

Municipal Update: Emergency Accommodations

For the period of Nov. 8-14, 2021

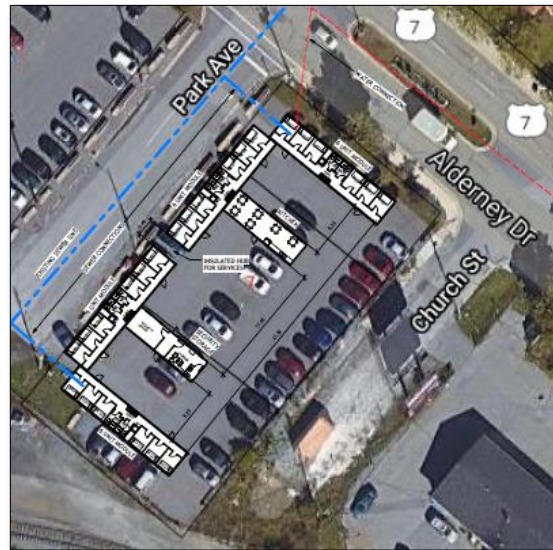
Date of issue: Nov. 16, 2021

Municipal updates will be issued on a weekly basis to provide progress reports on efforts to establish emergency accommodations sites in Dartmouth and Halifax. These updates will be provided until modular units have been installed at both sites by the municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia has begun to place individuals at the sites and provide wrap around services. Depending upon the status of progress, frequency of updates may vary.

Topline update

Dartmouth Site

- Work is underway for the emergency accommodations site in Dartmouth, with a proposed site location plan in place (see enclosed map).
- Municipal staff from across several business units are meeting daily to coordinate and advance the initiative.
- Coordination is underway with utilities, including Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Power, to facilitate connection of services once the modular units are onsite.



Halifax Site

- Municipal staff continue to engage with the province, service providers, engineering, and utility providers to confirm suitability of site location options.
- A recommendation is expected to be presented to the CAO the week of Nov. 15. Following approval, a purchase order will be issued for modular units.
- In working with the province and Out of the Cold, the Halifax site will need to accommodate a minimum of 40 people.

Communications efforts

- [Statement issued on Nov. 9, 2021](#) regarding Regional Council approval to allocate \$3.2 million towards the purchase, installation and maintenance of modular units, at two sites, to accommodate unhoused individuals in our region.
- Information updated on [website](#) and shared via social media as well as digital screen network at numerous municipal facilities (including us and ferry terminals, recreation centres, etc.).
- Several Councillors have hosted meetings with constituents in the past week and have been sharing information through their communications networks, including social media.

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Status of encampments

The municipality is currently aware of nine (9) encampments within the municipality. Staff from the municipality and partner organizations are visiting each of these sites daily. Due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments the number of individuals onsite can vary on a daily basis.

Encampment location	Status as of Nov.14
Victoria Park	1 individual onsite, 1 tent
South Park Street	4 individuals onsite, 4 tents onsite
Lower Sackville	4 individuals onsite, 3 tents onsite, 1 shelter
Geary Street	4 individuals onsite, 4 shelters
Meagher Park	12 individuals onsite, 24 tents onsite
Cogswell Park	4 individuals onsite; 3 tents, 1 shelter
Graham's Cove	3 individuals onsite, 3 tents
Point Pleasant Park	2 individuals onsite, 2 tents
Eastern Passage	2 individuals onsite, 2 tents

Number of individuals transitioned from living rough to alternative accommodations (Nov. 8-15): **14**

The municipality continues to have serious concerns with any temporary shelters being built and installed on municipal property. These structures are a fire hazard and are unsafe. Temporary structure fires have already occurred at Cogswell Park and Bayer's Lake (where, tragically, it resulted in a fatality).

Reports from the public

- Total of 208 calls to 311 regarding homeless encampments, for the period August 20 – Nov. 14, 2021. Majority of reports are regarding noise complaints, requests to remove the temporary structures being built on municipal property, and safety concerns.
- EHS has responded to 101 calls to encampments since August 20, 2021 with the majority at Victoria Park.