

OVERVIEW

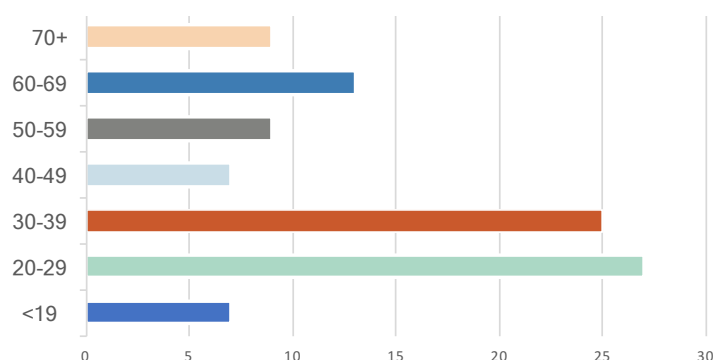
What We Heard at the Second Halifax Common Public Engagement

The second public engagement meeting for the Halifax Common master plan was held on January 31, 2018 from 7:00-9:00, at the Citadel High School atrium. This document is a summary of the meeting activities and public input.

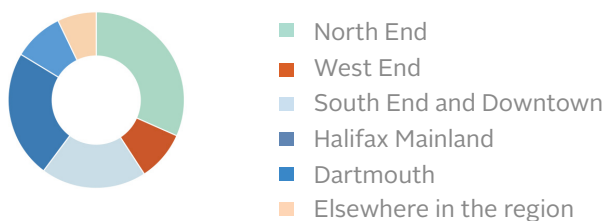
Who Was There

Approximately 125 people attended and were asked to self-identify their postal code and age range. Most attendees live on the peninsula followed by a good number from the Halifax mainland. People in their 20s and 30s were strongly represented and the other adult demographics were relatively proportionate with the overall population.

Age of Participants



Home Neighbourhood of Participants



What Happened

The project team began the meeting with presentations of background information. The first half of the workshop session was spent in small-group discussions around maps of the entire Halifax Common area. The groups were asked to define what about the Common is cherished and should be protected, and what could be changed or improved.

The second half focused on the outdoor aquatic area. Participants were shown different ideas and layouts for a new swimming pool, spray pad, playground, and support building. Each group was then asked to indicate shared preferences and priorities.



Participants worked together in groups of 3 to 6 people, identifying features of the Common that should be cherished and protected. All considerations were marked on the maps, then each group found consensus to identify their 3 top priorities. The priorities identified by the groups are listed below. The overall Common priorities were more frequently identified and are singled out as highly important overall, and the specific priorities were less frequently identified.

Overall Common Priority Features to cherish and protect

**Common Roots
Urban Farm**

**All green
space**

Skatepark

**Public
Gardens**

The Oval

Common Precinct Priorities to cherish and protect

North Common

- Some ballfield
- Cricket pitch
- Sunlight

Central Precinct and Wanderers Grounds

- Lawn bowling
- Playing field
- public access
- Bengal Lancers
- Museum of Natural History

Public Gardens

- The entirety
- Fountain
- Heritage
- Pond
- Main gate

Central Common

- Pavillion
- Skatepark
- Soccer playing field
- Tennis courts
- Pool

Victoria Park

- The entirety
- Square
- Fountain

Camp Hill Cemetery

- The entirety
- Heritage or historic value

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Overall Common Priority Features for change or improvement

**Youth art and
music space
(Pavilion)**

**Pool and
splashpad
area**

**North Common
green and open
spaces**

**Comfort, access,
movement and
diverse uses**

Common Precinct Priorities for change or improvement

North Common

- Reduce number of ballfields
- Green space upgrades
- Create hockey rink
- Remove fountain fence
- Lighting upgrades
- Crosswalks and pedestrian access
- The Oval
- Food vending and markets
- Robie Street edge
- Outdoor stage
- Building controls around the Common
- Connection between North and Central
- Seating, picnicing

Wanderers Grounds

- Open space
- Access road to the Bengal Lancers
- No stadium

Public Gardens

- Access
- Allow people to sit on grass

Central Common:

- Skatepark
- Playground
- Intersections at Robie/Quinpool and Bell/Cogswell
- Basketball courts
- Baseball diamond
- Outdoor space for music
- Cover over tennis courts
- Green plantings

Victoria Park

- Lighting
- Extend it along South Park Street
- Performance space
- Urban gardens

Camp Hill Cemetery

- Maintenance
- Interpretation
- Seating

POOL THEMES

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LEGEND

-  Deep pool
-  Sitting/picnic area
-  Plantings
-  Temporary stage

This map shows the compilation of each group's preferred arrangement for the aquatic features, playground, picnicing and green space. Each scheme was digitized and overlaid revealing considerable consensus on the favoured elements and their relationships.

What we heard about seating and the playground

For the pool and spray pad area, there should be a mix of seating options with open lawn and deck space, maybe some chairs.

There should be seating around the edge of the skateboard park with shade, built into interesting landforms, with use of wood materials.

The surrounding green space beside the playground would be great for picnicking and group BBQ's. There should also be some traditional-style park benches, hammocks, and seating suited for solitude.

The playground should have natural play elements mixed with manufactured structures.

What we heard for improving the outdoor pool, spray pool and Pavilion building

The experience should first and foremost be about recreation, play and fun. It should also be about physical activity, learning to swim, socializing, and sometimes relaxation. It shouldn't be for sport training or competitions.

The aquatic area must be accessible in every way with a sloped beach-style entry for the pool. It should have spray features or a water fall, shade canopies, lounging areas, and places of calm. Don't make it "over-the-top" with themes.

The spaces should connect in a way that makes it easy to move from one area to another. It would be nice to have the pool, spray pad and playground areas together without a big fence that restricts access times.

PHOTOGRAPHS

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Halifax Common Public Engagement

