

1 Introduction

1.1 Study Area

For the purpose of this Master Plan, the study area includes the land encompassed by what is typically referred to as the traditional Dartmouth Common boundary. The area is bordered by Victoria Road to the north, Boland Road, Park Avenue, and the Halifax Harbour to the south. This boundary should not be considered as a rigid line; instead this boundary is to be understood as a soft edge, which allows for integration, connectivity and continuity between the Dartmouth Common lands and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Figure 1.1 Study Area Dartmouth Common Master



1.2 Master Plan Objectives

The purpose of the Dartmouth Common Master Plan Project is to prepare a Master Plan and administrative framework for the protection, enhancement and management of the Dartmouth Common for public use. Lands owned by the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) within the Dartmouth Common boundaries are addressed more prescriptively than privately owned lands; however, the Common in its entirety is examined at appropriate levels and opportunities for enhancement and planning are identified. The Dartmouth Common is a public place with historical significance as an open space for the community of Dartmouth. The original granting of the Common by the crown places a special significance on these lands as one of only two traditional designated Common areas within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Its ongoing public use and recognition is an underlying aim of this Master Plan.

Goals

- Establish a public vision, values and objectives for the future use, enhancement and protection of the Common;
- Recognize and enhance the public image and character of the Common;
- Build collaboration for future development and improvement of the Common; and
- Develop a policy and implementation framework to guide capital investment and strategic planning for the HRM and its partners.

Objectives

- Identify areas for aligning future development and use of the Common with municipal land-use, open space, cultural, recreation, transportation, and urban design objectives;
- Develop policy and design guidelines for improving the Common as a highly functioning open space network, including active transportation connections, recreation and parks development;
- Identify principles and objectives for better integrating and building harmony between public facilities and public open spaces on the Common;
- Develop a spatial plan and design framework for opportunity and priority sites, addressing urban design and landscape design principles, parkland development and facility development priorities;
- Establish objectives for the integrated management and stewardship of the Common;
- Better define the regulatory and legislative framework governing the description, use and development of the Common;

- ↗ Establish objectives for the acquisition and repatriation of opportunity lands on the Common; and
- ↗ Identify initiatives and guidelines for enhanced community and recreation programming, including events, recreation, heritage and cultural interpretation, and public art.