



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

Annual Report 2020

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Shaping Our Future



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Executive Summary

The Regional Growth Strategy: Shaping our Future (RDN 2011) 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. The 2020 edition of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Annual Report evaluates progress made towards these goals measured by both qualitative and quantitative data provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), member municipalities and multiple external agencies. Data in previous years forms the baseline of this report. As the monitoring program matures, data collection has become more consistent and complete year-to-year, allowing for more in-depth analysis to identify existing and emerging trends. Applicable updates on initiatives are also provided where data is unavailable.

In 2020, progress towards the RGS goals varied, with 11 indicators showing positive progress, 4 indicators remaining stable, and 4 indicators moving away from the regional goals. The global pandemic has led to unprecedented challenges impacting organizations, businesses, families and individual across the region. While the majority of the RGS indicators show positive progress or are stable, the economic indicators show a downward turn in 2020. After four years of meeting its target, the region saw a 4.5% increase in the unemployment rate and a 5.7% decrease in labour force participation which can be attributed to COVID-19 Pandemic; however, despite the effects of the pandemic, trends show continued positive gains in transit ridership, the distribution of growth, density of dwellings within the GCB and reduction in water usage.

MOVING TOWARDS TARGET

- **Goal 2: Indicator #4 – Total water consumption.** Findings to report from 2020 show a continued trend of steady progress towards the target to reduce water consumption in the region. In 2019, while populations (connections in water service areas) continued to rise, water consumption continued to decline. The City of Nanaimo average water production is down 23%, while population is up over 17% since 2009. For the nine RDN Water Service Areas, total water consumption is down 22%, while the number of connections is up 15% since data started being collected in 2004.

- **Goal 2: Indicator #6 – Amount of land in protected areas.** The RGS aims to increase the amount of land in protected areas. In 2020, the City of Parksville saw a six hectare increase in the amount of protected land, and the Electoral Areas maintained the same amount of protected land. Although it appears the amount of protected land within the City of Nanaimo decreased by 25 hectares, this was the result of updated mapping rather than an actual loss in land mass. Overall the region saw an increase in the amount of protected lands.
- **Goal 3: Indicator #7 – Number of households within a set distance (400 m) of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities.** Over the last four years, the available data has shown an increase in the number of households within a reasonable proximity to services. This increase is consistent with the target of households living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands, schools and shopping within the region.
- **Goal 3: Indicator #8 – Per capita transit use.** The use of transit continues to show a positive upward trend. Per capita transit rides have increased over 75% from 17.5 in 2015-2016 to 30.79 in 2019-2020. There was an increase of 778,152 rides taken during 2019-2020 for a total of 3,516,000 rides in the same year. Due to Provincial reporting timelines, reporting on this indicator is continually 1 year behind the RGS report.
- **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. Between 2019 and 2020, the majority of overall growth in the region continued to be within the GCB, indicating that the target is being achieved and that higher population within the GCB situates people closer to employment and services needed on a daily basis.
- **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 2020, the proportion of the population living within the GCB increased to 4.39 units/hectare which has shown a continual annual increase since the 2017 baseline of 4.05 units/hectare. Overall, this shows 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 on a daily basis. In 2020, 1,388 new lots (98%) were created within the GCB and 34 new lots (2%) 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).** The data available on this indicator shows the goal of the RGS is being achieved as a diverse range of housing is identified and the portion of non-single-family dwellings is increasing. The City of Parksville saw an increase of 502 apartment units and the City of Nanaimo saw an increase of 199 apartment units between 2019 and 2020 adding to the diversity of housing.

- **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 lands for parks and recreational facilities. In 2020, the region saw an 9 hectares increase of the amount of publicly owned land, for a total of 6,085 hectares.

- **Goal 9: Indicator #19 – Per capita length of maintained trails (including trails, paths and laneways).** The target to increase the per capita length of maintained trails continues to be achieved in 2020. While this has remained in the 2.5- 2.6 metres per capita range since 2017. There was a 1,017 metre increase in the total amount of maintained trail in 2020, mostly attributed to new trail within the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville. Overall, the yearly trend has been an increase in the amount of trails per capita.

- **Goal 10: Indicator #20 – Per capita waste disposal.** The target to decrease the per capita amount of waste going to the landfill to 350 kg/person moved towards the desired target with per capita waste disposal decreasing slightly from 397 kg/person in 2018, to 392 kg/person in 2019. Due to provincial reporting timelines, progress on this indicator is continually one-year behind that of the RGS Annual Report.

MAINTAINING TARGET (STABLE)

- **Goal 2: Indicator #5 – Surface water quality (community watershed monitoring).** Surface water quality is maintaining a stable condition in the region. In 2020, 67 surface water quality sites were sampled on 41 streams, in 26 watersheds across the region, this is a 3% increase in the number of overall sample sites since 2019. Overall, surface water quality in the region is maintaining a stable condition, while it is improving in several locations and degrading in certain other areas.
- **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% public uses, 10-40% commercial and employment uses and 50-80% for residential uses. In the RDN Electoral Areas, since 2015, the proportion of different land uses has remained constant with the land use ratio for Rural Village Centres. In 2020, due to the adoption of a new zoning bylaw, the District of Lantzville saw a shift in the mix of land uses, increasing in some areas and decreasing in others. Despite the shift within the District of Lantzville, as a whole the region has achieved the desired proportions of land uses on a consistent year-to-year basis.
- **Goal 10: Indicator #21 – Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems.** The target to decrease per capita cost of water and sewer systems remained stable in 2020. The RDN Electoral Areas saw a 3% decrease in the per capita cost of water and a 5% increase in per capita costs of sewer. The per capita costs of wastewater treatment also increased by 3% for the same time period.
- **Goal 10: Indicator #22 – Per capita length of roads.** The target to decrease the per capita length of roads has remained stable since 2017, continually remaining at approximately 12 metres per capita in the region year-over-year.

MOVING AWAY FROM TARGET

- **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. The 2020 data, shows a slight decline (2 hectares) in the amount lands designated for agriculture, located outside the ALR. While this alone does not establish a trend, it is important to continue to monitor.

— **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). Between 2015 and 2020 the region has seen a decrease in the amount of PMFL on a yearly basis, losing over 740 hectares of PMFL in a five-year period. Despite this loss in 2020, an estimated 132,957 hectares or 64% of the region's land base remained classified as PMFL.

— **Goal 6: Indicator #15 – The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50% of the median for the region.**

For the fifth year in a row, the number of households with incomes below 50% of the median for the region that are spending more than 30% of their income on housing increased. Over the five year period, the number of households spending more than 30% of their income on housing has increase by 40% from 47% in 2015 to 87% in 2020.

— **Goal 7: Indicator #17 – [Unemployment] employment rate and labour force participation.**

As a result of COVID-19, the target to maintain an unemployment rate between 3–6% and increase the labour force participation rate has not been met. In 2020, unemployment increased from 4.6% in 2019 to 9.1% in 2020. An all-time high in unemployment since the baseline data in 2015 reported a unemployment rate of 4.7%. The labour force participation rate also significantly decreased from 64.3% in 2019 to 58.6% in 2020. Although there was a decrease in labour force participation in 2020, it is still up from 51.6% in 2015 when data was first collected.

SUMMARY OF APPROACH

The purpose of the RGS Annual Report and monitoring program is to review the progress that the RDN and member municipalities have made towards achieving the goals established in the RGS. Nineteen indicators were established to help measure progress towards achieving the eleven RGS Goals. On a yearly basis quantitative and qualitative data provided through the continued collaborative efforts of both member municipalities and the RDN is analyzed to determine progress and emerging trends. The analysis of the indicators provides valuable insight into opportunities for improvement, while recognizing areas of success.

The data presented in this report will also help inform the RGS update which is currently underway. A number of areas have been identified for review, including policies relating to land



V.A.H.
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Summit



use and infrastructure servicing, housing affordability, retaining rural integrity, climate change and transportation. It has also become apparent that select RGS indicators and targets can be enhanced to better support performance monitoring and the role they play in the implementation of the RGS and collective decision making and will be reviewed as part of the RGS update.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) respectfully acknowledges and recognizes the Coast Salish Nations whose territory we live, work and play in.

2. Overview

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)¹ 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 (GCB), 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.

The 2011 RGS addresses implementation in Section 5, stating that:

“Being accountable for progress towards achieving the goals of this RGS requires a commitment to implementation, target-setting, establishing indicators, and monitoring.”

¹On 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.

Reporting on annual progress shows a commitment to implementation and fulfills a requirement under the Local Government Act “to prepare an annual report on implementation and progress towards the goals and objectives of the RGS” (RGS Policy 5.2.1).

This Annual Progress Report briefly describes the RGS purpose, vision and goals to set the stage for documenting the actions taken in 2020 by the RDN and member municipalities towards implementing the RGS. This report also incorporates performance indicators from the RGS Monitoring Program, where data is available, with the intention of tracking trends to achieve the goals of the RGS over time. In addition, the Appendix of this report includes a summary of actions taken to implement the RGS since it was updated and adopted by the RDN Board on November 22, 2011.

3. Role & Purpose

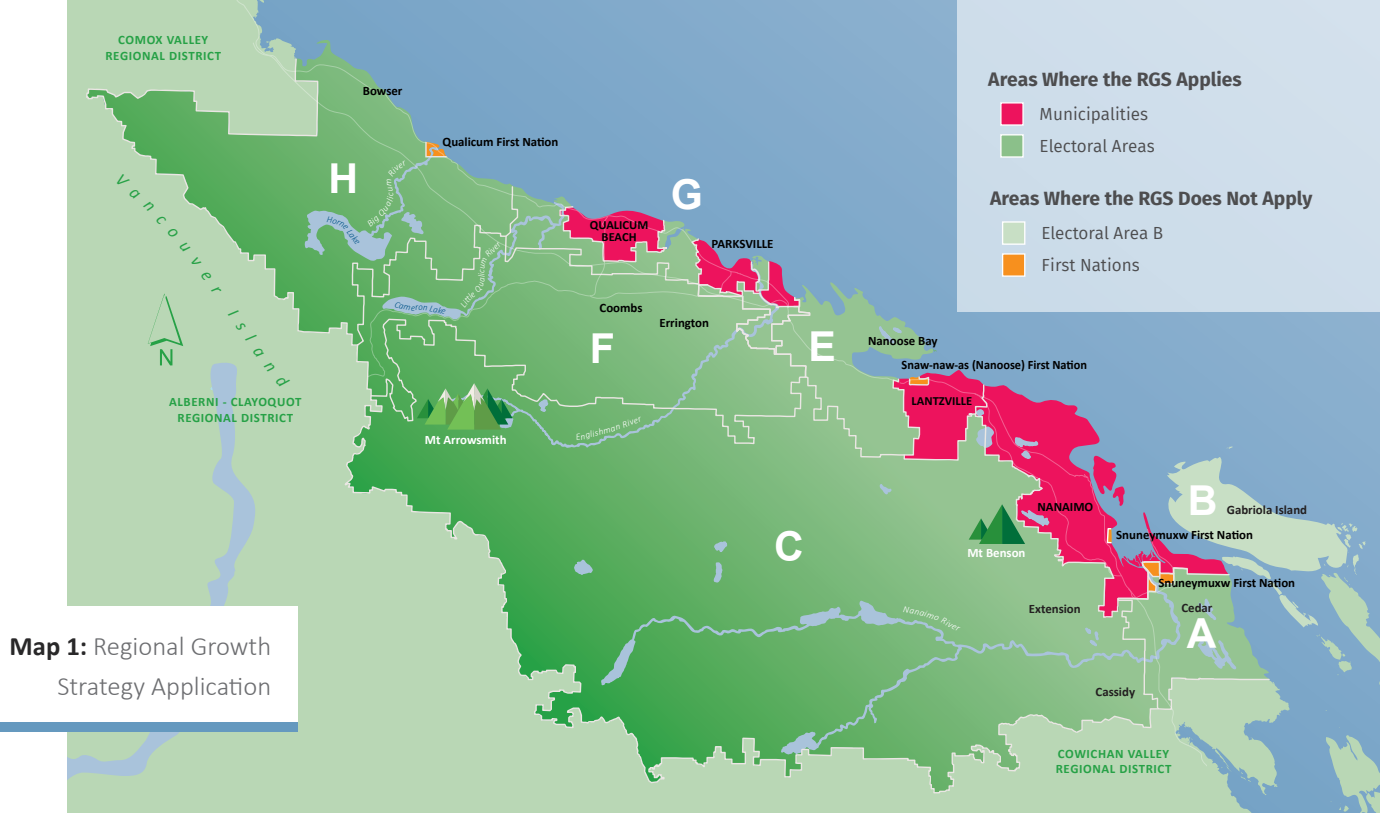
The purpose of the RGS is to:

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

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 coordinate growth management issues that cross local government boundaries. The RGS also provides a mechanism to connect with provincial ministries and agencies who have 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.

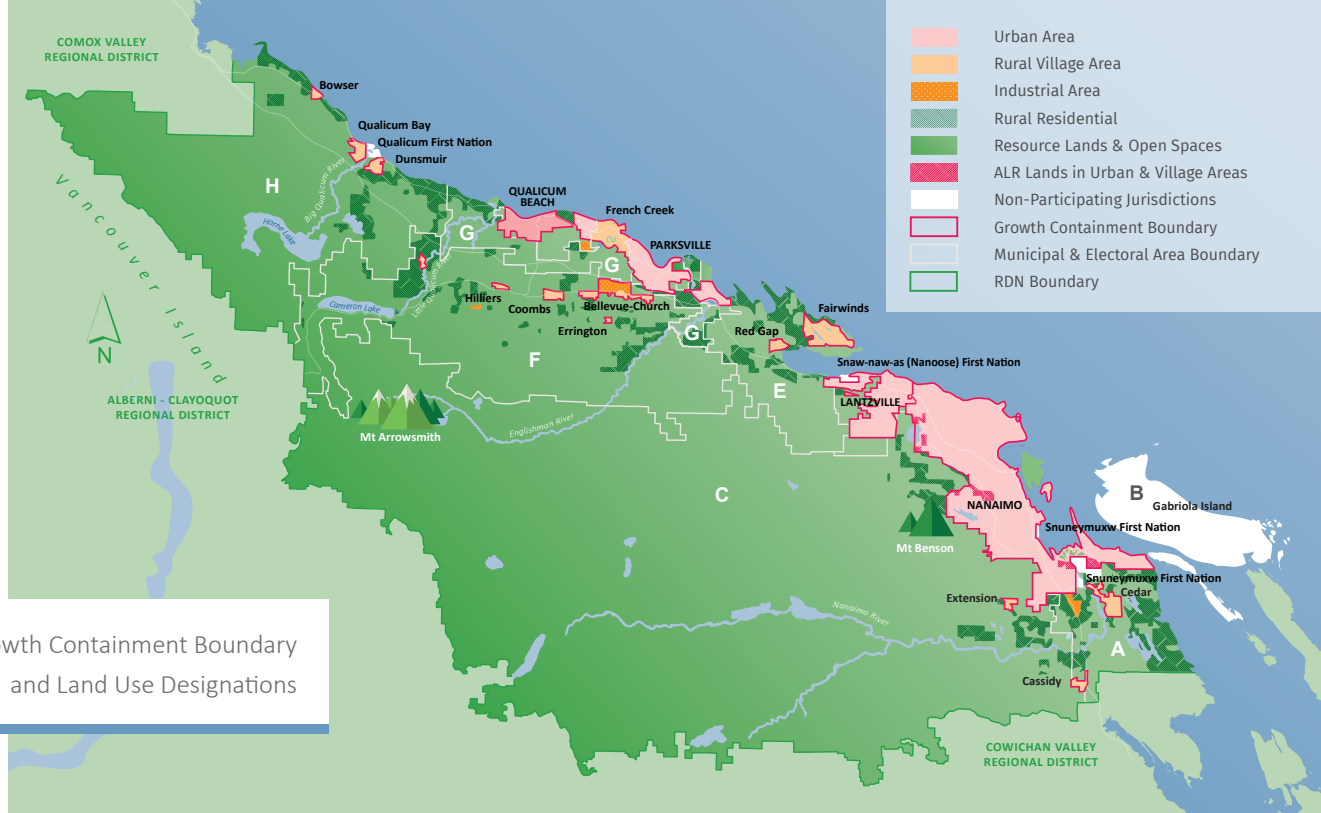


The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown in Map 1 on the following page. The RGS doesn't apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area B) as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also doesn't apply to lands under the 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 majority of 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.

4. Vision

The vision of the RGS is documented below and represents the foundation for its goals and policies.



Map 2: Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations

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 how decisions are made 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; and
- 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 provide the direction to take 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 or not 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 - 2020

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



8. Progress Towards Achieving The RGS

In addition to specific implementation projects of the RGS, the RDN and the member municipalities actively make decisions and take actions that affect the goals of the RGS. As more accurate and consistent data is provided on a year-to-year basis, the focus of this report is on the quantitative data received to identify progress towards achieving the RGS goals, supplemented by initiatives and actions taken by the RDN and member municipalities where data could not be attained. The following summaries, grouped by each RGS goal, report on the RDN and member municipality data provided for all indicators and have been updated and included to track progress towards 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

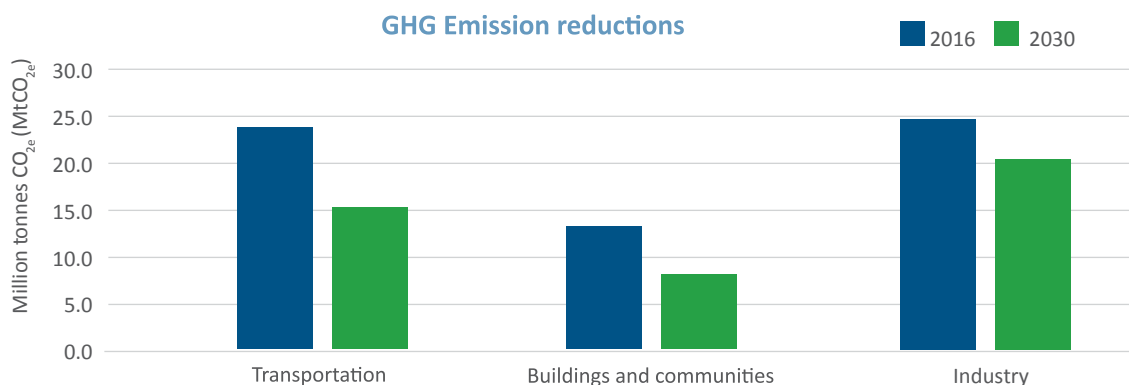
Since 2008, the Province of British Columbia has been tracking its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). In May 2018, in recognition of the growing population and economy, the Province set new targets for GHGs. Local governments are now committed to playing a role in the reduction of GHGs as follows:

- **40%** below 2007 levels in 2030,
- **60%** by 2040, and
- **80%** in 2050.

At the provincial level, CleanBC is anticipated to lead the way forward in reducing GHGs by shifting away from fossil fuels towards clean and renewable energy. On-road transportation emissions remain the second highest contributor to GHGs in the province, behind industry, the largest contributor (66% of total emissions) in the RDN.

As stated under Goal 1 in the RGS, the RDN and member municipalities can directly and indirectly influence the level of emissions generated due to land use pattern, built form, transportation systems, construction standards and landfill operations. Continuing efforts to make communities more compact, complete and energy-efficient is essential to achieving this goal.

Chart 1: Provincial Emissions Inventory & Targets



Source: Government of British Columbia, CleanBC Plan, 2018 www.cleanbc.gov.bc.ca

The actions listed below demonstrate the important role that the RDN and member municipalities play in implementing change across the region.

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

The RDN captured 3,357,036 cubic metres of landfill gas through the Landfill Gas Collection Project in 2020. This is a positive increase of 235,307 cubic metres over 2019.

Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Co-Generation System

In 2020, the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) captured 398,421 cubic metres of biogas. Captured biogas is used to fuel the boilers and co-generation system at the GNPCC.

Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee

The Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee (CATAC) was created in March 2020 to develop a strategy recommending immediate action towards climate adaptation and mitigation. Comprised of seven technical experts and three Board members, CATAC has been meeting regularly since June 2020 to provide recommended actions to the Board by end of this year.

Green Building Incentives

The RDN and the member municipalities delivered green building incentives to residents who improved the performance of their homes. In 2020, RDN programs delivered \$23,728 in green building incentives and rebates. The Green Building Incentive Program issued 96 individual rebates for: woodstove exchanges (57), renewable energy systems (8), home energy assessments (16), oil to heat pump rebates (2), and electric vehicle chargers (13). As part of the Green Building Series, the RDN and the City of Nanaimo partnered with a number of organizations to provide information and education on green building initiatives.

Transit Initiatives

The RDN Transit department has a full fleet of heavy duty Compressed Natural Gas buses for conventional transit, which emit 25% less green house gas emissions than their diesel counterparts. The department also changed from diesel fueled light duty buses for Community and HandyDart Transit to gasoline fueled vehicles in order to reduce CO2 emissions.

Corporate Carbon Neutral 2032 Plan

The RDN began work on a new plan to achieve and sustain carbon neutrality by 2032. The Corporate Carbon Neutral 2032 Plan (CCNP) will identify actions required to reduce emissions from RDN services in support of carbon neutrality over the long term. The CCNP is a key part of the RDN's goal to be a leader in climate change adaptation and mitigation and to become net zero by 2023.

Electric Vehicle Chargers

The RDN has been awarded a grant from the Provincial CleanBC Communities Fund to install 10 new public electric vehicle charging stations within the regional district, as part of a larger investment in 28 EV chargers across mid-Vancouver Island. The new level 2 charging stations will be installed across the RDN by the end of 2022 to help fill existing gaps in the mid-island area's charging network and to expand zero emission transportation options for RDN residents, businesses and visitors.

Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation

The RDN has launched the Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Program. This multi-year initiative is designed to use the latest approaches in science and engineering to better understand flood hazards and identify applicable flood mitigation options to reduce the risk of flooding. These resources will be used by engineers and the development industry to plan construction projects and to update development policies and bylaws to ensure a standard of public safety into the future.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Climate Change Initiatives

The City of Nanaimo underwent a number of green initiatives in 2020 including:

- updating the City of Nanaimo – Corporate Strategic Management Plan;
- conducting five Low Carbon Electrification Studies aimed at identifying opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- the adoption of a Climate Resiliency Strategy by Council;
- working with the RDN to complete the Millstone River Ecological Accounting Process, for financial valuation of the Millstone River and Riparian Area within an Asset Management Plan; and
- updating to the City Climate Action Plan as part of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo Process.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

The City of Parksville will get three EVs and a charging station for public use as part of the grant received by the RDN.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

The Town of Qualicum Beach adopted a Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The plan builds upon the existing actions taken by the Town to address climate change, and allows the Town to proactively identify opportunities for action that advances the community towards the climate resilience of its social, economic, built and natural systems.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

Lantzville continued to participate in the provision of regional Green Building Incentives through the RDN. This included incentives for rainwater harvesting, woodstove exchanges, solar hot water systems, home energy assessments and EV charging stations.



GOAL 1 - KEY FINDINGS

The Green Building Incentive Program continued to attract applications for funding to help residents implement more environmentally friendly home practices, delivering over \$23,000 in rebates in 2020. The three most popular rebates in 2020, in order of popularity, were woodstove exchanges, home energy assessments and EV charging stations. The Landfill Gas Collection Project collected 3,357,036 cubic metres of landfill Gas and the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre captured 398,421 cubic metres of Biogas. The City of Nanaimo began updates to the City Climate Action Plan as part of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo Process and the Town of Qualicum Beach adopted a Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan, all great initiatives working toward Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption.



8.2 GOAL 2 – PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL ACTIONS

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

Watershed Protection

- Supported three watercourse restoration projects: Knarston Creek, Little Qualicum Estuary, and Chase River, through the Stewardship Seedfunding initiative
- Completed a Phase 3 Water Budget Model for Electoral Area E

- Completed a Water Quality & Risk Assessment study in support of the Area F Official Community Plan Update
- Continued the ongoing rebate for rainwater harvesting, irrigation and soil improvements, wellhead upgrades and well water testing for a total of over 130 rebates issued in 2020
- Completed the 5-Year Wetland Mapping and Monitoring Research Project with Vancouver Island University and Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute
- Started an Ecological Accounting Process for the Millstone River and riparian area, in partnership with the City of Nanaimo.

Wastewater

- Achieved substantial completion of the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPC) secondary treatment upgrade project
- Initiated a Contaminates of Concern Planning Study to investigate the presence of some irregular substances at the GNPC and FCPC and to support decision on future levels of treatment
- Completed the 2020 GNPC Environmental Monitoring Program
- Provided \$42,000 in SepticSmart Rebates

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Completed the Water Supply Strategy Update Study with a focus on water yield, water consumption, demand management, climate change and providing a resilient water supply system for the future population.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

- Continued providing educational information to residents concerning water conservation and implemented water restrictions
- Continued participation in the RDN's Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program.

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

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, recent trends of longer summers with less precipitation have put pressure on local water resources at the time when water use is at its highest. This indicator is a measure of water conservation and it tells us if the amount of water consumed is increasing or decreasing. The original target noted above identifies a specific year range; a new target will be created as part of the RGS Review.

As shown by the data, the overall trend is while populations (connections in water service areas) continue to rise, water consumption continues to decline. This is likely attributed to improvements in water efficient technologies and a growing community awareness of water conservation measures. From the information gathered this year from the RDN water service areas and the City of Nanaimo (no information provided from the District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach or City of Parksville), positive improvements can be noted in the highlights below. These findings show gradual progress towards the target:

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Average water production is down 23%, while population is up over 17% since 2009.

RDN WATER SERVICE AREAS

- The total water consumption is down 22%, while number of connections is up 15% since 2004.

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 BC Ministry of Environment and private forestry organizations to measure and

track changes in the health of local watersheds. In 2020, water quality samples from 67 sites on 41 streams in 26 watersheds across the region were collected. This is a 3% increase in the number of overall sample sites since 2019.

This indicator reflects the total number of sites that met the BC Water Quality Guidelines for turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in 2020, as well as any statistically significant trends from 2011-2020 for sites with six or more years of data.

Compared to 2019, in 2020 56% fewer sites overall met turbidity guidelines; 11% fewer sites overall met temperature guidelines; and 14% more sites overall met dissolved oxygen guidelines. The decrease in sites that met turbidity guidelines between years can largely be explained by the two fall flush rain events that were captured by the 2020 sampling that were not captured in 2019 sampling. This points to the need for improved stormwater management and streambank stabilization, both of which are being addressed by the RDN’s forthcoming regional rainwater management strategy and ongoing stewardship support for watercourse restoration projects in the region. The decrease in sites that met water temperature guideline relates to rising summer air temperatures and the need for riparian tree canopy to provide shade. The increase in sites that met dissolved oxygen guidelines may be a positive outcome related to stream restoration works that have been performed by stewardship groups over recent years, but this connection is unconfirmed.

Table 1: RDN Monitored Streams Analysis

Monitored Streams that Meet the BC Water Quality Guidelines in 2020		
Turbidity	Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen
16 sites met guidelines out of 67 sites that were monitored	43 sites met guidelines out of 67 sites that were monitored	48 sites met guidelines out of 67 sites that were monitored

Out of the 67 sites monitored in 2020, 46 sites have datasets of six years or greater and were included in the trend analysis. This is up from 41 sites in 2019. All of these 46 sites displayed statistically significant directional trends (stable, improving or declining) in water quality over time (six years +), which improves upon the 2019 reporting where data from 25 sites did not yet indicate significant trends. More detailed reporting can be found in the 2011-2020

Community Watershed Monitoring Network Trend Analysis, available on the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection reports website: www.rdn.bc.ca/dwwp-reports.

Table 2: Monitored Stream Trends

Trends for Monitored Streams with 6 or more Years of Data (includes 41 sites)		
Stable	Improving	Degrading
26 sites have stable water quality trends ^ from 10 in 2019	14 sites – 1 with improving turbidity trend; 10 with improving dissolved oxygen trend; 3 with improving conductivity trend ^ from 5 in 2019	6 sites – 1 with degrading turbidity; 1 with degrading temperature trend; 1 with degrading dissolved oxygen trend; 3 with degrading conductivity trend ^ from 1 in 2019

These findings provide information on environmental water conditions and a baseline understanding of regional surface water quality so it can be tracked for change and improvement over time. Generally, surface water quality in the region is maintaining a stable condition, while it is improving in several locations and degrading in certain other areas. More information and trends are being analyzed with the increase in testing over the years, which provides additional context to the water chemistry results. This analysis helps to pinpoint 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.

Ongoing climate impacts are being observed in the region with increasing high intensity rainfall events in the fall and longer earlier onset heat and drought in the summer. Maintaining good water quality in our watersheds is crucial for the health and quality of life in our region, and collaborative efforts to understand and preserve our shared water resources are underway to achieve this goal, given the ever-changing conditions.

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 2020, the City of Nanaimo, RDN Electoral Areas, District of Lantzville and City of Parksville had a total of 6,287 hectares of protected areas, representing approximately 3.02% of land in the region. It should be noted this total does not include data from the Town of Qualicum Beach, skewing the overall total. The amount of protected area within the RDN Electoral Areas remains unchanged from 2019. Whereas the City of Parksville saw an increase in protected land of three hectares and the City of Nanaimo saw a decrease of 25 hectares.

Table 3: Amount of Land in Protected Areas (Hectares)

	Nanaimo (HA)	Parksville (HA)	Qualicum (HA)*	Electoral Areas and Lantzville (HA)	Total (HA)
2017	1936	107	159	4,368	6,570
2018	1687	163	159	4,356	6,365
2019	1785	163	-	4,358	6,306
2020	1760	169	-	4,358	6,287

**Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019 or 2020*



GOAL 2 - KEY FINDINGS

Across the region, ongoing actions have been implemented and public educational campaigns have been conducted to enhance existing programs aimed at watershed protection and groundwater data collection to assess the state of the aquifers. Increased testing and additional years of data recorded for the testing program increases opportunity for more insight and analysis on the health of our watershed. With more widespread testing and available data, areas for improvement can be identified and measures taken to continue improving the quality of water in the region. Most notable is the steady progress that has been made in the reduction of overall water consumption in the region despite continued population increases.



8.3 GOAL 3 – COORDINATE LAND USE AND MOBILITY

REGIONAL ACTIONS

During 2020, the RDN undertook the following regional transportation initiatives:

Regional Transit

- The RDN implemented the expansion of 5,900 annual service hours January 5, 2020. The expansion enabled the servicing of Cassidy, South Wellington and Nanaimo Airport as well as better service in Cedar.
- Coordination with municipal planning departments has allowed Transit to be involved in development referrals from the start, advocating for land use planning to coincide with transit development.
- The RDN Board approved the Transit Redevelopment Strategy in the last quarter of 2020, with the project launch in early 2021. This project includes transit network analysis, review of land use and development, OCP review, bus right sizing, bus rapid and frequent transit, and fare review to enhance and restructure the current transit system to be aligned with community growth and development.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Transportation and Pedestrian Enhancement

- Began construction of the Metral Drive Complete Street Project
- Completed the construction of the last phase of the Harewood Bikeway
- Continued construction of the Haliburton Multi-use Trail (Phase 2)
- Finalized the Bowen Corridor Traffic Signal Coordination Plan (resulting in lower Green House Gas Emissions and time/money savings)
- Partnered with RDN to begin the Transit Redevelopment Strategy in 2021
- Coordinated the planning process through ReIMAGINE Nanaimo including the development of the Active Transportation Plan, and will develop policy that enhances connection between mobility and land.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

- Completed construction of three additional portions of trail along the east-west School Connector Route improving safety and walkability.

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 on a daily basis. 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 dispersed communities. This indicator is a measure of how compact, complete and connected a community is.

Over a five-year period, there has been an increase consistent with the target of households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping within the RDN. The largest increases are found in the City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville, indicating a positive trend towards the achievement of the desired target by directing new development into mixed-use centres. The RDN Electoral Areas saw a large increase in the number of households within a close proximity to bus stops due to the transit service expansion providing service to Cassidy, South Wellington, and Nanaimo Airport, as well as better service in Cedar.

Table 4: Total Number of Households within 400 m of Services (2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019)

		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
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
Qualicum Beach*	2017	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2018	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2019	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-
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	-
Electoral Area	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

*Information not available from member municipalities for certain years

8.3.2 RGS Indicator #8: Per capita transit use

RGS Target is to increase per capita transit use

The number of bus rides have steadily increased in the RDN, with 2,737,848 rides taken in 2015-2016, and a total of 3,516,000 in 2019-2020, a increase of 778,152 rides per year.

The per capita rides have increase from 17.5 in 2015–2016 to 30.79 in 2019–2020. This increase may be in part attributed to a growing population, increased services and access to transit, innovation in technology, increased collaboration to achieve efficiencies and continued public presence of the RDN Transit Department at public events throughout the region.



GOAL 3 - KEY FINDINGS

Transit initiatives to increase ridership are proving successful, and the relationship between land use and access to transit are continually moving in a positive direction. There has also been an increase in the number of households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands, and shopping. As the region continues to grow and develop, walkability and access to transit will help to support more sustainable modes of transportation and the reduction of carbon emissions.



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

The RGS encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct future population growth inside the Growth Containment Boundaries (GCB). This indicator uses the number of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB in the Urban Areas and Rural Village Areas. 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 GCB.

As shown by the results from 2018 to 2020, the target has been met as proportionally more people are living within the GCBs. The RDN Electoral Areas continued to see growth outside of the GCB as a significant portion of dwellings and developable area are located outside, however, the majority of overall growth in the region continues to take place within the GCB. 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 5: Estimated Population inside and outside the GCB (2018, 2019 and 2020)

	Nanaimo		Parksville		Qualicum*		Lantzville		Electoral Areas		Total	
	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside
2018	105,052	9	12,842	46	12,514	0	3,573	83	11,781	26,435	145,439	26,573
2019	105,848	9	13,714	46	-	-	3,643	85	11,891	27,029	135,802*	27,169
2020	107,909	9	15,042	46	-	-	3,574	82	13,097	29,392	139,622*	29,529

*Information not available from Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019 and 2020

Source: Estimates based on address point data and 2016 Census data for average household size

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

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

4.39
units/hectare
inside GCB 2020

2020 saw an increase in the average density of dwelling units within the GCB from 4.31 units/hectare in 2019, to 4.39 units/hectare, an increase of 0.08 units/hectare. It is important to note, this figure does not consider the units/hectare within the Town of Qualicum Beach as the data is not available for 2019 or 2020. The City of Parksville has the highest density of dwelling units (6.83 units/hectare) and has also seen the largest increase in density (0.27 units/hectare). The City of Nanaimo has the second highest density of dwelling (5.3 units/hectare) and has seen less of an increase in density (0.09 units/hectare) than the City of Parksville. Both the District of Lantzville and the RDN Electoral Areas have seen an increase of 0.02 units/hectare consistently over the last three years. However, the density of dwelling remain low in comparison to the City of Parksville and the City of Nanaimo with the District of Lantzville having a density of 0.89 units/hectare and the Electoral Areas having a density of 2.35 units per hectare within the GCB.

The density of dwelling units per hectare outside of the GCB has remained the same as 2019 for the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and the Electoral Areas. The City of Parksville density rose from 0.06 units/hectare in 2019 to 0.07 units per hectare in 2020. This slight change can be attributed to the presence of developable lands outside of the GCB and a strong residential real estate climate in 2020.

Table 6: Density of Units Per Hectare Inside/Outside GCB (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020)

	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
2015	4.68	0.01	-	-	-	-	0.85	0.02	2.03	0.06
2017	4.87	0.01	4.44	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06
2018	5.13	0.01	5.85	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06
2019	5.21	0.01	6.56	0.06	-	-	0.87	0.03	2.33	0.08
2020	5.3	0.01	6.83	0.07	-	-	0.89	0.03	2.35	0.08

*Information not available from the City of Parksville for 2015 and the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2015, 2019 and 2020

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

This indicator shows the proportion of different land uses (as a ratio) within the GCB. 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% public uses (Recreational and Institutional), 10–40% commercial and employment uses (Industrial and Mixed-Use), and 50–80% 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.

The proportions of different land uses have remained consistent with previous years for the Electoral Areas, City of Parksville and the City of Nanaimo. The District of Lantzville saw a significant increase in residential and institutional lands and a decrease in the recreational lands. This change can be attributed to the adoption of a new zoning bylaw for the District of Lantzville in 2020.

Table 7: Diversity of Land Uses in Urban & Rural Village Centres in the RDN (2017-2020)

		Residential (%)	Commercial (%)	Industrial (%)	Mixed Use (%)	Institutional (%)	Recreational (%)
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
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
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
Qualicum Beach**	2017	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2018	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
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

*Parksville - "Institutional" is interpreted as Public Institutional (P1) zoning that includes shore land, which accounts for a higher proportion of land in this category.

**Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019 or 2020



GOAL 4 - KEY FINDINGS

The results indicate that the RGS policies appear to be effective in advancing RGS Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres. 2020 saw a continued increased density within the GCB, signifying the success of the RGS goal to increase both the population and density of dwelling units within designated growth areas. This is progress towards achieving the RGS vision to create compact, complete and walkable neighbourhoods that can be serviced more efficiently with transit, water, wastewater and solid waste.



8.5 GOAL 5 – ENHANCE RURAL INTEGRITY

REGIONAL ACTIONS

The protection of the region's rural economy and lifestyle was advanced in 2020 by:

Increased Transit Service

The RDN implemented the expansion of 5,900 annual service hours on January 5, 2020. These routes include Route 8, designed to provide better transit service to Cedar and those along the Tenth Street corridor; and Route 78, designed to provide weekday transit to South Wellington, Cassidy and the Nanaimo Airport.

CITY OF NANAIMO

A salmon side channel and agricultural assessment were completed for East Wellington Park which is in the Agricultural Land Reserve to complement the East Wellington Park Plan.

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

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

The RGS designates the GCB as the area for future development and growth. This indicator tells us the proportion of new developments inside and outside the GCB. In 2019, the number of total new lots rose to 1,422, with 1,388 (98%) of those lots being created inside the GCB and 34 lots outside, achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB. Of the newly created lots, 1,295 were located within the City of Nanaimo which can be attributed to a strong real estate and development market.

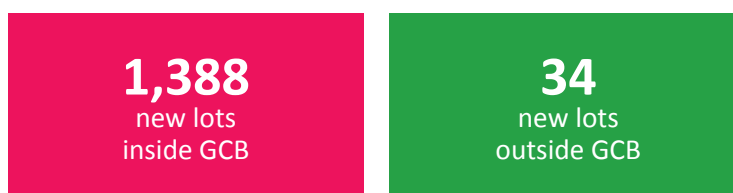


Table 8: Number of Residential Lots/Units Created by Subdivision Inside/Outside of GCB

	Nanaimo*		Parksville*		Qualicum Beach*		Lantzville		Electoral Areas	
	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0	38	5
2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	28
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	8
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0	38	41
2017	1,193	0	50	0	1	0	2	1	30	37
2018	1,308	0	51	0	1	0	100	0	20	28
2019	1,719	0	36	0	-	-	6	1	20	56
2020	1,295	0	51	0	-	-	4	0	38	34

**2012 – 2015 information not available for the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville or the Town of Qualicum. 2019 and 2020 information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach*

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.

There was a decrease in the total number of parcels with Farm Status in 2020. This year-on-year fluctuation may be due to the reporting cycle of farm gate income to BC Assessment. A similar decrease was seen in 2018 with the number of parcels with Farm Status increasing in 2019. Although the number of properties with Farm Status seems to fluctuate on a year-to-year basis, the overall trend appears to be that the number of properties with this classification is decreasing. In 2017, data collected showed that 713 parcels had Farm Status in the region. Over the past 4 years, there has been an 8% decrease with the data collected in 2020 showing that 657 parcels have Farm Status (excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach).

Table 9: 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

**Information not available for the City of Parksville in 2017 or the Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019 and 2020*

To better monitor potential changes in agricultural land use, this report establishes a baseline for the amount of land designated for agricultural use, as shown in Table 10. In 2019, there

was 20,636 hectares designated for agricultural use. In the last year, there was an overall loss of 2 hectares of agriculturally designated land with 2020 data reporting 20,634 hectares. This is approximately 11% of the lands within the RDN Electoral Areas and District of Lantzville.

Table 10: 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 ALR	Hectares of Agriculturally Zoned Land Outside of ALR
2019	5,729	1,112	5,759	14,877
2020	5,652	1,062	5,764	14,870

This information will be incorporated into the update of the RGS review and be presented as a new RGS indicator to assist in future years' monitoring of Goal 5 and Goal 8.

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. The majority 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 2015, the region had a total of 133,697 hectares of PMFL. This number consistently declined between 2017 and 2020 with an overall loss of 740 hectares of PMFL. It is important to note the overall loss of 740 hectares does not include data from the Town of Qualicum Beach which reported 129 hectares of PMFL between 2015 and 2018. This change is attributed to the subdivision and sale of PMFL, which are re-classified by BC Assessment as a result of the change in the primary use from forestry to residential.

In 2020, an estimated 132,957 hectares or 64% of the region's land base remained classified as PMFL.

Table 11: The amount of Private Managed Forest Land (Hectares)

	City of Nanaimo	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2015	160	129	723	132,685	133,697
2017	160	129	723	132,291	133,303
2018	217	129	723	132,143	133,212
2019	217	-	723	132,045	132,985
2020	217	-	723	132,017	132,957

*The City of Parksville does not have any lands designated Private Managed Forest Land and information is not available for the Town of Qualicum in 2019 and 2020

**2015-2019 data for RDN Electoral Areas revised to reflect more accurate mapping



GOAL 5 - KEY FINDINGS

Key findings of Goal 5 are mixed, showing both trends towards and away from the intent of the goals. The results indicate that the RGS policies in support of directing most growth into the GCB are working with the majority of newly created parcels with the GCB. The number of properties classified by BC Assessment with 'Farm Status' continues to fluctuate. The 2020 data, shows a slight decline (2 hectares) in the amount lands designated for agriculture, located outside the ALR. While this alone does not establish a trend, it is important to continue to monitor. Comparably, consecutive years data does indicate a gradual downward trend for lands classified as PMFL, which may be contributed on-going development pressures in a strong residential market.



8.6 GOAL 6 – FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Housing Facility for Homeless Population

In May of 2020 the RDN Board wrote to the Province requesting support for people experiencing homelessness in the region. The letter asked BC Housing, and the Ministry of Health and Addictions to work together to establish a secure housing facility with 24-hour medical care and the support required for the region's vulnerable homeless population.

Oceanside Health and Wellness Network

The Oceanside Health and Wellness Network continued to work together to advance the health and wellbeing of the Oceanside population, through a growing network of over 100 community members working collectively on improving health outcomes in these areas.

Nanaimo Area Health Network

The Nanaimo Area Health Network is currently in development. A group of indigenous and settler community members are working alongside local decision makers with the help of a coordinator to develop a new network to improve the quality of life in Nanaimo and surrounding communities by prioritizing and addressing key issues such as poverty, employment, social connectedness, literacy, child development, access to nature, and the impacts of colonization, and systemic racism. The network will work together to create policies, programs, infrastructure and amenities that will make this a better place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

Regional Housing Needs Report

The Regional District of Nanaimo completed a regional Housing Needs Report in June 2020. The provincial government requires that local governments prepare a housing needs report every five years. The report provides a descriptive analysis of the current and future housing needs in the region informed by housing indicators and key stakeholder consultation. This information will be used to update RGS policies and indicators/targets relating to housing.

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Housing Support

- Announced a Memorandum of Understanding with BC Housing for four additional permanent supportive housing buildings and three additional affordable housing building located within five sites, which will provide approximately 190 supportive housing beds and 125 affordable homes for families, seniors and individuals
- Received a commitment from BC Housing to establish a 60 bed Navigation Centre with wrap-around services for homeless community members
- Facilitated the opening of a Winter Shelter at St. Peter’s Church, operated by the Unitarian Fellowship
- Provided a City building for an Emergency Response Centre during COVID-19 that provides approximately 35 shelter spaces for women and men
- Began work on amendments to the Community Amenity Contribution that will ensure a set percentage of the CAC funds are directed to the Housing Legacy Reserve
- Began work on amendments to the Density Bonus Bylaw to incentivize affordable housing construction
- Funded the creation of a Nanaimo Region rent bank, to be managed by Nanaimo Region John Howard Society.

8.6.1 RGS Indicator #15: The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50 percent 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 is \$62,844. This number is used for 2015–2019 reporting purposes as it is the most recent Census data available.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) establishes the affordable rent threshold (ART) for lower income households based on a household spending 30% or more of before-tax income for housing that is adequate, suitable and affordable.

As shown in Table 12 and Chart 3, housing affordability is a persistent challenge in the region. According to the CMHC, there was a rise in the number of renter households in core housing

need from 2011 to 2019, except for a positive, short adjustment in 2015. Core housing need is defined by those households whose income is below 50% of the median for the region paying more than 30% of their income on housing.

Over the past four years, within the Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration², the portion of households living in housing that meets their needs (less than the ART of \$786, calculated from 2016 Census data) has decreased from 53% (2,301) in 2015 to 13% (543) in 2020.

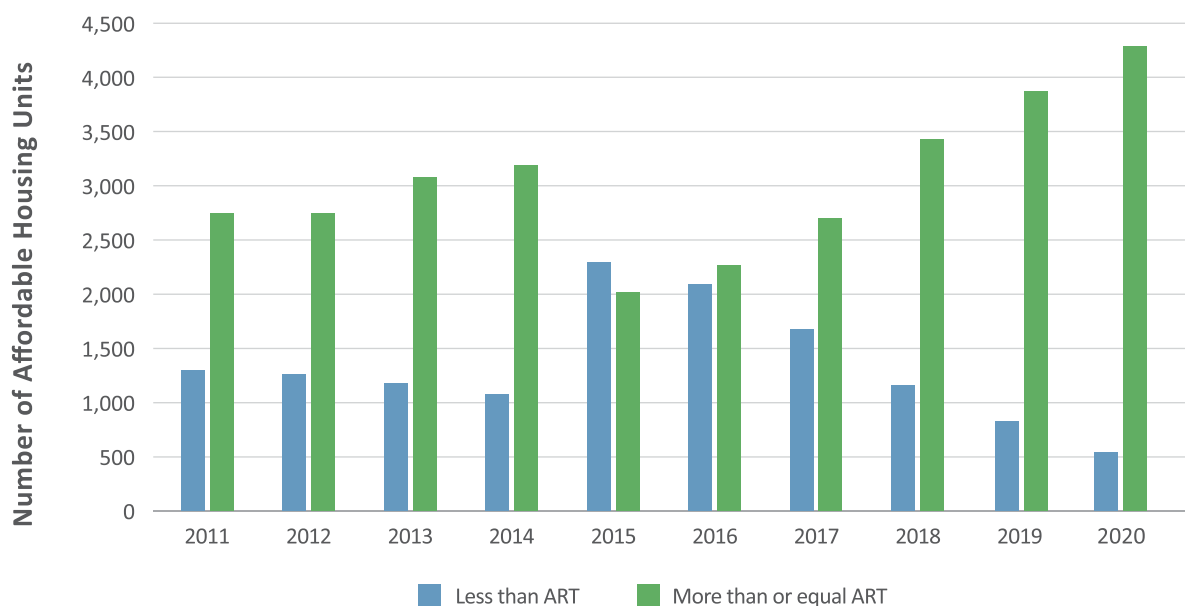
13%
units > \$786
2020

53%
units > \$786
2015

Table 12: Total number of renter households above or equal to the affordable household threshold (2011-2020)

Year	Renter Households above or Equal to ART	Amount of Change Between Years (renter households)
2011	2,764	-
2012	2,765	+1
2013	3,095	+330
2014	3,201	+106
2015	2,042	-1159
2016	2,290	+248
2017	2,724	+434
2018	3,451	+727
2019	3,877	+426
2020	4,315	+438

² The Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration includes the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, French Creek, District of Lantzville, Electoral Area A, Electoral Area C, Snuneymuxw First Nations Lands, and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations Lands.

Chart 3: Total number of rental units affordable to low income thresholds

Data source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2011-2020

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 family dwellings inside the Growth Containment Boundary

Diverse forms of housing within growth centres provides for different housing needs, while keeping residents close to services they require on a daily basis. 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 GCB. 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.

Between 2018 and 2020, the City of Parksville saw an increase of 502 apartment units and the City of Nanaimo saw an increase of 199 apartment units. This data suggests that this goal has seen progress between 2018 and 2020 as an increase in the supply of diverse housing, more specifically higher density apartment units, is taking place. Increased density in locations that are close to services in turn can potentially reduce the cost of transportation and contribute in the reduction of greenhouse gases associated with car journeys.

Table 13: Dwelling Types within the GCB

		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
Lantzville	2018	1,321	89	0
	2019	1,322	89	0
	2020	1,326	105	0
Parksville	2018	3,908	1,437	1,076
	2019	3,931	1,465	1,461
	2020	3,995	1,481	1,578
Qualicum Beach*	2018	3,181	470	420
	2019	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-
Nanaimo	2018	23,399	4,110	4,143
	2019	23,778	4,191	4,152
	2020	24,203	4,291	4,342

*Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019 and 2020



GOAL 6 – KEY FINDINGS

The continued rise in housing cost and rental prices, and growing disparity between income and housing cost, has moved the region away from the goal of adaptable, accessible, affordable, and attainable housing. In 2020, 87% of renters were paying 30% or more of before-tax income on housing, an increase of 40% in the last five years, as only 47% of renters paid 30% or more of before-tax income on housing in 2015. Data in the coming years will continue to monitor progress trying to reverse this trend. The City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville have seen a substantial increase in the number of apartment style units in the last two years. The diversification of the forms of housing within growth centres provides for different housing needs, keeping residents close to the services they require on a daily basis, which potentially reduces the cost of transportation and overall affordability.



8.7 GOAL 7 – ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Regional Economic Development Review

In 2019, the RDN Board received a report entitled Update on Regional Economic Development Review and directed the RDN to host a regional economic development workshop. The workshop was held in October 2019 with a number of economic development partners in the region attending. In January 2020 a report was completed entitled Implementing Regional Economic Development in the Regional District of Nanaimo, which provided a series of recommendations for implementing a regional economic development service which were based on the workshop outcomes, the earlier 2019 study, and best practice of past and current regional economic development organizations in BC. In March of 2020, RDN Board chose not to pursue a regional economic function.

Nanaimo Airport Land Use Bylaw Update Project

The Nanaimo Airport is a regional transportation hub and important part of the Central Vancouver Island economy. The Nanaimo Airport Commission who owns and operates the airport has a land use plan that includes expanding the airport terminal and airside commercial

services for aviation and aviation light industrial uses, and developing land adjacent to the Trans Canada Highway for commercial uses, passenger flow, and parking.

The RDN is proposing to amend the Electoral Area A Official Community Plan and RDN Zoning Bylaw No. 500 for lands owned by the Nanaimo Airport Commission both to recognize the existing airport operations and to facilitate future commercial development on the portion of land fronting the Trans Canada Highway.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Economic Development

- Development of a sustainable procurement program to leverage the City’s procurement activities to advance a range of environmental, social, and ethical objectives.

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 from 49.2% of persons of working age in 2015 to 64.3% in 2019. In 2020 the employment rate dropped to 58.6% which is likely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unemployment rate remained within the desired RGS target range of 3–6%, between 2015 -2019 ranging from 4.7% in 2015 to 4.6% in 2019. In 2020, the unemployment rate jumped to 9.1% which is likely a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

64.3% Employment Rate 2019	4.6% Unemployed 2019	64.4% Labour Force Participation 2019
58.6% Employment Rate 2020	9.1% Unemployed 2020	62.1% Labour Force Participation 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a substantial impact on both employment and the unemployment rate. Between 2015 and 2019 there was a trend of increase participation in the work force and decreased unemployment. In 2020 there was a drastic shift in this trend with a 5.7% decrease in employment and a 4.5% increase in unemployment.



GOAL 7 – KEY FINDINGS

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on regional labour market conditions. Similar impacts have been felt throughout other regions and on a provincial and national level. Ultimately, this has moved the region away from Goal 7: Enhanced Economic Resiliency.



8.8 GOAL 8 – FOOD SECURITY

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Vancouver Island Agriculture Adaptation Strategy

The RDN collaborated with the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative (CAI) and other Island regional districts (Capital, Cowichan Valley, Alberni-Clayoquot and Comox Valley) in the development of a strategy aimed at addressing agricultural issues specific to the Island. The intent of this project is to improve our understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, as well as support and complement other related initiatives in the region. The strategy was completed in Fall 2020.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Through the Health and Housing Task Force, the City completed a community based, collaborative Emergency Food and Nutrition Security Strategy that looked at potential policy options to address the challenges faced by the COVID-19 Pandemic.



GOAL 8 – KEY FINDINGS

Consistent with RGS Goal 8: Food Security, the region continues to undertake actions to support the adaptive capacity of the agricultural sector and promote local food security.



8.9 GOAL 9 – PRIDE OF PLACE

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Recreation Programs and Facilities

The RDN's recreation programs and facilities played an ongoing role in furthering RGS Goal 9 by providing sports and cultural amenities that boost the attractiveness of the region as a place to live and visit. Work on the concept and design planning for the expansion of Ravensong Aquatic Center has begun and is scheduled for completion in Fall 2021 with a target start date for construction of 2023.

Regional and Community Parks

The RDN initiated and completed several projects to improve existing trails and other park amenities throughout its regional and community parks including the following:

- Work began on the first phase of trail and parking improvements at Benson Creek Falls Regional Park. The improvements include the construction of a new 40 car gravel parking lot at the Weigles Road trailhead, trail upgrades and a new truss bridge across Benson Creek.
- Improved public access to Little Qualicum River Regional Park was achieved through the replacement of the bridge across the river that connects the two sides of the park. The process to complete a land exchange between the RDN and Wicklow West Holdings was initiated. If successful, the land exchange will provide improved public access to the regional park.
- The Benson View Regional Trail, under tenure with the Province, is now the official hiking access into the park and replaces the former Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail.
- Improvements to Stoneland Community Park were completed which include natural play elements, removal of invasive species with the preservation of native trees, and riparian plantings.
- Little Qualicum Hall was renovated and re-opened for public use.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Arts and Culture

- A new inclusive playground was installed in at Maffeo Sutton Park.
- A new skate park was constructed at Harewood Centennial Park.

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, general public use and environmental protection.

In 2018, the region had a total of 6,129 hectares of publicly owned lands within the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and RDN Electoral Areas. In 2020, excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach, the region had a total of 6,085 hectares of publicly owned land, a 9 hectare increase since 2019. The City of Parksville saw a 5 hectare increase, the RDN Electoral Areas saw a 3 hectare increase, and the City of Nanaimo saw a 1 ha increase in 2020, moving towards the goal of increasing the amount publicly owned land for parks and recreational facilities.

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
2018	2,255 ha	280 ha	159 ha	9 ha	3,426 ha	6,129 ha
2019	2,354 ha	280 ha	-	9 ha	3,442 ha	6,085 ha
2020	2,355 ha	285 ha	-	9 ha	3,436 ha	6,085 ha

*Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019 and 2020

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.

In 2017, 391,409 metres of trails, or 2.53 metres per capita existed within the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and RDN Electoral Areas. The length of trails increased in 2018 to 403,223 metres, or 2.61 metres per capita. The total length of trails appeared to decrease in 2019 to 390,508 metres, or 2.52 metres per capita which was a result of not having data from the Town of Qualicum Beach. In 2020, excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach, 391,597 metres of trail, or 2.53 metres per capita, existed which is the same amount of trail per capita as in 2017 when data from the Town of Qualicum Beach was available. The overall increase of trails in the region provides recreational opportunities, serves as facilities for non-automotive forms of transportation and establishes a distinct sense of place for communities.

Table 15: Length of Trails in Metres

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2017	170,000 m	39,419 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	150,660 m	391,409 m
2018	186,597 m	40,420 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	151,473 m	409,820 m
2019	186,597 m	40,420 m	-	8,600 m	169,110 m	404,727 m
2020	173,790 m	40,716 m	-	8,600 m	168,491 m	391,597 m

*2019-2020 information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach

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



GOAL 9 – KEY FINDINGS

The natural environment, cultural history and arts community remain some of the region's greatest assets. The continued increase of trails encourages residents and visitors to enjoy the diversity of natural spaces across the region.



8.10 GOAL 10 – EFFICIENT SERVICES

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Solid Waste

RDN Solid Waste continued to show progress in achieving Goal 10 of the RGS by implementing improvements and an extension of the Main Haul Road at the Regional Landfill including a round-a-bout to encourage one way traffic.

Automated Curbside Collection

The RDN transitioned an automated curbside collection in 2020. The new improved offers customizable collection cart sizes to best suite house needs; no weight restrictions; improved worker health and safety; improved neighbourhood aesthetics by keeping material contained; and reduced human- wildlife interactions.

Communication and Engagement Services

RDN Communications and Engagement Services continued to support efficient service delivery by using tools to share information with the public in a timely and clear manner. Tools used to do this include the RDN website, public notices and service alerts, newspaper, online and radio ads, mail-outs, attending community events and social media. Monthly newspaper ads continued to run in three local newspapers to share timely and relevant information on RDN projects, initiatives and community events. The primary tool used to gather input online is Get Involved RDN which allows residents to obtain information, ask questions and provide input on current projects and initiatives.

Transit Services

RDN Transit Services continued to achieve RGS Goal 10 through the use of real-time analysis for route run time adjustments, improving efficiency.

Wastewater Services

RDN Wastewater Services continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 to provide efficient services by managing biosolids according to the Land Use Agreement with TimberWest and a Shared Use Agreement with the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club.

Parks and Recreation

A Recreation Program Services Restart Plan was created as a result of COVID-19. The objective of the plan was to align with the response and recovery approach of the Province of BC including identifying and establishing steps to minimize the risk of exposure to the coronavirus for employees and the public as recreation services reopened.

Fire Services

RDN Fire Services continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 by coordinating and providing regional support to local fire departments. At the September 15, 2020 RDN Board of Directors meeting, the board passed a motion to enter into a contract with Praxis Architecture Company for the detailed drawing plans for the fire hall layout, engineered plans for the electrical, mechanical, structural, and civil the meet current building code requirements.

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Completed Phase 1 of REIMAGINE Nanaimo in November 2020 and is now in Phase 2: Exploring Options (Options and Strategic Directions) which includes the preparation of plan options, as well as public engagement about potential concepts for goals and actions within the plan
- Approved funding of \$50,000 through UBCM for FireSmart Projects at Long Lake Community, Protection Island and Lost Lake Community
- Continued the development of a full-scale EOC Wildland exercise.

8.10.1 RGS Indicator #20: Per capita waste disposal

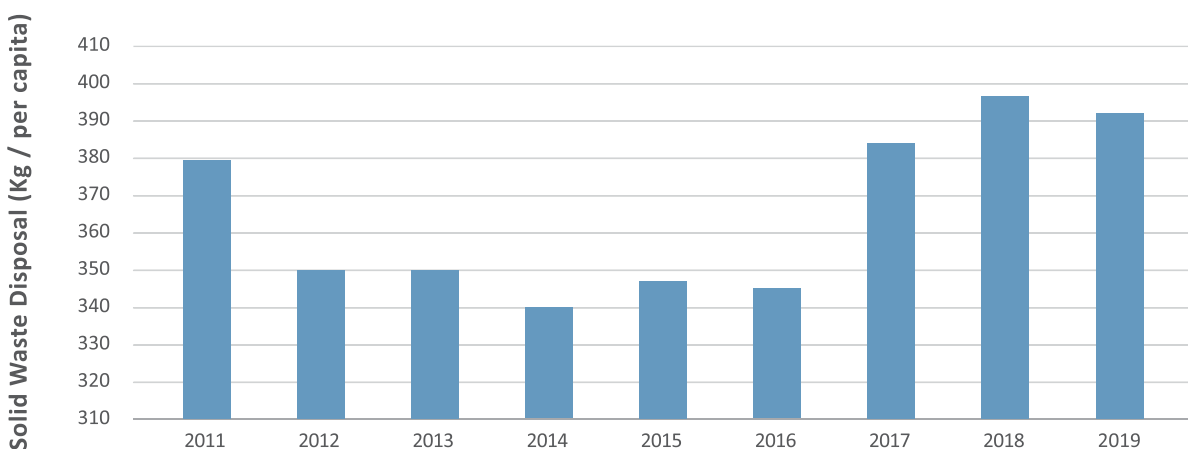
RGS Target is to decrease the per capita amount of waste going to landfill below 350 kilograms/person

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.

Consistent with the RGS direction to achieve ‘zero waste,’ the RDN has a region-wide diversion rate of approximately 68% and continues to have one of the lowest provincial annual per capita disposal rates. The per capita amount of waste going to landfill increased from 345 kg/person in 2016 to a high of 397 kg/person in 2018, falling slightly in 2019 to 392 kg/person. Due to provincial reporting timelines, 2020 data is not available at this time. A potential reason for an overall increase in waste since 2016 may be the strong residential real estate market resulting in more waste generated from new construction, households moving and the renovation and/or demolition of older homes.

392
Kilograms/person
per capita waste

Chart 4: 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 how compact and dense communities are.

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

In 2020, the City of Nanaimo saw a 9% decrease in the cost of water, and a 19% decrease in the cost of sewer, and the RDN Electoral Areas saw a 3% decrease in the cost of water, and a 5% increase in the cost of sewer, as shown on Table 16 below. The decrease in the cost of water for both the City of Nanaimo and the RDN Electoral Areas is likely attributed to an unexpected reduction in water use caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic rather than water conservation efforts. Future reporting will help to establish trends for the per capita cost of water and sewer.

The cost of waste water, which is for the entire RDN (including electoral areas and member municipalities) increased slightly from \$112/person in 2018 to \$120/person in 2020.

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

	Nanaimo		Electoral Areas		All
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	
2018	\$256/person	\$76/person	\$295/person	\$323/person	\$112/person
2019	\$322/person	\$156/person	\$311/person	\$334/person	\$117/person
2020	\$291/person	\$126/person	\$300/person	\$350/person	\$120/person

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

** RDN reporting for 2018-2020 changed to reflect more accurate methodology

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, providing an indication of how efficiently land is being used.

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

In 2017, the RDN Electoral Areas and member municipalities had a combined total of 11.74 metres of road per capita. This number remained at 11.74 metres of road per capita in 2018, increasing slightly in 2019 to 11.81 metres (excluding data from the Town of Qualicum Beach). In 2020 the length of paved road increased again to 11.84 metres of road per capita. The City of Parksville saw a significant decrease in the amount of paved roads per capita from 7.75 m/person in 2019 to 6.43 m/person in 2020 which is likely attributed to the number of new dwelling units constructed.

Table 17: Per Capita Length of Roads

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2017	6.26 m/person	7.75 m/person	11.9 m/person	15.97 m/person	25.30 m/person	11.74 m/person
2018	6.30 m/person	7.75 m/person	11.9 m/person	16.09 m/person	25.37 m/person	11.74 m/person
2019	6.30 m/person	7.75 m/person	-	16.89 m/person	25.40 m/person	11.81 m/person
2020	6.30 m/person	6.43m/person	-	17.06m/person	25.46m/person	11.84m/person

*2019 and 2020 information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach



GOAL 10 – KEY FINDINGS

The RDN and member municipalities continue to take actions to retain one of the lowest annual per capita waste disposal rates and invest in alternative technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the landfill. These actions help to reduce costs and waste, advancing RGS Goal 10: Efficient Services. The RDN saw a slight decrease in per capita disposal rates, for the first time in two years. The RDN Electoral Areas saw a 3% decrease in the capita cost of water, while the per capita costs of sewer and wastewater treatment increased. This can likely be attributed to ever increasing operating and maintenance expenses and the need to plan for asset renewal that will ensure reliable and uninterrupted delivery of services in the future.



8.11 GOAL 11 – COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

REGIONAL ACTIONS

First Nations

Meetings were held with First Nations, including Snuneymuxw and Stz'uminusto discuss a variety of matters, both operational and policy-oriented. Many of the planned meetings, training and educational opportunities were cancelled or postponed in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. These initiatives and collaborations are planned to will resume in the future when it is safe to do so.

Adjacent Regional Districts and Municipalities

In line with its strategic plan, work continued with member municipalities and First Nations, as well as agencies such as the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, in relation to climate change and green initiatives, transportation planning and ridership in the region, intergovernmental emergency services agreements, and recreational facilities and services. The RDN participated in mid island weekly COVID-19 calls with the Regional Medical Health Officer with the City of Nanaimo, School District, Snuneymuxw First Nation, VIU and local governments in the mid-island to exchange information and receive more localized information.

Emergency Response

The RDN coordinated with Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), Island Health, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and well as other community partners in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure the health and safety of those living in the region.

Water Services

The RDN Water Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions in 2020 through the following actions:

- Continued to engage and convene dialogue with a multi-stakeholder Technical Advisory Committee, with ongoing participation from the Provincial government, member municipalities, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, forestry industry, stewardship sector and academia
- Re-established the RDN Rainwater Working Group, a multi-department/agency group focused on the implementation of regional rainwater action under the Liquid Waste Management Plan and the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Plan
- Shared water monitoring data with the Province via the EMS database and Aquarius Real-time data portal
- Participated in the Nanaimo River Watershed Interagency Partnership, including the benthic invertebrate monitoring in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Snuneymuxw First Nation, Mosaic and the City of Nanaimo
- Continued to train volunteer stewards on surface water quality sampling procedures as part of the RDN's Community Watershed Monitoring Network
- Successfully completed advocacy with Ministry of Health that began in 2017, with the publication of their guidelines for Rainwater for Potable Use
- Engaged with the BC Agricultural Adaptation Climate Action Initiative for Vancouver Island, in focus groups on water management and watershed 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 implementation of the Liquid Waste Management Plan
- Held one Liquid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Committee meetings to enhance two-way communication within the RDN and its communities, enhance cooperation between the RDN and member municipalities, and support implementation of the Liquid Waste Management Plan
- Entered into Mutual Aid Agreement with seven other local governments to ensure the continued delivery of water and wastewater services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Solid Waste Services

The RDN Solid Waste Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions in 2020 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.

Transit Services

The RDN Transit Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions in 2020 through the following actions:

- RDN Transit Staff regularly work with staff from the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville and District of Lantzville for transit infrastructure initiatives and development referrals.

- The Working group of RDN Transit, BC Transit and CVRD continues to work towards interregional transit route planning between the Regional Districts with a potential implementation date of September 2022.
- RDN Transit Staff work closely with BC Transit Staff to evaluate the viability of local transit initiatives and towards planning transit and its infrastructure for now and the future.

CITY OF NANAIMO

The City worked with numerous agencies and jurisdictions to build relationships and enhance cooperation in 2020. Some of these initiatives included the following actions:

- City of Nanaimo Emergency Management coordinated and facilitated Mid Island COVID-19 weekly calls with the Regional Medical Health Officer with the RDN, School District, Snuneymuxw First Nation, VIU and local governments in the mid-island to exchange information and receive more localized information.
- City of Nanaimo Emergency Management hosted a wildfire and severe weather preparation session – RDN in attendance including their Transportation Services division along with community organizations, Snuneymuxw First Nation, and agencies.
- City of Nanaimo Emergency Management Emergency Social Services volunteers supported the RDN with an emergency call out.
- The City applied for and received funding from the Province for a Peer Employment and Wellness Initiative, which is being implemented in partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation Health Department.
- The City partnered with the RDN on a Housing Needs Assessment.

- The City partnered with the District of Lantzville, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the RDN with the support of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, School Districts 68 and 69, VIU and Island Health to complete a Child Care Action Plan for the region.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

The Town of Qualicum Beach continued to partner with the City of Parksville on fire protection and the sharing of resources and personnel.



GOAL 11 – KEY FINDINGS

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of cooperation among jurisdictions. Some initiatives and collaborations were put on hold in response to the pandemic, while the importance of other relationships such as Regional Medical Health Officer came to the forefront to ensure the health and safety of those living in the region. 2020 highlighted the importance of collaboration between all levels of government



9. Implementation – 2021

For 2021, 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 Regional Growth Strategy Review: Shaping our Future 2040.
- 3.* Continue to work with Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee.
- 4.* Develop a Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for the RDN.
- 5.* Continue to work on the Transit Service Review.
- 6.* Continue to advance the Sea Level Rise and Adaptation Program through flood hazard assessment mapping.
- 7.* Complete work on Social Needs Assessment and Strategy.
- 8.* Continue work on the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Review.
- 9.* Continue to work on Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project.
- 10.* Complete Subdivision Servicing Bylaw Review.
- 11.* Develop Community Amenity Policy.
- 12.* Report on Development Cost Charges and Development Amenities Policy.
- 13.* Continue to build strong relationships through continued training and education with First Nations.
- 14.* Strengthen relationships with major institutions such as Island Health, Vancouver Island University, School Districts 68 and 69 and organizations key to furthering RGS goals (e.g., chambers of commerce, economic development groups, non-governmental/community organizations).
- 15.* Continue to be committed to respectful and appropriate engagement with Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As and Qualicum First Nations in regional strategist, decision-making and shared interests.

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2021
Section 5.0	Establish Targets & Indicators to monitor progress.	The RDN online Monitoring Program is updated annually following the release of the RGS Annual Report. www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-annual-reports
	Develop a Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS.	Ongoing.
1. Climate Change	Complete Corporate Carbon Neutral 2032 Plan.	Completed in Spring 2020.
	Coastal Flood Mapping and Updates to Englishman, Little Qualicum and Nanaimo River flood maps.	Underway.
2. Environmental Protection	Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain SEI databases.	Ongoing.
3. Land Use & Mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and to prepare mobility strategies.	Ongoing.
	Transit Redevelopment Strategy.	Underway, with project launch in 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.

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2021
6. Affordable Housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Completed Regional Housing Needs Report June 2020.
	Commence Regional Housing Strategy.	To be initiated in 2021.
7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy	Support and encourage economic development.	Completed Implementing Regional Economic Development Report January 2020.
	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.	Underway with expected adoption in 2021.
	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 supports the continued vitality of the sector.	To be initiated.
8. Food Security	Prepare study of agriculture in the region to identify issues of the present and future needs of the agricultural sector.	Continue work on Area F Inventory Update for Official Community Plan review. Participated in the Vancouver Island Agricultural Adaptation Study which was completed in Fall 2020.
	Prepare Agricultural Area Plan Implementation.	Bylaw 500 and Policy Update project completed in 2016. Rural Area Guide completed in 2016. Bylaw 500 and 1285 amendments for Gathering for Events in Agricultural Land Reserve completed in 2018.

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2021
9. Pride of Place	Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and official community plans.	<p>Nanaimo Cultural Plan adopted in 2014 and now being implemented.</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Guidelines approved in 2014.</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Strategy for Electoral Areas E, F, G and 'H' approved in 2014.</p> <p>Adopted Electoral Area H Official Community Plan in 2017.</p> <p>Continue work on Electoral Area F Official Community Plan.</p> <p>Commence 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 of protocol.	Continued training for the RDN Board and staff on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.







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