

## The Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common

### Introduction

I propose that the HRM retain ownership over the former Bloomfield Centre and use the site to create the “Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common” as reserve of land to use for future public developments and to presently include mixed affordable housing, indoor community and cultural space, and the “Bloomfield Urban Common” as a large mixed-use recreational green space. By retaining ownership over the land, the HRM can leverage the property value of the site to derive much greater financial benefit in terms of public service provision than from selling it outright and using the proceeds to fund these services directly in addition to reserving the land for use by future generations.

I propose redeveloping the Bloomfield Centre in the following manner to create the Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common (Please note, for illustration purposes only, I will assume that Bloomfield Street continues through the property from Agricola Street to Robie Street):

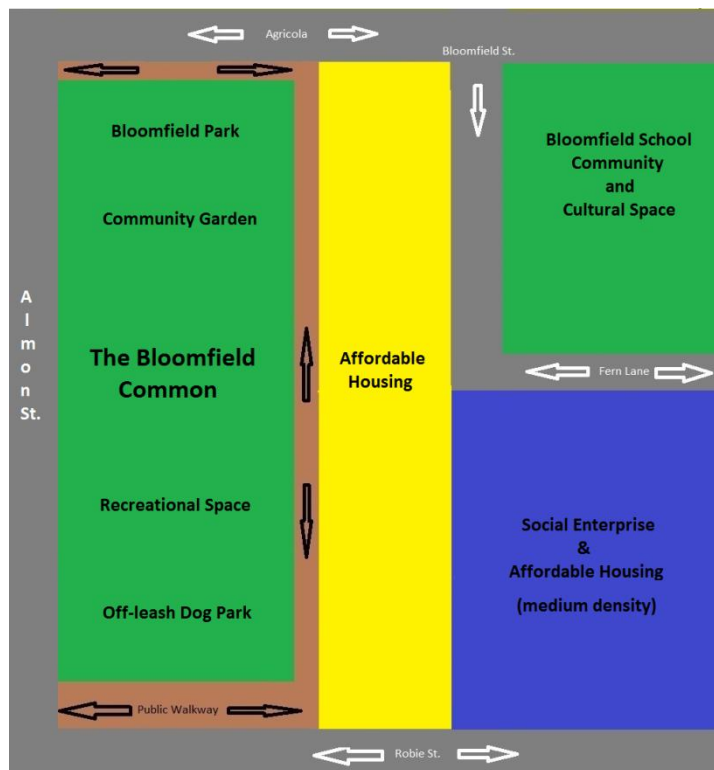
- 1.) Remove the Main Building and lease half of the portion of the Bloomfield Centre between Bloomfield Street and Almon street, and is closest to Bloomfield Street, to the provincial government for \$0/year, for 50 years, to use for medium density affordable family housing.
- 2.) Use the other half of this portion that is closest to Almon street to create the “Bloomfield Urban Common” as a large mixed-use recreational green space. This requires only a 7% increase in the green space requirement of 20% that is already on offer from the city to 27%.
- 3.) Restore or replace Bloomfield School to provide indoor community and cultural spaces that also include inexpensive rental spaces for non-profit community organizations.
- 4.) Replace the Fielding Building with high density municipally owned affordable housing with ground-level low-cost rental spaces for social enterprises and small business start-ups.

Like the Halifax Common, the Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common will evolve with time. The services I propose are only a starting point. The recreational and social services the Halifax Common provides today did not exist 250 years ago when it was created, and the development that occurred in its past laid the foundations for its future growth. Initially, the Halifax Common was used for grazing sheep and collecting firewood in order to clear the land. The cleared land was then used primarily as a military exercise ground and informal walking area before it began to be repurposed as an outdoor recreational space in the mid-1800s to include things like the Public Gardens, Canada’s first covered skating rink, which was also used for roller skating and dancing in the summer, archery, croquet, the Cricket grounds, the Wanderer’s Athletic Club, the Bengal Lancers, and the La Crosse Club of Nova Scotia. The land was also used to provide early social services, beginning around the same time, offered through organizations like the School of the Sacred Heart, the Asylum for the Poor, the Asylum for the Blind, the Victoria General Hospital, and Dalhousie University. The Halifax Common has continued to evolve in this twin role of providing recreational and social services. Today, the Halifax Common continues to provide diverse recreational opportunities like strolling in the public gardens, skateboarding, ice skating, baseball, basketball, tennis, horseback riding, and professional soccer. It also the home of public institutions like the hospitals, the CBC, universities, and public schools. None of these uses could have been foreseen 250 years ago when the Halifax Common was first created. Without the

reserve of inexpensive public land the Halifax Common provided, many of these social and recreational developments might not have occurred until much later in Halifax’s history.

The land upon which the “social” portion of the Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common will sit is an asset that will remain available for future public use. As an asset which is being saved for future use, it should be considered an investment within the HRM’s reserve fund. Adding the land to the reserve fund, in lieu of annual cash contributions, averaged out over a number of years, will free up an amount of municipal revenue equal to the proceeds from a sale of the land and so will not have any impact on the current municipal budget. However, by doing so, the land will remain available for future public use in a time when it will also be much more valuable. The construction costs of the Bloomfield Urban Common can be reduced through participatory funding and business and private sponsorship. Labour costs can be reduced by accessing job creation grants to provide summer employment for students and youths as well as opportunities to develop valuable job skills. The best way to do this would be to involve private citizens and local businesses in the construction and maintenance of the Bloomfield Urban Common through the donation of materials, general and skilled labour, and technical advice.

Leveraging the property value of the former Bloomfield Centre to draw in the investment of provincial, federal, and non-governmental organizations will generate much more affordable housing than the HRM could produce on its own using the proceeds from the sale of the land. In addition, the HRM will be able to provide a variety of community and cultural spaces, encourage social enterprise and business start-ups, and offer a large mixed-use recreational green space to promote the health and well-being of the neighborhood while also preserving public ownership over the land for use by future generations.



Site Plan for the Bloomfield Social and Urban Common

## Affordable Housing

I propose leasing half of the portion of the Bloomfield Centre between Bloomfield Street and Almon Street, and which is closest to Bloomfield Street and currently occupied by the Bloomfield Centre's "Main Building", to the Province of Nova Scotia for a \$0/year, for 50 years, to be used for affordable housing. This will significantly reduce the cost of the project to the province, since it will not have to purchase the land, and so will offer a great deal of added incentive to construct what is already in urgent need. This will have no cost to the HRM and will result in the construction of a large amount of much needed affordable housing while also retaining ownership of the land for the municipality.

The sale of the entire portion of the Bloomfield Centre between Bloomfield and Almon Street to the province for affordable housing in 2014 was for \$15 million dollars. Since then, local property values have increased significantly. The cost of the project was estimated to be around \$100 million. The plan called for roughly 450 housing units to be built with 200 units set aside as affordable housing. Using half of this portion instead, Housing Nova Scotia could construct 200 affordable housing units. At a current purchase cost of \$10 million for the land, and a cost of \$50million for a project half the size, leasing the land for \$0/year would save the province roughly 20% on the final project cost. At no cost to itself, the HRM could stimulate \$50 million in property development, create 200 affordable housing units, and retain ownership over the land 50 years into the future when it will be much more valuable.

Although I have based my analysis on the redevelopment of the site using Housing Nova Scotia's previous plans, I suggest that this portion of the site should be used to create medium density family homes while the portion of the Bloomfield Centre currently occupied by the Fielding Building should be used by the HRM to create high density affordable apartments. The site I recommend leasing to the province is an idyllic location for family homes because would border on the "Bloomfield Urban Common" and offer many rich opportunities for children to engage in daily outdoor activity.



The Bloomfield Centre "Main Building" from Agricola St.

## Renovate or Redevelop Bloomfield School to Provide Indoor Community and Cultural Spaces

I propose that the old Bloomfield Schoolhouse be repaired or redeveloped to provide indoor community and cultural spaces including inexpensive rental spaces for non-profit community organizations.

There is a need for indoor community gather places in the neighborhood. There are also many social organizations that would benefit from having access to good quality inexpensive rental facilities. Providing rental facilities to community groups was a service that used to be offered by the Bloomfield Centre. I propose that Bloomfield School be used to provide indoor community and cultural spaces for use by the municipal recreation department, and the broader public, to offer programs such as art classes, first aid training, IT training, literacy skills, and music lessons. I also propose that it offer rental spaces for the kinds of non-profit community groups that the Bloomfield Centre used to provide office and facilities space for like “Caring and Sharing”, “the Rainbow Action Committee,” and the United Way.

There are many non-profit organizations that would benefit from access to such facilities. Personally, I advocated in the past for the creation of a “community-based science, technology, and business innovation centre,” as a place for amateur scientists and technicians to collaborate and access resources and technical advice they otherwise couldn’t on their own. This would include groups like the amateur astronomy club, the remote control aircraft club, the amateur radio club, the amateur rocketry club, and so on. Working in close proximity would tend to produce a natural “cross-pollination of ideas” while also allowing these groups to engage in more sophisticated projects. I also advocated for a “Museum of the North End” to preserve and make available the incredible history this neighborhood has to offer as a lens to view greater Canadian and World history. I am presently trying to create a non-profit computer recycling and repair skills service, along the lines of Bike Again, called “Re-Compute” that will also include “the Halifax Museum of Computing”. Organizations like these and the ones I mentioned earlier provide valuable services to the public and contribute to the character of the neighborhood.

While the history behind Bloomfield School makes it worth spending the money to preserve the building, if the cost is too high, I recommend replacing it with a higher density community building that would be able to provide more community spaces. However, Bloomfield School is a style of schoolhouse which is rapidly disappearing in Canada. Although it may still seem somewhat “commonplace” even today, in 20 or 30 years it will be something quite unique and contribute significantly to the character neighborhood. For this reason, I think it would demonstrate a large degree of foresight if the HRM were to spend the money to restore this building—which I am sure will be quite a large amount.



Bloomfield School from Agricola St.

Replace the Fielding Building With High Density Municipally Owned “Apartment Style Housing” to Include Spaces for Social Enterprises and Business Start-ups:

Although the same argument is true of the Fielding building as the Bloomfield Schoolhouse in regard to its historical significance, unfortunately, due to the high cost, it may not be possible to save both buildings. Therefore, I recommend replacing the Fielding building with high density, municipally owned, affordable housing containing 1 to 3 bedroom apartment units with the first two floors to include low-cost rental spaces for social enterprises and small business start-ups. The HRM could consider partnering with other levels of government in the project or with nongovernmental housing organizations. I believe that municipal ownership, or at least leadership, in this project will be necessary if it is to successfully include spaces for social enterprise and business start-ups. I think the value of creating such spaces, in addition to the affordable housing, is worth the municipal investment.

Two social enterprises that I have been working to create, and are good examples of the kinds of social enterprises this facility could be used to support, include a thrift store and a co-op bakery. The thrift store on Almon street used to provide me with tremendous benefit. Not only was it convenient for purchasing things like forks, plates, cups, and virtually all of my furniture, including shelves and living room chairs. I could not have purchased these things from other thrift stores, which are much further away, because I could not have gotten these items home. Because this thrift store was nearby, I was able to convince my neighbor to help me carry them home. To find what you want in a thrift store, you have to be able to check back regularly. This is not possible with thrift stores that are far away, but I was able to do it with this one since I'd pass by it several times a week. Without this thrift store, I would not have been able to furnish my home. The extra “income” it generated for me, by reducing the cost of purchasing necessary household items, is significant and totalled in the range of thousands of dollars.

It is things like the Thrift Store that make this neighborhood a great place to live when you do not have a lot of money. Thrift stores are great for the local economy and even better for the environment. Without the thrift store, I would have had to purchase all my household items new from big box retailers selling imported merchandise. Instead, I was able to furnish my home with items already paid for once and considered surplus by others. In doing so, I eliminated the environmental costs associated with purchasing these items new and with the proceeds going into charitable organizations, instead.

Baking bread at home is incredibly profitable. At home, I can produce \$48 worth of income for every hour I spend baking bread. Each batch of two loaves takes the equivalent of only 10 minutes of work. The rest can be spent doing other things while waiting. Although I only spend about 1 hour a month in total baking bread, for this hour of work, I earn roughly 3 times what I would earn through paid employment. This high rate of profitability multiplies when it is combined with additional capital equipment, like dough mixers, and higher volumes of production. Therefore, a co-op bakery is not only a great way for local residents to enjoy inexpensive fresh bread, it is a great way to increase local household incomes and improve to the local economy.

Low rents are one of the reasons that many of the more recent business success stories in Halifax began in the North End. The people who chose to start local seafood, vegetable, coffee, and restaurant businesses did so because they were passionate about these topics. However, low rents provided them the means of doing so. It is a shame, then, that the very things which helped make the North End such an attractive place to live, such as niche local retailers, can no longer flourish here. Established businesses may well continue to thrive, but new start-ups may no longer be able to do so.

In order to continue this culture of innovation and enterprise, I propose that the redevelopment of the Fielding Building also include ground-level, or even multilevel, low-cost rental spaces for small business start-ups. Not only do small businesses contribute to the local economy, the goods and services they offer are part of what makes this neighborhood unique and a great place to live. Business is a good way for people who might otherwise not easily find a way to contribute to the economy through paid employment to contribute through their unique skills, abilities, and passion, instead.



The Bloomfield Centre Fielding Building from Robie Street

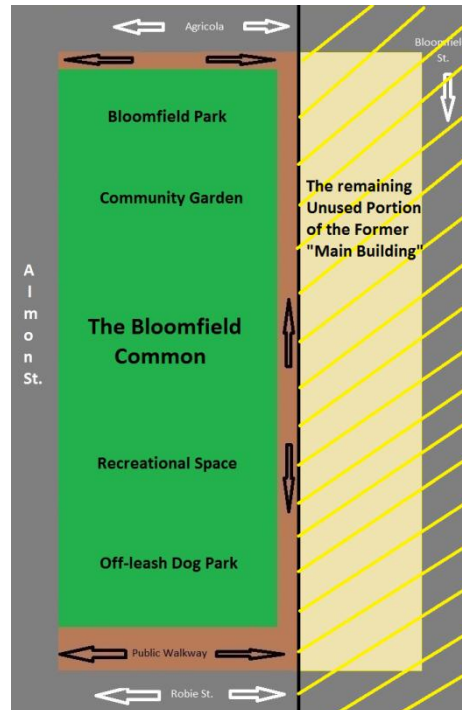
### The Bloomfield Urban Common

I have outlined my proposal for the “Bloomfield Urban Common” as a mixed-use recreational green space in a separate document included in Appendix A, and I have included a layout plan for the Bloomfield Urban Common in Appendix B. Essentially, the Bloomfield Centre is “fallow” and the HRM is spending \$90,000 a year to maintain a facility that is providing no benefit to the public. Demolishing the Main Building, and using a portion of the remediated land between Almon and Bloomfield to create the Bloomfield Urban Common, would save the HRM from a needless annual expenditure while providing diverse recreational opportunities and a healthy natural environment.

The Bloomfield Urban Common I am proposing would occupy 27% of the site. This is only a 7% increase over the 20% green space requirements currently proposed for the site. Like the recreational development of the Halifax Common, the recreational development of the Bloomfield Urban Common would be a slow evolutionary process that would not cost large amounts of money upfront. The site also has unique benefits that would allow the HRM to further save on the costs of redeveloping this portion of the site into a mixed-use recreational green space. Through community involvement, the maintenance costs of the Bloomfield Urban Common to the city could be reduced further. Low development and maintenance costs of the Bloomfield Urban Common will offset the decrease in municipal revenues resulting from a 7% smaller sale of the Bloomfield Centre and so justify setting aside a larger amount of land as a green space. Community involvement is an opportunity for citizens, businesses, and non-profit organizations to participate in the creation of a lasting legacy. 250 years, when all that surrounds us is gone, the Bloomfield Urban Common will still be in existence.

I propose using half of the portion of the Bloomfield Centre between Bloomfield and Almon, and closest to Almon Street, to create the Bloomfield Urban Common and include these initial developments:

- 1.) Redevelop and improve historic Bloomfield Park as an ornamental-style park.
- 2.) Relocate 30 of the remaining Common Roots Urban Farm plots to the Bloomfield Centre parking lot.
- 3.) Seed an area of the cleared Bloomfield Centre with grass for an open recreational field.
- 4.) Use the existing tennis court cage to create an off-leash dog park.
- 5.) Construct a perimeter walkway to serve as a pedestrian thoroughfare and recreational walking path.



The Bloomfield Urban Common Boundary Map

### Cost Analysis

Demolishing the Main and Fielding Buildings will save the HRM roughly \$90,000 in unnecessary maintenance and security costs. Offering a portion of the Bloomfield Centre that formerly contained the Main Building to the Province of Nova Scotia for a \$0/year lease will result in the construction of a large number of affordable family homes for no cost to the HRM. Renovating Bloomfield School was included in the original RFP for the site and, will, therefore, not offer any additional cost over the current expected costs of the project. Replacing the Fielding Building with a new building is a much more economical alternative than restoring it. There is a need for affordable apartments within the HRM, and this section of the Bloomfield Centre would provide an ideal location for an 8-10 story apartment building. The Bloomfield Urban Common, as I discuss in the Appendix, will not be a costly development since it will draw upon the existing resources of the site and community involvement.

For little up-front costs, the HRM can create The Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common out of the former Bloomfield Centre to include hundreds of mixed affordable housing units, a large mixed-use recreational green space, community and social spaces, and low-cost rental spaces for non-profit organizations, social enterprises, and business start-ups. In addition, my proposal will retain municipal ownership over the land for use in future public developments. Creation of the Bloomfield Social and Urban Common will also likely generate \$100 million in development-related economic activity.

In comparison, a straight sale of the land by the HRM for private commercial development will bring in \$20 million in proceeds and a series of payments from the property taxes arising from private development on the site. This \$20 million dollars, if used by the HRM to provide affordable housing elsewhere, would purchase only a handful of units, without any of the other attendant social, cultural, and environmental benefits that would be offered by the Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common. By leveraging the present property value of the site, HRM can encourage much more development using the resources of higher levels of government than it could ever undertake on its own.

Because this land is, in effect, a public asset that can be used for future developments, it should be included as an investment within the Municipal Reserve Fund. The \$20 million dollars in lost municipal revenue from the sale of the site can be made up by simply counting the property value of the site as an addition to the reserve fund averaged over a number of years. The cash contributions that would have otherwise been made towards the fund can then be redirected back into general revenue, and setting aside the land belonging to the Bloomfield Center for the creation of the Bloomfield Social and Recreational Common will not have an impact on the current municipal budget.



## **Appendix A**

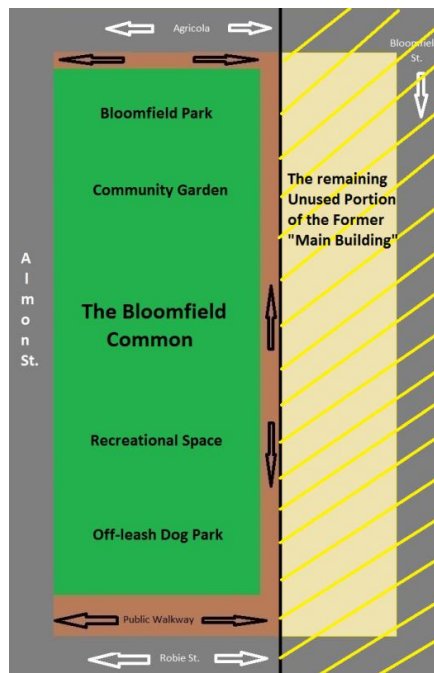
### The Bloomfield Urban Common

The HRM currently spends \$90,000 a year maintaining a facility which is off limits to the public and contains buildings which are now beyond repair. I propose that the redevelopment of Bloomfield Centre include the "Bloomfield Urban Common" as a mixed-use recreational public green space "for the benefit and use of the residents of this neighborhood forever". Like the initial clearing of the Halifax Common through the grazing of sheep and the collection of firewood, removing derelict buildings from the Bloomfield site and using a portion of the reclaimed land to create the Bloomfield Urban Common will eliminate an ongoing expense and turn an urban wasteland into a valuable community resource.

The Bloomfield Urban Common is an "evolutionary" approach to the redevelopment of the Bloomfield Centre. Like the Halifax Common, the Bloomfield Common will grow and change with time. The initial activities I propose for the Bloomfield Common will serve as the basis for subsequent development over time. This incremental approach will save significant amounts of money on up front redevelopment costs, including the demolition costs of the parking lot and tennis court cage by repurposing them, and allow for a "by trial basis" to determining what recreational needs are best served by the site. The initial developments I propose should be thought of as a "blank canvass" which will be filled in over time:

- 1.) Redevelop and improve historic Bloomfield Park as an ornamental-style park.
- 2.) Relocate 30 of the remaining Common Roots Urban Farm plots to the Bloomfield Centre parking lot.
- 3.) Seed an area of the cleared Bloomfield Centre with grass for an open recreational field.
- 4.) Use the existing tennis court cage to create an off-leash dog park.
- 5.) Construct a perimeter walkway to serve as a pedestrian thoroughfare and recreational walking path.

I propose using a portion of the Bloomfield Centre currently occupied by the Main Building along with the land bordered by Agricola, Almon, and Robie streets to create the Bloomfield Urban Common:



A Top View of the Proposed Bloomfield Urban Common

## The Bloomfield Urban Common

### Permitted Uses

Like the Halifax Common, which has changed greatly over time, the Bloomfield Urban Common will forever be kept as a public green space dedicated to serving the changing needs of the North End. The Bloomfield Urban Common should continue to serve the diverse recreational needs of the community that were already provided for by the Bloomfield Centre which include a tree-lined pedestrian thoroughfare for walking and outdoor facilities for active recreation like basketball, tennis, ball hockey, skateboarding, and bicycling. It still provides outdoor sitting areas and community garden plots and is used by people to exercise their dogs. Future uses should be in keeping with these sorts of activities.

### Historical Bloomfield Park

Bloomfield Park was the site of the first public playground in Canada. The Bloomfield Supervised Playground was privately funded through a campaign led by the Council of Women in 1906, now known as the Halifax Women's Council, to provide the families of this neighborhood with a clean and healthy outdoor environment in which their children could enjoy the benefits of physical activity in a time of increasing urbanization and industrial development. The Women's Council also paid for full-time supervision of the children in the park and organized "summer vacation schools" held in the park which offered programs like basket weaving, pottery, and organized physical activity. In 1910, an arc light was installed to allow the organized community baseball league to play later into the evening. There were three divisions, beginner, intermediate, and advanced that included teams from all over Halifax. I have a newspaper article describing a game between the Bloomfield Clippers and the Richmond Buccaneers.

Bloomfield Park currently includes a wooden seating area, with a pine tree in a planter box in the centre, and a small grassy area. The seating area, which is located next to the sidewalk at the corner of Agricola and Almon, is frequently used by passersby or workers on their lunch break. The pine tree in the centre of the seating area has served as the solar powered community Christmas tree for the last three years and is the first of its kind in Nova Scotia. The tree also forms part of the lighting display which this year made Bloomfield Park the first solar powered public park in Nova Scotia.

The Park also contains the Bloomfield Community Garden, which I propose expanding and relocating to a sunnier location in a portion of the Bloomfield Centre parking lot. However, the community garden currently includes a number of ornamental flowers, the hardier of which bloomed until Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> this year, and the whole location has a very pleasant "wild" and "lush" feeling to it in Spring and Summer.

The park is currently in use and does not need major expenditures to continue its use primarily as a sitting area for rest and relaxation. The wooden deck, which includes the sitting area, needs a power wash and some minor repairs, and access to the grassy area should be made more accessible. Further improvements beyond this can be undertaken as need presents itself and revenues allow.

I propose that the park should ultimately be increased in size and redeveloped in the "ornamental style" typified by the Public Gardens. The Bloomfield Solar Powered Community Christmas tree and the Bloomfield Solar Powered Public Park were community-led initiatives that did not cost a lot of money, but provided significant improvements to the park. Like the Public Gardens, the beautification of Bloomfield Park can be carried out by community involvement without great cost to the city.



Bloomfield Park from Agricola Street

### The Bloomfield Community Garden

Common Roots Urban Farm still has 90 garden plots worth of material not in use. I propose relocating 30 of these to the Bloomfield Centre to expand upon the existing Bloomfield Community Garden. The site is actually ideal for a community garden, although it may not seem so. 9,000L of rain will fall upon an area of the parking lot the size of the tennis court cage from a light rainfall. Because the parking lot is paved and has drainage, it is very easy to capture this rainwater for use in the garden. Furthermore, the pavement is an excellent absorber of solar thermal energy. One day, while it was -9C outside, I was working on the community greenhouse that used to be on the site. Although it was very cold, I was sloshing around in water from ice that had been melted by the sun striking the asphalt underneath. The pavement can, therefore, be used to create a very powerful “heat island” effect that will extend the growing seasonal later into the year and allow it to begin much earlier. It also has the advantage of sparing the expense of removing the parking lot and grading the land to make it suitable for gardening. Rather, I simply propose putting planter boxes on top of the asphalt and making good use of it.

Besides being popular, community gardens are good for the local economy. I personally harvested fresh parsley until Jan. 21. from the current Bloomfield Community Garden this year, and I also gave it away for free. I also grew other herbs which I gave away free throughout the season. Fresh herbs are expensive to buy in the grocery stores, at any time of the year, and go for prices that are the equivalent of \$30/lb or more. Community herb gardens are a way for many people to share the effort of growing herbs, thereby reducing it to almost zero, while enjoying all the benefits of fresh herbs. I plan to continue this “community herb garden” next year and hope to make it a model that will be replicated throughout the city and beyond. While the amount of income generate by such herb gardens may be small in an absolute sense, the rate of profit, especially when multiplied across thousands of such gardens, is significant in terms of the extra income put back into the local economy by households who have save money on purchasing expensive imported herbs from the grocery store.



An Example of a Raised-Bed Community Garden

### An Open Recreational Field

As part of the initial redevelopment of the site, I propose simply using a portion of the cleared land to create a grassy field to be used for informal active recreation or simply enjoying an open green space. This would require reseeding a portion of the site with grass and installing the necessary drainage.



Games like Frisbee or catch require little more than some room and nice weather

### An Off-Leash Dog Park

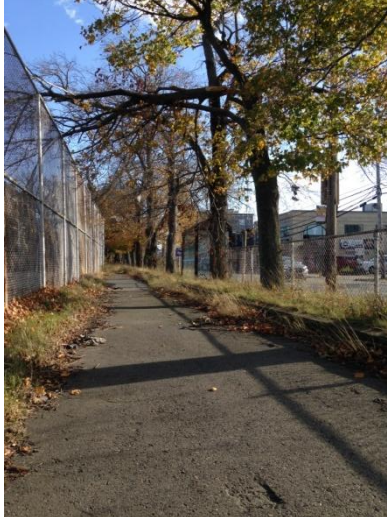
The existing tennis court cage has been co-opted by inventive dog owners who use it as an off-leash exercise area for their pets. The cage prevents the dogs from wandering beyond their owners care and allows their owners to enjoy the time with their pets in greater ease. With minor repairs in the interests of safety, the current tennis court cage can continue to serve this purpose for minimal expense.



The tennis court cage which, technically, is off-limits

### A Perimeter Walkway and Pedestrian Thoroughfare

An attractive array of trees, shrubs, and grasses currently encloses the perimeter of the Bloomfield Centre. All that would be needed to create a pleasant walkway is for an asphalt pathway to be laid around the perimeter. The trees provide shade in the Summer and beautiful colours in the Fall. Overtime, hedge work could be established to add to the “natural” feel of the walkway. This would provide a convenient pedestrian thoroughfare for pedestrians between the surrounding streets and a pleasant place to enjoy a leisurely stroll for people and leashed animals alike.



The perimeter walkway along a portion of the Bloomfield Centre on a fine Autumn day

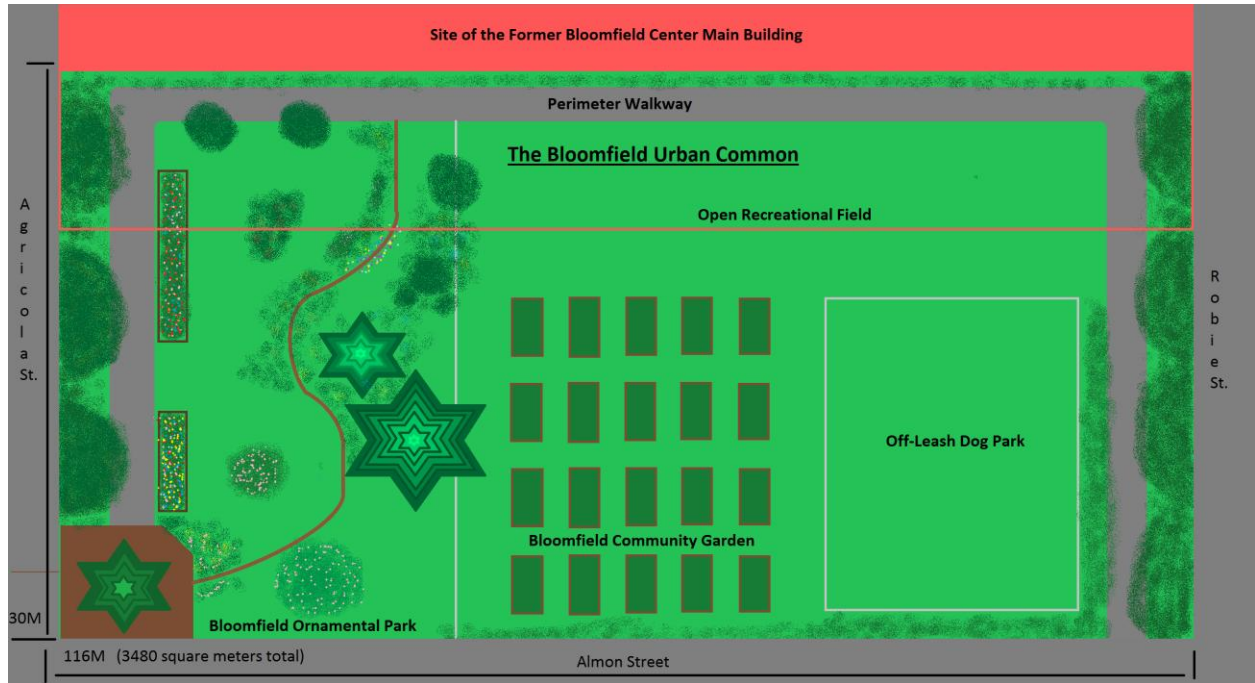
### **Cost Analysis**

The initial developments I have proposed are quite modest, and for a relatively small combined initial expenditure, the HRM can create a multiuse recreational green space in the heart of the north end. Clearing the site of the derelict buildings will save \$90,000 a year on needless maintenance costs while increasing safety. A small recreational grassy field is not a particularly costly development. The Bloomfield Community Garden will be financed through its own resources, and using a portion of the existing parking lot for it will save money on the demolition costs of the existing facility while providing unique benefits for the garden. Minor repairs to Bloomfield Park fall under the category of general maintenance. The tennis court structure can be repurposed to create the off-leash dog park and further save on the demolition costs of the existing Bloomfield Centre. Because the property is already lined with trees and shrubs, a simple pathway is all that needed to create a pleasant perimeter walkway.

Each of the facilities I have described will slowly improve the entire Bloomfield Common slowly over time for minimal cost through community involvement. Those who use the community garden will most likely add landscaping features that will beautify the site. Rather than seeding the perimeter walkway with the typical ornamental plants, it can be allowed to grow wild and fill in naturally over time. The native plant species which will take up residence will be hardier towards our climate and require less maintenance and provide better habitat for wildlife. Like the Public Gardens, Bloomfield Park can also be improved through a local improvement committee or society of enthusiastic ornamental gardeners. An open recreational field will provide a location for the installation of more specialized recreational infrastructure, and the perimeter walkway can be slowly improved with additional landscaping features.

Therefore, for a modest expense, the HRM can create a multiuse recreational green space in the heart of the north end that will serve as a legacy to the current residents of this city for generations to come. The Halifax Common is already 250 years old, and the Bloomfield Common will likely outlive any historical buildings currently standing within this city. The Bloomfield Common represents an historic opportunity to improve forever the lifestyle and health of all those who live in the North End of Halifax.

## Appendix B



Layout Plan for the Bloomfield Urban Common