

# **Lake Banook Coordination Plan**

**Shape Your City Survey**

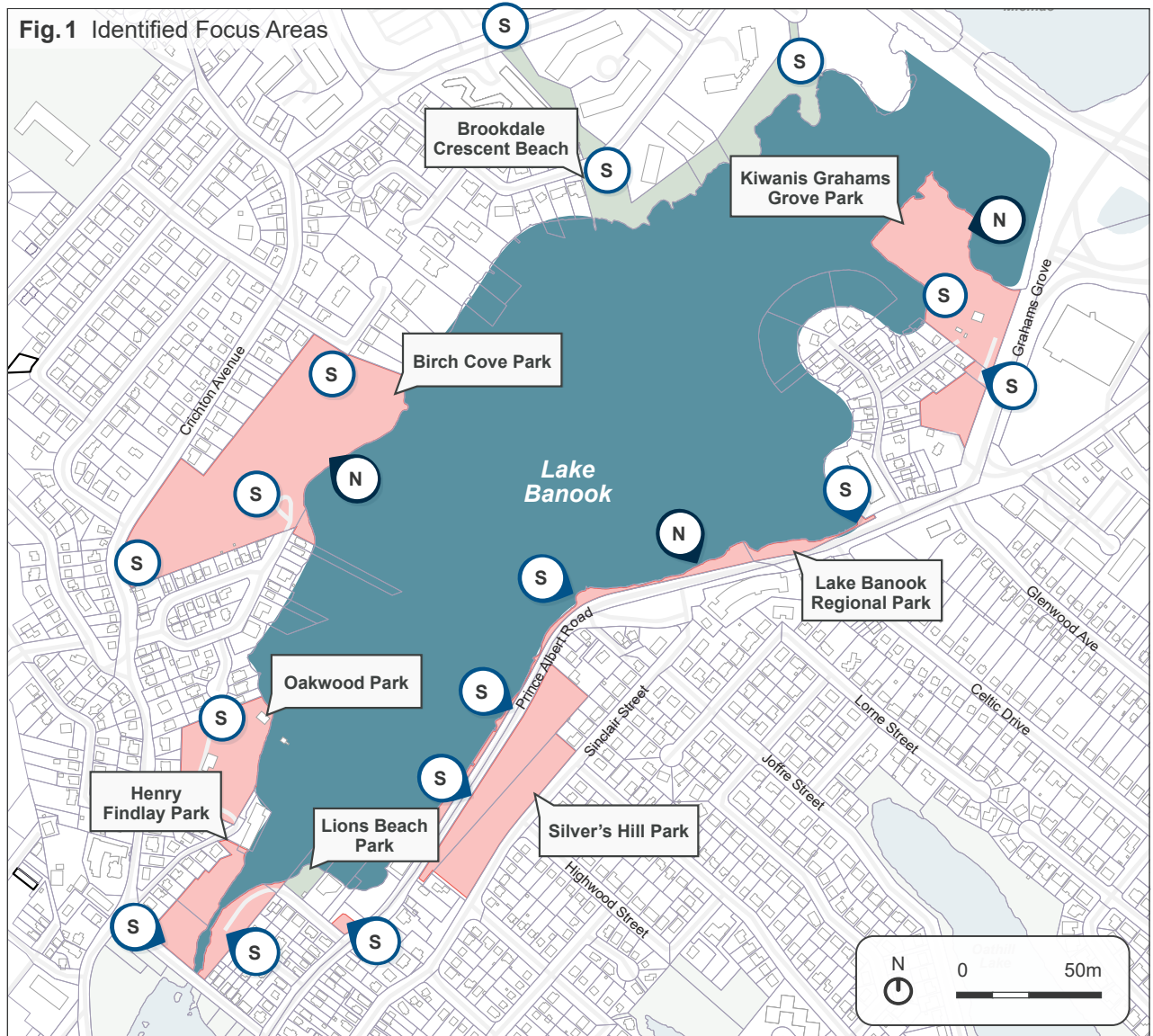
## Identified Focus Areas

There are eight municipal parks surrounding Lake Banook. They offer a range of active and passive recreational opportunities, as well as water access for paddling and swimming. Fig.1 outlines parks that have been identified for future improvements, as well as common recommendations. They include:

**Water quality:** Any degradation of Lake Banook's water quality poses significant risk to its ability to host future International Canoe Federation (ICF) events and be used by the community. Strategies to maintain water quality are included throughout the plan.

**Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage:** Communicating how to access the parks and which amenities are contained within them could be improved. Introducing a coordinated interpretive and wayfinding system is recommended to facilitate navigation between the parks and highlight its cultural and historical importance. Proposed locations for wayfinding and signage are identified in Fig. 1. Whether wayfinding, interpretive signage, or both are required in these locations will be decided during the project's detailed design phase.

**Naturalization:** The proposed location of naturalization projects are identified in Fig. 1. These initiatives will include a range of applications, such as living shorelines, planting beds, and rain gardens. The type of project will be based on site suitability and decided at a later phase of the project.



- Municipal parkland identified for improvement
- Municipal parkland not identified for improvement
- (N) Proposed naturalization
- (S) Proposed wayfinding/interpretive signage
- Existing 1m contour
- Parcels
- Roads/parking lot
- Existing buildings
- Lake Banook

## Birch Cove Park - Identified Focus Areas

During the previous ICF competition the athletes' village was relocated to Henry Findlay Park due to the site's steeply sloped terrain. This change allowed para-athletes and other athletes to be located within the same area for the first time in the event's history and was considered a success by organizers.

Previous park improvements focused on accommodating high intensity usage during events. However, the site is largely used for passive recreational activities by the local community. With a possible permanent relocation of the athletes' village to Henry Findlay Park (see Fig. 4), there are increased opportunities to focus on community uses.

**Naturalization:** Fig. 2 identifies a pilot naturalization project that was implemented by the municipality in the spring of 2024. Similar initiatives are proposed throughout the park to maintain the lake's water quality by filtering contaminants and deterring waterfowl. Additionally, naturalized planting areas will improve biodiversity by offering diverse fauna and create new opportunities for nature appreciation.

**Existing dock:** The existing dock is has been identified for replacement in the 2025/26 budget cycle.



- |                                 |                                              |                    |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Proposed naturalization         | Proposed wayfinding and interpretive signage | Water              |
| Pilot naturalization project    | Public washroom                              | Existing buildings |
| Beach                           | Site entrance                                | Area of interest   |
| Existing tree stand/understorey | Existing 1m contour                          |                    |
| Existing dock to be replaced    | Parcels                                      |                    |
| Existing Trail                  | Roads/parking lot                            |                    |

## Oakwood Park - Identified Focus Areas

Oakwood Park contains the judges' tower and has docks for launching boats and swimming. It is popular among community members, as well as paddling clubs who use the site as a disembarkment area during larger competitions and to host spectator seating during smaller events. The following improvements have been identified:

### Re-sodding/Treatment of Finished Grade:

Due to heavy foot traffic, the existing sodded area identified in Fig. 3 is in poor condition. The final treatment should consider the existing trees' health and should not negatively affect Lake Banook's water quality. Mulch or white clover are recommended.

**Existing Pathways:** The existing pathways should be maintained to ensure they are in good condition, wheelchair accessible, and able to be used by all athletes and community members.

**Pathway Accessibility:** The pathway that connects to the park's northern entrance features a significant grade change and sudden turns that may be difficult for all users to navigate. To meet accessibility standards, pathways improvements have been identified. This will enable better access to the site and the surrounding park system for para-athletes and community members.

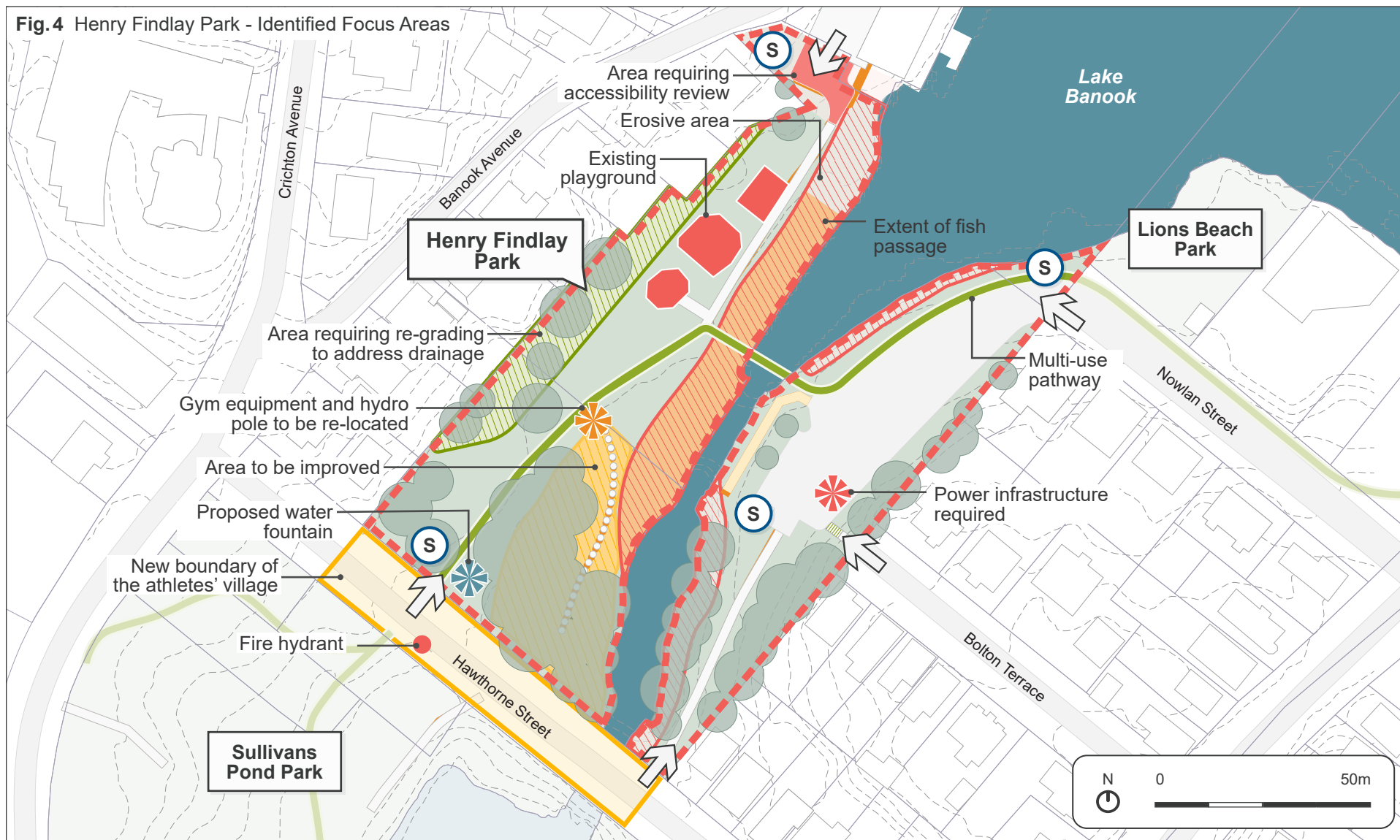
**Grading:** Heavy rainfall causes gravel from the footpath to empty into the lake, which affects the docks' installation along the shoreline. Fig. 3 identifies an area that could be improved with retaining walls or terraced landscape features to slow and capture run-off.

Fig.3 Oakwood Park - Identified Focus Areas



- Pathway requiring maintenance
- Existing pathway requiring accessibility review
- Existing desire path
- Area requiring re-surfacing
- Area requiring re-grading
- Existing dock
- Proposed wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Site entrance
- Existing tree stand/understorey
- Existing 1m contour
- Parcels
- Roads/parking lot
- Water
- Existing buildings
- Area of interest

**Fig.4** Henry Findlay Park - Identified Focus Areas



- |                                                 |                                                 |                                                |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Existing playground                           | ■ Extent of fish passage                        | ● Existing fire hydrant                        | --- Existing 1m contour |
| ■ Area requiring accessibility review           | ■ Area requiring re-grading to address drainage | Ⓢ Proposed wayfinding and interpretive signage | — Parcels               |
| ★ Proposed water fountain                       | ■ Area to be improved                           | — Multi-use pathway                            | — Roads/parking lot     |
| ★ Power infrastructure required                 | ■ Erosive area                                  | ... Existing gravel path                       | ■ Water                 |
| ★ Gym equipment and hydro pole to be re-located | ■ Proposed athletes' village expansion          | ■ Tree stand with understorey                  | □ Existing buildings    |
|                                                 |                                                 | ⇒ Site entrance                                | ■ Area of interest      |

## Henry Findlay Park - Identified Focus Areas

Henry Findlay Park is located along the southern edge of Lake Banook's shoreline. It contains a historic lock, water controlling weir, a popular playground, and connects to the Trans-Canada multi-use pathway system.

Within the upcoming years, there are expected infrastructure improvements to the park and Hawthorne Street. During the last ICF event, the athletes' village was re-located from Birch Cove Park. Henry Findlay Park should be considered as its permanent location going forward. The following improvements are recommended:

**Existing Playground:** During the previous ICF event, the playground was removed and re-built to accommodate the athletes' tents. Initially, consideration was given towards permanently removing the playground, but it is regularly used by the community. The partial closure of Hawthorne Street (see Fig. 4) is expected to accommodate the athletes' village. However, if the number of athletes increased for a future event and there was limited space available within the park or on Hawthorne Street, the playground could be temporarily removed and re-built once the event is finished.

The playground has been identified for recapitalization in an upcoming budget cycle. It should be improved upon to reflect its high degree of use, with the possibility of it being themed for play that is representative of its proximity to the lake and historic lock. The size and layout of the playground should be configured to maximize the amount of available lawn space to support event programming.

### **Fish Passage Project and Erosive Areas:**

Fig.4 identifies the boundaries of a forthcoming project that is being led by the Port of Halifax and the municipality. It will create a naturalized channel that allows for fish passage between Lake Banook and Sullivans Pond, and will help establish wildlife habitat and improve water quality.

During the previous ICF event, tents were set up within the identified area. However, these portions of the shoreline are heavily eroded, which creates stability concerns and is dependent on low rainfall to be successful. In addition, the dense vegetation and infrastructure that will be implemented as a part of the project cannot support the high intensity use required by the athletes' village. Due to these concerns, it is not recommended that this portion of the site is used during future ICF events.

**Area Requiring Re-grading:** Fig.4 identifies the northern portion of the site that experiences poor drainage, resulting in water collecting in heavily used areas. It is recommended that the area is re-graded and stormwater infrastructure is implemented. This will reduce the likelihood of water pooling in high traffic areas throughout the year and during competitions.

**Area to be Improved:** The area identified in Fig. 4 was cleared to accommodate tents during the previous ICF event. Further improvements, such as removing excess vegetation and levelling terrain, are required to create additional space for athletes' tents. It could also be used for passive recreational activities, such as a seating area with picnic tables, by the local community.

**Area requiring accessibility review:** The area shown in Fig. 4 requires review to ensure the existing grade meets accessibility standards. This will allow para-athletes and community members to access nearby areas and Henry Findlay Park without assistance.

**Drinking Water Infrastructure:** Access to clean drinking water is required to eliminate the use of plastic bottles during competitions. A drinking fountain has been identified as an improvement for community and event use.

**Infrastructure Relocation:** The existing outdoor exercise equipment and hydro pole create spatial conflicts within the park. It is recommended that the infrastructure is relocated elsewhere to create additional space and improve access to the area identified for improvements in Fig. 4.

**Electrical Infrastructure Required:** A power centre is required within Henry Findlay Park to support the event's infrastructure needs.

## Silver's Hill Park - Identified Focus Areas

Silver's Hill Park is located to the west of Lake Banook. It has a direct view of the finish line for paddling competitions, which has resulted in several improvements for previous ICF events. They include a new spectator seating area, bleachers, and a pathway. However, several previously identified improvements have yet to be realized:

**Interrupted viewshed:** Prior to the previous ICF event, amphitheatre style seating was constructed. However, the power lines along Prince Albert Road obstruct direct views of the finish line. Spectators watching events tend to stand higher than use the seating area to take in the entire racecourse. Additional considerations should be given towards undergrounding the power lines to improve the existing viewshed.

**Accessibility:** There is an accessible entrance from Sinclair Street. However, it does not provide access to the recently constructed spectator seating, and there is not an alternative accessible route to this area. Fig. 5 identifies a location where such a pathway could be located.

**Boosenech Plaza Improvements:** Boosenech Plaza is the main entry point to Silver's Hill Park from Prince Albert Road. However, it is primarily used for parking by the local community, which is not its intended use. Improvements, such as interpretive signage and programming that draws in visitors, may increase the site's prominence during events.

**Site access:** Existing staircases located on the site's eastern boundary should be improved.

Fig.5 Silver's Hill Park - Identified Focus Areas



- |                                |                                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ✱ Boosenech Plaza improvements | ➔ Upgrade to existing staircase                | ▬ Roads/parking lot  |
| ▨ Proposed accessible access   | Ⓢ Proposed wayfinding and interpretive signage | ■ Water              |
| --- Interrupted viewshed       | ➞ Site entrance                                | □ Existing buildings |
| ▬ Existing spectator seating   | ■ Forested area                                | ▨ Area of interest   |
| ▬ Existing bleachers           | --- Existing 1m contour                        |                      |
|                                | ▬ Parcels                                      |                      |

## Lake Banook Regional Park - Identified Focus Areas

Lake Banook Regional Park defines the majority of the lake's western shoreline. Existing facilities include a multi-use pathway that is a part of the Trans Canada trail network, seating areas, viewing platform, and water access points. The park is a popular destination for the community, and it is widely used for swimming, cycling, running, and walking. To improve its function, following improvements have been identified:

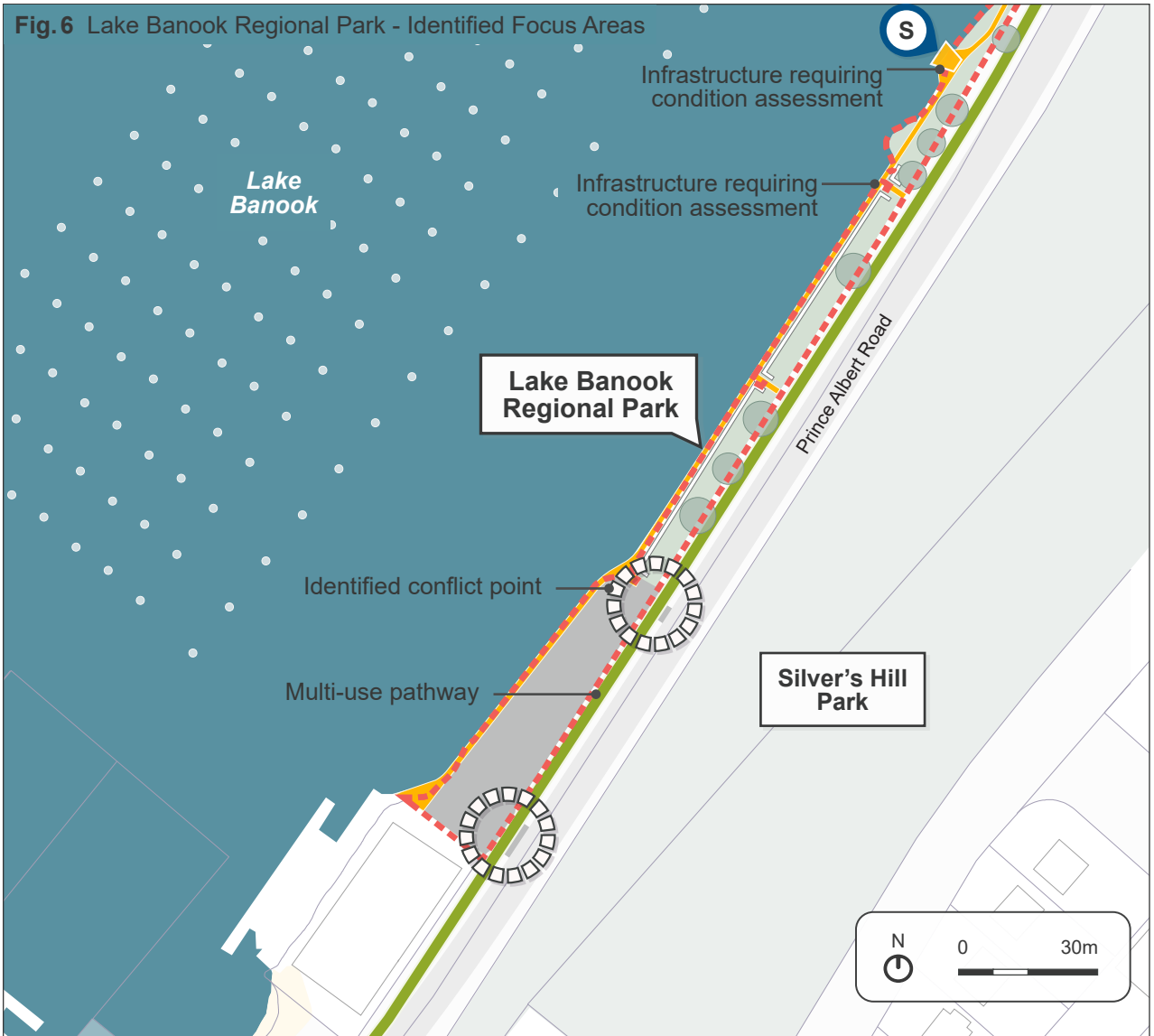
### Active Transportation (AT) Improvements:

Recent AT engagement sessions for nearby projects have identified that the existing multi-use pathway can become overcrowded during events and at peak usage times.

**Infrastructure Improvements:** A condition assessment to determine whether improvements to the existing viewing platforms and boardwalk (Fig. 6 and 7) are required. If necessary, improvements should be completed in the year proceeding the next ICF event.

**Conflict points:** Drivers leaving the parking lot of Mic Mac Canoe Club may block the multi-use pathway, which creates safety concerns for its users. How the potential conflict between pedestrians and vehicular traffic could be mitigated requires additional consideration.

**Water Access:** The proposed water accesses identified in Fig. 7 will help reduce the number of grassy beach areas typically found around the lake. This, in turn, may lower bacteria levels associated with waterfowl that favour these habitats and help maintain the lake's water quality.



- |                               |                                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Proposed naturalization       | Infrastructure requiring condition assessment | Existing 1m contour |
| Proposed seating/viewing area | Proposed wayfinding/interpretive signage      | Parcels             |
| Viewshed                      | Stormwater outflow                            | Roads/parking lot   |
| Conflict point                | Multi-use pathway                             | Water               |
| Existing water access         | Existing tree/vegetation                      | Existing buildings  |
| Proposed water access         |                                               | Area of interest    |

**Seating Area:** The southern section of the park features retaining walls and benches. These areas encourage passive recreation as well as offer seating during events and throughout the year. Similar seating typologies should be constructed in the areas identified in Fig. 7 and 8 to promote scenic views of the lake and paddling events. In addition, existing site furnishings should be coordinated into a singular style to create a cohesive identity throughout the municipal parkland surrounding the lake.

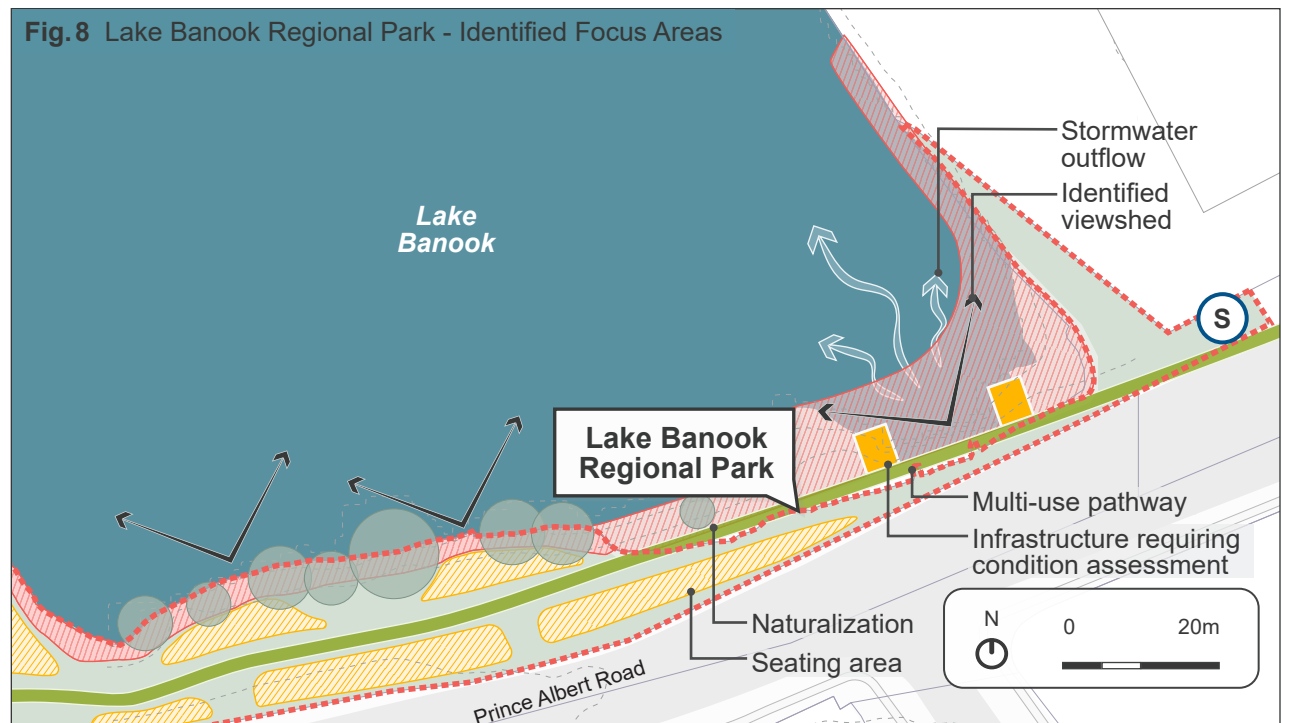
**Naturalization:** There is a direct stormwater outfall into the lake that could be improved by implementing naturalization projects on the shoreline and within the water. However, this area has large stands of invasive species that include Japanese Knotweed. If naturalization projects were implemented here, these species would have to be eradicated beforehand to reduce the likelihood of their return.

This portion of the shoreline consists of large, angular stones (commonly known as rip rap). This feature is important to paddling competitions as it minimizes wave action in the lake. Future naturalization projects must be incorporated in way that considers this purpose.

**Fig.7** Lake Banook Regional Park - Identified Focus Areas



**Fig.8** Lake Banook Regional Park - Identified Focus Areas



## Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park - Identified Focus Areas

Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park contains several facilities that include walking trails, a public beach, boat launches, open lawn space, picnic areas, and the recently renovated Kiwanis Club of Dartmouth. The park is also a popular gathering location for running, cycling, and paddling clubs. Though the recent upgrades to the parking lot and the club have improved its overall condition, the following improvements have been identified:

**Stagnant Water:** Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park was originally an island but was infilled to connect the park to the mainland. As a result, water has become stagnant in the areas depicted in Fig.9. Infrastructure, such as the sprinklers in Sullivans Pond, are recommended to promote water's movement in these areas. This may decrease bacteria build-up within the lake which could increase the length of the swimming season.

**Infrastructure:** The park is located in proximity to the starting line for paddling events. The current power supply is insufficient, and organizers must rent a generator and hire a security guard during events. Electrical infrastructure has been identified as an improvement.

**Water Access:** Additional water access is recommended within Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park to create new opportunities and disperse swimmers throughout the lake.

**Trail Improvements:** Fig. 9 identifies trail improvements that could improve accessibility to the open lawn area.

