
2013 Annual Report

Regional Growth Strategy

Implementation & Progress



January 30 2014

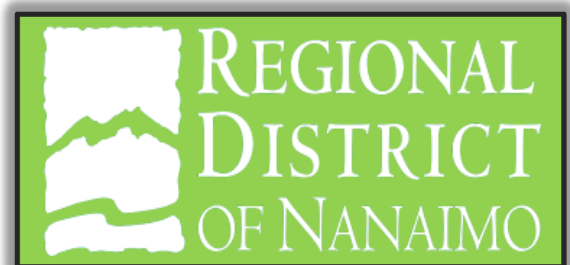


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1 OVERVIEW

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)¹ is a strategic plan adopted by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board that aims to establish a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region over a twenty-five year period. The RGS encourages and directs most new development in the region within designated Growth Containment Boundaries, thereby keeping urban settlement compact, protecting the integrity of rural and resource areas, protecting the environment, increasing servicing efficiency, and retaining mobility within the region.

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

The 2011 RGS addresses implementation in Section 5, stating that: *“Being accountable for progress towards achieving the goals of this RGS requires a commitment to implementation, target-setting, establishing indicators, and monitoring”*. Reporting on annual progress shows a commitment to implementation and fulfills a requirement under the Local Government Act *“to prepare an annual report on implementation and progress towards the goals and objectives of the RGS”* (RGS Policy 5.2.1).

This Annual Progress Report briefly describes the RGS purpose, vision and goals in order to set the stage for documenting actions taken in 2013 that showed progress towards implementing the RGS. Appendix 1 of this report also provides a summary of all actions taken to implement the RGS since it was updated in late 2011.

It is important to note that this Annual Progress Report does not attempt to measure how effective these implementation actions are, nor does it make recommendations for adjusting policies to improve performance. Setting performance targets and developing measures to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RGS is part of a process started in 2013 and to be continued during 2014. This process will involve selecting indicators that measure and help evaluate the effectiveness of RGS policies in working towards the goals and vision of the RGS.

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

2 RGS ROLE & PURPOSE

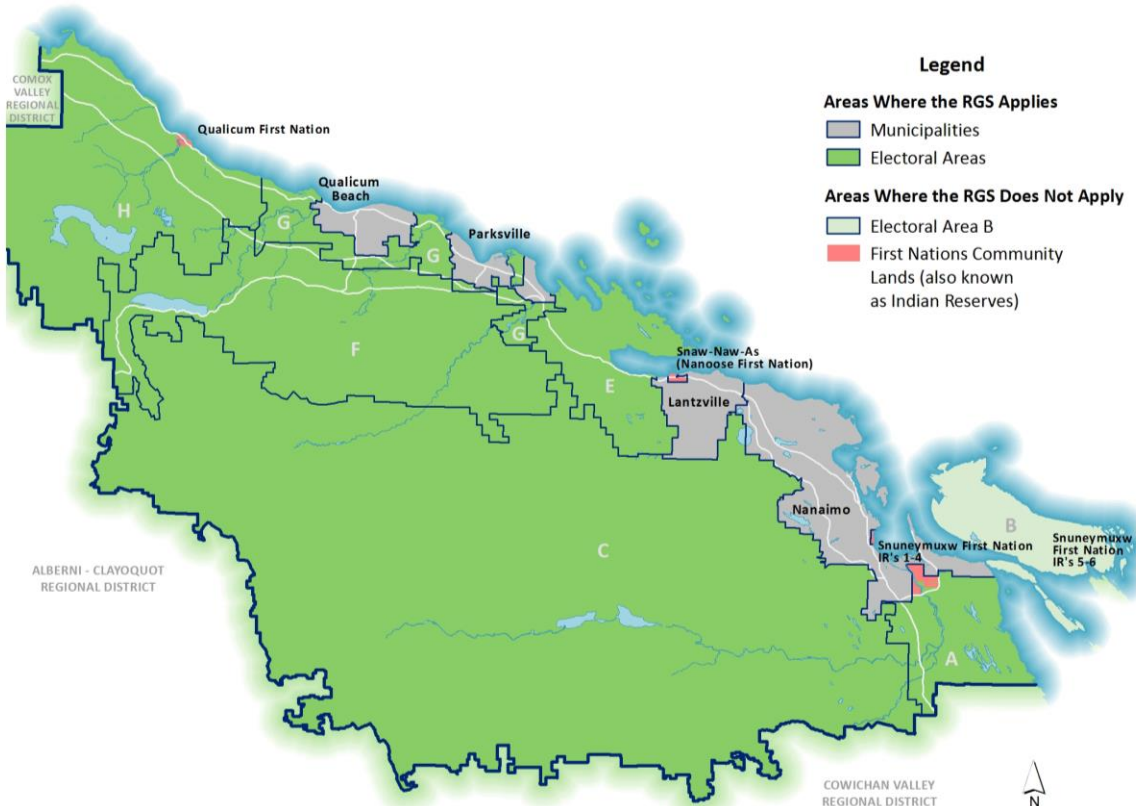
The purpose of the RGS is to "promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources". Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

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

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

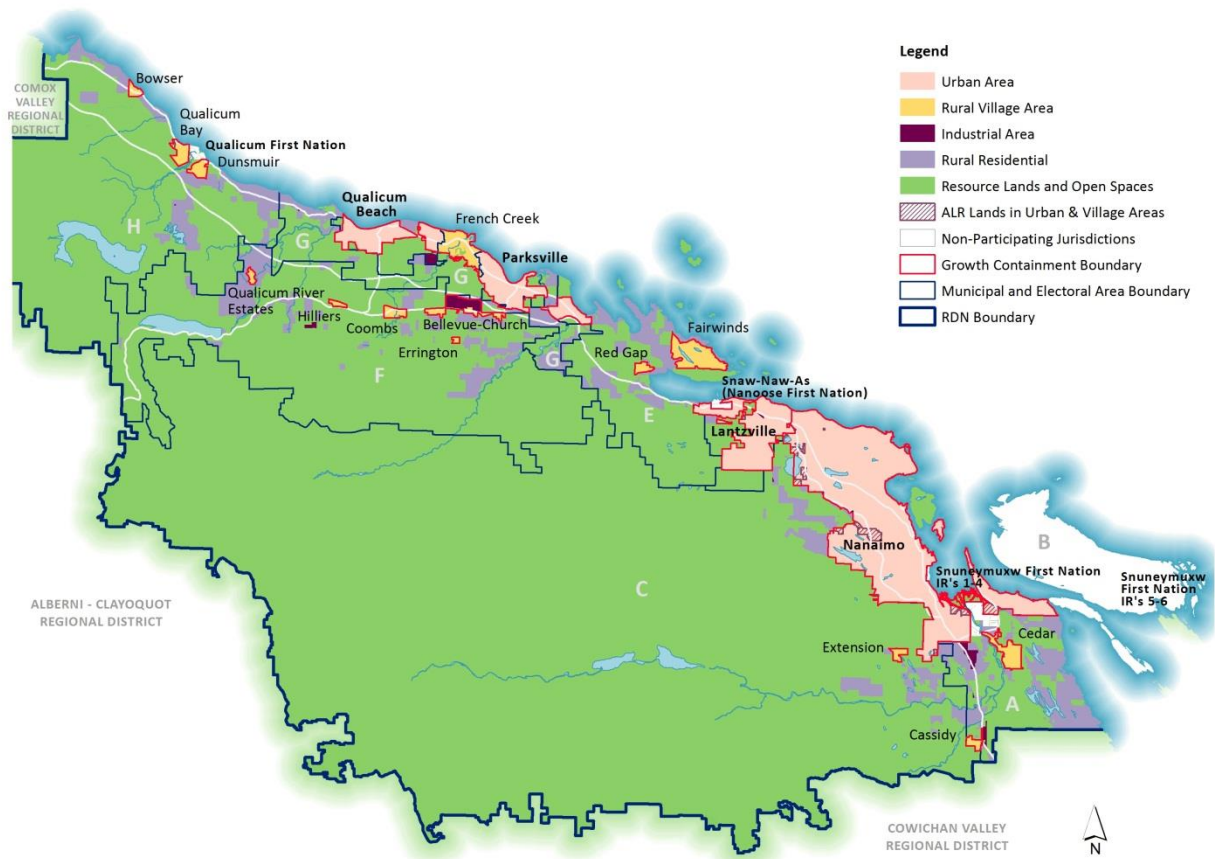
The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown by the map below. The RGS does not apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area B) as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also does not apply to lands under the jurisdiction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

Map 1: RGS Application



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

Map 2: RGS Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations



3 RGS VISION

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

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

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

4 RGS PRINCIPLES

The goals and policies of this 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 co-operation with citizens, other authorities and organizations; and
- We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

5 RGS GOALS

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

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

6 IMPLEMENTATION – 2013

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

6.1 Actions Supporting Education and Awareness

The RGS states that *“a public that is well-informed is more likely to participate in decision-making processes and to work with others to achieve common goals”*.

Throughout 2013, the RDN Long Range Planning Department took a continuous approach to education and raising awareness about the RGS and its implementation. This included regularly updating and providing information via website materials, RDN newsletters (Electoral Area Updates and RDN Perspectives), news releases, mail-outs and conducting meetings, workshops and presentations for a variety of community groups, schools and other stakeholders around the region.

Appendix 2 lists specific activities undertaken during 2013 to communicate and raise awareness about:

- The role and purpose of the RDN and the RGS;
- How the RGS relates to other planning documents and processes;
- How decisions are made;
- How implementation occurs and which government agencies are responsible;
- Implementation projects either underway or completed.

Education and awareness of the RGS has also been included into all public engagement activities for RGS implementation studies and projects listed in the latter sections of this report. Furthermore, the public engagement initiatives of a variety of RDN departments have also served to raise awareness of the RGS.

6.2 RGS Implementation Studies

The RGS provides direction to undertake several studies intended to be used by the RDN Board and Municipal Councils to make informed decisions about issues that affect progress towards achieving RGS goals. The following studies fulfill specific policies that support RGS goals.

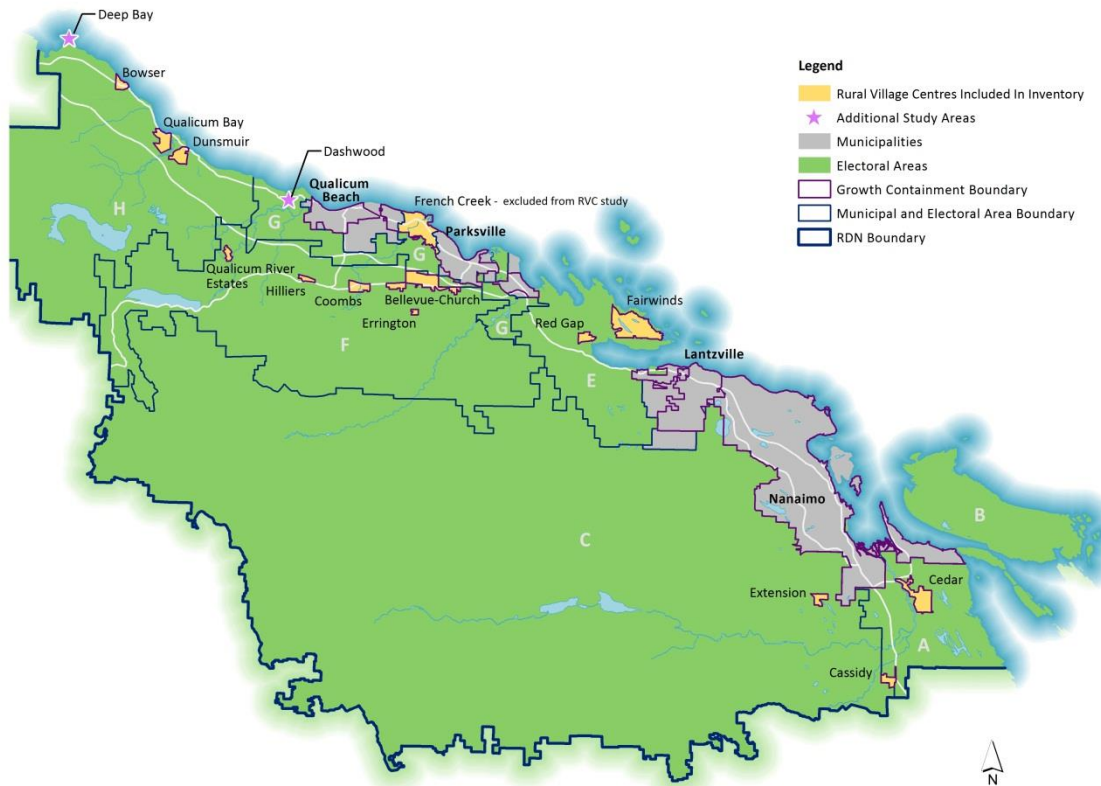


Rural Village Centres Study

The RGS aims to encourage a diverse mix of land uses in Rural Village Centres (RVCs) that allow people to live, work, play and learn within a walkable environment. Since RVCs were first established roughly 16 years ago, only a few of the 14 RVCs have evolved into areas with the characteristics associated with mixed-

use, complete, compact communities. To understand the issues behind this, a Rural Village Centres (RVC) Study was completed in 2013.

Map 3: Areas included in the Rural Village Centres Study



The study provides an objective, technical evaluation of the potential for 13 existing RVCs and two additional study areas (SAs) to develop into mixed-use, compact, complete communities. The study fulfills RGS Policy 4.11 to undertake a region-wide study of RVCs in order to identify locations with the greatest potential to accommodate future growth and evolve into mixed-use centres that “warrant the investment required to serve them with community water and wastewater facilities and public transit.”

The Rural Village Centres Study is intended to be used by the RDN Board when making decisions about development and servicing in existing Rural Village Centres and the need for new Rural Village Centres. The study results may also be used to consider changing the focus on existing RVCs with limited potential to accommodate growth by designating them as ‘local service centres’.



Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study

An Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study completed in 2013 fulfills RGS policy 7.6 to “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”.

The study provides an objective, technical evaluation of industrial lands within the RDN and the degree to which regional and local demand for different types of industrial land (light, medium, heavy) is being met in locations that are consistent with RGS goals.

The RGS supports maintaining an attractive environment for industrial development while at the same time ensuring that other RGS goals are met including land use, environmental protection, energy consumption and GHG reduction. Consistent with these objectives, the study includes a sustainability analysis by reviewing industrial best practices related to improving energy efficiency and waste reduction and the potential for eco-industrial networking opportunities.

The study’s key finding is that there is sufficient industrial land in the region to meet anticipated demand for different types of industry over the next ten years. The results of the study are intended to inform and guide RDN Board decisions regarding future land use, mobility and sustainability.

6.3 RGS Implementation Projects

Agricultural Area Plan



In November 2013, the RDN Board approved a three-year work plan (2014-2016 Action Plan) to implement some of the recommendations of the RDN Agricultural Area Plan (AAP), as adopted in 2012. Implementing the AAP works directly towards achieving policies under RGS Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency and Goal 8 – Enhance Food Security.

The AAP is a strategy and policy framework to guide agricultural-related decision making. The key goals of the plan are to:

- Protect and Enhance the Agricultural Land Base in the RDN.
- Strengthen the Local Agriculture and Aquaculture Economy.
- Improve Training, Skills, and Labour Opportunities in the RDN.
- Improve Opportunities for On-Farm Water Resource Management.
- Address Environmental Sustainability, Wildlife, and Climate Change Challenges in the RDN.
- Promote Awareness and Value of Local Agriculture and Aquaculture.
- Support Agriculture and Aquaculture in Land Use Regulations and Policies.
- Consider Agriculture in Emergency Planning Initiatives.

The Plan is intended to guide updates to RDN bylaws and policies, in order to support local agriculture and aquaculture as a viable and sustainable economic sector and integral part of the regional landscape. The Plan identifies key stakeholders and makes recommendations to guide their efforts to work collaboratively to achieve the goals of the plan.



Cedar Main Street Design Project

The Cedar Main Street Village Plan was finalized following public consultation and adopted by the RDN Board in 2013. The plan provides greater detail for the development of lands designated as Cedar Main Street in the 2011 Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan (OCP). This project helps implement the RGS by supporting the development of a compact, mixed use community within the Growth Containment Boundary.

The project links land use and transportation to help address RGS Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 3 - Coordinate Land Use and Mobility and Goal 4 - Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres. Community involvement in determining the design preferences illustrated in the plan also supports RGS Goal 9 – Celebrate Pride of Place.

6.4 RDN Actions that Implement the RGS

In addition to the specific studies and projects to implement the RGS noted above, the RDN undertook numerous actions across all departments that contribute to achieving the goals of the RGS.

Affordable Housing

An Affordable Housing Action Plan approved in 2011 identified actions for the RDN and its partners to undertake over the next few years. For 2013 the following projects were completed or initiated:

2013 Affordable Housing Online Resources

- A web based resource guide on affordable housing for renters, homeowners and housing providers was developed. The website provides access to a comprehensive list of contacts for a wide range of housing topics targeting different needs. This includes information on market rental, supportive and emergency housing. This is the only resource of this type in the region.

The Secondary Suites Project was initiated in 2013. Activities included the following:

- With direction provided by the RDN Board, a revised report on secondary suites was published as the first phase of a process to consider where secondary suites should be supported in the RDN's electoral areas. The report included information on benefits and concerns, and issues to consider when drafting regulations.

- A community engagement strategy was approved by the RDN Board and implemented by RDN staff to gather feedback from the community on secondary suites.
- The results of community consultation and stakeholder feedback was used to draft zoning bylaw amendments and associated policy related to building inspection and enforcement.
- The draft zoning bylaw amendments and associated policies will be presented to the RDN Board for consideration in early 2014.

For more activities see section 6.5 *Collaborative Actions*.

Fairwinds Development Process

Following the adoption of the Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighbourhood Plans into the Electoral Area 'E' Official Community Plan in October 2011, the RDN received two zoning amendment applications for the long term phased development of these neighbourhoods in accordance with the adopted Plans. These initiatives within the Fairwinds Rural Village Centre are consistent with the growth containment and environmental protection goals of the RGS. Consultation efforts regarding the new zoning and phased development agreement are also consistent with RGS Goal 9 - Celebrate Pride Of Place and Goal 11 -Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions.

Deep Bay RGS Amendment Development Application

RDN staff in Planning and other departments reviewed an application to amend the Regional Growth Strategy to create a new Rural Village Centre in the unincorporated community of Deep Bay within Electoral Area 'H' of the RDN. The application included approximately 138 hectares of land, of which 76 hectares is proposed to be developed. In October 2013, the RDN Board withdrew support for the application and directed staff to discuss options with the applicant about developing the site consistent with direction in the Area 'H' Official Community Plan and RGS.

Northern Community Economic Development Service

In order to further RGS Goal 7 - Enhance Economic Resiliency, the RDN continued to deliver all programs in 2013 relating to the Northern Community Economic Development Service in order to provide support for economic development initiatives in the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G', and 'H'. The Program allows the RDN Board of Directors to contribute to eligible projects that advance the Board's vision for a resilient, thriving and creative local economy. This function provided a total of \$50,000 to eight groups in 2013.

Southern Community Economic Development Service

In 2013, the RDN contributed \$137,000 to the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation to work jointly on activities that improve economic resilience (RGS Goal 7) in Nanaimo and surrounding rural Electoral Areas 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model

In support of the RGS Food Security, Environmental Protection and Climate Change goals, in 2012 the RDN partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Partnership for Water Sustainability in B.C. to undertake an Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model. Following the completion of field work in 2012, data analysis took place during 2013 with the provision of final reports to be provided to the RDN in 2014. This work will be used to provide more detailed understanding of current and future agriculture water use. The results will be used to update mapping and other information in the RDN Water Budget Project that examines the relationship between surface and groundwater, current water demands, and the long-term impacts of climate change.

Agricultural Tourism Zoning

Consistent with RGS goals on Food Security and Economic Resiliency, in 2013, the RDN adopted a new Agricultural 1 (AG1) zone within Zoning Bylaw No. 500 in support of agri-tourism initiatives.

Emergency Planning and Disaster Resiliency

During 2013 the RDN drafted an Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan. Phase III of the technical study to identify suitable sites for mass livestock carcass burial/composting was put on hold until 2014 when further funding becomes available. This initiative helps implement several RGS Goals including Goal 8—Enhance Food Security, Goal 7—Enhance Economic Resiliency and Goal 2—Protect the Environment.

Interface fires have been identified as a major hazard in the RDN. The risk of this hazard is increased by the impacts of climate change that result in drier conditions and other weather patterns that increase fire risk. RGS Goal 1 to Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption involves promoting adaptive measures to prepare for climate change impacts. To mitigate this risk the RDN continued to build community and organizational capacity to implement FireSmart approaches. This includes strategies for managing vegetation, using fire resistant building materials and choosing fire resistive plants.

The RDN also continued to hold numerous activities to promote emergency preparedness and resiliency for rural residents throughout the RDN's Electoral Areas. This included community capacity building through Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness (NEP) and collaboration with the initiatives of other RDN departments to co-host workshops (food security, water and energy conservation). In addition to addressing Climate Change, these initiatives also help work towards several other RGS goals including Food Security, Economic Resiliency, Environmental Protection and Efficient Services.

Transportation Services

RDN Transit plays a key role in helping achieve many of the eleven RGS Goals including Prepare for Climate Change, Protect the Environment, Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, Economic Resiliency, Provide Efficient Services and Cooperation Among Jurisdictions. During 2013 specific activities included providing a fully accessible fleet of transit vehicles, expanding transit service hours by 5,000 hours, and handyDART by 3,750 hours, introduced new ARBOC handyDART buses, initiated construction on a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Compressor Station and staff training to support a future fleet of CNG buses, provided services to cruise ship passengers through a partnership with the Nanaimo Port Authority and continued to produce a pocket-sized 'Z-card' bike/transit route map in conjunction with the City of Nanaimo.

Parks Planning

During 2013 the RDN undertook numerous actions to plan and develop parks and trails. These actions directly support several RGS Goals including Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change, Goal 2 - Protect the Environment, Goal 3 - Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, Goal 7 - Enhance Economic Resiliency, Goal 9 - Celebrate Pride of Place and Goal 11 – Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions. This includes the completion of projects to create new or undertake improvements to existing trails and other park amenities throughout all regional and community parks. Examples include completion of Henry Morgan Community Park in Electoral Area 'H', campsite upgrades at Horne Lake Regional Park and trail development at Englishmen River Regional Park. Updated/new Parks Management Plans were also adopted in 2013 for Benson Creek Falls Regional Park and Moorecroft Regional Park and various agreements and terms of references for new trails were completed (e.g. Morden Colliery Trail Bridge, North Road Trail and the Jingle Pot Road Trail).

Recreation Programs and Facilities

The RDN's recreation programs and facilities play an ongoing role in furthering RGS Goal 7 - Enhance Economic Resiliency and Goal 9 – Celebrate Pride of Place 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 addition to hosting and/or providing support for local and regional sports tournaments for youth, adults and seniors, 2013 also saw the RDN coordinating the first annual community celebration of Active Aging Week in partnership with Vancouver Island University and several community organizations serving seniors.

The RDN continued to make improvements to the environmental and economic performance of its recreational facilities in 2013 by making energy efficient upgrades and improving waste management processes.

Climate Change Actions and Energy Efficiency Measures

All of the aforementioned land use, parks and recreation planning and transportation initiatives support RGS goals for reducing GHG emissions and energy consumption. In addition to these initiatives the RDN also undertook several other specific actions to support these goals:

- Organized the fourth annual RDN Green Building Speaker Series and Open House Tours to showcase the latest green building practices in the region and provide education and awareness about ways to reduce the energy and environmental impacts of development.
- Continued to deliver the 2013 Green Building Incentive Program, with over \$46,500 in incentives provided to regional residents. This includes providing rebates for wood exchange and home energy assessments as well as rainwater harvesting and low flush toilet rebates through the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) program.
- Ensured that all new RDN buildings and renovations completed in 2013 met best practices for energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Continued to support the implementation of Green Building Policies for all RDN facilities.
- Established and distributed funding for projects under a Corporate Climate Action reserve fund and a Carbon Neutral Initiatives reserve fund.
- Continued to work towards reduction of GHG's through increased diversion of compostable materials from the RDN landfill and improvements to the landfill gas collection system.
- Continued to re-use biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities as part of a program that supports carbon sequestration research.
- Completed the Community Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Planning Project and coordinated the installation of 12 Level II Electric Vehicle charging stations across the region.
- Completed the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.
- Developed the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan, and continued implementation of the Green Building Action Plan.
- Coordinated LEED Silver Certification received for the RDN Administration and Transit buildings expansion project.
- Managed the Green Building Guidebook Series - Renewable Energy Guidebook.

For more activities see section 6.5 *Collaborative Actions*.

Watershed Protection

The RDN undertook the following projects in 2013 to support RGS goals for protecting drinking water and watersheds and the provision of efficient services:

- Completed Water Budget studies.
- Completed the Water Conservation Plan study.
- Continued with the Community Watershed Monitoring program.

- Ongoing operation of an Environmental Management System for Wastewater Services that is ISO 14001 certified. In 2013 this included environmental and safety improvements by expanding the number of emergency and operating procedures to help mitigate or prevent potential spills and environmental incidents.
- Launched the Water Use Reporting Tool for use in the RDN.
- Completed the Team WaterSmart education outreach program including workshops, community events and school visits.
- Completed irrigation audits with a focus on multi-family units.
- Completed WellSmart and SepticSmart workshops.
- Implemented the low-flush toilet and rainwater harvesting rebates as part of the RDN Green Building Incentive program.
- Met with the Drinking Water Watershed Protection (DWWP) Technical Advisory Committee.
- Completed the Small Water Systems working group annual meeting.
- Provided an annual update to DWWP municipal partners.
- Partnered with the Irrigation Association of BC for a training workshop.2
- Developed and implemented the Rural Water Quality Stewardship Rebate Program.

For more activities see section 6.5 *Collaborative Actions*.

6.5 Collaborative Actions

Many of the studies, actions and ongoing departmental activities described in this report involve collaboration with member municipalities, other levels of government and community based groups. Below are some specific examples of past or ongoing collaborative actions to implement RGS Goal 11 – Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions:

Municipalities and Regional Context Statements

During 2013 three RDN member municipalities (City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and City of Parksville) submitted updated Regional Context Statements in their Official Community Plans that were all accepted by the RDN. The Regional Context Statements explain how an Official Community Plan is consistent with the RGS and addresses how any inconsistencies will be dealt with over time.

First Nations

Throughout 2013 RDN staff and elected officials met primarily with staff and elected officials from First Nations with existing village sites within the region (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 related to land use planning, development, and servicing agreements, others were focused on strengthening relationships in order to facilitate stronger collaboration on issues of mutual concern. Key outcomes included:

- Hosting and attending relationship building gatherings between RDN and First Nation elected officials.
- Finalizing the Parks Management Plan for Moorecroft which includes recognition of the medicinal value of lands within the Park to First Nations and setting aside land to accommodate plans for a Snaw-Naw-As Long House/Cultural Centre.
- Finalizing the first agreement between a regional district in British Columbia and a First Nation government to provide handyDART service to Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation). A second process to develop a draft agreement with Snuneymuxw First Nation was also initiated in 2013.
- Participation and representation by Qualicum First Nation on the Solid Waste Management Plan Review Advisory Committee.
- Collaboration with Qualicum First Nation on SepticSmart, Emergency Planning, Parks projects, recreation programs and groundwater monitoring and research.
- Participation by Snuneymuxw First Nation on the Regional Liquid Waste Advisory Committee.
- Reviewing and drafting new servicing agreements with Snuneymuxw First Nation related to sewer and water provision.
- Taking actions to ensure that the RDN follows appropriate First Nation protocols during joint meetings and events. This includes working on developing a policy to recognize First Nations territory at RDN meetings.

Vancouver Island University

During 2013 the RDN coordinated meetings to discuss various matters of joint interest with Vancouver Island University involving sharing long term plans, development control, environmental protection and agreements to collaborate for mutual benefit.

In February 2013, the RDN signed a new agreement with VIU and SYLVIS Environmental for the beneficial re-use of RDN biosolids. The program diverts roughly 4,000 tonnes of biosolids from the landfill every year by beneficially applying them to the VIU Woodlot to improve tree growth. The woodlot serves as a “living classroom,” with the biosolids program providing the opportunity for VIU to undertake numerous research projects related to all aspects of biosolids forest applications. Since 2012, the program has supported a carbon sequestration study which looks at how biosolids applications impact the amount of carbon that will be stored in the soil and vegetation over time.

The RDN also continued to support education and outreach along with general support to various VIU departments including presentations to staff and students on the Regional Growth Strategy and the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program.

Adjacent Regional Districts and Municipalities

The RDN continued to host and participate in meetings to network and liaise with staff at adjacent Regional Districts and staff at member municipalities. On an ongoing basis, outside of these meetings, RDN staff maintain professional relationships that enable effective communication and collaboration. This allows for the RDN to share

information on RGS implementation activities in order to support adjacent jurisdictions having long term plans and taking actions consistent with the direction of the RGS. An example of these types of activities includes discussions with the Cowichan Valley Regional District on joint Drinking Water Watershed Protection (DWWP) initiatives.

Federal and Provincial Partnerships

During 2013 the RDN was involved in several partnership initiatives with the Federal and Provincial governments. These included:

- Partnering with Agriculture Canada to develop an agricultural water demand model.
- Completing the final phase of the observation well drilling program in partnership with the Federal and Provincial governments.

Actions to Address Climate Change

- Coordinated Regional District of Nanaimo and member municipalities achieving carbon neutral operations.
- Collaborated with the provincial Climate Action Secretariat and the Green Communities Committee on the development of a forest carbon project option for local governments.

RDN Emergency Planning

Efforts to mitigate and prepare for disasters directly support several RGS Goals including; Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change, Goal 2 - Environmental Protection, Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency, Goal 10 - Provide Services Efficiently and Goal 11 – Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions. The successful implementation of the RDN’s emergency planning is contingent upon ongoing liaison work and collaboration with member municipalities, First Nations, other levels of government, industry and community stakeholders. Activities for 2013 included cross-jurisdictional training, education, response activities and volunteer recruitment.

Nanaimo Airport Land Use Planning Process

Furthering RGS Goal 7 - Enhance Economic Resiliency and Goal 11 - Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions, the RDN initiated the second of three phases of the Nanaimo Airport Land Use Planning Process in 2013. Several meetings were held with the Nanaimo Airport Commission and a terms of reference for a Citizen’s Advisory Group was adopted by the RDN Board. The Advisory Group whose membership will be finalized in 2014, will provide advice to the RDN during Phases 2 and 3 as outlined below.

Phase 2 involves developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the RDN and Nanaimo Airport Commission that outlines a process and principles for developing a Master Development Plan for the airport.

Phase 3 will involve creating a Master Development Plan for the airport and as necessary amendments to the Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw. This process is intended to provide greater certainty for all stakeholders regarding future development and land use at the Nanaimo Airport.

Transit Future Plan

The Regional District of Nanaimo and BC Transit are continuing to work together on developing a 25-year Transit Future Plan for the RDN. The Transit Future Plan envisions the ideal RDN transit network 25 years from now, and describes what services, infrastructure and investments are needed to get there. The plan will be designed to support local community goals and objectives, such as strengthening the link between transportation and land use in order to support sustainable growth. Sustainable transportation will assist in reducing transportation-related emissions and improving the overall quality of life in the region.

Actions to Support Ending Homelessness

The RDN participated in, and provided support to homelessness initiatives organized by member municipalities. In addition to participating in meetings this included:

- Working in collaboration with the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness, the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness and member municipalities, the RDN undertook a project to create and distribute information on emergency shelter and food locations. RDN Transit buses were used to display posters and distribute brochures. Information was also made available on the RDN website and access to copies for homeless advocates coordinated with member municipalities.
- Supporting the efforts of the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness to identify gaps in supports and services for those at risk of or facing homelessness in School District 69.

7 MEMBER MUNICIPALITY ACTIONS

In addition to collaborating with the RDN on various initiatives identified earlier in this report, the RDN's member municipalities have also undertaken their own studies and actions that support achieving RGS goals. The following information was provided by each jurisdiction.

7.1 City of Nanaimo

RGS Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption

- A Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) has been completed and endorsed by Nanaimo City Council. The CSAP is a long-term action plan focused on taking specific action to reduce community-wide emissions over time. Areas of focus will include: Land Use and Transportation, Existing and New Buildings, Alternative and District Energy, Solid Waste Reduction.
- City of Nanaimo installed 12 Level II Electric Vehicle Charge Stations for public use through the Community Charging Infrastructure Planning Grant program.
- A DC faster charger for electric vehicles funded by the Province of BC was also installed in the Bastion Street Parkade.

RGS Goal 2 – Protect the Environment

- Continued to implement the Invasive Plant Management Strategy.
- Ongoing efforts to improve air quality through regional partnership involving promoting the educational Burn It Smart workshops and implementing the 2013 Woodstove Change-out Program.

RGS Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility

- Completed a Transportation Master Plan with input from the Regional District with regards to transit planning.
- The City continues to implement policies in the Official Community Plan (planNanaimo) by encouraging the development of walkable communities and mixed land uses to help reduce automobile reliance.
- The Harewood Neighbourhood Plan completed in 2013 reflects the principles of both the RGS and planNanaimo by coordinating land use and mobility.

RGS Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres

- City adheres to development within the GCB, and advises potential applicants of planNanaimo goals and policies regarding multi-family developments and mixed use corridor zoning. In this regard, the City encourages infill development at higher densities.

RGS Goal 6 – Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing

- The City continues to work with the development industry and non-profits to bring about adoption of housing agreements (boarding houses) and partner with senior government (BC Housing) to construct low barrier housing. The City has issued Development Permits for new supportive housing projects on Uplands Drive and Boundary Crescent with anticipated completion in 2014.

RGS Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency

- The City works closely with the development industry and business. Examples include: support and co-sponsorship of annual Canadian Home Builders Association industry forum; establishment of Development Process Review Committee to identify issues and barriers to development and the means to resolve them; review of Development Cost Charges bylaw and Development Application fees.
- Continued support for the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation and the Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Association.
- Implemented a partnership to have one joint business license with 12 other Vancouver Island Communities in order to streamline services for businesses.
- The South Downtown Waterfront Initiative was started in 2013 to address the potential development of vacant and brownfield sites along the waterfront. The process included a series of design workshops and events involving community members and other stakeholders. A final visioning report is anticipated in early 2014.

RGS Goal 8 – Enhance Food Security

- Initiated development of a food charter and food strategy for the City of Nanaimo using \$9,500 in grant funding from the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

RGS Goal 9 – Celebrate Pride of Place

- Continues to support a robust heritage program, and provide community groups and individuals with recognition and incentives.
- Cultural Enhancement identified as a strategic priority in the Corporate Strategic Plan.
- Completed a Cultural Strategic Plan and created a new department tasked with implementing the plan.
- Completed the Harewood Neighbourhood Plan.

RGS Goal 10 – Provide Services Efficiently

- Ongoing implementation of the Corporate Strategic Plan to assist with focusing spending and resource priorities. Six strategic priorities were identified: Asset Management, Community Building Partnerships, Taking Responsibility, Transportation and Mobility, Water Supply and Quality, and Waterfront Enhancement. Implementation includes a restructure of service delivery and departments in 2013.
- Undertook preliminary work to establish an effective asset management strategy, and seek base budget approvals for future infrastructure maintenance and replacement.
- Continued operation of the Service and Resource Centre, which uses a multi-tiered approach to customer service and delivery.

RGS Goal 11 - Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions

- Received acceptance from the RDN Board and adopted a Regional Context Statement (RCS) in the City of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan in 2013. The RCS details how the OCP is (or will become) consistent with and will work towards implementing the RGS over time. The RCS is an essential part of implementing the RGS and is consistent with RGS Goal 11.

- Worked with the RDN to achieve Carbon Neutral Operations and undertake steps towards regional emission reduction projects with our regional partners.

7.2 District of Lantzville

- During 2013 a Village Commercial Core Improvement Plan was started with anticipated completion in 2014. This project is consistent with RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres, and Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place.
- Initiated a process in 2013 to plan for Urban Agriculture as part of ongoing development of bylaws to support urban food production. This supports RGS Goal 8: Enhance Food Security.
- Completed a Transportation Review outlining existing and long term conditions for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit. This review will help achieve RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility.
- Continued provision of rebates to encourage the installation of low flow toilets consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 2: Protect the Environment, and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.
- Continued participation in the provision of green building incentives through the RDN which includes incentives for rainwater harvesting, wood stove exchanges, solar hot water, home energy assessments, and residential vehicle charging stations. These actions are consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.
- Participated in the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program and are producing a report for 2013. This is consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption.
- Provided educational information to residents concerning water conservation and implemented water restrictions consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.
- Provided educational information to residents concerning outdoor burning consistent with RGS Goal 2: Protect the Environment.
- Participated in the RDN's Drinking Water Watershed Protection Function consistent with RGS Goal 2: Protect the Environment and Goal 11: Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions.
- Continued improving road accesses to adjacent ocean/beach public areas consistent with RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, and Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place.
- Continued in the implementation of the Trails and Journeyways Strategy consistent with RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, and Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place.
- Continued to participate in the RDN's organic food waste collection program. This is consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.

- Received acceptance from the RDN Board and adopted a Regional Context Statement (RCS) in the District of Lantzville Official Community Plan in 2013. The RCS details how the OCP is (or will become) consistent with and will work towards implementing the RGS over time. The RCS is an essential part of implementing the RGS and is consistent with RGS Goal 11: Cooperation Among Jurisdictions.

7.3 City of Parksville

RGS Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption

- The City of Parksville adopted a new OCP with a chapter dedicated to climate change adaptation and corporate GHG emission reduction strategies.
- Adopted new Development Permit Areas (DPAs) and new guidelines within existing DPAs to address climate change implications such as sea level rise, increased hazard risk and environmental concerns.
- New policies in the OCP centered on non-transportation options that reduce automobile dependency and promote multi-modal linkages between neighbourhoods.
- New policies to support denser housing forms in certain areas to facilitate transit and reduced commuter times to obtain services.

RGS Goal 2 – Protect the Environment

- The new OCP designated expanded Coastal DPA and increased the guidelines for environmental protection, including greater professional reliance.
- New Groundwater DPA and new Terrestrial Ecosystem and Coastal Douglas-fir DPA established and increases the areas covered by DPA.
- Acquired new waterfront park land through subdivision process at McKillop Point.

RGS Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility

- The new OCP contains additional guidance and support for transitions between lower density single unit homes and higher density multi-unit and mixed use forms.
- A new zone that allows for smaller fee simple single unit lots was adopted to provide greater density in areas that are close to existing services and reduce demand for development outside core areas.
- Upgrades to Bay and Temple, major thoroughfares in the City including road, sidewalk, traffic light and bicycle lanes.

RGS Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres

- The majority of the City is within the Growth Containment Boundary and the new OCP policies support directing growth to the City and offering a range of densities throughout the urban area.

RGS Goal 5 - Enhance Rural Integrity

- Parksville Council rejected an application to exclude a large portion of an ALR property which was ultimately intended for conversion to high density urban development outside of the Growth Containment Boundary.
- Policies that support higher densities in some parts of the City reduce the need to encroach on rural unincorporated areas outside City limits.

RGS Goal 6 – Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing

- Parksville Council passed a resolution to support a proposed 18 unit affordable housing development by waiving the applicable permit and development cost charges.
- Policies in the new OCP support the provision of a wide range of housing options for a diverse population.

RGS Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency

- Parksville adopted a new inter-community business license bylaw to support mobile businesses in the region.
- Parksville undertook a review of its current Development Costs Charge rates and consulted with the local community during 2013.

RGS Goal 8 – Enhance Food Security

- Parksville Council rejected an application to exclude a large portion of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- Parksville Council adopted a new bylaw to provide for the keeping of hens in residential properties.
- Parksville staff organized a husbandry workshop for the community on how to look after egg laying hens.

RGS Goal 9 – Celebrate Pride of Place

- Partnership with BC Parks to develop and install a new Rathtrevor Beach sign on the City right of way.
- Installation of new stairs at Sunray Close to provide access to the beach and promote neighbourhood well-being.
- Upgraded the City's ball and playing fields at the Community Park.

RGS Goal 10 – Provide Services Efficiently

- Adoption of a new bylaw dispute process that uses arbitration and avoids costly and lengthy court proceedings.

RGS Goal 11 - Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions

- Ongoing operational cooperation with RDN staff on parks and trails and transit.
- Partnership with Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to acquire land and funding for the Rathtrevor Greenway.
- Cooperation with BC Parks for enhanced signage for Rathtrevor Park.
- Ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on roads and transportation issues at the City and provincial interface.
- Provided assistance to MOE to host a workshop on Climate Change adaption for mid-island based participants.

7.4 Town of Qualicum Beach

- The Village Neighbourhood of Qualicum Beach is the compact, walkable heart of the community, home to businesses, institutions and many residents. In support of RGS Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres, the Official Community Plan designates the Village Neighbourhood for the preferred location for continued growth and densification in the Town.
- A Guide to Development and Construction was created in 2013 to provide builders, developers and homeowners with a user-friendly approach to the planning approval process in Qualicum Beach. The development of the guide is part of a series of measures intended to increase the number of residents and businesses within the Village Neighbourhood by reducing the barriers to development. This is in keeping with RGS Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres.
- Completion of the Green Laneways Report as a planning and design tool outlining strategies to aid in the design of projects that manage rainwater in a sensitive manner. By supporting a sustainable approach to rainwater management, this tool will help overcome infrastructure challenges that have been a barrier to achieving some of the goals of the OCP. This project is consistent with addressing RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change, Goal 2: Protect the Environment, Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres, and Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.
- The Cultural Plan developed during 2013 is consistent with RGS Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place. The Town of Qualicum Beach undertook the following initiatives that also worked towards achieving this RGS goal:
 - Communities in Bloom: The Town of Qualicum Beach picked up the Home Hardware Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Involvement at the national Communities in Bloom Award ceremonies held in Ottawa in the fall of 2013.
 - Beach Reads Program: The Town and the Qualicum Beach branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library teamed up to offer Beach Reads, a free lending library for summer 2013, as part of its cultural planning initiatives.
 - Qualicum Beach Digital Arts Studio: The Town is working to open a Digital Arts Studio as a one year pilot project at the Qualicum Beach train station to support the growth of the Digital Arts Industry in the region.
- Ongoing implementation of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities award winning 2012-2017 Sustainability Plan that is consistent with RGS Principles and Goals.
- Age-Friendly Transportation Plan was completed in March 2013. This project supports RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, as well as Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place.

- As part of implementing the Sustainability Plan and OCP policies, the Waterfront Master Plan project was initiated in late 2013 (with anticipated completion for 2015) to address range of waterfront planning, infrastructure and recreation issues. The first phase of the project will include a coastal engineering analysis that will address the impacts of anticipated sea level rise consistent with RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption. Other land use planning aspects of the project are consistent with RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility, Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres, and Goal 6: Celebrate Pride of Place.
- The 2013 Secondary Suites Policy Review evaluated the effectiveness of the current policies through a public consultation process and resulted in recommendations to refine the Town's policy. The review and subsequent implementation that is underway supports RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility and Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres.

8 IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

For 2014 the RDN will continue to make progress on the following implementation items:

1. Identifying and establishing targets to achieve key policies set out in RGS.
2. Establishing a process and program to monitor, evaluate and periodically report on regional economic, population, social and environmental trends and progress towards achieving RGS goals and policies and the targets to be established as set out in Policy 4.
3. Establishing a Corporate Implementation Strategy that demonstrates how all the RDN's bylaws, services, and spending are consistent with the adopted RGS.
4. Continuing to undertake a series of studies and actions as identified in Table 3 of the RGS which identifies specific goals, actions, primary responsible agency and expected timeline for completion.
5. Initiating Rural Village Centre projects for Fairwinds Lake District and Schooner Cove neighbourhoods.
6. Continuing to build stronger relationships and pursuing protocol agreements with First Nations.
7. Strengthening relationships with major institutions such as Island Health, VIU, SD 68 & SD 69 and organizations key to furthering RGS Goals (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Groups, non-governmental / community organizations).
8. Working with member municipalities to develop Regional Context Statements for their OCPs.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF RGS IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2014
Section 5.0	Establish Targets & Indicators to monitor progress.	Background research and data collection ongoing for 2014.
Section 5.0	Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS.	To be initiated in 2014
1. Climate Change	Complete Community Energy & Emissions Plan.	Completed 2013
2. Environmental Protection	Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain SEI databases.	Ongoing
	Encourage the Province to regulate groundwater, require reporting on water use and protect water resources on a watershed basis.	Ongoing
3. Coordinate land use & mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and prepare mobility strategy.	Ongoing – this includes participation in the City of Nanaimo’s Transportation Master Plan.
	Prepare industrial land supply and demand study and strategy (also applies to Goal 7).	Industrial Lands Study completed Spring 2013.
4. Concentrate housing & jobs	Prepare region-wide study of Rural Village Centres.	Rural Village Centres Study completed Spring 2013.
5. Rural integrity	Policy 5.13: Implementation - Study of options for more sustainable forms of subdivision - to limit sprawl and fragmentation on rural residential land.	Completed October 2012
6. Affordable housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Housing Action Plan Completed 2011.
		Secondary Suites Strategy –

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2014
		<p>Background Study and Consultation Plan completed and implemented. Draft zoning bylaw amendments and associated policies to be considered by the RDN Board Spring 2014.</p>
<p>7. Vibrant, resilient economy</p>	<p>7.2 Support and encourage economic development.</p>	<p>Northern Community Economic Development Program Established 2012 with ongoing implementation.</p> <p>Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement completed 2012 with ongoing implementation.</p>
	<p>7.6 Collaborate in the preparation of a regional industrial land supply strategy and ensure that the region remains competitive in its ability to attract industrial development.</p>	<p>Industrial Lands Study completed Spring 2013.</p>
	<p>7.9 Collaborate in the preparation of a commercial (retail and office) land strategy to ensure that the supply, location, distribution, form and type of commercial development is consistent with sustainability and growth management objectives of the RGS and supports the continued vitality of the sector.</p>	<p>Initiation of a Commercial Lands Study planned for 2014.</p>
<p>8. Food security</p>	<p>Prepare study of agriculture in the region to identify issues and present and future needs of the agricultural sector.</p>	<p>Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) completed in 2012.</p>
		<p>Agricultural Area Plan 2014-2016 Action Plan completed November 2013.</p> <p>Committee established in 2013 to</p>

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2014
		<p>oversee carrying out the Action Plan during 2014-2016.</p> <p>Draft Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan prepared in 2013 with anticipated adoption in early 2014.</p>
<p>9. Pride of Place</p>	<p>Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and OCPs.</p>	<p>Cedar Main Street Plan adopted 2013.</p> <p>City of Nanaimo Cultural Plan completed during 2013 with anticipated adoption and implementation in 2014.</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Guidelines Adopted 2013.</p> <p>Ongoing process to develop a Community Parks and Trails Strategy for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H'. Anticipated completion in 2014.</p> <p>Qualicum Beach Cultural Plan completed 2012 with ongoing implementation.</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>Ongoing outreach initiatives and discussions on areas of mutual interest.</p> <p>First handyDART servicing agreement signed between Snaw-Naw-As and RDN in 2013.</p>

APPENDIX 2: RGS 2013 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITY
Ongoing	Website updates on the status of projects to implement the RGS.
Ongoing	RDN Perspectives newsletter updates on the status of projects to implement the RGS.
March 28, 2013	Presentation to approximately 150 Vancouver Island University ESL students and 8 staff on the RGS and regional sustainability.
May 25, 2013	RGS information available at Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Open House.
June 1, 2013	RGS information available at French Creek Pollution Control Centre Open House
August 31, 2013	Lighthouse Country Fall Fair Booth with information on RGS.
October 30, 2013	Meeting with Senior Vancouver Island University Staff involving explanation and discussion on how the RGS directs future growth in the region and the outcome of different implementation studies.
November 13, 2013	Presentation to approximately 120 VIU Advanced ESL students and 6 staff on the RGS and its role in protecting the region's water resources.