



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

Annual Report *2018*

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Shaping Our Future



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Executive Summary

This fourth edition of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Annual Report evaluates the progress made in 2018 towards advancing the eleven RGS goals set out in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Regional Growth Strategy. Progress towards these goals is measured by both qualitative and quantitative data provided by Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) departments, member municipalities and external agencies. In 2018, progress towards the RGS goals is mixed, though the majority of indicators with sufficient data to report on (twelve indicators) are either positively progressing or stable, with three indicators moving away from the desired regional goals. Data collection has become more consistent and complete year-to-year, and where possible, the data is presented over time and any emerging trends are identified.

Previous year's reporting provided baseline data and insight into the success of the RGS goals with the results of the 2018 report building on this baseline data to show progress and emerging trends in a number of areas. Positive gains in transit ridership, state of growth in the region contained to well-defined areas and continued success in achieving the per capita waste disposal target are examples of some of the notable positive trends identified in 2018.

MOVING TOWARDS TARGET

- **Goal 2: Indicator #4 – Total water consumption.** Findings show steady progress towards the target to reduce water use by 33% between the period of 2004 to 2018. Between 2004–2017, the City of Nanaimo had a 15% decrease in water consumption while population increased in the same period by 16%. The District of Lantzville had a 20% decrease in total water consumption, and the nine RDN Water Service Areas had a 31% decrease in total water consumption. All three areas combined had an average water consumption decrease of 22% since 2004.
- **Goal 3: Indicator #7 – Number of households within a set distance (400 m) of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities.** The target is to increase the number of households in reasonable proximity to services. A year-to-year increase consistent with the target of households living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands and shopping within the RDN can be seen, indicating that the region is achieving more compact, complete and connected communities.

- **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 2018. Per capita rides increased from 17.8 in 2011 to 21.8 in 2018 and are up 10% from 2017.
- **Goal 4: Indicator #10 – Density of dwelling units inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB).** The target to increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB continues to be achieved. In 2018, the proportion of the population living within the GCB rose to 4.41 units/hectare from 4.05 units/hectare in 2017, with the density of dwelling units outside the GCB staying constant at 0.06 between 2017 and 2018.
- **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 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. Within the City of Nanaimo, since 2015, Industrial, Commercial and Recreational uses have increased slightly, while Institutional, Mixed and Residential uses have experienced a slight decrease. While these variations are considered a change and not a regression, the land use ratio for the City of Nanaimo remains consistent with the desired ratio.
- **Goal 5: Indicator #12 – The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB.** In 2018, the number of total new lots rose to 1,508, up from 1,314 in 2017, with 1,480 of these lots being located inside the GCB and 28 lots outside, achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB.
- **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 was met. In 2018, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.1% while the labour force participation rate also experience an increase from 62.8% in 2017 to 64.9% in 2018.
- **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 was met. In 2018, the per capita length of maintained trails was 409,820 metres (2.65 metres per capita), up

from 391,409 metres of trails (2.53 metres per capita) in 2017.

- **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 is consistently being met with per capita waste disposal in 2018 remaining at 347 kg/person, showing a positive trend as the target goal has been continually met since 2012.

MAINTAINING TARGET

- **Goal 2: Indicator #5 – Surface water quality (community watershed monitoring).** Surface water quality is maintaining a stable condition with 50 of 62 sites having frequently met BC water quality standards, and 27 out of 34 sites with six years or more of data having stable water quality.
- **Goal 2: Indicator #6 – Amount of land in protected areas.** In 2018, the region had a total of 6,365 hectares of protected areas, representing approximately 3.08% of the land base of the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville and the RDN Electoral Areas. Although the data shown identifies a loss in protected land within the City of Nanaimo and electoral areas from 2017, it should be noted that these lower numbers reflect an adjustment in methodology for obtaining data with new software, and do not reflect a physical loss of protected areas.
- **Goal 10: Indicator #21 – Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems.** The target to decrease per capita cost of water, wastewater and sewer systems remains stable on a year-to-year basis. Per capita cost for providing water and sewer systems increased by less than one dollar each between 2017 and 2018, while the per capita costs of wastewater treatment experienced no change throughout the same time period.

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 485 hectares. In 2018, 130,509 hectares or approximately 63% of the region remained as PMFL.
- **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.

- **Goal 6: Indicator #15 – The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50% of the median for the region.** The lack of affordable rental units in the region is an emerging trend with data showing that the amount of households with incomes below 50% of the median for the region spending more than 30% of their income on housing rose from 47% in 2015 to 75% in 2018.

SUMMARY OF APPROACH

The success of the RGS requires the continued collaborative efforts between member municipalities and the RDN to share accurate and consistent data that provides an opportunity to assess progress and to help inform opportunities for improvements, while recognizing areas of success. Future years' reporting will allow for more accurate year-to-year assessments and provide further opportunities to analyze trends over three and five year periods. A Focused RGS Review is underway to identify areas to consider for possible amendments in order to keep the RGS up-to-date as the region develops. A number of areas have been identified for review including policies relating to land use, servicing, housing and rural integrity, as well as updates to the RGS indicators/targets and required demographic information.



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 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

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.

the stage for documenting the actions taken in 2018 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, 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.

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.”

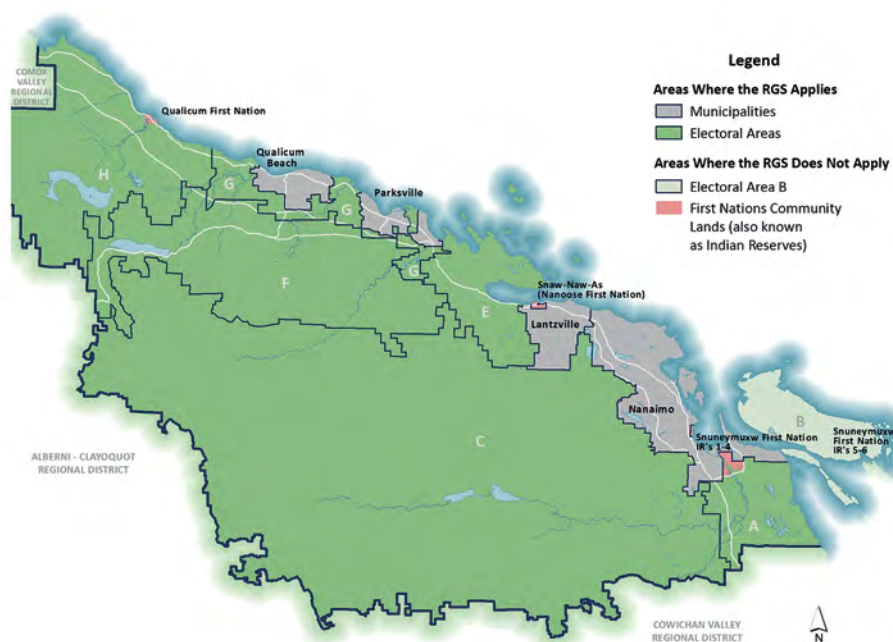
Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

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 across 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

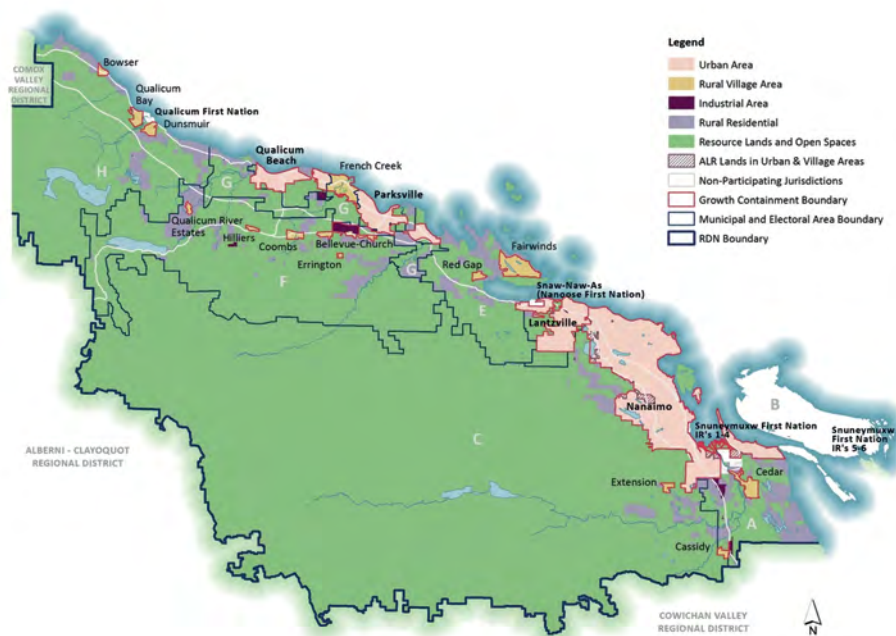


The RGS uses a line on a map called a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) to separate areas designated for future growth from other areas where environmental protection and resource values are a priority. Lands designated as Urban Area within municipalities are intended to absorb the majority of the region's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

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 (400 metres) 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 Centres	
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	
#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 GCB (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: Provide Services Efficiently	
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 paved 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 RGS MONITORING PROGRAM

To ensure consistent monitoring and reporting on the indicators, the RDN has established a RGS Monitoring Program that includes an annual report and a public website that regularly updates the indicators as new information becomes available.

RGS Annual Report - 2018

This Annual Report is an attempt to measure progress by incorporating select indicators to help gauge the effectiveness of RGS policies and implementation to achieve the goals of the RGS. Since the monitoring program was initiated, 2017 marked the first year that data was available for all indicators. 2018 builds upon last year's success by continuing to address challenges with consistency through collaboration with the member municipalities, various RDN departments and external agencies. As we continue to work toward improving quantitative data collection, we also include within this report qualitative information on key initiatives being undertaken to achieve the RGS goals. Quantitative information from 2015 and 2017 establishes a baseline which will be used for comparison in this report and subsequent years to come.

Data Limitations

This report refers to many sources of information, including information produced by the member municipalities, various RDN Departments, Statistics Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Every reasonable effort has been made to use comparable data with consistent geographies and methodology. Where data limitations exist, they are noted within the document content, chart or table.

RGS Monitoring Website

RGS content on the RDN's website is intended to be highly accessible and provide a visually oriented experience. Reporting is ongoing, and the indicators are updated as data becomes available. Ideally, most indicators will be updated on an annual basis.

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



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.

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

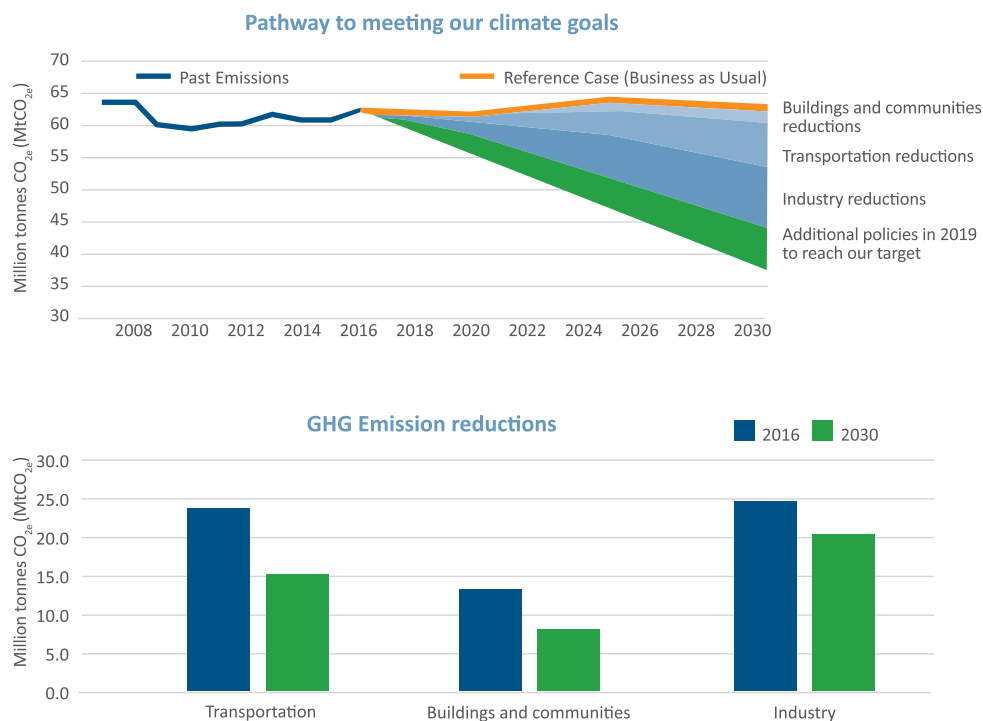


Chart 1: Provincial Emissions Inventory & Targets

REGIONAL ACTIONS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

In 2018, within the RDN, 2,764,906 cubic metres of landfill gas was captured through the Landfill Gas Collection Project.

Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Co-Generation System

In 2018, the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) co-generation system converted waste gas (methane) into 136,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which was sold back to the electrical grid, earning \$14,000. This amount of energy production is equivalent to the power usage for 22 homes in one year. The GNPCC also captured 427,181 cubic metres of biogas and utilized it to fuel the boilers and co-generation system.

RDN Remains Carbon Neutral

In 2018, the RDN remained carbon neutral by applying 2,576 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) through utilizing carbon offsets generated from the Landfill Gas Collection Project. The RDN

continues to improve its energy consumption by implementing energy efficient technologies to reduce overall energy consumption at its facilities and through its service delivery. To keep the RDN Carbon Neutral, a total of 21,123 tonnes of carbon offsets were verified and validated arising from the existing Landfill Gas Collection Project. The Community Carbon Marketplace listed 5,000 tonnes of carbon credits that are now available from Cowichan Energy Alternatives for use by corporate entities whose objective is to achieve carbon neutrality.

The Community Carbon Market Place sold 2,829 tonnes of CO₂e. Total net sales to the RDN were \$31,637, with a total of 2,171 tonnes of CO₂e remaining and available for sale on the open market to help private businesses become carbon neutral.

Green Building Incentives

The RDN and the member municipalities delivered green building incentives to residents who improved the performance of their homes. In 2018, RDN programs delivered \$28,580 in green building incentives and rebates. The Green Building Incentive Program issued 153 individual rebates for: woodstove exchanges (106), renewable energy systems (6), home energy assessments (17), oil to heat pump rebates (1) and site-cut timber (1). There was one (1) uptake of the electric vehicle charging station rebate in 2018.

Green Building Series

As part of the Green Building Series, eight workshops were delivered that targeted all sectors of the construction industry including architects, local government staff, builders, residents and realtors. The focus in 2018 was to provide education on the BC Energy Code and to present building science to help home owners and builders learn about high performance building construction and place an emphasis on energy efficient renovations.

To deliver these workshops, the RDN collaborated with member municipalities, the Canadian Home Builders' Association, Passive House Canada, the local construction industry and energy advisors.

Climate Change Actions and Energy Efficiency Measures

In December 2018, The Province of British Columbia's Building Code introduced new energy efficiency regulations to support the BC Energy Step Code. To support the Province's initiative, 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 is participating 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.

Modernizing the Floodplain Bylaw

In January of 2018, the amended Provincial Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines came into effect. In response, an update to the RDN Floodplain Management Bylaw No. 1469 took place. This bylaw sets requirements for new buildings in areas prone to flooding. The update now includes considerations for sea level rise, allowing for 1.0 metre of rise by the year 2100. This change is an important first step in modernizing the approach to flood management in the region and in BC.

These changes link to the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program, which provides the framework for the regulatory changes and future flood hazard management within the RDN.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program

The RDN recognizes the importance of better understanding coastal flood hazards, especially in the context of changing sea levels to support land use planning and emergency management. To assist the RDN in becoming more resilient to future flooding, a series of flood hazard maps are being created. Flood hazard maps are a foundational tool to develop a good understanding of where and how deep water may be in a flood event and provides the basis for informed decision-making.

When completed in 2019, this information will be used to update land use regulations relating

to the management of lands in coastal areas and bring the RDN into compliance with the Provincial Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Nanaimo's Energy Management Program

Through the City's Strategic Energy Management Program, it has saved 597,096 kilowatt hours of electricity, 6,700 gigajoules of natural gas consumption, and reduced emissions by 355 tonnes of CO₂e by completing a mix of building, lighting and systems upgrade projects.

Climate Adaptation/Resilience Strategy

The City received \$175,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 2017 to complete a Climate Change Resilience Strategy (CCRS) to prepare for climate change. In 2018, the study was completed and the second phase will incorporate the results of the sea level rise study and complete a series of risk and vulnerability assessments of City assets, programs and services.

Climate Change Initiatives

The City has undergone a number of green initiatives in 2018, including a review around Electric Vehicle (EV) regional planning and infrastructure and the commencement of an update to their Green Fleet Strategy. To reduce residential trips to landfill and composting facilities, larger curbside garbage collection and organics carts are now offered by the City. Furthermore, a rebate system was established in 2018 to help cover costs for home energy assessments. The City has also brought back their tree voucher program which provides 220 \$25 vouchers for trees costing up to \$90 from the Green Thumb Garden Centre.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades

The City's Corporate Energy Conservation Policy sets an energy conservation target of 1% reduction per year in the overall energy consumption of City owned and operated buildings. Implementation actions for 2018 included:

- Implementation of measures of the BC Hydro/FortisBC Continuous Optimization Program at the Nanaimo Ice Centre, Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and Beban Park Recreation Centre.

- Lighting and Refrigeration Plant energy studies along with a major upgrade of the Beban Boiler Plant.
- City-wide LED streetlight conversion, which is on-going.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

Parksville continued to participate in the regional Green Building Incentive Program, including woodstove rebates. The City purchased three EVs and a charging station for corporate use and is also continuing its expansion of the LED streetlight program.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

In preparation for the implementation of the BC Energy Step Code, Building Department staff completed additional Step Code training in 2018. Energy and efficiency and the BC Energy Step Code are specifically identified in the Town's 2018 Official Community Plan that has now been adopted.

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 systems, home energy assessments and EV charging stations.

GOAL 1 - KEY FINDINGS

The Green Building Incentive Program continues to attract applications for funding to help residents implement more environmentally friendly home practices and more landfill gas was captured through the Landfill Gas Collection Project in 2018 compared to the previous year. Another response to climate change is building resiliency and capacity to adapt. In 2018, 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 have both advocated to the Province to reinstate community emissions reporting.



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 and Enhancement Measures

- Upgraded 11 wellheads to protect aquifers in our region and over 114 well owners received support in testing their water quality through the Rural Water Quality Stewardship Rebate Program.
- Supported the installation or expansion of 25 residential rainwater harvesting systems, with an added storage volume of almost 60,000 imperial gallons across the region through the Rainwater Harvesting Incentive Program.
- Analyzed summer water use by participants in the Irrigation Check-Up Program between 2011–2017, which revealed a 65% reduction in water consumption since the last check-up.
- Commenced the 10 Year Action Plan Implementation Review for the Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program.
- Supported watercourse restoration projects on Knartson Creek and Chase River.

Water Quality Program

- Replaced water mains in the Anchor Way area of the Nanoose Peninsula.
- Offered region-wide rebate programs for rainwater harvesting, well protection, well water testing, efficient outdoor irrigation systems and soil improvements.
- Completed the UV Disinfection System in the San Pareil Community Water System.
- Commenced construction of the new Nanoose Bay Peninsula Pump station, a critical element of the Englishman River Water Service.

Public Outreach & Education

- Continued community outreach including workshops, school watershed field trips, events and community displays, totaling over 50 occasions.
- Partnered with the City of Nanaimo to create and mail out Stream Stewardship Newsletters for Beck Creek & Walley Creek for residents in two key creek sheds where stewardship awareness messaging was necessary, based on water quality results.
- Continued residential irrigation check-up service, providing on-site assessments and recommendations to improve outdoor water efficiency for 12 top water users in community water service areas.

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Purchased 20.2 hectares of land to be added to the Linley Valley Park to increase overall park size to 184.2 hectares.
- Completed the Environmental Management Study for the MacGregor Creek and Linley Valley pond systems.
- Completed biological assessments for Linley Valley Park.
- Initiated park planning for East Wellington Park including food security and biophysical assessments.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

- Purchased Parksville wetlands to protect them as natural parkland in perpetuity.
- Continued promotion of the Green Shores approach to finding ecological solutions to shoreline development.
- Continued to participate in the RDN's Drinking Water Watershed Protection Program.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

- Constructed the new Seaside Nature Park.
- Purchased waterfront property, “St. Andrews Lodge,” for future community use and environmental protection.
- Prepared Tree Protection Bylaw to address removal of trees.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

- Continued to provide educational information to residents concerning water conservation and implemented water restrictions.
- Continued to participate in the RDN’s Drinking Water Watershed Protection Program.
- Continued to provide 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 it 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.

For the period from 2004 to 2017:²

- The City of Nanaimo had a 15% decrease in water consumption while population increased in the same period by 16%.
- The District of Lantzville had a 20% decrease in total water consumption.

²The RDN’s 2018 Water Conservation Plan and trend analysis is the most current information available for this Indicator. This trend analysis does not happen on a yearly basis and updates to the Indicator will take place when new information is available.

- Collectively, all nine RDN Water Service Areas had a 31% decrease in total water consumption.

For all three areas combined, the average water consumption decreased by 22% since 2004.

The findings show gradual progress towards the regional goal.

8.2.2 RGS Indicator #5: Surface water quality (community watershed monitoring)

Target is to improve surface water quality

The Community Watershed Monitoring Network (CWMN) currently collects water quality samples from 62 sites on 34 streams in the region to measure and track changes in the health of local watersheds. This indicator reflects the total number of sites that met the BC Water Quality Guidelines for turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in 2018, as well as the results from the Surface Water Quality Trend Analysis for RDN CWMN Data.³ The Surface Water Quality Trend Analysis is the most up to date information available and occurs approximately every five years.

Table 1: RDN Monitored Streams Analysis

Monitored Streams that Meet the BC Water Quality Guidelines in 2018		
Turbidity	Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen
38 sites met guidelines out of 62 sites that were monitored	43 sites met guidelines out of 62 sites that were monitored	36 sites met guidelines out of 62 sites that were monitored

Source: *The Surface Water Quality Trend Analysis for RDN CWMN Data (2011 – 2017)*

For data collected between 2011 and 2017, the CWMN Trend Report identified 12 out of 62 sites sampled as having frequent exceedances of water quality guidelines, with depleted oxygen concentrations and/or adverse trends in water quality. Seven of these sites have high agricultural use within the watershed, two sites have upstream storm water outfalls, and exceedances in three sites are not well understood and could be attributed to annual variations in climate.

³The Surface Water Quality Trend Analysis for RDN CWMN Data (2011 – 2017) report is available online at <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/dwwpreports>

These findings provide information on the quality of our surface water since 2011 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 with 50 of 62 sites having frequently met BC water quality standards and 27 out of 34 sites with six years or more of data having stable water quality.

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 protected areas designated by the federal, provincial or local government.

In 2018, the region had a total of 6,365 hectares of protected areas, representing approximately 3.08% of the land base of the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville and the RDN Electoral Areas. Although the data shown identifies a loss in protected land within the City of Nanaimo and RDN Electoral Areas from 2017, it should be noted that these lower numbers are attributed to a new methodology for obtaining data with more accurate new software, not to a physical loss of protected areas. The City of Nanaimo gained 20.2 hectares of protected area in Linley Valley, and the 12 hectare adjustment in the electoral areas represents more accurate mapping data that omitted a segment of the Nanaimo River as water features are not included in this indicator. This new methodology and adjusted data will be used in future years to provide a more accurate reflection of the actual amount of land in protected areas.

Table 2: Amount of Land in Protected Areas (Ha)

	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

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. Most notable is the progress that has been made in the reduction of water consumption. Since 2004, although populations have increased steadily, water consumption has decreased by 22%.



8.3 GOAL 3 – COORDINATE LAND USE AND MOBILITY

REGIONAL ACTIONS

During 2018, the RDN undertook the following regional transportation initiatives:

Regional Transit

- Approved the expansion of 5,000 annual service hours on September 26, 2018 (expanded hours to commence in 2019).
- Launched real-time technology (Automated Vehicle Location) on all conventional transit buses, enabling launch of 'NextRide,' which allows transit riders to see the location of their bus and its predicted arrival time at an identified stop.
- Continued work with BC Transit to evaluate the viability of local transit initiatives as well as inter-regional transit between the RDN, Cowichan Valley & Comox Valley Regional Districts.

- Conducted “how to ride the bus” training for seniors and students.
- Implemented Poetry in Transit in partnership with the City of Nanaimo.
- Implemented five Road Support Agents who respond to on-road incidents and provide assistance to transit drivers and passengers.
- Applied for grant funding in partnership with BC Transit and the City of Nanaimo to upgrade three exchanges in Nanaimo (North Nanaimo, Country Club and Downtown Nanaimo Exchanges).

CITY OF NANAIMO

Downtown Mobility Project

Engaged a consulting team to review, design and prepare an implementation strategy for the Downtown Mobility Project. This project is a collection of active and sustainable transportation projects planned within the Downtown Mobility Hub. City of Nanaimo Staff and the consulting team will ensure that these projects are designed and constructed with a holistic vision of mobility and land use.

Transportation Enhancement

- Completed a “road diet” on Estevan Road, reducing a four-lane road cross to two travel lanes and one turn lane with landscaped median and bike lanes.
- Developed Complete Street Design Guidelines to support active and sustainable modes of transportation.
- Implemented Bowen Road Corridor Coordination Strategy.
- Installed four new bus shelters to support use of transit.

Pedestrian Enhancement

- Commenced design for Harewood Bikeway on Bruce Avenue between Third and Fourth Street.

- Completed the Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan and design work for waterfront walkway at 1 Port Drive.
- Completed function design for Northfield Creek section of waterfront walkway, followed by value engineering exercise to examine costs.
- Continued work on the Georgia Avenue Greenway.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

Transportation Master Plan

Completed the update of the Transportation Master Plan which led to the development of new bike lanes and sidewalks on Corfield Street, two new bus shelters downtown and the construction of the Jensen Avenue greenway.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

- Adopted the 2018 Official Community Plan containing policies advocating for increased connectivity and mobility throughout the municipality.
- Completed planning work and grants to install the remaining pathway along the waterfront.

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 three-year period, there has been an increase consistent with the target of households

living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands and shopping within the RDN. The largest increases are found in the City of Nanaimo, and the target is being achieved by directing new development into mixed-use centres. Improvements in mapping and data collection can further account for the substantial year over year increases.

Table 3: Total Number of Households within 400 m of Services (2015, 2017 and 2018)

		Bus Stops	Schools	Employment Lands	Shopping Centre
Nanaimo	2018	40,598	21,551	17,206	16,844
	2017	36,411	18,930	6,671	10,714
	2015				
Parksville	2018	3,997	1,019	4,029	2,524
	2017		1,025	3,837	2,446
	2015				
Qualicum Beach	2018	3,551	1,165		1,005
	2017		1,165	N/A	1,005
	2015				
Lantzville	2018	1,020	190	1,206	
	2017	1,021	192	1,201	N/A
	2015	1,064	191		
Electoral Area	2018	3,684	1,000	8,821	600
	2017	3,664	996	8,741	597
	2015	3,292	1,628	8,400	377

8.3.2 RGS Indicator #8: Per capita transit use

RGS Target is to increase per capita transit use

Since 2015, the number of bus rides has steadily increased. In 2015–16, there were 2,737,848 rides taken in the RDN compared to 3,387,083 in 2018–19. Within the same period, per capita rides also increased from 18.2 in 2015–16 to 21.8 in 2018–19. This increase may be in part attributed to a growing population, increased access to transit, the NextRide real time bus locator and increased public presence of the RDN Transit Department at public events throughout the region.

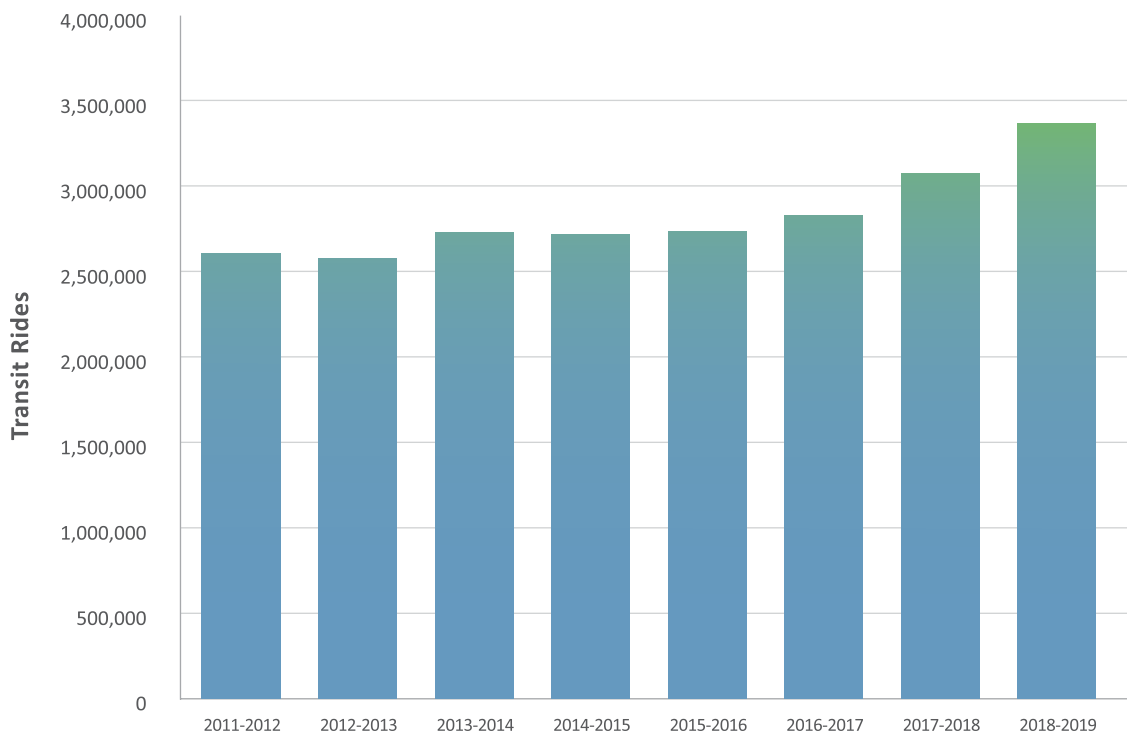


Chart 2: Total Transit Rides Per Year

GOAL 3 - KEY FINDINGS

The results appear to indicate that transit initiatives to increase ridership are proving successful, and the relationship between land use and access to transit is 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.

**8.4 GOAL 4 – CONCENTRATE HOUSING AND JOBS IN RURAL VILLAGES & URBAN GROWTH CENTRES****REGIONAL ACTIONS****Fairwinds Landing at Schooner Cove**

Within the existing Fairwinds Village Mixed-Use zone, development is currently underway that includes a new six-storey residential building containing 39 dwelling units and a minor commercial area. Once complete, this project will increase the diversity of housing types available in an area where single-residential dwellings are the prominent type and will promote walkability as a result of added provisions for a publicly accessible boat launch, waterfront boardwalk and internal pathways.

CITY OF NANAIMO**Hospital Area Plan**

The Hospital Area Plan was adopted by Council in 2018 and work has commenced to implement key policies in this document. The Area Plan is in response to development challenges and is intended to result in a better plan for the densification and design of development around this key urban node.

8.4.1 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

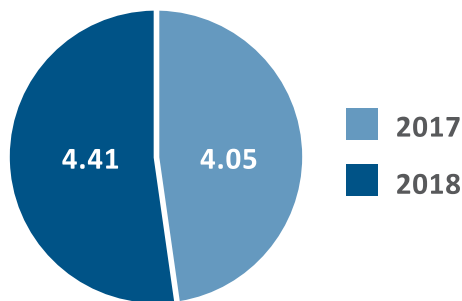
This indicator monitors the density inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) compared to outside the GCB. This shows whether or not the majority of growth is happening in designated growth areas. This indicator can also be used to show if development is occurring at densities needed to support walkability and efficient servicing.

4.41
units/hectare
inside GCB 2018

In 2018, the average density of dwelling units within the GCB was 4.41 units/hectare, an increase from 4.05 in 2017. Of the urban areas, the Town of Qualicum Beach has the highest density of dwelling units (6.48 units/hectare) followed by the City of Parksville (5.85 units/hectare).

The data also shows an increase in the Rural Village Centers from 2.03 units/hectare in 2015 to 2.31 in 2018, while the District of Lantzville remained unchanged. No change between 2017 and 2018 occurred for the density of dwelling units per hectare outside of the GCB as this number remained at 0.06 units/hectare.

Dwelling Units/hectare inside GCB



Dwelling Units/hectare outside GCB

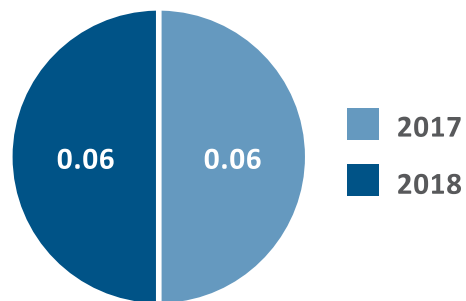


Chart 3: Dwelling Units/Hectare Inside and Outside GCB

In 2018, the density of dwelling units per hectare has increased in two of the Urban Areas as intended. The City of Nanaimo increased from 4.87 units/hectare in 2017 to 5.33 units/hectare in 2018, and the City of Parksville increased from 4.44 units/hectare to 5.85 units/hectare over the same time period. These changes can be attributed to an achievement of the RGS goal and to more accurate mapping and data collection methods used in 2018. The area in hectares with which this calculation is formulated has changed for both the City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville, and the more accurate numbers have been used to calculate 2018 data for the average density, contributing in part to the change in density between 2017 and 2018. The continual improvement of data accuracy is important to the success of the RGS and is incorporated whenever received to reflect the most accurate results.

Table 4: Density Units Per Hectare Inside/Outside GCB (2015, 2017 and 2018)

	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	5.33	0.01	5.85	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06

*Data for 2015 did not include the Town of Qualicum Beach or the City of Parksville.

8.4.2 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 Growth Containment Boundary. 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 Centre. Within the City of Nanaimo, since 2015, Industrial, Commercial and Recreational land uses have increased slightly while Institutional, Mixed and Residential land uses have seen a slight decrease. While these shifts are considered a change (not a regression), the land use ratio for the City of Nanaimo remains consistent with the desired ratio.

Table 5: Diversity of Land Uses in Urban & Rural Village Centres in the RDN (2015-2018)

		Residential (%)	Commercial (%)	Industrial (%)	Mixed Use (%)	Institutional (%)	Recreational (%)
Electoral Areas	2018	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2017	61	7	11	5	6	10
	2015	61	6	11	6	6	10
Lantzville	2018	62	0.25	1	0.25	2	34.5
	2017	62	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	34.5
Parksville	2018	48	12	4	6	8*	22
Qualicum Beach	2018	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2017	70	9	1	8	4	8
Nanaimo	2018	67	3**	10	3	2	15
	2017	69	1	9	5	3	13
	2015	67	1	8	5	5	13

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

**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. Further years' data is needed to determine if the changes reflect a positive trend over time.

**8.5 GOAL 5 – ENHANCE RURAL INTEGRITY****REGIONAL ACTIONS****Development Permit and Temporary Use Permit Area Standardization**

The RDN reviewed their development permit areas (DPAs) and temporary use permit (TUP) areas within its electoral areas in 2018. This project included a revision of existing DPAs and TUP areas for consistency and standardization to streamline the development process. Standardizing DPAs ensures today's best practices were adopted throughout the electoral areas which will result in consistent requirements for applicants and a more effective means of implementing the DPAs.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

The "Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 800.2018" was adopted on June 18, 2018 after a two-year review process with extensive community engagement. To implement several policies and map changes resulting from the Official Community Plan review, a request to amend the RGS and accept the Regional Context Statement was submitted to the RDN's Board for consideration. The request to adjust the GCB so that it is contiguous with the Town's municipal boundary proceeded through the RGS minor amendment process in 2018 and was approved in January of 2019.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

The District of Lantzville completed the public engagement component of their Official Community Plan review in 2017. Continued work and engagement has occurred throughout 2018 and the Official Community Plan is slated to be adopted in 2019.

8.5.1 RGS Indicator #12: The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB

RGS Target is to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB

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.

1,480
new lots
inside GCB

28
new lots
outside GCB

This indicator tells us the proportion of new development inside and outside the GCB. The RGS designates the GCB as the area for future development and growth. In 2018, the number of total new lots rose to 1,508, with 1,480 lots being created inside the GCB and 28 lots outside, achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB. The most notable rise in 2018 occurred in Lantzville and can be attributed mostly to Phase 1 of the ongoing Foothills development.

Table 6: By Area- 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	-	50	-	1	-	2	1	30	37
2018	1,308	-	51	-	1	-	100	0	20	28

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

** Developable land within the City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville entirely within GCB.

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 with Farm Class in the region. Farm Class is determined by BC Assessment and is based on land use qualifying for agricultural use, which includes both lands inside and outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve. This information provides an indication of how much land is being used to produce food in the region.

Baseline data was collected in 2017 which shows that there were a total of 713 parcels with Farm Class status as determined by BC Assessment in the RDN. In 2018, this number dropped to 674. Most notably, 41 properties in the RDN Electoral Areas lost their Farm Class status with Electoral Area A seeing the largest loss at 25 properties. It is uncertain as to why this decline occurred in the electoral areas over the last year and further investigation and monitoring is needed to identify trends in years to come.

Table 7: 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

*Data not available for the City of Parksville in 2017.

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 PMFL decreased by a further 91 hectares between 2017 and 2018. 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 2018, an estimated 130,509 hectares or 62% of the RDN's land base remains within the PMFL.

Table 8: The Amount of Private Managed Forest Land

	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

*The City of Parksville does not have any lands designated Private Managed Forest Land.

GOAL 5 - KEY FINDINGS

The results indicate that the RGS policies in support of directing the majority of growth into well-defined activities within the Growth Containment Boundaries are achieving the intended results. At the same time a decline in rural forms of land use appears to be developing. 2018 marks the third consecutive year of decline in the number of hectares of land classified as PMFL. Of more concern is the noticeable decline in the number of parcels with Farm Class status in the electoral areas. A decline has been shown since baseline data was collected and 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. Further investigation and monitoring of the decline of properties with Farm Class and 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 growing a network of over 100 community members to work collectively on improving health outcomes in these areas.

Oceanside Community Map of Service Agencies

The RDN assisted the Oceanside Homelessness Network in updating the Oceanside Community Map of Service Agencies. In 2018, a grant was received to hire a graphic designer to recreate the 2017 map into a more visually appealing and user-friendly edition that is a handy pocket-sized fold out map that highlights the locations of local social services, contact information as well as applicable bus routes for service providers.

Regional Housing Capacity & Gap Assessment

In December 2018, the RDN hired CitySpaces Consulting to complete a Regional Housing Capacity Assessment and Gap Analysis. The project involves a combination of statistical research, workshops, focus groups and first-person interviews with applicable local government staff, non-profit organizations and developers to provide a comprehensive picture of the housing needs of today and tomorrow. This project will build on past knowledge and supplement these studies with new analysis and data. The results are scheduled to be completed in 2019 and will

then be used to update and inform the RGS policies regarding the character and location of housing needed to support livability throughout the region.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Affordable Housing Strategy

The City launched a process to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy in 2017. The aim of the strategy is to establish the priorities for the City of Nanaimo to address affordability across the housing continuum over the next ten years. In 2018, continuing to build off previous years' work, planning for implementation of action items within the strategy are now underway.

Actions taken include the following:

Housing Support

- Provided a range of municipal supports through Development Cost Charge reductions and parking variances for the development of over 300 affordable units by BC Housing with various non-profit societies for a range of different populations.
- Opened two BC Housing temporary supportive housing sites in response to the homelessness crisis in December 2018.
- Supported application by Nanaimo Affordable Housing Society to BC Housing to develop 36 units of new affordable housing on Bowen Road for seniors and families.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

The City continued to offer the option to expedite building permits for those intended for affordable housing and implemented a program for providing density bonuses to developments containing 20% or more of their units as affordable housing.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

As part of the Town's Official Community Plan review process, affordable housing has been identified as a major topic for discussion, and in 2018, planning was underway for affordable housing policy development and potential capital projects.

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 Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration. The median household income according to the 2016 Census data is \$62,844. This number is used for 2015–2018 reporting purposes.

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.



According to the CMHC, there was a rise in the number of renter households with income below 50% of the median for the region paying more than 30% of their income on housing from 2011 to 2014.

This trend reversed in 2015, but has since rebounded over the last three years within the Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration with a drastic shift in the lack of affordability over the last two years⁴.

Over the past three years, the portion of households living in housing that meets their needs (less than the ART of \$786) has decreased from 53% (2,301) in 2015 to 25% (1,173) in 2018.

⁴The 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 4: Total number of rental units affordable to low income households

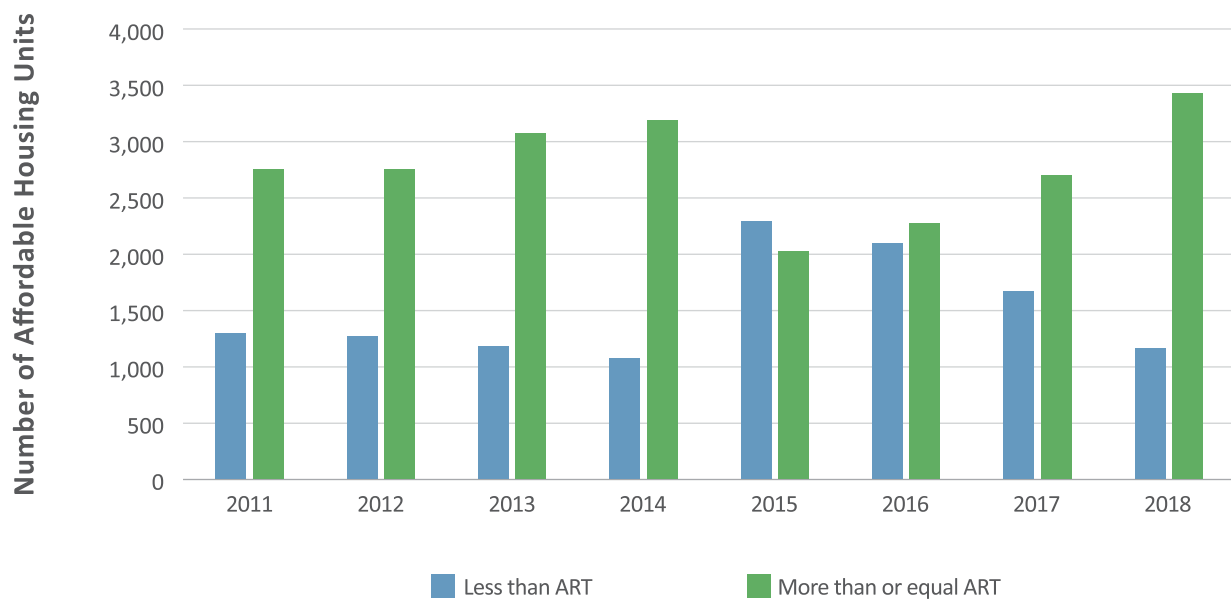


Table 9: Total number of renter households above or equal to the affordable household threshold (2011-2018)

Year	Renter Households Above or Equal to ART	Amount of Change Between Years (renter households)
2011	2,764	NA
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

Data source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2011 – 2018

GOAL 6 – KEY FINDINGS

Progress on the targets intended to support adaptable, accessible, affordable, and attainable housing appear to have regressed to 2011 levels over the last three years. This is in part due to continual rising costs in housing and rental prices. Initiatives locally, provincially and federally are underway to provide affordable housing and combat this lack of affordability. Data in coming years will be used to identify whether these initiatives will help reverse this trend of unaffordable housing.

**8.7 GOAL 7 – ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY****REGIONAL ACTIONS****Northern Community Economic Development Service**

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

In 2018, the function disbursed over \$50,000 in economic development grants in School District 69 communities. Some of the projects and organizations supported include:

- Familiarization Tour – Lighthouse Country Business Association;
- Deep Bay Info Booth – Lighthouse Country Business Association;
- Social Media Ninja – Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce;
- Brant Viewing Platform – Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society;
- Mid Island Tech Forum Strategy – Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce;
- Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program – Community Futures Central Island;
- Tech Savvy Talk & Leaders Roundtable – Innovation Island Technology Association; and

- Blade Runners – Central Vancouver Island Job Opportunities Building Society.

Legalization of Non-Medical Cannabis in Canada

Following the federal government’s announcement to legalize non-medical cannabis by July 2018, the RDN began the process of reviewing and preparing the necessary zoning amendments to address this use. Policies addressing both the retail and production of cannabis to help facilitate the legalization process were completed in 2018.

The RDN also created a webpage to help keep residents informed of the ongoing changes: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/cannabis-production-facilities-faq>

CITY OF NANAIMO

Economic Profile

The City held three economic roundtables with a number of economic stakeholders and completed an Economic Profile for the City.

Home Based Business Survey

The City undertook a home-based business survey and review of the pertinent regulations within the zoning bylaw to assess whether changes or updates are necessary.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Social Procurement Policy

In 2018, additional phases of construction on the Memorial Avenue Upgrades continued to be consistent with the Town’s Social Procurement Policy.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

Economic Development Strategic Plan

The District approved the Terms of Reference for their Economic Development Sustainability Committee which is intended to provide support and recommendation to staff for implementation and achieving the goals and objectives of the Economic Development Strategic Plan that was

adopted in 2018. The creation of this strategy involved input from over 250 people and was guided by a steering committee of local residents, business owners and elected officials. Regular communications and collaboration also took place throughout the process with the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation). The Strategy includes a vision and objectives for economic development, based on what was heard from Lantzville residents, and provides a plan for getting there.

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

61.0%
Employment Rate

5.1%
Unemployed

64.9%
Labour Force
Participation

These indicators are important because 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 employment went from 82,300 persons of working age (49.2%) in 2015 to 102,000 (61.0%) in 2018.

In 2015, the NCA unemployment rate was 4.7% compared to 5.7% in 2017 and 5.1% in 2018. The 2018 unemployment rate remains within the desired RGS target range of 3–6%. Comparatively, the provincial unemployment rate was 4.8% and the Canadian unemployment rate was 5.7% in 2018.

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 used to be outside of the labour force, including people over 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 64.9% in 2018.

GOAL 7 – KEY FINDINGS

Overall, the 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

Gathering for an Event in the Agricultural Land Reserve

In response to the provincial changes to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to allow a limited number of secondary on-farm commercial activities to take place on properties in the ALR, the RDN Board passed a resolution to seek public input into proposed zoning bylaw amendments. The bylaw amendments were adopted in 2018 and are intended to mitigate the potential impacts to farmland associated with gathering for an event. A brochure was also created in 2018 to help keep farmers informed of the changes.

Agriculture Area Plan Website Updates

The RDN website for agricultural resources and activities within the region continued to be updated in 2018. The website updates included information about existing commercial composting facilities in the region and the provision of a U-map, which is an online land registry used to match farmers with landowners to support access to land available for farming.

CITY OF NANAIMO

The City worked with community partners to create a second food forest at Beaufort Park. The City now has two food forests and six community gardens on public property under the Partners in Parks Program.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

In partnership with the School District, the Town constructed a second community garden consisting of 50 garden plots in 2018. The community garden project significantly expands the popular existing community garden initiative in Qualicum Beach by making more land available to residents to grow their own food.

GOAL 8 – KEY FINDINGS

Consistent with RGS Goal 2: Food Security, the municipal members, including the City of Nanaimo and the Town of Qualicum Beach, have undertaken actions to advance local food security. The RDN continues to undertake actions to support the economic diversification of the agricultural sector.

**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. These include ongoing delivery of recreation programs and maintenance of facilities throughout the RDN. In 2018, the 2019–2029 Oceanside Recreation Services Master Plan was completed and approved as a guiding document by the RDN Board. The Master Plan will provide guidance for the RDN's role and responsibilities in Recreation Services' approaches to recreation infrastructure for the communities of Oceanside.

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:

- Completed the planning for the Mount Benson parking lot and the project tendered.
- Completed a new parking lot and trail connection at Timberlands Road for the Great Trail.
- Completed concept design and public consultation on bridge and trail development at Benson Creek Falls Regional Park. The works address longstanding environmental and safety concerns at Ammonite Falls and Benson Falls canyons.
- Developed sports court and parking lot at Dunsmuir Community Park.

- Completed Phase I of the parking lot and new trail access to the Haslam Creek end of the Great Trail following conclusion of two private land access agreements.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Arts and Culture

- Continued commitment to Port Theatre Community Performing Arts Centre project (4.6 million funding commitment).
- Continued implementation of the 2014–2020 Culture Plan for a Creative Nanaimo, including annual funding (nearly \$500,000) of local arts and culture groups and support of various cultural and heritage initiatives.
- Hosted annual Heritage Summit to promote heritage awareness within the community and facilitate networking between local heritage and cultural organizations.
- Installed new public art pieces created by local Snuneymuxw Artists at the Departure Bay (St'ilep) seawall walk and at the Nanaimo Water Treatment Plant.
- Held Annual Culture and Heritage Awards event to recognize and celebrate excellence in culture and heritage within the community.
- Rolled out the Annual Poetry in Transit Program in partnership with the Vancouver Island Regional Library and RDN Transit Authority.

Park, Tourism and Heritage

- Created three new playgrounds under the City's Partners in Parks Program, and built two new sport courts to meet neighbourhood recreational needs.
- Installed interpretive signs to celebrate park features and uniqueness.
- Renewed agreement with the Tourism Association of Vancouver Island to deliver destination tourism services for Nanaimo.

- Hired design consultant to update Downtown Heritage Design Guidelines.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

- Constructed a new splash park at the Community Park.
- Repainted the labyrinth area at the Community Park.

8.9.1 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.

Table 10: Length of trails in metres

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas
2017	170,000 m	39,419 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	150,660 m
2018	186,597 m	40,420 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	151,473 m

Trails, paths and laneways are part of a network of natural and man-made features that connect communities and support active transportation. 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.

GOAL 9 – KEY FINDINGS

The natural environment, cultural history and arts community remain some of the region's greatest assets. This is demonstrated by the actions taken to advance Goal 9: Pride of Place. The increase of trails within the region encourages residents and visitors to take advantage of the pristine natural environment the region provides.

**8.10 GOAL 10 – EFFICIENT SERVICES****REGIONAL ACTIONS****Strategic Planning and Community Development**

With a focus on Goal 10: Efficient services and organizational excellence, the RDN Information Services Department and Building and Bylaw Services Department are undertaking an innovative approach in the delivery of building inspection services. A portal is being created that will allow residents to apply for their building permits and request inspections online. In addition to online permit applications and inspection requests, the portal will give the public the means to register bylaw complaints and purchase or renew dog licenses.

GIS

The RDN's mapping applications provided by the GIS Department undertook a number of initiatives to create a more efficient system to allow citizens, property developers and real estate agents to find property information on-line at their convenience. Some of these innovative initiatives included the creation of the Utilities Property Information Lookup App, the Election Voting App and the Fire Protection Lookup App used by local Fire Departments.

Solid Waste

RDN Solid Waste continued to achieve Goal 10 of the RGS 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 an annual per capita disposal rate of 347 kilograms per year, one of the lowest within the developed nations of the world.



Solid Waste Management Plan

In the third quarter of 2018, the Board approved a renewed Solid Waste Management Plan increasing the target diversion rate from 68% to 90% by 2027 to continue being a global leader.

Legislative Services

RDN Legislative Services continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 through the improved, consistent use of social media to share information with residents in a more efficient manner. Monthly newspaper ads were published to share timely and relevant information on RDN projects, initiatives and community events, and a consistent branded advertising template for staff to use for all newspaper ads was implemented. Continued growth and use of “RDN Get Involved!” continued as an online engagement tool to provide efficient project updates and engagement opportunities for residents.

Water Services

RDN Water Services continued to achieve RGS Goal 10 by providing community water in the RDN water service areas. Actions in 2018 included the completion of the UV disinfection system in the San Pareil community water system. Construction is currently underway on the new Nanoose Bay Peninsula Pump Station, a critical element of the Englishman River Water Service.

Wastewater Services

RDN Wastewater Services continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 to provide efficient services by providing community wastewater services to lands located within the GCB. Actions in 2018 included the following:

- Repaired the Wellington North Shoreline Interceptor.
- Continued upgrades at the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre, including concrete coating for sedimentation and grit tanks and roof repairs. When completed, secondary treatment will improve the quality of treated effluent in the receiving environment, replace aging infrastructure, and provide capacity for a growing service area.
- Maintained a soil fabrication program for the remediation of the Harmac landfill as a

biosolids contingency site.

- Managed biosolids according to the Land Use Agreements with TimberWest and a Shared Use Agreement with the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club.

Parks

RDN Parks Department launched a web-based safety concern notice system for public use and synched with the call and work tracking system to help provide more efficient services in the region.

Emergency Services

RDN actions for emergency planning and preparedness in 2018 were consistent with the RGS direction to integrate and coordinate efforts on a regional basis among the RDN. Actions in 2018 included the following:

- Developed a mobile Emergency Support Services trailer that can be setup anywhere to support residents displaced from their homes.
- Created a Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program handbook, “Get Involved” RDN page, as well as facilitated workshops and meetings to encourage engagement.
- Conducted public education activities in the region including the Emergency Preparedness Expo, Emergency Preparedness Week, Farmers Markets, community displays and other events.
- Promoted the Connect Rocket Emergency Notification System with a user growth of 500% from 2017.
- Commenced the National Disaster Mitigation Program Regional Flood Risk Assessment Project to enable future mitigation measures. The goal of this project is to identify the risk of all hazards in the region, and ultimately develop a plan to mitigate these hazards. The Project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2019.

Fire Services

RDN Fire Services continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 by coordinating and providing regional support to local fire departments. Actions in 2018 included the following:

- Completed standardized Operational Guidelines for the six RDN Fire Departments.
- Formalized regular Regional Fire Chiefs Meetings.
- Finalized the RDN Fire Department Operational Health & Safety program that meets regulatory requirements.

CITY OF NANAIMO

Solid Waste

Completed City-wide implementation of the new automated curbside collection service in 2018. The new service incorporates the collection of yard waste which was a request of many residents.

Water Services

- Began construction of the emergency water supply pump station.
- Developed a policy and strategy for water metering across the City.
- Held their second annual public event in the summer called the “Nanaimo Recycles Trunk Sale.” The event is aimed at keeping used items out of the landfill.
- Generated 801 megawatts of electricity from the operation of the water supply system.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

Constructed a new water treatment plant and river water intake to boost capacity.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Launched a comprehensive organizational review in late 2017 following a preliminary internal review in 2016. The organizational review was completed in 2018 and implementation is to begin in 2019.

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

The District of Lantzville undertook a Strategic Asset Management Investment Plan in 2018 that will assist the District in improving the way it delivers services to the community.

8.10.1 RGS Indicator #20: Per capita waste disposal

RGS Target is to decrease the per capita amount of waste going to the 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 68% and continues to have one of the lowest provincial annual per capita disposal rates. The per capita amount of waste going to the landfill remains stable from 2017 to 2018 at 347 kg/person.

347
Kilograms/person
per capita waste

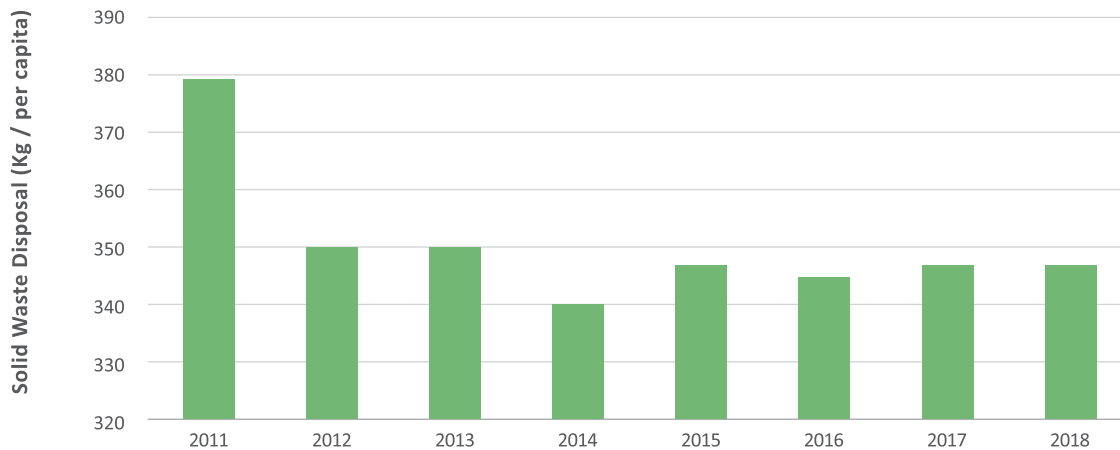


Chart 5: Per Capita Waste Disposal

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 in the Province 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.

8.11 GOAL 11 – COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS



REGIONAL ACTIONS

First Nations

Throughout 2018, RDN staff and elected officials met with staff and elected officials from First Nations 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. Select RDN staff members participated in sessions specifically designed to build effective working relationships with First Nations, and the RDN commissioned several pieces of local First Nations artwork that are now showcased in the RDN Board Chambers.

Adjacent Regional Districts and Municipalities

The RDN continued to host and participate in meetings to network and liaise with staff at member municipalities and adjacent regional districts. 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.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program – Coastal Floodplain Mapping

The RDN continues to work on a multi-year project to acquire coastal floodplain maps for the region. When completed, this information will be shared with all RDN departments, member municipalities, surrounding jurisdictions and First Nations communities to help inform future flood hazard risk assessments, land use planning, infrastructure and adaptation planning.

Regional Housing Capacity & Gap Assessment

While much has been achieved through the implementation of the RDN Housing Action Plan, the RDN acknowledges the greatest opportunity to influence affordable housing

rests in establishing a strategic, regional approach that involves collaborating with member municipalities and senior government and in identifying partnership opportunities with the private sector. When completed, this information will be used to inform the RGS review and the development of a Regional Housing Strategy intended to better position the RDN and its partners for funding opportunities in the future.

CITY OF NANAIMO

The City worked with numerous agencies and jurisdictions to build relationships and enhance cooperation in 2018. Some of these initiatives included the following:

- Cooperation between School District 68 and the City's Parks and Recreation Department to build major sport facilities including a new artificial turf field.
- Cooperation between School District 68, City of Nanaimo and BC Housing to create joint development housing plans on Fifth Street.
- Ongoing partnerships between the City of Nanaimo and Vancouver Island University in program research, Coop students, mentorship, community engagement, planning and research.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

The Town of Qualicum Beach entered into a long-term contract with the RDN for solid waste pickup.

GOAL 11 – KEY FINDINGS

Advancing the RGS goals of growth management in support of a more sustainable region depends on a shared understanding of the RGS goals and collaboration between all levels of government. The above noted actions, such as the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project and the Regional Housing Study demonstrate the importance of fostering relationships between local governments and different departments to advance future planning and service delivery. Actions such as the ongoing work with local First Nations focus on strengthening relationships to facilitate stronger collaboration on regional issues of mutual concern.

9. Implementation – 2019

For 2019 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.* Complete revisions to the Sustainable Site Planning checklist.
- 3.* Develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging strategy.
- 4.* Complete the South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan outlining southern transit priorities for the next seven years.
- 5.* Implement 5,000 annual service hours to Route #40 VIU Express.
- 6.* Complete the Housing Capacity Study.
- 7.* Continue work on the Regional Housing Strategy including the creation of a taskforce for key stakeholders.
- 8.* Commence work on a Regional Agricultural Adaptation Strategy.
- 9.* Commence work on the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Review.
- 10.* Complete the Secondary Treatment Upgrade at GNPCC.
- 11.* Finalize the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition implementation plan.
- 12.* Implement the Geocortex Web Map Solution.
- 13.* Pursue the implementation of business licensing authority with the Province.
- 14.* Continue to advance the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program by completing coastal mapping, and pursue funding opportunities to acquire riverine mapping information and undertake a risk assessment.

15. Initiate the Parks Strategic Plan.
16. Complete the design and feasibility report on the Meadowood Community Recreation Centre construction.
17. Substantially complete the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Secondary Treatment Upgrade.
18. Review the possibility of creating a regional economic development service.
19. Review and update the Emergency Plan and Emergency Measures bylaw.
20. Implement a new purchasing policy.
21. Conduct a review of the Community Works Fund Program.
22. Initiate a major, provincially funded Replacement Cost Study for RDN assets.
23. Continue to review provincial legislated changes regarding the legal production and retail of non-medical cannabis and consider the potential implication to land use in the region.
24. Continue to build strong relationships through continued collaboration, training and education with First Nations.
25. 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 2019
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. http://rdn.bc.ca/long-range-planning
Section 5.0	Develop a Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS.	New project underway to consider Strategy against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
1. Climate Change	Complete the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.	Completed in 2013.
	Develop a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.	Complete Phase II flood hazard mapping & apply for Phase III funding.
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 to prepare mobility strategies.	Ongoing.
	Prepare Industrial Land Supply and Demand study and strategy (also applies to Goal 7).	Industrial Lands Study completed in 2013
4. Concentrate Housing & Jobs	Prepare region-wide Rural Village Centres Study.	Rural Village Centres Study completed in Spring 2013. Update of report anticipated in 2019.
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.


RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2019
6. Affordable Housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Initiated Regional Housing Capacity Study.
7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy	Support and encourage economic development.	Initiate 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.
		Initiate Area 'F' Inventory Update for Official Community Plan review.
	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.	


RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2019
<p>9. Pride of Place</p>	<p>Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and official community plans.</p>	<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>Commence Electoral Area F Official Community Plan.</p>
<p>10. Efficient Services</p>	<p>Prepare strategy for servicing Rural Village Centres (See Goal 4).</p>	<p>Will be pursued for different Rural Village Centres as funding permits.</p>
<p>11. Cooperation Among Jurisdictions</p>	<p>Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing of protocol agreements.</p>	<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> <p>Continued First Nations education and training for RDN staff.</p>





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