

# National Urban Park

## Statement of Collaboration

This Statement of Collaboration between the **Parks Canada Agency** and the **Halifax Regional Municipality** indicates the intent to conduct a dialogue around the feasibility of the potential designation of a national urban park at Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes. The province of Nova Scotia has designated lands as protected Wilderness Areas and the municipality has identified the regional park as a priority in its Regional Plan. This Statement of Collaboration also includes the hope of working in partnership with Mi'kmaq organizations and significant regional land holders such as Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

### Context

Urban parks play an important role in providing access to nature for communities, protecting biodiversity, mitigating the impact of climate change, providing multiple ecosystem services, and supporting health and well-being. Urban parks also provide opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, by recognizing and honouring Indigenous knowledge and stewardship of the lands for present and future generations. Parks Canada and Halifax Regional Municipality share a common goal to enhance urban greenspaces, reflecting both natural and cultural values.

### Working Together

**Parks Canada** and **Halifax Regional Municipality** commit to:

- Appoint a senior representative from each organization to oversee this process, and make additional staff and subject matter experts available to support the collaboration
- Co-lead a series of discussions to explore mutual alignment on park objectives
- Identify and engage key partners including, but not limited to, First Nations partners
- Identify and engage potential stakeholders
- Determine the possible scope and features of the potential national urban park, including natural and cultural elements
- Enter into subsequent agreements, between the Parties to this statement, as required (e.g. contribution agreement for capacity support)

Each Party understands and concurs that this Statement is not a contract and does not create any legally binding obligations between the Parties, but represents their desire to cooperate, collaborate and to exchange information and knowledge for the public good.

This Statement of Collaboration will come into effect upon the date of the last signature and can be amended with agreement of both Parties, or terminated by either Party.

---

Ron Hallman  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Parks Canada Agency



---

Jacques Dubé  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Halifax Regional Municipality

Date:

Date: July 23, 2021