HGNP

Addendum: Extracts from the Halifax Green Network Plan addressing connectivity issues related to the Chebucto Pennsula

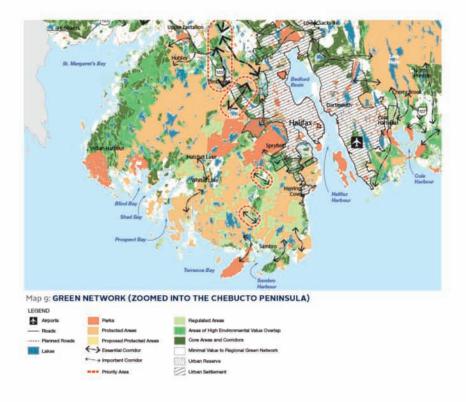
Also view More on the Chebucto Moose on this website.

The Chebucto Peninsula

The Chebucto Peninsula is one of the Regions most important and vulnerable natural areas. Its large undisturbed patches of wilderness, broken only by the Highway 333 loop and Highways 306 and 253, provide regionally important habitats for a wide variety of species, from endangered moose populations to rare plants. While the bulk of the interior of the Peninsula is well preserved, protected by parks and wilderness areas, ribbon development along the major highways is a concern for both local and regional landscape connectivity.

The Chebucto Peninsula is largely disconnected from the mainland by Highway 103 and the associated expansion of both urban and rural settlements. This development has created a barrier to wildlife movement. The planned development of Highway 113, together with the multiple areas planned for future urban development, may eliminate the few remaining natural corridors between the peninsula and the mainland. If concerted efforts are not undertaken to mitigate and avoid impacts to landscape connectivity, the functioning of the Chebucto Peninsula for wildlife and overall ecological health will be severely compromised.

Within the Chebucto Peninsula itself, wilderness connectivity has also been disrupted by road construction and development in several key areas near Provincial parks and protected areas. Old Sambro Road (Highway 333) runs north/south across the eastern portion of the Chebucto Peninsula presenting some significant barriers between natural areas. In addition, West Pennant Road (Highway 349), as well as development along East Pennant Road and Sambro Creek Road, separate Crystal Crescent Provincial Park at the southern tip of the Peninsula from the rest of the Peninsula's natural lands (Map 9 on page 51).



4.3.3 Objectives and Actions

4.3.3.3. Maintain and improve natural connections between the Chebucto Peninsula and Mainland Nova Scotia, as well as those within the Peninsula itself.

Action 32: Amend the Regional Plan and Municipal Planning Strategies to prioritize the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula (Map 9) from the Mainland when reviewing development proposals and updating planning policies and zoning in the area. Specific connections to review and prioritize are highlighted on Map 9.

Action 33: Consider the preservation and creation of natural connections to the Chebucto Peninsula when planning the development of the Ragged Lake Business Park.

Action 34: Work with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, as opportunities arise, to identify opportunities to construct wildlife crossings under Highway 103 and the planned Highway 113.