



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

Annual Report 2019

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Shaping Our Future



Table of Contents

■ Executive Summary	5
1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement	11
2. Overview	11
3. Role & Purpose	12
4. Vision	13
5. Principles	15
6. Goals, Indicators & Targets	15
7. Implementation	18
7.1 Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Program	19
8. Progress Towards Achieving the Regional Growth Strategy	21
8.1 Goal 1 – Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption	21
8.2 Goal 2 – Protect the Environment	25
8.3 Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility	31
8.4 Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Villages & Urban Growth Centres	35
8.5 Goal 5 – Enhance Rural Integrity	39
8.6 Goal 6 – Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing	44
8.7 Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency	49
8.8 Goal 8 – Food Security	52
8.9 Goal 9 – Pride of Place	52
8.10 Goal 10 – Efficient Services	56
8.11 Goal 11 – Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	62
9. Implementation – 2020	66
■ Appendix: Summary of Regional Growth Strategy Implementation Actions	67

MAPS

■ Map 1: Regional Growth Strategy Application	13
■ Map 2: Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations	14



Executive Summary

The 2019 edition of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Annual Report evaluates progress made in 2019 towards advancing the eleven established RGS goals set out in the current "Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615, 2011". Progress towards these goals is 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 2019, progress towards the RGS goals is mixed. The majority of indicators (fifteen indicators) show either positive progress or remain stable, with four indicators moving away from the regional goals. Notably, the number of non-single dwelling units and the number of properties earning income from farming made positive gains in 2019. Longer-term trends show continued positive gains in transit ridership, the distribution of growth and reduction in water usage. Gaps in data for the Town of Qualicum Beach are also noted in the report.

MOVING TOWARDS TARGET

- **Goal 2: Indicator #4 – Total water consumption.** Findings to report from 2019 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 20.66%, while population is up 17.4% since 2009. For the nine RDN Water Service Areas, total water production is down 14%, while the number of connections is up 13% since data started being collected in 2004. The District of Lantzville has shown a 2% decrease in total water consumption with a 10% increase in connections since 2004.
- **Goal 2: Indicator #6 – Amount of land in protected areas.** In 2019, the region had 6,306 hectares of protected area, representing approximately 3% of the land base. An overall increase of 100 hectares of land in protected areas between the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and RDN Electoral Areas was achieved in 2019.

- **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 three years, where information is available, the target to increase the number of households in reasonable proximity to services has shown a year-to-year increase. 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 increase in per capita transit use continues to show a positive, upward trend within the RGS reporting period of 2011 to 2019. Per capita rides have increased more than 20%, increasing from 17.5 in 2015-2016 to 21.8 in 2018-2019, with an increase of 772,617 total transit rides in that same time period, and an annual increase of 293,727 total transit rides from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019.
- **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 2018 and 2019, 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 be achieved. In 2019, the proportion of the population living within the GCB increased to 4.31 units/hectare from 4.05 units/hectare from the 2017 baseline, showing development is occurring in designated growth areas where data is available.
- **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, remaining consistent with the desired ratio on a year-to-year basis. A similar trend is shown within the Urban Areas in the municipalities as the desired proportion of land uses has been achieved and remains consistent year-over-year.

- **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 2019, the number of total new lots created from subdivision was 1,835, up from 1,508 lots in 2018. The large majority, 1,781 new lots (97%), were located inside the GCB and 57 lots outside, achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB.
- **Goal 5: Indicator #13 – Number of parcels with Farm Class.** Between 2017 and 2018, the total number of properties in the region with Farm Class designations, as determined by BC Assessment, decreased by 41, with all of these losses occurring in the RDN Electoral Areas. Between 2018 and 2019, this number rebounded by 40 properties with Farm Class designation in the electoral areas showing an increase in land being used to produce food in the region to qualify for this classification with BC Assessment.
- **Goal 6: Indicator #16 – The portion of units in each housing type inside the GCB (diversity of housing types).** The limited 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; most notably within the City of Parksville with an increase of 385 apartment units between 2018 and 2019.
- **Goal 7: Indicator #17 – [Unemployment] employment rate and labour force participation.** The target to maintain an unemployment rate between 3–6% and increase the labour force participation rate continues to be met. In 2019, the unemployment rate dropped to 4.6%, down from 5.1% in 2018, while the labour force participation rate remained constant from 2018 to 2019, remaining at approximately 64%, up from 51.6% when data was first collected in 2015.
- **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 target to increase the amount of publicly owned land for parks and recreational facilities is being achieved as all the data received from the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and RDN Electoral Areas showed a year-over-

year increase of 115 hectares in 2019. The City of Nanaimo showed the largest increase with 99 hectares in 2019.

- **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 2019. The per capita length of maintained trails increased or remained constant in the participating municipalities and electoral areas from which data was received in 2019. The largest increase took place in electoral areas, with 17,637 meters (17.6 kilometers) of new trail added.

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 2019, 65 surface water quality sites were sampled on 41 streams, which is a 5% increase in the number of sample sites and 20% increase in the number of streams monitored from 2018. In 2019, 47 out of 65 sites frequently met water temperature guidelines, 36 out of 65 sites frequently met turbidity guidelines, and 41 out of 65 sites frequently met guidelines for dissolved oxygen.
- **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

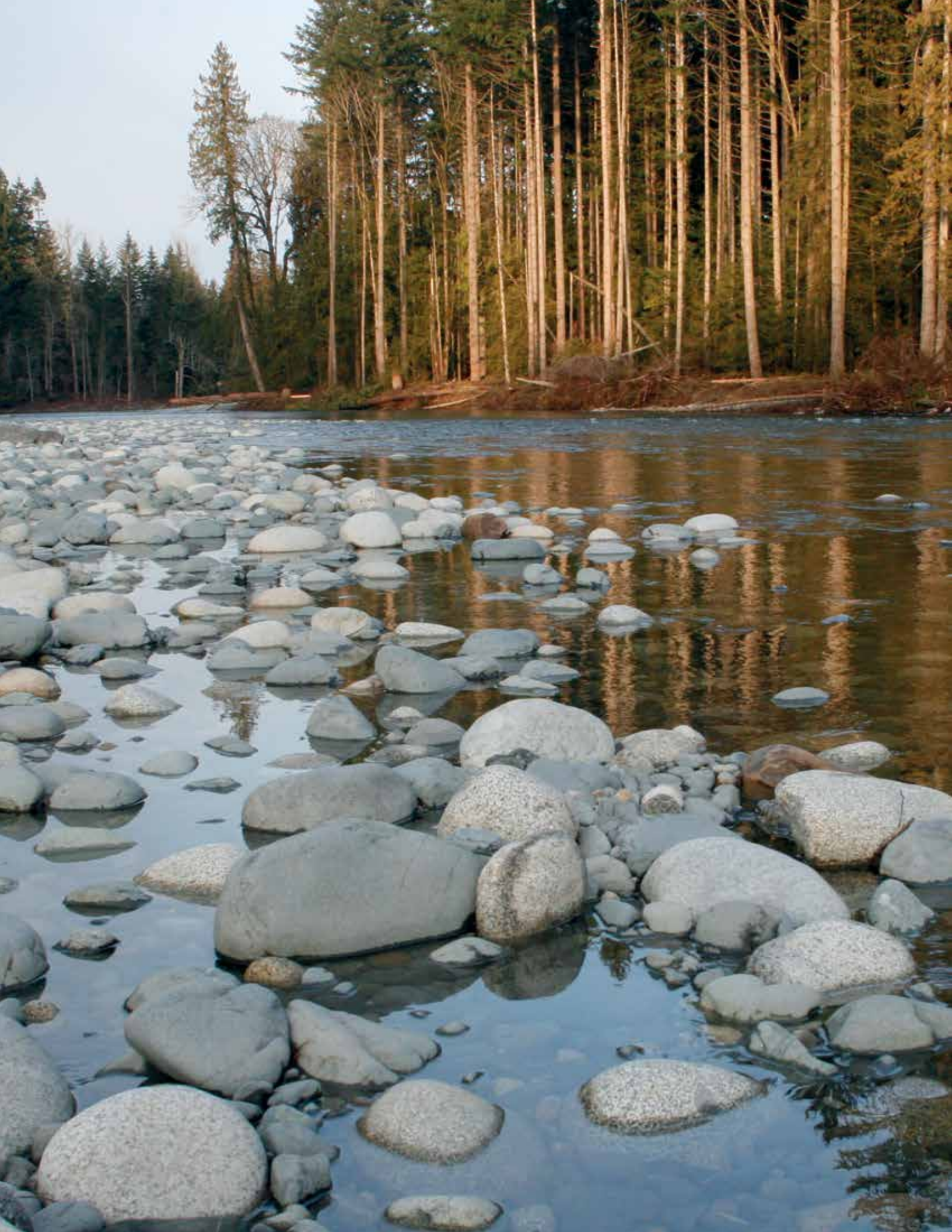
- **Goal 5: Indicator #14 – The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL).** Since 2015, the amount of PMFL has decreased by 712 hectares. In 2019, for the third consecutive year, the amount of land has decreased from 130,509 hectares in 2018 to 130,282 hectares in 2019; a change of - 0.2%. Approximately 63% of the region, remains 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.** Housing affordability is a challenge in the region and elsewhere in British Columbia. For the fourth consecutive year, 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 has increased. This number increased by 426 households in 2019, representing a 12% change from 2018.

- **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 away from the desired target with per capita waste disposal increasing slightly from 384 kg/person in 2017, to 397 kg/person in 2018. Due to provincial reporting timelines, progress on this indicator is continually one-year behind that of the RGS Annual Report.
- **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 moved away from the target as costs increased in 2019 in the RDN Electoral Areas, with a 3% increase in 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 4% for the same time period.

SUMMARY OF APPROACH

The preparation of an annual report is essential to ensure that the RGS and its indicators and policies are actively monitored and assessed as the region continues to grow and change. This is achieved through the continued collaborative efforts between member municipalities and the RDN to share key data used to assess progress and trends, and to help inform opportunities for improvements, while recognizing areas of success.

The results of the monitoring program presented in this report have been used to inform the update of the RGS that is currently underway. A number of areas have been identified for review, including policies relating to land 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, 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 the goals of the RGS.

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.”

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

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

for documenting the actions taken in 2019 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”.

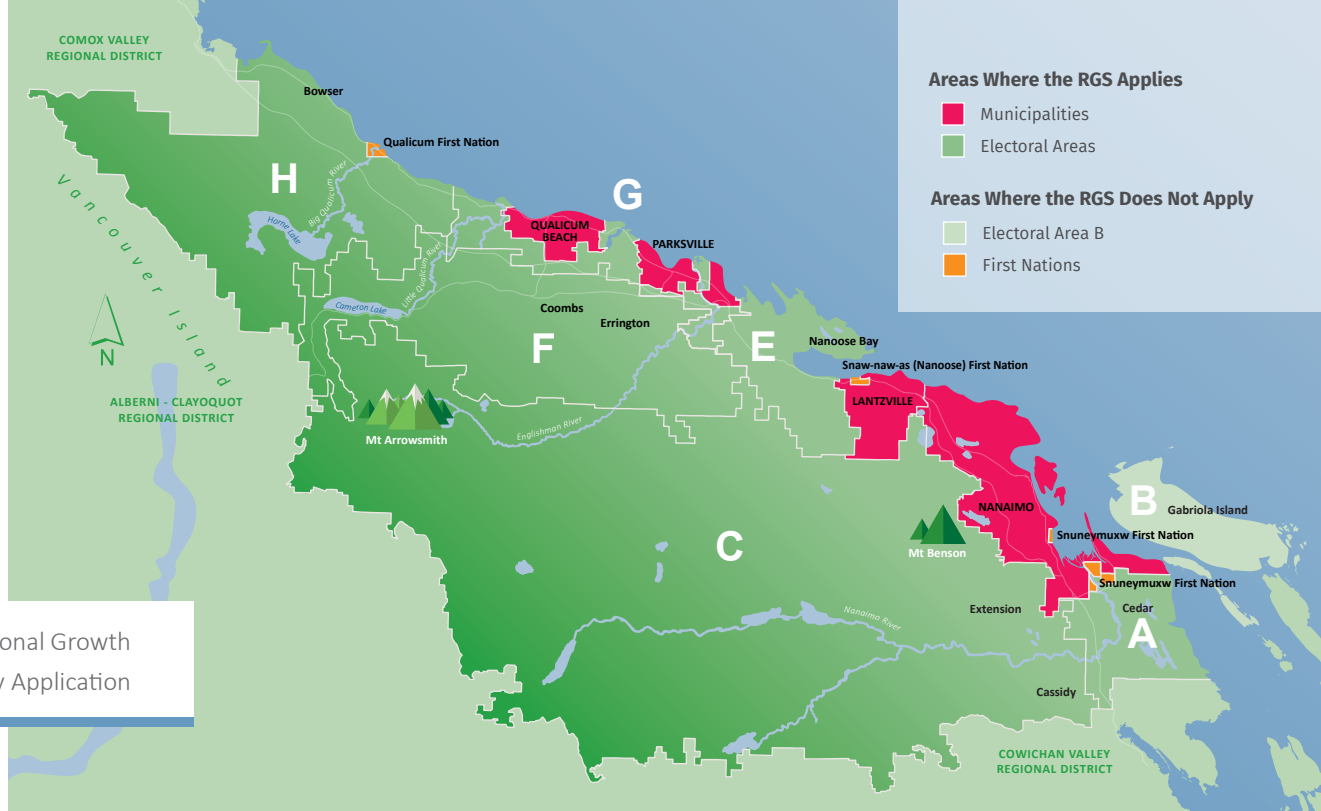
Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

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.

Map 1: Regional Growth Strategy Application

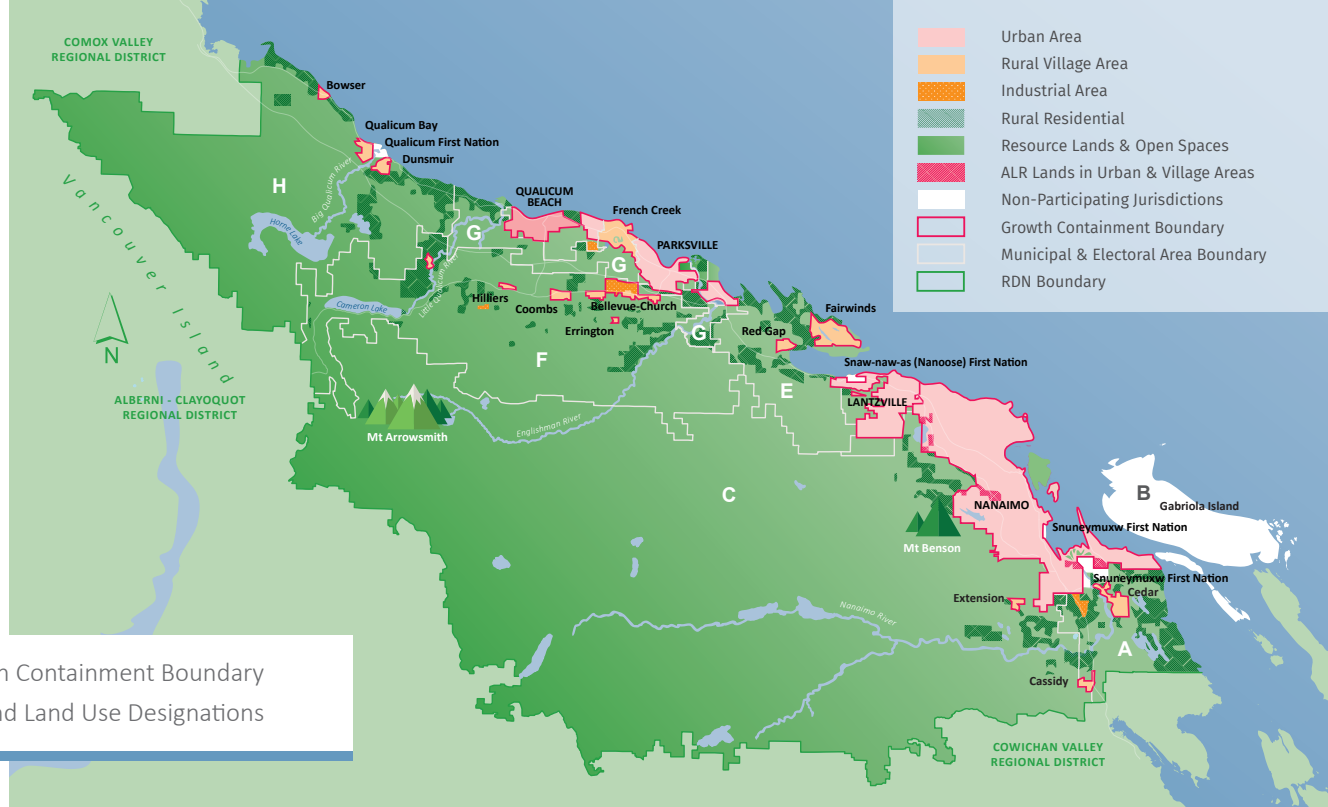


The RGS uses a line on a map called a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) to separate areas designated for future growth from other areas where environmental protection and resource values are a priority. Lands designated as Urban Area within municipalities are intended to absorb the majority of the region’s 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 the goals and policies in the RGS.

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:



Map 2: Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations

- 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 eleven 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 eleven 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 - 2019

This Annual Report continued 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 the 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.



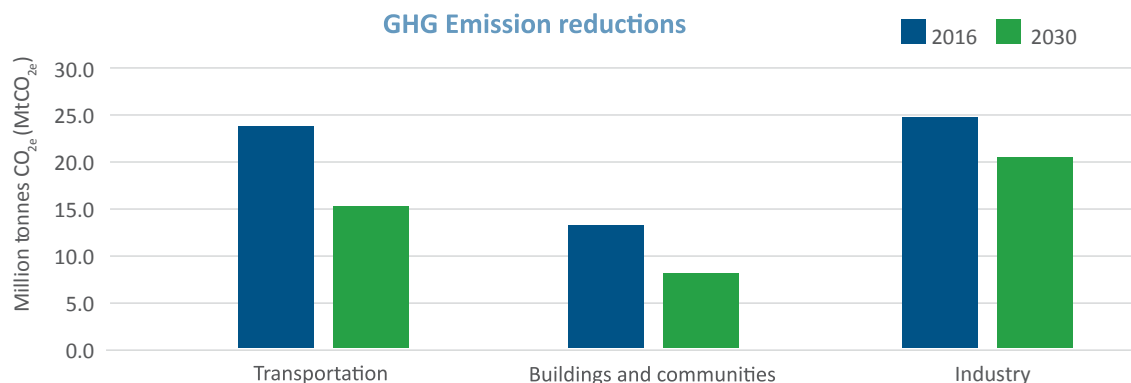
8.1 GOAL 1 – PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

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. Emissions from on-road transportation remains the second highest contributor to GHGs in the province, second to industry, and 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.



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

Chart 1: Provincial Emissions Inventory & Targets

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 3,121,729 cubic metres of landfill gas through the Landfill Gas Collection Project in 2019.

Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Co-Generation System

In 2019, the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) captured 501,994 cubic metres of biogas, an increase of 74,813 cubic metres from 2018. Captured biogas is used to fuel the boilers and co-generation system at the GNPCC.

Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee

In 2019, the RDN issued a call for members of the new Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee (CARTA). CARTA is a technical advisory committee of the RDN Board that provides advice and recommendations to the RDN Board on specific issues emerging or foreseen

as having potential local impacts of global climate change. The Committee's mandate is to discuss and respond to questions and directions from the RDN Board. Those questions and directions will seek advice about specific immediate, mid-term, and long-term actions that the RDN can take to mitigate the RDN's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and adapt to emerging and projected environmental changes.

Green Building Incentives

The RDN and the member municipalities delivered green building incentives to residents who improved the performance of their homes. In 2019, RDN programs delivered \$34,240 in green building incentives and rebates, up from \$28,580 in 2018. The Green Building Incentive Program issued 105 individual rebates for: woodstove exchanges (56), renewable energy systems (2), home energy assessments (26), oil to heat pump rebates (2), sustainability development checklist (6) and site-cut timber (1). There was an uptake of the electric vehicle charging station rebates (12) in 2019, up from (1) in 2018. 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.

Climate Change Actions and Energy Efficiency Measures

To support the Province's BC Energy Step Code, continued region-wide education and awareness about the BC Energy Step Code is being provided amongst the construction industry.

As well as new construction, the RDN continued to participate in the Residential Retrofit Acceleration Project to advance the development of comprehensive and integrated local government and industry home energy retrofit strategies that will create pathways to implement innovative and impactful project initiatives. This is aimed to deliver deep energy retrofits, support a transition to renewable energy resources and provide quantifiable greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Program

Essential to reducing flood risk is accurate and applicable information. To assist, the RDN has undertaken work to acquire a series of flood hazard maps. Flood hazard maps are based on

technical study and modelling that identifies where water will flow during a flood and what land will be affected. This information is to communicate the risks and to inform land use and emergency planning. In 2019, a series of coastal flood hazard maps were completed and funding was allocated to update the existing river floodplain maps for the Nanaimo River, Englishman River and Little Qualicum River over the next three years.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Declaration of Climate Emergency

The City of Nanaimo (the City) declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and set new GHG emission reduction targets for the City to 50% of 2010 levels by 2023, and Net Zero of 2010 levels by 2050. The Nanaimo 2050 Climate Action Plan process is to begin in 2020. The Plan will update the existing corporate and community wide GHG mitigation plans and respond to Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Climate Change Initiatives

The City underwent a number of green initiatives in 2019 including:

- Updated Manual of Engineering and Standards and Specifications Intensity-Duration-Frequency rainfall curve to account for climate change, scheduled to be completed in 2020.
- Developed new Zoning and Building Bylaw regulation (density bonus) to advance implementation of the BC Energy Step Code.
- Updated Zoning Bylaw to facilitate the installation of heat pumps on residential properties.
- Requirement for all new developments to provide electric vehicle charging facilities and bike parking as part of the new regulations of the recently adopted Parking Bylaw.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

The City of Parksville purchased three EVs and a charging station for corporate use and is continuing its expansion of the LED streetlight program. Parksville also established a computer program (TreePlotter) in 2019, showing a complete inventory of street trees, including type, size and health.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

As part of the Town of Qualicum's climate change preparation, the Sustainability Action Plan was updated as part of the advancement of their Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

Lantzville continued to participate in the provision of the 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 \$5,660 more rebates in 2019 than in 2018. Most notable in this program was a surge in EV charging stations rebates in 2019. 3,121,729 cubic metres of landfill gas was captured through the Landfill Gas Collection Project in 2019, and the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre captured 74,813 more cubic metres than the previous year. Another response to climate change is building resiliency and capacity to adapt. In 2019, both the RDN and the City of Nanaimo continued to work on their climate adaptation initiatives to help communities adapt to the projected impacts of sea level rise and the City of Nanaimo declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 while the RDN issued a call for members for the new Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee.



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 five local watercourse enhancement projects (Holden Creek, Lower Knarston Creek, Englishman River Estuary, Pacific Gardens Wetland and Millstone River) through the Stewardship Seedfunding initiative.
- Completed a comprehensive update to the Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program Action Plan for the next decade (2020 – 2030), which included public engagement events, survey, online forums, committee workshops, structured decision-making sessions, technical review and graphical presentations.
- Initiated 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 nearly 140 rebates issued in 2019.
- Continued to attend or host at over 30 public events and workshops to promote watershed protection, water efficiency and stewardship.
- Ongoing construction of the Secondary Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project throughout 2019.
- Provided four SepticSmart public information workshops.
- Provided \$55,000 in Septic Maintenance Rebates.
- Completed the 2019 Receiving Environment Monitoring program for the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre.

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Purchased five-acre farm at 933 Park Avenue as an opportunity to preserve environmental features on the site that includes a watercourse and wetland area.

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.
- Continued providing information to residents concerning outdoor burning.

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, City of Nanaimo and District of Lantzville (no information provided from the 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 21%, while population is up 17% since 2009.

RDN WATER SERVICE AREAS

- The total water production is down 14%, while number of connections is up 13% since 2004.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

- Total water production is down 2%, while the number of connections is up 10% 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 2019, water quality samples from 65 sites on 41 streams in the region were collected. This is a 20% increase in the number of streams monitored in 2018 and a 5% increase in the number of overall sample sites.

This indicator reflects the total number of sites that met the BC Water Quality Guidelines for turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in 2019, as well as any statistically significant trends from 2011-2019 for sites with six or more years of data. In 2019, 10% fewer sites overall met turbidity guidelines; 4% more sites overall met temperature guidelines; and 9% more sites overall met dissolved oxygen guidelines.

Table 1: RDN Monitored Streams Analysis

Monitored Streams that Meet the BC Water Quality Guidelines in 2018		
Turbidity	Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen
36 sites met guidelines out of 65 sites that were monitored	47 sites met guidelines out of 65 sites that were monitored	41 sites met guidelines out of 65 sites that were monitored

Out of the 65 sites monitored in 2019, 41 sites have six or more years of data and were included in the trend analysis. Statistically significant trend analysis indicates whether the results are changing over time and what the direction of change is (water quality stable, improving or declining over time). In some cases there was no discernable directional trend over the six or more year period.

Table 2: Monitored Stream Trends

Trends for Monitored Streams with 6 or more Years of Data (Includes 41 sites)			
Stable	Improving	Declining	No Trends
10 sites have stable water quality trends for at least two parameters	5 sites (2 with improving turbidity trend; 3 with improving dissolved oxygen trend)	1 site with declining temperature trend	25 sites (Trends may emerge over a longer period)

These findings provide information on the quality of our surface water and a baseline understanding of regional surface water quality so it can be tracked for improvement over time. The state of our surface water quality is maintaining a stable condition and improving in certain areas and more information and trends are being analyzed with the increase in testing being conducted in more recent years.

Improving water quality in our watersheds is immensely important for the health and quality of life in our region, and combined efforts to collaboratively work to preserve and protect our shared resources are underway to achieve this goal.

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 2019, the City of Nanaimo, RDN Electoral Areas, District of Lantzville and City of Parksville had a total of 6,306 hectares of protected areas, representing approximately 3.08% of land in the region. While 2018 had a slightly higher number of hectares of protected areas (6,365), it should be noted that this total included data from the Town of Qualicum Beach, whereas 2019 did not, skewing the overall total slightly lower. Furthermore, while the amount of protected area in the City of Parksville remains unchanged from 2018, an increase is found in the City of Nanaimo,

RDN Electoral Areas and District of Lantzville. The most notable change can be seen in the City of Nanaimo, where a 98 hectare increase occurred in 2019. This increase is attributed largely in part to 74 hectares of new park-zoned land in the City of Nanaimo's Linley Valley.

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

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



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 in 2019 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 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 2019, the RDN undertook the following regional transportation initiatives:

Regional Transit

- The RDN Board approved the expansion of 5,900 annual service hours in July of 2019. The date of implementation for this expansion was January 5, 2020 and included two new routes, one of them servicing the Nanaimo Airport/Cassidy area.
- Continued collaboration between RDN, BC Transit and the City of Nanaimo on the South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan.
- Continued coordination on future land use development and Official Community Plans to enhance and restructure the current transit system.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Transportation and Pedestrian Enhancement

- Completed the waterfront walkway at 1 Port Way.
- Completed the Front Street Extension project connecting the Nanaimo Port Authority's Assembly Wharf with downtown Nanaimo.
- Updated the Manual of Engineering Standards and Specifications in 2019. Implementation to take place in 2020.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

- Extended the area falling within the Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Area incentivizing development close to the downtown area.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

- Received grant to complete three additional portions of trail along the east-west School Connector Route.

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 four-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. Increased development along with improved mapping and data collection can further account for the continued year-over-year increases.

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

		Bus Stops	Schools	Employment Lands	Shopping Centre
Nanaimo*	2015	-	-	-	-
	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
Parksville*	2015	-	-	-	-
	2017	-	1,025	3,837	2,446
	2018	-	1,019	4,029	2,524
	2019	6,606	1,024	4,454	2,607
Qualicum Beach*	2015	-	-	-	-
	2017	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2018	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2019	-	-	-	-
Lantzville*	2015	1,064	191	1,231	-
	2017	1,021	192	1,201	-
	2018	1,020	190	1,206	-
	2019	1,033	191	1,231	-
Electoral Area	2015	3,292	1,628	8,400	377
	2017	3,664	996	8,741	597
	2018	3,684	1,000	8,821	600
	2019	3,726	1,029	8,902	602

*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 2016-2016, compared to 3,387,083 in 2018–2019. This is a 24% increase over four years.

For the same period, per capita rides also increased from 17.5 in 2015–2016 to 21.8 in 2018–2019. 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.

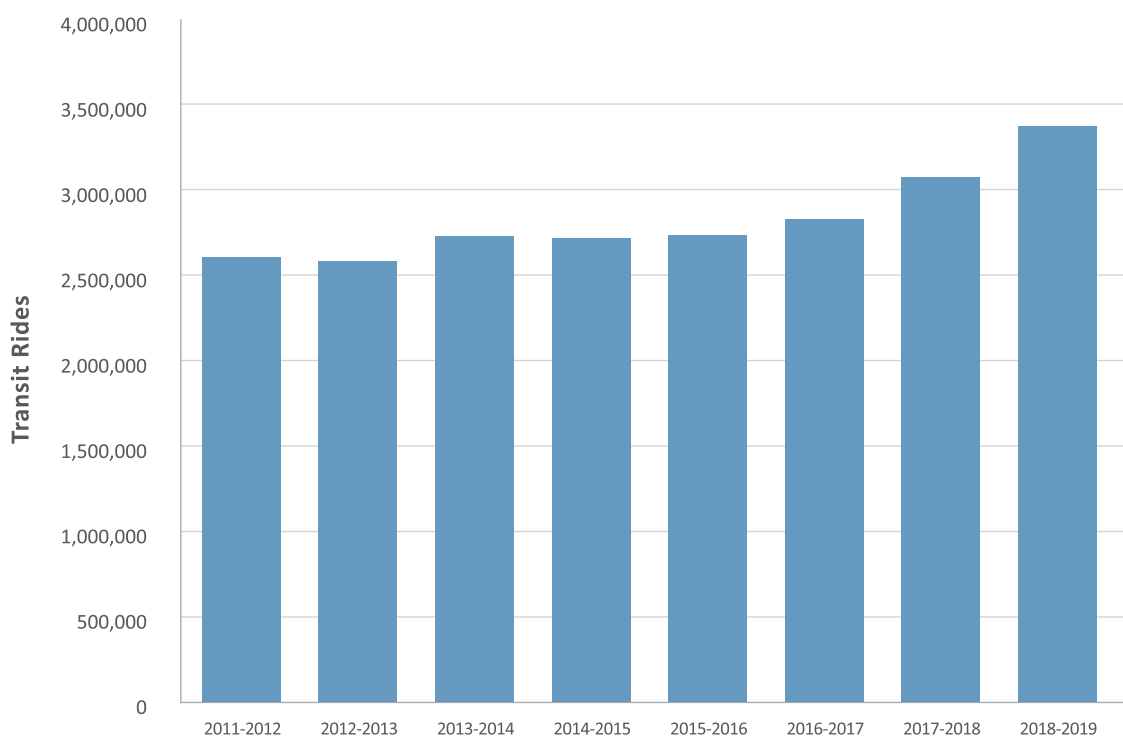


Chart 2: Total Transit Rides per Year, 2011 to 2019



GOAL 3 - KEY FINDINGS

The results suggest a clear trend that 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. As the region grows and develops, provisions in support of the transit network should remain a priority to not only reduce carbon emissions, but also promote connectivity through alternate modes of transportation and promote transit use as a viable and reliable mode of transportation within the region. With climate change initiatives being at the forefront of discussions in 2019, an emphasis on the shifting of mindsets away from reliance on personal vehicles, to the use of more sustainable modes of transportation, along with increased levels of services may have further contributed to higher ridership in 2019.



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 Census of Canada data to provide an estimate of the population inside and outside the GCB.

As shown by the results from 2018 to 2019, 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 enables 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 and 2019)

	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	145,762	26,591
2019	105,848	9	13,714	46	-	-	3,643	85	11,891	27,029	135,096*	27,169

*Information not available from Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019

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 or not 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.

4.31
units/hectare
inside GCB 2019

In 2019, the average density of dwelling units within the GCB was 4.31 units/hectare, an increase from 4.05 units/hectare in 2017. The 2018 average density of dwelling units within the GCB was 4.41 units/hectare. The 2018 number included the Town Qualicum Beach, whereas the 2019 number did not, causing the average density of dwelling units in the GCB

to appear lower on a year-to-year comparison (see Table 6 below). Of the Urban Areas in 2019, the City of Parksville has the highest density of dwelling units (6.56 units/hectare) followed by the City of Nanaimo (5.21 units/hectare). The data also shows a slight increase from 2018 in the Rural Village Centers from 2.31 units/hectare in 2018 to 2.33 units/hectare in 2019. The District of Lantzville also showed an increase from 2018 to 2019, moving from 0.85 units/hectare to 0.87 units/hectare. These changes can be attributed to an achievement of the RGS goal and to more accurate mapping and data collection methods used than in previous years. Since 2015, a trend of increased density within the GCB can be noted, signifying the progress made towards the RGS goal to increase the density within designated growth areas.

A slight change occurred in the density of dwelling units per hectare outside of the GCB as the number rose from 0.06 units/hectare in 2018, to 0.08 units/hectare in 2019. This slight change can be attributed to the presence of significant portions of developable lands outside of the Rural Village Centres of the RDN Electoral Areas and a strong residential real estate climate in 2019.

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

	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

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

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.

Within the City of Nanaimo, since 2015, Industrial, Commercial and Recreational land uses have increased slightly while Institutional, Mixed-Use and Residential land uses have seen a slight decrease. While these shifts are considered a change (not a regression), it is attributed to a change in the methodology used to compile the data and more accurate mapping methods. Despite this change, the land use ratio for the City of Nanaimo remains consistent with the desired mix of land uses.

Table 7: Diversity of Land Uses in Urban & Rural Village Centres in the RDN (2015-2019)

		Residential (%)	Commercial (%)	Industrial (%)	Mixed Use (%)	Institutional (%)	Recreational (%)
Electoral Areas	2015	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2017	61	7	11	5	6	10
	2018	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2019	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
Parksville	2018	48	12	4	6	8	22
	2019	51	11	4	6	7.5*	20.5
Qualicum Beach**	2017	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2018	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nanaimo	2015	67	1	9	5	5	13
	2017	69	1***	9	5	3	13
	2018	67	3	10	3	2	15
	2019	66	3	10	3	2	16

*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.

***Nanaimo - "Commercial" is interpreted to include only those lands zoned Commercial. No residential or non-commercial uses. Where both residential and non-commercial are also permitted these lands are categorized as "Mixed-Use".



GOAL 4 - KEY FINDINGS

The results indicate that the RGS policies appear to be effective in advancing the RGS Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres. A trend of increased density within the GCB can be noted, signifying the success of the RGS goal to increase both the population and density of dwelling units within designated growth areas. This trend shows 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. The continued compact form of development also achieves the RGS goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve resource lands. Electoral areas and member municipalities have remained consistent with the ideal mix of land use on a yearly basis, indicating the existence of complete communities supporting an ideal mix of uses.



8.5 GOAL 5 – ENHANCE RURAL INTEGRITY

REGIONAL ACTIONS

The protection of the region's rural economy and lifestyle was advanced in 2019 by:

Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Update

The RDN is currently updating the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan. The Terms of Reference and Engagement Plan were endorsed in late 2019 with the first round of community engagement taking place in early 2020. Some of the key focus areas for this review surround growth management, employment and economy, climate change preparedness, environment, housing, mobility and health and well-being.

Increased Transit Service

The RDN Transit Service commenced planning of two new routes to be implemented in January 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

The City's East Wellington Park is located in the Agricultural Land Reserve and design of the Park Plan took place in 2019 to support agricultural use on the property and enhance local food production.

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 1,838, with 1,781 (97%) of those lots being created inside the GCB and 57 lots outside, achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB. The most notable rise in 2019 occurred in the City of Nanaimo and can be attributed to a strong real estate and development climate and shows steady increases in new lots created by subdivision over the last two years. The influence of strong residential market-forces is also observed in the electoral areas, which experienced the greatest increase in new lots outside of the GCB (56) since the RDN began reporting these figures in 2012.

1,781
new lots
inside GCB

57
new lots
outside GCB

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

**2012 – 2015 information not available for the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville or the Town of Qualicum Beach and 2019 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 that receive and maintain Farm Class 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.

Baseline data collected in 2017 showed a total of 713 parcels with Farm Class in the region. In 2018, this number dropped to 674. Within the electoral areas, 41 properties lost their Farm Class status with Electoral Area A seeing the largest decline of 25 properties. In 2019, the number of parcels receiving Farm Class increased to 682 (excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach), with Electoral Area A seeing an increase of 20 properties. This year-on-year fluctuation is likely due to the reporting cycle of farm gate income to BC Assessment.

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

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

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. 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

Note: 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 (PFML) 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 130,994 hectares of PMFL. This number declined by 394 hectares to a total of 130,600 hectares in 2017. In 2018, the region had 130,509 hectares of PMFL, showing a further decrease of 91 hectares between 2017 and 2018. In 2019, not including the Town of Qualicum Beach, the region had 130,282 hectares of PMFL. Between 2018 and 2019, the amount of PMFL in the City of Nanaimo and District of Lantzville remained unchanged, whereas the Electoral Areas lost 98 hectares. This change is attributed to the subdivision and sale of PMFL lands, which are re-classified by BC Assessment as a result of the change in the primary use from forestry to residential.

In 2019, an estimated 130,282 hectares or 63% 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	129,982	130,994
2017	160	129	723	129,588	130,600
2018	217	129	723	129,440	130,509
2019	217	-	723	129,342	130,282

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





GOAL 5 - KEY FINDINGS

The results for Goal 5 are mixed and show both trends towards and away from the intent of the goals. 2019 marks the fourth consecutive year of decline in the number of hectares of land classified as PMFL. Although these losses are not substantial, they are consistent and potentially caused by development pressure in a strong residential real estate climate in the region. The results also indicate that the RGS policies in support of directing the majority of growth into well-defined activities within the GCBs are achieving the intended results. Additionally, an increase in parcels with Farm Class in 2019 shows a rebound of the number of parcels used for farming activities. Further data and analysis is needed to better understand trends and effectiveness of RGS policies intended to support an increase in the number of parcels classified as Farm Class and PMFL. Further investigation and monitoring of the decline of PMFL will occur as part of the RGS review.



8.6 GOAL 6 – FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Emergency Shelter and Food Materials

The RDN completed the annual update to the extreme weather brochure and poster, which was distributed to social service providers and made available online and on RDN buses. The brochure and poster provide information on the location and contact details for emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, hot meal programs and food banks in the region. The brochure also provides bus route information to help locate these services.

Oceanside Health and Wellness Network

The Oceanside Health and Wellness Network continued to advance understanding and progress towards goals of child wellness and mental health for young adults through a growing network of over 100 community members working collectively on improving health outcomes in these areas.

Regional Housing Needs Report

During the development of the regional housing study, in 2019, the provincial government amended the *Local Government Act* by mandating local governments to prepare a Housing Needs Report. To avoid any gaps in information, the scope of the RDN housing study was expanded to include the remaining data required and has been renamed the “Regional Housing Needs Report” to reflect these changes. 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.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Housing Support

- Snuneymuxw First Nation, School District 68, the City and BC Housing entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding to create a master plan for the redevelopment of three properties located in the City of Nanaimo (Harewood) that incorporates new affordable rental housing, a learning alternatives program, cultural components, park and other community services.
- Provided funding for extended hours at the Unitarian Emergency Shelter.
- Facilitated the funding of additional shelter beds provided by BC Housing at St. Peter’s Church and the Salvation Army.

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 the 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, with the exception of 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.

25%

units > \$786
2018

53%

units > \$786
2015

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 17% (821) in 2019.

Table 12: Total number of renter households above or equal to the affordable household threshold (2011-2019)

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

Data source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2011-2019

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.

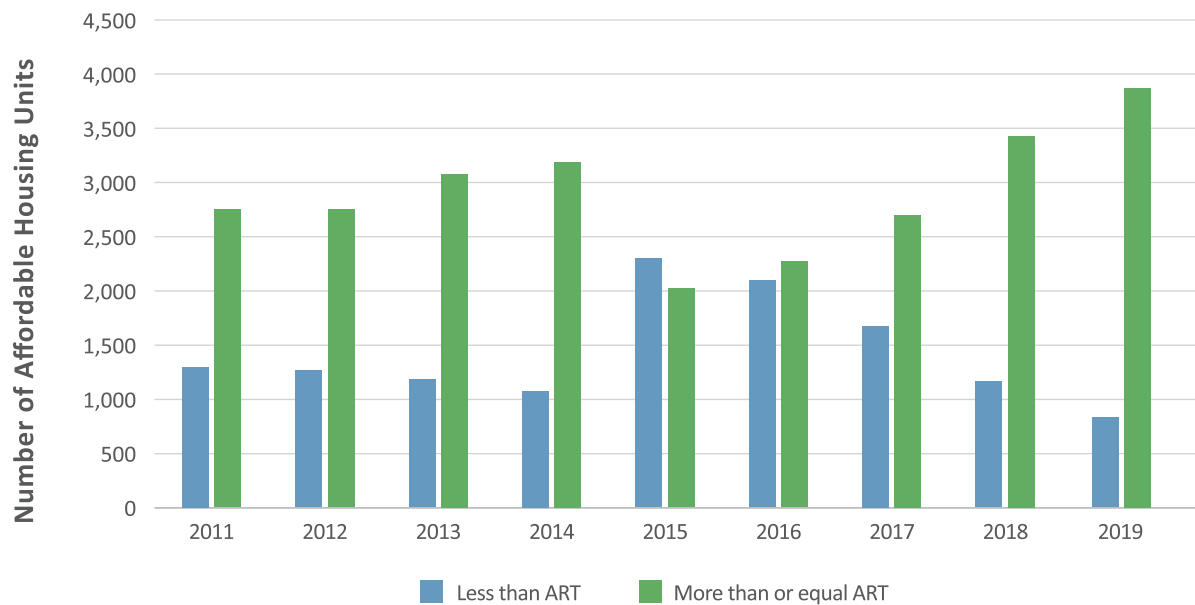


Chart 3: Total number of rental units affordable to low income thresholds

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, the diverse type of housing forms is important to track to understand what type of development is occurring in different areas of the region. From 2018 to 2019, the City of Parksville increased the number of apartment buildings from 1,076 units to 1,461.

The data suggests that this goal has been advanced in 2018 and 2019 in the growth centre of Parksville, as an increase supply of diverse housing, more specifically higher density apartment units in 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 Dwellings	Other Ground Oriented Dwellings	Apartment Dwellings
Electoral Areas	2018	3,710	1,447	51
	2019	3,722	1,456	51
Lantzville	2018	1,321	89	0
	2019	1,322	89	0
Parksville	2018	3,908	1,437	1,076
	2019	3,931	1,465	1,461
Qualicum Beach*	2018	3,181	470	420
	2019	-	-	-
Nanaimo	2018	-	-	-
	2019	-	-	-

**Information not available for the City of Nanaimo for 2018 and 2019 or Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019*



GOAL 6 – KEY FINDINGS

Progress on the targets intended to support adaptable, accessible, affordable, and attainable housing appear to have regressed over the last several years. This is in part due to continual rising costs in housing prices and rental prices, and the growing disparity between income and cost of rental housing. Following the adoption of the National Housing Strategy in 2017, initiatives locally, provincially and federally are underway to address housing affordability. Data in coming years will monitor progress trying to reverse this trend.

Diverse forms of housing within growth centres provides for different housing needs, while keeping residents close to services they require on a daily basis. Parksville has increased its density through increasing the number of apartment units, which potentially reduces the cost of transportation and overall affordability. More data in coming years will determine if the type and tenure of housing is adapting to the changing needs of the communities.

8.7 GOAL 7 – ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY



REGIONAL ACTIONS

Regional Economic Development Review

The RDN Board directed the preparation of a report on the current state of economic development in the region, incorporating input from the other organizations who are involved in economic development and related activities. 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 of 2019 with a number of economic development partners in the region attending. Both the original report and a workshop report with recommendations can be found at the following link:

www.rdn.bc.ca/economic-development.

Southern Community Economic Development Service

The RDN continues to deliver the Southern Community Economic Development program to provide economic development initiatives for Gabriola Island and advance the Board's vision for a resilient and creative regional economy.

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

- The City undertook a review of the Economic Development Function for Nanaimo. City of Nanaimo Council supported a hybrid model of service delivery going forward with both an in-house function and an external agency.
- The City of Nanaimo Council supported the creation of a new economic development strategy.
- The City held a Business Forum in June to assist small businesses in conjunction with the Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

Economic Development Strategic Plan

The District of Lantzville approved the Terms of Reference for their Economic Development Sustainability Committee in 2019. The Committee will provide support and recommendations to staff for implementing and achieving the goals and objectives of the Economic Development Strategic Plan and advise and assist Council and the business community in creating a healthy, sustainable, vibrant and diverse business community.

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 went from 82,300 persons of working age (49.2%) in 2015 to 104,600 (64.3%) in 2019.

In 2015, the NCA unemployment rate was 4.7% compared to 5.1 % in 2018 and 4.6% in 2019.

The 2019 unemployment rate remains within the desired RGS target range of 3–6%, with a slight drop from 2018. Comparatively, the provincial unemployment rate was 4.9% and the Canadian unemployment rate was 5.8% in 2019.

64.3%
Employment Rate

4.6%
Unemployed

64.4%
Labour Force
Participation

As illustrated here, the rise in employment is gradually reducing the unemployment rate. This gradual reduction may be attributed to the rise in the number of people that were previously outside of the labour force, including people over the age 65 returning to work, and migration from other parts of Canada and, to a lesser extent, from BC. The Labour Force Participation Rate was 51.6% in 2015 compared to 64.4% in 2019, showing a trend of increased participation in the workforce over the last several years.



GOAL 7 – KEY FINDINGS

Overall, the actions taken and positive labour force changes suggest improvements in the regional labour market conditions consistent with furthering the RGS Goal 7: Enhance 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 is scheduled to be completed in the Fall 2020.



GOAL 8 – KEY FINDINGS

Consistent with RGS Goal 2: Food Security, the region continues to undertake actions to support the economic diversification of the agricultural sector and advance 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. The final phase of developing a Recreation Services Master Plan for

Oceanside is underway to explore the expansion of services/spaces provided at the Ravensong Aquatic Centre. Work on the concept and design planning project has commenced and is scheduled for completion in spring 2020.

Regional and Community Parks

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

- Final agreement obtained from private Crown agencies to proceed with the survey dedication of the 1911 Gazetted Horne Lake and Alberni Road. The surveyed road allowance will serve as a regional trail corridor between Horne Lake Regional Park and the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District.
- Safety and accessibility upgrades initiated at Little Qualicum Hall.
- Concluded 10-year Lions Hall License with the Qualicum Bay Lions Club with the responsibility for ground operations at Lions Community Park moved to the RDN.
- Completed Concept plan for development of Jack Bagley Community Park and presented to the community at an open house.
- Prepared detailed and costed design plans for a new playground at Errington Community Park.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Arts and Culture

- Designed a new inclusive playground at Maffeo Sutton Park to be installed in spring 2020.
- Designed a new skate park for Harewood Centennial Park to be constructed in 2020.
- Undertook a visioning exercise for the downtown core with City Council that identified five key areas of focus as part of the approved \$400,000 to be focused on beautification and active transportation in the downtown.

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 2019, excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach, the region had a total of 6,085 hectares of publicly owned land. The City of Nanaimo experienced the largest increase in publicly owned land gaining approximately 100 hectares this year, and moving from a total of 2,255 hectares in 2018, to 2,354 hectares in 2019. Additions to the Linley Valley Park contributed in large to this year-to-year increase.

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

*Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019

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 409,820 metres, or 2.65 metres per capita. In 2019, excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach, 404,727 metres of trail or 2.78 metres per capita existed, showing an increase in per capita length of trails year-over-year. The largest increase can be seen within the RDN Electoral Areas and can be attributed to trails in the Coats Marsh Community Park and a section of trails added to the Schooner Ridge Community Park. 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

*Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019



GOAL 9 – KEY FINDINGS

The natural environment, cultural history and arts community remain some of the region's greatest assets. Trails, paths and laneways are part of a network of natural and man-made features that connect communities and support active transportation. The continued increase of trails encourages residents and visitors to take advantage of the pristine natural environment the region provides. The region's celebration of its natural beauty and cultural diversity are demonstrated by the actions taken to advance Goal 9: Pride of Place and continue to achieve this goal of the RGS.



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 to the Main Haul Road at the Regional Landfill and through the planning and design of the commercial land entrance to the Regional Landfill.

Automated Curbside Collection

The RDN Board voted to transition an automated curbside collection service at the end of the current manual service collection contract. The new service will provide RDN residents improved service offerings through:

- Customizable collection cart sizes to best suit house needs;
- No weight restrictions;
- Improved worker health and safety;
- Improved neighbourhood aesthetics by keeping material contained; and
- Reduced human-wildlife interactions.

Community engagement including a survey and online questionnaire took place in 2019 with the program to commence in 2020.

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 technology data to create efficiencies in transit run times.

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.

Finance Services

In 2019, RDN Finance Services received the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the 2018 Annual Financial Report. The 2018 Annual Financial Report received this award for its high standards, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclose” designed to clearly communicate the RDN's financial story and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. This marks the third year in a row that the RDN Finance Department has won this award.

Parks

Parks Services completed an asset registry of park work for incorporation within the Corporate registry system.

Emergency Services

RDN actions for emergency planning and preparedness in 2019 were consistent with the RGS direction to integrate and coordinate efforts on a regional basis among the RDN through the use of the online Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program.

Fire Services

RDN Fire Services continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 by coordinating and providing regional support to local fire departments. In 2019, the Dashwood Fire Hall Replacement Project was approved, establishing bylaws for a fire protection service area within Electoral Area F, G, and H and the authorization to borrow up to \$4,000,000 to finance the fire hall replacement.

CITY OF NANAIMO

- The City has undertaken a Coordinated Strategic Policy Review process that will involve intensive community engagement to inform a number of City plans, including the OCP, Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan, Active Transportation Plan, Economic Development Plan, and Water Strategy.
- Development of a comprehensive asset management program. The Facilities and Park Amenities Condition Assessment Program is currently under way to identify and evaluate this infrastructure to provide efficient and sustainable service delivery.
- Provided fire smart initiatives to the Long Lake Heights community as well as Vancouver Island University.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Development of a documentation of levels of service as part of asset management initiative.

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 slightly from 2017 to 2018 moving from 384 kg/person to 397 kg/person.

397
Kilograms/person
per capita waste

Due to provincial reporting timelines, 2019 data is not available at this time. While the waste diversion rates have remained around 68% annually over the past few years, the per capita disposal rates have increased. Potential reasons for this include a strong economy which has led to higher consumption and tourism, and a strong residential real estate market resulting in more waste generated from households moving and the renovation and/or demolition of older homes.

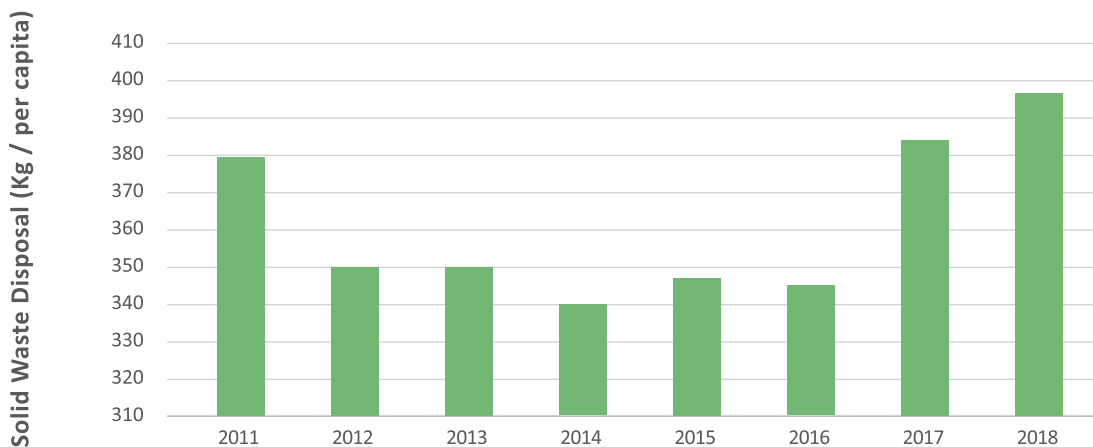


Chart 4: Per Capita Waste Disposal

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 2019, the cost of water and sewer in both the City of Nanaimo and the RDN Electoral Areas increased from the previous year, with the City experiencing the largest changes as shown in Table 16 below. From 2018 to 2019, per person water costs increased 5% and per person sewer costs increased 3% in electoral areas. These increases can be attributed to ever-increasing operating and maintenance expenses and the need to plan for asset renewal that will ensure the reliable and uninterrupted delivery of services into the future.

The cost of waste water, which is for the entire RDN (including electoral areas and member municipalities) increased slightly from \$112/person to \$117/person.

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

	Nanaimo		Electoral Areas		All
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Wastewater*
2018	\$256/person	\$76/person	\$204/person	\$237/person	\$112/person
2019	\$322/person	\$156/person	215/person	\$243/person	\$117/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

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 (excluding data from the Town of Qualicum Beach). The largest increase of roads can be found in the District of Lantzville and can be attributed to the ongoing Foothills Development.

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

*Information not available for Town of Qualicum Beach in 2019



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. Overall the RDN, similar to the rest of the Province, has seen an increased trend in per capita disposal rates, with 2017 and 2018 both experiencing a year-over-year increase. Potential reasons for this include a strong economy which has led to higher consumption and tourism, and a strong residential real estate market resulting in more waste generated from households moving and the renovation and/or demolition of old homes.

Continued yearly increases in water, sewer and wastewater costs can be attributed to ever-increasing operating and maintenance expenses and the need to plan for asset renewal that will ensure the reliable and uninterrupted delivery of services into the future.



8.11 GOAL 11 – COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

REGIONAL ACTIONS

First Nations

Meetings were held with First Nations, including Qualicum, Snaw-Naw-As and Snuneymuxw to discuss a variety of matters, both operational and policy-oriented, including protocol agreements, support for Tribal Journeys 2020, coastal floodplain mapping initiatives, land use and zoning, drinking water and watershed protection, solid waste programs including curbside collection service, planned infrastructure projects, and strategic planning for the management of parks and trails. In 2019, training was offered to the RDN Board and staff on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, with more programs planned, including Hul'q'umi'num language training.

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 offered support and training to local stewardship groups to enable watershed monitoring and restoration activities, and participated in developing a framework for collaborative watershed decision making to support area-based water planning.

On an ongoing basis, outside of these meetings and initiatives, RDN staff maintains professional relationships that enable effective communication and collaboration. This allows the RDN to share information on RGS implementation activities to support adjacent jurisdictions with actions consistent with the direction of the RGS.

Emergency Evacuation Route Exercise

The RDN and District of Lantzville were successful applicants of the \$25,000 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure. This provides funding for the creation of a combined Evacuation Route Plan for Lantzville, RDN Electoral Area E, and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations. Collaboration on this project will allow for consistent communications during evacuations and a more comprehensive plan with coordinated multi-agency response to evacuation needs.

Water Services

The RDN Water Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions in 2019 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.
- Continued to train volunteer stewards on surface water quality sampling procedures as part of the RDN's Community Watershed Monitoring Network.
- Shared data and project information with Snaw-Naw-As First Nation regarding the Electoral Area E Water Budget Phase 3 study.

Wastewater Services

The RDN Wastewater Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions through the following actions:

- Held two 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.

Solid Waste Services

The RDN Solid Waste Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions in 2019 through the following actions:

- Maintained 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.
- Entered into an agreement with Qathet Regional District to accept municipal solid waste from Lasqueti Island.

Transit Services

The RDN Transit Department enhanced cooperation amongst jurisdictions in 2019 through the following actions:

- Continued work between RDN Staff and BC Transit to evaluate the viability of local transit initiatives.
- RDN Transit Staff worked continuously with staff from City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach and City of Parksville on transit infrastructure initiatives.
- Established working group between RDN Transit, BC Transit and Cowichan Valley Regional District for interregional transit route planning.

CITY OF NANAIMO

The City worked with numerous agencies and jurisdictions to build relationships and enhance cooperation in 2019. Some of these initiatives included the following actions:

- Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) and the City formed a Protocol Agreement Working Group that meets to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- The City and SFN have coordinated on a number of projects at Maffeo Sutton Park, including collaborating on integrating art and story into the new inclusive playground, and support for the Saysutshun (New Castle Island) ferry.

- Announced Memorandum of Understanding for project Te’Tuxwtun; partnership on Fifth Street with BC Housing, School District 68, and SFN incorporating affordable rental housing, park, education and community services. Te’Tuxwtun is the Snuneymuxw name for Mount Benson.
- Created the Health and Housing Task Force with a variety of community and government stakeholders.
- Participated in the Community Health Network (led by VIHA) along with the RDN.
- Hosted the monthly Community Action Team (funded by Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions).
- The City and RDN Emergency Management divisions’ co-hosted a post disaster staging initiative with various community organizations and agencies.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

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



GOAL 11 – KEY FINDINGS

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

9. Implementation – 2020

For 2020, 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 with the update to the Regional Growth Strategy.
- 3.* Complete revisions to the Sustainable Site Planning checklist.
- 4.* Create the Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee.
- 5.* Conduct a Transit Network Review.
- 6.* Implement RDN transit service expansion of 5,900 annual service hours.
- 7.* Complete the Housing Needs Report.
- 8.* Continue to advance the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program by sharing results of the coastal analysis and pursuing funding opportunities to update the existing riverine floodplain maps.
- 9.* Complete work on the Vancouver Island Regional Agricultural Adaptation Strategy and share findings.
- 10.* Continue work on the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Review.
- 11.* Commence Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project.
- 12.* Pursue the implementation of business licensing authority with the Province.
- 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).

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2020
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 the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.	Completed in 2013.
	Proceed with the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program.	Completed coastal flood hazard mapping in 2019.
2. Environmental Protection	Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain SEI databases.	Ongoing.
	Encourage the Province to regulate groundwater, require reporting on water use and protect water resources on a watershed basis.	Under the new <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> , licenses for groundwater are now required for larger water users. The RDN will continue to advocate for regulations that come out of the Act to protect water resources on a watershed basis.
3. Land Use & Mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and to prepare mobility strategies.	Ongoing.
	Prepare Industrial Land Supply and Demand study and strategy (also applies to Goal 7).	Industrial Lands Study completed Spring in 2013.
4. Housing & Jobs	Prepare region-wide Rural Village Centres Study.	Rural Village Centres Study completed in Spring 2013. Update of report to be determined.
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 JANUARY 2019
6. Affordable Housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Launched Regional Housing Needs Report process.
7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy	Support and encourage economic development.	Completed feasibility assessment for creating a regional economic development service.
	Collaborate in the preparation of a regional industrial land supply strategy, and ensure that the region remains competitive in its ability to attract industrial development.	Industrial Lands Study completed Spring 2013.
	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.	Regional Agriculture Inventory completed in 2012.
		Continue work on Area F Inventory Update for Official Community Plan review. Participating in Vancouver Island Agricultural Adaptation Study.
	Prepare Agricultural Area Plan Implementation.	Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan approved in 2013. Bylaw 500 and Policy Update project completed in 2016. Rural Area Guide completed in 2016. Agricultural Area Plan completed in 2012; Action Plan completed in November 2013. 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 JANUARY 2019
9. Pride of Place	Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and official community plans.	<p>Cedar Main Street Plan adopted in 2013.</p> <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>Qualicum Beach Cultural Plan completed in 2012 with ongoing implementation.</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	Prepare strategy for servicing Rural Village Centres (See Goal 4).	Will be pursued for different Rural Village Centres as funding permits.
11. Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing of protocol.	<p>First handy DART servicing agreement signed between Snaw-Naw-As and RDN in 2013.</p> <p>Continued First Nations education and training for RDN staff.</p>







REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO



6300 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2



250-390-4111
1-877-607-4111



inquiries@rdn.bc.ca



rdn.bc.ca