

2016 Annual Report

Implementation & Progress



Monitoring the
Regional Growth Strategy

April 11, 2017



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1 OVERVIEW

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)¹ is a strategic plan adopted by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board that aims to establish a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region over a 25 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 in order to set the stage for documenting the actions taken in 2016 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 over time to achieve the goals of the RGS. In addition, Appendix 1 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.



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.

2 RGS 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".

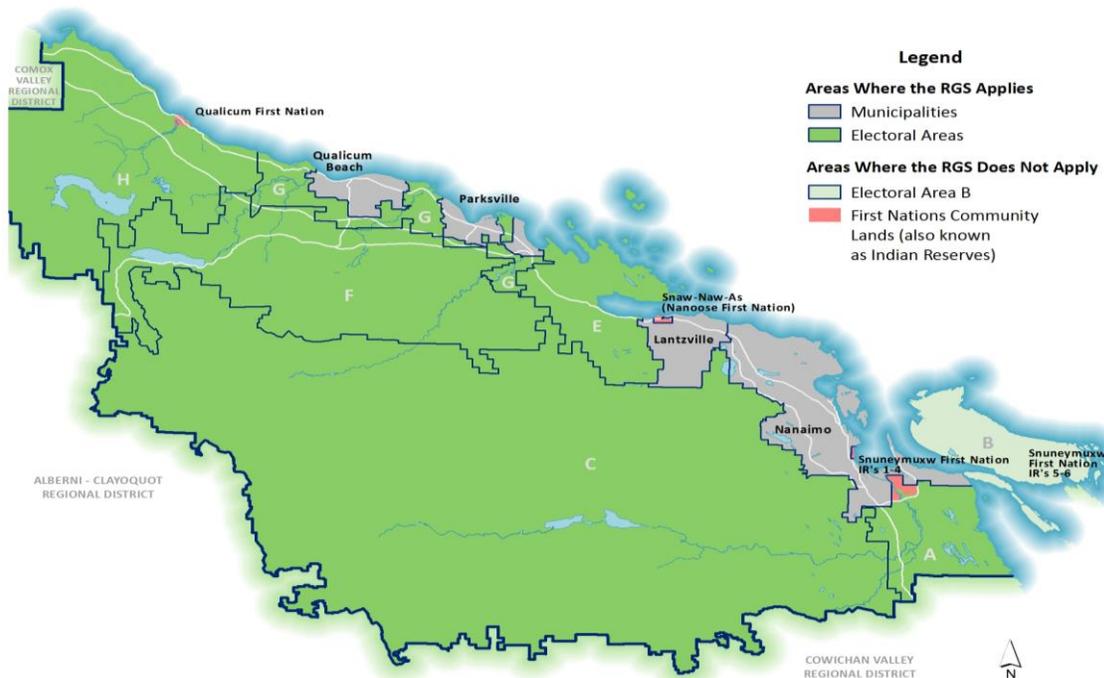
Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

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.

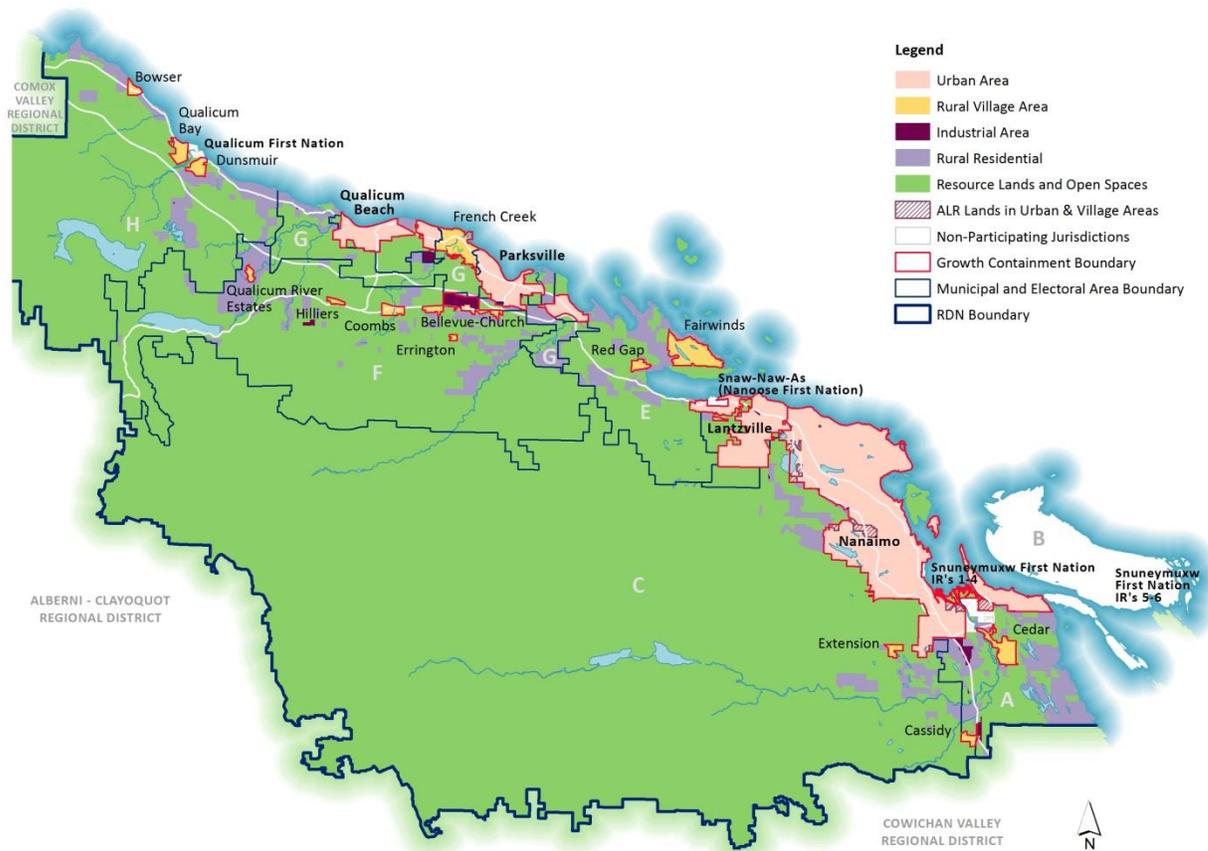
The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown by the map below. The RGS does not apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area B) as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also does not apply to lands under the jurisdiction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

Map 1: RGS 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’s electoral areas, land designated as Rural Village Areas are intended to accommodate lower levels of growth more compatible with their rural settings. Development within the GCB (Urban and Rural Village Areas) is intended to be diverse and provide places for people to live, work, learn, shop and play. This may also include lands to be conserved to support ecosystem functions or other green space purposes. Land outside of the GCB is intended to support ecosystem functions and rural uses that require only limited infrastructure and services to be viable.

Map 2: RGS Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations



3 RGS 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:

- 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.

4 RGS 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.

5 RGS GOALS

The RGS is based upon 11 goals (listed below) 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.

1. **Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption** – Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption and promote adaptive measures to prepare for climate change impacts.
2. **Protect the Environment** – Protect and enhance the environment and avoid ecological damage related to human activity.
3. **Coordinate Land Use and Mobility** – Ensure land use patterns and mobility networks are mutually supportive and work together to reduce automobile dependency and provide for efficient goods movement.
4. **Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres** – Establish distinctive activity centres and corridors within growth containment boundaries that provide ready access to places to live, work, play and learn.
5. **Enhance Rural Integrity** – Protect and strengthen the region’s rural economy and lifestyle.
6. **Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing** – Support and facilitate the provision of appropriate, adequate, attainable, affordable and adaptable housing.
7. **Enhance Economic Resiliency** – Support strategic economic development and link commercial and industrial strategies to the land use and rural and environmental protection priorities of the region.
8. **Enhance Food Security** – Protect and enhance the capacity of the region to produce and process food.
9. **Celebrate Pride of Place** – Celebrate the unique natural beauty, culture, history, and arts of the region.
10. **Provide Services Efficiently** – Provide efficient, cost-effective services and infrastructure.
11. **Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions** – Facilitate an understanding of and commitment to the goals of growth management among all levels of government, the public, and key private and voluntary sector partners.

6 IMPLEMENTATION – 2016

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.

6.1 Monitoring the RGS

In January 2015, the RDN Board approved a final list of 22 indicators and targets to be used as the foundation for the RGS Monitoring Program and made available on the RGS Monitoring website (www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring). This annual report is the second that attempts to measure progress by incorporating select indicators to help gauge the effectiveness of RGS policies and implementation to achieve the goals of the RGS. Comparatively, the 2015 Annual Report included nine select indicators while the 2016 Annual Report includes two indicators. This is due to the limitation of new information to update all nine select indicators.

The measures used for the indicators are intended to be derived from both external agencies' reports and the RDN and member municipalities. Based on the RDN's reporting experience, external agencies generally do not update the applicable data on an annual basis and over time the type of information may be modified. Further to this, information required for indicators is not yet available for the District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the City of Parksville. These variables present a challenge in terms of being able to conduct a trend analysis over time. However, as information becomes available the intent is that it will be utilized in future versions of the RGS Annual Report.

6.2 RGS Minor Amendment Process

On October 27, 2015 the RDN Board decided to proceed with an amendment to the RGS to revise the criteria for minor amendments in Section 1.5.1. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify what type of RGS amendments are considered minor amendments. In 2016, the RDN Board gave first and second reading to "Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw 1615.01, 2016", which was then referred to all four member municipalities and all three adjacent regional districts.

The Town of Qualicum Beach did not accept the RGS bylaw amendments and proposed an alternative approach. The revised wording, if approved, would mean that if an amendment to an Official Community Plan does not propose any changes that will have a negative impact on lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve and continues to support agriculture then it can still qualify as a minor amendment.

7 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. The following summaries, grouped by each RGS goal, report on the RDN and member municipality actions to achieve the goals of the RGS. Where information is available select indicators have been updated to track progress towards the RGS goals.

7.1 Goal 1 – Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption

Regional Actions

Action on Greenhouse Gas Reduction

All RDN buses now run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG); the first fleet in Canada to use this type of fuel. CNG-fuelled buses have a smaller carbon footprint compared to traditional transit vehicles and reduce operating cost as the fuel is less expensive. This action is consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.

Green Building Incentives

The RDN and the member municipalities delivered green building incentives to residents who improved the performance of their homes. In 2016, the RDN programs delivered \$46,470 in green building incentives and rebates. The Green Building Incentive Program issued 194 individual rebates for: wood stove exchanges (163), renewable energy systems (2), home energy assessments (20) and oil to pump rebates (5); as well as site-cut timber (4). There was no uptake of the electric vehicle charging station rebate in 2016.

Climate Change Actions and Energy Efficiency Measures

During 2016, to achieve climate change and energy efficiency goals, the RDN:

- Conducted the 2016 Green Building Series, including a one-day workshop on Passive House design and construction and an Open House showcasing a range of projects, including energy retrofits, rainwater harvesting and new home construction in the Qualicum Bay area.
- Led a Real Estate Energy Efficiency Project in partnership with the City of Nanaimo, training local realtors in home energy efficiency.
- Secured \$138,000 in funding for corporate energy efficiency initiatives, including rural fire hall efficiency assessments and upgrades, a comprehensive energy study for Ravensong Aquatic Centre, and a heat recovery system at Oceanside Place Arena. The applicable assessments were completed in 2016.
- Entered into a funding agreement (\$15,000) with the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre to build a multi-family building to Passive House standard. This is consistent with RGS

Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption and Goal 11: Cooperation Among Jurisdictions.

- Gained 17,500 tonnes CO² emissions reduction offsets arising from landfill gas capture in 2015. At the time of reporting, the information is currently not available for 2016.²

Coastal Floodplain Mapping

The RDN commissioned an assessment of coastal areas that may be impacted by sea level rise within the Electoral Areas, Parksville and Lantzville. The data collected will be used to create Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) floodplain mapping of coastal areas below 40 meter elevations. This type of mapping uses data collected from an airborne LiDAR system that sends pulses of light to the earth to measure variable distances. When complete, the entire coastal region from Electoral Area 'H' to 'A', including Area 'B' and member municipalities will have LiDAR floodplain mapping, which will be used to better inform decision-making.

City of Nanaimo

Nanaimo's Energy Management Program

Through the City's Strategic Energy Management Program, it has saved over 990,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year, energy production of over 700,000 kilowatt hours per year, and reductions of 2,200 GJ natural gas and 133 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions as a result of completing a mix of building, lighting and system upgrade projects. The results show the City is exceeding its annual targets of reducing energy consumption by 1% each year.

Climate Adaptation/Resilient Strategy

The City commenced a city-wide Climate Adaptation/Resilient Strategy.

City of Parksville

Parksville continues to participate in the regional Green Building Incentives, including woodstove rebates, of which 26 were issued in Parksville in 2016. In addition, the City has undertaken a number of energy upgrade initiatives, including LED replacement at intersections; LED street light replacements on McMillian Road to Orange Bridge and LED upgrades in City Hall and Public Works buildings. In addition, the City has ordered an electric vehicle charging station, which is to come online in 2017 along with the addition of four electric vehicles.

² The Provincial Re-TRAC Connect BC Waste Disposal Calculator is typically available in July each year to determine CO² emission offsets.

Town of Qualicum Beach

The Waterfront Master Plan was updated based on the public consultation received and applicable topics have been referred to the 2016-2017 Official Community Plan Review process where they will be used to inform the discussion and help to provide guidance on competing priorities and the potential impacts of climate change on the Town’s waterfront.

District of Lantzville

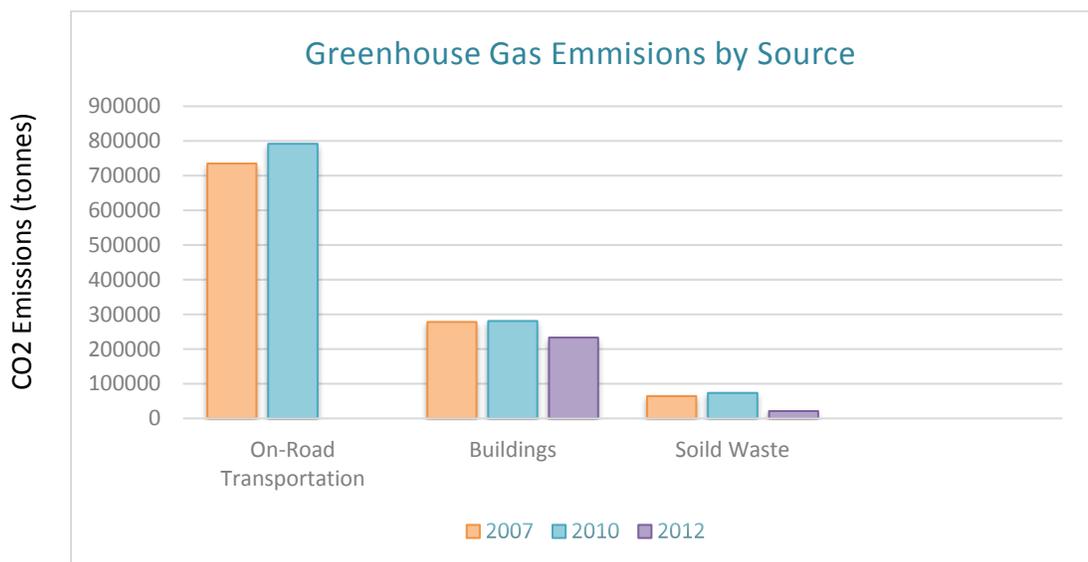
Lantzville continued to participate in the provision of green building incentives through the RDN, including incentives for rainwater harvesting, wood stove exchanges, solar hot water, home energy assessments, and electrical vehicle charging stations. These actions are consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.

7.1.1 RGS Indicator: Total Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions

RGS Target for Emissions Reduction is 80% Below 2050 Levels by 2050

As reported in the 2015 Annual Report, the Community Energy and Emission Inventory (CEEI) for 2010 estimated that the region produced 845,695 tonnes of carbon dioxide, based on road transportation, buildings and solid waste. It is important to note the transportation sector emitted the greatest volume of emissions in 2010, with 66% of the total community emissions.

The Community Energy and Emission Inventory (CEEI) for 2012 has not released the transportation emissions data for areas outside of Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley. This is a significant change from the previous years because the largest emitter of GHGs is not included. For the purpose of the 2016 report this indicator is still used, but the feasibility of this indicator in future reports will be monitored. As an alternative to total emissions, a comparative of emissions by source for the period 2007-2012 is provided.



According to the CEEI for 2012, the region produced an estimated 296,511 tonnes of carbon dioxide derived from the building sector, 87% of emissions, and the solid waste sector produced, 11% of emissions, respectively.

Note that the trend in the reduction of solid waste GHGs between 2010-2012 can be contributed to enhancements to the landfill collection system to reduce GHGs and provide feedstock for the on-site landfill-gas-to-energy facility. These enhancements are part of the Design and Operations Plan for the Regional Landfill approved by the Regional Board in 2009.

7.2 Goal 2 – Protect the Environment

Regional Actions

During 2016, to achieve watershed and environmental protection goals, the RDN:

Watershed Protection and Enhancement Measures

- Updated the Wetland Inventory for the region through a mapping exercise conducted in partnership with Vancouver Island University.
- Added two new volunteer observation wells to the Groundwater Monitoring Network³ in the region.
- Continued collecting groundwater level data through the Volunteer Observation Well Network from 22 wells.
- Launched a hydrometric monitoring station on Haslam Creek in partnership with Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.
- Supported restoration projects on Departure Bay Creek, Shelly Creek and Walley Creek.

Water Quality Program

- Upgraded 8 wellheads to protect aquifers in our region and over 120 well owners received support in testing their water quality through the Rural Water Quality Stewardship Rebate Program.
- Installed 46 residential rainwater harvesting systems through the Rainwater Harvesting Incentive Program.

³ The Community Watershed Monitoring Network report provides water quality trend analysis on a three-four year cycle. The next report is scheduled to be released in 2017 and the results will be included under Indicator #5: surface Water Quality (Community Watershed Monitoring) in the 2017 RGS Annual Report.

Public Outreach & Education

- The RDN hosted the first “Water Day” event. These festival-style educational events, included workshops, interactive informational booths, music and kids’ activities. The events were held in Qualicum Beach and in the City of Nanaimo in 2016.
- Continued outreach in the community including school watershed field trips and community displays.

City of Nanaimo

Nanaimo has been chosen as one of five communities across the country for a Municipal Natural Capital Initiative Study designed to more fully understand the financial value these spaces provide the community as stormwater treatment and flood control assets. Buttertubs Marsh will be the site of a new pilot study on managing natural capital.

City of Parksville

Goose Management Strategy

The implementation of a Goose Management Strategy began with a goose cull for the Englishmen River estuary.

Actions to Protect and Enhance Natural Environment

- Erosion protection design using a Green Shores approach for Arbutus & Sutherland stairs.
- Wildlife habitat and native plant restoration works completed for Springwood Park.

Actions to Reduce Water Use

Parksville continued to offer rebates to replace existing toilets with low flush models to encourage residents to reduce water use.

- 72 rebates for low flush toilets were issued, totaling \$3,355.
- 65 water barrel rebates issued, totaling \$4,875.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Council endorsed the Heritage Forest Commission’s proposed nomination of the Heritage Forest to the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region’s “Amazing Places” campaign. The nomination was successful and the Heritage Forest has become known as one of the 10 Amazing Places in the Canadian UNESCO biosphere reserve.

District of Lantzville

Actions to Protect the Environment

- Continued to provide educational information to residents concerning water conservation and implemented water restrictions consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.
- Continued to participate in the RDN's Drinking Water Watershed Protection Function consistent with RGS Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 11: Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions.
- Continued to provide information to residents concerning outdoor burning.

7.3 Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility

Regional Actions

During 2016, the RDN achieved the following regional transportation goals:

Regional Transit

- Transit expansion for Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas 'E', 'G and 'H' scheduled for 2017 with addition of a community bus in Qualicum Beach, more frequent services for Route #99 Deep Bay and improvements to Route #91 intercity.
- RDN contribution agreement adopted in support of Gabriola's Environmentally Responsible Trans-Island Express receiving \$130,000 to help establish bus service.

Coombs to Parkville Rail Trail

The 6.7-kilometre Coombs to Parkville Rail Trail opened to the public in late December 2016. The trail is an accessible, active transportation corridor that connects Springwood Park in Parksville to Station Road at Highway 4 in Coombs. The new trail is consistent with RGS Goal 3: Coordinate land Use Mobility and Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency by drawing visitors.

"The Trail will change people's daily lives. That's really the biggest thing about this Rail Trail, is it's going to make it possible for an awful lot of people to incorporate the use of the trail with their daily activities."

Joan Michel, RDN Parks and Trails Coordinator

Interactive Parks and Trail Finder

RDN Parks and Trail Finder mapping was launched. This mobile friendly interactive map enables users to search for and identify parks and recreational trails throughout the RDN through a mobile devices.

Georeferenced PDF Maps

If hiking without internet or cellular data, residents and visitors can download these georeferenced PDF maps that are compatible for use with various mobile mapping applications. So far, 10 regional trail maps, 1 community park map and 3 recreational trail maps are available with more to be developed as data becomes available.

City of Nanaimo

Linley Valley West Access

Following public consultation regarding options to improve access, the City purchased 5290 Rutherford Road to facilitate a new link road from Rutherford Road to Linley Valley Drive.

Improvements to Departure Bay Beachfront

Departure Bay beachfront improvements for access and safe use of the recreational area were completed in 2016. Improvements include flattening the grade along the seawall walkway; installing new pedestrian access ramps and handrails; installing new LED streetlights and walkway lights; installing new water and electrical services for events and vendors; improvements to parking facilities; and replacement of old storm drains on Loat Street and Departure Bay Road.

Pedestrian Enhancement

- A new pedestrian trail was opened connecting Buttertubs Marsh with Bowen Park. It extends to many other trails in Nanaimo and was a result of the Millstone Trunk Sewer Replacement project completed earlier in the fall of 2016. As part of the project, efforts were made to minimize stormwater impact into Buttertubs Marsh by creating a bioswale, which will intercept and clean rainwater runoff before entering the marsh. This action is consistent with RGS Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility.
- Terminal Nicol Re-Imagined Streetscape Project was launched. The project will explore options to improve multi-modal transportation along this key corridor in the City's downtown.

Passenger Only Foot Ferry

Island Ferry Services has been selected as the preliminary preferred applicant to operate an express foot ferry between downtown Nanaimo and downtown Vancouver. The proposed ferry would be able to carry 376 passengers, have an operating speed of 37 to 38 knots, and complete the Nanaimo to Vancouver crossing in 68 minutes. This action is consistent with RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility and Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency.

City of Parksville

Transportation Master Plan

The update of the plan is currently underway and will be consistent with the Official Community Plan by incorporating alternative modes of transportation.

Transportation Upgrades

The Temple Street upgrades were completed including replacement of the roadway, separated sidewalks, grassed boulevards, LED streetlights and bike lanes. Upgrades will provide a safe pedestrian and cycling corridor for residents and visitors looking for an alternative to Highway 19A. In addition, the Jensen & Corfield Street design upgrade commenced.

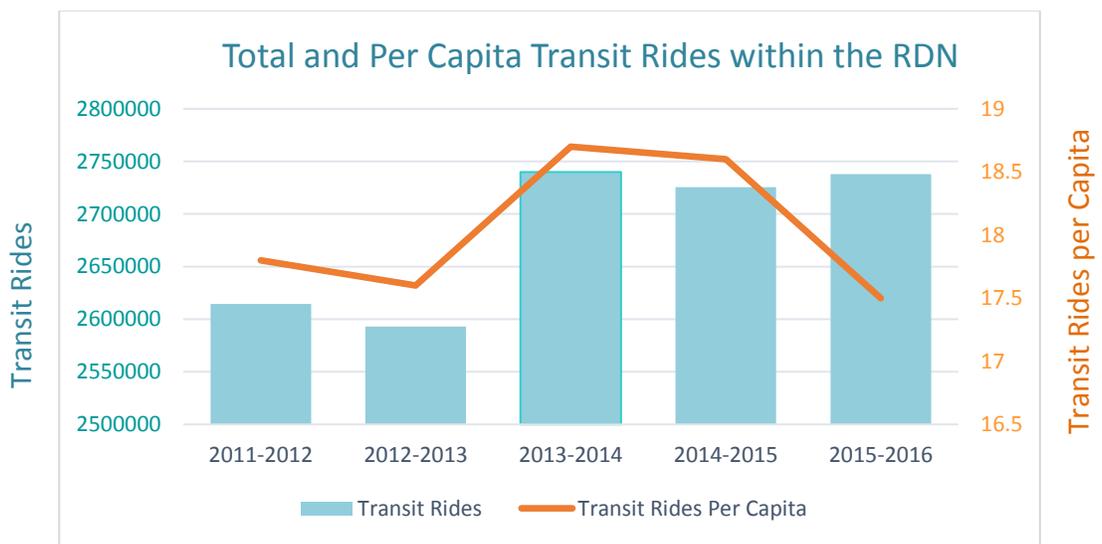
Town of Qualicum Beach

The Memorial Avenue Active Transportation and Utility Upgrade Project began. Phase 1 of the upgrades consist of sewer upgrades and a new bike path from Elizabeth Avenue to Crescent Road. Also, upgrades to a multi-purpose pathway between the downtown and the waterfront was initiated.

7.3.1 RGS Indicator: Per Capita Transit Use

RGS Target is to Increase Per Capita Transit Use

Since 2011, the number of bus rides has increased in the region. In 2011, there were 2,614,421 rides taken in the RDN, while in 2016 the number increased to 2,737,848 rides, including handyDART and Gabriola Island’s Community Bus Services. While the number of rides have increased, the per capita rides have slightly decreased from 17.8 in 2011 to 17.5 in 2016⁴, as illustrated in the following chart.



⁴ The population in the RDN increased from 146,574 in 2011 to 155,698 according to Stats Canada, 2016.

7.4 Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Growth Centres

Regional Actions

Electoral Area ‘H’ Official Community Plan Review

The RDN continued a targeted review of the Electoral Area ‘H’ Official Community Plan (OCP). Preliminary topics identified for the review remain focused on the economy, housing, natural environment, transportation, Deep Bay, and Horne Lake. To facilitate this process, nine Working Group meetings, two Community Meetings and two Open Houses were held in 2016. Other supplemental activities included initiating the Active Transportation Plan Study and the Agricultural Land Reserve Preliminary Boundary Analysis Project as well as coordinating the Deep Bay Workshop and facilitating the Community Development Forum.

City of Nanaimo

Nanaimo continued to develop within the Growth Containment Boundary by advising potential applicants of the Plans’ goals and policies regarding multi-family developments and mixed use corridor zoning. In 2016, there was an increase in development of multi-family infill and single family subdivision, particularly in the Harewood area. In addition, to alleviate pressure on single family residential areas, corridor planning for mixed used development has now being activated.

City of Parksville

The majority of Parksville is within the GCB and new OCP policies support directing growth to the City and offering a range of densities throughout Parksville. Also, directing growth to municipal areas within the GCB helps to promote and preserve rural integrity. Consistent with these policy objectives in 2016, Parksville received a rezoning application for a 21 unit multifamily development in proximity to downtown Parksville on a presently zoned single family site. A mixed commercial development with a range of housing types and densities on a presently undeveloped site is also underway. These applications support infill, densification, additional housing options, and walkability.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town-Owned Land Review

The Town of Qualicum Beach completed a review of Town-owned land in the Village Neighbourhood of Qualicum Beach, including the old fire hall on Harlech Road. The review explores the possible use of these sites for initiatives that will advance the Town’s long-term goals. This information will also be used to inform the Town’s OCP Review process.

2016-2017 Official Community Plan Review

The Town launched the 2016-2017 OCP Review. The review provides the community with an opportunity to reconfirm the Town’s long-range vision, goals and priorities while

adapting and responding to current issues. The review will focus on reviewing sections on economic development, housing, natural environment and development of land, which will be informed in part by the recently completed Town-Owned Land Review.

District of Lantzville

Official Community Plan Review & Water Master Plan

The District of Lantzville initiated a targeted review of their OCP to help set direction for the community over the next 20 years. The OCP describes the long-term vision for Lantzville, including objectives to guide land use, servicing and social and economic changes within the community. Preliminary topics identified for the review include the Village Center, housing, public amenities and water services.



At the same time, Lantzville is developing a Water Master Plan to guide decision-making for their water service area. Water continues to be a fundamental topic for Lantzville residents and this planning process will be an opportunity for all residents to explore potential options for the future of water in Lantzville.

7.5 Goal 5 – Enhance Rural Integrity

Official Community Plan Reviews

The RDN is continuing an OCP Review for Electoral 'H', while the Town of Qualicum Beach and the District of Lantzville have initiated OCP reviews as noted under Goal 4. Periodic reviews of a community's OCP is a statutory requirement and are important at the local level and region-wide in terms of advancing the RGS Goals, specifically Goal 4: Concentrate Housing & Jobs in Growth Centres and Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity.

The City of Parksville reaffirmed its commitment to the current municipal boundary through the implementation of their current OCP and other land use regulations. \

7.6 Goal 6 – Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing

Regional Actions

Emergency Shelter and Food Materials

The RDN continued to provide up-to-date information regarding extreme weather shelter locations and other critical service information through the production of an annual brochure and poster, which is carried on RDN buses and is circulated to social service organizations in the region. The brochure gives information for emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, hot meal programs and food banks in the region. The brochure also provides bus route information to find the services. The poster, displayed at the front of all RDN buses during times of cold and wet weather, provides information for emergency and extreme weather shelters in the region.

Emergency Shelters
Open Every Day

Women - Island Crisis Care Society
Samaritan House - 355 Nicol St, Nanaimo
Open 24 hours 250-753-1474

Men - The Salvation Army
New Hope Centre - 19 Nicol St, Nanaimo
Open 24 hours 250-714-1142

Youth - Friendship Leium Youth Safe House
12 to 18 years of age. 250-753-8266

Extreme / Winter Weather Shelters
November 1, 2016—March 31, 2017

Call to Check when Shelters are Open

Nanaimo - First Unitarian Fellowship Church
595 Townsite Road, Nanaimo
7 pm to 7 am 250-754-3720

Parksville - Island Crisis Care Society
223 Mills Street, Parksville
6 pm to 8 am 250-954-3082

Need Shelter ?

EXTREME / WINTER WEATHER SHELTERS

If you are in crisis and need more help contact
Vancouver Island Crisis Line
1-888-494-3888

Find more about shelters & other supports
www.rdnhousing.ca
250-390-6510

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

Oceanside Health and Wellness Network Coordinator

The Oceanside Health and Wellness Network (OHWN) was created in 2013 with a shared vision to:

“respectfully work together to advance the health and wellbeing of the population of Oceanside through addressing those factors that influence health and other complex issues that groups cannot effectively address on their own, and to speak as one voice on these issues”.

The top priorities of OHWN are currently child wellness, mental health, and network development.

With the leadership and administrative support of the coordinator, OHWN created a strategic plan in 2016 that sets measurable goals to guide its work over the next four years. With an additional Island Health Grant recently awarded, OHWN will host a series of community forums to advance understanding and progress towards goals on the three top priorities.

City of Nanaimo

Supported Housing Projects

The City transferred land to the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre (NAC) Society for the creation of affordable rental housing for urban aboriginals living off Reserve in Nanaimo. NAC has leveraged the City's contribution of land to secure funding from BC Housing to fund the construction of the rental facility that will include a Passive House component.

City of Parksville

In 2015, the City provided an option to applying for an expedited building permit with a shorter processing time. This new service now also includes affordable housing development.

7.7 Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency

Regional Actions

Northern Community Economic Development Service

The RDN continued to deliver the Northern Community Economic Development (NCED) Program to provide support for economic development initiatives in Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G', and 'H', to advance the Board's vision for a resilient, thriving and creative regional economy.

"To date, the Northern Community Economic Development Program has contributed almost \$220,000 toward projects in District 69 supporting emerging entrepreneurs, connecting small business owners, creating new employment opportunities, and providing other measurable economic benefits in our communities."

Director Bob Rogers, Chair of the NCED Select Committee

In 2016, the function disbursed over \$44,684 in economic development grants in District 69 communities. A few of the projects funded include the BladeRunners' Youth Employment Program, Tidal Treasures, Bowser Village Signage Upgrade and the Mid-Island Growers Guide.

City of Nanaimo

Food Truck & Trailer Policy

The City endorsed a new food truck and trailer policy to allow mobile food entrepreneurs to operate. As of March 1, 2016 food truck/trailer businesses can apply for a Business Licence as a Mobile Food Vendor to operate food trucks in designated on-street parking areas and city park locations in Nanaimo. Council approved 12 on-street parking spaces for food truck businesses (primarily downtown) and 24 spaces in park locations throughout the city for food truck or food trailer vendors.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Airport Business Plan

The Town completed a business plan for the Town of Qualicum Beach Airport. The plan focuses on providing direction toward attaining a self-sustaining, revenue-generating airport that meets local and regional needs. The Plan provides an analysis of the market the airport is operating in; identifies opportunities for the airport; establishes achievable goals and objectives; and includes an action plan for a 1, 5 and 10-year period.

Social Procurement Policy

Town Council approved Canada's first Social Procurement Policy in 2016. The Town already endorses a triple bottom line approach to procurement. Whereas sustainable and ethical procurement seeks to do no harm, the Town's Social Procurement Policy seeks to proactively leverage the supply chain to achieve positive community objectives.

7.8 Goal 8 – Food Security

Regional Actions

Agriculture Area Plan Implementation

The Agriculture Area Plan (AAP) was adopted by the Board in October 2012 to articulate a shared vision for the future of agriculture and aquaculture in the region and the steps needed to achieve this vision. Following the completion of the AAP, the Board endorsed



the 2014 - 2016 Action Plan that identifies 128 action items, grouped into six projects, representing how the RDN will work towards implementing the AAP. Of these six projects, the majority have been advanced or completed, including the AAP Bylaw and Policy Update Project.

Agriculture Area Plan Bylaw and Policy Update Project

The RDN Bylaw and Policy Update Project was completed with the adoption of the bylaw amendments on June 28, 2016. The intent of the project (and bylaw amendments) is to remove regulatory barriers and obstacles that hinder agriculture and aquaculture in the region. During the course of the project, the RDN sought feedback from producers, agricultural landowners and the general public regarding the proposed changes to its zoning bylaws. Based on consultation, the proposed changes were incorporated into the RDN's zoning bylaws amendments, including such matters as clarifying minimum setback requirements for agriculture buildings, structure and uses and adding provisions for the keeping of household poultry in residential zones. The completion of this project is

considered to mark a significant milestone in the implementation of the Agricultural Area Plan.

Agriculture Area Plan Website Updates

The RDN website for agricultural resources and activities within the region continued to be updated in 2016. The website provides access to the comprehensive information for farming within the RDN, including links to RDN initiatives, provincial agency information, statistics and mapping.

Rural Areas Guide

The RDN prepared a guide aimed at new rural residents to outline what they may expect when moving to the countryside in terms of the varied and permitted agricultural activities that may occur. The guide highlights considerations such as land clearing and burning; noise; smell; movement of farm vehicles and conflict between domestic animals and livestock. The guide also outlines the key legislations and the ongoing RDN “Growing Our Future” Initiative. The guide has been distributed to real estate agencies and is available on the RDN website: www.rdn.bc.ca

City of Nanaimo

As part of the Beban Park Master Plan, Nanaimo will enter into a long-term (34 years) lease of land to Island Roots Market Cooperative for the purpose of establishing an indoor/outdoor year-round farmers’ market at Beban Park. Additionally, the Plan includes expanding the area dedicated for the community garden and adding two additional greenhouses.

City of Parksville

In support of urban farm practices, the City has initiated a review of the beekeeping regulations. The review will consider if urban beekeeping shall be permitted in all land use zones, and if further regulation for the sale of processed food items is required.

Town of Qualicum Beach

In partnership with the School District, the Town has approved a proposal to establish a second community garden consisting of 50 garden plots. The community garden project would significant expand the popular existing community garden initiative in Qualicum Beach by making more land available to residents to grow their own food. The Town is also preparing to launch a 3-year Backyard Chicken Pilot, which is open to 30 households.

7.9 Goal 9 – Pride of Place

Regional Actions

Recreation Programs and Facilities

The RDN's recreation programs and facilities play an ongoing role in furthering RGS cultural goals by providing sports and cultural amenities that boost the attractiveness of the region as a place to live and visit. These include ongoing delivery of recreation programs and maintenance of facilities throughout the RDN. Through 2016, the RDN expanded existing recreation programs and continued to attract sports tournaments for youth, adults and seniors.

Regional and Community Parks

The RDN completed projects to create and undertake improvements to existing trails and other park amenities throughout all regional and community parks. One significant milestone is the Board has given approval for the Horne Lake Regional and Horne Lake Heritage Trail to proceed. The heritage trail is a historic, multi-use trail that once completed will connect the Qualicum Bay with Horne Lake and Port Alberni.

Amazing Places Project

The RDN has helped to facilitate the launch of the Amazing Places Project in 2016. The Project was brought to BC through a collaboration between the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region and Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism and involved a public process to select the top ten places within the Mount Arrowsmith UNESCO biosphere region. Of the ten locations selected, Top Bridge Crossing suspension bridge, part of the Top Bridge Regional Trail was chosen.

The Top Bridge and Trail was opened to the public in 1999 and connects Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park on the Strait of Georgia with the Top Bridge Crossing.



City of Nanaimo

Beban Park Master Plan

Following public consultation the Beban Park re-development/Master Plan was completed in 2016. The proposed concept creates a central gathering and recreation hub that incorporates multi-use facilities including: Nanaimo Equestrian Association, Vancouver Island Exhibition, Island Roots Market Cooperative and Indigenous Peoples Place of Culture. The Plan will also improve on/off site pedestrian, cycling and vehicle accessibility and enhance connectivity within the local area.

Stevie Smith Community Bike Park

The City approved funding for the development of Stevie Smith Community Bike Park. Located in Beban Park, this project will be an addition to the existing BMX park and will include a dirt jump and return trail, pump track and skills park. The park will be named after Stevie Smith, a professional cyclist from the Nanaimo area, who tragically lost his life in May of 2016.

City of Parksville

Park Upgrades

The City actioned upgrades to Renz Park/Wolf Park, Mark Park and Springwood Park. Upgrades to Renz Park/Wolf Park and Marks Park include modifying and improved trails, access and visibility. Upgrades to Springwood Park include resurfacing and overall improvements/maintenance to the tennis courts.

Community Park Master and Operational Plan

Commissioned a Community Park Master and Operational Plan to guide the development and use of the park in a fiscally and environmentally sustainable manner. This is consistent with RGS Goal 9: Pride of Place and Goal 10: Efficient Services.

Mosaic Project - Canada 150

Parksville has been selected to be part of the Canada 150 Mosaic Project in 2017. Following this announcement



CANADA 150
1867-2017

the City has launched the Parksville's Canada 150 Mural Project. The City's mural will be made up of 400 tiles painted by members through community painting days facilitated by Canada 150 artists and City staff. Once complete, the 8 foot by 8 foot mural will be permanently installed in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Mural Project

A mural project for the Village Theatre was supported by Council. The ECHO Players mural will depict just a hint of the breadth of the productions that they do and will feature local people that have been part of past community theatre productions. The mural will be revealed July 1, 2017 in honour of Canada's 150th.

Playground Upgrades

The Town has contributed \$15,000 towards the Qualicum Beach Elementary School playground enhancement project. Once completed the work will connect two play areas creating a much needed larger usable year-round playground area with additional equipment planned for the future.

7.10 Goal 10 – Efficient Services

Regional Actions

Solid Waste

RDN Solid Waste continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 by pursuing an approach to eliminate the need for waste disposal. Consistent with the RGS direction to achieve 'zero waste', the RDN has a region-wide diversion rate of 68% and continues to have one of the lowest provincial annual per capita disposal rates of 345 kg. During 2016, the RDN Solid Waste Advisory Committee selected preferred options for the update of the RDN Solid Waste Management Plan to be considered for public consultation in order to achieve the region's zero waste goal.

Water Services

RDN Water Services continued to achieve RGS Goal 10 by providing community water in the RDN water service areas. Actions in 2016 included the continuation of development of the Englishman River Water Service intake and treatment project along with Parksville.

Wastewater Services

RDN Wastewater Services continued to achieve the RGS goal to Provide Efficient Services by providing community wastewater to lands located within the GCB. Actions in 2016:

- Replacement of the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) outfall to continue protecting the environment.
- Completed detailed engineering design in 2016 for the GNPCC Secondary Treatment Upgrade Project. Secondary treatment will improve the quality of treated effluent in the receiving environment, replace ageing infrastructure, and provide capacity for a growing service area. Construction will begin in 2017.

- Provided four SepticSmart public information workshops to a total of 171 participants and distributed over \$33,000 in funds for the Septic Maintenance Rebate Program.
- Completion of the study regarding design options for a collection and treatment system for community sewer within the Bowser Village Centre.
- Commencement of the Duke Point Pollution Control Centre capacity review to assess the ability to service the Cedar Village and surrounding areas.
- Approximately 236,200 kWh of electricity was produced at the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre in 2016 resulting in \$24,044 in revenue through cogeneration, which is the conversion of waste gas into electricity.

RDN Electoral Areas

Emergency Planning and Disaster Resiliency

RDN actions for emergency planning and preparedness in 2016 has been consistent with RGS direction to integrate and coordinate on a regional basis among the RDN and member municipalities. In particular, the RDN continued to hold events to improve emergency awareness, such as through community outreach and the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness (NEP) program.

City of Nanaimo

Solid Waste

Automated curbside collection for recycling and garbage pick up was launched in 2016. The service was phased in over the course of the year; with roll-out initiated in central Nanaimo servicing approximately 10,000 households. Once established the service was expanded city-wide.

Water Services

New Water Treatment Plant

The City announced the grand opening for the new stage filtration plant in 2016. The new plant is highly water efficient and recovers 99% of the water that passes through the plant. This project is consistent with RGS goals to provide cost efficient and cost effective services to meet the needs of the residents.

Colliery Dam Upgrades

The Colliery Dam Park auxiliary spillway project was initiated in 2012 and completed in 2016. The construction is part of a project to ensure the lower and middle dams located in Colliery Dam Park meet required provincial dam safety standards.



City of Parksville

Englishman River Water Service

Parksville and the RDN continued with a project to upgrade the Englishman River Water Service, including water intake, water treatment, and aquifer storage. Construction of the new intake is to be followed by the design and installation of the water treatment facility scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2018.

Parksville Community and Conference Centre

The Business Analysis of Parksville Community and Conference Centre was completed and Council is proceeding with the recommendations to further strengthen operations and to refresh the facilities branding.

Mapping

Parksville released updated mapping software available to the public from the City's website. Further Improvements to the publicly accessible online map database were also undertaken, including adding private strata roads on maps, and adding the new 2016 ortho maps.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Staff completed an internal review resulting in a re-organization and structuring of some service areas to improve service efficiency across departments.

7.11 Goal 11 – Cooperation Among Jurisdictions**Regional Actions****First Nations**

Throughout 2016, RDN staff and elected officials met with staff and elected officials from First Nations with existing village sites within the region, including Qualicum, Snaw-Naw-As and Snuneymuxw. Discussions involved various planning and implementation projects related to regional growth, development applications, parks, transit, emergency planning and utilities. While some meetings were to address specific matters others were focused on strengthening relationships to facilitate stronger collaboration on issues of mutual concern.

Adjacent Regional Districts and Municipalities

The RDN continued to host and participate in meetings to network and liaise with staff at adjacent regional districts and staff at member municipalities. On an ongoing basis, outside of these meetings, RDN staff maintains professional relationships that enable effective communication and collaboration. This allows the RDN to share information on RGS implementation activities in order to support adjacent jurisdictions with actions consistent with the direction of the RGS.

Regional Growth Strategy Minor Amendment

The RDN continued with the Regional Growth Strategy Minor Amendment process in 2016. The revised RGS bylaw amendment is intended to clarify what is considered a minor amendment, particularly in relation to an OCP review process and lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve. It is anticipated that the bylaw amendment will be adopted in spring 2017.

8 IMPLEMENTATION – 2017

For 2017 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 RGS Monitoring, as set out in Policy 4.
2. Adopt the revisions to the RGS minor amendment criteria.
3. Complete the Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan Review process, and adopt a new bylaw.
4. Complete public consultation for the Rural Area Signage and present results to the Board.
5. Continue to build strong relationships and pursue protocol agreements with First Nations.
6. 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 JANUARY 2017
Section 5.0	Establish Targets & Indicators to monitor progress.	The RDN launched a website for monitoring the RGS project at www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring . Monitoring of the RGS will be ongoing.
Section 5.0	Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS.	To be initiated
1. Climate Change	Complete Community Energy & Emissions Plan.	Completed 2013
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 <i>Act</i> to protect water resources on a watershed basis.
3. Coordinate Land Use & Mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and prepare mobility strategy.	Participated in the City of Nanaimo's Transportation Master Plan. Adopted in 2014. Parksville initiated a Transportation Plan in 2016.
	Prepare industrial land supply and demand study and strategy (also applies to Goal 7).	Industrial Lands Study completed Spring 2013.
4. Concentrate Housing & Jobs	Prepare region-wide study of Rural Village Centres.	Rural Village Centres Study completed Spring 2013.
5. Rural Integrity	Policy 5.13: Implementation - Study of options for more sustainable forms of subdivision - to limit sprawl and fragmentation on rural residential land.	Completed October 2012
6. Affordable Housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Housing Action Plan Completed 2011.

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2017
		Secondary Suites Bylaw Amendments completed in Spring 2014.
7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy	7.2 Support and encourage economic development.	Northern Community Economic Development Program Established 2012 with ongoing implementation. Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement completed 2012 with ongoing implementation.
	7.6 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.
	7.9 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 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 and present and future needs of the agricultural sector.	Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) completed in 2012. Bylaw and Policy Update project completed in 2016. Rural Areas Guide completed in 2016.
		Agricultural Area Plan 2014-2016 Action Plan completed November 2013. Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan approved in 2013.

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2017
9. Pride of Place	Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and OCPs.	<p>Cedar Main Street Plan adopted 2013.</p> <p>Nanaimo Cultural Plan, adopted in 2014 and now being implemented.</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Guidelines approved 2014.</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Strategy for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H' approved 2014</p> <p>Qualicum Beach Cultural Plan completed 2012 with ongoing implementation.</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. Designs for a treatment system are currently being considered for Bowser Village Centre and capacity analysis for Duke Point.
11. Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing of protocol agreements.	<p>New cooperation protocol signed between RDN and Qualicum First Nation in 2016.</p> <p>First handyDART servicing agreement signed between Snaw-Naw-As and RDN in 2013.</p>