





1.0 Introduction

The Official Community Plan is the principal legislative tool for guiding future growth and change in Saanich. The Plan is an expression of the fundamental values and goals of the community. It establishes directions for achieving a collective vision of what Saanich should be.

As a community, region, and country, we are in a time of significant and accelerated change. The ways in which we manage the challenges of the next few years and decades will be critical to the health and well-being of Saanich, the region, and beyond.

This Official Community Plan is Saanich's fourth. Previous Official Community Plans were adopted by Saanich Council in 1979, 1984, and 1993, with minor revisions made from time to time to address specific issues.





Major reviews of the document, undertaken every decade or so, recognize that circumstances can change, new issues can emerge, technology can advance, and new information can surface. To remain relevant, an Official Community Plan needs to reflect and respect what is important to the citizens of Saanich.

While this Plan builds on earlier planning documents, several underlying principles have influenced its preparation. These include:

- how to manage growth and change;
- how to maximize the use and protection of resources;
- how to provide transportation and mobility in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible way;
- how to ensure that the limits of natural life-supporting systems are not exceeded and, where these have been altered, how to ameliorate the negative impacts;
- how to create vibrant mixed-use commercial centres; and
- how to integrate the interactions and outcomes of the various environmental, social and economic factors that shape Saanich and the lives of its citizens.

This Plan is organized into a number of sections. The sections are linked by an overall policy and action framework founded on the underlying principles of sustainability and liveability. The Plan's sections include:

- a vision for the future;
- the planning context;
- planning for environmental integrity in both the natural and built environment;
- planning for social well-being to meet basic needs and strengthening the community;
- planning for economic vibrancy; and
- taking action and tracking progress.

Looking into the future means that informed assumptions must be made about many factors, and short-term trade-offs may be necessary along the way. However, by taking an integrative approach from the outset, being committed to best practice, and working continuously towards improvement, the community can move towards ensuring future environmental, social, and economic sustainability. It is important to continually examine the trends and influences that are shaping and affecting the community and to develop strategies that can influence, adapt to, and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.



Mt. Douglas Park

Perhaps most importantly, plans are only effective if there is a willingness to implement them through the use of appropriate planning and regulatory tools and the careful stewardship of financial resources. A commitment to ongoing monitoring and reporting of decisions and actions and their outcomes, intended and unintended, is also required. Realizing the intent of the Plan is a shared responsibility, and requires the combined efforts of everyone in the community. Success will be achieved through awareness and attention, involvement and cooperation, innovation and adaptation.

“The Brundtland Commission, formally the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), known by the name of its Chair Gro Harlem Brundtland, was convened by the United Nations in 1983. The commission was created to address growing concern about the accelerating deterioration of the human environment and natural resources and the consequences of that deterioration for economic and social development.



In establishing the commission, the UN General Assembly recognized that environmental problems were global in nature and determined that it was in the common interest of all nations to establish policies for sustainable development.”

“The Brundtland Report, also known as “Our Common Future”, alerted the world to the urgency of making progress toward economic development that could be sustained without depleting natural resources or harming the environment. The Brundtland Report highlighted the three fundamental components of sustainable development, the environment, society, and the economy.”