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www.ourhrmalliance.ca

Our HRM Alliance: Planning for Livable Communities for All

What makes Halifax a place we want to call home? We believe that HRM is special because we have an abundance of trail networks, shorelines, lakes and rivers and towns woven throughout within a short distance of our downtown. But what can we do to ensure that more communities have access to these incredible amenities and that these opportunities are available for generations to come?

Our HRM Alliance is composed of rural, suburban, and urban groups from across the municipality that share a vision for sustainable regional growth.

Vision: The Alliance envisions HRM as a collection of engaged communities and accessible places that protect the environment, foster health and wellbeing, and attract sustainable economic opportunities for all their citizens.

Context: Our HRM Alliance was formed in 2011 to advocate for progressive improvements to the Regional Plan, which was due for its 5 year review. In June 2014, the Regional Plan passed with many of those measures, including a commitment to create an Open Space and Greenbelting Plan, now called the "Green Network Plan". The Alliance successfully saw the passing of the Halifax Green Network Plan in 2018. As of 2021, elements of the Plan have been implemented yet the main focus is on the Regional Plan, our Region's guiding plan, which is reviewed and updated every ~5 years to include new policy directives and reflect the community's vision and values. Moving forward, the Alliance has focused on a two-pronged approach to advocating for progressive regional planning:

- **The Halifax Green Network:** A connected and comprehensive network of land prioritized for preservation of natural heritage, watersheds, agriculture, recreation, and rural character. The flipside of this is directing sustainable growth and development to the suburban and rural communities that need it. We will achieve this outcome through fully implementing the Halifax Green Network Plan into the Regional Plan.
- **Complete Communities:** For existing and new communities to succeed, they need affordable and accessible housing, multiple modes of transportation, comprehensive local plans, financial incentives for building, and ongoing community engagement and participation. To achieve these priorities, our focus lies in the 10-year Regional Plan review and the Suburban and Rural Plans process.

Objectives: Our HRM Alliance aims to realize five key objectives which are fundamental to sustainable growth in Halifax.

- 1. Healthy and active population:** Communities must be walkable, offer active transportation options, and be developed on a human scale.
- 2. Robust transportation systems:** Planning in communities should prioritize active transportation and transit over car ownership where possible.
- 3. Sustainable development:** Charges should be levied on developments for all present and foreseeable infrastructure and servicing costs to incentivize a more concentrated form of growth, which is more sustainable for municipal finances, health, and the environment.
- 4. Protected and connected green and blue areas:** Permanently protected green space (ecologically and culturally significant land) and blue spaces (lakes, shorelines, watersheds, etc.) through zoning and growth regulations.
- 5. Engaged and Equitable community centres across the municipality:** Community centres and main streets across HRM should be empowered to develop as compact neighbourhoods with strong community visions and potential for sustainable economic growth.

Means: Our HRM Alliance combines the voices of 65 rural, suburban, and urban organizations of such diverse backgrounds as the environment, business, trails, health, art and social justice, to advocate for a shared vision for HRM's future. We believe that change is possible through the showing of solidarity across traditional boundaries and by demonstrating that such varied organizations share core goals. There are many ongoing projects and interests within the Alliance, but above all, we are committed to creating opportunities for sustainable development and economic growth in all communities while protecting the natural assets that are equally important to the wellbeing of the municipality.

Becoming a member: Becoming a member of the Alliance states that your organization supports the five principles outlined in the vision. It does not require a financial commitment from the group or organization. The time your organization wants to devote to the Alliance will vary depending on the time your association can spare from its other work and how closely the goals of the Alliance match your objectives. Membership does not hamper an organization's ability to operate independently.

What the Alliance hopes from its members:

- A link to the www.ourhrmalliance.ca website from its own site.
- Attendance at the Our HRM Alliance meetings (approximately one every six months. If physical attendance is not possible, your input via telephone or email will be valued).
- Let us know if you have a project or event (consistent with our values) that we can help promote through social media. Help us cross-promote the work of other member organizations by retweeting and sharing their activities that we have posted.
- Attendance at media events, hearings and key council decisions.
- Provide feedback through phone or email on key policy matters.
- Connect with the local Council person to express support for the vision of the Alliance.
- Submit a letter to the editor on an issue of relevance for the member group where the vision of

the Our HRM Alliance can be supported.

- Contribute events and updates to the monthly Alliance newsletter.
- Allow your organization to be listed as a member group on the www.ourhrmalliance.ca website.
 - If possible, provide your organization's logo.

Operational agreement from members:

In order to stay effective, Our HRM Alliance must sometimes respond quickly to external decisions. The Alliance requires that members provide the Steering Committee of the organization with the power to make statements and decisions only *within* the Alliance's vision and objectives. Member are encouraged to attend meetings and stay up-to-date with email and newsletter updates in which all major decisions and statements are passed by members. At these opportunities, or wherever they see necessary, members are able to sign-off of agreements or statements that conflict with their organization's mission, values, or mandate. No decision or statement outside the established vision and objectives of the Alliance will be signed on to without official approval from all members.

The Alliance requires that organizational representatives take on the responsibility to ensure communication is upheld between the Coordinator and member organization. For example, if a representative is leaving their role with an organization it is their responsibility to connect the new representative with the Alliance Coordinator of Steering Committee.

If you have any questions about the Alliance, please contact Meredith Baldwin, the Coordinator at meredith.baldwin@ecologyaction.ca or 902-454-6199.

Members:

Trails Groups

1. [Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea \(BLT\) Rails to Trails Association](#)
2. [Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association](#)
3. [Friends of Hemlock Ravine](#)
4. [Halifax North West Trails Association](#)
5. [Halifax Regional Trails Association](#)
6. [Hike Nova Scotia](#)
7. [Preston and Area Trails Association](#)
8. [Penhorn Lake Area Trails Association](#)

Wilderness Groups

9. [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Nova Scotia Chapter](#)

10. [Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia](#)
11. [Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association](#)
12. [Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust](#)
13. **[Sackville Rivers Association](#)**
14. [Sackville Lakes Park and Trails Association](#)
15. [Save Bedford's Waterfront Society](#)
16. **[Sandy Lake Conservation Association](#)**
17. [Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes](#)

Environmental Groups

18. [Citizens' Climate Lobby – Halifax](#)
19. [Backlands Coalition](#)
20. [Canada Green Building Council – Atlantic Chapter](#)
21. [Dalhousie Office of Sustainability](#)
22. [Ferguson's Cove Neighbourhood Association](#)
23. [Friends of McNabs Island Society](#)
24. **[Ecology Action Centre](#)**
25. [Halifax Field Naturalists](#)
26. [Halifax Urban Greenway Association](#)
27. [Lake Echo Watershed Association](#)
28. [McIntosh Run Watershed Association](#)
29. [Purcell's Cove Area Residents Action Committee](#)
30. [Sandy Lake Conservation Association](#)
31. [Shore Active Transportation Association](#)
32. [Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society](#)
33. [St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association](#)
34. **[Williams Lake Conservation Company](#)**
35. [Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization](#)

Community Groups

36. [CARP Nova Scotia](#)
37. [Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society](#)
38. [Dalhousie School for Resource and Environmental Studies](#)
39. [FUSION Halifax](#)
40. [Genuine Progress Index \(GPI\) Atlantic](#)
41. [Halifax Cycling Coalition](#)
42. [Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia](#)
43. [It's More Than Buses](#)
44. [Lucasville Community Association](#)
45. [Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Community Association](#)
46. [North End Community Health Centre](#)
47. [Purcell's Cove Neighbourhood Committee](#)
48. [Rural Coastal Communities Network](#)
49. [Walk n' Roll Halifax](#)
50. [Wyse Society for Sensible Urban Development, The](#)
51. [YWCA Halifax](#)
52. [Trips By Transit](#)
53. [Akoma Holdings Inc.](#)

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

54. [Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission](#)
55. [**Downtown Halifax Business Commission**](#)
56. [**The Village on Main \(Main Street Dartmouth Business Improvement District\)**](#)
57. [North End Business Association](#)
58. [Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association](#)
59. [Sackville Business Association](#)
60. [Spring Garden Area Business Association](#)
61. [St. Margaret's Bay Chamber of Commerce](#)