



## Spryfield's Vision

Our vision for Spryfield's future is one of a diverse and vibrant community. It will be well-planned, in terms of public spaces, residential, and commercial areas. It will be developed in a way that is socially and environmentally sustainable, and will evolve with the needs of residents. Spryfield will have many green and beautiful spaces, and will be an inviting place to live, work, play, and do business. Our community will be safe, clean, walkable and active. We will work together to promote our community's rich history while encouraging a sense of community pride. Choices and opportunities will be equally available to all residents, in a community that is open and inclusive.

We value:

- The natural environment as a vital part of every neighbourhood
- Connected, welcoming, and diverse neighbourhoods
- All of our people
- Safety, caring, and inclusion for all
- A strong, sustainable local economy that supports, and is supported by the community
- Public participation at all levels of decision making



## Action Strategy

Natural assets support human and community vitality. The overriding (land use) planning priority is the protection of, and respect for natural lands, waterways, and wildlife. This shall define and shape the development of the area for future generations.

### Theme– Nature

1. Review Municipal Planning Strategy for
  - i. protection of waterways, wildlife, and wilderness areas
  - ii. opportunities and locations for sustainable energy options
  - iii. energy conservation
  - iv. maintaining and increasing biodiversity
2. Establish venues for retail of local products and food development (farmers market, urban farming, community gardens, and community kitchens) that encourage community involvement.
3. Encourage and implement existing and future park management plans.
4. Maintain and implement access to nature for residents and wildlife.
5. Establish regular community clean-ups.
6. Stop illegal dumping.

## Theme – Places (Built environment, spaces, streets)

1. Review the Municipal Planning Strategy to:
  - a. implement the vision embodied in the Herring Cove Road Streetscape Study as opportunities arise, and
  - b. require neighbourhoods that:
    - i. are defined by natural lands and waterways
    - ii. are economically and socially diverse
    - iii. allow for aging in place
    - iv. include accessible housing
    - v. mix and integrate housing types and ownerships
    - vi. include well-designed, walkable, mixed-use developments that increase housing density in appropriate areas
    - vii. minimize environmental impact on building sites
    - viii. welcome pedestrians and transit users
    - ix. enhance personal safety, and
    - x. are linked through a multi-use trail network.



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2. Provide indoor and outdoor venues and spaces, with particular attention to seniors and youth, for:
  - a. volunteers, conferences, educational and historical community information
  - b. arts and culture
  - c. fitness, recreation and sport facilities (rinks, play areas, fields, etc.)
  - d. park space (campgrounds, pocket parks, dog areas)
3. Encourage the promotion and use of existing structures (vacant buildings) and disused lots.
4. Explore possible incentives for LEED certification for environmental building and neighbourhood design.
5. Increase and maintain multi-stream waste receptacles including cigarette-butt stops in public places.
6. Create public/community/urban art throughout the community.
7. Create coordinated interpretative and directional signage to identify Spryfield's assets (places of interest, events, history and maps).
8. Develop a business case in consultation with the community for high priority sidewalk construction.
9. Extend existing, and create new bikeways.



## **Theme – Activities (includes: working, moving, shopping, playing, learning)**

1. Promote Spryfield as a place to locate retail/commercial services (advantages) for shopping, socialization, and a variety of food establishments
2. Develop and promote Spryfield's qualified and available workforce to businesses and other potential economic development opportunities
3. Retain and expand both shopping outlets and community services at the mall.
4. Create partnerships to provide more opportunities for structured/non-structured activity/leisure for all ages and in all seasons. (sledding, skating, snow-shoeing, skiing in winter / canoeing, kayaking, sailing, swimming in summer)
5. Expand bench/rest areas throughout our community.
6. Build upon present initiatives for hosting and promotion of community festivals, concerts, events, and parades throughout the year.
7. Develop and expand community garden spaces as integral parts of neighbourhoods.
8. Connect Spryfield to neighbouring communities and greater Halifax using alternative modes of transportation.
9. Create additional bus routes (Sambro loop, Bayers Lake, direct link to downtown)
10. Increase bus stops and shelters, and provide a terminal that is accessible to all residents of the community.



Shaping Spryfield's Future Together

11. Develop a multi-use trail management plan to maintain, improve, and expand trail systems and explore creation of new trails and linkages within the community, focusing on accessibility for all residents.

### **Theme – Community (social networks)**

1. Increase opportunities for neighbourly and volunteer participation in community life.
2. Foster high quality programs and services that support families by;
  - i. increasing daycare/childcare spaces
  - ii. increasing after school programs
  - iii. increasing medical services
  - iv. connecting adults, youth, and businesses to build skills and create a dynamic work force
  - v. developing youth and senior focused programs.
3. Promote positive aspects of our community.
4. Create a safe and comfortable community.

### **Theme– Quality of life (health and well being)**

1. Welcome a diverse population (cultural/ethnic, age, ability, income) through relevant programs.
2. Create a beautiful community reflective of residents' pride.
3. Create publicly accessible meeting and gathering places.

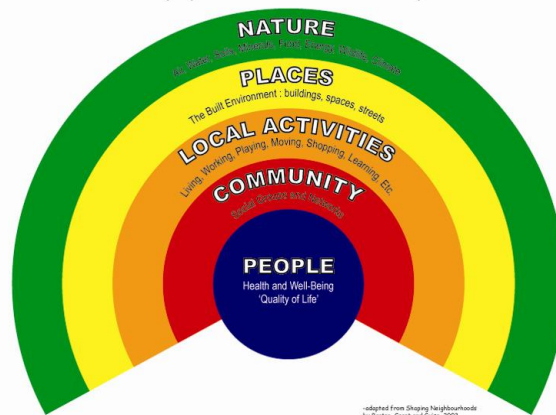
## Our Community Profile

Spryfield started as a farming community around 1766. The name Spryfield evolved from references to Captain William Spry's farm and Spry's field. After World War II, many young farm men found work outside of Spryfield. Local farms and dairies, which fed residents of Halifax for generations, were gradually turned into housing. Spryfield was annexed to Halifax in 1969 and a variety of amenities and services were developed. In 2005, Spryfield was designated a District Centre in the Regional Plan for Halifax Regional Municipality, and our future is looking bright.

## Our Community Rainbow

This adapted model from Barton, Grant and Guise (2003) of the World Health Organization assists with understanding the assets that make up our community. "Understanding how we relate to where we live, work and play, and how natural and built environments support us are keys to understanding how places influence our health." (Healthy Places Tool Kit, 2008)

Greater Spryfield: Our Community Rainbow





## **Our Natural Environment: An Asset We Treasure**

Ecosystem health focuses on meeting the needs of people, now and in the future, while leaving sufficient natural resources for wildlife.

Spryfield is ecologically diverse and blessed with a wealth of natural assets. The air is relatively free from industrial pollutants, and there are many natural water bodies – lakes, ponds, bogs, streams, and a river. Residents feel a strong connection to nature, and we have community groups with environmental interests. In 2000, Spryfield won recognition for its environmentalism with the provincial Sustainable Communities Award. We also have Long Lake Provincial Park, which is over 5000 acres and about the same size as Halifax Peninsula. We value our agricultural heritage, and our resources include fertile land, good soil, and clean air needed to grow food, now and in the future.

## **Our Places: Rich in Resources**

Safe and secure housing is a foundation for meeting our needs in life. Transportation, including roads, bus stops and shelters, sidewalks, trails and parking areas, affect our ability to access employment and socialize with others. People also need buildings and spaces for meetings, recreation, shopping, education, culture, leisure, and spirituality.

Spryfield has many built amenities including the Captain William Spry Community Centre, which has a library, wave pool, recreation space and meeting rooms. Also, we have the Lions Rink and Recreation Centre, several churches, and schools. We have different sizes and types of housing, frequently with sidewalks in the neighbourhood, and four public transit routes that serve our community. Herring Cove Road and Spryfield Mall host a variety





of services and businesses. The Spryfield Wellness Centre will be a hub for action on community health and well-being.

### **Our Local Activities: Ripe with Opportunity**

Living, working, playing, moving, shopping, learning – all are activities that affect our health and well-being.

Spryfield is blessed with a variety of physical spaces and diverse programs, so that residents of all ages potentially have opportunities for lots of different kinds of activities. For example, HRM Recreation Services, Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield, Healthy Kidz, and Urban Farm deliver programs for children, youth, adults and seniors. We also have sports teams for different ages, including hockey, basketball, soccer, and baseball; businesses and restaurants provide shopping and dining opportunities. Our lakes are popular sites for swimming; ponds serve as outdoor skating rinks in winter; and nature trails enable hiking or cross-country skiing. We have schools for children from grade primary to grade twelve; many opportunities for residents to take part in arts and cultural activities.

### **Our Community: Filled with Caring**

People who have supportive families, friends, and communities tend to enjoy better health. Social support networks can help people solve problems, deal with hardship, and maintain control over their lives. Positive social relationships also give people a sense of satisfaction and well-being.

We have community groups such as the Spryfield Residents Association, Urban Farm Museum Society, Mainland South Heritage Society, and Quarter Note



Singers. We have churches, and service groups such as the Spryfield Lions Club, Spryfield Lioness Club, Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Royal Canadian Legion, Salvation Army and the United Way; all with a long history of helping members of our community. The Spryfield and District Business Commission hold an annual golf tournament to support local charities, and businesses and residents give generously to J.L. Ilsley High School's scholarship fund. In 2002, Spryfield was given the Model Volunteer Community Award by Halifax Regional Municipality.

### **Our People: High Quality of Life**

If people feel that they belong and that diversity is appreciated, individuals, as well as the whole community, are likely to be healthier.

Friendliness is an outstanding quality of Spryfield residents, and is frequently identified as the thing people like best about Spryfield. We have a growing number of visible minorities and new Canadians; long-time residents are deeply proud of their community. Most residents feel that Spryfield is a safe and comfortable place to live, and people greatly appreciate the beautification projects that have started taking place.

*"When I moved to Spryfield, my doorbell was going all week as people came by with food or dropped by to say hello." -new resident to Spryfield*

## Spryfield's Engagement Process

### Informing the Visioning Process

A variety of studies and projects informed the Visioning process. Community visioning does not mean repeating these efforts, it means building upon them. Recent projects have given Spryfield a head start, as outlined below.

<i>From</i>	<i>We learned that</i>
2005 "Our Community is On the Go"	Residents value equity, diversity and Inclusiveness; Protecting the environment; healthy planning & development; local economic development; accessible services; connected and engaged people; proud and strong people; community venues and things to do; and leadership at all levels.
2005 "Herring Cove Road Streetscape Study"	Residents envision a green, safe, and attractive Road, with many diverse businesses, alive with pedestrians and shoppers.
2006 "We Are Spryfield: Our Community Profile"	Spryfield has many assets and strengths, and caring and friendly people, along with some things that residents would like to change.
2007 "Healthy Housing, Healthy Community"	To be healthy, people need: multiple activities & uses; sociability; nature & resources; healthy homes & neighbourhoods; access & linkages; and safety, comfort & sense of community identity.
2008 "Spryfield Business Case"	Spryfield is well-positioned as a District Centre within HRM to build on its strategic location, youthful population, educated residents with diverse occupations, competitive lease rates, access to highways and public transit, various community amenities, and the Spryfield and District Business Commission.



## Public Engagement

Community Visioning is a public engagement process adopted by HRM Council as a way to implement the HRM Regional Plan. Its purpose is to build consensus amongst residents and important stakeholders on what our communities should look like, feel like, and be like 25 years into the future. Community Visioning engages and empowers residents in an open dialogue, discovers new ideas and solutions, and forges community support for collective action.

Your Community Liaison Group (CLG), a group of local citizens, has been engaging residents from January to June 2009 to develop a Community Vision and Action Strategy. The themes are based on “Our Community Rainbow” (adapted from Shaping Neighbourhoods by Barton, Grant and Guise, 2003).

The process started by developing open ended questions using an appreciative approach (building on Spryfield’s strengths). The CLG then used various consultation methods such as reaching out to small groups, a residents’ survey, a door-to-door campaign, and a public workshop. The CLG then compiled all of the information collected and created a Draft Vision and Action Strategy. This draft was shared back to residents during the month of May and June, 2009. Residents and organizations were invited to share their thoughts on the Draft. Any feedback that was too detailed for the Action Strategy itself, was captured for consideration at the implementation stage, and will be posted on our web site for reference. The CLG has produced a final draft culminating in a presentation on behalf of the community to Regional Council.

## Additional Information

For demographic information about the Spryfield area visit Nova Scotia Community Counts at [www.gov.na.ca/finance/communitycounts/](http://www.gov.na.ca/finance/communitycounts/) and click on statistical summary in the left hand links. Choose Spryfield from the menu provided.