

APPENDIX Z

Park Land Acquisition at Sandy Lake, to 2019

At Sandy Lake, there is a strong history of park land acquisition by the municipality and city. Attached is a map of all city-owned park land up to 2019. This is what we know:

c.1974, Mrs. Pender (widow of Pender sawmills owner) offered a gift of ~500 acres west of Sandy Lake if the park would be named in her late husband's honour. Ira Settle, County Warden, reportedly wanted the taxes from the Twin City Dairy's proposed move to Sandy Lake instead, and vetoed the 3-way vote (city, municipality, Province). In 1986 she offered to sell the same lands to Bedford. Again, she was turned down. (They became Armco's 550 acres, and now Clayton's. Armco clear-cut 300 in 2013.)

In 1983, although the Province withdrew from the plan for the 7 regional parks, **the local areas decided to do it themselves**. Bedford's Mayor Cosman championed the park idea still, but Bedford Council rezoned the area for development for complex reasons touched on in the Time Line. To preserve the area in hopes that a park plan would evolve eventually, Sept 26, 1983, Council passed a zoning bylaw to restrict any new construction to a minimum 5-acre lot on a publicly serviced road that is publicly serviced as of October 9, 1991. This zoning protected the lake from in-fill development ever since, and is still in the 2016 Bedford Land-use By-laws. (Appendix AA) However, with the zoning change, developers began to buy up land.

Bedford continued to purchase land around Sandy Lake toward this future park purpose:

On **July 22, 1985**, a 50/50 purchase by the Province and Town acquired 236 acres for Sandy Lake Park and 61 for Admirals Cove Park for \$700,000 from McCulloch and Co. We are not sure which parcels.

In 1992, 6 acres were given to Bedford by Farmers Dairy specifically for public parkland, with a covenant requiring the land be used only for public parkland, no buildings, and no travel over the lands or parking, no motor vehicles of any kind.

In 1986 CMHC gave its Jack Lake lands to the province. The large public housing development they were planning for Jack Lake would not happen because of the need for 2 expensive highway interchanges and for extensive mitigations required to prevent environmental damage to Jack, Sandy and Marsh lakes. (Jack Lake Environmental Report, 1986, <http://sandylake.org/1986-jack-lake-environmental-evaluation-final-report-2/>).

Subsequently, **the Province gave the ~1000 Jack Lake acres, minus 50 acres, to the municipality for the park.**

Those 50 acres were later considered for a prison but eventually went to the park instead.

In 2006, the same year that the First Regional Plan, Sandy Lake is listed as Urban Settlement area, a successful lobby by Sackville Rivers Association and others made the Jack Lake lands a Regional Park. It remains identified as park today, but is not being managed as an active park.

2013, the city traded Sobeys/Crombie 50 acres of the Jack Lake lands (across from the BMO) to protect Morris Pond. Thus, the city unfortunately traded out park land to protect other park land without the community knowing.

At the September 15, 2014 meeting of North West Community Council, a petition was received from the Sandy Lake Conservation Association requesting that the municipality expand the park lands surrounding Marsh Lake and Sandy Lake to create a regional park and wilderness area. Staff responded

with an Information report to Community Council indicating that planning and land acquisitions for the Regional Park were continuing, and directing community efforts for the park into the Halifax Green Network Plan HGNP. <http://sandylake.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NWCC-response-and-SLCA-petition-2014.pdf>

October of 2015, HRM purchased the 160 acres from Armco. Most developers' lands west of Sandy Lake were not included in the conceptual map. *"In keeping with the Regional Plan, the Marsh Lake lands are highly desired for regional park purposes..."* *"...This land will serve as a positive move to protect and preserve high value ecological lands associated with the Sackville River Corridor."*

Early in 2019, very good news came as an internal report is apparently authorizing future acquisitions for the park, and by December, 2019, Sandy Lake is a line item along with Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes in the city's Capital Projects Budget.

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Map of park land at Sandy Lake-Sackville River as of 2019:

