

PLAN THEMES

The Centre Plan will focus on seven key theme areas to help shape how our Regional Centre changes and grows in the future.

1 Land Use & Design

Modern land use and design policies will protect and enhance the Regional Centre's many unique communities. These policies will keep public assets and amenities like parks and schools within walking distance, and make it easier to live, work and play close to home.

The Centre Plan will give policy direction regarding:

- Design quality
- Appropriate building size and location
- Allowable uses, including areas where homes and businesses can co-exist

2 Mobility

The municipality wants to increase safety, cut travel time, provide more transportation options, and maintain our existing infrastructure. Proper land use plays a big role in achieving these goals and influencing how people move to, from and within an accessible Regional Centre.

The Centre Plan will give policy direction regarding:

- Safe, welcoming streets
- Accessible public transportation
- Encouraging cycling and walking

3 Public Spaces & Places

Focusing on high-quality and varied public open spaces, streets, sidewalks and facilities will make sure our system of shared spaces and places is accessible, well used, and helpful to all residents of our growing municipality.

The Centre Plan will provide policy direction regarding:

- Parks and open spaces
- Community safety
- Public amenities

4 Culture & Heritage

Access to creative space and stable funding are big challenges for the arts community. As the municipality evolves, focus must be placed on the role of museums, support for creative communities, and the management of heritage artifact collections.

The Centre Plan will provide policy direction regarding:

- Public art
- Cultural heritage
- Built heritage

5 Housing

Recent studies have made clear the housing supply and demand in the Regional Centre. Opportunities will be identified to address gaps in housing types and locations while anticipating needs. To help build for the future, growth needs to occur close to existing services – and with an eye towards building communities where homes and businesses can co-exist.

The Centre Plan will provide policy direction regarding:

- Affordability
- Living safely, independently and comfortably
- Diverse rent and ownership options

6 Sustainability

Through comprehensive planning, key areas for resource protection or development can be recognized. This also allows for the identification of high-hazard areas, previously initiated in the 2014 Regional Plan, such as establishing floodplains for limited or low impact development.

The Centre Plan will provide policy direction regarding:

- Environmental protection
- Urban forest
- Stormwater management

7 Jobs & Economic Development

There is a great opportunity to align with and support the Halifax Partnership's Five-Year Economic Strategy. This new strategy will include an economic vision with goals, a rolling five-year action plan with realistic changes, and an implementation framework.

The Centre Plan will provide policy direction regarding:

- Accommodating growth in employment
- Work commutes
- Protection of employment lands (i.e. properties that support institutional, industrial, commercial and other land uses that employ people in a variety of jobs)

THE CENTRE PLAN THEMES



LAND USE & DESIGN



MOBILITY



PUBLIC SPACES & PLACES



CULTURE & HERITAGE



HOUSING



SUSTAINABILITY



JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE & DESIGN



The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Street and sidewalk design
- » Commercial streets and centres
- » Building sizes and locations
- » Places for mixed-use: homes, businesses and shops
- » Areas for growth
- » Areas to be protected
- » Waterfront planning

Land use planning determines where new pieces of the city could go: homes or offices, new parks or aquatic centres, roads, sewers and other municipal services. Urban design involves the design of buildings, streets, parks, and landscapes. Together these processes shape our city and neighbourhoods.

Land use and urban design policies can help protect neighbourhoods, locate amenities like parks and schools near homes, and encourage healthy regional growth.

What do you think are the planning and urban design priorities for the neighbourhoods you live, work and play in?



MOBILITY



The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Safe, welcoming streets
- » Accessible, convenient public transit
- » Encouraging active transportation, including cycling and walking
- » Parking supply
- » Road network improvements
- » Connections and access to parks and other public community facilities

Mobility is about moving people from place to place. The Centre Plan can set policies that increase safety, shorten travel times, provide more mobility options and maintain existing infrastructure. Policies can also be put in place to encourage walking, biking and transit experiences.

Do you think it's easy to move around the region? Why or why not?



PUBLIC SPACES & PLACES



The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Parks and open space
- » Recreation and community facilities
- » Urban agriculture
- » Greenways and trails
- » Community safety
- » Access to services and facilities

Great public spaces set the stage for social interaction and provide a sense of community. They can be important assets for vibrant urban places. Plazas, city squares, parks, trails, and places like libraries and recreation centres can contribute to a healthy, high quality lifestyle.

How do you think public space could enrich the Regional Centre?



CULTURE & HERITAGE



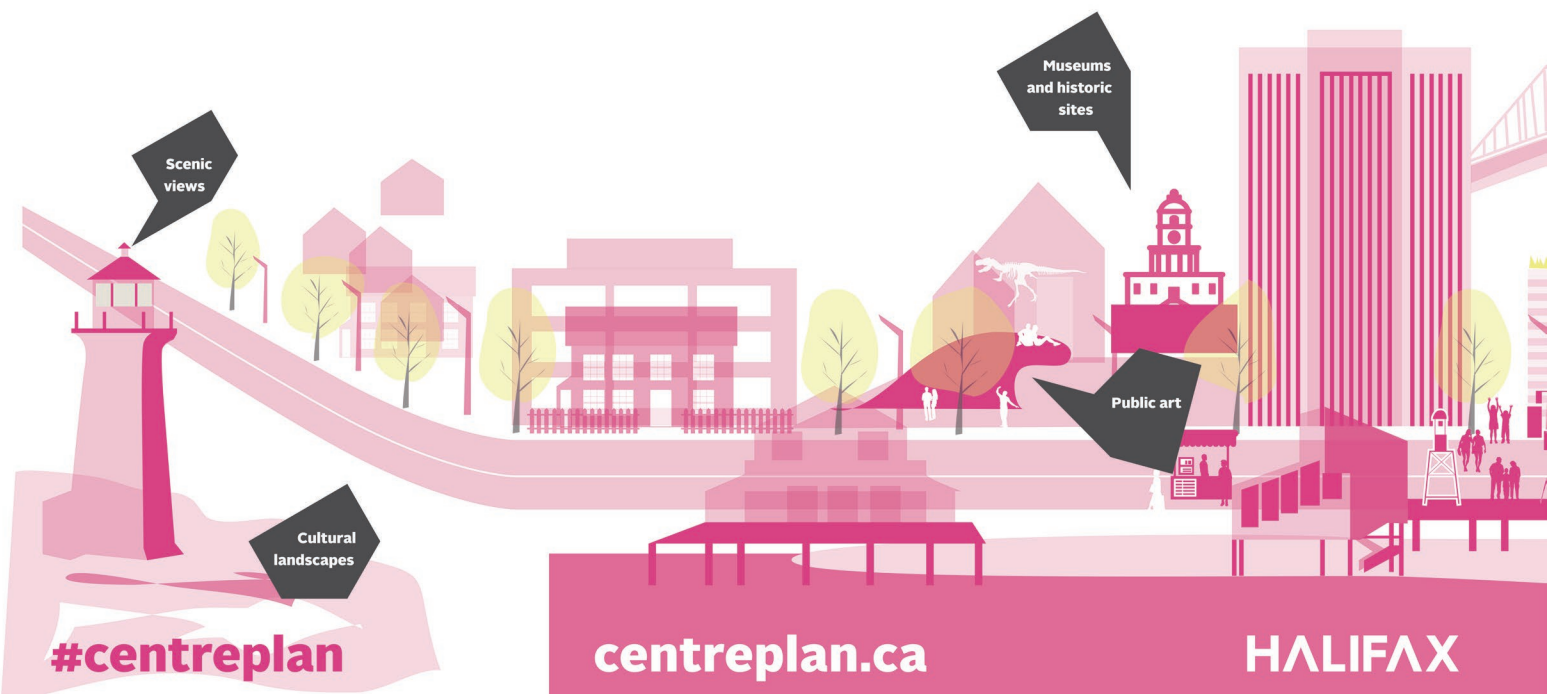
The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Public art
- » Cultural landscapes and scenic views
- » Heritage Conservation Districts
- » Arts development
- » Outdoor venues and street festivals
- » Role of museums and historic sites

The Regional Centre has a rich culture, history and heritage. This is reflected in our buildings, natural landscapes, and diverse cultural activities. Diversity, a rich history, and creativity help define what it means to live here.

Access to creative spaces can be a challenge for arts communities.

How do you think the Regional Centre can evolve to create a rich network of cultural places like museums, creative communities, and public art?



HOUSING



The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Affordability
- » Housing for seniors, low-income individuals and new Canadians
- » Housing stock rehabilitation
- » Home-based businesses
- » Diverse housing types

Housing is a basic human need. Everyone deserves a place to live that is safe, affordable, and supportive of personal and community health.

Community growth ideally takes place close to existing services.

Having a good supply of affordable housing is an issue, as more and more households face affordability challenges.

Taking into account the current and future needs of a diverse population, what do you think are important considerations?



SUSTAINABILITY



The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Stormwater management
- » Urban forests
- » Sustainable energy
- » Climate change
- » Environmental protection
- » Sustainable development and design methods
- » Identifying sensitive or high-hazard areas for limited development

A sustainable urban centre balances growth and the needs of residents while minimizing negative effects on the natural environment.

A sustainable approach to planning and urban design balances the protection of ecological areas with new development. This might mean incorporating new sustainable building practices that encourage people to drive less or use alternative transportation methods.

What do you think the Centre Plan could do to support sustainability?



JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The Centre Plan can help shape policy on:

- » Harbour and port activity
- » Business parks and employment lands
- » Retail and office facilities
- » Tourism

As the economic pulse of the Halifax Regional Municipality and Nova Scotia, the Regional Centre strives to remain competitive regionally, nationally and globally through job creation and people retention. To be competitive, the Regional Centre needs to be able to provide a diverse offering of opportunities.

The Centre Plan is a great opportunity to support the Halifax Partnership's Five-Year Economic Strategy to promote business and grow HRM's economy.

What opportunities do you think would help build economic diversity?



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