

# PARK PLANNING IS UNDERWAY

## What's happening?

Parks and Recreation staff have started the park planning process develop the safe, accessible, and sustainable use of Viscount Run Park. Park plans are useful tools to direct park enhancements over time and to ensure that work is in-keeping with public expectation. To accommodate this process, the park planning project was added to the Parks and Recreation 2019/2020 budget and business plan.

The Green Network Plan (2018) is a policy direction document approved by Regional Council. This plan outlines park service delivery based on population, density, and the Municipality's ability to build, maintain, and replace park features. For the Community of Kingswood North, the Green Network Plan prioritizes a centralized approach of planning that allows for multiple features to be concentrated in one large park as compared to being scattered over multiple parks. As a result, the focus in this community is the development of Viscount Run Park.

## What we've heard

At the public workshop hosted on November 21, 2019, the following responses were collected. Staff have incorporated what we have heard into a proposed park concept.

### Park Issues

- Lack of parking off of the road shoulder.
- Vandalism and littering within the community.
- Increasing traffic as the community develops.
- No point of access into the site.
- Wildlife movement through the property (e.g. coyote, bears, turtles).
- Standing water in lower portions of the park.
- Proximity of homes to park edge.

### Park Opportunities

- Large size and slope can accommodate a number of activities.
- Activities for all ages and abilities.
- Active opportunities for kids and teens.
- Places to sit and picnic.
- Walking and running trails.
- Parking.
- Buffer wildlife movement from activities.
- Improved drainage.
- Plenty of site vegetation.
- Improved security and sightlines.

### Specific Park Requests

- Maximize the number of trees planted and retained.
- Parking with separation from the road. Parking that accommodates more than seven vehicles.
- Informal sports field.
- Playground.
- Bocce.
- Pickleball
- Basketball/ Basketball half-court.
- Tennis.
- Multiple lawn seating/ gathering areas. Sheltered area with picnic tables.
- Separated bicycle path into the park.
- Pump track and mountain bike track.
- Pollinator meadow.
- Nature play with climbing and zipline like in Fundy National Park. Also refer to Fort Needham, LeMarchant School, and Dingle Park.
- ¼ mile running track around the sports field.
- Crusher dust walking track throughout the entire site.
- Perimeter walking path.
- Some asphalt paving for accessibility.
- Park lighting.
- Disc golf throughout.
- Splash pad.
- Ornamental plantings in the front of the park and more natural elements into the property.
- Ice skating and hockey on a pond or flooded portion of the park.

### Requested Order of Phasing

- Parking, Green space/playground, informal sports field, pollinator meadow.
- Playground and picnic area, walking trail and sports field, basketball and bocce.
- Parking and playground, track and field, BMX, sport courts.
- Natural playground and trails, BMX, multisport courts and basketball court.
- Playground, perimeter track, sports field.

## Your role tonight

We want your feedback on the following design concept. Help us refine this vision by adding comments to the boards.

- Is this concept a reflection of public feedback?
- Do you see elements that you like? Dislike? Why?
- Is there anything missing?

## Timeline



# VISCOUNT RUN PARK

## HALIFAX



# EXISTING CONDITIONS



## VISCOUNT RUN PARK

HALIFAX



# PARK CONCEPT FEATURES

## CIRCULATION



Park circulation is defined by pathways that can be phased in over time. Paved accessible paths lead from the parking area and around the play lawn. Crusher dust paths are prominent as a perimeter walking loop and through the forested area for walking, running, and biking.

## SAFETY



A clear and lighted park entrance and parking area is proposed closest to Viscount Run. Park activity will be set back from the road and sightlines into and out of the park will be established.

## PLAY



It is proposed that a significant portion of the park be left to reforest. Forests allow for natural exploration and play. In addition, a playground with accessible features is envisioned.

## SUSTAINABILITY



Celebrating the nature of place is central to the park concept. It is proposed that the majority of the site be retained as regenerated forest. Selectively planted native shade trees are proposed for the front lawn area. A naturalized area closest to Viscount Run will function as a pollinator meadow.

## COMMUNITY CAPACITY



This park concept recognizes that over time, there will be interest from the community to enhance the park (e.g. events, plantings, community gardens, new facilities). Space is available for expanded future uses.

# VISCOUNT RUN PARK

HALIFAX



# PARK CONCEPT



## VISCOUNT RUN PARK

HALIFAX





# PARK CONCEPT



STREET VIEW



VIEWS FROM THE PLAY LAWN



VIEWS FROM WITHIN THE BMX AREA