

Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Growth Centres

Indicator #9—Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct future population growth inside the Growth Containment Boundaries. The higher population of ‘mixed-use centres’ within the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) situates people closer to employment and services needed on a daily basis. This type of growth supports the delivery of more cost effective and efficient transit and infrastructure services. Outside of the GCB, demand for development is reduced and land is maintained for open space, agriculture and wildlife habitat.

What does this indicator tell us?

This indicator tells us if population growth inside the GCB is increasing compared to outside the GCB. This shows whether or not the majority of growth is happening in designated growth areas. This indicator can be used to show if population growth is within locations that support walkability and efficient servicing. This applies to Urban Areas in municipalities and Rural Village Centres in Electoral Areas.



Where do we want to go?

The RGS goal is for the RDN and member municipalities to direct the majority of new growth into the GCB. The RGS vision is to create compact, complete walkable neighborhoods that can be serviced more efficiently with transit, water, wastewater and solid waste. The compact form of development also achieves other RGS goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve resource lands.

Target: Increase the proportion of the population living within the Growth Containment Boundary

What is included in this indicator?

This indicator uses the number of dwelling units within 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 Census of Canada to provide an estimate of the population inside and outside the GCB.

Where are we right now?

The 2015 population provided a baseline estimate, and is used to establish a trend for future updates to this indicator. In 2017, there were 136,789 people within the GCB for the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, District of Lantzville, City of Parksville and the RDN Electoral Areas, and 17,774 people outside. This represents approximately 89% of people within the GCB and 11% of people outside the GCB for each Nanaimo, Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Lantzville and the Electoral Areas combined.

Goal 4

Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Growth Centres

Target: Increase the proportion of the population living within the Growth Containment Boundary

Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB)



2017 Population

136,789 people inside the GCB
17,774 people outside the GCB

2015 Population

100,093 people inside the GCB
24,942 people outside the GCB

City of Nanaimo 2017*

94,911 persons within the GCB

0 persons outside the GCB

City of Parksville 2017*

12,514 persons with the GCB

0 persons outside the GCB

Town of Qualicum Beach 2017*

8830 persons within the GCB

458 persons outside the GCB

District of Lantzville 2017*

3,700 persons within the GCB

78 persons outside the GCB

RDN Electoral Areas 2017*

16,834 persons within the GCB**

17208 persons outside the GCB**

City of Nanaimo 2015*

94,911 persons within the GCB

0 persons outside the GCB

City of Parksville 2015*

X persons with the GCB

X persons outside the GCB

Town of Qualicum Beach 2015*

X persons with the GCB

X persons outside the GCB

District of Lantzville 2015*

3,548 persons within the GCB

78 persons outside the GCB

RDN Electoral Areas 2015*

11,638 persons within the GCB**

24,864 persons outside the GCB**

* Totals calculated using number of households and average household size

**Electoral Area B is not included in the results

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Every reasonable effort has been made to use comparable data with consistent geographies and methodology. Where data limitations exist, these are noted within the document content, chart or table. For further details of the results, please refer to the RGS Annual Reports for information: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-progress-reports>