	1

Not Working Well:

Response	Number of Occurrences
Need all weather fields in the community	21

Current fields are not level and hazardous for play due to drainage and lack of lighting	19
Field condition is embarrassing when teams from other areas come to play games	3
No field bathrooms	4
Dartmouth Football league has over 400 players from June – November but soccer is given preference for field access	5
Soccer books field time but does not use it – do not allow this to occur	7
How can East Hants get a domed facility and Dartmouth cannot	1
No field house	5
Lack of safe pathways to fields	1
Need a Sky Dome	5
Community gym needed not attached to high school	2
Need to repair stairs and bridge to Cole Harbour Fields	1
Beazley Field should not just be designated for track and field	1
Grandfathering bookings is not fair	4
No adult access indoor track or gym space	3
Scouts/Guides have difficulty accessing space	3
Difficulty to access existing artificial turf areas	4
Lack of accessible pool in community	1
Auburn rugby cannot access gym so need to practice in Fall River	1
Should not have to pay for facilities that will not be available for use by Dartmouth Football	1
Cole Harbour Place pool should be open later – i.e.: midnight	1
Government funding has been given to other HRM Communities for recreation – Cole Harbour should receive the same	1
Basketball has little access to gym times	4
Baseball – better facilities: canteen to help teams become self-sustaining	1
Booking field time for make-up games is very difficult	2

Question 2:

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


Response	Number of Occurrences
Less crime due to more facility access for youth	1
Artificial turf: safer field conditions: lighting and drainage issues addressed would enhance usage as well (also washroom and canteen if possible)	28
Use Lake Banook as a public skating area like the Halifax Oval – enhance winter recreation activity	1
Undo the shot put facility at Beazley Field and allow Dartmouth Destroyers to use as a home field	5
More employment due to more facilities – more revenue for Cole Harbour community (fast food, gas)	1
Extra recreation activities for all ages creates a huge revenue source for HRM	1
Community centre with meeting rooms	1
Growth in sports due to more access of facilities and fields	2
Centralized booking would provide fairness and perhaps ability to check availability on line	5
Promote health, provide counselling, education, tutoring and drop in opportunities	2
Quality fields would allow for hosting tournaments, university games and perhaps CFL	1
Cost for use of artificial turf and new gym must be kept low and access be given to all	5
Provision of space for non-profit groups	1
Promote pride of community with new facilities	4
Ensure the gym is designated for “community usage”	7
Expand existing recreation facilities into a larger complex – including in Cole Harbour High gym, fields behind Cole Harbour Place and existing facilities in Cole Harbour Place	1
A domed facility would promote year round usage for all sports	1
On-line web survey does not capture community concerns	1
Adult recreation would be enhanced with a walking track around Cole Harbour Place and Cole Harbour High School	2
More parking will be required if enhancement occurs	2
Allow community to build clubhouse for storage purposes	3
Concept of Community Schools should be broadened	1

Improved emergency access as well as safer pathways	2
More rink surface so do not have to travel outside area and more convenient practice times	1
Better refs that see less angry players due to condition of the fields	1
Lighting extended to walkways and access roads would help ensure safety	1
Promote viewer participation - gym with stadium seating	1
Address the growth of Cole Harbour and Lawrencetown by providing more local facilities instead of traveling to Halifax and Bedford	1



Schedule "E" On-Line Summary Report

(Completion rate: 85.45%)



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

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Very high		67%	66
High		26%	26
Low		6%	6
Very low		1%	1
Total Responses			99

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		60%	59
No		40%	39
Total Responses			98

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		78%	77
No		22%	22
Total Responses			99

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
Cole Harbour District High School	2 (2%)	9 (10%)	17 (20%)	11 (13%)	47 (55%)	86
Auburn High School	5 (6%)	14 (16%)	11 (12%)	10 (11%)	48 (55%)	88
Dartmouth High School	3 (4%)	7 (8%)	8 (10%)	9 (11%)	57 (68%)	84
Prince Andrew High School	4 (5%)	10 (12%)	9 (11%)	9 (11%)	49 (60%)	81
Other, please specify below	4 (6%)	11 (16%)	5 (7%)	8 (12%)	41 (59%)	69

List other location:

The 21 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
Cole Harbour District High School	5 (6%)	17 (19%)	17 (19%)	19 (21%)	32 (36%)	90
Auburn High School	4 (5%)	11 (12%)	18 (20%)	16 (18%)	39 (44%)	88
Dartmouth High School	4 (5%)	5 (6%)	13 (15%)	17 (20%)	45 (54%)	84
Prince Andrew High School	6 (7%)	5 (6%)	11 (13%)	18 (22%)	43 (52%)	83
Forest Hills Common Fields	11 (13%)	12 (14%)	13 (15%)	23 (27%)	27 (31%)	86
Beazley Field	10 (12%)	17 (20%)	8 (10%)	21 (25%)	27 (33%)	83
Other, please specify below	1 (2%)	3 (5%)	2 (4%)	18 (32%)	32 (57%)	56

List other location:

The 24 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	Total Responses
Time of day	37 (42%)	32 (36%)	11 (12%)	9 (10%)	89
Programming	25 (29%)	38 (44%)	12 (14%)	11 (13%)	86
Size of play surface	19 (22%)	42 (49%)	14 (16%)	11 (13%)	86

Accessibility	25 (28%)	33 (38%)	17 (19%)	13 (15%)	88
Travel Distance	25 (29%)	38 (44%)	15 (17%)	9 (10%)	87
Cost	34 (39%)	36 (41%)	8 (9%)	9 (10%)	87

6b. For playing field usage:

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	Total Responses
Time of day	57 (63%)	25 (28%)	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	90
Programming	40 (44%)	34 (38%)	11 (12%)	5 (6%)	90
Size of play surface	49 (54%)	29 (32%)	10 (11%)	3 (3%)	91
Accessibility	49 (54%)	22 (24%)	14 (16%)	5 (6%)	90
Travel Distance	41 (46%)	31 (35%)	14 (16%)	3 (3%)	89
Cost	53 (60%)	26 (29%)	7 (8%)	3 (3%)	89

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

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Special community events		12%	11
Participation in an organised sport group such as soccer, football or basketball		55%	52
Cultural, art or drama activities		16%	15
General recreational activities		32%	30
I have been able to participate in everything I wanted		16%	15
N/A I have not wished to participate in anything		11%	10
Other		11%	10
Total Responses			94

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

Dog friendly events

To play rugby we have to travel to Burnside or Shannon park because there is no fields available

Having a Splash pad on the Dartmouth side possibly at the Cole Harbour Commons would be wonderful for children in the summertime!

I have been able to participate in everything I wanted but the lack of lighting on the football field behind Cole harbour place is unsafe and practices had to be cancelled due to poor drainage. (This was an uncommon dry summer.

We make due, but practice time is restricted.

Football, need an all weather field with lights

Gym timing and availability of more fitness facilities for pre-teens is much needed

Fields behind Cole Harbour Place are not in good shape.

biking to work duet risk






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	34 (36%)	34 (36%)	19 (20%)	8 (8%)	95

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

	Very high	High	Low	Very low	Total Responses
Support for more playing field space	69 (73%)	18 (19%)	8 (8%)	0 (0%)	95





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)		30%	28
Increase general HRM taxes (everyone in HRM pays a small amount to fund the cost of the additional facilities)		9%	8
Create an "area rate" (residents who are most likely geographically to use a facility pay an amount to help build the facility)		6%	6
Combination of the above		47%	44
None of the above		8%	7
Total Responses			93

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

The 42 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		73%	69
A couple without children		11%	10
A single parent		7%	7
One or more single adults		9%	8
Total Responses			94

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

Used for internal use

14. Please select your age category:

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Under 19 years old		0%	0
20 - 40 years old		44%	41
41 – 60 years old		52%	49
61 and older		4%	4
Total Responses			94

Appendix

List other location: |

#	Response
1.	Astral Elementary School
2.	East Dartmouth community center
3.	George Bissett Elementary
4.	Most schools have their available and cost appropriate space all taken.
5.	Joseph Giles elementary school
6.	Scotia field
7.	East Preston Rec
8.	Tallahassee Community School
9.	EPEC
10.	Colby Village Elm.
11.	Graham Creighton Junior High (we have not used high school gyms to date)
12.	Atlantic View School
13.	Any School within HRM
14.	Cole harbour place
15.	Titans
16.	Astral Drive High
17.	Astral and Titans
18.	Eric Graves Jr. High
19.	Cole Harbour Place
20.	Colby Village Elementary School
21.	Cole Harbour Place

List other location: |

#	Response
1.	Astral Field
2.	Burnside grass field
3.	Astral - baseball fields
4.	Scotia Field
5.	Burnside turf
6.	Eastern Passage
7.	Scotia field-- very low!!!!
8.	Cole harbour place field
9.	Eastern passage

10.	Scotia Field
11.	Scotia 2 field
12.	Scotia Field
13.	ALL HRM FIELDS ARE RARELY AVAILABLE UNLESS FOR SOCCER BUT FOOTBALL WITH THE 500 KIDS IN DARTMOUTH ALONE CAN'T GET FIELDS.
14.	My son's football team uses Scotia Field behind Cole Harbour Place and it is a terrible field and unsafe for all players due to holes, uneven ground and excessive water
15.	All Fields within HRM
16.	Poor. Beazley field and Dartmouth Commons are the only decent fields. PA has an empty place begins the school, but it is rocky and dangerous at times. Scotia is on top of a swamp, ad I sit in the mud surrounded bleachers. Few field have lights and we need more fields with lights.
17.	Scotia Field
18.	Scotia field
19.	Scotia Field
20.	Scotia Field
21.	Scotia Field
22.	Scotia 1 behind Cole harbour place
23.	Cole Harbour Place
24.	retired seniors
11. Any other information you would like to share with us?	
#	Response
1.	It would be great to have a non-school gym to facilitate for extra sport training (i.e for hockey - ball hockey, etc). No one loves the idea of non-school families entering into our children's schools.
2.	Cole harbour needs a dog park!!
3.	Having parks with swings and play structures nearby and possibly a Splash pad would be really helpful and fun for the young families in this area.
4.	Regional sporting facility with 4 ball fields, 1 soccer, 1football, with washrooms, parking . Eliminate single use sites and turn them into green spaces
5.	the cost to rent a ball field is outrageous you wonder why kids and adults are not involved in sports when you have to pay the cost of a ball field for a family outing there is your answer we do pay huge taxes in HRM for no return
6.	More all weather fields, similar to the two in Burnside would be preferable. These are not subject to HRM's often excessive field closures (on days of little to no rain), and are well lit and accessible.
7.	There is a need for lit football fields with reasonable rates in Dartmouth (other than the Burnside Turf). Currently Dartmouth Minor Football is one of 9 associations within NS Minor Football and is 1 of 2 without a home field where we can set up permanent residence and required facilities. There are many baseball fields which are lit while this is a summer sport, while currently only the turf in Burnside is lit for football.
8.	Football fields are needed -we have two high schools in Cole Harbour, plus a minor group with over 500 kids grades 2-9, as well as Jr high teams. WE have no SAFE, lit, accessible areas in our local and the Burnside Turf (though expensive) is now being taken on by NS Soccer, the Beazley Field in Dartmouth has new equipment -

there is no place for football, rugby etc. Our family places flag football, touch football and tackle football in a number of different levels and it is sad that Dartmouth and Halifax teams have no home fields at all! We pay out thousands of dollars a year to rent out space to store equipment, can't host home games (any level in Cole Harbour) and are at the mercy of the weather - as even though Scotia is a "sacrificial field" (and I feel that we also sacrifice our kids safety on the field!!) One good rain and it is FLOODED out for days. Please give our kids a place to play!!

9. Like to have Washrooms at the Football field, also decent seating a lights are a must on a football field it dangerous for the kids when there isn't any lights available and it limits practice time without the lights on the football field!!
We also pay quite high taxes our tax dollars should be going to recreation fields for kids! After all every child should be getting at least 15minutes a day of exercise!! If need a small user fee could be in place and also should be allowed to rent out facility to other's to help with cost!
10. My son is with the Dartmouth Destroyers and our home field is the common field next to BJ Higgen baseball field. The field itself should be leveled better but it is not a bad field, our problem that we have no real accessibility, the washroom facilities are two fields away, no drainage, spectator viewing areas are very small. Our biggest problem is this field is not light. Our practices finish at 8pm and with the sun setting earlier we have been forced to either; play in the dark or beg borrow or steal some other field time which we are finding hard.
11. Scotia Field has low dips which could cause serious injury during a fall or trip.
12. An indoor gym with track and field facilities would be great to have in Dartmouth instead of having to travel to Halifax.

Also a football field with lights, washrooms and space for spectators would also be great.
13. We have been using the Scotia field as our home field for football. There are no lights, it has too many holes and rocks, it's not level, a lot of water accumulates, not enough seating, seating not very good, players complain that it is just a terrible field.
14. Due to current field condition, field conditions are day to day. We need availability!
15. eastern passage needs to get an all weather field such as a turf especially if we are to be getting a new high school which will then involve my sports requiring one
16. Cole Harbour has two high schools, and healthy soccer program and a good football program that draws from all areas of Dartmouth. It is becoming very clear that in order to run a good football program at the high schools and at the minor level a field, preferably a turf all-weather field is required. This field needs to have lights as the season runs well into the fall and it is dark early, making lights a requirement. At the very least if HRM has decided that Beazley field is not to be used for Football anymore they MUST provide a suitable replacement field that the Minor teams can use as a home field. Scotia field is a disgrace for a home game, and while technically safe it is not what our kids deserve!
17. Football field in HRM are a mess!
18. Too much money for flagship projects (oval upgraded again) with little bang for the buck (landscaping). Spread the funding to more sites, sometimes little upgrades will bring big changes to the venue. We seem to be losing some fields for football (Beazley?) and have had difficult access to others (Burnside All WX turf).
19. Now that Beazley Field is no longer of use for Football, Scotia is the only field left for Minor Football, it floods often, has no lights and little bleacher sections. Dartmouth Minor Football has over 250 people on this field for a good part of July - November and it needs upgrades desperately. Unfortunately Beazley was the perfect football set up, why the change??
20. Football is seen as a second tier sport although we have over 500 kids that are active in football from June to November in Dartmouth alone. These kids come from all areas of Dartmouth, Cole Harbor, Preston and surrounding areas. It is a constant struggle to get a field for our events as the current process favors historical

bookings first and so soccer books all fields and leaves nothing for other sports. It is frustrating to have dedicated coaches and kids and no fields or access to the fields. This is my 4th year as President of the Dartmouth Minor Football Association and it is very disappointing that our teams are not given equal access to field bookings.

21. I believe that the minor football organization (Dartmouth Destroyers) should have a home field in the Cole Harbour area that has an even, level surface (turf would be awesome!!) and overhead lights for evening usage. We travel to other areas of the HRM and Scotia Field falls VERY low below the standard seen at other dedicated football fields in the metro area. I believe that Scotia field is being underutilized as it stands at present.

The paved track on the edge of Scotia field is VERY lumpy makes running a quite unsafe because of the likelihood of tripping and falling. There are some obvious water issues around this property based on the amount of pooled water and huge puddles after rainfall.

The bridge across the stream should be marked "cross at your own risk". It feels quite unstable and should be assessed by HRM maintenance personnel to ensure it is still sturdy enough to handle the pedestrian traffic, especially when several individuals cross together (after a football game, for example).

Thank you!

22. As a parent to a child involved in football, I now realize the importance of having a decent playing field in our own community. We travel out of our own community into another, to practice several nights a week, in order to have a field that is lit. Since our involvement with football allows us the opportunity to travel to other fields in the province, it's obvious how inadequate the playing surface in Cole Harbour really is. I feel our community is deserving of a new playing field with lights, washroom facilities and new seating. It is an embarrassment to be the hosting team with the current conditions of our playing field.

23. Often my son's football team is practicing on baseball diamonds though out Dartmouth as they are equipped with lights for night play. These practices are scheduled and rescheduled very last minute as the organizer struggles to find field availability. From a parent's perspective it's not hard to see that the teams are limited in the type of practice they can perform due to field constraints. It would be most beneficial to have a Football field equipped with lights to accommodate the ever growing interest in the sport.

24. A well-drained football field with lights is a necessity in Cole Harbour. Bathroom facilities would be wonderful as parents and participants are often at the fields for three plus hours at a time. It would also be lovely if there was spectator seating available.

25. As a football coach in the Cole Harbour Area for the past 8 years I can tell you the availability of gymnasiums and sports fields in the area for practices and games is far from adequate. There are teams that have had to be removed from leagues because players refused to travel to East Hants for practice for a team from the Dartmouth area. Another major concern is the cost for the use of any facility in Dartmouth. If the facility or field is of any decent standard for play then the cost is so high only the wealthiest of associations can afford to use the facility. For the associations that can not pay the inflated costs for these suitable fields they are practicing on sub- standard or Un-safe fields.

26. We need more football fields with lights. My son currently has to practice at a baseball field.

27. I am a senior in Cole Harbour and walk for my daily exercise. As there are many seniors in Cole Harbour a indoor walking track would up the level of facilities so that us seniors would be able to walk inside instead of driving to the Sportsplex. Thanks. I do not know of any high school that has a walking track.

28. Cole harbour really needs an all weather playing field soccer/football combo It needs lighting to be used to its potential

29. Do not feel youth sports should pay user fees for sports fields.

30. Unhappy with the quality of the field at Scotia Field, behind Cole Harbour Place. Very unhappy to see that this summer a Construction company used the field for a party and ran trucks across the field, resulting in large ruts,

about 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, which are on the edge of the field and could result in one of our kids breaking a leg. I saw 2 days after their event a tractor trailer taking a load out, spinning their tires and tearing up another part of the field. This field has not been repaired and it has been almost 3 months. Wondering how many kids will get hurt because of their lack of care with this facility and HRM's lack of maintenance.

31. The most important to me are sports fields for both my son and me. He plays soccer and football and would greatly benefit from an all weather field. I think more adult programs in the Cole Harbour area would be beneficial.
32. Need a true all weather football field with lights in our community. Burnside field is fantastic but is not always available. Something like that at Scotia Field would be outstanding. There are lights already set up at the baseball fields and power could be extended to the football and soccer fields to make them more useful as it gets darker earlier in the fall. Extra bleachers would be most welcome as well.
33. We need an all weather field as many activities eg. football, soccer, etc are cancelled and not rescheduled due to field closures. Also the Beazley field is an embarrassment to play on given teams have to negotiate the hilly terrain on inside the track.
34. Desperately need fields which are properly graded with night time lighting.
35. Need better football field. It is a very common sport, and growing. some of the fields available are ridiculous, like Scotia field. It is not satisfactory. And there are zero washroom facilities. The kids play well into the dark which is very dangerous considering cleats and big boys.
36. My Son plays for the Dartmouth Destroyers and the facilities at Scotia Field are lacking. I would like to see a field house and lighting for evening practices. Anytime that the weather had been inclement the team has had to try and get turf time in Burnside. This is not always possible. The destroyers program has 60 children alone in the PeeWee level. I know how important it has been to my sons development not only an athlete but a responsible young man. I am sure you would hear the same story 60 times over from all the PeeWee parents. They are not only playing football they are developing relationships with their team member from many groups within the community.
37. Scotia Field needs major improvement. It is supposed to be an all weather field but both games and practices were cancelled because of field closure when it had not rained all day.
38. I travel from Lake Echo 4 times a week to let my son play football behind Cole Harbour place. For me that is a great location until the nights get darker and we cannot stay on the Scotia Field. Then we have to travel an extra 15mins each way to get to a field that has lights. As well the bathroom facilities are too far for anyone to up and down the horrible stairs.
39. Field conditions, availability & amenities all play a huge role in Football. The irrigation at Scotia Field is virtually non-existent and is constantly muddy, it is often closed due to even a small amount of rain. There is no lighting forcing the kids to either practice on the ball diamonds throughout Dartmouth where there are lights or go to the Turf in Burnside which has limited availability because of the high demand with football & other sports. The access points into the field do not allow anyone with mobility issues to easily or comfortably negotiate the steep & aging stairway. If this were a business case I would say that the investment in football facilities & turf would certainly marry several programs, bring increased revenue to the space & support high school, minor & recreational football. It appears to have a very healthy ROI considering the partnerships that would be possible.
40. Just coming from another community, I am very surprised by the lack of children and adult rec programs. In my old community, I had countless options for enrolling my children and here I feel there are only two or three to choose from and I have to fight with the other parents to get in. I should not have to wait in line for an hour to enroll my children in programs. If there are more programs, more variety and more classes, there would be more to spread around and satisfy the entire community. I understand this would cost more, but I am willing to pay \$40-\$60 per class if it means my children will get in and have lots of variety.

41. I have 3 children play in Cole Harbour area.
I have one son whom plays football , he has been unable to practice, he has been forced to practice in bad weather in order to get practice time. the sports is played in the fall so it is hard to find a lite field. The field is un level, the field is not easily accessible for disabled person to come and watch.
42. given the increasing obesity rates in Nova Scotia children and teen, the availability of fitness facilities and gymnasiaspace for sports and other activitiesto promote physical activity should be at a minimal or low cost.