

Ongoing Community Planning Processes

There are several community and neighbourhood planning processes planned or underway in the Suburban Area that are separate from the Suburban Planning process. The Suburban Plan will not replace community planning work already underway in these communities. Rather, the Suburban Planning process will be strengthened by these ongoing initiatives. Throughout the Suburban Planning process there will be close collaboration with diverse cultural groups, including Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities.

These ongoing community planning processes include the following:

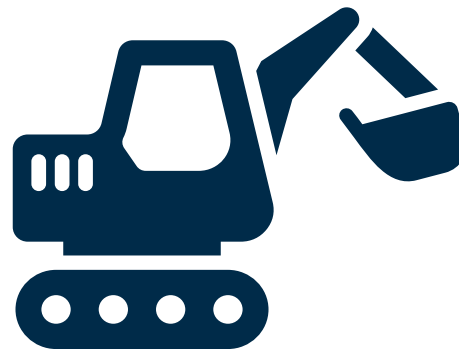
African Nova Scotian Community Action Planning



Established in 2023, the [African Nova Scotian Community Action Program](#) (ANSCAP) collaborates with historic African Nova Scotian (ANS) communities to develop community action plans. The community action plans aim to address service gaps and identify long-term solutions to meet community needs. In the Suburban Area, ANSCAP planning processes are currently underway in Beechville.

ANSCAP is grounded in the understanding that meaningful collaboration between ANS communities and the municipality must be built on trust and mutual respect. The municipality is committed to listening, advancing community priorities, and fostering strong relationships through open and consistent communication. Municipal staff will work closely with the ANSCAP team and participating communities to support and coordinate land use planning efforts.

Special Planning Areas



[Special Planning Areas](#) (SPAs) are areas of the municipality that have been specially designated by the Minister of Growth

and Development to help accelerate an increase in the supply of housing. As outlined in the [Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality Act](#), the designation allows the Minister to make decisions on planning matters in those areas. There are currently 16 Provincial SPAs in the municipality, 10 of which are located within the proposed Suburban Area or adjacent to it. These SPAs will continue to be considered separately and where possible coordinated with the Suburban Planning process.

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Work with Indigenous communities



The municipality's Urban Area (which includes the Regional Centre and the Suburban Area) is home to the largest Indigenous population in Nova Scotia. Within the Suburban Area, Millbrook First Nation has reserve lands in Cole Harbour,

known as Cole Harbour 30. Millbrook First Nation is in the process of developing a comprehensive community plan for their reserve lands. While the Suburban Plan will not regulate the lands within Cole Harbour 30, there may be an opportunity to engage with Millbrook First Nation on land use and connectivity with the surrounding area.



For the Suburban Area outside of reserve lands, emphasis will also be placed on reconciliation through action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's

Calls to Action and the recommendations of the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History. This may include exploring pathways for Indigenous design and recognizing known cultural landscapes.

Urban reserves



Urban Reserves are areas designated by the Regional Plan that may be suitable for serviced urban development in the longer-term horizon. These lands must be studied to determine if they are appropriate places for serviced

development before any detailed planning processes can occur. Some Urban Reserve designated lands are also Provincial Special Planning Areas.

Staff will continue to coordinate on this planning initiative to determine if, and/or how, they can be incorporated into the Suburban Plan to establish a consistent and cohesive vision for development in the Suburban Area.