



Halifax North West Trails Association  
238 Willett Street, Halifax, NS  
B3M 3C8

Jessica Boyd  
Chair

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Kathleen Fralic  
Engagement Lead  
Planning & Development  
Regionalplan@halifax.ca

Dear Ms. Fralic,

I am writing to you as a member of the Sandy Lake – Sackville River Regional Park (SL-SRRP) Coalition. The Halifax North West Trails Association, of which I am Chair, support the efforts of the SL-SRRP Coalition Steering Committee to ensure that this beautiful forest and these pristine lakes stay intact.

We are aware that at least one developer would like to build in this area, and we ask that you not allow this to happen. The Regional Plan over many years has kept the SL-SR area wild and undeveloped, and the Green Network Plan identifies the area as having important connectivity to protect the Chebucto Peninsula. We ask that the area be fully protected within this Regional Plan review. We support the SL-SRRP Coalition submission to the RP+10 review.

We know the lakes and river systems in the proposed Regional Park provide ecosystem services that are incalculable to the greater Halifax area. Clean water, flood, and erosion control are just a few of the services that would be eliminated if the area were to be developed. In fact, we have now learned that the drainage lands connected to Sandy Lake are essential to the whole watershed assembly and must be protected. Climate change is getting worse, we can see it every year. Protecting our forests and waterways is one of the few means we have to protect ourselves from the storms, heat and rising waters that are inevitable.

HRM's Green Network Plan of interconnected parks, wilderness areas and wildlife corridors is a remarkable and visionary plan. Nova Scotia still has many forested areas, but they are becoming fragmented. Development in this particular area of HRM will destroy the thin corridor that is critical for animals to move and migrate around our province. The ecological isolation created when animals are not allowed large areas to roam invariably leads to loss of biodiversity and extinctions. We can stop this from happening.

As a member of a volunteer trails group during this time of Covid-19 isolation, I see every day the hunger people have to be outside in the wilderness and forests. These forests and lakes are Nova Scotia's shared heritage, they must be protected.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Boyd', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jessica Boyd  
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