



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

5-Year Review

2017-2021

Shaping Our Future



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Executive Summary

The Regional Growth Strategy: Shaping Our Future (RDN 2011) is the shared vision for the region guiding growth based on sustainability principles and integrated through goals and policies to create a framework for decision-making. The 2021 edition of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Annual report provides a five-year review and trend analysis for the period of 2017 to 2021 to evaluate progress made toward these goals measured by both qualitative and quantitative data provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), member municipalities and external agencies.

Over the past five years, progress made toward the RGS goals varied with nine indicators showing positive progress, five indicators stable, and five indicators moving away from the regional goals. Note that three of the original 22 indicators are no longer reported on as the data has not been made available from the Province of BC since 2012. A longer five-year review and trend analysis has shown some different results than a yearly review, with some indicators identified as ‘moving towards’ their target for small yearly wins while the long-term trend shows the indicators are ‘moving away’ from their targets. This has resulted in a slight decrease in the number of indicators identified as ‘moving towards’ or meeting their targets and a few more identified as ‘moving away’ from their targets than in previous years. There have also been significant shifts in other indicators resulting from new data from the 2021 Census.

MOVING TOWARDS TARGET

- **Goal 2: Indicator #6 - Amount of land in protected areas.** The target is to increase the amount of land in protected areas. Since 2017, there has been an overall decrease in the amount of land in protected areas, which can be attributed to changes in data collection and availability. Since 2018, however, the RDN Electoral Areas, the City of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville and the District of Lantzville increased protected areas by 114 ha.
- **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 living within close proximity of places to work, play, learn and shop. Over the five year period, there has been an increase consistent with the target of households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping within the region. The largest increases were seen in the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville, indicating a positive trend towards achieving the desired target of directing new development into mixed-use centres.

- **Goal 3: Indicator #8 - Per capita transit use.** The target is to increase per capita transit use and the general trend over the five year monitoring period was a consistent increase in both transit rides and per capita transit use. The exception, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was the 2020-2021 reporting year with has an expected significant loss in both ridership and per capita transit use.

- **Goal 4: Indicator #9 - Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB).** The target is to increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB which has been met as proportionately more people are living within the GCB than outside the GCB. Progress towards this goal contributes to the vision set out in the RGS to create compact, complete communities.

- **Goal 4: Indicator #10 - Density of dwelling units inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB).** The target is to increase the density of dwelling units within the GCB. Over the five year monitoring period, the RDN Electoral Areas, the City of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville and the District of Lantzville have increased the density of dwelling units per hectare within the GCB. The largest increase was seen in the City of Parksville where the density of dwelling units inside the GCB increased by 2.09 units/ ha and in the City of Nanaimo which increased by 0.53 units/ ha, since 2017.

- **Goal 5: Indicator #12 - The Number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB).** The target is to increase the proportion of development within the GCB, in which, over the past 5 years, 98% of the new lots/units were located. A total of 6,943 new lots were created inside and 203 lots outside of the GCB during this period, which substantively achieving the target.

- **Goal 6: Indicator #16 - The portion of units in each housing type inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) (diversity of housing types).** The target is to increase the proportion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB, which since 2018, saw 23% more ground-oriented and apartment dwellings constructed, than single-detached dwellings.

- **Goal 9: Indicator #18 - Amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks, and recreational facilities such as pools and ice rinks).** The target is to increase the amount of publicly owned land for parks and recreation facilities which, has increased 141 ha from 5,970 ha in 2018 to 6,111 ha in 2021 (excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach).
- **Goal 10: Indicator #22 - Per capita length of roads.** The target is to decrease the per capita length of road, which, over the past five years, decreased from 11.74m/person to 10.18m/person for an overall decrease of 1.56m/person. This decrease can be attributed to the population increase during this time.

MAINTAINING TARGET (STABLE)

- **Goal 2: Indicator #4 –Total Water Consumption.** The 2004 to 2018 target of 33% was not achieved. Between 2017 and 2021, water consumption increased in the Electoral Areas by 5%, and in the City of Parkville by 6%, while it decreased in the City of Nanaimo by 10%. During this same period, the region as a whole had a population increase of 9.4%. Although water consumption did increase in the City of Parkville and the Electoral Areas, it increased at a slower rate than the population grew. Note: This indicator is under review as part of the update to the RGS.
- **Goal 2: Indicator #5 - Surface water quality (community watershed monitoring).** Surface water quality varies in the region with some watersheds maintaining a stable condition, while others reporting improvements and several reporting degrading conditions. Changing climate impacts of increasing high-intensity rainfall events in the fall and longer earlier onset heat and drought in the summer can have a significant impact on the turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in the water. This makes it difficult to establish a trend over a five year period however the average is stable.
- **Goal 4: Indicator #11 - Diversity of land use (ratio) inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB).** The target is to increase land use diversity inside the GCB. The region has not increased the land use diversity inside the GCB; however, the proportion of land uses has remained stable and consistent with the desired land use ratio for Urban Areas and Rural Village centres.

- **Goal 5: Indicator #13 - Number of parcels with Farm Class.** The target is to increase the number of parcels with Farm Status. The number of parcels with farm status fluctuates yearly; likely due to the irregular reporting cycle for farm gate income with BC Assessment. Over the five year monitoring period, some years reported decreases while other years reported gains (not exceeding the 2017 baseline year of 713 parcels). The five year average is 681 parcels with Farm Status.

- **Goal 7: Indicator #17 - [Unemployment] employment rate and labour force participation.** The target is to maintain an unemployment rate between 3-6% and increase labour force participation. The unemployment rate remained within the desired RGS target of 3-6%, between 2017 and 2019 ranging from 5.7% to 4.6%. In 2020, the unemployment rate jumped to 9.1% which was likely a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. During this same period, labour force participation increased from 62.8% of persons of working age in 2017 to 62.1% in 2020.

MOVING AWAY FROM TARGET

- **Goal 5: Indicator #14 - The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL).** The target is to increase the amount of land available for natural resource use (farming, forestry, outdoor recreation) measured by the amount of land classified as PMFL. In 2017, the region had a total of 133,174 hectares of PMFL, which decreased by 389 ha to 132,785 hectares in 2021.

- **Goal 6: Indicator #15 - The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50% of the median for the region.** The target is to increase the proportion of households living in housing that meets their needs (appropriate, adequate, adaptable, sustainable, affordable and attainable). Over the past five years, the number of renter households above or equal to the affordable rental threshold (ART) has almost doubled, increasing from 2,724 in 2017 to 4,823 renter households. During the same period, the number of affordable rental units decreased from 26% in 2017 to less than 15% in 2021.

- **Goal 9: Indicator #19 - Per Capita length of maintained trails (including trails, paths and laneways).** The target is to increase the per capita length of maintained trails. The length of trails per capita decreased from 2.53 metres in 2017 to 2.33 metres in 2021. Despite an increase in the length of mapped trails, the increase in population during this time has led to a decrease in the length of trails per capita.

- **Goal 10: Indicator #20 - Per Capita waste disposal.** The target is to decrease the per capita amount of waste going into the landfill to less than 350 kilograms/person. Over the last five years, the region has not met this target, likely due to several factors, including new development and home renovations. In recent years, however, the region has seen a decrease in per capita waste disposal with the 2020 data being only 5 kg/person over the goal of 350 kg/person.

- **Goal 10: Indicator #21 - Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems.** The target is to decrease the per capita cost of water and sewer systems. Overall, the region is moving away from the target as the cost of the services continues to increase yearly. Note: This indicator is under review as part of the update to the RGS.

SUMMARY OF APPROACH

The RGS Annual Report and monitoring program reviews the progress the RDN and member municipalities have made towards achieving the RGS goals. Twenty-two indicators were established to measure progress toward achieving the 11 RGS Goals. This report is a five year review and trend analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data provided through the continued collaborative efforts of both the member municipalities and the RDN for the 2017-2021 monitoring period. The analysis of the indicators herein will inform the RGS Review to evaluate the current monitoring program for continuous improvement in data gathering, analysis and reporting.

Unlike the RGS Annual report, the 5-Year Review does not include sections on regional or municipal actions for each goal.



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) is a strategic plan adopted by the RDN Board that aims to establish a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region over a twenty-year period. The RGS encourages and directs most new development in the region within designated Growth Containment Boundaries (GCB), thereby keeping urban settlement compact, protecting the integrity of rural and resource areas, protecting the environment, increasing servicing efficiency, and retaining mobility within the region.

The RGS represents a commitment by the RDN and its member municipalities to take a series of actions to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the region. Part of this commitment involves being accountable to residents about how the RGS is being implemented and the level of progress being made towards reaching its goals.





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 (Policy 3.2.2.1).

This Annual Progress Report of 2020 reflects the RGS purpose, vision and goals to set the stage for documenting operations taken in 2020 by the RDN and member municipalities towards implementing the RGS. This report also incorporates performance indicators from the RGS Monitoring Program, where data is available, with the intention of tracking trends to address the goals of the RGS. In addition, the Appendix of this report includes a summary of

3. Role & Purpose

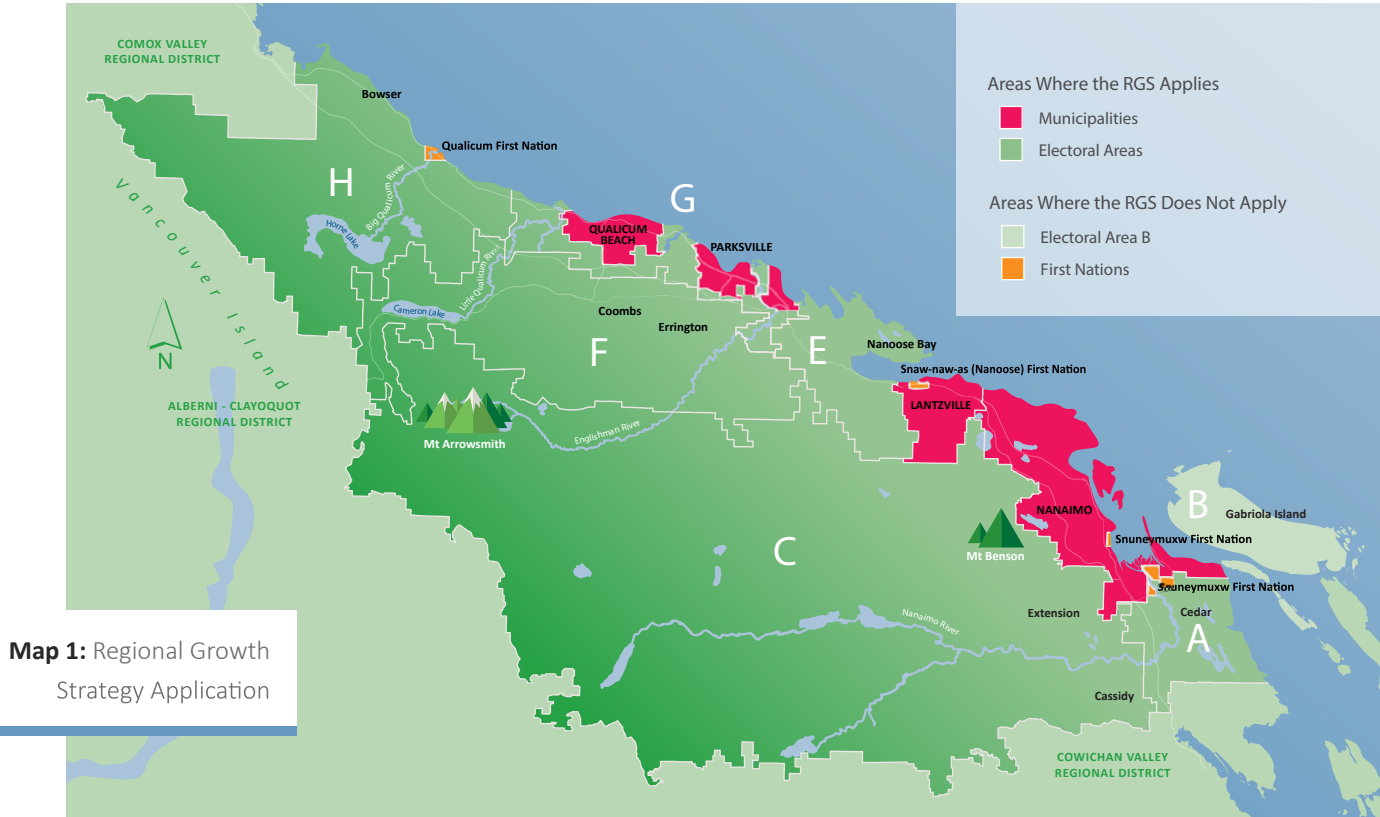
The purpose of the RGS is to:

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

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

The first RGS was adopted in 1997 in response to residents’ concerns about the impacts of rapid population growth and development in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Given that the impacts of growth cross jurisdictional boundaries, it was recognized that a coordinated approach to community planning was necessary to effectively address growth management issues.

The RGS provides a framework for member municipalities and the RDN to coordinate growth management issues that cross local government boundaries. The RGS also provides a mechanism to connect with provincial ministries and agencies who have jurisdiction in areas that impact land use and community planning, and whose resources are needed to implement projects and programs. Inter-jurisdictional coordination is essential to protecting our environment and achieving a high quality of life for present and future residents in the region.

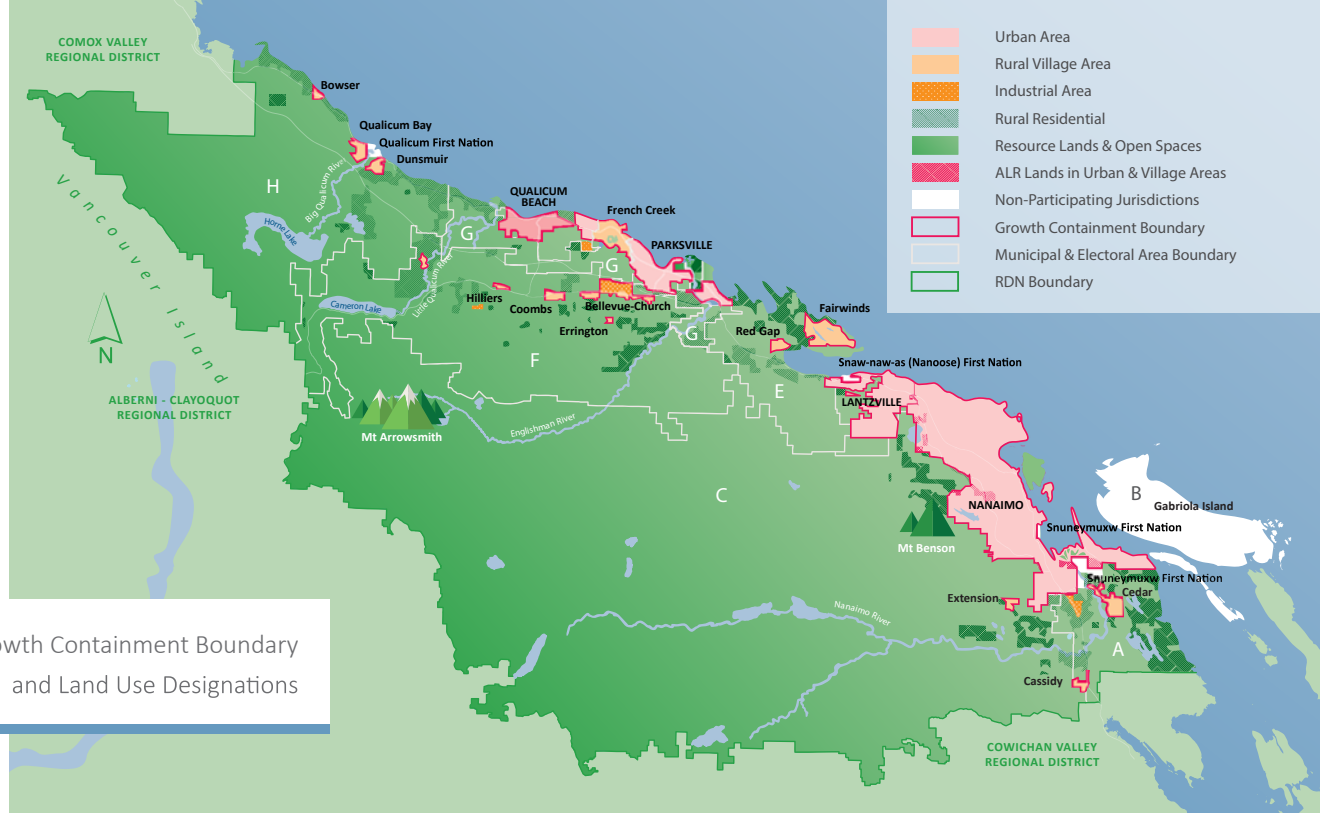


The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown in Map 1 on the following page. The RGS doesn't apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area B) as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also doesn't apply to lands under the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

The RGS uses a line on the map called a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) to separate areas designated for future growth from other areas where environmental protection and resource values are a priority. Lands designated as Urban Area within municipalities are intended to absorb the majority of the region's future growth. In the RDN Electoral Areas, land designated as Rural Village Areas are intended to accommodate lower levels of growth more compatible with their rural settings. Development within the GCB (Urban and Rural Village Areas) is intended to be diverse and provide places for people to live, work, learn, shop and play. This may also include lands to be conserved to support ecosystem functions or other green space purposes. Land outside of the GCB is intended to support ecosystem functions and rural uses that require only limited infrastructure and services to be viable.

4. Vision

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



Map 2: Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations

The region will be recognized for an outstanding quality of urban and rural life that is grounded in a strong commitment to protecting the natural environment and minimizing harm to life-sustaining ecological systems. Working in partnership with interested organizations, the RDN and its member municipalities are committed to achieving:

- High standards of environmental protection that preserve habitat, enhance ecological diversity, and maintain air and water quality;
- Enhanced food security in the region;
- Urban development that is contained and distinct in form and character from rural development;
- Complete, compact communities designed to provide housing that meets the needs of all households and that provide excellent access to nearby workplaces, goods and services, learning institutions, recreation opportunities and natural areas;
- Expansion and enhancement of mobility options that reduce automobile dependency;
- A strong and resilient economy based on agriculture, natural resource assets, tourism and information age industries and services such as health and education; and
- Efficient, state-of-the-art servicing, infrastructure, and resource utilization.

5. Principles

The goals and policies of the RGS are grounded in the following sustainability principles that are intended to guide how decisions are made regarding the future life of the region:

- Decisions and actions have regard for local and global consequences;
- The interconnectedness and interdependence of natural and human systems are recognized and respected;
- The healthy functioning of ecological systems is nurtured;
- The qualities of place that create pride and a sense of community are nurtured;
- Efficiency, including the concept of zero-waste, is optimized;
- Equity amongst all citizens and across generations, including future generations, is ensured;
- Decision-making processes are based on participation, collaboration and cooperation with citizens, other authorities, and organizations; and
- We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

6. Goals, Indicators & Targets

The RGS is based upon 11 goals that work towards achieving the collective vision of regional sustainability. Policies in the RGS provide the direction to take specific actions to implement the RGS goals.

In January 2015, the RDN Board approved a final list of 22 indicators and related targets to measure the region's progress towards the 11 goals of the RGS. Targets and indicators are closely linked. Indicators tell us whether or not the results of our actions are consistent with achieving our targets. Targets are specific results to be achieved over time within a social, cultural, economic or environmental system.

Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption	
Indicator	Target
#1 Total community greenhouse gas emissions	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050
#2 Per capita non-renewable energy use	Reduce per capita energy use
#3 Total community energy use	Reduce total energy use
Goal 2: Protect the Environment	
Indicator	Target
#4 Total water consumption	Reduce water consumption- decrease the average residential and commercial water use by 33% between 2004 and 2018.
#5 Surface water quality (Community Watershed Monitoring)	Improve surface water quality
#6 Amount of land in protected areas	Increase amount of land in protected areas
Goal 3: Coordinate land Use and Mobility	
Indicator	Target
#7 Number of households within a set distance of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities	Increase the number of households living within close proximity to places to work, play, learn and shop
#8 Per capita transit use	Increase per capita transit use
Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth	
Indicator	Target
#9 Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)	Increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB
#10 Density of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB	Increase the density of dwelling units within the GCB
#11 Diversity of land use (ratio) inside the GCB	Increase the land use diversity inside the GCB
Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity	
Indicator	Target
#12 The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB	Increase the proportion of development inside the GCB
#13 Number of parcels with Farm Status	Increase the number of parcels with Farm Status
#14 The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land	Increase the amount of land available for natural resource uses (farm, forestry, outdoor recreation)

Goal 6: Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing	
Indicator	Target
#15 The total number of rental units affordable to households with income below 50% of the median income for the region	Increase the proportion of households living in housing that meets their needs (appropriate, adequate, adaptable, sustainable, affordable and attainable)
#16 The portion of units in each housing type inside the Growth Containment Boundary (diversity of housing types in GCB)	Increase the portion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB
Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency	
Indicator	Target
#17 [Unemployment] Employment rate and labour participation rate	Maintain an unemployment rate between 3 – 6% and increase the labour force participation rate
Goal 8: Enhance Food Security	
Indicator	Target
Number of parcels with Farm Status	Same as Goal 5: Indicator #13: Increase the number of parcels with Farm Status
Goal 9: Pride of Place	
Indicator	Target
#18 The amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks and recreational facilities)	Increase the amount of land for parks and recreational facilities
#19 Per capita length of maintained public trails (including trails, paths, laneways)	Increase the per capita length of maintained trails
Goal 10: Efficient Services	
Indicator	Target
#20 Per capita waste disposal	Decrease the per capita amount of waste going to the landfill (amount of waste sent to the landfill per person) below 350 kg/person
#21 Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems	Decrease per capita cost of providing water and sewer systems
#22 Per capita length of roads (length of paved roads per person)	Decrease the per capita length of roads
Goal 11: Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	

7. Implementation

Section 5.2 of the RGS addresses implementation and identifies specific projects that are intended to work towards achieving RGS goals. Implementation is a key part of being accountable to RDN residents about what is being done to achieve the goals they identified as important.

7.1 REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY MONITORING PROGRAM

To ensure consistent monitoring, evaluation and public reporting on progress towards the RGS goals, the RDN established the RGS Monitoring Program. The program includes the preparation of an annual report that is presented to the Board of the Regional District and made publicly available on the RDN's public website.

Regional Growth Strategy - 5-Year Review

This report is a five year review and trend analysis of quantitative data provided through the continued collaborative efforts of both the member municipalities and the RDN for the 2017-2021 monitoring period.

Data Limitations

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

Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Website

The RGS content on the RDN's website is intended to be highly accessible. Reporting is ongoing, and information is updated as it becomes available. The report and information on the website will be updated on an annual basis, or as new information becomes available.

RGS Monitoring website: www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy



8. Progress Towards Achieving The RGS

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



8.1

GOAL 1 – PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Goal 1 – Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption includes three indicators, which track progress towards this goal:

1. Total Community greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)
2. Per capita non-renewable energy use
3. Total community energy use

Due to changes, the Province has not provided local emissions and energy use data since 2021. Nonetheless, local initiatives towards our energy and emissions reduction goals include GHG emissions reduction through the landfill gas collection project, the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre biogas capture project, Green Building incentive programs, and the adoption of a Climate Resiliency Strategy in the City of Nanaimo, to name a few.

Actions to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change are advancing. Through the RGS Update, a few policy changes are anticipated and related performance measures will be updated to improve future years' reporting.



8.2

GOAL 2 – PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

8.2.1 RGS Indicator #4: Total water consumption

Target is to decrease the average residential and commercial water use by 33% between 2004 and 2018

Water is recognized as a vulnerable resource and is critical for the health of all ecosystems and human communities. While water supply may seem abundant in the region, recent trends of long summers with less precipitation have put pressure on local water resources at a time when water use is at its highest. This indicator is a measure of water conservation and it tells us if the amount of water consumed is increasing or decreasing. The original target noted above identifies a specific range; a new target will be created as part of the RGS review.

While the 2004 to 2018 target of 33% was not achieved, the five year analysis indicates that overall water consumption has increased in the Electoral Areas and the City of Parksville while it has decreased in the City of Nanaimo. Between 2017 to 2021, water consumption increased in the Electoral Areas by 5% and in the City of Parksville by 6%. During this period the population in the Electoral Area and the City of Parksville increased by over 9%. In the same 5-year period the City of Nanaimo saw a 10% decrease in total water consumption and a 10% population increase. Although water consumption did increase in the City of Parksville and the Electoral Areas, it increased at a slower rate than the population, showing progress towards meeting the target of decreasing water consumption. The decrease in water consumption in the City of Nanaimo, despite the increase in the population, shows further progress towards achieving the target.

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

Target is to improve surface water quality

This indicator reflects the total number of sites that met the BC Water Quality Guidelines for turbidity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen.

Over the past four years, the Community Watershed Monitoring Network (CWMN) has continued to collect water quality samples from between 62 and 67 sites on 34 streams in the region to measure and track changes in the health of local watersheds. As shown in the table below the monitored streams that met the BC Water Quality Guidelines have fluctuated yearly.

Table 1: RDN Monitored Streams Analysis

Monitored Streams that Meet the BC Water Quality Guidelines			
	Turbidity	Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen
2018	38 sites met guidelines out of 62 sites	43 sites met guidelines out of 62 sites	36 sites met guidelines out of 62 sites
2019	36 sites met guidelines out of 65 sites	47 sites met guidelines out of 65 sites	41 sites met guidelines out of 65 sites
2020	16 sites met guidelines out of 67 sites	43 sites met guidelines out of 67 sites	48 sites met guidelines out of 67 sites
2021	33 sites met guidelines out of 66 sites	26 sites met guidelines out of 64 sites	44 sites met guidelines out of 64 sites

The findings of the CWMN provide information on environmental water conditions and a baseline understanding of regional surface water quality so it can be tracked for change and improvement over time. Generally, surface water quality in the region is maintaining a stable condition, improving in several locations and degrading in others. Ongoing climate impacts are being observed in the region with increasing high-intensity rainfall events in the fall and longer earlier onset heat and drought in the summer impacting the turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in the water making it difficult to establish a trend over a five year period.

Collecting and analyzing the baseline data helps to pinpoint streams requiring enhancement, restoration, targeted outreach/policy changes or increased monitoring, which, in part, is implemented / supported by the RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program.

8.2.3 RGS Indicator #6: Amount of land in protected areas

RGS target is to increase the amount of land in protected areas

Natural Areas support habitat for wildlife and plants, the recharge of groundwater and surface water, and the absorption of carbon from the atmosphere. The RGS goal is to protect and enhance the environment and minimize ecological damage related to growth and development. This indicator tells us how much land is within a protected area designated by the federal, provincial or local government.

Between 2017 and 2021, there has been an overall decrease in the amount of land in protected areas. The majority of the decrease can be attributed to changes in data collection methods by the City of Nanaimo between 2017 and 2018, and unavailable data from the Town of Qualicum Beach. Since 2018, the region has seen an increase in land in protected areas with the City of Nanaimo gaining 104 ha, the City of Parksville gaining six ha and the RDN Electoral Areas gaining four ha, as can be observed in Table 3 below.

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

	Nanaimo (HA)	Parksville (HA)	Qualicum (HA)*	Electoral Areas and Lantzville (HA)	Total (HA)
2017	1936	107	159	4,368	6,570
2018	1687	163	159	4,356	6,365
2019	1785	163	-	4,358	6,306
2020	1760	169	-	4,358	6,287
2021	1791	169	-	4,360	6,320

* Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

GOAL 2 - KEY FINDINGS

Steady progress has been made to reduce overall water consumption across the region despite the continued increase in population. Ongoing actions have been implemented, and public education campaigns conducted, to enhance existing programs aimed at watershed protection and groundwater data collection to better assess the state of the region's aquifers. Increased testing, and additional years of data recorded for the testing program, enhances the opportunity for more insight and analysis on the health of our watershed. With more widespread testing and available data, opportunities can be identified and measures taken to continue improving the quality of water in the region.



8.3 GOAL 3 – COORDINATE LAND USE AND MOBILITY

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

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

Table 4: Total Number of Households within 400 m of Services (2017-2021)

		Bus Stops	Schools	Employment Lands	Shopping Centre
Nanaimo*	2017	36,411	18,930	6,671	10,714
	2018	38,996	20,912	16,059	15,942
	2019	39,483	21,694	16,392	16,441
	2020	39,928	21,899	16,643	16,622
	2021	41,168	22,616	16,719	17,152
Parksville*	2017	-	1,025	3,837	2,446
	2018	-	1,019	4,029	2,524
	2019	6,606	1,024	4,454	2,607
	2020	6,198	1,125	4,801	2,641
	2021	6,060**	978**	5,175	4,276
Qualicum Beach*	2017	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2018	-	1,165	-	1,005
	2019	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-
Lantzville*	2017	1,021	192	1,201	-
	2018	1,020	190	1,206	-
	2019	1,033	191	1,231	-
	2020	1,010	191	1,028	-
	2021	1,023	192	1,035	-
Electoral Areas	2017	3,664	996	8,741	597
	2018	3,684	1,000	8,821	600
	2019	3,726	1,029	8,902	602
	2020	4,022	1,035	8,837	608
	2021	4,053	1,037	8,933	620

* Information not available from member municipalities for certain years

** City of Parksville established a new GIS system in 2021 - discrepancy likely a result of the switch

8.3.2 RGS Indicator #8: Per capita transit use

RGS Target is to increase per capita transit use

Transit rides and per capita ridership showed continuous growth between the 2016/17 and the 2019/20 reporting years. Transit rides increased by 685,309 rides per year in the four year period; from 2,830,691 rides in the 2016/17 reporting year to 3,516,000 rides in the 2019/20 reporting year. Similarly, the per capita rides increased by 12.59 over the same four-year period from 18.2 per capita in 2016/17 to 30.79 per capita in the 2019/20 reporting year.

The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on the use of transit. Total rides dropped to 1,850,200 rides and the per capita transit use dropped to 10.8 per capita in the 2020/21 reporting year. Despite the loss of ridership as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the general trend observed over the five year period was an increase in per capita transit use.

GOAL 3 - KEY FINDINGS

The region has seen an increase in the number of households living within close proximity to bus stops, schools, employment lands and shopping, which is positive progress toward Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility. Transit rides and per capita ridership showed continuous growth from the 2016/17 reporting year to the 2019/20 reporting year. Although the COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on Transit use, the general trend over the five year period was an increase in per capita transit use.



8.4 GOAL 4 – CONCENTRATE HOUSING & JOBS IN RURAL VILLAGES, URBAN GROWTH CENTRES

8.4.1 RGS Indicator #9: Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)

RGS Target is to increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB

The RGS encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct future population growth inside the GCB. This indicator uses the number of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB in the Urban Areas and Rural Village Areas. The number of dwelling units is multiplied by the average household size available from the Canadian Census data to provide an estimate of the population inside and outside the GCB.

Since 2018, the target has been met as there are proportionately more people living within the GCB than outside. During this period, the RDN Electoral Areas saw growth outside of the GCB as a significant portion of dwelling and developable areas are located outside, however, the majority of the growth in the region continues to take place inside the GCB.

Table 5: Estimated Population Inside and Outside the GCB (2018-2021)

	Nanaimo		Parksville		Qualicum*		Lantzville		Electoral Areas		Total	
	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside
2018	105,052	9	12,842	46	12,514	0	3,573	83	11,781	26,435	145,439	26,573
2019	105,848	9	13,714	46	-	-	3,643	85	11,891	27,029	135,802*	27,169
2020	107,909	9	15,042	46	-	-	3,574	82	13,097	29,392	139,622*	29,529
2021	109,906	9	15,042	46	-	-	3,783	85	12,414	34,209	141,145*	34,349

* Information not available for 2017 or for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

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

8.4.2 RGS Indicator #10: Density of Dwelling units inside and outside of the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)

RGS Target is to increase the density of dwelling units within the GCB

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

Over the last five years, density has increased yearly in the urban centres, with the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville seeing the greatest increases. This is contributed to healthy development activities in both cities, including a mix of housing types such as multi-unit development. In 2017, the City of Parksville had 4.44 units/ ha increasing by 2.09 units/ ha to 6.49 units/ ha in 2021. Similarly, the density of dwelling units per hectare within the

City of Nanaimo increased by 0.53 units/ ha during the same five year period. Both RDN Electoral Areas and the District of Lantzville saw slight increases in the density of dwellings per hectare within the GCB for a total increase of 0.34 units/ ha within the GCB of the RDN Electoral Areas, and an increase of 0.05 units/ ha within the GCB of the District of Lantzville.

During the five year monitoring period, the Rural Village Centres, have seen very little growth which is likely a result of a lack in community services.

The density of dwelling units per hectare outside the GCB has remained stable at 0.01 units/ ha within the City of Nanaimo, has decreased by 0.06 units/ ha within the City of Parksville, and has increased by 0.01 units/ ha within the District of Lantzville and 0.02 units/ ha within the RDN Electoral Areas. Despite the slight increases in the density of dwelling units per hectare outside of the GCB of the District of Lantzville and the RDN Electoral Areas, the increases seen within the GCB over the past five years show that the region is moving towards its target

Table 6: Density of Units Per Hectare Inside/Outside the GCB

	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
2017	4.87	0.01	4.44	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06
2018	5.13	0.01	5.85	0.13	6.48	0.3	0.85	0.02	2.31	0.06
2019	5.21	0.01	6.56	0.06	-	-	0.87	0.03	2.33	0.08
2020	5.3	0.01	6.83	0.07	-	-	0.89	0.03	2.35	0.08
2021	5.4	0.01	6.49	0.07	-	-	0.90	0.03	2.37	0.08

* Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

8.4.3 RGS Indicator #11: Diversity of Land Use (ratio inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB))

RGS Target is to increase the land use diversity inside the GCB

This indicator shows the proportion of different land uses (as a ratio) within the GCB. This is an indicator of how complete a community is, based on the existing mix of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and recreational uses. This indicator applies to Urban Areas in municipalities and Rural Village Centres in electoral areas.

The ideal land use mix to support complete, compact communities, identified in the Rural Village Centre Study (2013), is 10-15% public uses (Recreational and Institutional), 10-40% commercial and employment uses (Industrial and Mixed-Use), and 50-80% for residential uses. Since 2017, the proportion of land uses within the RDN electoral areas and the member municipalities have remained consistent with the desired land use ratio for Rural Village centres.

Over the past five years, the proportion of land uses within the RDN Electoral Areas, the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville have remained consistent and within the desired land use ratio for Rural Village centres. In 2020, the District of Lantzville adopted a new zoning bylaw which resulted in a 20% increase in residential lands and a 33.5% decrease in recreational lands. Overall, during this five year monitoring period the region has not achieved the target to increase the land use diversity inside the GCB, however, the proportion of land uses has remained stable.

Table 7: Diversity of Land Uses in Urban & Rural Village Centres in the RDN (2017-2021)

		Residential (%)	Commercial (%)	Industrial (%)	Mixed Use (%)	Institutional (%)	Recreational (%)
Electoral Areas	2017	61	7	11	5	6	10
	2018	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2019	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2020	61	6	11	6	6	10
	2021	61	7	11	6	6	9
Lantzville	2017	62	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	34.5
	2018	62	0.4	0.6	0.5	2	34.5
	2019	62	0.4	0.6	0.5	2	34.5
	2020	82	0.5	1	0.5	15	1
	2021	82	0.5	1	0.5	15	1
Parksville	2018	48	12	4	6	8	22
	2019	51	11	4	6	7.5*	20.5
	2020	51	9	4	6	7.5*	20
	2021	44	9	4	10	7.5*	18
Qualicum Beach**	2017	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2018	70	9	1	8	4	8
	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nanaimo	2017	49	3	10	3	3	15
	2018	48	3	10	5	2	15
	2019	48	2	10	5	2	16
	2020	48	3	10	5	2	15
	2021	48	3	10	5	2	15

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

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

GOAL 4 - KEY FINDINGS

Over the past five years, the region has been progressing towards Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Villages and Urban Growth Centres. The data shows, that a greater proportion of people continue to live inside the GCB than outside the GCB. The region has also taken positive strides toward increasing the density of dwelling units within the GCB and meeting its target, while the diversity of land uses has remained stable and aligned with the ideal land use mix to support complete, compact communities.



8.5 GOAL 5 – ENHANCE RURAL INTEGRITY

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

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

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

This indicator tells us the proportion of new developments inside and outside the GCB. Over the past five years, 98% of new lots/ units have been located within the GCB, for a total of 6,943 new lots within the GCB and 203 lots outside of the GCB, achieving the target to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB.

6,943
new lots
inside GCB

203
new lots
outside GCB

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

	Nanaimo*		Parksville*		Qualicum Beach*		Lantzville		Electoral Areas	
	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out	Inside	Out
2017	1,193	0	50	0	1	0	2	1	30	37
2018	1,308	0	51	0	1	0	100	0	20	28
2019	1,719	0	36	0	-	-	6	1	20	56
2020	1,295	0	51	0	-	-	4	0	38	34
2021	904	0	30	0	-	-	10	0	74	44

* Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach 2019-2021

Most of the 182 new lots created in the GCB of the Electoral Areas were a result of new subdivisions in the French Creek Area of Electoral Area G and the construction of The Westerly – a 39-unit condominium building in Electoral Area E.

8.5.2 RGS Indicator #13: Number of Parcels with Farm Status

RGS Target is to increase the number of parcels with Farm Status

This indicator shows the number of parcels of land inside and outside the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) that receive and maintain Farm Status as determined by BC Assessment. To be eligible for this classification, the land must generate income from one or more qualifying agricultural uses and be reported to BC Assessment once every two years. This information indicates how much land is being used to produce food and other agricultural products in the region.

The number of parcels with farm status fluctuates yearly; likely due to the irregular reporting cycle for farm gate income with BC Assessment. The largest number of parcels with Farm Status, totaling 713, were reported in 2017. Since then the number of parcels has fluctuated year-to-year with some decreases and some gains, but not to the level of the 2017 baseline year. The five year average is 681 parcels with Farm Status.

To enhance future monitoring the target could be adjusted to recognize the desire to meet or exceed 713 parcels.

Table 9: Number of Parcels with Farm Status

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville*	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2017	45	-	28	12	628	713
2018	45	2	28	12	587	674
2019	42	2	-	11	627	682
2020	36	2	-	13	606	657
2021	37	2	-	13	625	677

* Information not available for the City of Parksville in 2017 or the Town of Qualicum Beach 2019-2021

To monitor potential changes in agricultural land use, a baseline for land designated for agricultural use was established in 2019. In 2019, there were 21,829 hectares of land designated for agricultural use in the Electoral Areas, decreasing to 21,685 hectares in 2021, as shown in Table 10. Much of the lost agriculturally-zoned land can be attributed to the rezoning of the Nanaimo Airport Lands in Electoral Area A and the ALC Boundary review.

Table 10: Hectares of Agricultural Land with the RDN Electoral Areas and District of Lantzville

	Hectares of Farm Class Inside ALR	Hectares of Farm Status Outside of ALR	Hectares of Agriculturally Zoned Land Inside of ALR	Hectares of Agriculturally Zoned Land Outside ALR
2019	5,729	1,112	16,063	5,766
2020	5,652	1,062	16,056	5,764
2021	5,616	1,102	15,963	5,722

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

8.5.3 RGS Indicator #14: The Amount of Land Classified as Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL)

RGS Target is to increase the amount of land available for natural resource use (farming, forestry, outdoor recreation)

PMFL is a BC Assessment property classification established to encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term forest production. The majority of these lands are located outside the GCB.

Since 2017, the region has seen a consistent decline in the total hectares of PMFL with a total of 133,174 hectares decreasing to 132,785 hectares by 2021. It is important to note the overall loss of 389 hectares does not include data from the Town of Qualicum Beach which reported 129 hectares in 2017 and 2018. Decreases in the amount of PMFL can reflect the land transitioning from being actively managed as forest lands to being used for residential or other permitted uses.

In 2021, an estimated 132,785 hectares or 64% of the region's land base is still classified as PMFL.

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

	City of Nanaimo	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2017	160	129	723	132,291	133,303
2018	217	129	723	132,143	133,212
2019	217	-	723	132,045	132,985
2020	217	-	723	132,017	132,957
2021	197	-	722	131,866	132,785

* The City of Parksville does not have any lands designated Private Managed Forest Land and information is not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021.

GOAL 5 - KEY FINDINGS

The indicators for Goal 5 have mixed results. Over the past five years, 98% of the region's growth has been located within the GCB, achieving the target of increasing the proportion of development within the GCB. Since 2017, the number of parcels with Farm Status has fluctuated year-to-year with some decreases and some gains. Although the number of parcels with Farm Status has not reached the high of the 2017 baseline year, the number of parcels has remained relatively stable. During the same period, the region has seen a decrease in the amount of land classified as PMFL, moving away from the target of increasing the amount of land available for natural resource use.



8.6 GOAL 6 – FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

8.6.1 *RGS Indicator #15: The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50% 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 the affordable market and social housing for seniors, youth, those with special needs, those with moderate or low incomes and people experiencing homelessness. This indicator tells us the amount of documented market rental units that are affordable to those with lower incomes in the region. The median household income according to 2021 Census data is \$76,000.

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

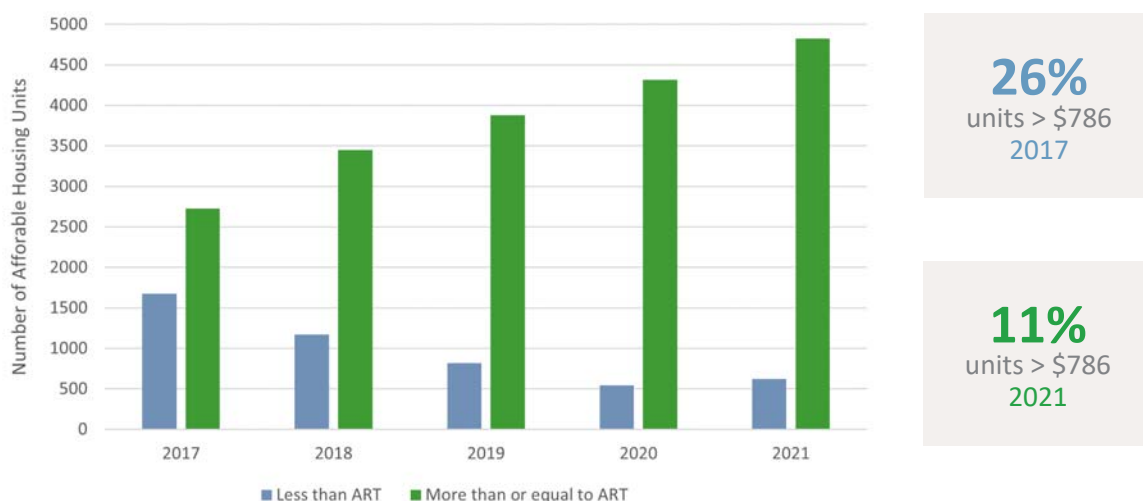
As shown in Table 12 and Chart 1, housing affordability is an ongoing challenge in the region. Over the past five years, the number of renter households spending 30% or more of their income on housing has almost doubled. There are 2,099 renter households above or equal to ART than there were in 2017. During the same period, the number of affordable rental units decreased from 26% in 2017 to less than 15% in 2021. This data shows that the region is moving away from the target of increasing housing affordability, as the cost of housing continues to outpace increases in household incomes.

Table 12: Total number of renter households above or equal to the affordable household threshold (2011-2021)

Year	Renter Households above or Equal to ART	Amount of Change Between Years (renter households)
2017	2,724	+434
2018	3,451	+727
2019	3,877	+426
2020	4,315	+438
2021	4,823	+508

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

Chart 1: Total number of rental units affordable to low income thresholds



Data source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 2017-2021

8.6.2 *RGS Indicator #16: The portion of units in each housing type inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) (diversity of housing types in the GCB)*

RGS Target is to increase the portion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB

Diverse forms of housing within growth centres provide for different housing needs while keeping residents close to the services they require daily. Other benefits of compact communities include the efficient servicing of development and the protection of natural areas outside of growth centres.

This indicator measures the number of dwelling units by type within the GBC. The types of dwelling units included in the indicator are single-detached dwellings, other ground-oriented dwellings (duplexes, townhomes and manufactured homes) and apartments (low-rise and high-rise multi-family). Although there is limited yearly data available for this indicator, tracking the diverse type of housing forms is important to understand what type of development is occurring in different areas of the region.

Since 2018, the region has seen an increase of 3,017 ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings and 2,321 single-detached dwellings created within the GBCs of the City of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville and the District of Lantzville. During this period, there were 23% more ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings than single-detached dwellings, showing progress toward the target of increasing the proportion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB.

Table 13: Dwelling Types within the GCB

		Single Detached Family Dwelling	Other Ground Oriented Dwellings	Apartment Dwellings
Electoral Areas	2018	3,710	1,447	51
	2019	3,722	1,456	51
	2020	3,730	1,472	51
	2021	3,748	1,470	52
Lantzville	2018	1,321	89	0
	2019	1,322	89	0
	2020	1,326	105	0
	2021	1,321	105	0
Parksville	2018	3,908	1,437	1,076
	2019	3,931	1,465	1,461
	2020	3,995	1,481	1,578
	2021	4,027	1,481	1,624
Qualicum Beach*	2018	3,181	470	420
	2019	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-
Nanaimo	2018	23,399	4,110	4,143
	2019	23,778	4,191	4,152
	2020	24,203	4,291	4,342
	2021	25,601	5,870	4,808

* Information not available for 2017 or for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

GOAL 6 – KEY FINDINGS

During this five year period, 23% more ground-oriented dwellings and apartment dwellings were constructed, than single-detached dwellings, achieving the target of increasing the proportion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB. Despite this progress, the number of renter households above or equal to ART has nearly doubled. The region is moving away from the target of increasing housing affordability, as the cost of housing continues to outpace increases in household incomes.



8.7 GOAL 7 – ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

8.7.1 RGS Indicator #17 [Unemployment] Employment rate and labour participation

RGS Target is to maintain an unemployment rate between 3–6% and increase the labour force participation rate

This indicator is important to understanding the economic health of the region, as changes in the labour force are the result of changes in population and economic activity.

Based on the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the total Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (NCA) employment rate has decreased from 59.1% of persons of working age in 2017 to 58.6% in 2020. The Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey data for 2021 has not been released.

The unemployment rate remained within the desired RGS target of 3-6%, between 2017 and 2019 ranging from 5.7% in 2017 to 4.6% in 2019. In 2020, the unemployment rate jumped to 9.1% which was likely a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Since the Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey data for 2021 has not been released, we do not know how the region has recovered from a spike in unemployment due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

59.1% Employment Rate 2017	5.7% Unemployed 2017	62.8% Labour Force Participation 2017
58.6% Employment Rate 2020	9.1% Unemployed 2020	62.1% Labour Force Participation 2020

GOAL 7 – KEY FINDINGS

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, the region was meeting its target of maintaining an unemployment rate between 3-6% and increasing labour force participation. Due to the lack of data, it cannot be determined if the region has recovered from the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.



8.8 GOAL 8 – FOOD SECURITY

Consistent with RGS Goal 8: Food Security, the region continues to undertake action to support the adaptive capacity of the agricultural sector to promote local food security. Although Goal 8 does not have a specific indicator to monitor progress towards this Goal, we can look to RGS Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity, Indicator 13: Number of Parcels with Farm Status which indicates that the region has experienced a decrease in the number of parcels with farm status.



8.9 GOAL 9 – PRIDE OF PLACE

8.9.1 RGS Indicator #18: Amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks, and recreational facilities such as pools and ice rinks)

RGS Target is to increase the amount of publicly owned land for parks and recreational facilities

This indicator measures the cumulative amount, in hectares, of publicly owned recreational facilities and parkland. The facilities and land may be owned by the provincial government, school district, regional district or municipality. These facilities and land serve a multitude of purposes such as recreation, sports, general public use and environmental protection.

Since 2018 the amount of publically owned land for parks and recreation facilities, excluding the Town of Qualicum Beach, has increased a total of 141 ha from 5,970 ha, in 2018, to 6,111 ha in 2021. This is progress towards the target of increasing publicly owned land for parks and recreation facilities with a 107 ha increase within the City of Nanaimo and a 28 ha increase in the RDN Electoral Areas during this period. Parkland dedication for new subdivisions (over 3 lots) often contributes to an increase in new parklands and is considered a factor in this increase.

Table 14: Hectares of Publicly Owned Lands Designated for Parks and Community Use

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2018	2,255 ha	280 ha	159 ha	9 ha	3,426 ha	6,129 ha
2019	2,354 ha	280 ha	-	9 ha	3,442 ha	6,085 ha
2020	2,355 ha	285 ha	-	9 ha	3,436 ha	6,085 ha
2021	2,362 ha	286 ha	-	9 ha	3,454 ha	6,111 ha

* Information not available for 2017 or for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

8.9.2 RGS Indicator #19: Per capita length of maintained trails (including trails, paths and laneways)

RGS Target is to increase the per capita length of maintained trails

This indicator tells us the length of mapped trails, including trails, paths, and laneways that are maintained by the RDN and Member Municipalities.

This indicator reports the metres of trails per capita and represents the length of mapped or inventoried publicly-accessible trails available for use by the community. However, other trails do exist that are not included as they are not currently mapped.

Overall, since 2017, there has been an increase in the total length of mapped trails from 391,409 metres, to 397,313 metres in 2021. When expressed as the length of maintained trails per person, there is a decrease from 2.53 metres per capita in 2017 to 2.33 metres per capita in 2021. This decrease can be attributed to the increase in population between the 2016 and the 2021 Census periods.

Table 15: Length of Trails in Metres

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total	PerCapita
2017	170,000 m	39,419 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	150,660 m	391,409 m	2.53 m/person
2018	186,597 m	40,420 m	22,730 m	8,600 m	151,473 m	409,820 m	2.63 m/person
2019	186,597 m	40,420 m	-	8,600 m	169,110 m	404,727 m	2.59 m/person
2020	173,790 m	40,716 m	-	8,600 m	168,491 m	391,597 m	2.52 m/person
2021	174,270 m	40,000 m	-	4,602 m	178,441 m	397,313 m	2.33 m/person

* Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

Note: 2016 census population of 155,698 used for 2017-2020 per capita calculation and 2021 Census population of 170,367 used for 2021 per capita calculations

GOAL 9 – KEY FINDINGS

Pride of place and the protection of the natural environment continues to be one of the region's greatest assets. Since 2017, the region has seen a gradual increase in both the amount of publicly owned land for parks and recreation facilities and the length of maintained trails.



8.10 GOAL 10 – EFFICIENT SERVICES

8.10.1 RGS Indicator #20: Per capita waste disposal

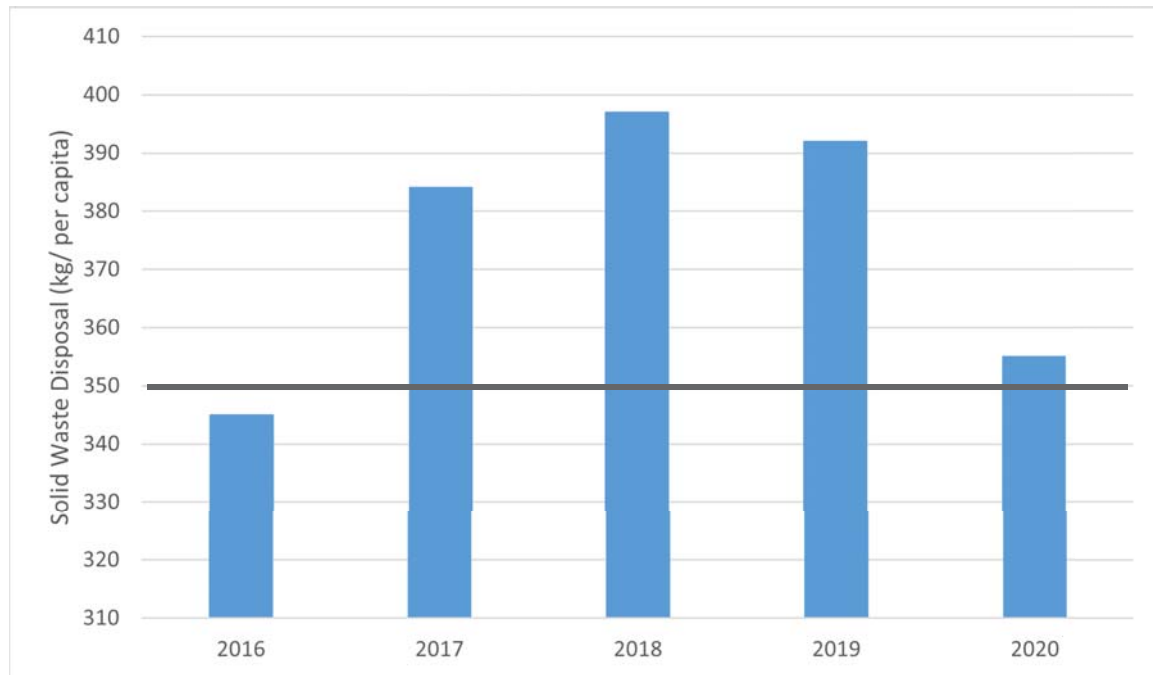
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RGS Target is to decrease the per capita amount of waste going to landfill below 350 kilograms/person

The amount of solid waste produced in the region reflects our stewardship of resources from consumption to disposal. This indicator shows the amount of waste being diverted through recycling and composting and the impact on landfill capacity.

355
Kilograms/person
per capita waste

Consistent with the RGS direction to achieve ‘zero waste’, the RDN has a region-wide diversion rate of approximately 68% and continues to have one of the lowest provincial annual per capita disposal rates. Due to reporting periods, the five-year period for this indicator is 2016-2020 as the 2021 data is not available at this time. The data shows the region has not successfully hit its target of decreasing the per capita amount of waste below 350 kg/person. This can likely be attributed to a number of factors, such as new development and home renovations. Even though the region has not met its target, it is positive to see that per capita waste has been decreasing since the 2018 high of 395 kg/person. The 2020 data is only 5 kg/person over the goal of 350 kg/person. Through the update of the RGS bylaw, the intent will be to harmonize the RGS goals and performance measures to the new Solid Waste Management Plan for the region.

Chart 2: Per Capita Waste Disposal

8.10.2 RGS Indicator #21: Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems

RGS Target is to decrease the per capita costs of water and sewer

This indicator tells us how efficient the provision of community water, sewer and wastewater systems are per person and as an indication of how compact and dense communities are.

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

Except for the cost of water within the City of Nanaimo, the cost of community water, sewer and wastewater systems has seen an overall increase since 2018, moving away from the target of decreasing the cost of these services. The cost of water in RDN Electoral Areas has increased by almost 20%, the cost of sewer in RDN Electoral Areas has increased by approximately 2% and the cost of wastewater in RDN Electoral Areas has increased by nearly 9% during the monitoring period. Within the City of Nanaimo,

the cost of water decreased by 10% since 2018, while the cost of sewer has increased by roughly 60% during the same period. Despite the positive progress seen in the City of Nanaimo with the cost of water per person decreasing, overall the data for this indicator shows that the region as a whole is moving away from the target of decreasing the per capita cost of community water, sewer and wastewater systems. It is unlikely that service fees and charges will decrease in the future due to inflation and increased operational costs, for that reason this indicator is being reviewed as a part of the RGS update.

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

	Nanaimo		Electoral Areas		All
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Wastewater*
2018	\$256/person	\$76/person	\$463/person	\$310/person	\$112/person
2019	\$322/person	\$156/person	\$489/person	\$320/person	\$117/person
2020	\$291/person	\$126/person	\$476/person	\$337/person	\$120/person
2021	\$230/person	\$121/person	\$554/person	\$363/person	\$122/person

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

** Data not available for 2017

Note: 2016 census population of 155,698 used for 2017-2020 per capita calculation and 2021 Census population of 170,367 used for 2021 per capita calculations

8.10.3 RGS Indicator #22: Per capita length of roads

RGS Target is to decrease the per capita length of roads

This indicator tells us the length of road required to service a community. This is directly influenced by where development is allowed and what form it takes, indicating how effectively land is being used.

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

Over the last five years, the meters of road per capita in the region have decreased in the RDN Electoral Areas, the City of Nanaimo, and the City of Parksville. The greatest decrease was seen in the RDN Electoral Areas, which went from 25.30m/ person to 23.34m/ person, an overall decrease of 1.96 m/person. The District of Lantzville saw a slight increase during this period of 0.17 m/ person due to the Lantzville Foothills development. Despite the slight increase in the District of Lantzville, the region as a whole decreased by 1.56 m/person as a result of the increase in population observed in the 2021 Census, showing positive progress towards meeting the target.

Table 17: Per Capita Length of Roads

	City of Nanaimo	City of Parksville	Town of Qualicum Beach*	District of Lantzville	Electoral Areas	Total
2017	6.26 m/person	7.75 m/person	11.9 m/person	15.97 m/person	25.30 m/person	11.74 m/person
2018	6.30 m/person	7.75 m/person	11.9 m/person	16.09 m/person	25.37 m/person	11.74 m/person
2019	6.30 m/person	7.75 m/person	-	16.89 m/person	25.40 m/person	11.81 m/person
2020	6.30 m/person	6.43m/person	-	17.06m/person	25.46m/person	11.84m/person
2021	5.74m/person	7.33m/person	-	16.14m/person	23.34m/person	10.18m/person

* Information not available for the Town of Qualicum Beach for 2019-2021

Note: 2016 census population of 155,698 used for 2017-2020 per capita calculation and 2021 Census population of 170,367 used for 2021 per capita calculations

GOAL 10 – KEY FINDINGS

The indicators for Goal 10 – Efficiency of Services have shown both positive progress, and movement away from achieving the targets of this goal. Over the past five years, the region has not met its goal of decreasing the per capita waste going into the landfill to below 350 kg/person, and there has been an overall increase in the per capita cost of community water, sewer and wastewater systems. On the other hand, the metres of road per capita in the region decreased by 1.56 m/person as a result of the increase in population observed in the 2021 Census thus achieving this indicators target.



8.11 GOAL 11 – COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

Over the past five years, work continued with member municipalities, First Nations, and agencies such as the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities, in relation to climate change and green initiatives, transportation planning and ridership, intergovernmental emergency service agreements, and recreational facilities and services within the region. Although no indicators are used to measure progress towards Goal 11 – Cooperation among Jurisdictions, the RDN and member municipalities continue to foster and develop collaborative relationships across the jurisdictional boundaries.

9. Implementation

The RDN will continue to make progress on the following implementation item:

1. Continue to monitor, evaluate and periodically report on regional economic, population, social and environmental trends and progress towards achieving RGS goals through the RGS Monitoring Program.
2. Continue advancing the Regional Growth Strategy Review: Shaping our Future 2040.
3. Continue to work with Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee.
4. Continue to advance the Sea Level Rise and Adaptation Program through flood hazard assessment mapping.
5. Continue work on the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Review.
6. Continue to work on Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project.
7. Complete Subdivision Servicing Bylaw Review.
8. Develop Community Amenity Policy.
9. Continue to build strong relationships through continued training and education with First Nations.
10. 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).
11. Continue to be committed to respectful and appropriate engagement with Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As and Qualicum First Nations in regional strategist, decision-making and shared interests.

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2022
Section 5.0	Establish Targets & Indicators to monitor progress.	The RDN online Monitoring Program is updated annually following the release of the RGS Annual Report. www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-annual-reports
	Develop a Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS.	Ongoing.
1. Climate Change	Complete Corporate Carbon Neutral 2032 Plan.	Completed in Spring 2020.
	Coastal Flood Mapping River Flood Hazrd Mapping	Completed 2021. Underway.
2. Environmental Protection	Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain SEI databases.	Ongoing.
3. Land Use & Mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and to prepare mobility strategies.	Ongoing.
	Transit Redevelopment Strategy.	Completed 2021.
4. Housing & Jobs	Regional Housing Needs Report.	Completed June 2020.
5. Rural Integrity	Policy 5.13: Implementation - Study options for more sustainable forms of subdivision to limit sprawl and fragmentation on rural residential land.	Completed October 2012. Integrated into official community plans as they are updated.

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2022
6. Affordable Housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Completed Regional Housing Needs Report June 2020.
	Commence Regional Housing Strategy.	Social Needs Assessment + Strategy Completed November 2021
7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy	Support and encourage economic development.	Completed Implementing Regional Economic Development Report January 2020.
	Amend the Electoral Area A OCP and Bylaw No. 500 for lands owned by Nanaimo Airport Commission both to recognize existing airport operations and facilitate future commercial uses.	Completed in 2021.
	Collaborate in the preparation of a commercial (retail and office) Land strategy to ensure that the supply, location, distribution, form and type of commercial development is consistent with the sustainability and growth management objectives of the RGS and supports the continued vitality of the sector.	To be initiated.
8. Food Security	Prepare study of agriculture in the region to identify issues of the present and future needs of the agricultural sector.	Continue work on Area F Inventory Update for Official Community Plan review. Participated in the Vancouver Island Agricultural Adaptation Study which was completed in Fall 2020.
	Prepare Agricultural Area Plan Implementation.	Bylaw 500 and Policy Update project completed in 2016. Rural Area Guide completed in 2016. Bylaw 500 and 1285 amendments for Gathering for Events in Agricultural Land Reserve completed in 2018.

Appendix: Summary of RGS Implementation Actions

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS AS OF JANUARY 2022
9. Pride of Place	Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and official community plans.	<p>Nanaimo Cultural Plan adopted in 2014 and now being implemented.</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Guidelines approved in 2014.</p> <p>Continued work on Parks and Trails Strategy</p> <p>Adopted Electoral Area H Official Community Plan in 2017.</p> <p>Continued work on Electoral Area F Official Community Plan.</p> <p>Continued work on Bylaw 500 Review and Update project</p>
10. Efficient Services	Ongoing communication and public engagement.	Get Involved RDN continues to allow residents to obtain information, ask questions and provide input on current projects and initiatives.
11. Cooperation Among Jurisdictions	Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing of protocol.	Continued training for the RDN Board and staff on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.



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