



# Annual Report 2022

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY



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## Executive Summary

The 2022 edition of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Annual Report evaluates the progress made in 2022 toward advancing the 11 goals which are set out in the Regional Growth Strategy: Shaping our Future (RDN 2011). The RGS is the regional federation's shared vision to guide growth grounded in sustainability principles. These principles are integrated through the goals and policies to create a framework for decision-making. Progress towards these goals is measured by both qualitative and quantitative data provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), the member municipalities and multiple external agencies, with the data from previous years providing the baseline for this report. It is important to note that three of the 22 original indicators are no longer reported as the data has not been available from the Province of BC since 2012.

In 2022, progress towards the RGS Goals varied with 10 indicators showing positive progress, four indicators remaining stable and six indicators moving away from the regional goals. The 2022 data indicates, on a whole, the majority of growth and diversity of housing is occurring within the Growth Containment Boundaries (GCCs). During 2022, 98.8 per cent of the newly created lots were within the GCCs where the density of dwelling units per hectare increased within the GCCs while remaining the same outside of the GCCs. Diverse forms of housing increased within the GCCs with 76 per cent of the new dwelling units being ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings. The data also showed an increase in the number of households living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands, schools and shopping centres. In 2022, indicators that did not show progress towards the RGS targets were similar to previous years: the region continued to see a loss in the amount of Private Managed Forest Lands (PMFL); an increase in the waste disposal per capita; an increase in the per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems; and a decrease in housing affordability.

## MOVING TOWARDS TARGET

- **Goal 2: Indicator #4 – Total water consumption.** In 2022, total water consumption in the region continued to decline, despite a continuous increase in the region's population. Total water consumption is down 25.2 per cent, while the number of connections has increased 24 per cent since 2004. Although the region did not meet its target of reducing water consumption by 33 per cent by 2018, water consumption continues to decrease, despite population increases showing progress towards achieving this target. Note: This indicator will be reviewed as part of the RGS update.
- **Goal 2: Indicator #6 – Amount of land in protected areas.** The RGS aims to increase the amount of land in protected areas. In 2022, the amount of protected land in the region increased by over 640 ha to 6960 ha, mostly attributed to the addition of the Mt. Benson Regional Park in Electoral Area C. This was the highest reported hectares of protected land since 2017, showing progress towards the goal of increasing the amount of land in protected areas.
- **Goal 3: Indicator #7 – Number of households within a set distance (400 m) of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities.** The region shows progress towards the target of increasing the number of households living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands, schools and shopping centres. While both the RDN and member municipalities observed progress towards this target, the Regional Urban Centr (City of Nanaimo) has seen thousands more households within close proximity to services and amenities since 2017.
- **Goal 3: Indicator #8 – Per capita transit use.** There has been positive movement towards the target of increasing per capita transit use. The 2021-2022 ridership figures show both an increase of 612,811 total rides and 8.38 per capita transit rides over the 2019-2020 reporting year. Although ridership has not yet returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, the 2021-2022 ridership figures represent a strong return to transit ridership.

- **Goal 4: Indicator #9 – Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB).** The RGS encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct future population growth inside the GCB. In 2022, the region saw an estimated increase of 2,735 more people living within the GCBs, and an estimated additional 220 people living outside the GCB, indicating that the target is being achieved and that higher population within the GCB situates people closer to employment and services needed daily.
- **Goal 4: Indicator #10 – Density of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB.** The target to increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB continues to move in a positive direction. In 2022, the proportion of the population living within the GCB increased by 0.1 units/ha within the City of Nanaimo, 0.03 units/ha in the District of Lantzville and 0.01 units/ha within the Electoral Areas. There was no increase in the density of dwelling units per hectare outside of the GCBs. Overall, this indicates that development is occurring in designated growth areas where data is available.
- **Goal 5: Indicator #12 – The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB.** The RGS encourages most new development be located within the GCB where residents are close to services they require daily. In 2022, 1,884 new lots (98.8 per cent) were created within the GCB and 23 new lots (1.2 per cent) outside the GCB; achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB.
- **Goal 6: Indicator #16 – The portion of units in each housing type inside the GCB (diversity of housing types).** This indicator is showing positive progress with housing diversity is increasing within the region. In 2022, 76 per cent of the dwellings created were ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings while 24 per cent were single-detached dwellings, showing progress toward the target of increasing the proportion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCBs.
- **Goal 7: Indicator #17 – [Unemployment] employment rate and labour force participation.** The target to maintain an unemployment rate between 3–6 per cent and increase the labour force participation rate has been met for the first time since the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2022, the unemployment rate decreased to 3.9 per cent, meeting the unemployment rate target., During the same year, there was also a rise in the

employment rate to 61 per cent and an increase in labour force participation to 63.5 per cent.

- **Goal 9: Indicator #18 – Amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks, and recreational facilities such as pools and ice rinks).** The RGS aims to increase the amount of publicly owned land for parks and recreational facilities. In 2022, the region saw a 78 ha increase in the amount of publicly owned land, for a total of 6,189 ha.

#### **MAINTAINING TARGET (STABLE)**

- **Goal 2: Indicator #5 – Surface water quality (community watershed monitoring).** In 2022, of the sites monitored, 54 per cent met turbidity guidelines; 42 per cent met temperature guidelines; and 64 per cent met dissolved oxygen guidelines. Compared to 2021, there was a seven per cent decrease in the number of sites that met dissolved oxygen guidelines, a two per cent increase in sites that met temperature guidelines, and a seven per cent increase in sites that met turbidity guidelines. Overall, surface water quality is maintaining a stable condition in the region.
- **Goal 4: Indicator #11 – Diversity of land use (ratio) inside the GCB.** The ideal land use mix to support complete, compact communities, identified in the Rural Village Centre Study (2013), is 10-15 per cent public uses, 10-40 per cent commercial and employment uses and 50-80 per cent for residential uses. In 2022, some minor changes to the proportion of land uses were observed in the City of Parksville and the Electoral Areas; however, the proportion of land use has remained relatively consistent since 2017 and within the desired ratio for Rural Village Centres.
- **Goal 5: Indicator #13 – Number of parcels with Farm Class.** The number of properties classified by BC Assessment with 'Farm Status' continues to fluctuate year-to-year which may be due to the reporting cycle of farm gate income. Overall, the total number of parcels with Farm Status increased by three parcels from 677 parcels in 2021 to 680 parcels in 2022 (excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach). Although this may appear to be



progress towards increasing the number of parcels with Farm status, due to the irregular reporting cycle for farm gate income, it is more likely that this indicator is stable.

- **Goal 10: Indicator #22 – Per capita length of roads.** The target to decrease the per capita length of roads has been relatively stable since 2017. The length of roads per capita for Electoral Areas and member municipalities remained the same during the 2021 and 2022 reporting years at 10.18 metres per person.

#### MOVING AWAY FROM TARGET

- **Goal 5: Indicator #14 – The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL).** The RGS seeks to increase the amount of land available for natural resource use (farming, forestry, outdoor recreation). Since 2017, excluding data from the Town of Qualicum Beach, the total amount of PMFL in the region has declined by 394 ha. Such decreases can reflect the land transitioning from being actively managed as forest lands to being used for residential or other permitted uses.
- **Goal 6: Indicator #15 – The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50% of the median for the region.** The number of households with incomes below 50 per cent of the median for the region spending more than 30 per cent of their income on housing continues to increase. In 2022, a total of 5,333 renter households in the region were spending 30 per cent or more of before-tax income on housing. That is 2,609 more households than reported in 2017. This data shows the region is moving away from the target of increasing housing affordability, as the cost of housing continues to outpace the increases in household income.
- **Goal 9: Indicator #19 – Per capita length of maintained trails (including trails, paths and laneways).** The target is to increase the per capita length of maintained trails. The length of maintained trails per capita decreased from 2.33m/person in 2021 to 2.30m/person in 2022 which was related to the closure of the Schooner Ridge Trail and the Wildwood Community Park Trail and alignment changes. Although this represents a decrease in trails per capita for 2022, public safety was at the core of the decision to close these trails.

- **Goal 10: Indicator #20 – Per capita waste disposal.** The region has moved away from the target to decrease the waste going into the landfill to 350kg/person. Per capita waste disposal fluctuated yearly between 2017 and 2022. Despite the fluctuations the waste disposal rate has been consistently above the 350 kg/person target and reached all time high of 436 kg/person in 2022. The last year the regional waste disposal was below the target was in 2016 with a waste disposal rate of 345 kg/person.
- **Goal 10: Indicator #21 – Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems.** Apart from sewer costs in the City of Nanaimo, the cost of sewer, water and wastewater in the region increased in 2022, moving away from the target. The cost of water increased by 3.5 per cent in the Electoral Areas and 55 per cent in the City of Nanaimo over 2021. Sewer costs in the Electoral Areas increased by 9.2 per cent and decreased by 6.6 per cent over 2021 in the City of Nanaimo.

### SUMMARY OF APPROACH

The RGS Annual Report and monitoring program reviews the progress the RDN, and member municipalities, have made toward achieving the RGS goals. Twenty-two indicators were established to help measure progress toward achieving the 11 RGS Goals. Quantitative and qualitative data are analyzed yearly to determine progress and emerging trends. The analysis of the indicators provides valuable insight into opportunities for improvement, while recognizing areas of success.



# 1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

The Regional District of Nanaimo respectfully acknowledges the Coast Salish First Nations on whose traditional territory the Regional District is located. We acknowledge with respect that for thousands of years the Coast Salish Nations have been deeply connected to the territories where we now have the honour to live and work.

## 2. Overview

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)<sup>1</sup> is a strategic plan adopted by the RDN Board that aims to establish a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region over a twenty-year period. The RGS encourages and directs most new development in the region within designated Growth Containment Boundaries (GCBs), thereby keeping urban settlement compact; protecting the integrity of rural and resource areas; protecting the environment; increasing servicing efficiency; and retaining mobility within the region.

The RGS represents a commitment by the RDN and its member municipalities to take a series of actions to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the region. Part of this commitment involves being accountable to residents about how the RGS is being implemented and the level of progress being made towards reaching its goals.

## 3. Role & Purpose

The purpose of the RGS is to:

*“promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources”.*

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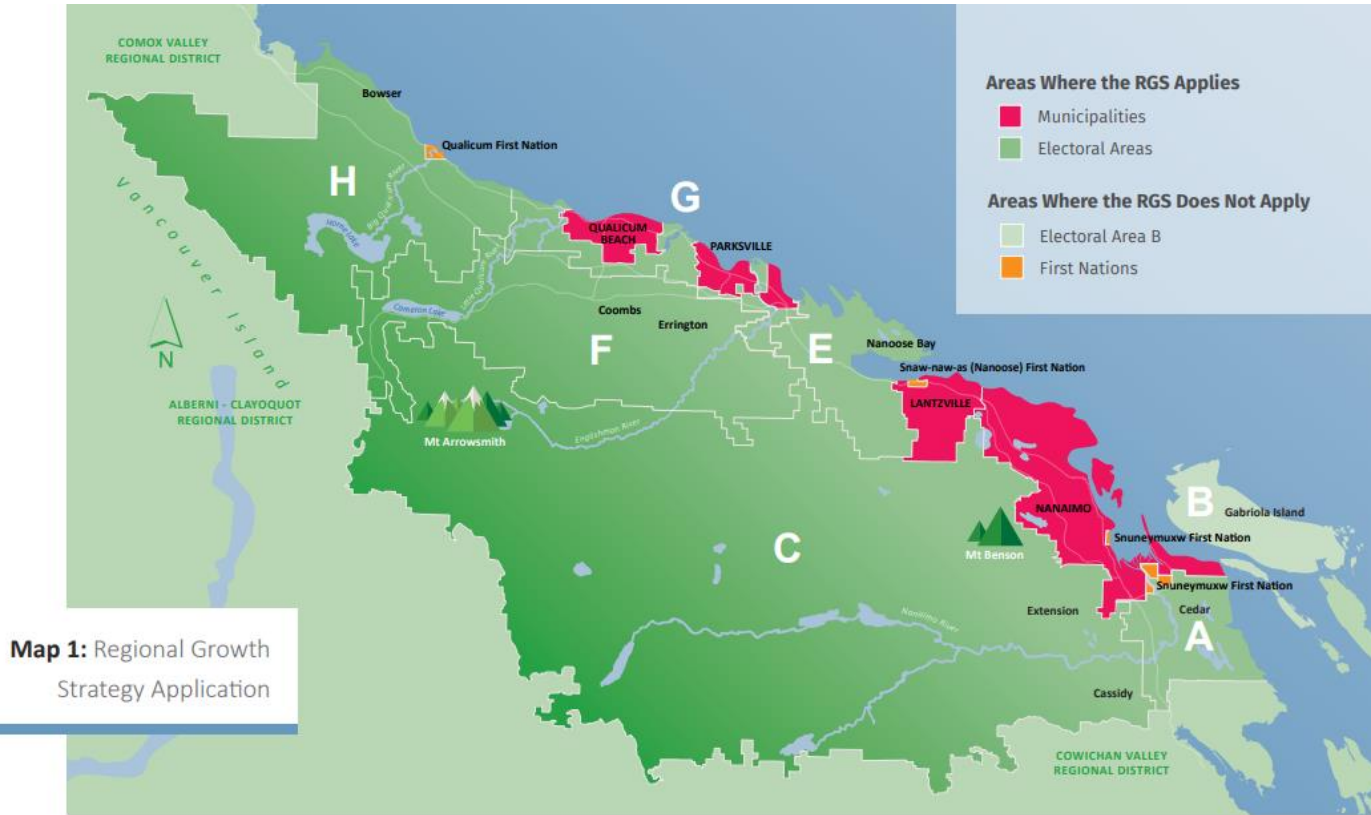
<sup>1</sup> On November 22, 2011, the RDN Board adopted “Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615”. This document replaced the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and represents the second time that the RGS has been fully reviewed and updated since it was first adopted in 1997.

Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

The first RGS was adopted in 1997 in response to residents' concerns about the impacts of rapid population growth and development in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Given that the impacts of growth cross jurisdictional boundaries, it was recognized that a coordinated approach to community planning was necessary to effectively address growth management issues.

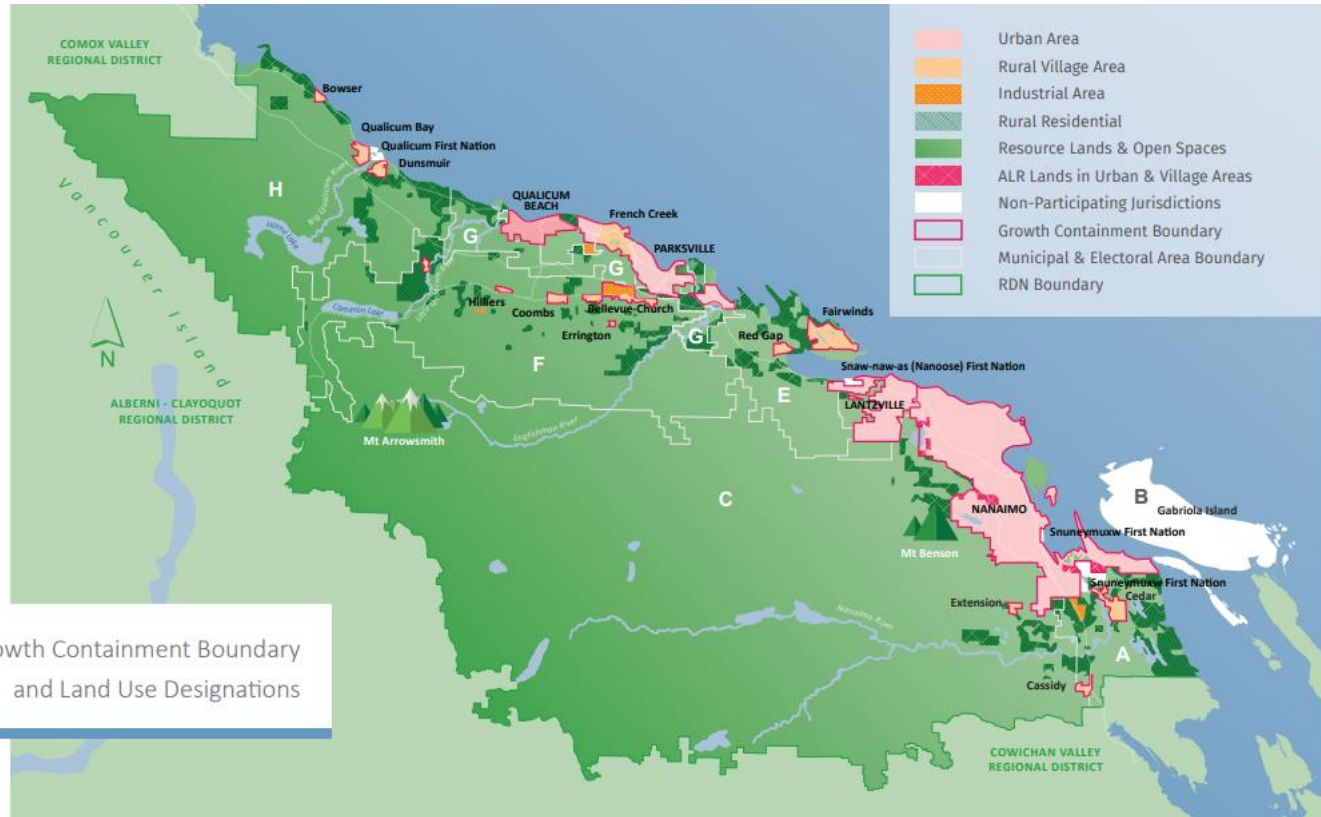
The RGS provides a framework for member municipalities and the RDN to address growth management issues that cross local government boundaries. The RGS also provides a mechanism to connect with provincial ministries and agencies with jurisdiction in areas that impact land use and community planning, and whose resources are needed to implement projects and programs. Inter-jurisdictional coordination is essential to protecting our environment and achieving a high quality of life for present and future residents in the region.





The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown in Map 1 above. The RGS does not apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area B) as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also does not apply to lands under the jurisdiction of First Nations including Qualicum First Nation, Snaw-Naw-As and Snuneymuxw.

The RGS uses a line on the map called a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) to separate areas designated for future growth from other areas where environmental protection and resource values are a priority. Lands designated as Urban Area within municipalities are intended to absorb the region's future growth. In the RDN Electoral Areas, land designated as Rural Village Areas are intended to accommodate lower levels of growth more compatible with their rural settings. Development within the GCB (Urban and Rural Village Areas) is intended to be diverse and provide places for people to live, work, learn, shop and play. This may also include lands to be conserved to support ecosystem functions or other green space purposes. Land outside of the GCB is intended to support ecosystem functions and rural uses that require only limited infrastructure and services to be viable.



**Map 2:** Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations

## 4. Vision

The region will be recognized for an outstanding quality of urban and rural life that is grounded in a strong commitment to protecting the natural environment and minimizing harm to life sustaining ecological systems. Working in partnership with interested organizations, the RDN and its member municipalities are committed to achieving:

- High standards of environmental protection that preserve habitat, enhance ecological diversity, and maintain air and water quality;
- Enhanced food security in the region;
- Urban development that is contained and distinct in form and character from rural development;
- Complete, compact communities designed to provide housing that meets the needs of all households and that provide excellent access to nearby workplaces, goods and services, learning institutions, recreation opportunities and natural areas;
- Expansion and enhancement of mobility options that reduce automobile dependency;
- A strong and resilient economy based on agriculture, natural resource assets, tourism and information age industries and services such as health and education; and
- Efficient, state-of-the-art servicing, infrastructure, and resource utilization.

## 5. Principles

The goals and policies of the RGS are grounded in the following sustainability principles that are intended to guide decisions regarding the future life of the region:

- Decisions and actions have regard for local and global consequences.
- The interconnectedness and interdependence of natural and human systems are recognized and respected.
- The healthy functioning of ecological systems is nurtured.
- The qualities of place that create pride and a sense of community are nurtured.
- Efficiency, including the concept of zero-waste, is optimized.
- Equity amongst all citizens and across generations, including future generations, is ensured.
- Decision-making processes are based on participation, collaboration and cooperation with citizens, other authorities, and organizations.
- We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

## 6. Goals, Indicators & Targets

The RGS is based upon 11 goals that work towards achieving the collective vision of regional sustainability. Policies in the RGS direct specific actions to implement the RGS goals.

In January 2015, the RDN Board approved a final list of 22 indicators and related targets to measure the region's progress towards the 11 goals of the RGS. Targets and indicators are closely linked. Indicators tell us whether the results of our actions are consistent with achieving our targets. Targets are specific results to be achieved over time within a social, cultural, economic or environmental system.

Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption	
Indicator	Target
#1 Total community greenhouse gas emissions	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050
#2 Per capita non-renewable energy use	Reduce per capita energy use
#3 Total community energy use	Reduce total energy use
Goal 2: Protect the Environment	
Indicator	Target
#4 Total water consumption	Reduce water consumption- decrease the average residential and commercial water use by 33% between 2004 and 2018.
#5 Surface water quality (Community Watershed Monitoring)	Improve surface water quality
#6 Amount of land in protected areas	Increase amount of land in protected areas
Goal 3: Coordinate land Use and Mobility	
Indicator	Target
#7 Number of households within a set distance of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities	Increase the number of households living within close proximity to places to work, play, learn and shop
#8 Per capita transit use	Increase per capita transit use
Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth	
Indicator	Target
#9 Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)	Increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB
#10 Density of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB	Increase the density of dwelling units within the GCB
#11 Diversity of land use (ratio) inside the GCB	Increase the land use diversity inside the GCB
Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity	
Indicator	Target
#12 The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB	Increase the proportion of development inside the GCB
#13 Number of parcels with Farm Status	Increase the number of parcels with Farm Status
#14 The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land	Increase the amount of land available for natural resource uses (farm, forestry, outdoor recreation)



Goal 6: Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing	
Indicator	Target
#15 The total number of rental units affordable to households with income below 50% of the median income for the region	Increase the proportion of households living in housing that meets their needs (appropriate, adequate, adaptable, sustainable, affordable and attainable)
#16 The portion of units in each housing type inside the Growth Containment Boundary (diversity of housing types in GCB)	Increase the portion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB
Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency	
Indicator	Target
#17 [Unemployment] Employment rate and labour participation rate	Maintain an unemployment rate between 3 – 6% and increase the labour force participation rate
Goal 8: Enhance Food Security	
Indicator	Target
Number of parcels with Farm Status	Same as Goal 5: Indicator #13: Increase the number of parcels with Farm Status
Goal 9: Pride of Place	
Indicator	Target
#18 The amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks and recreational facilities)	Increase the amount of land for parks and recreational facilities
#19 Per capita length of maintained public trails (including trails, paths, laneways)	Increase the per capita length of maintained trails
Goal 10: Efficient Services	
Indicator	Target
#20 Per capita waste disposal	Decrease the per capita amount of waste going to the landfill (amount of waste sent to the landfill per person) below 350 kg/person
#21 Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems	Decrease per capita cost of providing water and sewer systems
#22 Per capita length of roads (length of paved roads per person)	Decrease the per capita length of roads
Goal 11: Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	

## 7. Implementation

Section 5.2 of the RGS addresses implementation and identifies specific projects that are intended to work towards achieving RGS goals. Implementation is an important part of being accountable to RDN residents about what is being done to achieve the goals they identified as important.

### 7.1 REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY MONITORING PROGRAM

To ensure consistent monitoring, evaluation, and public reporting on progress towards the RGS goals, the RDN established the RGS Monitoring Program in 2015. The program includes the preparation of an annual report that is presented to the Board of the Regional District and made publicly available on the RDN's public website.

#### *Regional Growth Strategy Annual Report - 2022*

This Annual Report continues to build upon previous years' successes and benefits from the improvements gained from consecutive years of quantitative data collection. Where data is not available, the gaps have been addressed by providing supplemental information on provincial and regional projects/initiatives being undertaken.

#### Data Limitations

This report refers to many sources of information, including information produced by member municipalities, various RDN departments, Statistics Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and BC Assessment. Every reasonable effort has been made to use comparable data each year with consistent geographies and methodology. Where data limitations exist, they are noted within the applicable document content, chart or table.

#### Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Website

The RGS content on the RDN's website is intended to be highly accessible. Reporting is ongoing, and information is updated as it becomes available. The report and information on the website will be updated on an annual basis, or as new information becomes available.

RGS Monitoring website: [www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy)

## 8. Progress Towards Achieving the RGS

The following summarizes the annual qualitative data for all indicators provided by the RDN and member municipalities to track progress toward the RGS goals. Where data is not readily available, initiatives and actions taken to achieve the RGS goals have been included to show additional progress.



### 8.1 GOAL 1 – PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

There are three indicators which monitor progress towards Goal 1 – Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption:

1. Total Community greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)
2. Per capita non-renewable energy use
3. Total community energy use

Due to changes in reporting, the Province has not provided local emissions and energy use data since 2012, resulting in no available quantitative data for these three indicators. Nonetheless, the RDN and member municipalities champion many local initiatives to help prepare the region for climate change and reduce energy consumption. The highlights of initiatives taken by the RDN and member municipalities are listed below:

#### REGIONAL ACTIONS

##### **Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee**

- Implementation started with the top three priorities and strategic supports from the 2021 Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee (CATAC) Final Report.

**Priority 1:** Water security supported by the Natural Asset Management - Energy and Sustainability and the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Programs began by collaborating with local water suppliers to understand climate change in the context of

water supply planning, and to develop best practices for implementation within the region. This work is underway and will be completed in 2023.

**Priority 2:** Removing barriers to climate action within RDN policy – demonstrating the effectiveness of development permit areas (DPAs) in protecting natural assets needed for local resilience and protection of natural processes was assessed and DPAs developed for consideration. Climate action and barriers were also assessed as part of the RGS review.

**Priority 3:** Advancing climate adaptive home retrofits – In 2022, new programs to support resident and industry capacity for climate adaptive home retrofits were identified for implementation in 2023. These include expanded industry training; providing more focused technical support for residents; and starting a feasibility assessment of further comprehensive financial supports to residents completing home retrofits.

Strategic supports were also implemented, including a monitoring and reporting approach to track progress on climate action; integration of equitable design and delivery of climate programming; and the development of a community volunteer program (Acting for Climate Together) that builds resident capacity for climate action.

### **Green Building Incentives**

- The RDN and the member municipalities delivered green building incentives to residents who improved the performance of their homes. In 2022, RDN programs delivered \$31,328 in green building incentives and rebates. The Green Building Incentive Program issued individual rebates for: woodstove exchanges (67), renewable energy systems (15), home energy assessments (78), oil to heat pump rebates (3), and electric vehicle chargers (24). As part of the Green Building Series, the RDN and the City of Nanaimo partnered with several organizations to provide information and education on green building initiatives.

### **Transit Initiatives**

- The RDN Transit department continues to maintain a fleet of heavy duty Compressed Natural Gas buses for conventional transit which emit 25 per cent less GHG emissions than their diesel counterparts.
- To meet the emission reduction objectives of the CleanBC strategy, BC Transit is committed to transitioning from fossil fuel buses to battery electric buses to lower climate-change emissions by four per cent by 2030. In partnership with BC Transit, the RDN is in the final stages of completing a Facility Master Plan Strategy that will focus on the next 25 years of fleet growth and the introduction of battery electric buses.

### **Flood Management Program**

- In 2022, river flood hazard analysis and mapping was completed for the Little Qualicum River (in Electoral Area G and part of the Town of Qualicum Beach). A similar study was completed for the Englishman River in 2020 and the third and final study for the Nanaimo River is currently underway. This information will be used to replace outdated river floodplain mapping and to update applicable land use policies and regulations for new construction and development in designated areas. Further details and results are available at: [www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/river-floodplain-map-update](http://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/river-floodplain-map-update)

### **Wastewater**

- The RDN Wastewater department continued the Biosolids Forest Fertilization Program. Forest fertilization provides nutrients and carbon to the forest floor and accelerates the capture of carbon in the aboveground forest stand. Productive forest stands represent the largest active carbon sink system in the region.

### **Solid Waste**

- The RDN Solid Waste department provided \$2.3 million to Circular Waste BC to construct a screening process to reduce the waived percentage of screenings from seven per cent to four per cent while improving the Circular Waste BC process overall.

## CITY OF NANAIMO

The City of Nanaimo underwent several green initiatives in 2022 including:

- Updated the 2022 Strategic Energy Management Plan.
- LED lighting upgrades at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and Bowen Park Recreation Complex.
- Higher-efficiency boilers installed at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.
- Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations installed at five City facilities.
- Higher-efficiency window glazing installed at the Port Theatre.
- Provided \$72,600 in municipal top-up rebates to support 184 home energy retrofits through the CleanBC Better Homes Rebate Program.
- Funded the Cool It! Climate Leadership Training Program. The BC Sustainable Energy Association delivered the program to 26 classes (16 elementary and 10 high school) reaching 583 students who collectively completed over 2,800 actions focused on climate change and sustainability.
- Green fleet opportunities are being used in two new fire engines including using anti-idling technology.
- The new Fire Station 1 building will reduce the station's energy consumption and heating oil use to lower emissions and costs.
- Completed Seabold Drainage project to mitigate flooding during major storm events in North Nanaimo. This project considers the increased rainfall our region is seeing through climate change.
- Completed the Millstone River Floodplain Mapping Update to develop the hydrologic and hydraulic models used for floodplain mapping between East Wellington Road and the river's outlet with consideration of increased flows from climate change.

**GOAL 1 - KEY FINDINGS**

Although there qualitative data is not available to track progress towards achieving Goal 1 – Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, the region has undertaken many initiatives to progress towards achieving this Goal. In 2022, the RDN delivered over \$31,000 in green building incentives and rebates through the Green Building Incentive program; completed a river hazard analysis for the Little Qualicum River through the Flood Management Program; and the RDN Wastewater department continues with its Biosolids Forest Fertilization Program. Likewise, the City of Nanaimo provided \$72,600 in municipal top-up rebates to support home energy retrofits; upgraded fixtures in municipal facilities to be more energy efficient; and completed Floodplain Mapping of the Millstone River.

**8.2 GOAL 2 – PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT****REGIONAL ACTIONS**

The RDN continued to achieve Goal 2 by pursuing watershed and environmental protection, including the following activities:

**Watershed Protection**

- Supported three community-led watercourse restoration and monitoring projects via stewardship seed funding: Little Qualicum Estuary, Deep Bay Creek, and a pilot Regional Tire Wear Toxicant Survey.
- Provided over 130 rebates to residents including rainwater harvesting, wellhead upgrades, well water testing, irrigation and soil improvements.
- Resumed Irrigation Check-ups to high water users across the region, providing 11 in-person irrigation checks and distributed education material to additional residents who observed high water use on their properties.
- Developed and launched Get Involved Page for the Stewardship Network and hosted a Community Watershed Monitoring Stewardship Event to facilitate networking among

water stewardship organizations for capacity building and better coordination of watershed protection activities.

- Completed a regional Riparian Spatial Analysis of 47 waterways across the RDN to understand the state of riparian cover and prioritization of future restoration and enhancement efforts.
- Developed Rainwater Performance Targets for the French Creek Water Region to help replicate the natural water balance and control flood peaks with a second project phase that focused on target implementation, monitoring and adaptive management.

### **Wastewater**

- Continued to meet regulatory requirements for wastewater treatment and provided \$60,000 in SepticSmart rebates.

### **Solid Waste**

- Continued to provide curbside service to residents.
- Submitted the Mandatory Waste Source Separation and Waste Hauler licensing Bylaws to the Province.
- Provided \$300,000 in funding for nonprofit businesses that support the circular economy.

### **Parks**

- Acquired French Creek Estuary lands in partnership with BC Parks Foundation in April 2022.
- Acquired a total of 99.1 ha of land for park expansion to Mt. Benson Regional Park in August 2022.



## CITY OF NANAIMO

- Adopted revised Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) Development Permit Area (DPA1) as part of the City Plan, including the enhanced principle of ‘Net Gain’ for natural habitats; and updates to Zoning Bylaw ‘Watercourses and Marine Foreshore’ setbacks.
- Coordinated land use and mobility with designated primary and secondary urban centres directly aligning density with mobility methods and transit hubs.
- Launched the new Community Watershed Restoration Grant that provides \$20,000 annually to support community environmental restoration projects.

### 8.2.1 RGS Indicator #4: Total water consumption

#### **Target is to decrease the average residential and commercial water use by 33% between 2004 and 2018**

This indicator is a measure of water conservation, and it tells us if the amount of water consumed is increasing or decreasing. Water is recognized as a vulnerable resource and is critical for the health of all ecosystems and human communities. While water supply may seem abundant in the region, longer, hotter summers with reduced precipitation during summer months have put pressure on the local water systems. In the RDN water service areas, since 2004, total water consumption has decreased while the population has increased. Likewise in the City of Nanaimo, despite the population continuing to increase, total water usage and average daily residential water was down over 20 per cent since 2009. Please note, the original target noted above identifies a specific year range (2004-2018); a new target will be created as part of the RGS Review.

#### **RDN WATER SERVICE AREAS**

The total water consumption is down 25.2 per cent, while the number of connections has increased 24 per cent since 2004.

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In 2022, the average total water production was 342 liters per person per day and the average residential water use was 189 litres per person per day. This is the lowest total water use and residential water use observed since 2009, while population within the City of Nanaimo has continued to increase.

### 8.2.2 RGS Indicator #5: Surface water quality (community watershed monitoring)

#### Target is to improve surface water quality

The RDN Community Watershed Monitoring Network (CWMN) partners with local stewardship volunteers, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, and private forestry organizations to measure and track changes in the health of local watersheds. In 2022, water quality samples from 67 sites on 38 streams in 24 watersheds across the region were collected. This is a 4.3 per cent decrease in the number of overall sample sites than in 2021. This decrease is due to ephemeral sites being removed from the CWMN, and environmental stewardship organizations focusing efforts on other initiatives or aspects of water monitoring.

This indicator reflects the total number of sites that met the B.C. Water Quality Guidelines for turbidity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen in 2022.

In 2022, 54 per cent of sites sampled met turbidity guidelines; 42 per cent of sites sampled met temperature guidelines; and 64 per cent of sites sampled met dissolved oxygen guidelines. Compared to 2021, there was a seven per cent decrease in the number of sites that met dissolved oxygen guidelines, a two per cent increase in sites that met temperature guidelines, and a seven per cent increase in sites that met turbidity guidelines. Results outside of the guidelines could be correlated to the extended duration of drought in the region experienced in 2022, with lower flows in the local waterways expressed in lower dissolved oxygen. Further, the increase in sites that met turbidity water quality guidelines could be attributed to low precipitation during the fall sample period, but this connection is unconfirmed. Climate change

resiliency is key to healthy watersheds and can be addressed through restoration and enhancement that increases riparian tree canopy, improves stream structure, and conserves surface and groundwater resources. These actions are being addressed through ongoing support of environmental stewardship organizations in our region; the development of tools and resources such as the RDN's riparian cover spatial analysis mapping tool; and continued collaborative partnerships with jurisdictions, agencies, and community organizations.

**Table 1: RDN Monitored Streams Analysis**

	Monitored Streams that Meet the BC Water Quality Guidelines		
	Turbidity	Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen
<b>2018</b>	38 out of 62 sites met guidelines	43 out of 62 sites met guidelines	36 out of 62 sites met guidelines
<b>2019</b>	36 out of 65 sites met guidelines	47 out of 65 sites met guidelines	41 out of 65 sites met guidelines
<b>2020</b>	16 out of 67 sites met guidelines	43 out of 67 sites met guidelines	48 out of 67 sites met guidelines
<b>2021</b>	33 out of 66 sites met guidelines	26 out of 64 sites met guidelines	44 out of 64 sites met guidelines
<b>2022</b>	36 out of 67 sites met guidelines	28 out of 67 sites met guidelines	43 out of 67 sites met guidelines

The findings of the CWMN provide information on environmental water conditions and a baseline understanding of regional surface water quality to track change and improvement over time. Collecting and analyzing baseline data helps to identify which streams require enhancement, restoration, targeted outreach/policy changes or increased monitoring, which in part is implemented/supported by the RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program. In 2023, an in-depth statistical analysis on the water chemistry data collected to date will be completed, providing additional context to the annual water chemistry results.

Ongoing climate impacts are being observed in the region with increasing high intensity rainfall events and longer periods of drought. Maintaining good water quality through

resilient watersheds is crucial for the health and quality of life in our region. The RDN will continue collaborative efforts to better understand, protect, and preserve our shared water resources

### 8.2.3 RGS Indicator #6: Amount of land in protected areas

#### RGS target is to increase the amount of land in protected areas

Natural areas support habitat for wildlife and plants, the recharge of groundwater and surface water, and the absorption of carbon from the atmosphere. The RGS goal is to protect and enhance the environment and minimize ecological damage related to growth and development. This indicator tells us how much land is within a protected area designated by the federal, provincial or local government.

In 2022, the amount of land in protected areas in the region increased by 640 ha, much of which can be attributed to the addition of the Mt. Benson Regional Park in Electoral Area C. During the 2022 monitoring year, the amount of protected land within the City of Nanaimo remained the same as the 2021 reporting year at 1,791 ha. The amount of protected land within the City of Parksville has remained the same since 2020 at 169 ha. For the 2022 reporting year, the region continued to show a positive trend in protected areas with a total of 6,960 ha.

**Table 2: Amount of Land in Protected Areas (Hectares)**

	Nanaimo (HA)	Parksville (HA)	Qualicum *(HA)	Electoral Areas and Lantzville (HA)	Total (HA)
2017	1,936	107	159	4,368	6,570
2018	1,687	163	159	4,356	6,365
2019	1,785	163	-	4,358	6,306
2020	1,760	169	-	4,358	6,287
2021	1,791	169	-	4,360	6,320
2022	1,791	169	-	5,000	6,960

\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach 2019-2022.

## GOAL 2 – KEY FINDINGS

The Region has shown positive progress towards Goal 2 – Protecting the Environment with a significant increase in the amount of land in protected areas. The addition of Mt. Benson Regional Park in Electoral Area C resulted in the most protected land observed since 2017. Indicator 4 which aims to reduce water consumption in the region has also shown positive progress with water consumption continuing to decline, despite an increasing population. Finally, water quality in the region remains stable and the RDN Community Watershed Monitoring Network (CWMN) continues to partner with local stewardship volunteers, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, and private forestry organizations to measure and track changes in the health of local watersheds.



## 8.3 GOAL 3 – COORDINATE LAND USE AND MOBILITY

### REGIONAL ACTIONS

#### Regional Transit

- The Transit Redevelopment Strategy concluded and was approved by the Board in February 2022.
- Although the RDN has not received annual service hours, the transit department continues to plan and work with community partners in the region to plan new infrastructure that supports the Transit Redevelopment Strategy.
- The RDN Transit department continues to work with municipalities and electoral areas on referrals that will develop better active transportation for the region.

#### Solid Waste

- To help coordinate land use and mobility, the RDN Solid Waste department contracted engineers to work on a Design, Operation, Closure Plan (DOCP) to optimize the landfill footprint and closures.

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- Another round of funds (an additional \$700,000 - for a total of \$1 million) from Council was directed towards pedestrian mobility enhancements. These funds will enhance pedestrian crossings within the City and address accessibility barriers at traffic signals and transit stops.
- Continued to be involved in development application reviews to assess impacts of proposed development on the transportation network.
- Identified major gaps in the Active Mobility Network and migrate them into projects/programs to be written into the Integrated Action Plan.
- Started the design and project planning for the Mary Ellen round-about project to improve the flow of traffic within an Urban Centre.
- Started the design and project planning of the expansion of the Off-Bowen Bikeway section as part of the mid-town gateway utility upgrades (through Beban Park).
- Encouraged alternative forms of transportation to special events within urban centres such as transit shuttles and secure bike parking.
- Piloted the city's first Active School Travel Plan process using the newly created Active School Travel Guide.
- Transit Redevelopment Strategy: As a partner to the RDN, the City contributed to the successful completion of the Transit Redevelopment Strategy. This plan outlines a five-year strategy to increase transit service by 50 per cent. This work affirmed the rapid and frequent routes tied to densification of land use, in the City Plan.



### *8.3.1 RGS Indicator #7: Number of households within a set distance (400 m) of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreational facilities*

**RGS Target is to increase the number of households living within close proximity of places to work, play, learn and shop.**

The RGS encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct new development into mixed-use centres where households are closer to employment and services needed daily. These compact communities enable more people to walk, cycle or use public transit, as the cost to provide public transportation services and infrastructure to compact communities is much lower than for dispersed communities. This indicator is a measure of how compact, complete and connected a community is.

Since 2017, the number of households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping within the RDN has increased on a yearly basis. The most significant increases observed were seen within the City of Nanaimo where the number of households within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping has increased by thousands of households. The City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and RDN Electoral Areas have all seen an increase as well, but not at the same rate as the Regional Urban Centre- the City of Nanaimo. In 2022, the region has shown positive progress towards achieving the desired target through directing growth and new development into mixed-use centres and effective transit planning.

**Table 3: Total Number of Households within 400 m of Services**

		Bus Stops	Schools	Employment Lands	Shopping Centre
Nanaimo*	2017	36,411	18,930	6,671	10,714
	2018	38,996	20,912	16,059	15,942
	2019	39,483	21,694	16,392	16,441
	2020	39,928	21,899	16,643	16,622
	2021	41,168	22,616	16,719	17,152
	2022	42,002	22,544	16,851	17,557
Parksville*	2017	-	1,025	3,837	2,446
	2018	-	1,019	4,029	2,524
	2019	6,606	1,024	4,454	2,607
	2020	6,198	1,125	4,801	2,641
	2021	6,060**	978**	5,175	4,276
	2022	6,211	1,107	5,326	4,427
Qualicum Beach*	2017	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2018	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2019	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-	-
Lantzville*	2017	1,021	192	1,201	-
	2018	1,020	190	1,206	-
	2019	1,033	191	1,231	-
	2020	1,010	191	1,028	-
	2021	1,023	192	1,035	-
	2022	1,033	192	1,047	-
Electoral Areas	2017	3,664	996	8,741	597
	2018	3,684	1,000	8,821	600
	2019	3,726	1,029	8,902	602
	2020	4,022	1,035	8,837	608
	2021	4,053	1,037	8,933	620
	2022	4,063	1,049	8,988	621

\*Information not available for member municipalities for certain years.

\*\*City of Parksville established a new GIS system in 2021 – the discrepancy seen in the 2021 Parksville data was a result of the system transfer.



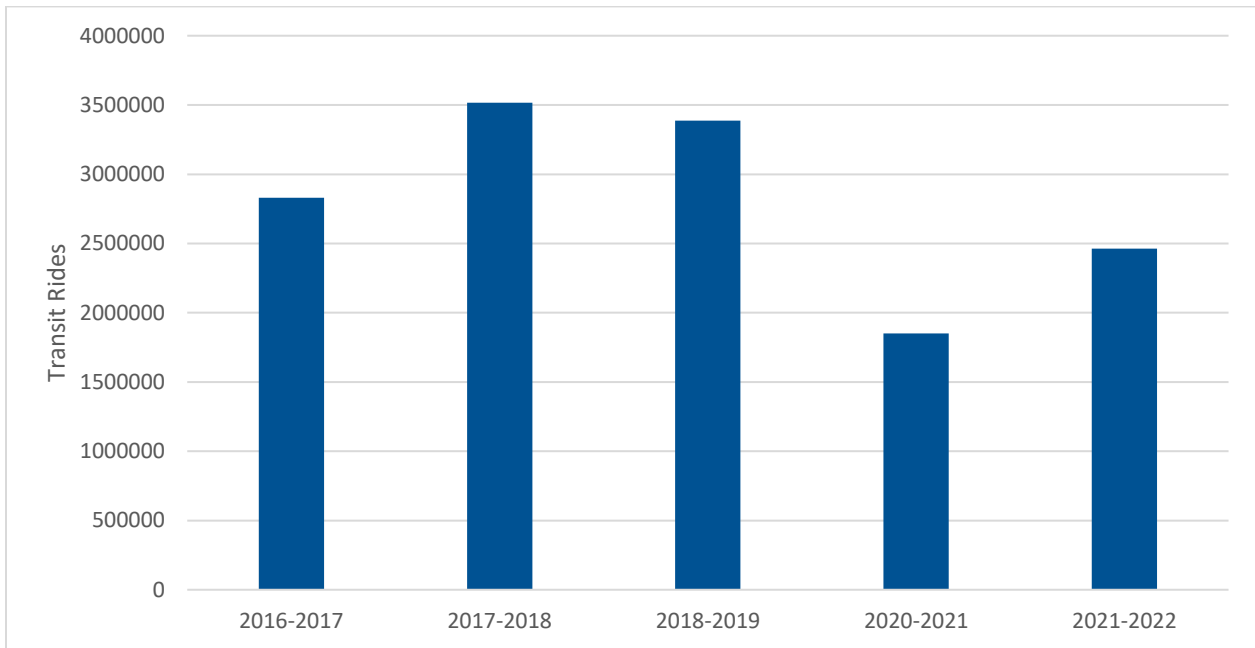
8.3.2 RGS Indicator #8: Per capita transit use

**RGS Target is to increase per capita transit use**

Between the 2016-2017 and 2019-2020 reporting years, transit ridership showed growth both in the total number of transit rides and per capita ridership. During this four-year period, the total number of transit rides increased by 685,309 rides per year and the per capita ridership increased by 12.59 rides per capita from 18.2 in 2016-2017 to 30.79 in the 2019-2020 reporting year.

Ridership has fluctuated in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in people’s travel patterns, such as more people working from home. Between 2019 and 2021 the total number of rides dropped by half to 1,665,800 total rides. Although ridership has not fully rebounded to pre-COVID levels the data shows a positive increase of 612,811 rides with a total of 2,463,011 rides during the reporting year. This is a total of 19.16 rides per capita in 2021-2022.

**Chart 1: Total Transit Rides**



### GOAL 3 - KEY FINDINGS

The Region has observed positive progress towards both Indicators of Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility. Since 2017, the RDN and member municipalities have all had increases in the number of households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping. The Regional Urban Centre – the City of Nanaimo had thousands more households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping than was observed in 2017. As the region continues to grow and develop, walkability and access to transit will support more sustainable modes of transportation and the reduction of carbon emissions. The COVID-19 Pandemic had significant impacts on transit ridership in the region. Although ridership has not gone back to the levels that were witnessed in the 2019-2020 reporting year, the 2021-2022 ridership figures have increased and represent a strong return to transit ridership.



8.4

### GOAL 4 – CONCENTRATE HOUSING & JOBS IN RURAL VILLAGES, URBAN GROWTH CENTRES

#### 8.4.1 RGS Indicator #9: Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary

#### **RGS Target is to increase the proportion of the population living within the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)**

The RGS encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct future population growth inside the Growth Containment Boundaries (GCBs). This indicator uses the number of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB in the Urban Areas and Rural Village Centres. The number of dwelling units is multiplied by the average household size available from the Canadian Census data to provide an estimate of the population inside and outside the GCBs.

The region continues to have proportionally more people living within the GCBs. In 2022, the region saw an estimated increase of 2,735 more people living within the GCBs

than there were in 2021. In addition, it's estimated 220 more people are living in the rural areas outside the GCBs. Overall the majority of growth in the region continues to be accommodated within the GCBs. Progress towards this goal contributes to the vision set out in the RGS to create compact, complete communities that enable the RDN to provide services, such as public transit, water, wastewater and solid waste more efficiently and sustainably.

**Table 4:** Estimated Population inside and outside the GCBs

	Nanaimo		Parksville		Qualicum*		Lantzville		Electoral Areas		Total	
	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside
<b>2018</b>	105,052	9	12,842	46	12,514	0	3,573	83	11,781	26,435	145,439	26,573
<b>2019</b>	105,848	9	13,714	46	-	-	3,643	85	11,891	27,029	135,802*	27,169
<b>2020</b>	107,909	9	15,042	46	-	-	3,574	82	13,097	29,392	139,622*	29,529
<b>2021</b>	109,906	9	15,042	46	-	-	3,783	85	12,414	34,209	141,145*	34,349
<b>2022</b>	112,198	9	15,042	46	-	-	3,938	85	12,702	34,429	143,880*	34,569

\*Information not available from Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019-2022.

Source: Estimates based on address point data and 2016 Census data for average household size in 2018-2020 and 2021 Census data for average household size for 2021-2022.

#### 8.4.2 RGS Indicator #10: Density of dwelling units inside and outside of the Growth Containment Boundary

##### **RGS Target is to increase the density of dwelling units within the Growth Containment Boundary (GCBs)**

This indicator monitors the density both inside and outside of the GCBs. This shows whether most of the growth is happening in designated growth areas. This indicator can also show if development is occurring at densities needed to support walkability and efficient servicing.

The density of dwelling units per hectare within the GCBs increased slightly in 2022. The largest increase of units/ha was within the City of Nanaimo where there was an

increase of 0.1 units/ha. Within the District of Lantzville, there was an increase of 0.03 units/ha and in the Electoral Areas, there was an increase of 0.01 units/ha within the GCBs. In 2022, there was a slight increase in the density of dwelling units aligned with the guiding community sustainability goal of more compact communities

**Table 5: Density of Units Per Hectare Inside/Outside GCBs**

	Nanaimo (Units / HA)		Parksville (Units / HA)		Qualicum Beach* (Units / HA)		Lantzville (Units / HA)		Electoral Areas (Units / HA)	
	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out
<b>2017</b>	4.87	0.01	4.44	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06
<b>2018</b>	5.13	0.01	5.85	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06
<b>2019</b>	5.21	0.01	6.56	0.06	-	-	0.87	0.03	2.33	0.08
<b>2020</b>	5.3	0.01	6.83	0.07	-	-	0.89	0.03	2.35	0.08
<b>2021</b>	5.4	0.01	6.49	0.07	-	-	0.90	0.03	2.37	0.08
<b>2022</b>	5.5	0.01	6.49	0.07	-	-	0.93	0.03	2.38	0.08

*\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019-2022.*

### 8.4.3 RGS Indicator #11: Diversity of Land Use (ratio inside the Growth Containment Boundary)

#### **RGS Target is to increase the land use diversity inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)**

This indicator shows the proportion of different land uses (as a ratio) within the GCBs. This is an indicator of how complete a community is based on the existing mix of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and recreational uses. This indicator applies to Urban Areas in municipalities and Rural Village Centres in Electoral Areas.

The ideal land use mix to support complete, compact communities, identified in the Rural Village Centre Study (2013), is 10–15 per cent public uses (Recreational and Institutional), 10–40 per cent commercial and employment uses (Industrial and Mixed-Use), and 50–80 per cent for residential uses. In Electoral Areas, since 2015, the

proportion of different land uses has remained consistent with the desired land use ratio for Rural Village Centres. Similarly, member municipalities have remained consistent with the ideal mix of land use on a yearly basis with little change to be noted year-to-year.

In 2022, the largest notable changes were within the City of Parksville which observed a one per cent decrease in the percentage of residential land, a 2.5 per cent in the amount of land designated as Mixed Use, and a 2.5 per cent increase in the amount of land designated as recreational. Similarly, the amount of land in the Electoral Area designated for residential uses decreased by one per cent while the amount of land designated for recreational uses increased by one per cent. Although these slight changes are notable, the proportion of land use has remained relatively consistent year-on-year within the desired ratio for Urban Areas and Rural Village Centres.



**Table 6: Diversity of Land Uses in Urban & Rural Village Centres in the RDN**

		Residential (%)	Commercial (%)	Industrial (%)	Mixed Use (%)	Institutional (%)	Recreational (%)
Nanaimo	2017	49	3	10	3	3	15
	2018	48	3	10	5	2	15
	2019	48	2	10	5	2	16
	2020	48	3	10	5	2	15
	2021	48	3	10	5	2	15
	2022	48	3	10	5	2	15
Parksville*	2018	48	12	4	6	8	22
	2019	51	11	4	6	7.5*	20.5
	2020	51	9	4	6	7.5*	20
	2021	44	9	4	10	7.5*	18
	2022	43	9	4	7.5	7.5*	20.5
Qualicum Beach**	2017	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2018	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lantzville	2017	62	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	34.5
	2018	62	0.4	0.6	0.5	2	34.5
	2019	62	0.4	0.6	0.5	2	34.5
	2020	82	0.5	1	0.5	15	1
	2021	82	0.5	1	0.5	15	1
	2022	82	0.5	1	0.5	15	1
Electoral Areas	2017	61	7	11	5	6	10
	2018	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2019	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2020	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2021	61	7	11	6	6	9
	2022	60	7	11	6	6	10

\*Parksville - "Institutional" is interpreted as Public Institutional (P1) zoning that includes shore land.

\*\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019-2022.

## GOAL 4 - KEY FINDINGS

In 2022, the region saw an increase in the proportion of the population living within the GCBs with 2,735 more people living within the GCBs and only 220 more people living outside the GCBs. Similarly, there was a slight increase in the density of dwelling units within the GCBs and no increase in the density of dwelling units located outside the GCBs, and the diversity of land use inside the GCBs has remained stable. This shows the region is directing the majority of growth inside the GCBs which helps create compact, complete communities that enable the RDN to provide services, such as public transit, water, wastewater and solid waste more efficiently and sustainably.



## 8.5 GOAL 5 – ENHANCE RURAL INTEGRITY

### REGIONAL ACTIONS

The protection of the region’s rural economy and lifestyle was advanced in 2022 by:

#### Improved Transit Service

- Route 70 Nanaimo-Cowichan Express (NCX) providing interregional transit between Downtown Nanaimo and Duncan, was successfully implemented in March 2022.
- Two new shelters along Hwy 19 adjacent to Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, were installed and have been well received.

#### 8.5.1 *RGS Indicator #12: The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary*

#### **RGS Target is to increase the proportion of development inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)**

The RGS encourages most new development to be located within the GCBs where residents are close to services they require daily. Outside of the GCBs, land is maintained for rural and resource uses, and open space.

This indicator tells us the proportion of new development by subdivision inside and outside the GCBs. In 2022, the total number of new lots created was 1,907. Of this

total, 98.8 per cent, or 1,884 new lots, were located within the GCBs, while 1.2 per cent, or 23 new lots were created outside the GCBs. As observed in Table 7 below, the region has observed proportionately more lots being created within the GCBs than outside the GCBs since 2017, aligned with the region’s long-term growth management goals.

**Table 7: Number of Residential Lots/Units Created by Subdivision Inside/Outside of GCB**

	Nanaimo*		Parksville*		Qualicum Beach*		Lantzville		Electoral Areas	
	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out
<b>2017</b>	1,193	0	50	0	1	0	2	1	30	37
<b>2018</b>	1,308	0	51	0	1	0	100	0	20	28
<b>2019</b>	1,719	0	36	0	-	-	6	1	20	56
<b>2020</b>	1,295	0	51	0	-	-	4	0	38	34
<b>2021</b>	904	0	30	0	-	-	10	0	74	44
<b>2022</b>	1,664	0	176	0	-	-	33	0	11	23

*\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum from 2019-2022.*

### 8.5.2 RGS Indicator #13: Number of Parcels with Farm Status

#### **RGS Target is to increase the number of parcels with Farm Status**

This indicator shows the number of parcels of land inside and outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) that receive and maintain Farm Status as determined by BC Assessment. To be eligible for this classification, the land must generate income from one or more qualifying agricultural uses and be reported to BC Assessment once every two years. This information provides an indication of how much land is being used to produce food and other agricultural products in the region.

The number of parcels with farm status is known to fluctuate annually due to the submission cycle of applications for Farm Status to BC Assessment. 2022, showed a positive gain of 5 parcels, the largest increase was observed in the Electoral Areas. In



the City of Parksville, the number of parcels with Farm Status decreased from two to zero. Overall, the total number of parcels with Farm Status increased by three parcels from 677 parcels in 2021 to 680 parcels in 2022. This result means this indicator remains stable.

**Table 8: Number of Parcels with Farm Status**

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville*	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2017	45	-	28	12	628	713
2018	45	2	28	12	587	674
2019	42	2	-	11	627	682
2020	36	2	-	13	606	657
2021	37	2	-	13	625	677
2022	37	0	-	13	630	680

*\*Information not available for the City of Parksville in 2017 or the Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019-2022.*

To better monitor potential changes in agricultural land use, this report establishes a baseline for land designated for agricultural use, as shown in Table 9. In 2019, there were 21,829 hectares designated for agricultural use. In 2022, the amount of land zoned for agriculture inside the ALR and outside the ALR had decreased to 21,658 hectares. Much of this loss can be attributed to the ALR Boundary review project.

**Table 9: Hectares of Agricultural Land with the RDN Electoral Areas and District of Lantzville**

	Hectares of Farm Class Inside ALR	Hectares of Farm Status Outside of ALR	Hectares of Agriculturally Zoned Land Inside of ALR	Hectares of Agriculturally Zoned Land Outside ALR
2019	5,729	1,112	16,063	5,766
2020	5,652	1,062	16,056	5,764
2021	5,616	1,102	15,963	5,722
2022	5,775	1,112	15,900	5,758

### 8.5.3 RGS Indicator #14: The Amount of Land Classified as Private Managed Forest Land

#### RGS Target is to increase the amount of land available for natural resource use (farming, forestry, outdoor recreation)

Private Managed Forest Lands (PMFL) is a BC Assessment property classification established to encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term forest production. Most of these lands are located outside the GCB. Decreases in the amount of PMFL can reflect the pressure to convert forested land to residential, commercial and other uses that are contrary to RGS goals to protect rural lands for rural uses.

In 2022, the region reported a total of 132,780 hectares of PMFL (excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach). There was a further loss of 5 has of PMFL 2021 which was observed in the Electoral Areas. The decreases in the amount of PMFL may reflect the land transitioning from being actively managed as forest lands to being used for residential or other permitted uses.

**Table 10:** The amount of Private Managed Forest Land (Hectares)

	City of Nanaimo	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
<b>2017</b>	160	129	723	132,291	133,303
<b>2018</b>	217	129	723	132,143	133,212
<b>2019</b>	217	-	723	132,045	132,985
<b>2020</b>	217	-	723	132,017	132,957
<b>2021</b>	197	-	722	131,866	132,785
<b>2022</b>	197	-	722	131,861	132,780

Note: the City of Parksville is not listed as it does not have any lands designated Private Managed Forest Land.

\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019-2022

## GOAL 5 - KEY FINDINGS

Key findings of Goal 5 are mixed, showing both progress towards and away from the intent of the goals. The results indicate that the RGS policies in support of directing most growth into the GCBs are working with 98.8 per cent of newly created parcels being within the GCBs. On the other hand, the amount of PMFL continues to decrease on a yearly basis, showing that the region is moving away from the target of preserving the amount of land available for natural resource use. The number of parcels with 'Farm Status' appeared to increase in 2022, but due to the irregular reporting cycle for farm gate income with BC Assessment, there is not enough information to determine if this is a positive trend.



## 8.6 GOAL 6 – FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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#### Housing Support

- Zoning and Business Licence Bylaws were amended to regulate short-term rental accommodations, and a short-term rental operator guide was completed to increase access to market rental units for longer-term tenants.
- The City continued to implement its Memorandum of Understanding with BC Housing by supporting rezoning, development permit and building permit processes to develop four purpose-built permanent supportive housing developments for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, and three affordable housing projects.

#### 8.6.1 *RGS Indicator #15: The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50 per cent of the median for the region*

**RGS Target is to increase the portion of households living in housing that meets their needs (appropriate, adequate, adaptable, sustainable, affordable and attainable)**

The RGS seeks to increase the stock of affordable market and social housing for seniors, youth, those with special needs, those with moderate or low incomes and people experiencing homelessness. This indicator tells us the amount of documented market

rental units that are affordable to those with lower incomes in the region. The median household income according to 2016 Census data was \$62,844. This number was used for 2015–2021 reporting purposes as it was the most recent Census data available. The median household income of \$76,000 reported in the 2021 Census data was used for reporting purposes for 2022.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) establishes the affordable rent threshold (ART) for lower-income households based on a household spending 30 per cent or more of before-tax income for housing that is adequate, suitable and affordable. The ART used for reporting purposes in 2022 increased from \$786 (the ART used for 2017-2021 reporting) to \$950 as a result of the higher median household income reported in the 2021 Census.

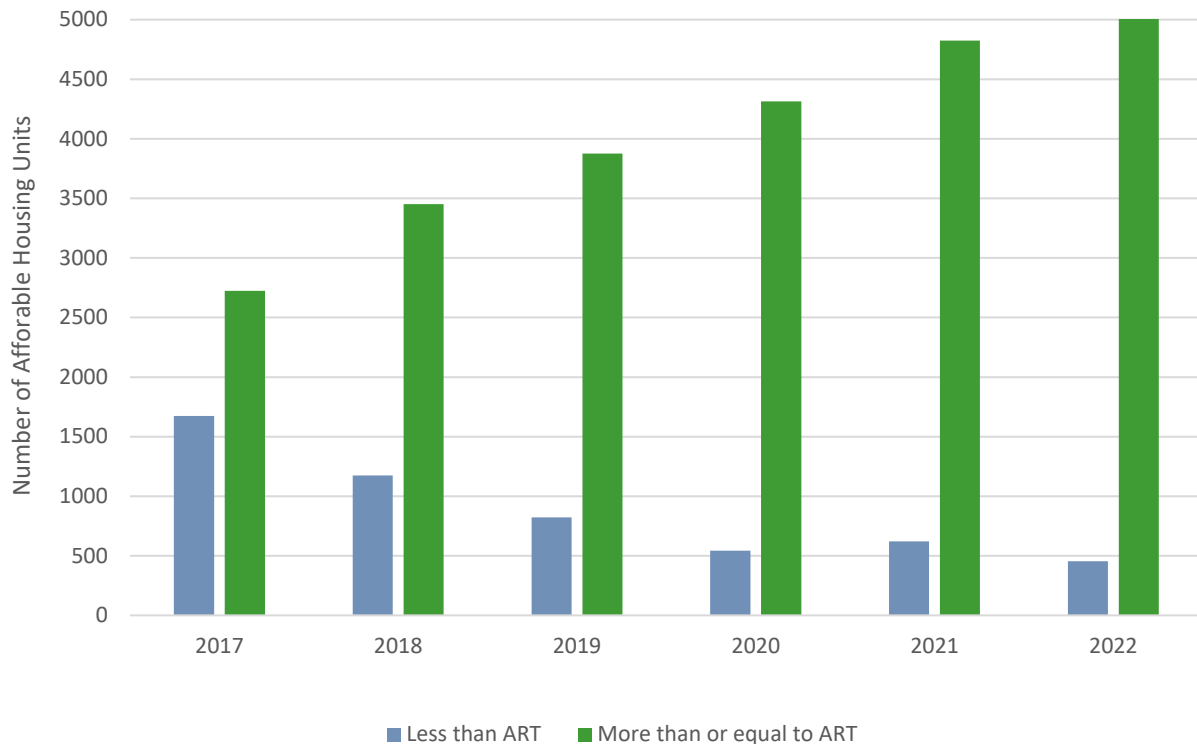
As shown in Table 11 and Chart 2, housing affordability is an ever-increasing challenge in the region. Despite the increased ART, the number of renter households above or equal to ART increased by another 510 households between 2021 and 2022. In 2022, a total of 5,333 renter households in the region were spending 30 per cent or more of before-tax income on housing. At the same time, over the past six years, the number of affordable rental units has consistently decreased. This data shows that the region is moving away from the target of increasing housing affordability, as the cost of housing continues to outpace increases in household income.

**Table 11:** Total number of renter households above or equal to the affordable household threshold

Year	Renter Households above or Equal to ART	Amount of Change Between Years (renter households)
2017	2,724	+434
2018	3,451	+727
2019	3,877	+426
2020	4,315	+438
2021	4,823	+508
2022*	5,333	+510

*2016 Census data used for 2017- 2021.*

*2021 Census income data used for 2022.*

**Chart 2:** Total number of rental units affordable to low income thresholds

*Note: ART used for 2017-2021 \$786; increased in 2022 to \$950 based on a higher median household income reported in the 2021 Census.*

### 8.6.2 RGS Indicator #16: The portion of units in each housing type inside the Growth Containment Boundary (diversity of housing types in the GCB)

#### **RGS Target is to increase the portion of non-single detached dwelling units inside the Growth Containment Boundary**

Diverse forms of housing within growth centres provide for different housing needs, while keeping residents close to services they require daily. Other benefits of compact communities include the efficient servicing of development and the protection of natural areas outside of growth centres.

This indicator measures the number of dwelling units by type within the GCBs. The types of dwelling units included in the indicator are single-detached dwellings, other ground-oriented dwellings (duplexes, townhomes and manufactured homes) and

apartments (low-rise and high-rise multi-family). Although there is limited yearly data available for this indicator, tracking the diverse type of housing forms is important to understand what type of development is occurring in different areas of the region.

In 2022, the region saw an increase of 528 market and rental housing units within the GCBs of the City of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville and the District of Lantzville. Of these 129 units were single detached dwellings 266 were ground-oriented dwellings and 134 were apartment dwellings. Of the total dwelling units, 76 per cent of the dwelling were ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings while, 24per cent were single-detached dwellings, showing progress toward the target of increasing the proportion of non-single detached dwellings inside the GCBs.



**Table 12: Dwelling Types within the GCBs**

		Single Detached Family Dwelling	Other Ground-Oriented Dwellings	Apartment Dwellings
Electoral Areas	2018	3,710	1,447	51
	2019	3,722	1,456	51
	2020	3,730	1,472	51
	2021	3,748	1,470	52
	2022	3,742	1,489	52
Lantzville	2018	1,321	89	0
	2019	1,322	89	0
	2020	1,326	105	0
	2021	1,321	105	0
	2022	1,324	107	0
Parksville	2018	3,908	1,437	1,076
	2019	3,931	1,465	1,461
	2020	3,995	1,481	1,578
	2021	4,027	1,481	1,624
	2022	4,085	1,506	1,758
Qualicum Beach*	2018	3,181	470	420
	2019	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-
Nanaimo	2018	23,399	4,110	4,143
	2019	23,778	4,191	4,152
	2020	24,203	4,291	4,342
	2021	25,601	5,870	4,808
	2022	25,675	6,090	4,808

\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2022.

## GOAL 6 – KEY FINDINGS

In 2022, Progress toward Goal 6 – Facilitate the provision of Affordable Housing was mixed. The continued rise in housing costs, rental prices, and the growing disparity between income and housing costs, has moved the region away from the goal of adaptable, accessible, affordable, and attainable housing. On the other hand, the region has shown progress towards the diversification of housing forms within growth centres, with 76 per cent of the housing created during the 2022 reporting year being ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings which provide for different housing needs, keeping residents close to the services they require daily and potentially reducing the cost of transportation and overall affordability.

## 8.7 GOAL 7 – ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

### CITY OF NANAIMO

#### Economic Resiliency

- The City began developing a draft Integrated Action Plan to implement City Plan policies, including actions toward implementing economic resiliency policies.

#### 8.7.1 RGS Indicator #17 [Unemployment] Employment rate and labour participation

#### **RGS Target is to maintain an unemployment rate between 3–6% and increase the labour force participation rate**

This indicator is important to understanding the economic health of the region as changes in the labour force are the result of changes in population and economic activity.

Based on the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the total Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (NCA) employment rate increased to the rate observed since pre-pandemic levels reaching 61 per cent in 2022. Similarly, Labour Force participation also rose to reach 63.5 per cent in 2022 and the NCA unemployment rate decreased to 3.9 per cent in 2022, which is within the desired RGS target range of three to six per cent.



Please note the labour force statistics presented in the prior RGS Annual Report used information provided by BC Statistics. The undercoverage calculations are no longer available, and the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the total Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (NCA) does not account for undercoverage. This has led to the statistics shown in Table 13 being slightly different from proper years reporting.

**Table 13: Employment Rate, Unemployment Rate and Labour Force Participation**

	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Labour Force Participation
2017	60.2%	6.1%	64.2%
2018	62.0%	5.4%	65.6%
2019	62.3%	5.3%	65.8%
2020	57.5%	9.4%	63.5%
2021	57.4%	6.3%	61.2%
2022	61.0%	3.9%	63.5%

**GOAL 7 – KEY FINDINGS**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 was the first year that the region saw progress towards Goal 7: Enhanced Economic Resiliency. The Unemployment rate is at the lowest it has been since before the pandemic and the Employment Rate and Labour Force Participation have increased.



**8.8 GOAL 8 – FOOD SECURITY**

**CITY OF NANAIMO**

- The City began developing a draft Integrated Action Plan which includes actions on implementing Food Security policies identified in the City Plan.

### GOAL 8 – KEY FINDINGS

Consistent with RGS Goal 8: Food Security, the City of Nanaimo created an integrated Action Plan which includes actions on implementing Food Security policies. Although Goal 8 does not have a specific indicator to monitor progress, we can look to RGS Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity, Indicator 13: Number of Parcels with Farm Status which indicates that the region has experienced a increase in the number of parcels with farm status.



### 8.9 GOAL 9 – PRIDE OF PLACE

#### REGIONAL ACTIONS

##### RDN Parks

- Improvements to Descanso Bay Regional Park took place throughout 2022. A new campground office is scheduled to be in place in 2023.
- A weir elevation study for Coats Marsh Regional Park was conducted by professional engineers in 2022.
- In 2022 a trail assessment at Englishman River Regional Park began to document and assess riparian issues within the 30-meter riparian buffer. The final report will inform recreational trail use in this area.
- Planning for a new bridge over Nile Creek began in 2022.
- A new floating dock was installed at Quennell Lake in 2022.
- Construction of a new playground at Meadow Drive Community Park began in December 2022.
- The construction of a coal cart shelter at Extension Miners Community Park was completed in 2022.
- The construction of a playground at Errington Community Park was completed in 2022.

- The French Creek Estuary lands were purchased in April 2022 and site restoration to a previously disturbed area was completed in December 2022.
- Improvements to Boulton Community Park were completed in 2022.

## CITY OF NANAIMO

### Arts and Culture

- The City adopted updated Downtown Heritage Building Design Guidelines to guide exterior rehabilitation of significant heritage buildings listed in the Downtown Heritage Conservation Area.
- In partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation and Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools the City re-named the NDSS Community Field q'unq'inuqwstuxw, meaning "return or give back" in Hul'q'umi'num. This was celebrated through the unveiling of a new sign with artwork by Noel Brown on September 30, 2022.
- The City adopted a Neighbourhood Association Supports Policy to improve governance and support for neighbourhood groups and their engagement with the City.

#### 8.9.1 *RGS Indicator #18: Amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks, and recreational facilities such as pools and ice rinks)*

#### **RGS Target is to increase the amount of publicly owned land for parks and recreational facilities**

This indicator measures the cumulative amount, in hectares, of publicly owned recreational facilities and parkland. The facilities and land may be owned by the provincial government, school district, regional district or municipality. These facilities and lands serve a multitude of purposes such as recreation, sports, public use and environmental protection.

In 2022, the amount of publicly owned land in the region increased by 78 hectares, for a total of 6,189 hectares. This increase of publicly owned land is mainly attributed to

land being added to the Mount Benson Regional Park in Electoral Area A and the French Creek Estuary Natural Preserve in Electoral Area G leading to a total increase of 87 ha of publicly owned land in the Electoral Areas. Although there was a significant gain of publicly owned land in the Electoral Areas, the reporting shows a loss of nine ha of publicly owned land in the City of Parksville, which can be attributed to changes in mapping practices. Overall, the region is showing progress towards achieving the goal of increasing the amount of publicly owned land.

**Table 14: Hectares of Publicly Owned Lands Designated for Parks and Community Use**

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
<b>2018</b>	2,255 ha	280 ha	159 ha	9 ha	3,426 ha	6,129 ha
<b>2019</b>	2,354 ha	280 ha	-	9 ha	3,442 ha	6,085 ha
<b>2020</b>	2,355 ha	285 ha	-	9 ha	3,436 ha	6,085 ha
<b>2021</b>	2,362 ha	286 ha	-	9 ha	3,454 ha	6,111 ha
<b>2022</b>	2,362 ha	277 ha	-	9 ha	3,541 ha	6,189 ha

\*Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach 2019 -2022.

### 8.9.2 RGS Indicator #19: Per capita length of maintained trails (including trails, paths and laneways)

#### RGS Target is to increase the per capita length of maintained trails

This indicator tells us the length of mapped trails, including trails, paths and laneways that are maintained by the RDN and member municipalities.

This indicator reports the metres of trails per capita and represents the length of mapped or inventoried publicly accessible trails available for use by the community. However, other trails do exist that are not included as they are not currently mapped.

The length of maintained trails per capita decreased from 2.33m/person in 2021 to 2.30m/person in 2022. Decreases in the length of trails were seen in the City of Nanaimo and the Electoral Areas with a total loss of 6,237 metres of trail, which can be attributed to trail closures and alignment changes. The closure of the Schooner Ridge trail and the Wildwood Community Park trail due to public safety concerns contributed to a significant amount of this trail loss. Although this represents a decrease in trails per capita for the 2022-year, public safety was at the core of the decision to close these trails.

**Table 15: Length of Trails in Metres**

	City of Nanaimo**	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total	Per Capita
<b>2017</b>	170,000 m	39,419 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	150,660 m	391,409 m	2.53 m/person
<b>2018</b>	186,597 m	40,420 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	151,473 m	409,820 m	2.63 m/person
<b>2019</b>	186,597 m	40,420 m	-	8,600 m	169,110 m	404,727 m	2.59 m/person
<b>2020</b>	173,790 m	40,716 m	-	8,600 m	168,491 m	391,597 m	2.52 m/person
<b>2021</b>	174,270 m	40,000 m	-	4,602 m	178,441 m	397,313 m	2.33 m/person
<b>2022</b>	171,200 m	40,716 m	-	4,602 m	175,274 m	391,793 m	2.30 m/person

\*Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach 2019-2022.

\*\* City of Nanaimo reporting for 2017-2020 changed to reflect more accurate methodology.

### GOAL 9 – KEY FINDINGS

Progress towards Goal 6 – Pride of Place is mixed. The Region saw an increase in the amount of publicly owned land with the addition of the Mount Benson Regional Park in Electoral Area A and the French Creek Estuary Natural Preserve in Electoral Area G, while it saw a loss in the amount of per capita length of trails with the closure of the Schooner Ridge trail and the Wildwood Community Park trail due to public safety concerns.



## 8.10 GOAL 10 – EFFICIENT SERVICES

### REGIONAL ACTIONS

#### Solid Waste

- The RDN solid waste department developed a mobile app and ticketing system for mobile workers to assist Waste Hauler Licensing and Bylaw enforcement.

#### Transit Services

- RDN Transit Services continued to use of real-time data analysis for route run time adjustments, improving efficiency.

### CITY OF NANAIMO

- The City adopted its City Plan: Nanaimo Re-Imagined to guide the City's evolution over the next 25-plus years. The Plan serves as Nanaimo's: Official Community Plan (OCP); Parks, Recreation, Culture, & Wellness Plan; Active Mobility Plan; Transportation Plan; Climate Action & Resiliency Plan; and Accessibility and Inclusion Plan.
- The City began developing a draft Integrated Action Plan to implement City Plan policies.

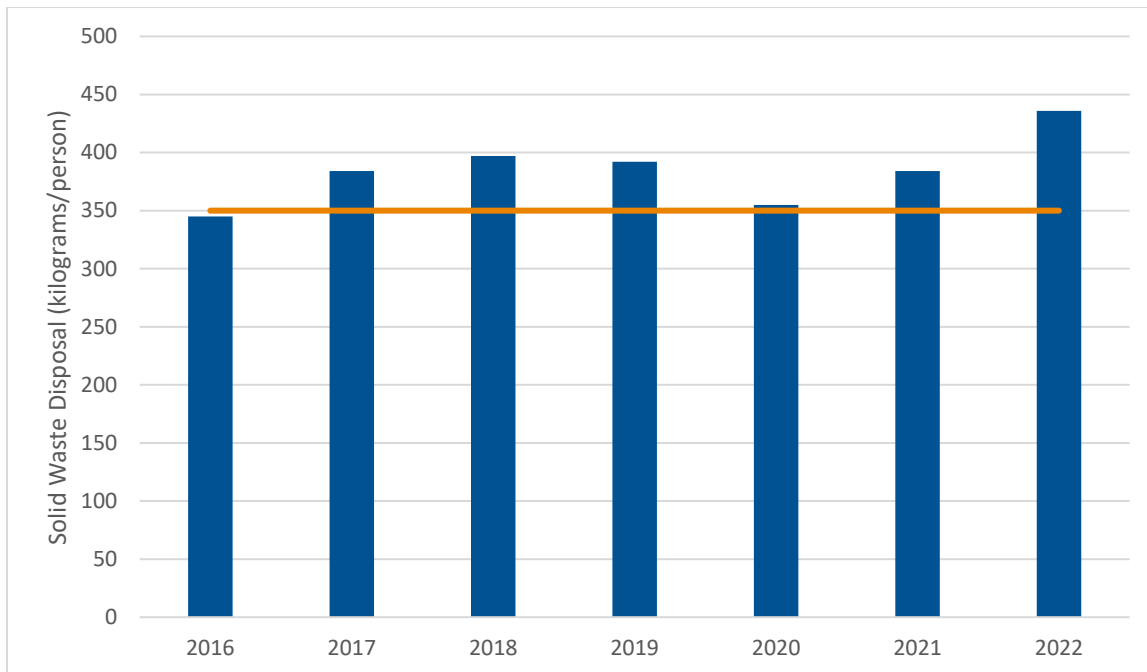
#### 8.10.1 RGS Indicator #20: Per capita waste disposal

#### **RGS Target is to decrease the per capita amount of waste going to landfill below 350 kilograms/person**

The amount of solid waste produced in the region reflects our stewardship of resources from consumption to disposal. This indicator shows the amount of waste being diverted through recycling and composting and the impact on landfill capacity. The per capita waste disposal has not met its target since 2016 when the total waste going into the landfill was 345 kg/person. Although per capita waste disposal fluctuated yearly between 2017 and 2022, the amount of waste going into the landfill has consistently been above the 350 kg/person goal, hitting a high of 436 kg/person in 2022. Potential reasons for the increase in per capita waste disposal since 2016 may

be the strong real estate market resulting in more waste generated from new construction, renovations, and the demolition of older homes. Despite the per capita increase in waste disposal, the RDN continues to have a progressive waste diversion rate and the updated Solid Waste Management Plan charts the path to a 90 per cent waste diversion by 2030.

**Chart 3: Per Capita Waste Disposal**



**8.10.2 RGS Indicator #21: Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems**

**RGS Target is to decrease the per capita costs of water and sewer**

This indicator tells us how efficient the provision of community water, sewer and wastewater systems are per person and is an indication of the compactness and density of a community.

This indicator includes the operational costs of providing water services, sewer services and wastewater treatment within the RDN and member municipalities.

Apart from sewer costs in the City of Nanaimo, the cost of sewer, water and wastewater in the region increased in 2022. In the Electoral Areas, there was a 3.5 per cent increase in the cost of water and a 9.2 per cent increase in the sewer costs over 2021. Within the City of Nanaimo, the water costs increased by 55 per cent while the sewer costs decreased by 6.6 per cent over 2021. The delivery of wastewater for the region increased by 8.2 per cent over 2021 as shown in the Table below. The increase in service costs can be attributed to the effects of inflation on all expenditures and increased operational expenses.

**Table 16: Per Capita Costs to Provide Water, Sewer and Wastewater**

	Nanaimo		Electoral Areas		All
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Wastewater*
<b>2018</b>	\$256/person	\$76/person	\$463/person	\$310/person	\$112/person
<b>2019</b>	\$322/person	\$156/person	\$489/person	\$320/person	\$117/person
<b>2020</b>	\$291/person	\$126/person	\$476/person	\$337/person	\$120/person
<b>2021</b>	\$230/person	\$121/person	\$554/person	\$363/person	\$122/person
<b>2022</b>	\$357/person	\$113/person	\$573/person	\$396/person	\$132/person

\*Wastewater costs are for the entire RDN and include City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum, RDN Electoral Areas and City of Parksville.

Note: 2016 census population of 155,698 was used for the 2017-2020 per capita calculation and the 2021 Census population of 170,367 was used for the 2021-2022 per capita calculations.

### 8.10.3 RGS Indicator #22: Per capita length of roads

#### **RGS Target is to decrease the per capita length of roads**

This indicator tells us the length of road required to service a community. This is directly influenced by where development is allowed and what form it takes, indicating how efficiently land is being used.



This indicator measures the metres of roads per capita that provide access to businesses and residences.

The per capita length of roads in the RDN Electoral Areas, the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville has consistently decreased every year since 2017 showing progress towards achieving the goal of decreasing the per capita length of roads. Slight increases in the per capita length of roads were observed in the District of Lantzville which were attributed to the Foothills development. Overall, since 2017 this indicator has remained relatively stable with the most notable change being between the 2020 and the 2021 reporting years as a result of the population statistics from the 2021 Census becoming available. During the 2021 and 2022 reporting years, the length of roads per capita for the RDN Electoral Areas and member municipalities remained stable at 10.18 metres per person.

**Table 17: Per Capita Length of Roads**

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
<b>2017</b>	6.26 m/person	7.75 m/person	11.9 m/person	15.97 m/person	25.30 m/person	11.74 m/person
<b>2018</b>	6.30 m/person	7.75 m/person	11.9 m/person	16.09 m/person	25.37 m/person	11.74 m/person
<b>2019</b>	6.30 m/person	7.75 m/person	-	16.89 m/person	25.40 m/person	11.81 m/person
<b>2020</b>	6.30 m/person	6.43m/person	-	17.06m/person	25.46m/person	11.84m/person
<b>2021</b>	5.74m/person	7.33m/person	-	16.14m/person	23.34m/person	10.18m/person
<b>2022</b>	5.74m/person	7.33m/person	-	16.14m/person	23.35m/person	10.18m/person

*\*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach 2019-2022.*

*Note: 2016 census population of 155,698 was used for the 2017-2020 per capita calculation and the 2021 Census population of 170,367 was used for the 2021-2022 per capita calculations.*

### GOAL 10 – KEY FINDINGS

The indicators of Goal 10 – Efficiency of Services show two indicators moving away from the targets and one indicator maintaining stable. The per capita waste disposal hit a high of 436 kg/person in 2022, well above the target of 350kg/person. Similarly, the cost of sewer and water services, except for sewer within the City of Nanaimo has increased. Despite the increase in the amount of waste disposal and servicing costs, the region maintained the same per capita length of roads which was observed in 2021.

## 8.11 GOAL 11 – COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

### REGIONAL ACTIONS

#### First Nations

- Formal and informal meetings were held with First Nations throughout 2022 to work on a wide variety of matters at both the policy and operational level, including a monthly information-sharing table with Snuneymuxw First Nation. The RDN and the Qualicum First Nation renewed their Protocol Agreement, with the agreement serving as a framework for continuing to work together on matters of mutual interest. Under the Protocol Agreement, Chief Michael Recalma participates as a non-voting member of the RDN Board. The RDN is committed to supporting inclusive governance by working with First Nations, the Province and local governments to advance Indigenous participation in regional governance. Due to limitations on holding in-person events, virtual training in Indigenous cultural awareness and education was offered to RDN Directors and staff, with in-person opportunities set to resume in 2023.

#### Water Services

- The RDN Water Department enhanced cooperation among jurisdictions in 2022 through the following actions:
- Completed the Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management and continued to convene the RDN Rainwater Working Group, a multi-department/agency group

focused on the implementation of regional rainwater actions under the Liquid Waste Management Plan and the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program.

- Continued to train volunteer stewards on surface water quality sampling procedures as part of the RDN's Community Watershed Monitoring Network, completing the 12th year of this program.
- Shared water monitoring data with the Province via the Environmental Monitoring System database and Aquarius Real-time data portal.
- Engaged with the Ministry of Environment and provided formalized recommendations on the ongoing development of a new Provincial Watershed Security Strategy and Fund
- Convened monthly check-in meetings with regional water purveyors between April – October to communicate about watering restrictions etc.
- Participated on the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable and Interagency Partnership in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Environment, Snuneymuxw First Nation, City of Nanaimo and other stakeholders.
- Engaged with the BC Agricultural Adaptation Climate Action Initiative for Vancouver Island, in focus groups on agricultural water monitoring and watershed planning
- Initiated a collaborative Ecological Accounting Process Partnership bringing together various regional partners to begin a process of embedding the Ecological Accounting Process within Vancouver Island University and the Mount Arrowsmith Bioregion Research Institute (MABRRI).
- Convened a collaborative process with regional water supply providers to assess water supply resiliency for a changing climate, and identified where additional planning could be focused through a set of best practices for climate-informed water supply planning.

### **Wastewater Services**

- The RDN Wastewater Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions through the following actions:
- Held two Wastewater and Water Collaborative (W3C) meetings to enhance cooperation between RDN and member municipalities and support the implementation of the Liquid Waste Management Plan.
- Held two Liquid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Committee meetings to enhance communication and cooperation between the Regional District and our communities; enhance cooperation between the RDN and member municipalities; and support the implementation of the Liquid Waste Management Plan.

### **Solid Waste Services**

- The RDN Solid Waste Department enhanced cooperation among jurisdictions in 2022 through the following actions:
- Maintained a contingency agreement with Cowichan Valley Regional District in the event their waste transfer/export services are unavailable, in addition to ongoing acceptance of asbestos, dead animals and invasive plant species.
- Maintained the agreement with the Qathet Regional District to accept solid waste from Lasqueti Island.

### **Transit Services**

- The RDN Transit, BC Transit and Cowichan Valley Regional District working group that implemented interregional service between communities continued to meet monthly to discuss operations and future bus stops.
- RDN staff continued to work with BC Transit staff to evaluate the viability of local transit initiatives and work towards planning transit and associated infrastructure for now and the future.

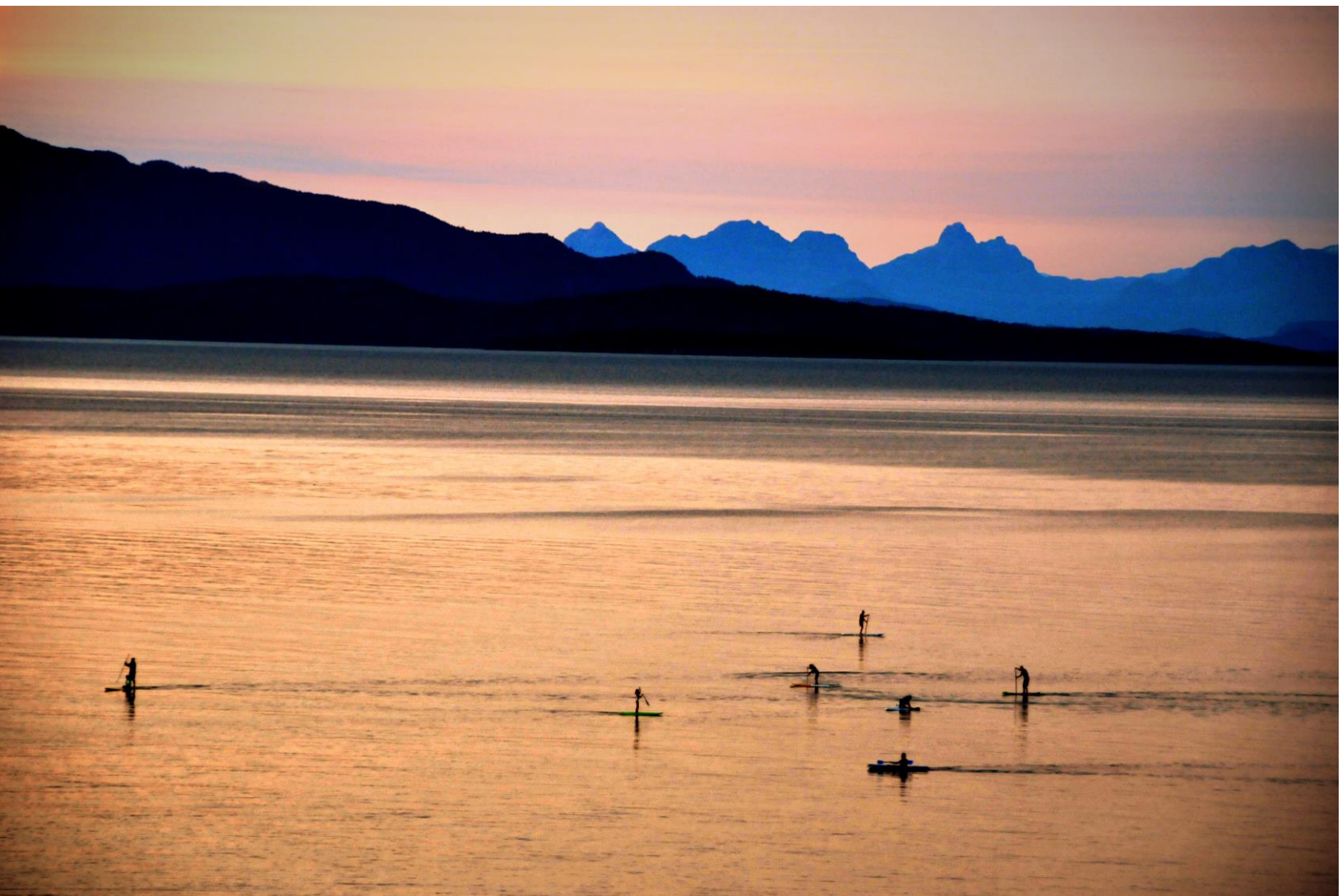
- RDN staff continued to discuss interregional service with BC Transit and Comox Valley Regional District.

### CITY OF NANAIMO

- Truth and Reconciliation - Worked alongside Snuneymuxw First Nation and Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools to jointly plan and host the commemoration event for the second National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30, 2022, in the Stadium District. Over 5,000 people attended - and many others viewed the Shaw livestream of the morning ceremony to remember and honour those lost and impacted by residential schools and other institutional policies. This was followed by cultural performances and an afternoon of free sports and recreational activities, including swimming and skating, and information booths.
- Implementation of Round One (2021-2023) of the Strengthening Communities Services Program (\$2.5 million) funding initiatives including support to a shower program for the unhoused, downtown clean-up initiatives, portable toilets in key locations, as well as temporary housing units with supports for unhoused Snuneymuxw community members.
- The city continues to partner with Snuneymuxw First Nation, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools and B.C. Housing to develop the Te'tuxwtun Project Master Plan in the Harewood Neighbourhood.
- Started a three-year partnership with Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institution, Vancouver Island University and two local governments in the mid Island where the Regional District of Nanaimo and Municipality of North Cowichan will complete an Ecological Accounting Process (EAP) for natural assets. EAP is a methodology and set of metrics that help local governments make the business case to operationalize the maintenance and management of natural assets, such as stream corridors. This collaboration will help ensure that training and expertise is retained within the university and can be continually developed. It also supports local governments with internal capacity, rather than exporting knowledge to consultants.

**GOAL 11 – KEY FINDINGS**

The above-noted actions demonstrate the importance of fostering relationships between different departments and levels of government to advance future planning and service delivery. Advancing the RGS goals of growth management in support of a more sustainable region depends on a shared understanding of these goals and collaboration between all levels of government. Actions, such as the ongoing work with local First Nations, focus on strengthening relationships to facilitate stronger collaboration on regional issues of mutual concern, ensuring all groups have a voice and a role to play in creating a more prosperous region.



## 9. Implementation – 2023

For 2023, the RDN will continue to make progress on the following implementation items:

1. Continue to monitor, evaluate and periodically report on regional economic, population, social and environmental trends and progress towards achieving RGS goals through the RGS Monitoring Program.
2. Continue advancing the Regional Growth Strategy Review: Shaping our Future 2040.
3. Continue work on the Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project.
4. Continue to work on the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan.
5. Complete flood hazard mapping for the Nanaimo River.
6. Review and update the Regional District of Nanaimo Floodplain Management Bylaw.
7. Develop a Community Amenity Contribution policy.
8. Continue to work with the Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee.
9. Continue to green building incentives (rebates) to residents who improved the performance of their homes.
10. Continue to be committed to respectful and appropriate engagement with Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As, and Qualicum First Nations in regional strategies, decision making and shared interests.
11. Work to strengthen relationships with major institutions such as Island Health, Vancouver Island University, School District 68 and 69 and organizations key to furthering the RGS goals (e.g. chamber of commerce, economic development groups, non-governmental/ community organizations).

## Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL/ SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2023
Section 5.0	Establish Targets and indicators to monitor progress	The RDN online Monitoring Program is updated annually following the release of the RGS Annual Report. <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-annual-reports">www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-annual-reports</a>
	Develop a Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RND activities are consistent with the RGS.	Ongoing.
1. Climate Change	Complete Corporate Carbon Neutral 2032 Plan.	Completed in Spring 2020.
	Coastal Flood Mapping.	Completed 2021.
	River Flood Hazard Mapping.	To be completed spring 2023.
	Update Floodplain Bylaw.	Underway.
2. Environmental Protection	Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain SEI databases.	Ongoing.
	Create a Natural Asset Inventory.	Completed 2022.
	Create new Development Permit Areas for Electoral Area F.	Underway



RGS GOAL/ SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2023
3. Land Use & Mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and to prepare mobility strategies.	Ongoing.
	Bylaw 500 update.	Continued work on Bylaw 500 Review and Update project.
	Transit Redevelopment Strategy.	Completed 2021.
4. Housing & Jobs	Regional Housing Needs Report.	Completed June 2020.
5. Rural Integrity	Policy 5.13: Implementation – Study options for more sustainable forms of subdivision to limit sprawl and fragmentation on rural residential land.	Completed October 2012.  Integrated into Official Community Plans as they are updated.
	Identify Next steps to addressing affordable housing issues	Completed Regional Housing Needs Report June 2020.
6. Affordable Housing	Complete Regional Housing Strategy	Social Needs Assessment and Strategy Completed November 2021.
	Support and encourage economic development.	Completed Implementing Regional Economic Development Report January 2020.
7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy		Completed in 2021.

RGS GOAL/ SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2023
<p>7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy</p>	<p>Amend the Electoral Area A OCP and Bylaw No. 500 for lands owned by Nanaimo Airport Commission both to recognize existing airport operations and facilitate future commercial uses.</p>	
	<p>Collaborate in the preparation of a commercial (retail and office) Land strategy to ensure that the supply, location, distribution, form and type of commercial development is consistent with the sustainability and growth management objectives of the RGS and support the continued viability of the sector.</p>	<p>To be Initiated.</p>
<p>8. Food Security</p>	<p>Prepare study of agriculture in the region to identify issues of the present and future needs of the agricultural sector.</p>	<p>Completed Area F Inventory Update as part of Official Community Plan Review 2021.</p> <p>Participated in the Vancouver Island Agricultural Adaptation Study which was Completed in Fall 2020.</p>
	<p>Prepare Agricultural Area Plan Implementation.</p>	<p>Bylaw 500 and Policy Update project completed in 2016.</p> <p>Rural Area Guide Completed in 2016.</p> <p>Bylaw 500 and 1285 amendments for Gathering for Events in Agricultural Land Reserve completed in 2018.</p>

RGS GOAL/ SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2023
9. Pride of Place	Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and official community plans.	<p>Completed Parks and Trails Strategy.</p> <p>Adopted Electoral Area H Official Community Plan in 2017.</p> <p>Continued work on Electoral Area F Official Community Plan.</p> <p>Continued work on Bylaw 500 Review and Update project.</p>
10. Efficient Services	Ongoing communication and public engagement.	Get Involved RDN continues to allow residents to obtain information, ask questions and provide input on current projects and initiatives.
11. Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing Protocol.	Continued training the RDN Board and staff on the Truth and Reconciliations Calls to Action.



REGIONAL  
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