



## PROTECT BMBCL, OUR FUTURE NATIONAL URBAN PARK SAY NO TO HIGHWAY 102 SPECIAL PLANNING AREA

### THERE'S STILL TIME TO SPEAK UP!

The Open House on November 19 saw hundreds of people come out to learn about the Highway 102 Special Planning Area (SPA). People came to learn about the proposed development, and many came to support Friends of BMBCL.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with HRM.

We have said this many times. Halifax could have one of the country's greatest national urban parks. A national urban park built on strong park planning principles and environmental considerations will attract eco-tourism, support local businesses, provide free and accessible recreation for future generations, and offer limitless educational opportunities. Once development begins, this vision disappears forever.

Seeing a national urban park that incorporates ALL of the BMBCL waterways and decades-long proposed boundary is worth finding creative ways to work with developers.

There is still time to tell HRM and the Province that protecting is important. We need your voice now! Here's what you can do:



### Email the lead planner

From now until Wednesday, Dec. 10, the lead planner at HRM will continue to collect feedback via email. Your feedback will be summarized in the HRM's "What We Heard" report. This report will help guide recommendations from HRM on what should happen in the Highway 102 Special Planning Area.

**Emailing HRM your feedback (and copying your MLA — see below) is the most important action you can take at this point in time.**

In your email, here are some thoughts

### SPEAK UP NOW!



#### WRITE TO OFFICIALS

Letters and emails still matter! Tell your MLA and city councillor that this development will limit our future national urban park. For over 30 years, experts and residents have worked to protect this land. Jamming development in BMBCL is wrong.

about what can be highlighted:

- Highway 102 W Corridor (BMBCL) should be removed from the Special Planning Areas list.
- The proposed national urban park be given time to come to fruition before deciding on development near or on the boundaries of the park.
- The Province and the City should work with interest groups and developers to incorporate land into the national urban area that has been identified for more than 20 years as the preferred park boundary.
- Any development should not interfere with wildlife corridors.
- All environmental and traffic surveys, as well as floodplain surveys for the surrounding communities and adjacent parks, should be completed before development decisions are made.
- Environmental research from local community experts should be included in the reports and planning process, and all of this should be made public.
- Release "What We Heard" reports about the public feedback on both the Sandy Lake and Highway 102 West Corridor Special Planning Areas.
- Prioritize development and housing solutions in areas that are within the Urban Service Boundary.

Any letter or email you send should go to the lead planner for Highway 102 West Corridor SPA (BMBCL): [Ross Grant \(grantro@halifax.ca\)](mailto:Ross.Grant@halifax.ca)

**Copy your MLA on your feedback. This is important!** HRM will be providing its recommendations for the Highway 102 SPA to the Province. The Minister of Housing, Min. John White, whom the provincial Housing Task Force will advise, will have final approval over the fate of this area.

On any letter or feedback you provide, please CC:

- Premier Houstas: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)
- your MLA: [find your MLA](#)
- Minister White: [johnwhitemla@outlook.com](mailto:johnwhitemla@outlook.com)
- the Housing Task Force: [housingtaskforce@novascotia.ca](mailto:housingtaskforce@novascotia.ca)
- Mayor Filmore: [mayor@halifax.ca](mailto:mayor@halifax.ca)
- your city councillor: [find your councillor](#)
- the Clerk's Office: [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca)

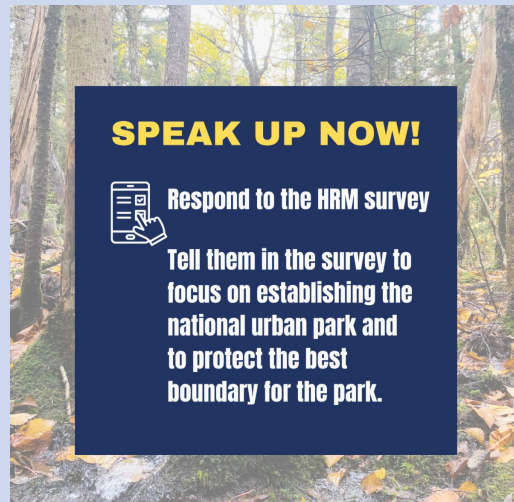
## FILL OUT THE HRM SURVEY

Friends believe filling out the survey is still important. Survey responses will be accepted until December 10. Silence will be seen as agreement.

After emailing the HRM planner, fill out the survey for the Highway 102 Special Planning Area. You can leave some sections unanswered and use the open-answer questions to include additional thoughts.

The survey is biased, but the results and responses will be incorporated into any report that goes to officials.

[Click here to find the survey page](#)



## RESPONDING TO CRITICS

Since the Open House, and as some people have become engaged with this proposed development, there has been some criticism and misunderstanding directed at efforts to preserve this wilderness area. So let's address some.



**Why shouldn't this area be developed? This land is not protected land, and the province is not trying to develop the park area.**

The proposed Highway 102 SPA is not part of the current protected wilderness area. However, for years, ecological experts identified this area as an important wildlife corridor and waterways that should be protected and incorporated into the already protected wilderness area and any future urban park.

The City identified the conceptual park area in 2006, nearly 20 years ago, in the municipality's first regional plan. The area was reaffirmed as a conceptual park boundary in the regional plan update in 2014. If development occurs, wildlife corridors will be eliminated, waterways will be damaged, including the 22 interconnected lakes and wetlands that make up the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes system.



### **Doesn't Halifax need housing? This could help alleviate some of the burden.**

Halifax does need housing, and Friends is not opposed to housing. But this area and other wilderness areas, like Sandy Lake, are not the appropriate places to start with large-scale housing developments for a few reasons:

- The impacts on wildlife and waterways will be significant. Corridors used by bobcats, bears and moose will be damaged, lessened or even eliminated.
- Blasting and redirecting water will have significant implications for the water table and the area's lakes.
- There are brownfield sites in Halifax that could be utilized.
- This area is outside of existing transit areas, thereby ensuring people are dependent on vehicles.
- The development will add to the growing traffic congestion in Halifax.
- The infrastructure costs will be enormous and will become the burden of all taxpayers.

### **Isn't this really about NIMBYS (not in my backyard)?**

Anyone can claim that opposing development is NIMBYism. However, Friends and supporters have dedicated decades to protecting this area and transforming it into a national urban park — a park that all residents and visitors can use. Efforts to conserve this unique wilderness have received support from scientists and conservationists who identified key features of BMBCL that need to be preserved. The City initially planned to include this area in a wilderness park, but competing priorities have hindered its progress.

We believe we should maintain this vision and explore creative ways to realize it, especially since efforts are already progressing to turn the nearby protected area into a national urban park. Why not aim to have this national urban park reach its full potential?



**CONTACT US:** Let us know what you think.  
Send comments or pictures to [info@bluemountainfriends.ca](mailto:info@bluemountainfriends.ca)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FRIENDS OF BMBCL, VISIT [our website.](#)



Friends of Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Society | 6180 Oakland Road | Halifax, NS B3H  
1P2 CA

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