



Frequently Asked Questions

Dartmouth Sportsplex Renewal and Recapitalization Plan

What is the Community Facilities Master Plan?

The Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP) was approved in principal by Regional Council in 2008. The CFMP makes many recommendations regarding sport, recreation and leisure facilities, including the review of aging municipal recreation facilities with the goal of improving them for the future. Community engagement is an important step in planning for our future recreation facilities.

The Regional Plan (2006) designates Dartmouth as **part of the regional centre of the HRM** and as such, is an area of projected future growth. The Regional Plan designates that this regional centre will accommodate 25% of the 100,000 new residents forecast for HRM between 2005-2031. Recreation facilities and services are necessary to attract residents to communities.

What is the Dartmouth Sportsplex Renewal and Recapitalization Plan?

This study recognizes that there is value in developing a renewal plan for the Dartmouth Sportsplex for future planning. The facility has played a key role for residents of Dartmouth and beyond since it opened in 1982 and will continue to do so well into the future. As with all aging recreation, sport and leisure facilities in HRM, it is important to be proactive about planning for future and with all aging facilities, it is necessary that facilities meet the needs and expectations of the citizens. This study will examine whether or not there are requirements or opportunities for expansions or changes to the building, programs, or services.

Are other facilities being studied?

In addition to the Dartmouth Sportsplex Renewal and Recapitalization Plan, there are various other facility studies taking place in HRM. One of particular interest to all residents is the Long Term Arena Strategy. That study will include some considerations and review of the arena at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, and all of the other arenas in the HRM.

The CFMP identifies two major types of recreation facilities in HRM. Multi District Facilities and a smaller version called Community Centres.

What is a Multi District Facility?

A Multi District Facility is a large recreation facility (approx. 100,000 – 120,000 square feet in size), serving a population of around 60,000 people. Multi District facilities often include ice arenas, pools, gymnasiums, fitness centres, meeting rooms, community gathering places, art studios and playing fields. **The Dartmouth Sportsplex** www.dartmouthsportsplex.com has played an important role as a Multi District Facility for our citizens since 1982. Since that time there has been investment made to the facility for upgrades and changes.

Examples of other Multi District Facilities include Cole Harbour Place www.coleharbourplace.com, Sackville Sports Stadium www.thestadium.com and the new Canada Games Centre www.halifax.ca/CanadaGamesCentre.

Multi District facilities and Community Centres compliment and support one another in providing a full range of sport, recreation and leisure services to the community.

What is a Community Centre?

The CFMP defines a community centre as the most common type of recreation centre, vital to a communities' quality of life. Generally these centres range in size between 10,000 – 20,000 square feet and serve a population of 10,000 – 15,000 people. They could include a gymnasium, multi use program space, stage, meeting rooms, kitchen, office, parking and playgrounds.

The Dartmouth North Community Centre, Findley Community Centre, East Dartmouth Community Centre and the North Woodside Community Centre are all examples of existing community centres. The 2008 CFMP recommended service levels for newly constructed community centres do not include provisions for indoor pools.



What is the relationship and difference between Multi District Facilities and Community Centres?

Multi district facilities build on the services of the community centre and offer a much broader and more comprehensive range of programs. A multi district facility is expected to attract people living and working within a 15 – 20 minute drive. Community centres promote walkable, mixed use communities where people can be more active in their daily lives, in their own communities. Programs at community centres are intended to primarily serve the local residents.

What will community engagement for the Dartmouth Sportsplex review include?

A key part of the facility review process will be to find out what the community feels is important for the future. A number of important opportunities need to be explored with the community's help. Members of the community will have a chance to give feedback with an online survey to be launched in April at: www.halifax.ca/facilities/CFMP, by emailing CFMP@halifax.ca or by participating in one of the focus group meetings to be scheduled.

Community engagement will include:

- *Examining opportunities to invest in additional or replacement facilities at the Dartmouth Sportsplex*
- *Examining opportunities to expand the Dartmouth Sportsplex to include a gymnasium (fieldhouse) complex*
- *Examining opportunities to invest in additional programs and services at the Dartmouth Sportsplex*
- *Examining other revenue generating opportunities to maximize operational potential at the Dartmouth Sportsplex*

How will the community's feedback be used?

The community's feedback will be used to inform and develop recommendations to Regional Council about future facility planning and recapitalization funding for the Dartmouth Sportsplex. This review will help to determine future directions for the operation of the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

Where are we in the facility review process?

The CFMP describes planning for renewed facilities as a medium to long term endeavour. This means it may take as little as 5 years or as long as 15 years to plan, replace, or expand a facility. All decisions about facilities will be dependent on HRM's budget process and the condition of the facility. All decisions require Regional Council's approval.

It is important to begin the planning process now so we will have the best possible community facilities for the future.

Currently, the Dartmouth Sportsplex review process is in the study phase. The study phase is a detailed analysis of the facility's condition and analysis of user groups, programs and services. The study phase leads into the community engagement phase. The purpose of the engagement is to discuss opportunities for the future.

How does this review impact the Dartmouth Common Master Planning Process?

The Dartmouth Sportsplex is built on Common lands, and so it is very important and necessary to take that plan into consideration with any future planning for the Dartmouth Sportsplex. There has been significant public feedback on the Commons Masterplan www.halifax.ca/RealPropertyPlanning/DCMP/index.html and this study will benefit from that. The information gathered for that process will inform this process and be part of the considerations for future actions.

How can I get involved in the Dartmouth Sportsplex Renewal and Recapitalization Plan?

There will be a number of opportunities for members of the community to get involved in the development of the Dartmouth Sportsplex Renewal and recapitalization Plan. In late March and April there will be a series of meetings with key community stakeholders. There will also be a number of focus group meetings which people may register for, and an online survey that interested community members can participate in.

To register for focus groups, or to email your thoughts directly to us, please contact either CFMP@halifax.ca or call 490-5713.