



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO



ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'E' | NANOOSE BAY

ISSUE 15 • SUMMER 2013

Community Parks and Trails Strategy

The Regional District of Nanaimo is developing a Community parks and trails strategy for the northern Electoral Areas which is scheduled to be completed in September, 2013. Community parks and trails are different than Regional parks and trails. Community parks and trails primarily serve

the local neighborhood and community residents while the Regional parks and trails serve residents from the entire region and beyond. Community parks and trails are mostly created as a result of new development and are paid for through local taxes in each Electoral Area.



highlights

- * Community Parks and Trails Strategy
- * Removal of Unsafe Buildings at Moorecroft Regional Park
- * Fairwinds Update

The purpose of this strategy is to provide specific direction about the acquisition, protection, development and management of local parks and trails. The goal is to have our Electoral Area develop its own vision and concept plan to provide clear direction in shaping the future of your community. The process will be overseen by an Advisory Committee with representation from the Electoral Area 'E' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committees and local First Nations.

An open house for Electoral Area 'E' is tentatively scheduled for May 13. For more information about the open house or the Community Parks and Trails Strategy, please contact the RDN Parks department at 250-248-3252.

Removal of Unsafe Buildings at Moorecroft Regional Park

A number of unsafe buildings have now been removed at Moorecroft Regional Park, as outlined in the park management plan adopted by the RDN Board in

January, 2013. We appreciate the patience of park users while this work was ongoing.

The RDN needed to remove these buildings for public safety reasons. A 2011 risk management survey report conducted on all of the property buildings showed that most of the buildings were in poor condition, and in most instances did not

meet public safety and risk management requirements. Some of the original buildings, including Kennedy Hall, will remain on site.

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan guides the management of the Regional Park from 2013 to 2022. The plan is the result of the collaborative efforts of the residents of the Regional District of Nanaimo, Sna-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation), partnering organizations, RDN staff, the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan Advisory Committee and the project team from O2 Planning and Design. To view the final plan, visit www.rdn.bc.ca and click on Services/Parks/Regional Parks.

Fairwinds Update

Substantially complete rezoning applications were received from Fairwinds in December 2012 for the Lakes District and Schooner Cove neighborhoods in Nanoose. The rezoning proposals are based on the Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighborhood Plans which were adopted by the RDN Board in October 2011. The plans and proposals envision long term, phased development in each of the plan areas.

RDN staff are currently conducting a comprehensive technical review of the applications, including referrals to other agencies, to determine if any further information is required to process the applications. RDN staff will be working with Fairwinds to determine the timeline for a public engagement process.

For more information about the adopted neighborhood plans please visit our web site at www.rdn.bc.ca and search "Fairwinds Development".

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Regional Growth Strategy Update

On November 22, 2011, the RDN Board adopted an updated Regional Growth Strategy following the completion of the second major review since the strategy was first adopted in 1997. 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. The goals set out in the RGS work towards achieving a collective vision of regional sustainability.

The 2012 Annual Report: Regional Growth Strategy Implementation and Progress is now complete and is available on the RDN Website in the Long Range Planning Section. This report outlines the RGS-related projects and studies that the RDN has undertaken over the past year. These include the RDN's first-ever Agricultural Area Plan, a strategy and policy framework to guide agricultural-related decision making, the Cedar Main Street Design Project, which helps implement the RGS by supporting the development of a compact, mixed-use community within the Growth Containment Boundary in Electoral Area 'A', the Fairwinds Development Process ongoing in Electoral Area 'E', and the RDN economic development functions initiated in the northern and southern service areas.

The report also outlines several studies initiated as a result of the RGS, including the now-completed Alternative Forms of Rural Development Study and the Rural Village Centres Study, and the Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study which is nearing completion. Updates are also provided on the RDN's relationships with other levels of government, including First Nations, and on commitments to service delivery in the areas of climate change and energy efficiency, transportation services, parks planning, recreation programs and facilities, emergency services and drinking water and watershed protection.

For more information about the 2012 Annual Report: Regional Growth Strategy Implementation and Progress please contact the RDN Long Range Planning Department at 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798 (District 69).

Rural Village Centre Study

The Rural Village Centre Study is now complete and was presented to the RDN Board of Directors in March. After receiving the study, the Board referred it to the RDN's Electoral Area Directors for further discussion.

This study fulfills a directive in the updated 2011 Regional Growth Strategy to identify Rural Village Centres with the greatest potential to evolve into complete, compact, mixed-use centres. It measures how close each of 15 study areas is to achieving performance levels that show progress towards being a complete, compact and mixed-use centre. This measurement is achieved by using criteria in three evaluation categories (community structure/design and land use; development and market viability; and water and sewage infrastructure).

While both the Regional Growth Strategy and the Official Community Plans for the study areas support higher density development in RVCs, it is clear from the study that most areas will not be able to develop into complete, compact communities without significant investment. Lack of service provision (water and sewer infrastructure), transit, commercial and community amenities, and availability of relatively cheap land with development potential for single family residential outside of RVCs all play a role in limiting the successful development of some RVCs.

The RVC Study will not directly result in any land use changes. Its purpose is to enable the RDN Board to make informed decisions about future land use and infrastructure provision that impact local communities and the region

as a whole. The study is intended as a tool to provide the RDN Board with a better understanding of the long-term implications of land use decisions on achieving the regional vision it has endorsed in both the Regional Growth Strategy and Board Strategic Plan.

If the RDN Board were to consider changes to Rural Village Centre boundaries in its Official Community Plans and in the RGS, this would require consultation opportunities for the residents in the whole region as well as specific electoral area communities.

Now that the RVC Study has been completed the RDN Board will reconsider a pending application for a new RVC at Deep Bay in Electoral Area 'H', within the context of the information provided by the study.

House Number Visibility

- To assist the Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department, the British Columbia Ambulance Service and RCMP, please make sure that your house number is clearly marked and visible from the roadside. This is an extremely important step to take in order to ensure that emergency responders can locate your property if you need help.



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Regional District of Nanaimo Website | www.rdn.bc.ca

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