



Created with historic aerial photographs, this series of maps demonstrates the evolution of development along the Bedford Highway. A suburban pattern was emerging during the 1960s and 70s, primarily in Bedford and to the south of the study area, closer to Halifax. This pattern boomed through the 1980s, and continued in the 1990s. In the past 15 years, development has extended throughout the middle of the study area. Today, most of the remaining undeveloped land has been designated as park space.



Local place names have always held importance for the Bedford Highway suburban communities and neighbourhoods. Some of these names are historic, while others are freshly adopted identifiers that give a sense of identity to new developments.

Parks are spread throughout the communities, with multiple regional parks near the edges of the study area. Most of the regional parkland features wilderness areas that serve the HRM as valuable habitat and recreation space. Smaller district, community and neighbourhood parks are spread throughout the study area. These pockets of parkland vary widely, and include all manner of open space, such as playgrounds, monuments, gathering places, and walking trails.

Development in the suburban neighbourhoods is defined by townhouses and single-detached dwellings following winding roads and cul-de-sacs nestled between the Bedford Highway and Highway 102. Multi-unit buildings and high-rise apartments follow main collector roads, as do institutional facilities. The largest is Mount Saint Vincent University, an important destination in the study area. Commercial development hugs the Bedford Highway and clusters in the Bedford commercial core. Much of the vacant land is slated for use, with strong interest in residential and mixed-use development.