



Emergency services are a critical part of community infrastructure. The draft Regional Plan has policies that support community safety and security through an inclusive network of emergency prevention and response infrastructure. This will accommodate the needs of changing populations and HRM's diverse settlement patterns.

The Regional Plan will guide development patterns for HRM as it grows. The Plan also recognizes that past development policies do not always meet current needs or standards. A Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Priority Plan will identify gaps in existing infrastructure and identify how/where enhanced emergency services/facilities may be needed.

What's in the Draft Plan?

Reviewing Emergency Services

- Ensuring the location and distribution of emergency services meets current and future community needs. These include fire & police stations, medical centres, emergency shelters, and comfort centres.
- Considering the need for new or expanded emergency infrastructure within developments, including hazard

Wildland Urban Interface

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is about managing and regulating development in areas where wildland vegetation and human-made structures meet (e.g., buildings surrounded by woods). HRM can use community plans, zoning and development guidelines to minimize wildfire risk. Regulations to do this may require vegetation management, setbacks, and fire-resistant building materials.

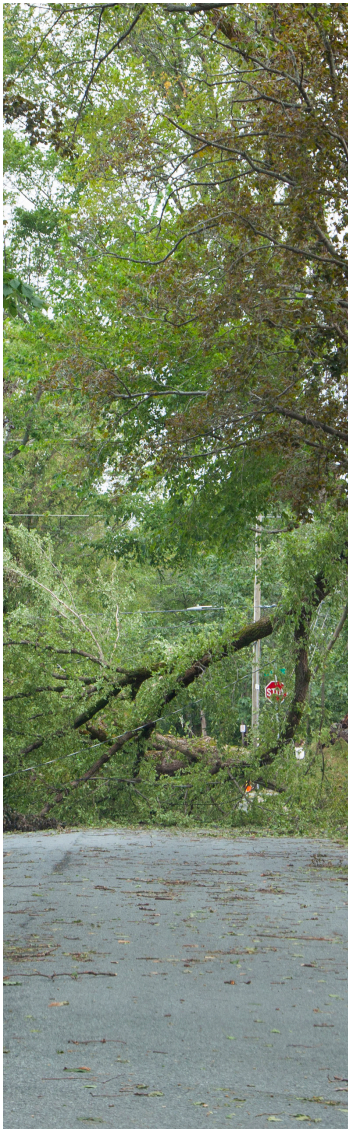


Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is seeking feedback on the Draft Regional Plan (released June 2023). This Topic Summary provides a broad overview of objectives and policies contained in the Draft Plan. For further details, speak with a staff member or consult the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan is available online and in Halifax Public Libraries.

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FireSmart is a national initiative used in some jurisdictions to promote proactive measures to reduce wildfire risk to communities. The manual provides guidelines and best practices for planning and development in the interface zone.

The Draft plan is:

- Considering new construction standards that promote climate resilient building design practices.
- Reviewing resources such as the FireSmart Manual and National Guide for Wildland-Urban Interface Fires to determine how building, site design and community design regulations can be updated to reduce risk.

Street Connectivity

HRM follows engineering best practices for street networks and connectivity. These standards are updated on a regular basis to adapt to evolving issues such as climate change and Complete Street policies.

In the past, many residential subdivisions were developed independently, using cul-de-sacs to separate them from neighbouring subdivisions and funneling all traffic onto a single main road. This is an issue for both emergency access and for efficient traffic and transit routing. The more modern street standards now used require more interconnection. HRM is reviewing ways to update the road networks in older subdivisions to create more direct connections and secondary exit routes.

The Draft plan is:

- Considering new street connections and secondary collector roads, linking subdivisions to facilitate emergency access
- Establishing criteria to prioritize the construction of new collector roads
- Exploring a new category of road for “emergency access” that could lessen the barriers involved in constructing roads in already developed areas (eg, narrower roads with limited use apart from emergency evacuation)