

Regional District of Nanaimo 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan Status Report

October 2023

1. PROTECTING OUR VITAL LANDS AND ECOSYSTEMS
1.1 Review and update the Regional Park Acquisition Criteria & Rating Framework to address new and emerging priorities for land protection.
1.2 Identify and foster partnering opportunities with other organizations, including First Nations, land trusts, federal, provincial, and local governments, that have shared interests in land protection to leverage resources.
1.3 Leverage existing development approval processes to acquire vital lands and ecosystems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit a grant application in partnership with the Friends of French Creek Conservation Society to protect riparian areas.• Flood Hazard Mitigation Bylaw 1872, 2023 adopted on July 11, 2023.• Agricultural Area Plan proposed project presented at AAC September Meeting.• Modernize and update development permit areas.• Area F development permit area developed for the protection of aquifers and environmentally sensitive areas.• Ensuring watershed data is used to inform park acquisition• Stewardship seed funding for watercourse restoration projects, riparian areas, and enhancement projects• Community watershed monitoring network: surface water quality sampling in watercourses across the region, long-term datasets and analyses (creeks, streams, lakes, wetlands)
2. MANAGING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
2.1 Shift to more environmentally sustainable modes of transportation to help achieve provincial objectives and regional targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
2.2 Plan and implement risk management and mitigation strategies for identified hazards and vulnerabilities associated with climate change.
2.3 Advance priority actions that are identified within RDN Board-approved plans and initiatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with the successful proponent to implement a new fuel management system.• Smart Bus 2.2 equipment installations anticipated to begin in Q4 2023.• Upgrading transit fuel management system to implement a new system by end of 2023.• French Creek Community Park Trail and set-back plan.• Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion on hold while examining the feasibility of a pool in the Parksville area.• Waste Hauler License Bylaw pending final decision from Ministry, and ICI Section Waste Source Separation Bylaw approved by Ministry of Municipal Affairs.• Curbside Outreach has begun to assist in reducing contamination in the automated curbside collection to ensure compliance with Recycle BC.• Landfill cell one closure is complete.• Liquid Waste Management Plan amendments update anticipated to be completed in Q4 2023.• Execution of Water Conservation Plan initiatives: leak detection work is ongoing, and smart water metering trial is anticipated for 2024.• Regional Rainwater Management strategy implementation being included in Development Permit Areas as part of Electoral Area F Official Community Plan revision.• Climate Projections for the RDN estimated completion Q4 2023.
3. PLANNING AND MANAGING FOR GROWTH
3.1 Understand and develop an inter-connected framework of strategies and plans to manage growth to support complete communities, including planning, transportation, infrastructure, and fiscal sustainability.
3.2 Complete our Asset Management program to ensure physical and natural assets across the region are optimally managed.
3.3 Explore strategies to address the housing affordability crisis in the region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RDN continues to work with the City of Nanaimo to evaluate the future needs of the Country Club and Woodgrove Exchange.• Downtown Nanaimo Exchange received investment to support public transit.• The RDN and BC Transit completed a proposed plan for future conventional, custom (handyDART) and Nanaimo Cowichan Express (NCX) expansions for 2024, 2025 and 2026.• Presenting RDN Board with Transit Facility Master Plan in partnership with BC Transit Q4 2023.• The RDN, Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and BC Transit have met to discuss and begin the planning phase for this interregional service that will connect both regions.• The final phase of transit completely adopting the fleet management software in our Fleet Maintenance Operations will be completed by end of 2023.• Qualified and experienced firms have been invited to submit Statements of Qualifications for the development of an Enterprise Asset Management/Computerized Maintenance Management Systems Technology Application Strategy.• Asset Management: Assessment of organizational asset management maturity is complete, timeline to develop Asset Management Plans is being finalized, development of individual assessment management plans is ongoing.• Informal referral concluded on Regional Growth Strategy draft bylaw.• Bylaw 500 introduction anticipated for December EASC.
4. WATER SECURITY
4.1 Understand our water resources and their risks, to manage our water resources effectively and sustainably.
4.2 Evaluate our land use decisions through a water security lens.
4.3 Collaborate with regional partners including First Nations, land trusts, federal, provincial, and local governments, to ensure water resources are managed and shared equitably and responsibly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latecomer agreement for San Pareil Water Utility board report anticipated Q4 2023.• French Creek WSA Reservoir Maintenance internal tank work estimated completion for Q4 2023.• Melrose Terrace WSA Water Quality Improvement project assessment for significant repairs to existing structure to extend life.• Rivers Edge WSA Water Quality improvement project borrowing referendum planned for 2024 with construction in 2025 if approved.• Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery Trial construction of underground piping connections and concrete pad in Q4 2023.• Execution of Water Conservation Plan initiatives with regionally coordinated outdoor watering restrictions and leak detection.
5. ADVOCACY
5.1 Collaborate with the Province in undertaking restructure studies to improve the RDN's governance.
5.2 Partner with First Nations, local governments, associations, and the Province to modernize the legislative framework within which BC's local governments operate.
5.3 Collaborate with First Nations, regional districts and the Province to facilitate discussion and engagement about First Nation representation on regional district boards outside the treaty process.
5.4 Advocate for a continuum of specialized services to be established in the region to address the crisis of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, with compassionate solutions viewed through the lens of housing and health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electoral Area F Governance and Services Study complete. RDN sent correspondence to Minister Kang on May 30, requesting approval and funding for an EA F Incorporation Study, and also requesting that the Ministry approve a Governance and Services Study for EA G should funding be available for both studies.• Project planning for inclusive governance study underway and Ministry of Municipal Affairs grant received.• Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure grant was received. Project meetings and activities for rail corridor study are underway.• NRHD advocacy strategy underway.• RDN co-hosted an interactive panel on the next steps of the Legislative Reform Initiative at the 2023 UBCM annual convention; follow up work underway.