

The Community Plan may be subject to periodic amendment by the Board to provide local direction to major issues or changes in the Regional Growth Management Plan. All reviews and amendments will be subject to community review involving public participation to solicit community input.

Application may be made to amend this Official Community Plan in accordance with the *Municipal Act* and the terms of "Regional District of Nanaimo Land Use and Subdivision Bylaw No. 500, 1987".

This Plan Area is a development approval information area.<sup>1</sup>

### **Community Involvement**

The public consultation process conducted for the preparation of this Official Community Plan identified two major objectives of the community:

- *preserve, protect and enhance* the area's natural resources which include not only aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plants, but also freshwater, agricultural, forest, and mineral resources; and
- *accommodate* a moderate rate of new residential development through appropriate land use designations and policies intended to preserve established rural lifestyles and the general characteristics that have made the area attractive to its residents.

Residents through their actions and participation in the planning process are the final arbiters of community values. For the Plan to succeed, public awareness and understanding of the Plan will be critical.

### **Regional Context Statement**

The Arrowsmith Benson - Cranberry Bright, Official Community Plan is a community based initiative that responds to the Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) for the Regional District of Nanaimo.

The RGMP, adopted in January of 1997, describes a vision of a desirable future region and a strategy for attaining that vision. The eight goals of the RGMP are as follows:

1. Contain urban sprawl;
2. Create complete, livable communities;
3. Protect rural integrity;
4. Protect the natural environment;
5. Improve mobility;
6. Create a vibrant and sustainable economy;
7. Improve servicing and resource use efficiency; and
8. Encourage cooperation among jurisdictions.

The RGMP includes policies to achieve these eight goals.

The goals and policies of the RGMP guide the preparation and review of official community plans. Official community plans are the means of implementing the RGMP, and provincial statute requires that they must be consistent with the RGMP. Through the integration of the

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<sup>1</sup> Bylaw No. 1148.01, adopted June 13, 2000

RGMP goals into official community plans and the translation of RGMP policies into official community plan policies consistent with community values, communities work together towards achieving a future desired for the region.

In response to the RGMP goal of *containing urban sprawl*, the Arrowsmith Benson - Cranberry Bright, Official Community Plan designates urban boundaries to define the limits of Extension and limits the expansion of urban services outside of these boundaries.

In response to the RGMP goal of *creating complete, nodal communities*, the Official Community Plan recognizes the historical development pattern and existing parcel sizes within Extension. Furthermore, the Plan recognizes that for Extension to develop into a complete nodal community, existing parcels must first be provided with community water and sewer services, storm water management where applicable and development standards reflective of the historic form and character of development within Extension.

In response to the RGMP goal of *protecting rural integrity*, the Official Community Plan identifies the different types of rural neighbourhoods and lands within the Plan Area, and provides policies for protecting and enhancing their rural characteristics. The Plan seeks to ensure that changes, which may occur on these rural lands contribute to, rather than damage, their rural integrity.

In response to the RGMP goal of *protecting the natural environment*, the Official Community Plan identifies the different types of natural features present within the Plan Area, and provides policy supportive of protecting and enhancing these natural features.

In response to the RGMP goal of *improving mobility*, the Official Community Plan identifies existing and potential modes of transportation within the Plan Area.

In response to the RGMP goal of *creating a vibrant and sustainable economy*, the Official Community Plan identifies economic strengths within the Plan Area and provides policy direction to support those strengths in a manner compatible with the rural character of the Plan Area.

In response to the RGMP goal of *improving service and resource use efficiency*, the Official Community Plan establishes a framework for providing parks, community facilities and school facilities.

In response to the RGMP goal of *encouraging cooperation among jurisdictions*, the Official Community Plan provides general policy direction to facilitate better communication and a high level of interjurisdictional cooperation with the City of Nanaimo, abutting electoral areas, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, and provincial and federal agencies.

### ***Plan Format***<sup>2</sup>

The Arrowsmith Benson — Cranberry Bright Official Community Plan is organized around the eight goals of the Regional Growth Strategy. The first eight sections of the Plan speak to one of these eight goals and the ninth section, Climate Change, encompasses all goals. Each section of the Plan contains specific objectives and policies.

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<sup>2</sup> Bylaw 1148.06, adopted May 25, 2010