

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

**Special Council Meeting
Stakeholder Session**

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Via Videoconferencing

Special Council Meeting Agenda
March 5, 2025 (Cont'd)

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Special Council Meeting – Stakeholder Session

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Via Videoconferencing

AGENDA ITEMS

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** (Motion Required)
2. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - 2.1 **Cleaner, Safer, and Happier Communities:** Meghan Richardson (See page 3)
 - 2.2 **2024 Service-Based Homelessness Count:** Catherine Leviten-Reid, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Community Economic Development, Cape Breton University (See page 26)
 - 2.3 **Washbrook Greenway Trail – Detailed Design and Construction Phase 2025-2026:** David Gabriel, Washbrook Greenway Coalition Chair; Stacy Muise, P. Eng, EXP, Project Manager (See page 38)
 - 2.4 **Capital Budget Presentation:** Wayne MacDonald, P. Eng Chief Engineer (See page 53)
 - 2.5 **Operating Budget Presentation:** Jennifer Campbell, CPA, CA Chief Financial Officer (See page 54)

ADJOURNMENT

Cleaner, Safer, and Happier Communities

*Meghan Richardson
CBRM Beautification and Environmental Committee*

Goals of the presentation

- Build awareness surrounding the litter issue in the CBRM
- Inform the community and municipal government about the CBRM Beautification and Environmental Committee, our role, vision, and current and anticipated future projects
- Advocate for new strategies to be implemented within the CBRM to help combat the litter issue
- Build partnership with the municipal government and other organizations: working towards a cleaner, safer, and happier CBRM

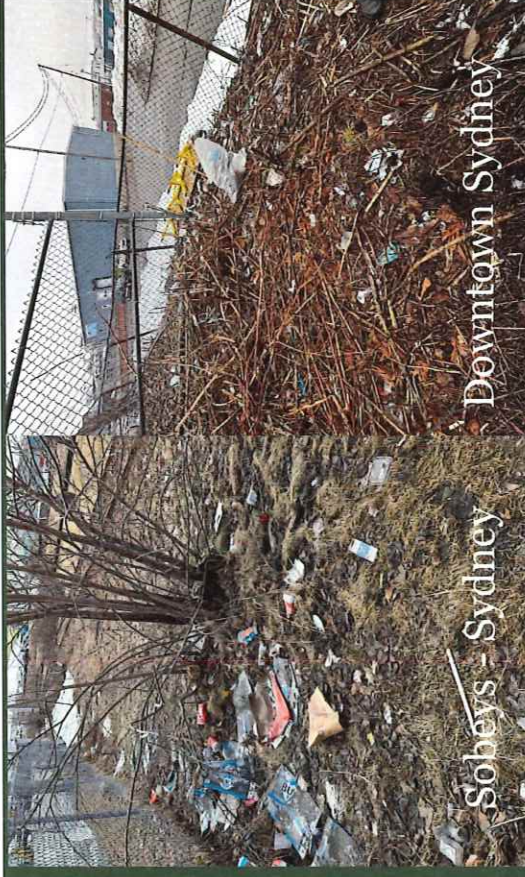
**THE GREATEST THREAT
TO OUR PLANET IS THE
BELIEF THAT SOMEONE
ELSE WILL SAVE IT.**

ROBERT SWAN

Introduction & History

How did it all start?

It was my first time home since I had left. Right before the World Curling Championship weekend after all of the snow had melted, I noticed a horrendous amount of litter - blowing down the street, in bushes, along the sidewalks. I hadn't noticed this before - why was there so much garbage in a place I had so much pride to live in? I put a post on Facebook to see who was interested in doing a litter clean-up in downtown Sydney. To my surprise, approximately 75 people showed up to show their support and 100 bags of garbage were collected. Since then, my efforts have not stopped.



Sobeys - Sydney

Downtown Sydney



Kenwood Dr - Sydney
River

Behind C200

Introduction & History

Oh wait, there's more history!

During our World Curling weekend clean-up, I quickly realized that the issue (litter) here is much bigger than a one-time clean up.

In fact, we spent 10 months cleaning up and have taken over **15,000** pounds of garbage out of CBRM and to the landfill. This does not include the clean-ups that CBRM kindly picked up for us!



Introduction & History

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Why do I care?

"PARADISE UNDER TRASH"

"...WHEN I MOVED HERE, I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE AMOUNT OF
GARBAGE ON THE GROUND."

"DIRTIEST PART OF NOVA SCOTIA"

**"MY PARENTS VISITED FROM OUT OF PROVINCE AND WERE APPALLED BY THE
AMOUNT OF GARBAGE ON THE GROUND THAT THEY EVEN STARTED PICKING
IT UP"**

Quick Facts

80% of the items thrown on the ground in Nova Scotia, end up in our oceans. Being no more than 23kms from the ocean or Bras D'or Lake in Cape Breton, the odds of litter reaching the ocean are even greater.

Studies in the UK have shown t

Scotian Shores, a non-profit in
waste from the shorelines.

The World Wildlife Federation Fund report approximately 100,000 marine
animals die each year due to plastic pollution.



Psychology of Littering

Earlier research states that people have different “mental models” of what littering looks like. Most often, littering is seen as those individuals who are maliciously throwing their trash on the ground, but placing your Tim Hortons cup on a bench or pole and leaving it there is not.

Ease and convenience of littering - carrying a piece of trash home or finding a trash bin (very sparse in the CBRM) is way more effort than just littering. Until littering is to be made more difficult through a change in social norms, more trash cans, enforced punishment, littering will always be the easy choice. Research shows that the strongest predictor of littering is the distance of trash receptacles.

Another strong predictor of littering is the presence of existing litter. Therefore, littering behavior is less likely if there is a place that is free of litter.

Societal and cultural norms of the environment are largely at play. Unfortunately, within Cape Breton, if you are looking for help on how to dispose of your trash, you do not have to look too far: highways, commercial and residential properties, along rivers and beaches. Clearly, to the litterer, the answer is to throw it with the rest!

“It’s not my job”, “Out of sight, out of mind.”

Clean Europe Strategy



Measure & Monitor

IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THE ISSUE AND SET TARGETS

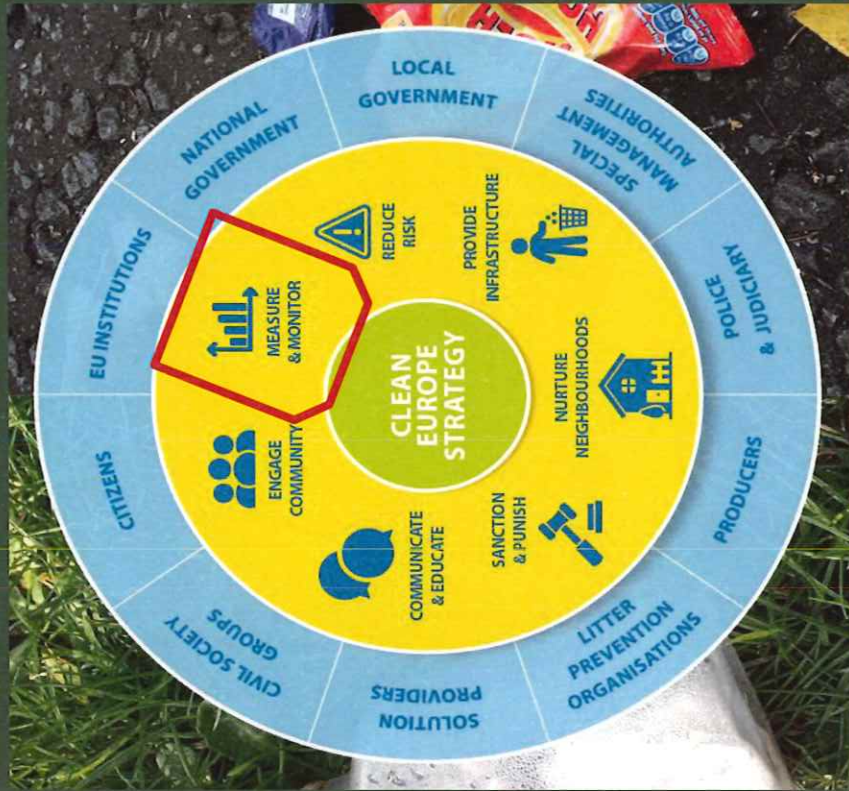
Collecting data to understand the extent of the issue.

- What is the problem?
- Where is the problem?
- How big is the problem?

Implement appropriate programs and remedial measures according to the extent of the issue.

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

- National governments (not our focus right now)
- Local governments (municipal & provincial)
- Litter prevention organizations



Measure &

- Commercial areas
- Protected and sensitive areas
- Highways
- Look-offs
- Secluded areas



Litter problem 'absolutely disgusting' in Cape Breton: councillor

CBC News · Posted: Mar 18, 2009 11:35 AM ADT | Last Updated: Mar 18, 2009

2009

Cape Breton regional councillors are urging residents to take a stand against littering.

Council passed a resolution Tuesday night asking people to pledge to toss their trash in the garbage and to encourage others to do the same.

The motion put forward by Coun. Clarence Prince passed after a debate about the region's littered streets and parks.

?

Measure & Monitor - How big is the problem?

Unfortunately, the litter issue within CBRM is only getting worse.

In 2021, ACAP Cape Breton collected a total of 15,000lbs of trash within a 4 month period. This was an increase of 240kg than the year before.

In 2021, Divert NS conducted a roadside litter survey which looked at large and small items of litter in different sites across Nova Scotia. Compared to other sites across the province, Cape Breton had the highest large litter along roadsides and small litter within supersites.

In this same study, Nova Scotia was compared to other municipalities in North America. Nova Scotia had the highest average of large litter items roadside than cities such as San Francisco, Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver.

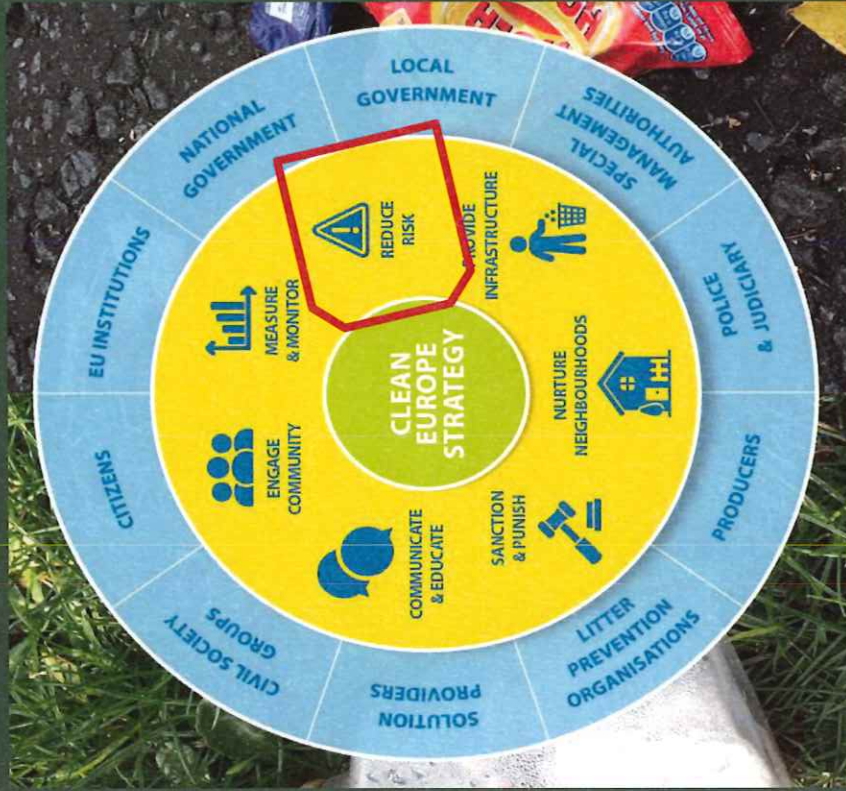
Reduce Risk

TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE/MITIGATE THE RISK OF LITTERING AT THE SOURCE

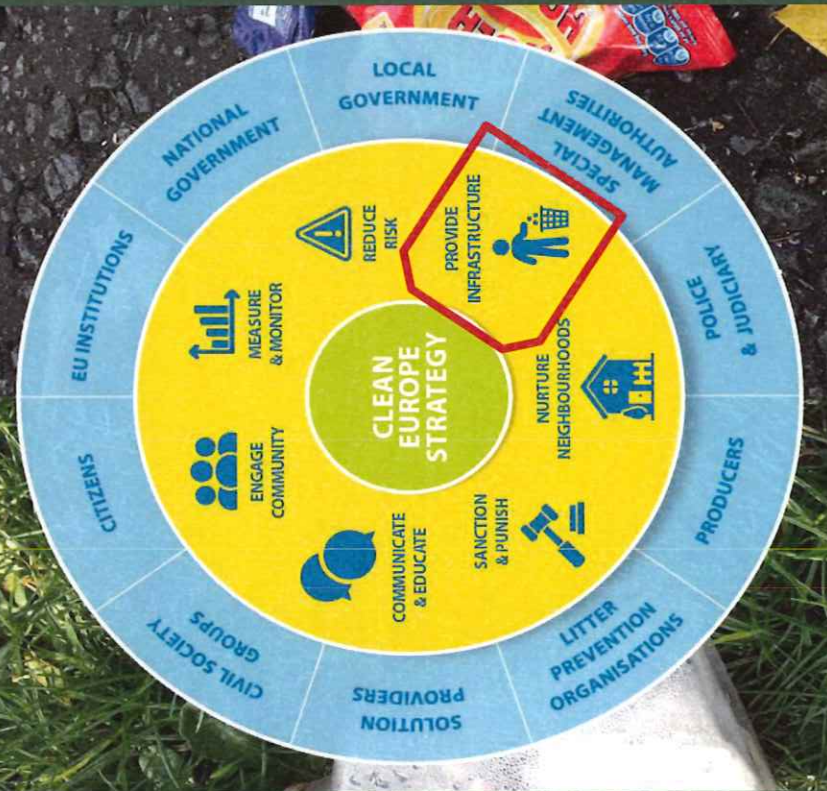
- Take action to reduce/mitigate the littering at its source.
- Legislative restrictions on problematic products/consumption habits
 - Regulate contexts where littering is high (fast food restaurants, commercial companies)

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

- National governments (not our focus right now)
- Local governments (municipal & provincial)
- Businesses



Provide Infrastructure



ENSURING PROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND RELATED SYSTEMS ARE IN PLACE

- Effective waste disposal infrastructure in public places
- Effective and adapted waste collection and management systems for items in public bins
- Smart, effective cleaning litter
- Sorting of litter collected

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

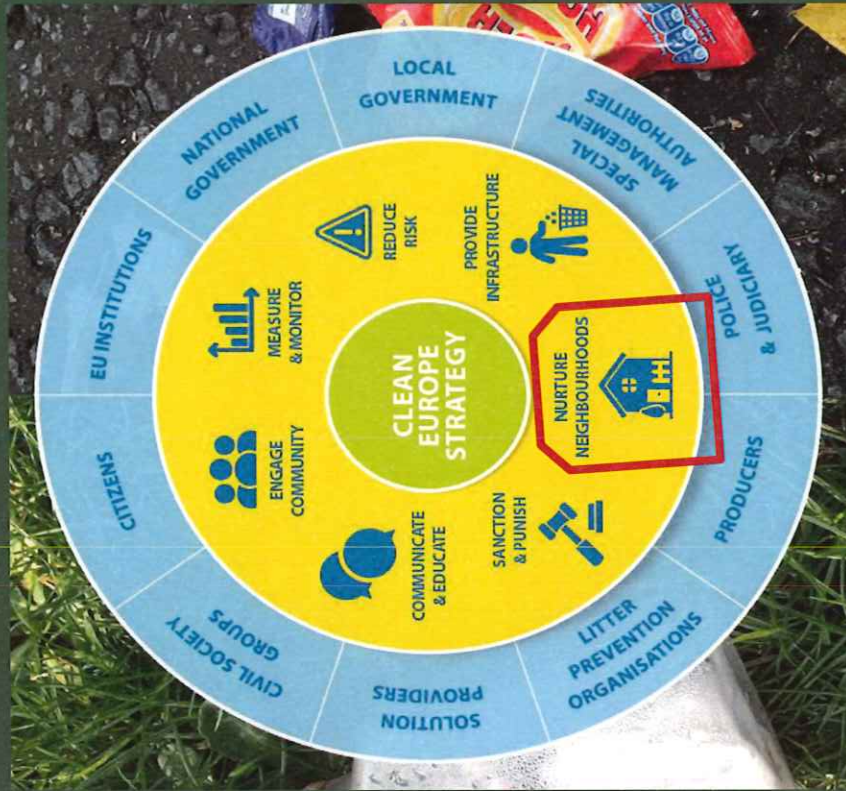
- National governments (not our focus right now)
- Local governments (municipal & provincial)
- Authorities
- Solid Waste Management
- Litter prevention organizations

Nurture Neighbourhoods

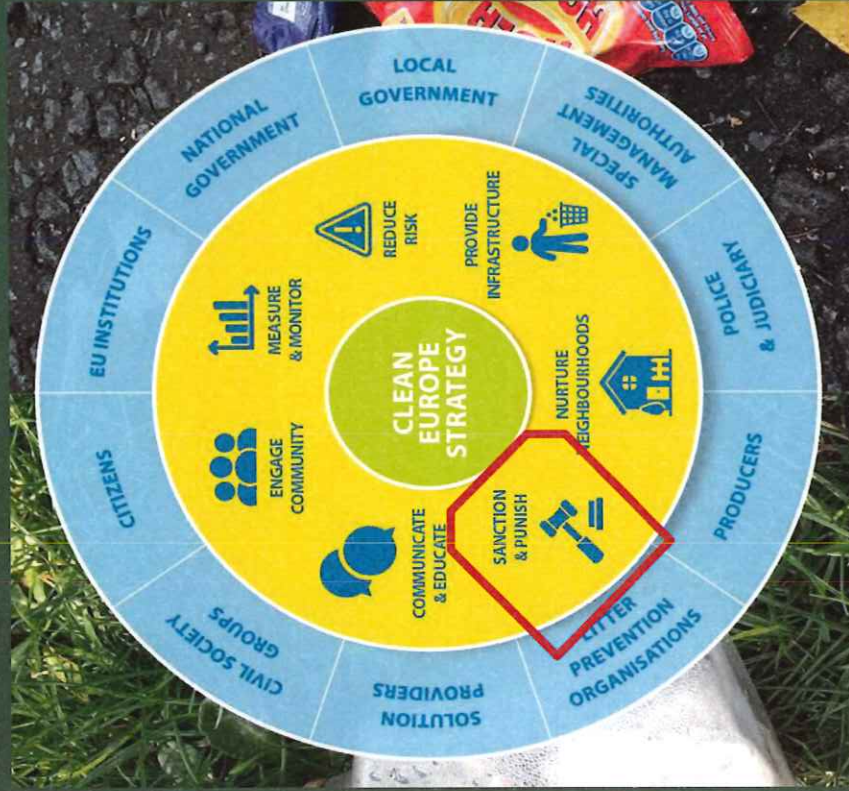
LOOK AFTER THE MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT OF EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Municipalities and communities are extremely important in this strategy as they operate one way or another, are the role-models and show example of what we are doing and why we are doing it (promotes behavior change). People will look to others on guidance of how to behave.

- Ensure that, as well as regular cleansing, neighbourhoods are well-maintained in general so as to boost civic pride and make littering socially unacceptable
- Replace/renew street furniture
- Repair or renew street landscape
- Avoid dereliction
- Promote greener spaces
- Avoid graffiti



Sanction & Punish



SET CLEAN, VISIBLE SANCTIONS AGAINST OFFENDERS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Ensure there is a strong legal framework that exists to sanction those who are deliberately dropping or dumping litter
- Set truly dissuasive and punitive sanctions (ridiculous fines which make it not worth it)
- Enforce the law firmly, consistently and ideally, immediately
- Publicise enforcement actions to deter the behavior

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

- Local government (municipal and provincial)
- Authorities
- Judicial system

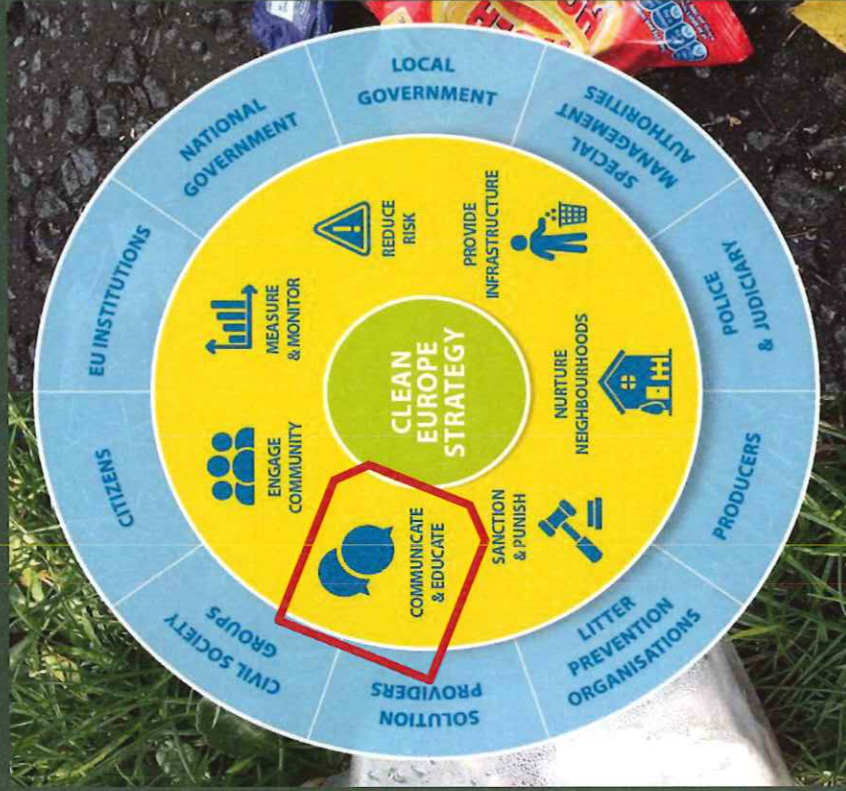
Communicate & Educate

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

- Design, implement and sustain litter education and awareness
- Put the focus of education on behavior change
- Target populations and segments of society who may be more susceptible to littering
- Use the right approaches, messages and delivery for the audience

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

- Local government (municipal and provincial)
- Litter prevention organizations
- Families and schools



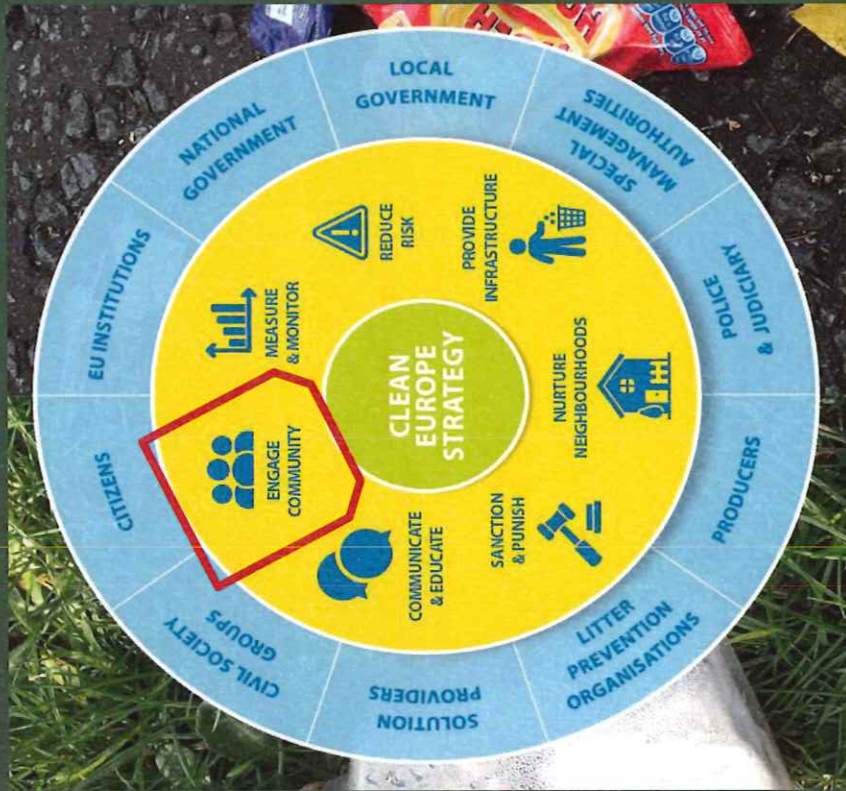
Engage the Community

ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY WORK & CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- Promote civic pride
- Work to make littering socially unacceptable
- Engage citizens in community work to raise awareness in the desirability of having clean spaces, and the negative environmental impacts of littering
- Target overall betterment of neighbourhoods and general voluntary clean-up actions

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

- Local government (municipal and provincial)
- Local businesses
- Families, schools and societies



CBRM Beautification and Environmental Committee's Role

The aim of CBRM Beautification and Environmental Committee is to build civic pride through cleaning and beautifying the CBRM.

In-progress Projects



Bell Box Project



Utility Box Project



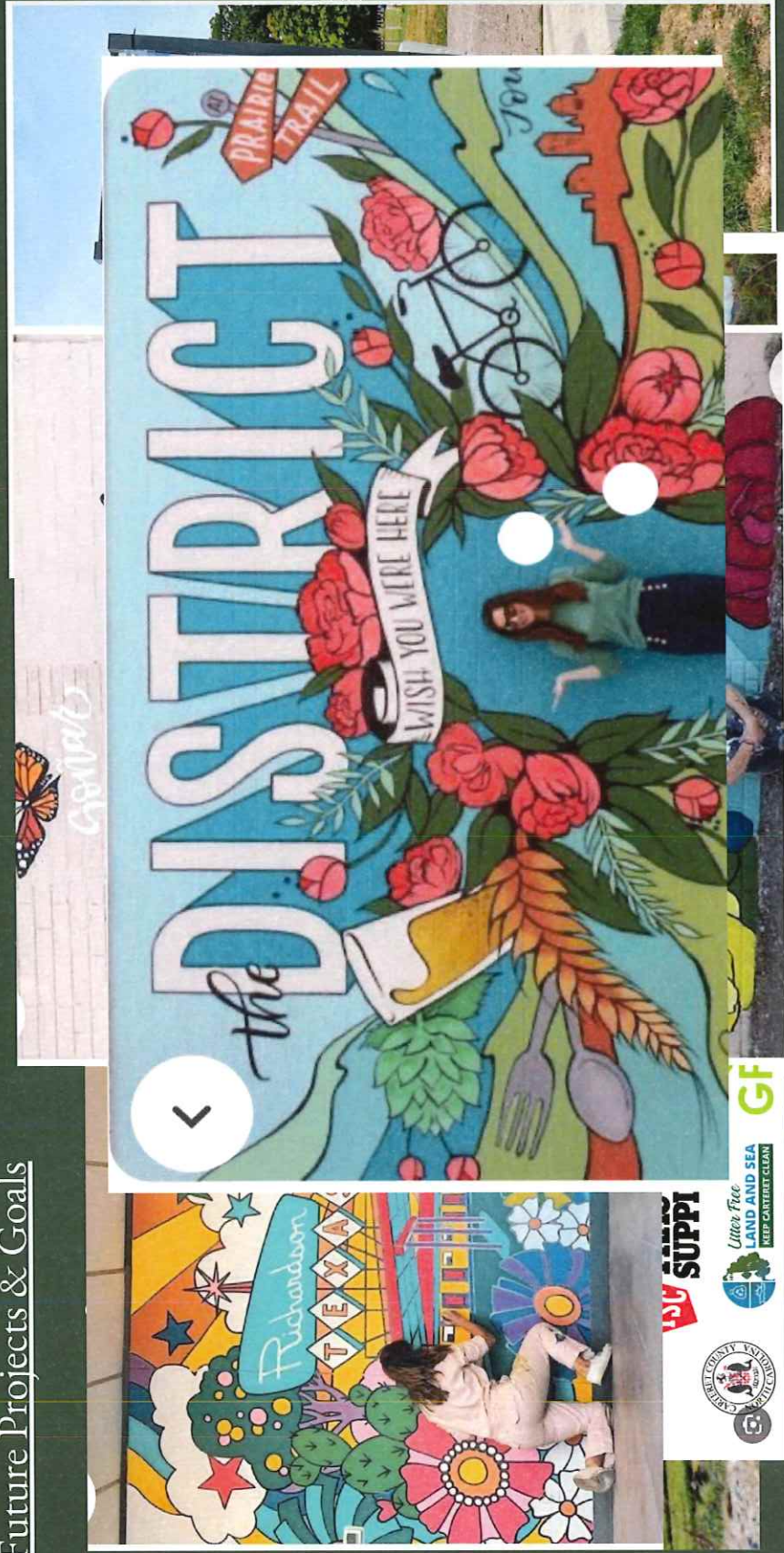
Litter Clean-ups



Signage

CBRM Community Action Team's Role

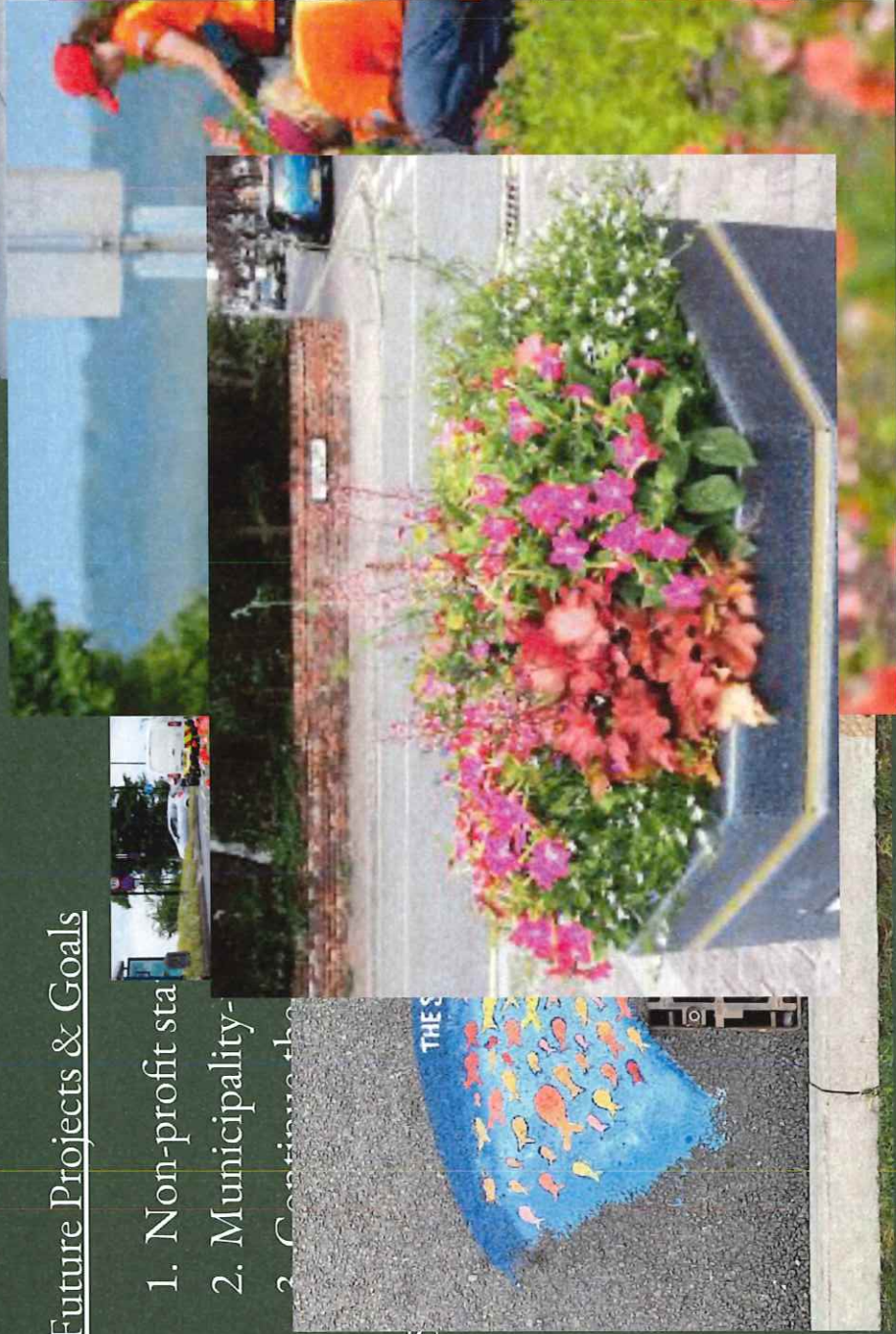
Future Projects & Goals



CBRM Community Action Team's Role

Future Projects & Goals

1. Non-profit sta
2. Municipality-
2. Continue the



Closing Remarks

We have dived into the systems involved in making real change with littering behavior. Unfortunately, we cannot change everyone's behavior unless they want to. However, we can take steps to minimize the urge to throw trash on the ground. It needs to be an integrated system to change this very large and persistent issue, and we need all leaders and community members on board.

Litter is everyone's issue!

I hope you are all on board to change CBRM for better!



QUESTIONS?



Thank you!

2024 Service-Based Homelessness Count

EASTERN ZONE of NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH

Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness, Richmond, Victoria and
Cape Breton Counties



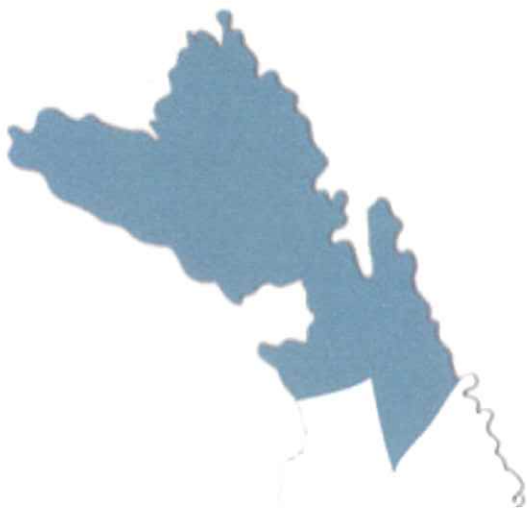
A Coalition of Community Partners



Cape Breton Regional Municipality area

Our Methods

- Organizations reported on the number of clients they thought were experiencing some form of homelessness over the month of June, 2024
- A survey was completed for each client aged 16+ located in the Eastern Zone (Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness, Richmond, Victoria, and Cape Breton Counties)
- Each survey had a unique identifier so we could track and remove duplicate entries



Results:

Homelessness in the Eastern Zone



Total: 719 people (aged 16+) experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Zone of Nova Scotia Health

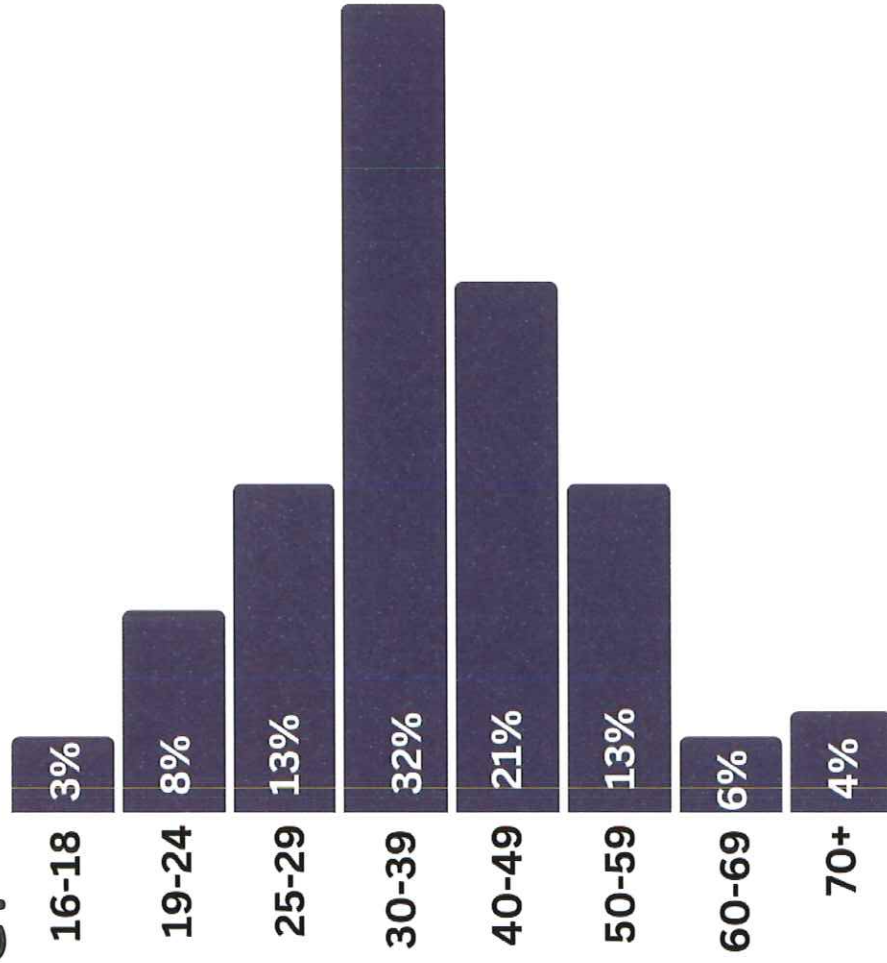
Homelessness by County

Type of Homelessness	Cape Breton County		Antigonish & Guysborough		Inverness, Richmond & Victoria	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unsheltered	58	10%	10	13%	10	12%
Emergency sheltered	105	19%	5	7%	5	6%
Temporarily accommodated	185	33%	29	39%	26	30%
Institutional care	61	11%	0	0%	5	6%
At risk of homelessness	148	27%	31	41%	41	47%
Totals:	557	77%	75	10%	87	12%

All Counties:

Who is Experiencing Homelessness?

Age:



Age:

Most individuals
experiencing
homelessness are
in their 30s

All Counties:

Who is Experiencing Homelessness?

♂ 48% male

1% other

♀ 50% female

1% gender not reported
or missing

Women are increasingly represented among those experiencing homelessness. In 2016 and 2018, about 40% of individuals experiencing homelessness were women.

All Counties:

Who is Experiencing Homelessness?

- 12% (84 individuals) were Indigenous
- 4% (27 individuals) were Black / African Nova Scotian
- 4% (25 individuals) were 2SLGBTQIA+
- 2% (15 individuals) were Newcomers to Canada
- 35% (253 individuals) were living with mental illness
- 36% (257 individuals) were living with addiction

Barriers to Accessing Stable, Permanent Housing

For the 719 individuals 16+ who are experiencing homelessness...

- **433 (60%)** note that rents are too high
- **397 (55%)** report low income, despite income being connected to Government Assistance
- **346 (48%)** cite addiction/substance use
- **312 (44%)** cite mental illness
- **142 (20%)** said there was a lack of housing in good repair
- **141 (20%)** cite family breakdown— conflict with family, “kicked out”, separation/divorce, etc.

All Counties: Changes in Homelessness Since 2021

Housing Situation	2021	2024	Difference
Unsheltered	45	78	+33
Emergency sheltered	76	115	+39
Provisionally accommodated	150	240	+90
Institutional care	46	66	+20
At risk of homelessness	102	220	+118
Total	419	719	+300

Cape Breton County: Changes in Homelessness Since 2021

Housing Situation	2021	2024	Difference
Unsheltered	33	58	+25
Emergency Sheltered	65	105	+40
Temporarily accommodated	107	185	+78
Institutional care	46	61	+15
At risk of homelessness	74	148	+74
Total	325	557	+232

(Showing data specific to Cape Breton County only)

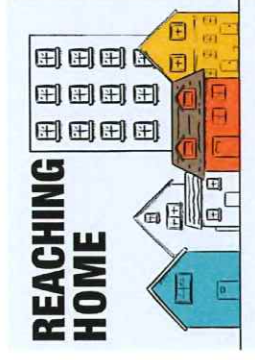
Cape Breton County: Changes in Homelessness since 2016



*Excluding “at risk of homelessness” category because that data was not collected in 2016 and 2018.
(Showing data specific to Cape Breton County only)

Service-Based Homelessness Count 2024

Thank you to our funders:



Questions/correspondence regarding this study can be directed to
Catherine Leviten-Reid at Cape Breton University

catherine_leviten-reid@cbu.ca



WASHBROOK GREENWAY TRAIL

DETAILED DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION PHASE

2025-2026



WASHBROOK GREENWAY
COALITION



exp.





Who We Are

The **Washbrook Greenway Coalition** is a group of local stakeholders who have actively pursued their mission since 2017 to create and maintain an accessible, active transportation green corridor trail along the Washbrook, connecting the Downtown to the southend of Sydney.

EXP has been delivering consulting service to Atlantic Canadians for over 75 years with a local team of over 200 professionals providing experienced architectural and engineering services.

Key Activities Completed

2020

- **Conceptual Plan** developed by Upland Planning & presented to CBRM Council
- **Stakeholder Consultation** held

2021

- **Schematic Plan** developed with second round of public consultation

2022

- **Key funding secured for trail 2022-2024** (fed, prov, mun) totalling \$1,183,948

2023

- **Presented to CBRM Council** for funding request
- **MOU** with CBRM signed
- **Duty to consult** successfully completed for all 13 Mi'kmaq communities

2024

- **Easement process** initiated by CBRM staff and WGC members
- **Detailed Design** completed (95% Plan) by EXP and Fathom Studio



Project Funding Sources	
Secured Funding for Trail Development:	
Funder	Amount
NS Communities, Culture, Tourism, & Heritage	\$80,000
Housing, Infrastructure, & Communities Canada	\$922,000
Employment & Social Development Canada	\$48,000
Cape Breton Regional Municipality	\$134,000
TOTAL	\$1,184,000
Pending Funding for Trail Development:	
Funder	Amount
NS Communities, Culture, Tourism, & Heritage	\$230,000
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	\$803,000
NS Growth and Development	\$506,000
TOTAL	\$1,539,000

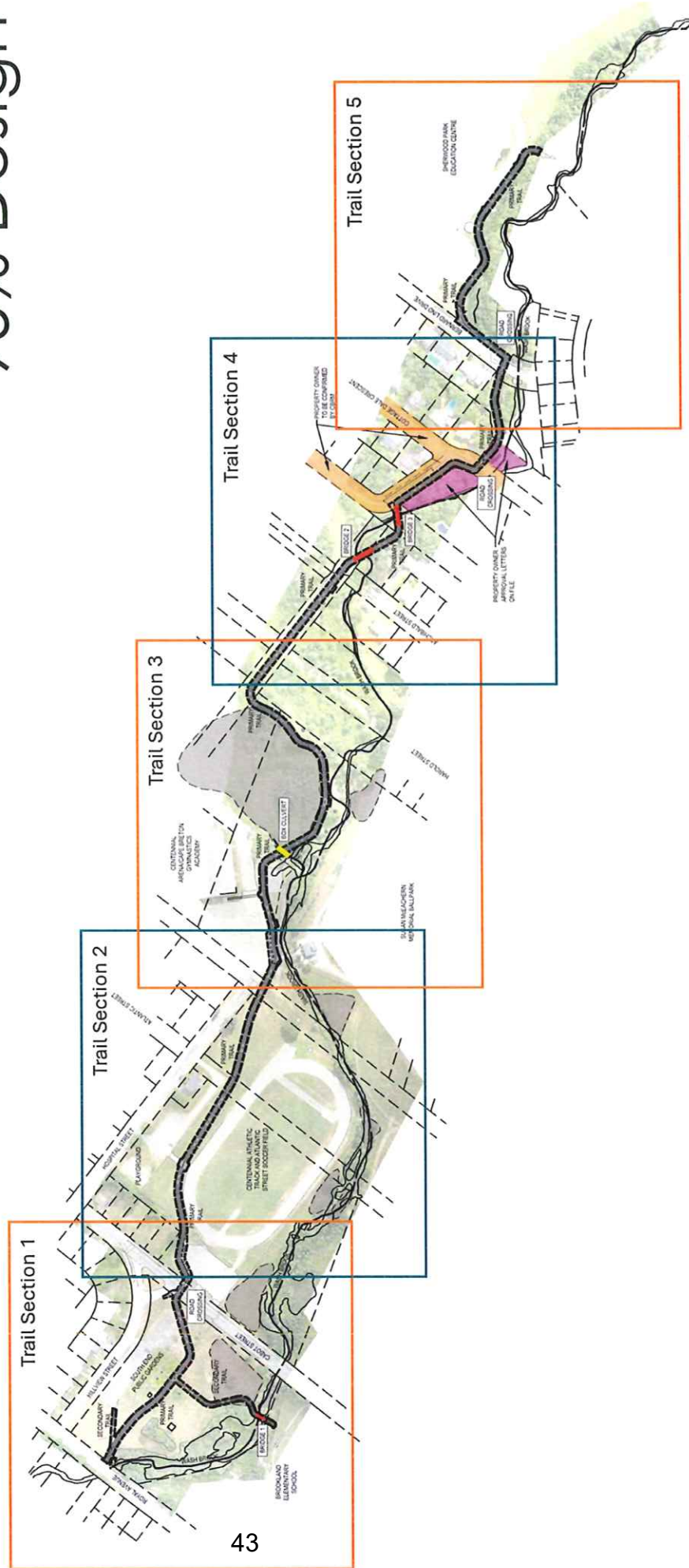
Design Overview

- Initial site visit with WGC to walk the extent of the proposed trail
- Workshop with EXP/Fathom, WGC, ACAP, and CBRM to review project goals, challenges, and to review alignment options
- Topographical Survey
- Crosswalk Analysis
- Geotechnical Investigation
- 30% Concept Design and Class D Cost Estimate
- Culvert Options Analysis
- Property Ownership Searches
- 60% Design and Class B Cost Estimate
- Trail and Bridge Impact Assessment
- 95% Detailed Design and Class A Cost Estimate
- Environmental Permitting Applications



Washbrook Greenway Trail

95% Design



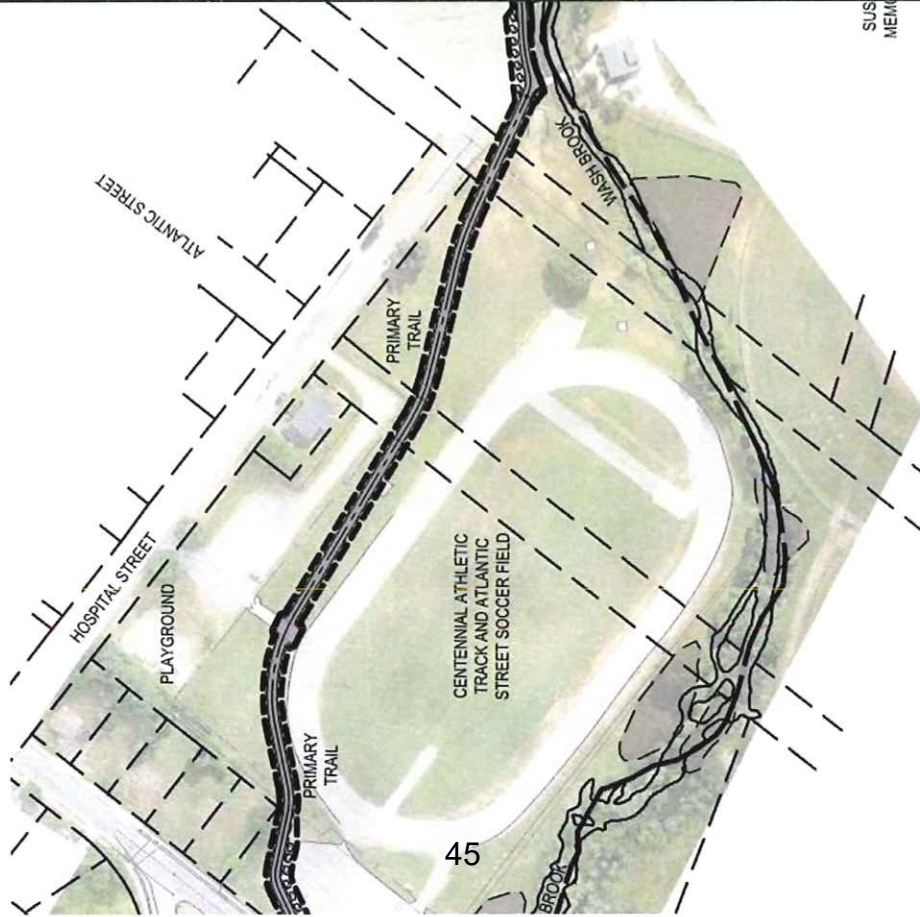
Trail Section 1

- Trail Head
- Secondary Trail with Bridge
- Southend Public Gardens
- Cabot Street Crosswalk
- Wetland Area (working with ACAP)



Trail Section 2

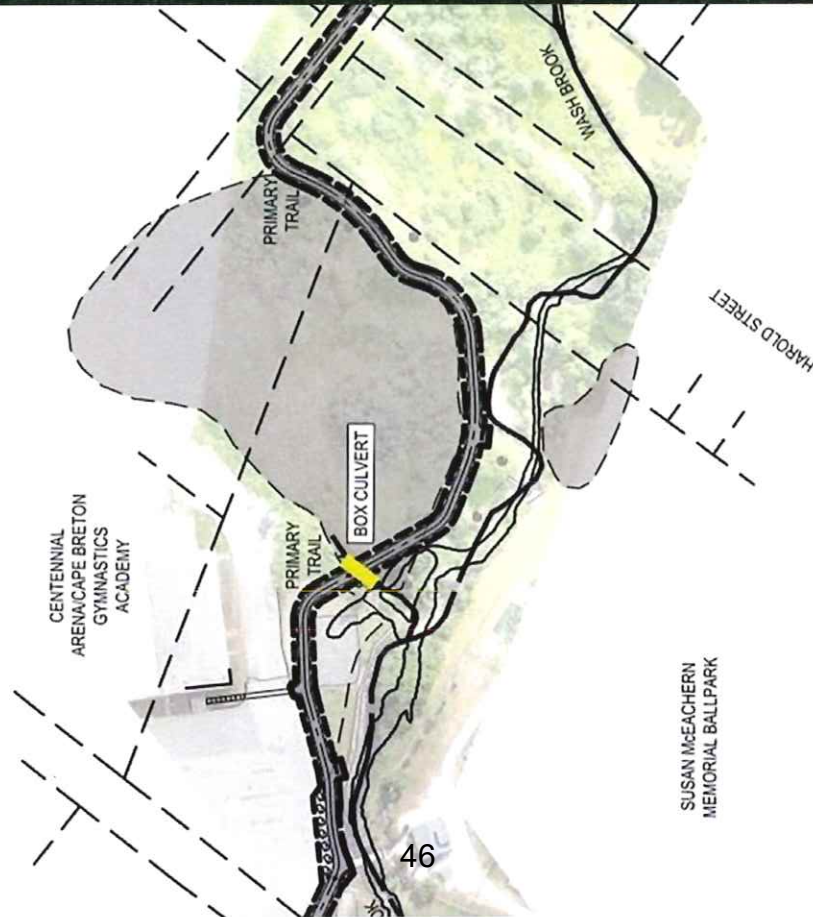
- Through Gravel Parking Lot
- Access to Playground
- Avoiding Shot-Put and TF facilities
- Aligned north side of the TF track to avoid brook flood zones and municipal services.



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MEM

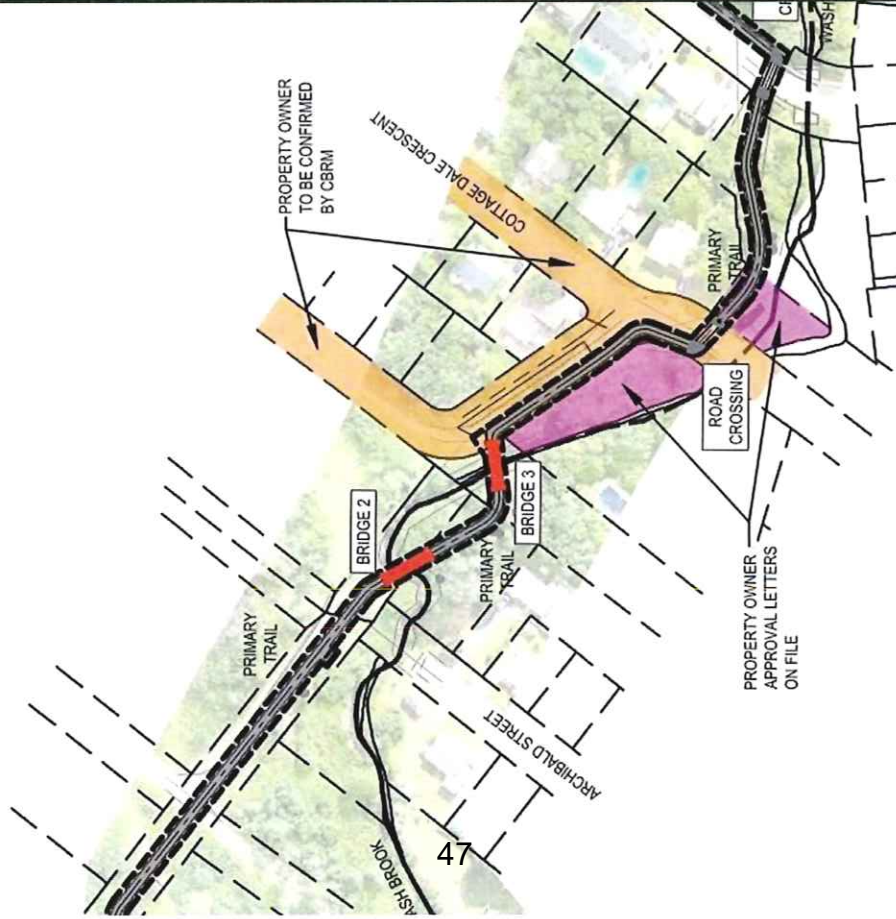
Trail Section 3

- Watercourse Crossing Culvert
- Avoiding Wetland
- Area recently reconstructed by ACAP



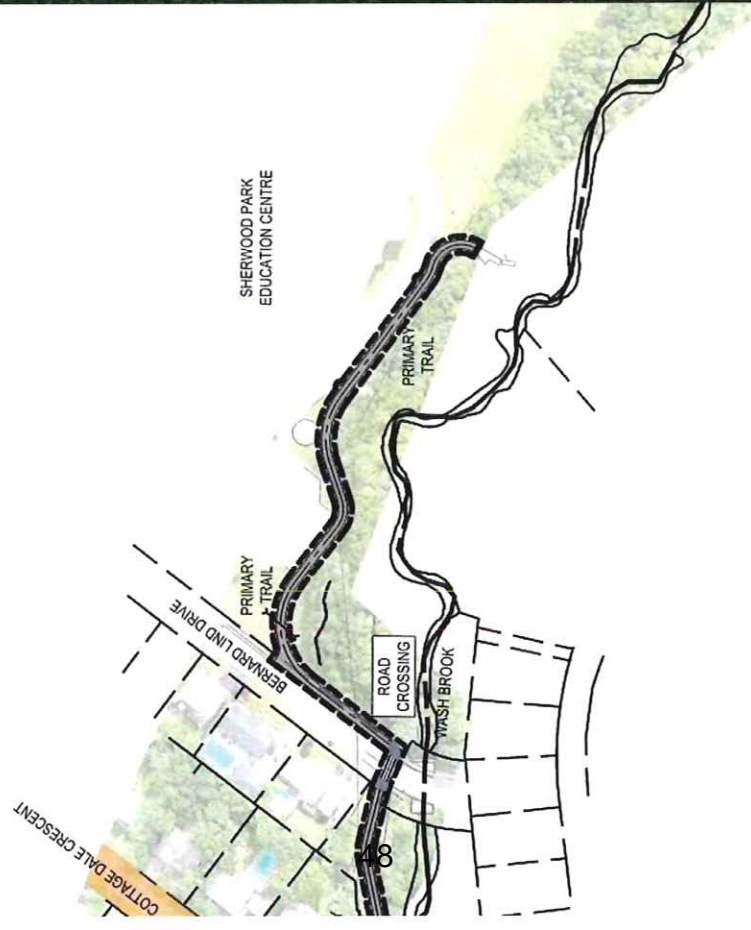
Trail Section 4

- Two Bridge Crossings
- Adjacent to Cottage Dale Crescent
- Provision for maintaining Gravel Road
- Approvals from Property Owner(s)
- Crossing Cottage Dale Crescent



Trail Section 5

- Enhanced Treatments for Safer Crossing at Bernard Lind Drive
- Skirting the School Property
- Final Connection to Existing Trail





Class A Cost Estimate

Estimated Total	\$2.4M + HST
Earthwork	
•Clearing, grubbing, excavation	
Storm Sewer	
•Catch basins, culverts, watercourse crossings	
Street Construction	
•AT trail, curb and gutter, sidewalks	
Landscaping	
•Topsoil and seed/sodding	
Environmental Protection	
•Silt fence, rip rap, armour stone, straw/hay	
Additional Items	
•Pedestrian bridges (3), waste enclosures, benches, fence modifications, light standard/base relocation, allowance, contingency	

In Summary

Recognizing that:

1. EXP in collaboration with WGC and CBRM staff has prepared a detailed plan, as requested by Council;
2. WGC has secured **nearly ½ the estimated project costs;**
3. WGC is working to secure the remaining funds; and
4. This project is the only signature AT project listed in CBRM's AT Plan **which is 'shovel-ready'**

Our Request to CBRM

As our principal partner and owner of the land on which the trail is to be constructed, we ask for your authorization, in the form of motions, to:

1. Allow the proposed trail to proceed to the tendering and construction phase;
2. Provide the WGC with financial support of up to \$200,000; and
3. Be a co-sponsor in a funding application to ACOA.



Thank you!



CBRM

A Community of Communities

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Memo

Date: March 5, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
From: Wayne MacDonald, P.Eng Chief Engineer
Re: Capital Budget Presentation

Budget binders have been distributed to Council that provide full details of CBRM's proposed Capital Budget.

The capital budget presentation document can be found on page 2 of the budget binder (Capital Budget Presentation Tab) Capital Budget summary and supplementary details begin on page 43.

Best regards,

Wayne MacDonald, P.Eng
Chief Engineer



CBRM

A Community of Communities

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Memo

Date: March 5, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, CPA, CA Chief Financial Officer
Re: Operating Budget Presentation

Budget binders have been distributed to Council that provide full details of CBRM's proposed Operating Budget.

The operating budget presentation document can be found on page 87 of the budget binder (Operating Budget Presentation Tab) Departmental budget details, starting with Engineering and Public Works starts on page 117.

Best regards,

Jennifer Campbell, CPA, CA
Chief Financial Officer

