

AGENDA
Natural Areas, Parks, and Trails Advisory Committee
via MS Teams,

Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək'wəjən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- May 11, 2023 (attachment)

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

3. PEOPLE, PETS, AND PARKS STRATEGY – CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

- Paul de Greef, Manager, Park Plan and Development

4. STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE DRAFT PLAN

- Cameron Scott – Manager of Community Planning, Planning Department
- Memo attached for information

5. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

- Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner, Engineering
- Paul de Greef, Manager, Park Plan and Development

6. CURRENT PARKS WORK (BLENKINSOP LAKE)

- Paul de Greef, Manager, Park Plan and Development
- Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer, Parks, Recreation and Community Services

* Adjournment *

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES
NATURAL AREAS, PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Learning Centre, Annex building, 780 Vernon Avenue
May 11, 2023, at 4:02 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Pamela Carroll, Catherine Du Bois, Christine Harbord, David Little, Dave Marecek, Evan Papps, Don Sutton, Darrell Wick.

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Alix Link, Manager of Urban Forestry, Natural Areas, and Community Stewardship; Kirsten Brazier, Senior Committee Clerk; Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk.

AGENDA

MOVED by D. Wick and Seconded by D. Sutton “That item five on the agenda, Saanich Environment Awards, be postponed until September 7, 2023, in order to confirm if an in-person event is scheduled.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Sutton: “That the Minutes of the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting held April 13, 2023, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed the committee members, and the following was noted:

- Pop-up dog parks have seen steady growth and will stay open until the end of summer during daylight hours.
- Rutledge Park’s open house is scheduled for May 31, 2023, to solicit feedback regarding the plan and the design for the future.
- The Capitol Regional District’s (CRD) recent update to their Annual Report logs the work they have completed thus far in the local parks to improve and protect the ecosystems.

ECOSYSTEMS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Chair introduced the memo and noted that there are no policies in Saanich concerning ecosystems.

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the memo, and the following was noted:

- It is requested that the committee focus more time on the parks and natural areas because of the ongoing degradation due to people and dogs.

- Urban forest, as a concept, fits well within our Terms of Reference, whether it's a forest in a natural area or an urban boundary.
- Diamond Head Consultants has begun it's work on the Urban Forest Strategy and The Biodiversity Strategy.
- "Saanich sites" and "Development sites" as referred to in the memo, are any land owned privately or publicly that is being developed.
- The recommendations that are made to the consultant in the memo are better described as a consideration as they are completing their work and not as a direct statement.

ADVOCACY RESOLUTION TO 2023 UBCM CONVENTION

A memo related to protecting and restoring biological diversity with a resolution to support biodiversity in the local communities was attached to the agenda. The committee members were asked to provide feedback on the resolution and the following was noted:

- Saanich is ahead of the other municipalities in advancing the Resolution: Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities Rural and smaller municipalities may have more interest if the topic was broader and included topics like climate change, the production of green house gases and a potential for funding.
- It is requested to change the wording in the memo's last paragraph to "protect, acquire and restore".

MOVED by D. Marecek and Seconded by C. Du Bois "It be recommended that the last paragraph of the Advocacy Resolution to 2023 UBCM Convention be amended to add the word restore as follows":

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities, including establishing a *Local Natural Areas Protection Fund* to support local efforts to protect, restore and acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health."

CARRIED

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY UPDATE

The Manager of Urban Forestry, Natural Areas and Community Stewardship presented the Urban Forest Strategy (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- The Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) are being done in parallel by Diamond Head Consulting.
- Public engagement and feedback for both strategy's closed earlier this week. No information from these engagements has been provided yet.
- All the trees on public and private land, parks, and conservation areas, are defined as the Urban Forest.
- Trees provide habitat for wildlife, stabilizing steep slopes, cooling urban areas, and improving mental and physical health.
- Council endorsed the first UFS in 2010 and an update is now crucial. Establishing a baseline of the current state of the Urban Forest, providing a fifty-year vision and a ten-year implementation will be included in this update.
- The process of updating the UFS began in 2022 by analyzing the state of the Urban Forest, gathering various forms of public engagement, and presenting to Council and Committees.
- A finalized UFS document is planned for completion by 2023 - year end.

- The State of the Urban Forest Report measured the canopy cover, which includes the volume, health, and maturity of the trees within the different communities.
- Because Saanich's tree canopy varies in size and age, the distribution is uneven throughout the urbanized, rural, and suburban areas.
- A large percentage of Saanich's trees are on private property and are not owned by Saanich; therefore, decisions for removal are made without consultation.
- As cities become more urbanized and the need for utilities increase, the space for trees to grow and thrive becomes less.
- The decline of our tree health is mostly identified in natural areas struggling with climate change related drought impacts.
- Various planting programs within the District are contributing to the "10,000 trees by 2025" planting target from the Climate Plan (2020).
- Saanich has made progress since 2010 by creating the Urban Forest Reserve Fund, adopting the Tree Protection Bylaw, and investing in stewardship programs. There are many challenges with limited resources, planting site availability and priorities for space and climate risk.

Following questions and comments from the committee, the following was noted:

- PKOLS is included in the canopy cover for Gordon Head, which seems misleading and potentially alters the data.
- This data will confirm that the rural and park areas have high tree coverage, but also what areas require work and focus.
- Council motioned to increase the tree planting target to 10,000 per year for a total of 100,000 trees in 10 years. In addition, an incentive for homeowners is anticipated.
- The Zoning Bylaw and infrastructure conflicts with the amount of space that is needed for trees to survive.
- A team of arborists continue to analyze and update the approved tree planting list. The quality of the soil and the location availability are factors.
- Although fruit trees would provide nutrition to all, maintenance must be considered.
- Protecting the trees is becoming more of a challenge as the need for housing utilities increases. Therefore, a plan to replace these trees is imperative.
- An idea was brought forth to offer an incentive to discourage clear cutting of reserved land for farming.
- UFS should include tree canopy protection for the fish bearing streams. For example, when the temperature was measured at Douglas Creek, the sun caused the temperature to increase 1 degree every 300 meters down. In comparison, during the winter months, the temperature decreases 1 degree every 250 meters. Bowker Creek and Douglas Creek are both susceptible because there are no trees to protect them.
- Weather patterns and disease are causing damage and stress to the Western Red Cedar and the Grand Fir.
- Efforts are made in the planning stages of development to plant native trees to maximize survival.
- Council has provided funds and direction to create a tree map to include location and varieties. One of the priorities is to focus on the trees that are required to be planted because of development and the importance for future homeowners to have resources to identify them to avoid destruction.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Senior Manager of Parks presented the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- Biodiversity is defined as the variety and variability of life; this includes the smallest to the largest organism.
- The State of Biodiversity Report aims to develop a baseline inventory of the biodiversity in the District.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is to identify a “Habitat Network” and through various resources provide ways to conserve and enhance Saanich’s natural assets. Data and feedback from various outlets will help inform and create a draft strategy.
- The mapping layers, which include aquatic and terrestrial systems, highlight the species and ecosystems that are at risk.
- The iNaturalist app offered peer reviewed data, which helped identify the plants and animals within the District.
- The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) assisted and recommended to create Biodiversity Target Categories. From these categories, information was gathered to create the Biodiversity Ranking Map which assisted in observing the development that has occurred or is occurring in Saanich and the effect it is having on biodiversity.
- There are many common threats to biodiversity, but development and invasive species are ranked at the top and affect local ecosystems.

Following questions and comments from the committee, the following was noted:

- Efforts are made in the District to protect native species, but no official program is in place.
- IAPP (Invasive Alien Plant Program) is a tool that Saanich is investigating to update the technology that is used in the District.
- Development is causing disruptions and damage to the local creeks, so land has been acquired to protect these areas.
- The land outside of the Urban Containment Boundary contains farming fields which displays a low density of trees.
- Saanich staff welcomes volunteers to offset the costs involved to repair and maintain the land.
- Establishing some targets will help the community programs grow and will oversee the progress.
- The updates and revisions on the park project list should be provided.

The Chair made the following comments concerning the Advocacy Resolution to 2023 UBCM convention memo, and the following was noted:

- As the consultant reviews the zoning requirements, specifically in the Shelbourne Valley and the Uptown Corridor, there is a growing concern that the tree’s root zone are being destroyed because of installation of water mains and hydro lines.
- The Engineering Department is reviewing the issues concerning the space of audit and how it has become smaller.
- A method is needed in Saanich to protect the current ecosystems and measure the amount that exists.

Moved by D. Little and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff “That it be recommended that the consultant will continue to review the zoning requirement as it relates to the Urban Forest.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Secretary

Memo

To: Natural Areas, Parks, and Trails Advisory Committee Members
From: Amber Walker, Community Planning, Planning Department
Date: Jun 8, 2023
Subject: Strategic Draft OCP Update

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the upcoming presentation of the Draft Official Community Plan at the Natural Areas, Parks, and Trails Advisory Committee (NAPT) meeting on June 8th, 2023.

The discussion at this meeting will include an overview presentation with a sub-focus on NATP specific concerns, in advance you are encouraged to learn more about the Draft Plan in general.

More information on the Strategic OCP Update project can be found on the project website: www.saanich.ca/ocp

This includes:

- * New Draft Plan
- * Short video introducing the project
- * List of upcoming engagement events for the general- public, including a survey
- * Link to the overview presentation provided to Council (May15)
<<https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Planning/OCP-Draft-Council-Slides-May15,2023.pdf>>
- * Supporting documents
- * Project contact information
- * Link to sign-up for project updates

District staff are interested in hearing your feedback both as a committee (with a focus on Natural Areas, Parks, and Trails) and as an individual resident participating in the broader process.

Amber Walker
Community Planner, Planning Department



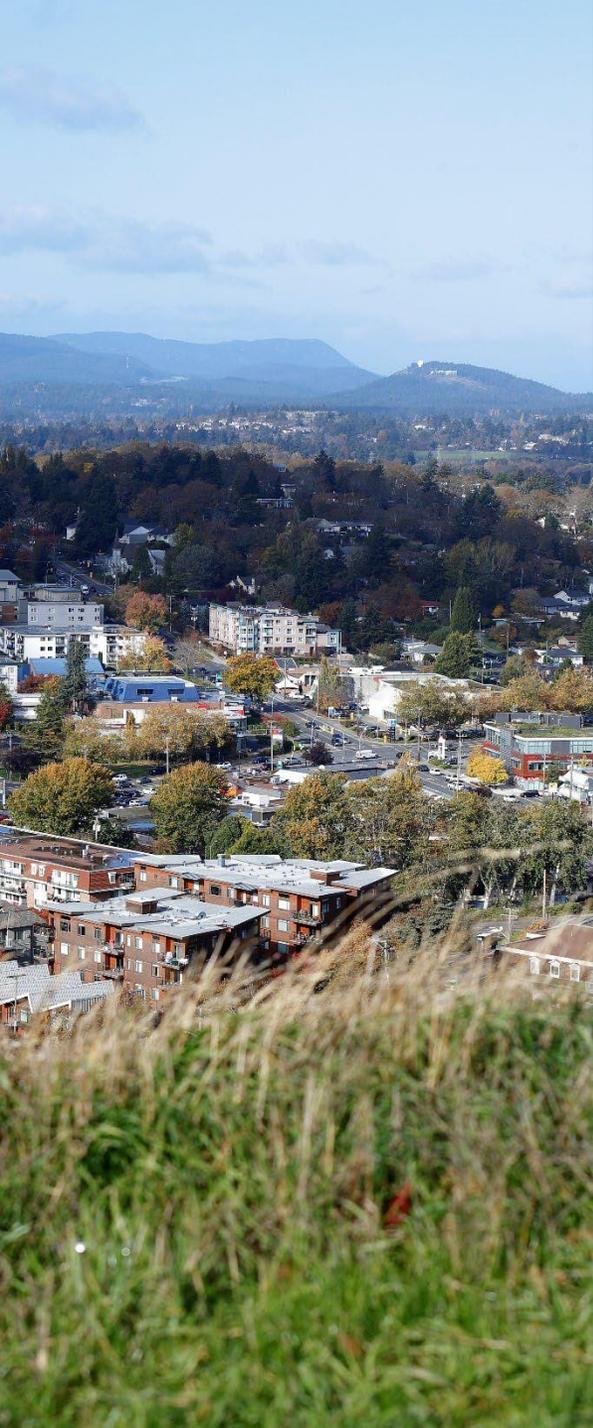
Sustainable Saanich | Strategic Update Official Community Plan

DRAFT PLAN + PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT

Committee of the Whole

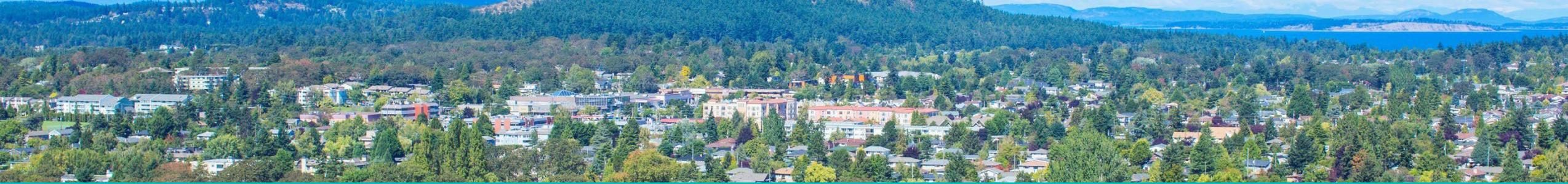
May 15, 2023





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



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

- 1) Update OCP to incorporate recent Council work
- 2) Integrate new demographic data/relevant stats
- 3) Update land use framework to:
 - Incorporate policy direction on Corridors
 - Expand on “missing middle” housing/infill policy
 - Update guidance on parks for complete communities
 - Further enhance walkable neighbourhoods
- 4) Refine sustainability framework
- 5) Strengthen monitoring and implementation

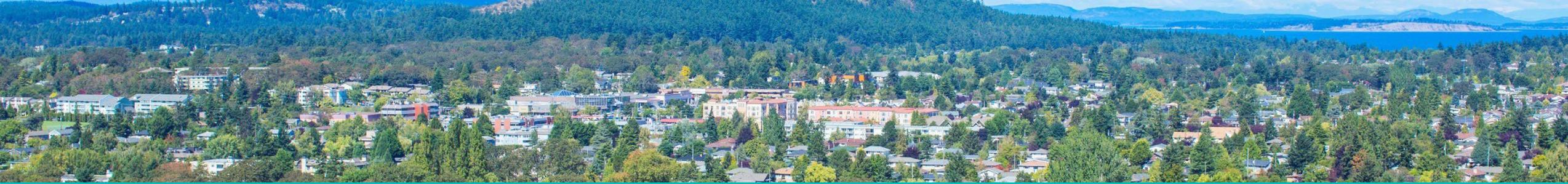
Project Phases





Complementary Initiatives

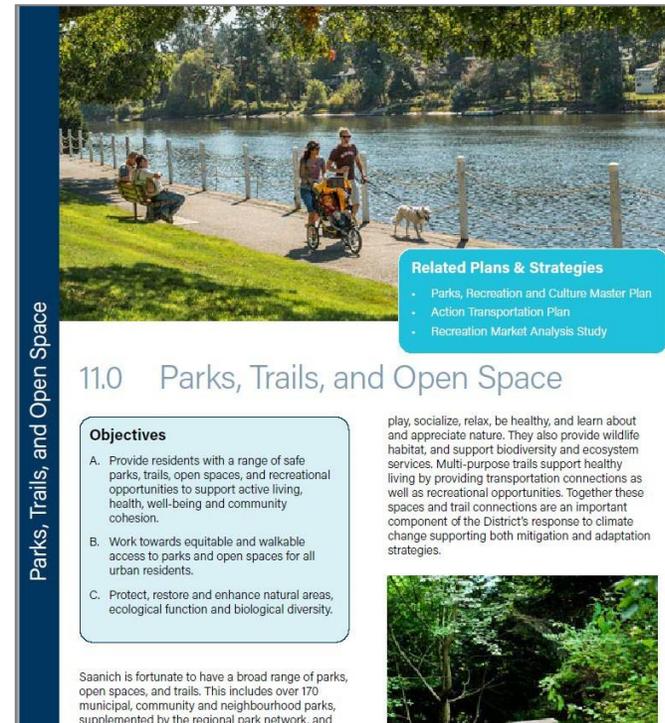
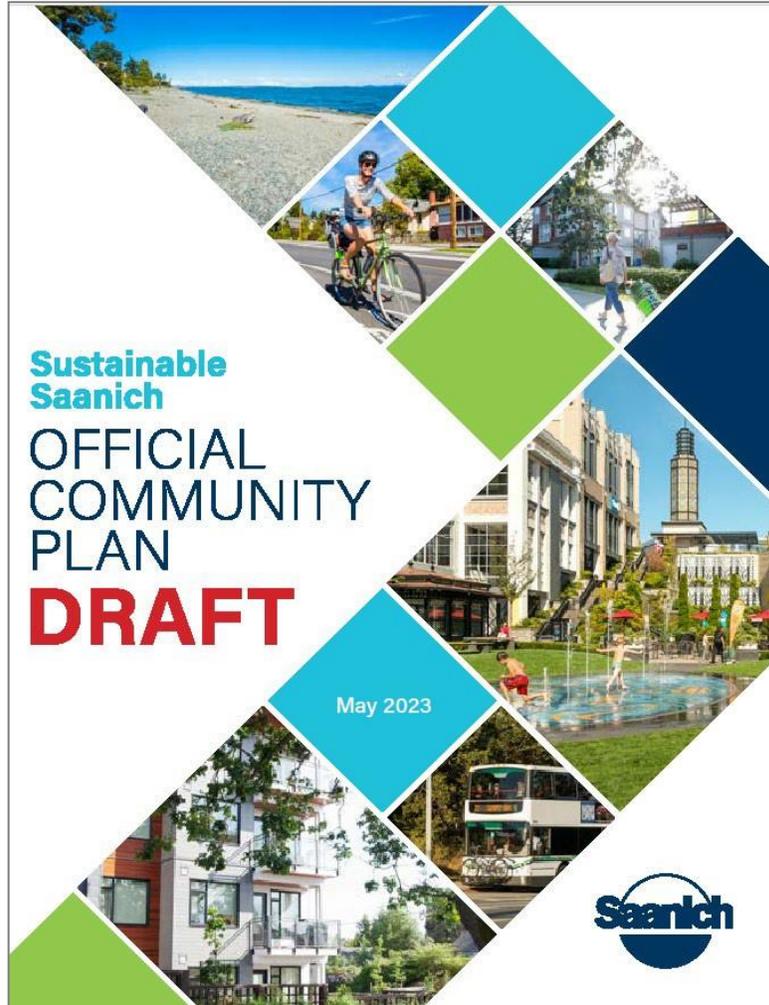
- Centre, Corridor and Village Plans
- Community Amenity Contribution and Inclusionary Housing Program
- Update of Design Guidelines
- Neighbourhood Homes Study
- Resilient Saanich / Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy
- Active Transportation Plan
- Economic Development Strategy



Draft Plan Framing & Foundations

Strategic OCP Update

Document Redesign



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
 - Topic based objectives (New)
 - Policies by sub-section
- Content draws from existing OCP, adopted Council policies and plans and updated stats/data



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



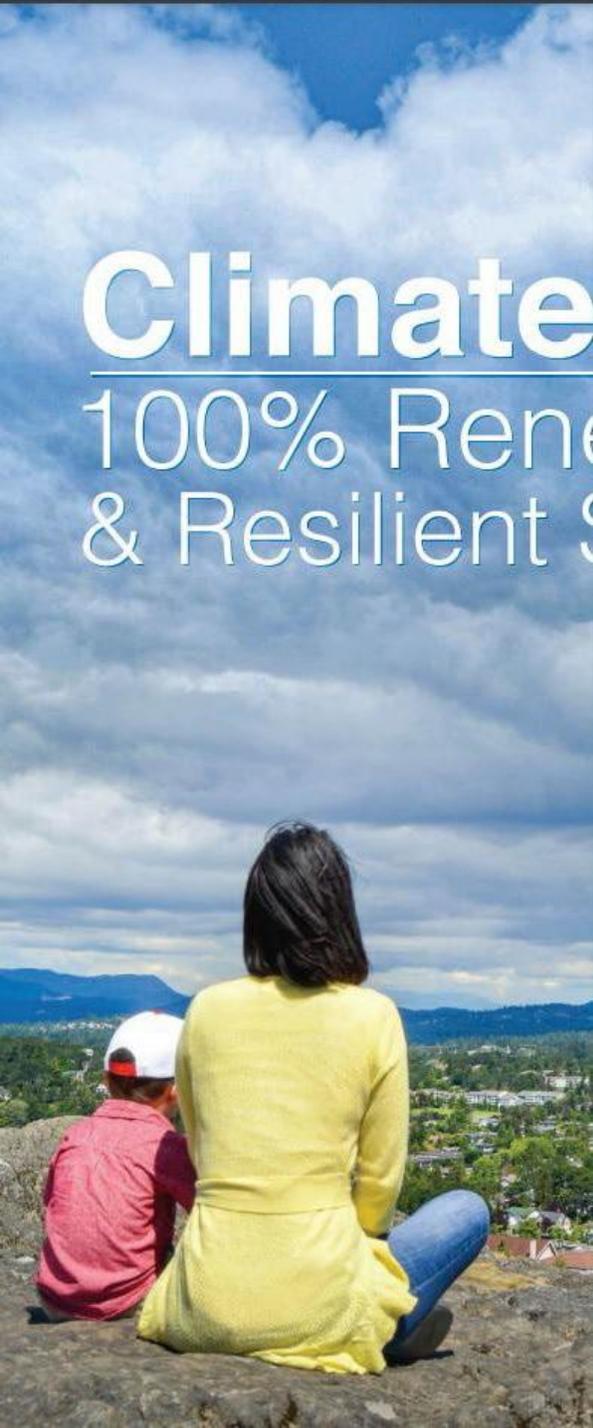
One Planet Living



15-Minute Community



Complementary frameworks guiding our policy direction



Climate

100% Renewable
& Resilient S

Climate Change Response

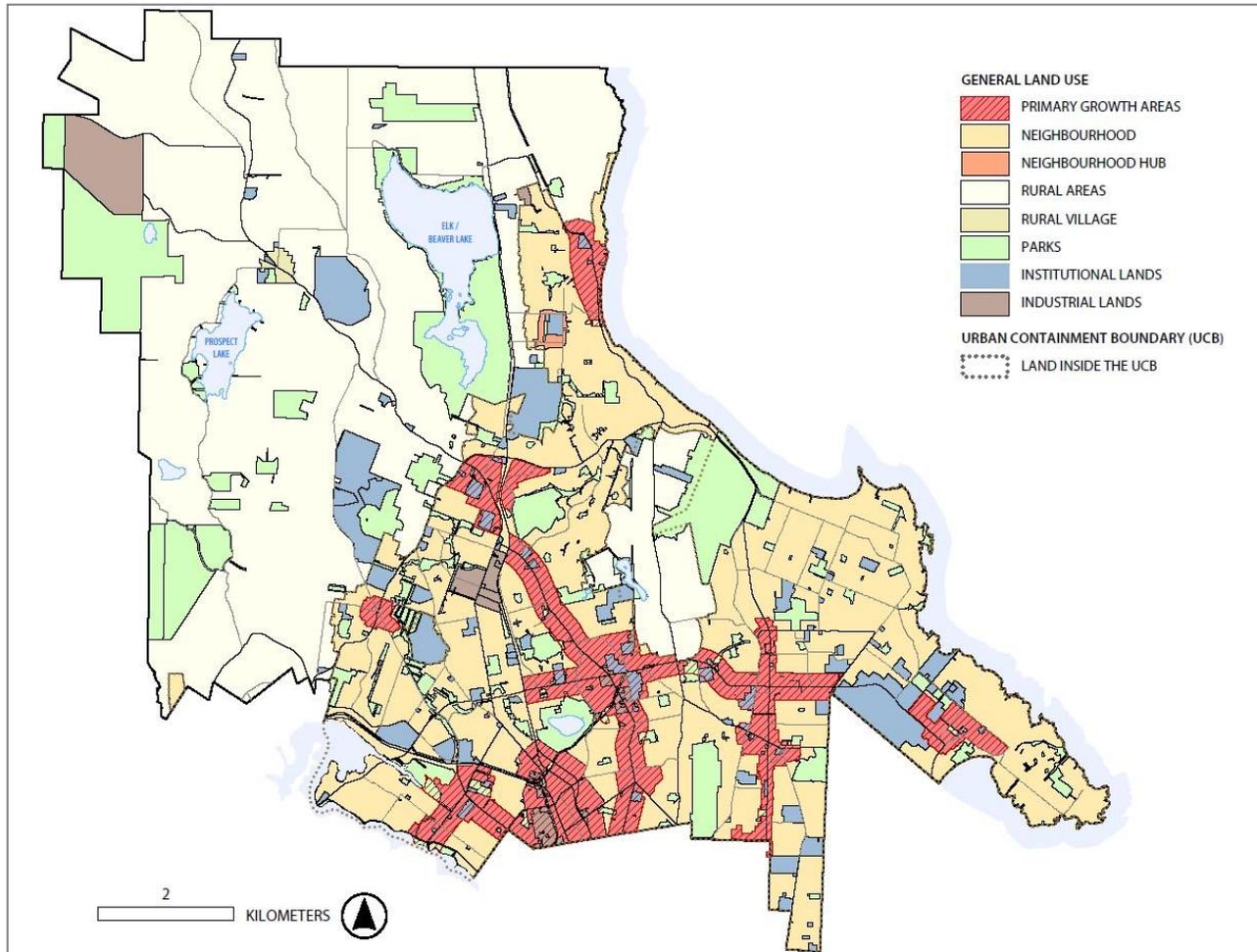
- Incorporated as a Plan foundation
- Recognizes to achieve targets and implement adaptation strategies the response needs to take an overarching District-wide approach
- Applicable policies also woven through the different sections



Land Use Policy Highlights

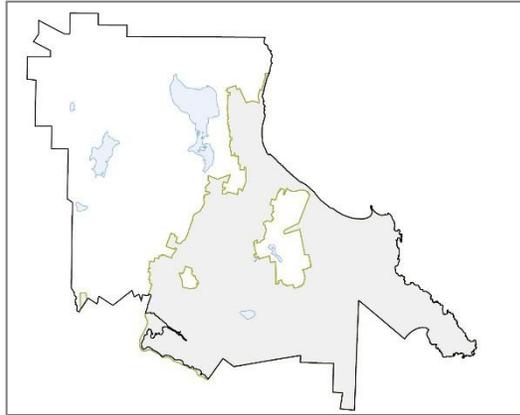
Strategic OCP Update

Restructured Land Use Section

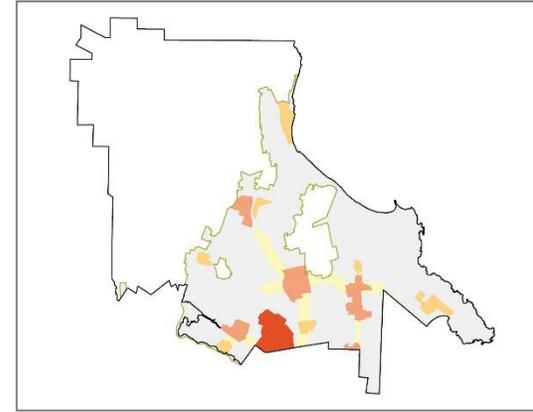


- 2008 > Centres + Villages
- Move to Primary Growth Areas
 - Corridors to connect areas
 - Integrate with transit
 - Clarify boundaries at the parcel-level
- Strengthen policy to increase options in Neighbourhoods
- Added “Hubs” to support 15-minute community concept

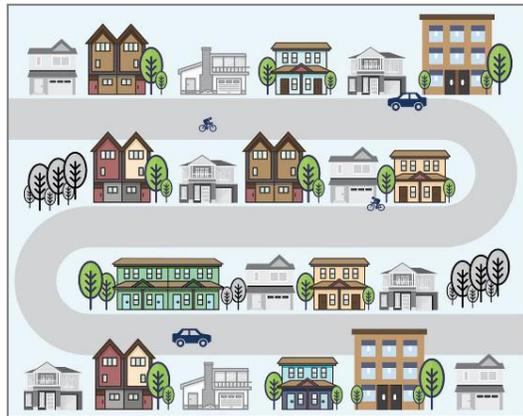
Four Strategic Land Use Directions



Maintain the Urban Containment Boundary



Accommodate most New Development in Primary Growth Areas

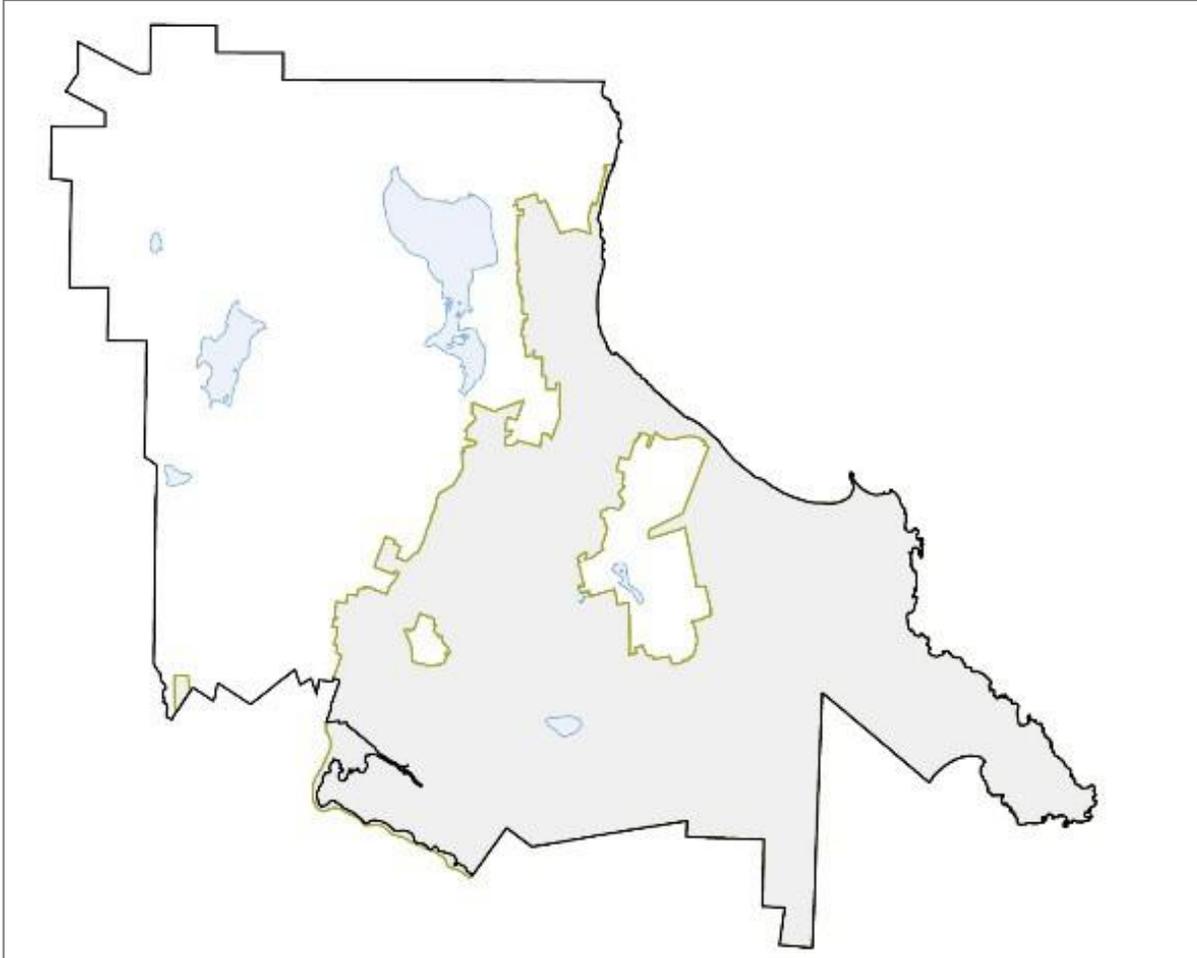


Expand Housing Diversity in Neighbourhoods



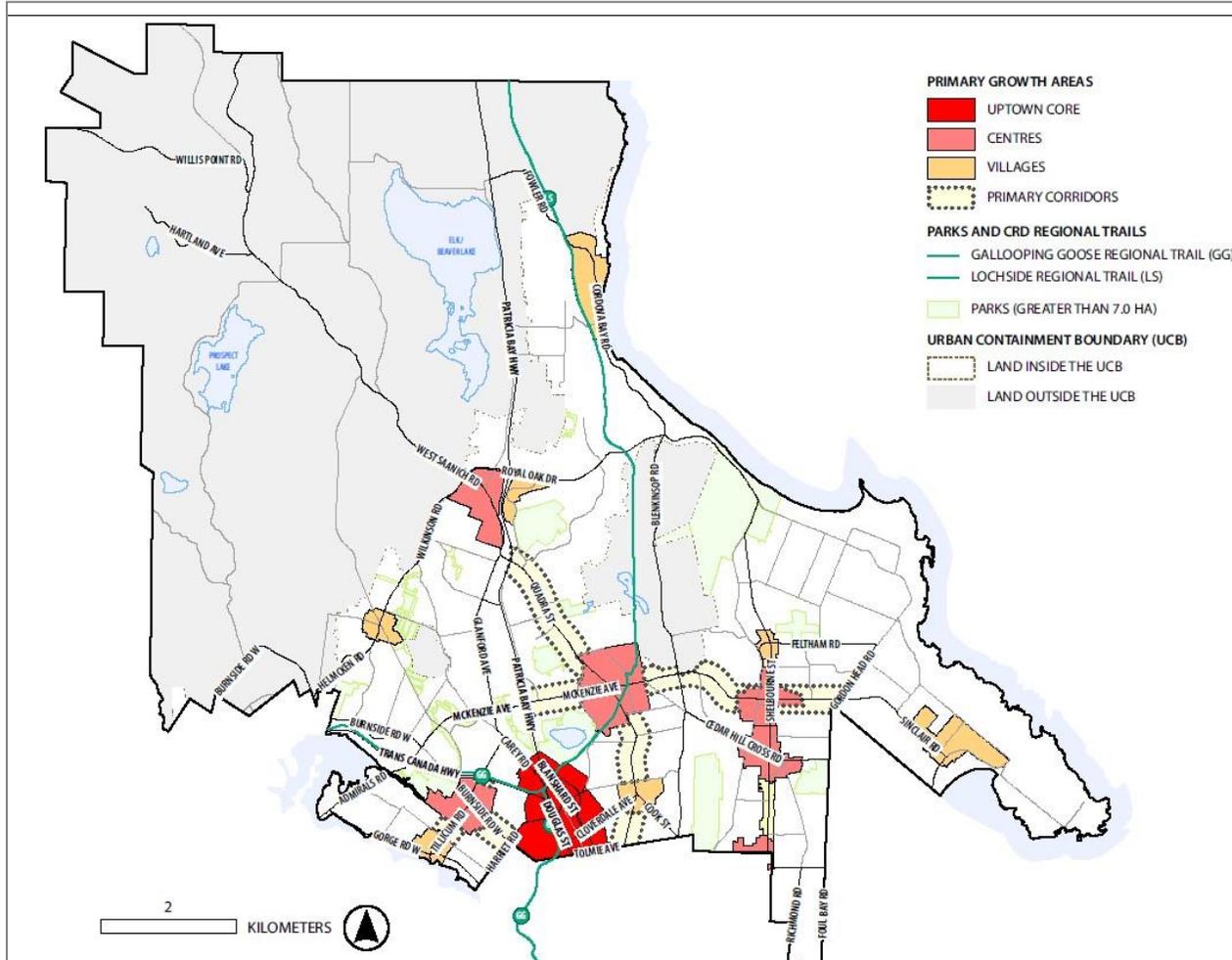
Make Saanich a 15-minute Community

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. Accommodate most New Development in Primary Growth Areas



- Plan for majority of new growth
- Create vibrant Centres and Villages supported by transit Corridors
- Expand the range of services, amenities, active transportation connections, higher density housing and employment opportunities.



Corridor Designation

- Primary Corridors identified in OCP conceptually
- Residential-oriented supported by limited local-serving mixed use outside Centres/Villages
- Multi-modal transportation, frequent transit
- Secondary Corridors to be identified through area planning processes
- Higher heights where Primary Corridors overlap:
 - Centres - up to 12 storeys
 - Villages - up to 6 storeys

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





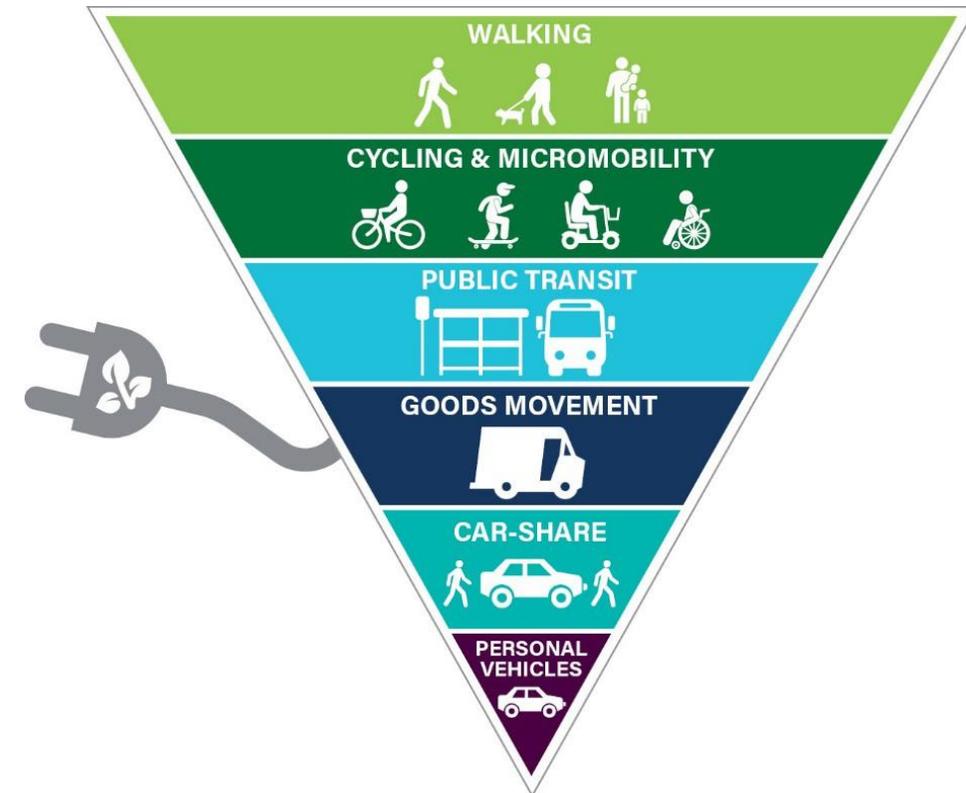
Walkable Access to Parks

- 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



Overview

- Objectives
 - To inform about progress and engagement opportunities
 - To consult on the Draft Plan
- Promotional strategies/equity considerations
 - Social media, project webpage and notification lists, video, newspaper ads, media briefing
 - Mix of methods, days of the week, and times
 - Accessible venues for in-person events, exploring additional supports
 - Hired consultant to support digital engagement



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 – launch late May (4-weeks)
- Targeted workshops
 - Saanich Community Association Workshop – May 31
 - Industry Workshop – TBD
- Formal stakeholder referrals/meetings, First Nations outreach, and media briefing



Thank-you!

- Amber Walker
- Project Lead
- t. 250-475-5494 x3452
- e. amber.walker@saanich.ca
- web: www.saanich.ca/ocp



Active Transportation Plan Update

Transportation Advisory Committee

May 24, 2023



Why Update the ATP?

 Better reflect **current policy** documents and planning initiatives

 Incorporate up-to-date **demographic** and **travel data**

 Review progress toward achieving the ATP **vision**, **goals** and **targets**

 Integrate **Vision Zero** and a **Safe Systems** approach to road safety

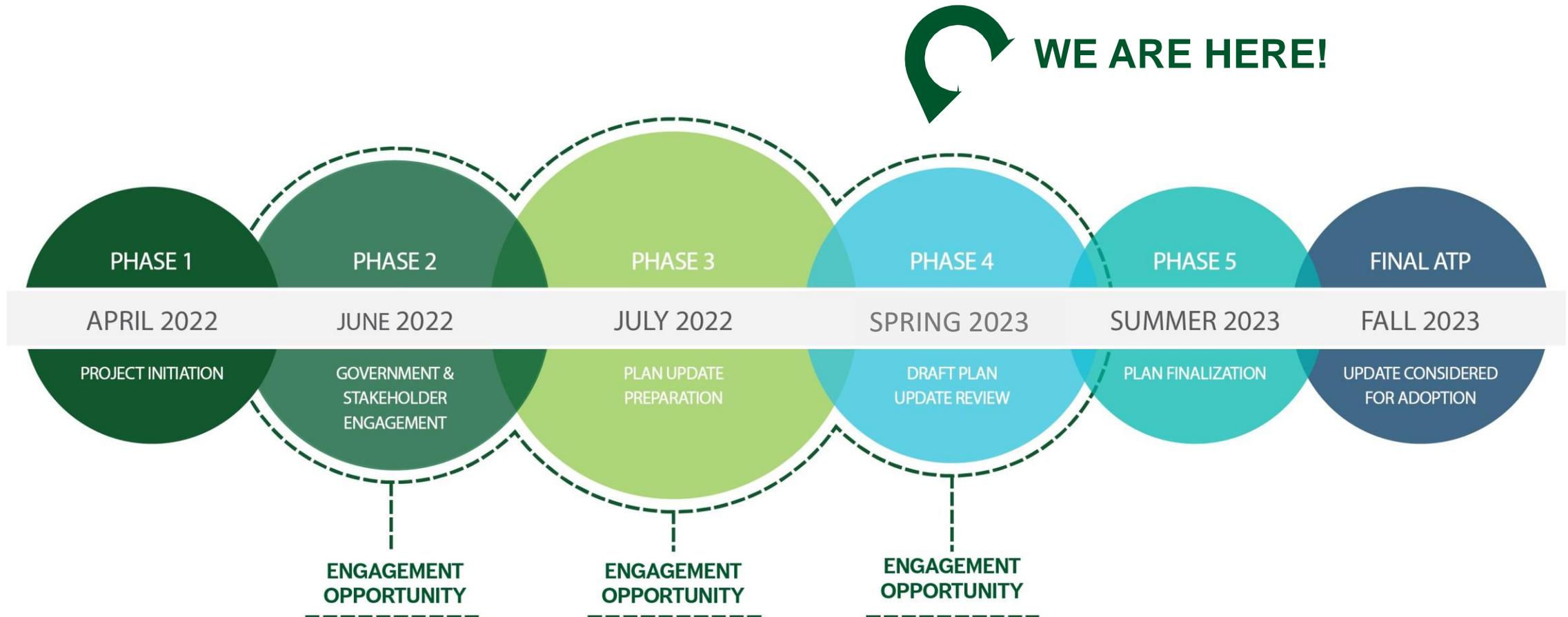
 Review and update **infrastructure priorities** for the next 15 years

 Incorporate **equity** into the District's transportation planning

 Create a framework for a future **traffic calming** policy

 Address **emerging technologies** and trends related to e-bikes and micromobility

ATP Update Process



ATP Update Process



ATP Framework

2018 ATP Framework



Vision



Goals



Targets



2023 ATP Framework (draft)



Vision



Goals

(includes target)



Vision Statement

2023 ATP Update (draft)

Saanich is home to universally accessible and complete walking and cycling networks that make it convenient and safe for people of all ages and abilities to move around the community.

The connectivity and convenience of these networks supports transit and a thriving culture of active transportation, encouraging a shift to sustainable transportation, which enhances well-being and climate goals.



Goals

2023 ATP Update

- Goal 1. **Build a culture to support sustainable transportation**
- Goal 2. **Achieve a significant shift to active modes of transportation to reduce vehicle trips**
Target: By 2050, half of all trips in Saanich will be taken by active modes
- Goal 3. **Eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries on Saanich roads and trails**
- Goal 4. **Create more connections for people walking, cycling, and using transit**
- Goal 5. **Build a network that is accessible and provides equitable mobility options**

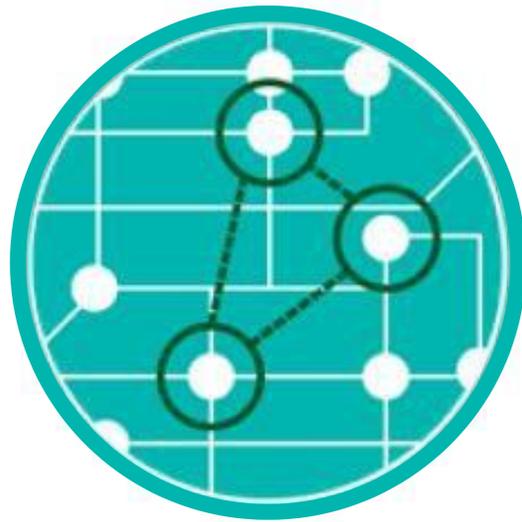
Strategies + Actions

Document Structure



Strategies + Actions

Overarching Themes



CONNECTIONS



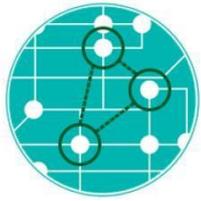
CONVENIENCE



CULTURE



Strategies + Actions



CONNECTIONS

- 1A.** Expand and Enhance the Active Transportation Network
- 1B.** Expand and Enhance the Trail Network
- 1C.** Improve Intersections and Crossings
- 1D.** Encourage Active Transportation with Safer Streets
- 1E.** Improve Regional Connections
- 1F.** Improve Transit Access and Experience



CONVENIENCE

- 2A.** Ensure Infrastructure is Accessible for All Users
- 2B.** Provide More Bicycle Parking and Other End-of-Trip Facilities
- 2C.** Ensure Land Use Supports Active Transportation
- 2D.** Create Great Places and Streets
- 2E.** Maintain the Active Transportation Network



CULTURE

- 3A.** Support and Encourage Walking and Cycling for People of All Ages
- 3B.** Encourage Public Health and Active Living
- 3C.** Improve Wayfinding, Signage and Trip Planning
- 3D.** Improve Education and Awareness
- 3E.** Increase Marketing and Communications
- 3F.** Support Economic Development and Tourism
- 3G.** Monitor Active Transportation Trips, Investments and Initiatives

Strategies + Actions

Key Changes, Additions

Traffic Calming

Introducing a traffic calming framework to inform future policy and program

Design Guidance

Specific references to the *B.C. Active Transportation Design Guide*

Trail Network

New trail definitions, focus on active transportation trails

Strategies + Actions

Key Changes, Updates/Edits

Equity

Equity analysis used to prioritize improvements and inform engagement

Policy References

Updated references to new plans
BC Design Guide, Electric Mobility Strategy, Climate Plan

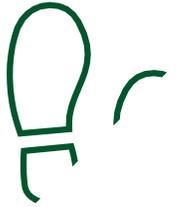
Road Safety

Added action to monitor pedestrian and cyclist collision hotspots and identify mitigation measures

Speed Limits

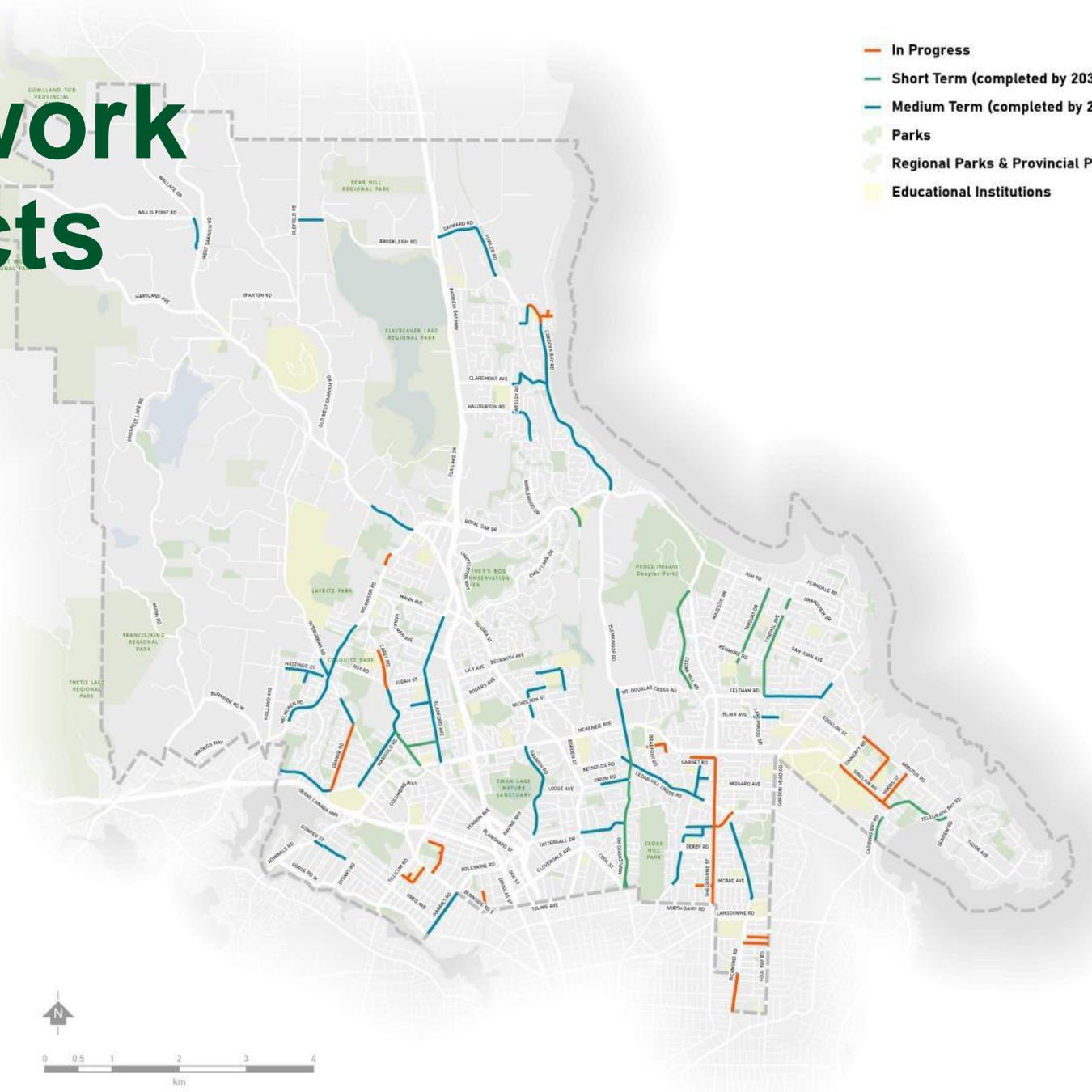
Specific reference to and prioritization of Speed Limit Establishment Policy

Sidewalk Network Priority Projects



51 km
New Sidewalks

- In Progress
- Short Term (completed by 2030)
- Medium Term (completed by 2040)
- Parks
- Regional Parks & Provincial Parks
- Educational Institutions

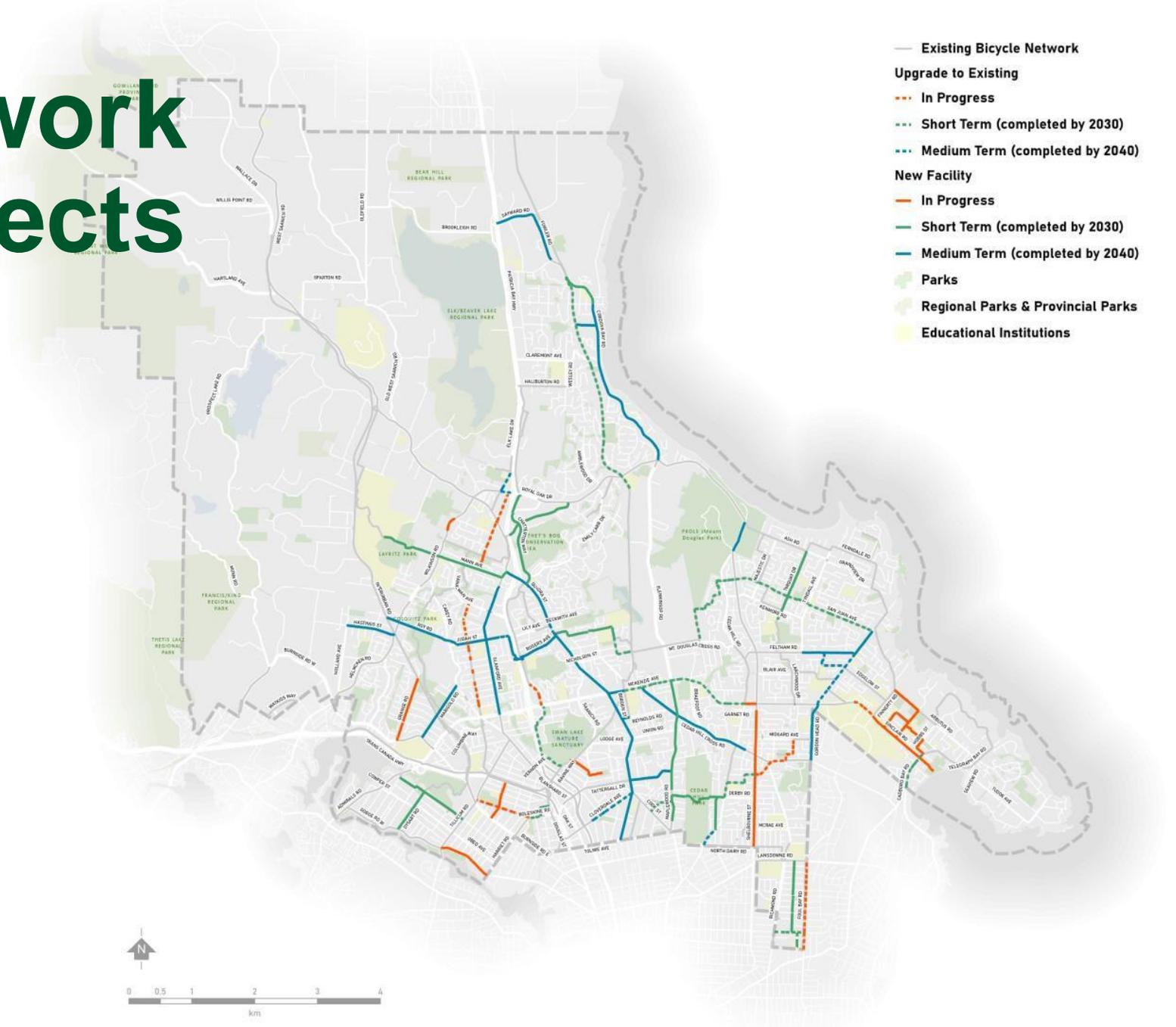


Bicycle Network Priority Projects



73 km

New Cycling Facilities



Trail Network Priority Projects



14 km
New Trails

- High Priority
- Medium Priority
- Parks
- Regional Parks & Provincial Parks
- Educational Institutions



Next Steps



Next Steps

Upcoming Engagement Activities



Committee Meetings



Open Houses (x2)



Online Survey



Pop-Ups (x6)



Promotions



Next Steps

Upcoming Engagement Activities



Pop-Ups

Uptown Transit Hub

Tillicum Mall

Craigflower & Marigold Elementary

Lochside Trail (Borden St)

Red Barn Market



Open Houses

Gordon Head Rec Centre

Saturday, June 10th | 2:00-4:00pm

Saanich Commonwealth Place

Wednesday, June 14 | 4:00-7:00pm





Thank you!



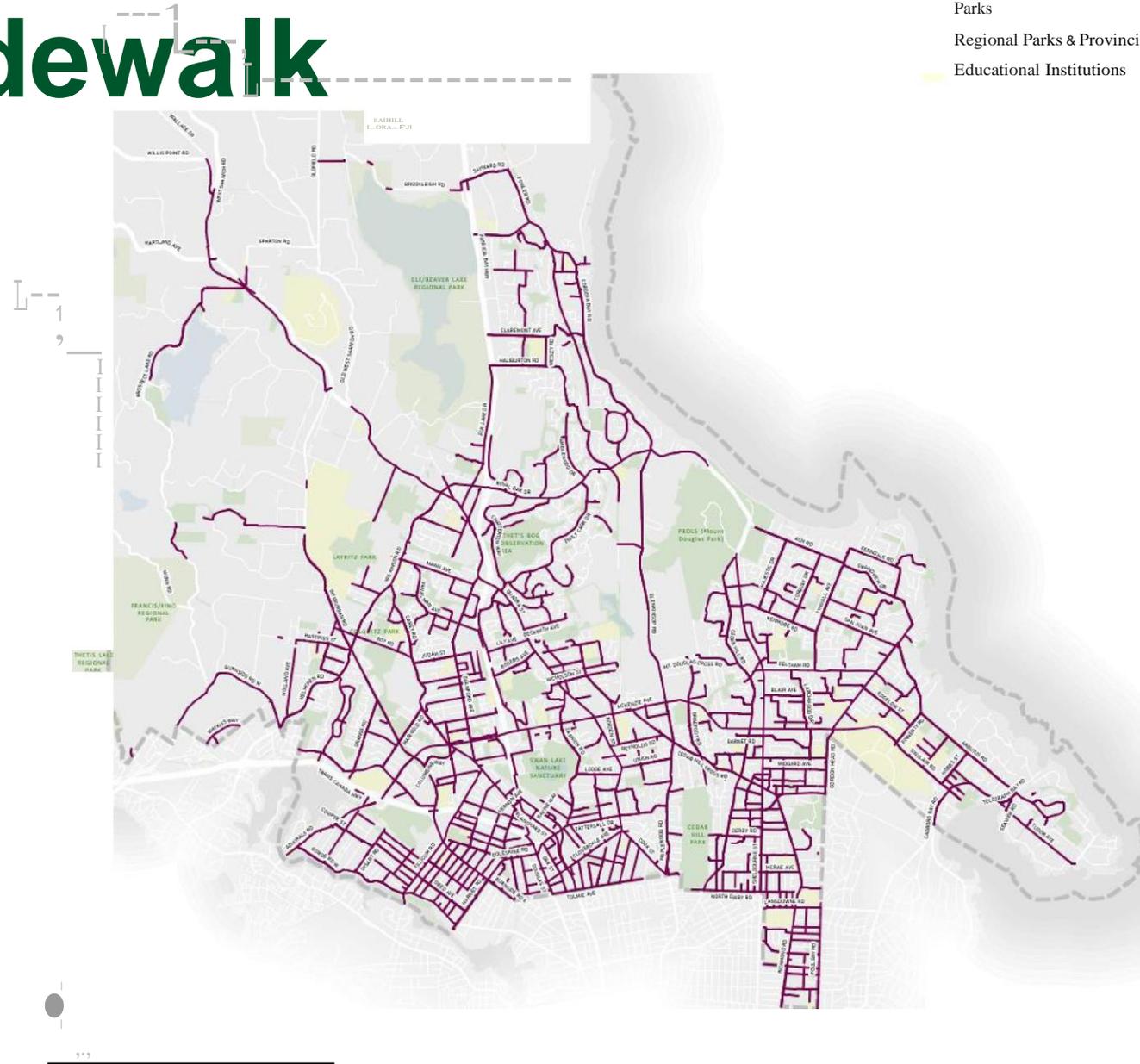
Dan Casey, Transportation Consultant
dcasey@urbansystems.ca



*** Bonus Slides ***

Long-Term Sidewalk Network

- Sidewalk Network (at least 1 side)
- Parks
- Regional Parks & Provincial Parks
- Educational Institutions



Long-Term Bicycle Network

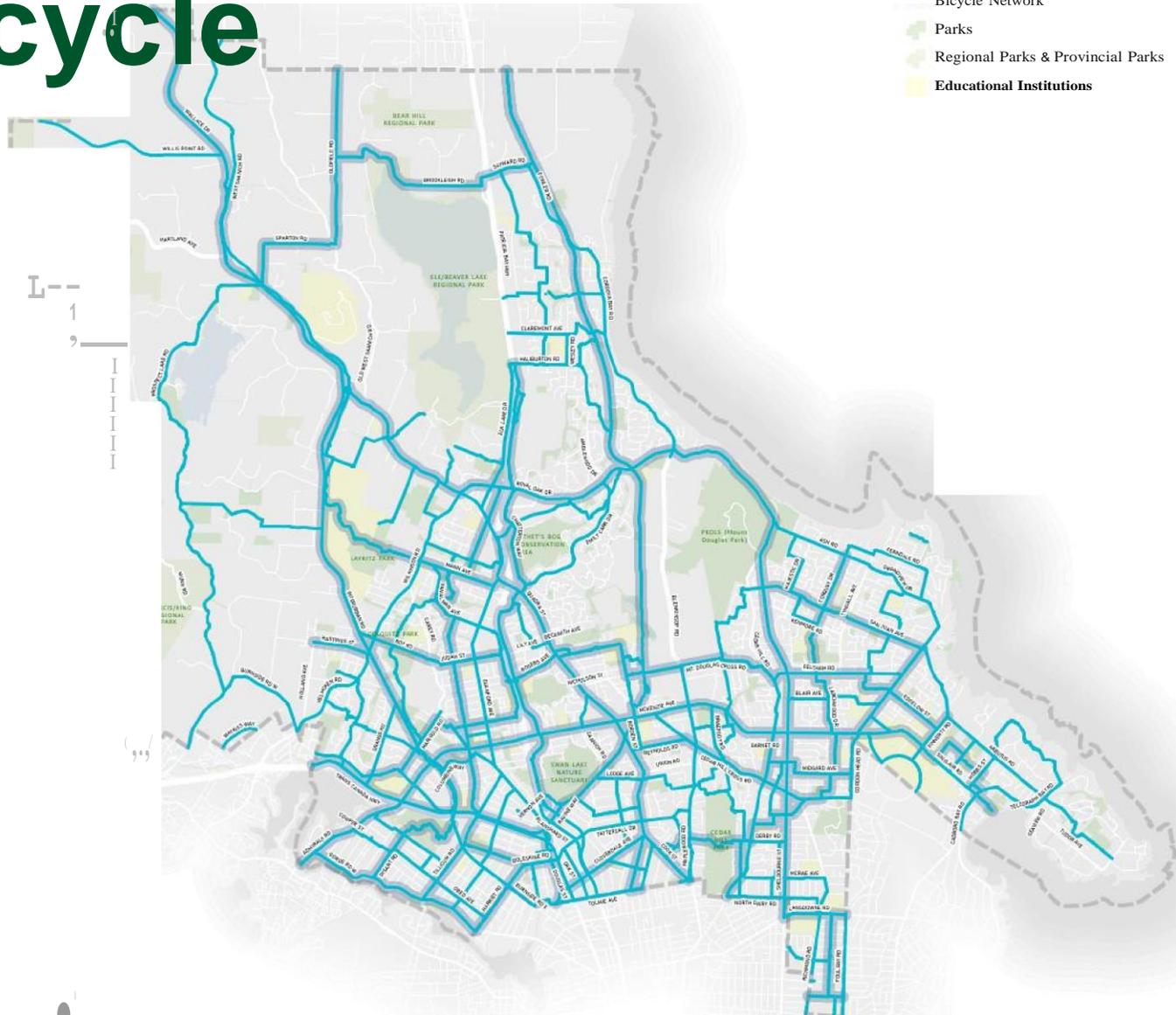
All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Spine Network

Bicycle Network

Parks

Regional Parks & Provincial Parks

Educational Institutions



Long-Term Trail Network

- Long-Term Trail Network
- Parks
- Regional Parks & Provincial Parks
- Educational Institutions

