



Sustainable Saanich | Strategic Update Official Community Plan

DRAFT PLAN + PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT

Public Webinar / Q&A Session

June 7, 2023





Overview

- Project Background
- Draft Plan
 - Document Elements and Framing
 - Land Use Policy Highlights
 - Other Plan Components
 - Evaluation & Monitoring
- Phase 2 Engagement



Project Background

Strategic OCP Update

What is an OCP?

- Primary document that guides growth and change
- Long-term vision for a livable community based on shared values and sustainability
- Overarching framework for other District polices/plans
- Legally binding – decisions made within its scope are required to conform to its policy direction
- Consistent with CRD Regional Growth Strategy



Why a “Strategic” Update

- Majority of plan content still relevant
- Build on recent processes and adopted policy/Council direction
- Effective use of limited resources
- Make priority updates in a short time frame



Project Scope – Administrative

- Update OCP to incorporate recent Council work and District-wide processes
- Integrate new demographic data/relevant statistics
- Refine sustainability framework
- Strengthen monitoring/implementation



Project Scope – New Areas

- Add “Corridor” policies and designation
- Expand on “missing middle” housing/infill policies
- Update guidance on parks for complete communities
- Further enhance walkable neighbourhoods
- Provide more clarity on maps

Project Phases





Engagement Overview

- Approach reflects limited scope
- Phase 1 – new policy
 - May to September 2022
 - Survey, stakeholder workshops, advisory committees, internal meetings, awareness
- Phase 2 – draft plan
 - Broader approach/more methods
 - Mix of online and in-person opportunities
- Phase 3 – Council process



Phase 1 Engagement Themes

- Need for housing options in all areas
- Support for proposed corridors locations/policies
- Locate higher density near amenities/transit
- Important to provide related infrastructure/services with increases in density



Key Concerns from Phase 1

- Transition from higher density areas / taller building forms to single detached areas
- Parking, increased traffic, road safety
- Loss of neighbourhood character
- Access to green space for residents in apartments and tree retention with new development



Complementary Initiatives

- Centre, Corridor and Village Plans
- Community Amenity Contribution and Inclusionary Housing Program
- Update of Design Guidelines
- Neighbourhood Homes Study
- Resilient Saanich / Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy
- Active Transportation Plan
- Economic Development Strategy



Draft Plan Framing & Foundations

Strategic OCP Update

Document Redesign

Sustainable Saanich
OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN
DRAFT
May 2023

11.0 Parks, Trails, and Open Space

Related Plans & Strategies

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan
- Action Transportation Plan
- Recreation Market Analysis Study

Objectives

A. Provide residents with a range of safe parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities to support active living, health, well-being and community cohesion.

B. Work towards equitable and walkable access to parks and open spaces for all urban residents.

C. Protect, restore and enhance natural areas, ecological function and biological diversity.

Saanich is fortunate to have a broad range of parks, open spaces, and trails. This includes over 170 municipal, community and neighbourhood parks, supplemented by the regional park network, and

play, socialize, relax, be healthy, and learn about and appreciate nature. They also provide wildlife habitat, and support biodiversity and ecosystem services. Multi-purpose trails support healthy living by providing transportation connections as well as recreational opportunities. Together these spaces and trail connections are an important component of the District's response to climate change supporting both mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Reframing from 3-pillar structure to functional areas

More graphics to explain concepts and section objectives to guide policy

General Structure

- Context, framing, and foundations content at start followed by functional focus areas
- Focus areas
 - Introduction to topic (using existing/updated OCP)
 - Topic based objectives (New)
 - Policies by sub-section
- Content draws from existing OCP, adopted Council policies and plans and updated stats/data



- Related Plans &**
- Resilient Saanich
 - Climate Plan
 - Biodiversity Cons
 - Urban Forest Stra
 - Integrated Storm Planning

Environmental protection are priorities for the District. Environmental protection is a fundamental component of a sustainable community. Green space, biodiversity, natural areas is important to human health. It is One Planet Living.

Saanich is home to some of the most diverse and rare ecosystems on the coast. Biological diverse areas like old growth forests and pockets of old growth. Saanich also has a long history of productive lakes and systems and a diversity that support healthy wild natural areas in Saanich. Characteristics and are threatened species. The ecosystem services that the broader community purifying the air, reducing climate, and storing carbon contribute to global warming.

Natural Environment

enhance Saanich's unique ecosystems, biodiversity, and services.

health of watersheds and marine shoreline habitat.

an forest using the 3:30:300 (are 10).

the vital importance of a natural environment to supporting health and well-being, health, and climate resilience.

environmental stewardship, public awareness, and participation.

meaningful community with nature in ways that foster the well-being of both people and the environment.



Plan Vision



- No Change in Vision
- Values are also not changing but are no longer explicitly included in the document > incorporated into Section Objectives and framing

Sustainability Foundations

Three Pillars



Complementary frameworks guiding our policy direction

One Planet Living



15-Minute Community





Climate

100% Renewable
& Resilient S

Climate Change Response

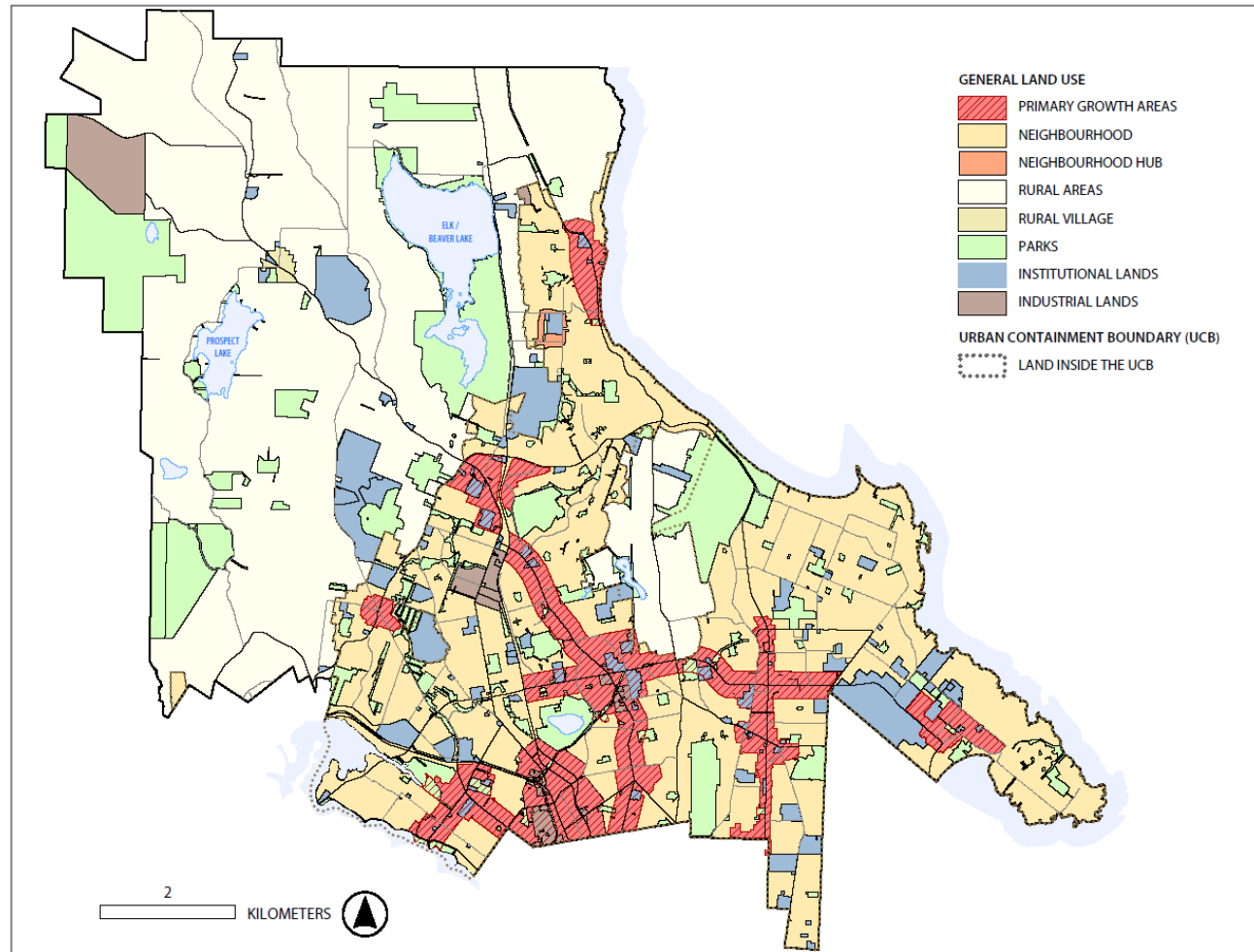
- Incorporated as a Plan foundation
- Recognizes to achieve targets and implement adaptation strategies the response needs to take an overarching District-wide approach
- Applicable policies also woven through the different sections



Land Use Policy Highlights

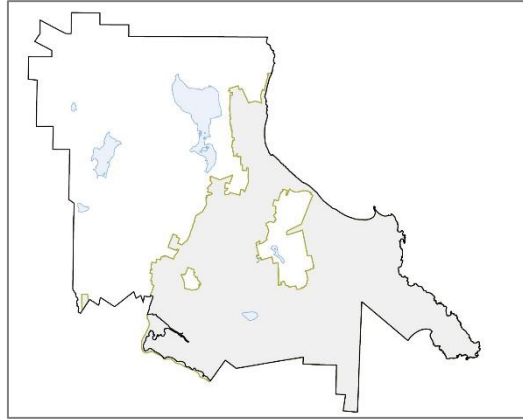
Strategic OCP Update

Restructured Land Use Section

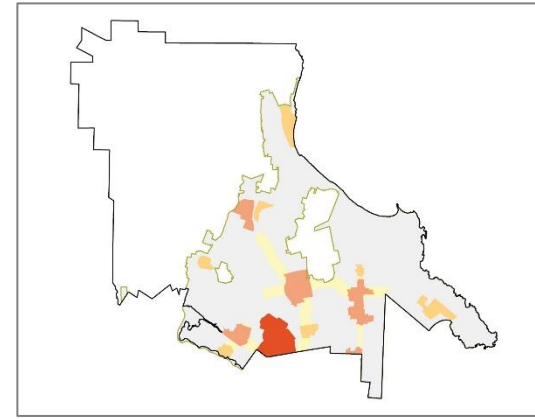


- 2008 > Centres + Villages
- Move to Primary Growth Areas
 - Corridors to connect areas
 - Integrate with transit
 - Clarify boundaries at the parcel-level
- Strengthen policy to increase options in Neighbourhoods
- Added “Hubs” to support 15-minute community concept

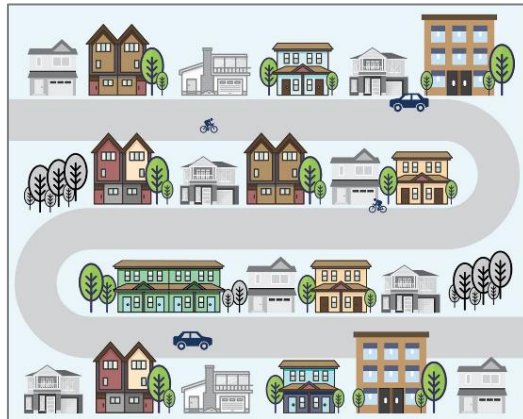
Four Strategic Land Use Directions



Maintain the Urban Containment Boundary



Accommodate most New Development in Primary Growth Areas

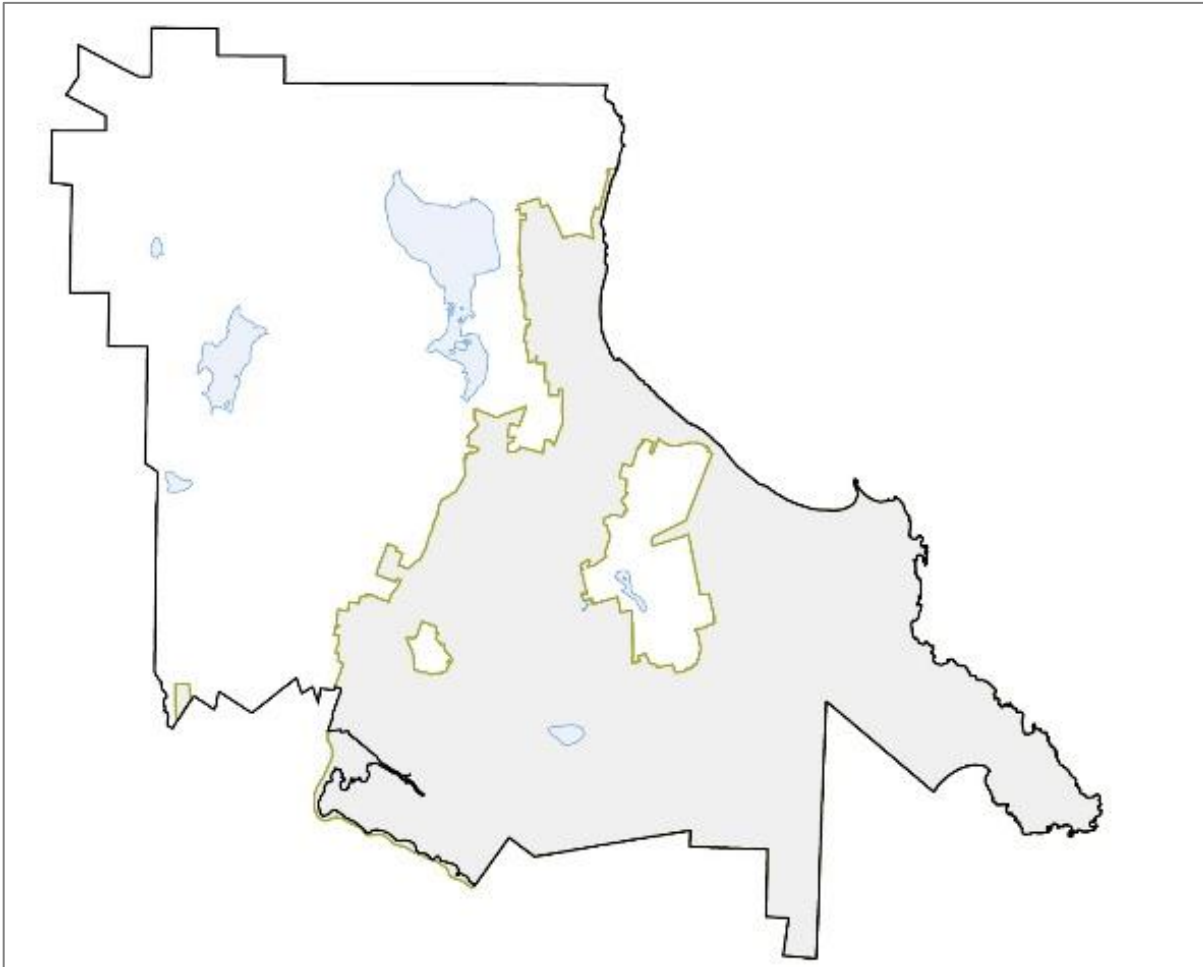


Expand Housing Diversity in Neighbourhoods



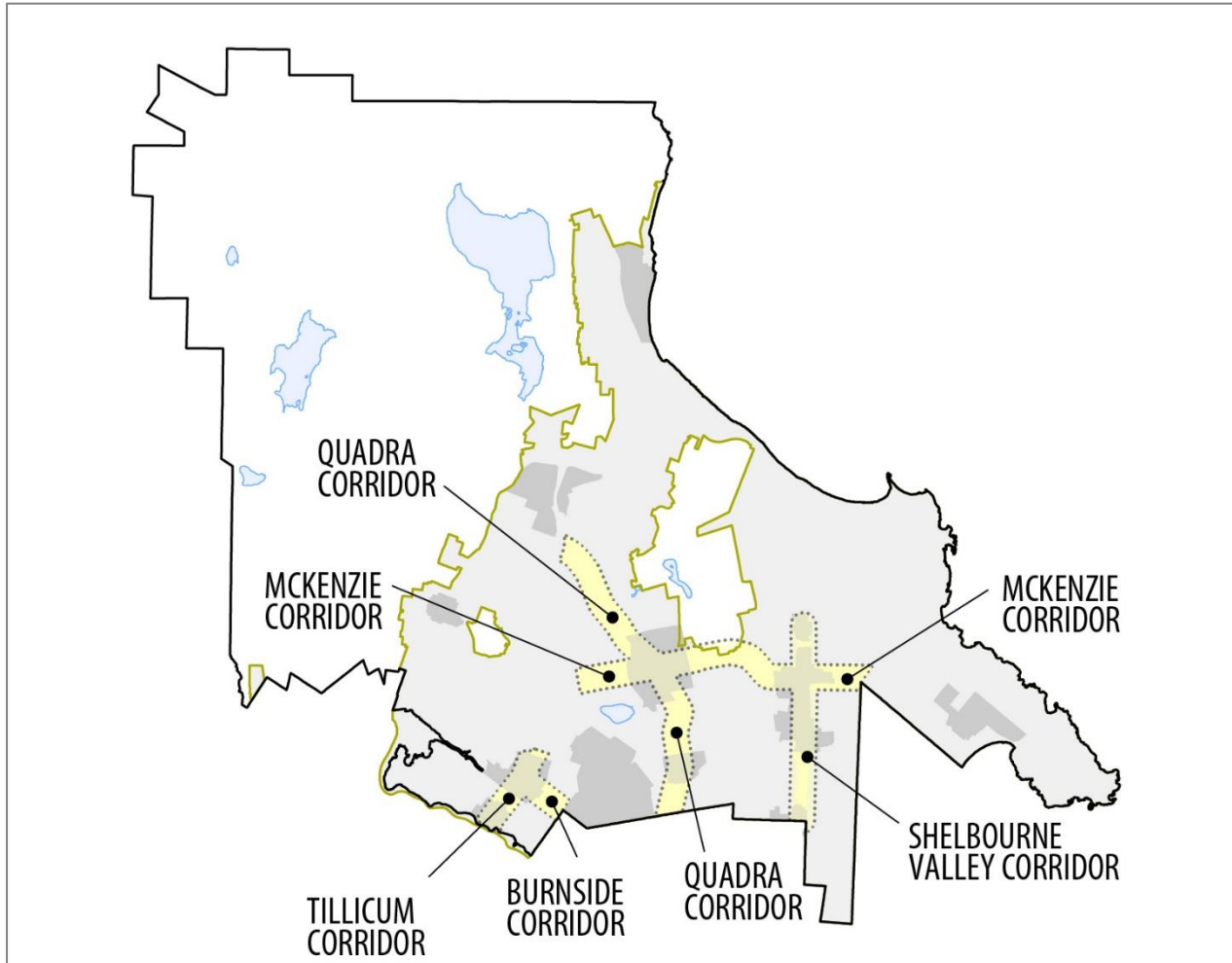
Make Saanich a 15-minute Community

1. Maintain the Urban Containment Boundary



- Retain agricultural land and natural areas
- Reduce urban sprawl
- Support low/no carbon transportation modes
- Encourage efficient use of infrastructure and public investment.

2. Primary Growth Areas - Overview of Corridors



- Residential oriented, supported by limited mixed use
- Linked with sustainable transportation forms
- Primary Corridors mapped conceptually in OCP
- Secondary Corridors to be identified in area planning
- Higher heights considered where Primary Corridors overlap with Centres and Villages

3. Expand Housing Diversity in Neighbourhoods



- Support a broader range of housing choices in Neighbourhoods through infill to better meet community needs
- Provide housing opportunities for all stages of life
- Include a mix of ground-oriented and low-rise houseplexes, apartments, and townhouses offering different tenure types and affordability levels

4. Make Saanich a 15-Minute Community



- Evolving “Complete Communities”
- Build on the existing network of Centres and Villages to make Saanich a walkable 15-minute community
- All households within the UCB are within a 15-minute (or 1.2km) walk of key amenities to support daily living
- Long-term planning will guide land use changes where gaps exist to better meet community needs



Other Plan Components

Strategic OCP Update

Housing Section

- Major re-write
- All components in one place
- Strong language re: housing gap
- Five focus areas
 - Overall housing supply to meet housing needs
 - Rental housing supply
 - Affordable and supportive housing supply
 - Expand the diversity of housing choice
 - Strengthen partnerships to improve housing strategies and outcome





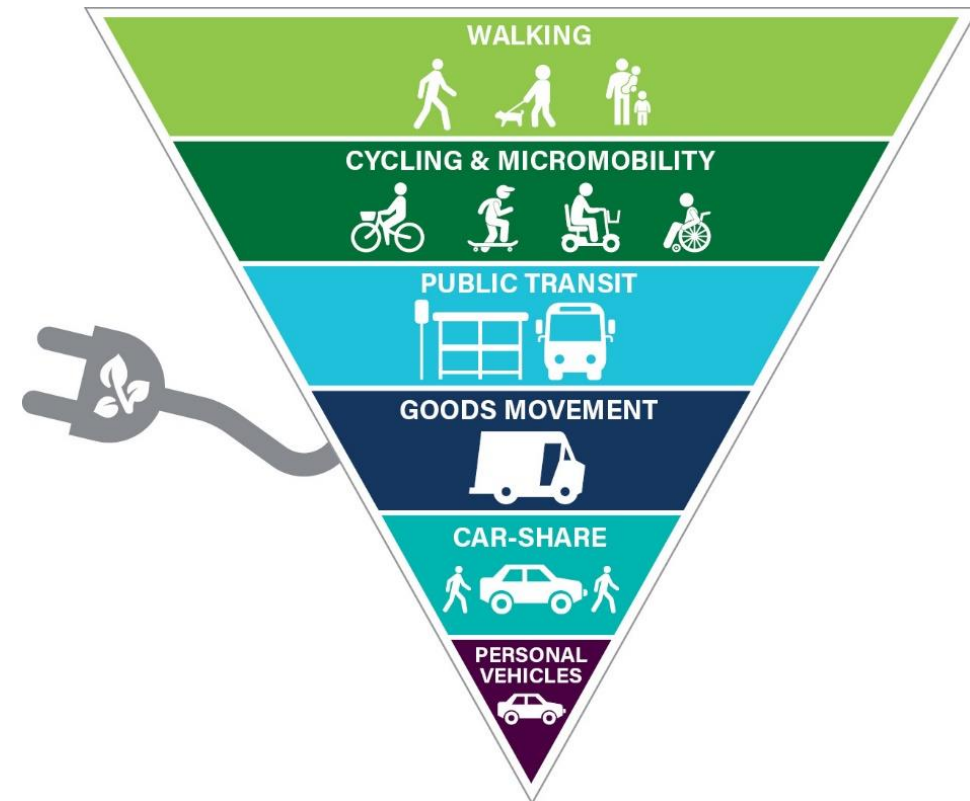
Walkable Access to Parks

- Different parks and open spaces needs:
 - Urban and Rural Saanich have different needs
 - Higher density areas with limited/no private space
- Hierarchy of walkable public open spaces/parks
 - 3-30-300 guiding principle
 - Urban plazas and small urban parks will help meet *some* of the needs of residents in high growth areas
 - But... still need easy access to larger green spaces
- Walkable access reinforced:
 - Active transportation network
 - Bus service/transit stop location



Sustainable Transportation

- Plan reinforces sustainable transportation modes to achieve Climate Plan/ATP targets
- Integrating land use with transportation
- Prioritizing walking, cycling, and public transit infrastructure as well as goods movement
- Supporting multi-modal connections



First Nations

- Territorial acknowledgement
- Revised history section
- First Nations reconciliation
- Indigenous Relations section
- Policies woven throughout document
- Consultation planned for Spring





Implementation and Evaluation

- Identified several priority actions
- 5-year evaluation cycle, observe trends/progress
 - Status of the implementation of priority actions
 - Progress of Strategic Land Use Directions
 - Update demographic, housing, and census data
 - Alignment with other policy documents and initiatives
 - Indicator framework (20-25 key indicators)
- More frequent housekeeping amendments
- Relationship of OCP to LAPs / CCV plans



Phase 2 Engagement

Strategic OCP Update



We Want Your Feedback!

- We want to hear from as many people as possible
- There are plenty of opportunities to get involved
 - Webinars
 - Open houses / discussion tables
 - Digital workshops
 - Survey – launching tomorrow
- Project team is also hosting targeted stakeholder meetings and seeking input from several Council Advisory Committees



Key Activities and Dates

- General public
 - Webinars/Q&A – ~~May 30, June 7~~
 - Open Houses – ~~June 6, June 17~~
 - Digital Workshops – June 13, June 15
 - Survey – open until June 30th
- Targeted workshops
 - Saanich Community Association Workshop – ~~May 31~~
 - Housing Providers/Industry Workshop – June 20
- Sign-up for a workshop/mark your calendar



Thank-you!

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