Revised Add correspondence and attachments to item 7



### AGENDA RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE June 15, 2023, 6:30– 8:30 PM Held virtually via MS Teams

In light of the Saanich Communicable Disease Plan related safety measures, this meeting will be held virtually via MS Teams. Details on how to join the meeting can be found on the committee webpage – <u>Resilient Saanich Schedule, Minutes & Agendas.</u> Please note that individuals participating by phone are identified by their phone number, which can be viewed on screen by all attendees of the meeting.

- 1. Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Adoption of Minutes
  - May 18, 2023 meeting
- 4. Receipt of Correspondence Late additions Page 5 13
- 5. Memo from Community Planning on Draft OCP (15 min)
  - Lead: Eva Riccius
- 6. Presentation of Environmental Policy Framework Principles (45 min.)
  - Lead: Tory Stevens
- 7. Review of BCS and RSTC Workplans (45 min.) Late additions Page 18 21
  - Lead: Eva Riccius, Suzanne Samborski and Tory Stevens.

<sup>\* \*</sup> Next Meeting: August 17, 2023

#### MINUTES RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Via Microsoft Teams May 18, 2023 at 6:34 p.m.

- Present: Tory Stevens (Chair); Councillor Zac de Vries; Kevin Brown; Tim Ennis; Purnima Govindarajulu; Chris Lowe and Brian Wilkes
- Regrets: Jeremy Gye and Stewart Guy
- Guests: Judith Cullington Secretariat
- Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

# TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Chair read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Agenda for the May 18, 2023, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved."

#### CARRIED

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Lowe and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: "That the Minutes for the April 20, 2023, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting, as amended, be approved."

#### CARRIED

<u>Note</u>: Bullet #5 in the April 20, 2023 minutes was amended to read: Biodiversity of an island depends on its size, the amount of edges/shoreline, how species move. Biodiversity remnants in a terrestrial setting act in a similar fashion depending on their tolerance for and ability to move through urban areas.

# PRESENTATION OF 2<sup>ND</sup> DRAFT CONNECTIVITY MAPPING – BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY

C. Cummings and A. Kwan of Diamond Head Consulting updated the committee on actions taken since the last meeting including:

- The habitat network concept was reviewed and refinements continue to be done; riparian and foreshore legislation already provides some habitat protection.
- There is a need to understand the amount of remaining habitat there is, prioritize habitat that supports biodiversity, identify missing travel corridors, understand isolated habitat patches and provide mapping that informs land use planning, conservation and rehabilitation.
- Core habitat hubs are the larger continuous features; habitat sites are usually smaller;

connectors connect the hubs and sites.

- It is important to consider agricultural lands but it is harder to regulate and enforce on these properties.
- Feedback on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy has been received via a survey and an Open House; comments included nature based play, execution of the strategy, connectivity, learning opportunities, enhancement of understorey, management of threats and the importance of having science-based decision-making and data transparency.
- Based on the comments, the Vision for the strategy will be refined.
- Policy tools from other municipalities are being gathered to determine best practices for Saanich.
- Next steps include continuing with the remaining engagement work, creation of the engagement summary, continuing with the habitat network work and a completing a policy gap analysis.
- The next update will tentatively be given at the July meeting.
- The engagement summary will be completed by approximately the end of June.
- The policy gap analysis includes reviewing the existing policy framework and best practices from other municipalities.
- Possible targets and goals will be discussed after the engagement summary and gap analysis are completed.
- The next round of public engagement will take place in either June or September.
- There may be pockets of land in Saanich that is within the Agricultural Land Reserve where regulation may not be possible.
- Consideration could be given on how to protect lands within versus outside the Urban Containment Boundary.
- Property owners can continue to donate or sell land to Saanich if they choose but those lands would not be included in the mapping.

Committee members made the following comments:

- There is a need to ensure the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is consistent with the overarching Environmental Policy Framework.
- It is important that First Nations sites are highlighted in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Consideration could be given to including future opportunity hubs in the strategy.
- Acquisition targets cannot be made public in advance as it could harm the interests of the municipality.

The committee will review the document and send any comments to the consultant by May 27, 2023.

#### **REVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP DRAFT**

Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- The recommendations could be summarized at the beginning of the document rather than dispersed throughout the document.
- Clarification is needed on what is meant by "regulated" and "voluntary".
- The focus could be on voluntary stewardship, the strengths and weaknesses and who is doing what.
- There is a need to determine who are stewards and how the municipality can support them; a current "State of Stewardship" could be considered.
- Consideration could be given to having an incentivized stewardship program for private properties within the Urban Containment Boundary.
- Stewardship should be elevated to a higher standard within the municipality and be better resourced for the management of public lands and covenants.

- There is a need to understand what municipality-led and community-led stewardship initiatives are already being undertaken.
- It may be appropriate to group items in the draft document by who is leading the initiative or by focus.

#### REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK DRAFT

Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- Further discussion of the Working Group is needed.
- The Policy Filter Working Group will begin once the principles in the Draft Framework at consolidated.
- The text in the framework is more or less done; there are appendices, including the gap analysis, still to be completed.

#### DEBRIEF OF WSÁNEĆ COMMUNITY MEETING

Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- A meeting took place on May 12, 2023 but several key people were not available to attend due to funeral services.
- The Diamond Head storyboards on Urban Forestry and Biodiversity were presented.
- Suggestions on how to improve communications were discussed including the need for regular community meetings.
- A longer term working relationship with the WSÁNEĆ people is necessary.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from K. Brown the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

**Committee Secretary** 

Forwarde	ed message			
From: TED LEA				
Date: Mon, May	29, 2023 at 1:18 PM			
Subject: Prelimin	ary assessment of the	e DH State of Biodiv	ersity Species at Risk lists	
To: biodiversity <	biodiversity@saanich	<u>1.ca</u> >		
CC: Tory Stevens		Mike Coulthard		alison
		Eva Riccius < Eva	Riccius@saanich.ca> zac.devries <zac.devries< td=""><td>- devries@saanich.ca&gt;</td></zac.devries<>	- devries@saanich.ca>

To the RSTC, (copied to Diamond Head and others).

Attached is my initial attempt to verify the species at risk lists in the Diamond Head Consulting State of Biodiversity Report. I have found multiple errors. This is not a comprehensive correction and there may still be mistakes. I have used the BC Conservation Data Center information as well as BC E-flora and E-fauna.

I would hope that these lists will be corrected by Diamond Head Consulting and an updated version of the report be provided to the public and to Council.

Yellow highlighted species are those I believe are species at risk that still occur in Saanich.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Ted Lea

### Animal Species at Risk listed in Appendix

# of the State of Biodiversity report by Diamond Head Consulting

Species Red (R) or Blue (B) listed	In Saanich	Public property	Private property
Insects			
Vancouver Island Beggarticks B	Not an insect – vascular plant	Yes	No
Amphibians	·		
Wandering Salamander B	Not mapped in Saanich – has it been found?		
Northern Red-legged Frog B	Rithets Bog	Yes	No
Arachnids			
Georgia Basin Bog Spider R	Not shown to occur in Saanich – does it?		
Birds			
Red Knot R	Not Listed – are there others missing? VHMBS migrant – breeds elsewhere - Federally Threatened		
Norther Goshawk, laingi R	Not shown to occur in Saanich – does it?		
<mark>Western Grebe</mark> R	VHMBS – breeds elsewhere		
Grasshopper Sparrow R	Not mapped in Saanich – has it been found? Interior species		
Nelson's Sparrow R	Not mapped in Saanich – has it been found? Northeast BC species		
Canada Goose, occidentalis R	Migrant? – breeds in Alaska. Has it been found in Saanich.		
Swainson's Hawk R	Migrant – breeds elsewhere		
Prairie Falcon R	Migrant?		
Peregrine Falcon, anatum R	Migrant?		

Plack grownod Night Horon B	Does this occur in		
Black-crowned Night-Heron R			
Brandt's Cormorant P			
	-		
Bay-Dreasted Warbier R			
<mark>Barn Owl</mark> R	-		
Common Murre R			
	-		
<mark>Great Blue Heron</mark> , fannini B	-	Yes	Yes
Short-eared Owl B	-		
	•		
American Bittern B			
<mark>Marbled Murrelet</mark> B	-		
<mark>Brant</mark> B			
Rough-legged Hawk B	-		
<mark>Green Heron</mark> B		Yes	no
Smith's Longspur B			
Canada Warbler B	Has it been seen in		
	Saanich – migrant?		
	Breeds in		
	Northeastern BC		
Western Thorn B	Not a bird – insect Has		
	it been found in		
	Saanich? Not shown		
	on map as here.		
Lark Sparrow B	Has it been seen in		
	Saanich – migrant?		
	Found in the interior		
	of BC		
Olive-sided Flycatcher B	Yes – breeding?	Yes	
	Migrant?		
<mark>Tundra Swan</mark> B	VHMBS – winters,		
	migrant		
<mark>Black Swift</mark> B	Yes		
Western Pondhawk B	This is an insect!! Does		
	Saanich? Shown in Lower Mainland       dt's Cormorant R     VHMBS migrant?       preasted Warbler R     Not mapped in Saanich – has it been found? Breeds in Northeastern BC       Owl R     Yes – migrant? Breeds?       mon Murre R     VHMBS – winters? Migrant?       tBlue Heron, fannini B     Yes, breeds – feeds in VHMBS and elsewhere       tBlue Heron, fannini B     Yes, breeds – feeds in VHMBS and elsewhere       teared Owl B     Migrant? Breeds elsewhere. Interior species.       teared Owl B     Migrant? Breeds elsewhere.       teared Owl B     Mapped in Saanich wetlands – wintering?       bled Murrelet B     VHMBS – winters, migrant       h-legged Hawk B     VHMBS – migrant       n Heron B     Wetland parks       's Longspur B     Seen once in Saanich? – migrant?       da Warbler B     Has it been seen in Saanich – migrant? Breeds in Northeastern BC       ern Thorn B     Not a bird – insect Has it been found in Saanich – migrant? Breeds in Northeastern BC       sparrow B     Has it been seen in Saanich – migrant? Breeds in Northeastern BC       sparrow B     Has it been seen in Saanich – migrant? Breeds in Northeastern BC       sparrow B     Has it been seen in Saanich – migrant? Found in the interior of BC       -sjided Flycatcher B     Yes – breeding? Migrant?       -sided Flycatcher B     Yes – breeding? Migrant       -swan B     VHMBS – winters, mig		
		1	

	Seen in Victoria in		
	1861.		
Rusty Blackbird B	Yes	Yes	Possibly
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Does it occur in		
	Saanich – seen at		
	Prospect Lake in 1926		
Northern Pygmy-owl swarthi	Does it occur in		
	Saanich? Migrant?		
-	Breeding? Appears to		
	be north of Greater		
	Victoria.		
<mark>Barn Swallow</mark> B	Barn Swallow is Yellow		
	listed in BC. Federally		
	listed as Special		
	Concern?		
<mark>Caspian Tern</mark> B	VHMBS summers?		
<mark>California Gull</mark> B	VHMBS. Migrant		
<mark>Short-billed Dowitcher</mark> B	VHMBS. Migrant		
<mark>Western Screech-owl, kennicotti</mark> B	Has bred in the past in		
	Saanich – does it still		
	occur?		
<mark>Black Scoter</mark> B	VHMBS. Has it been		
	seen in Saanich?		
Surf Scoter B	VHMBS. Migrant?		
Long Dillod Curlow D	Wintering?		
Long-Billed Curlew B	VHMBS migrant – breeds elsewhere		
Band-tailed Pigeon B	VHMBS – breeds		
band talled rigeon	elsewhere		
Double-crested Cormorant B	VHMBS		
	VHMBS – breeds		
	elsewhere		
Pine Grosbeak, carlottae	This subspecies is		
	endemic to Haida		
	Gwaii, northern		
	Vancouver Island and		
	the mainland coast of		
	British Columbia. Does		
-	it occur in Saanich?		
Purple Martin B	Not mapped in		
	Saanich – has it been		
And an inclusion of D	found? Nearby		
<mark>American Avocet</mark> B	VHMBS – breeds		
Plack threated Crass Markley P	elsewhere Broads in		
BIACK-UTOALEO GREEN WARDIER B	Breeds in Northeastern BC. Not		
Gyrfalcon B         Northern Pygmy-owl, swarthi         B         Barn Swallow B         Caspian Tern B         California Gull B         Short-billed Dowitcher B         Western Screech-owl, kennicotti         Black Scoter B         Surf Scoter B         Long-Billed Curlew B         Band-tailed Pigeon B         Double-crested Cormorant B         Red-necked Phalarope	NOT THEASTELLI BC. NOT		

<b></b>			
	mapped in Saanich –		
	has it been found?		
	Should this list be		
	separated between		
	migrant and breeding?		
Ancient Murrelet B	Yes – ocean – breeds		
	elsewhere		
Wandering Tattler B	Does it occur in		
	Saanich? In other		
	parts of VHMBS.		
Fish			
	Vec	Vac	
Cutthroat Trout, clarkia B	Yes	Yes	
Insects		1	
Johnson's Hairstreak R	Not mapped in		
	Saanich – has it been		
	found?		
<mark>Moss' Elfin, mossii</mark> R	Last seen in 1995	Yes	
	PKOLS, Beaver Lake		
Common Wood-nymph, incana R	Last seen in 2003	Yes	
	Beaver Lake – one – is		
	there a need for a		
	targeted inventory in		
	Saanich?		
Common Ringlet, insulanda R	Yes	Yes	unknown
Western Branded Skipper,	Yes	Yes	
	105	163	
oregonia R	No odo torrocto d	Vac	1 found in yoor
Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger	Needs targeted	Yes	1 found in year
Beetle R	inventory?		
Earthworm Arctiostrotus perrieri	Has this been found in		
В	Saanich? "but are		
	generally absent from		
	the southeastern part		
	of Vancouver Island		
	(Marshall and Fender		
	1998)". From E-Fauna		
Vancouver Island Beggarticks B	Not an insect -	Yes	
	vascular plant		
Western Bumble Bee B	Prospect Lake, Mt.		
	Tolmie Park, and Carey		
	Road area		
Wostorn Ring Elfin shaltononsis P	Has it been found in		
Western Pine Elfin, sheltonensis B			
	Saanich? Not shown in		
	Greater Victoria		
<mark>Dun Skipper</mark> B	Last seen in 1962 –	Yes	
	extant?		
Boisduval's Blue, blackmorei B	Not mapped in		
	Saanich – has it been		
	•	•	

	found? Only shown up			
	island.			
Blue Dasher B	Not mapped in			
	Saanich – has it been			
	found? Vancouver			
	area			
Autumn Meadowhawk B	Not mapped in			
	Saanich – has it been			
	found? Vancouver			
Mammals	area			
Townsend's Big-eared Bat B	Not mapped in			
lowinsend's big-eared bat b	Saanich – has it been			
	found? Vancouver			
	area			
Western Water Shrew, brooks B	Not mapped in			
	Saanich – has it been			
	found?			
Molluscs	-		1	
Oregon Forestsnail R	Not mapped in			
	Saanich – has it been			
	found?			
Puget Oregonian R	Not mapped in			
	Saanich – has it been			
Evoning Fieldelug P	found?			
Evening Fieldslug R	Not mapped in Saanich – has it been			
	found?			
Northern Abalone R	Ocean			
Dromendary Jumping-slug R	Not mapped in			
, 100	Saanich – has it been			
	found?			
Warty Jumping-slug R	Not mapped in			
	Saanich – has it been			
	found?			
Prairie Fossaria B	Has it been found in			
	Saanich?			
Dusky Fossaria B	Has it been found in			
	Saanich? Has it been found in			
Swamp Fingernail Clam B	Saanich?			
Long Fingernail Clam B	Has it been found in			
	Saanich?			
Threaded Vertigo B	Yes	Not sure?	Not sure?	
Olympia Oyster B	Ocean			
Meadow Rams-horn B	Has it been found in			
	Saanich?			

Broadwhorl Tightcoil B	Has it been found in		
	Saanich – mainland		
	species.		
Umbilicate Sprite B	Not mapped in		
	Saanich – has it been		
	found?		
Blue-grey Taildropper B	A couple locations	Yes	unknown
Striated Fingernailclam B	Has it been found in		
	Saanich?		
Reptiles			
<mark>Painted Turtle – Pacific Coast</mark> R	Yes	Yes	Not known
<mark>Sharp-tailed Snake</mark> R	One known location –	Yes	Not known
	Observatory Hill		

Yellow-highlighted species presently known in Saanich

Birds species should be indicated as being one of breeding, migrant, wintering, accidental, etc.

# Plant/Lichen Species at Risk listed in Appendix

# of the State of Biodiversity report by Diamond Head Consulting

Species Red (R) or Blue (B) listed	In Saanich	Public property	Private property
Insects			
Vancouver Island Beggarticks B	Not an insect	Yes	No
Lichens			
Strip-tease Pixie B	Last seen in 1893	unknown	unknown
Moss			
Rigid Apple Moss R	Not known from Saanich	no	No
Banded cord-moss B	Yes	Yes	No
Twisted Oak Moss B	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vascular Plants			
Deltoid Balsamrood R	Yes	One planted Playfair Park	Highland Pacific Golf Course
Phantom Orchid R	Not known from Saanich	no	no
ense Spike-primrose R Last seen in 1962 UVIC Last seen Falaise area 1976			extirpated
Rough-leaved Aster R	Last seen 2011 Francis King	Yes	no
Roemer's Fescue – Junegrass R	Not a Vascular Plant		
<mark>Oregon Ash R</mark>	Yes, Commonwealth Place – not mapped there	Yes	Possibly?
Macoun's Meadow-Foam R	Yes – endemic to Vancouver Island	Yes	Possibly
Fern-leaved Desert-Parsley R	Yes	Yes	No
White Meconella R	Observatory Hill population	Last seen 1952 PKOLS	No
Graceful Cinquefoil R	Yes	Yes	No
Coast Microseris R	Last seen 1875 Mt. Tolmie	Extirpated	No
Tall Woolly-heads R	Extirpated from UVIC 1976	No	No
Purple Sanicle R	Yes – still occurs at Glencoe Cove – not mapped there	Yes	No
Coastal Scouler's Catchfly R	Last seen 1966 sandy beach Ten Mile Point	extirpated	No
Bearded Owl-clover R		Yes	Yes
Howell's Triteleia R	One location	No	Yes
Howell's Violet R	Last seen 1950 PKOLS Last seen 1971 Francis King	Extirpated	No

Yellow Montane Violet R	Extirpated Tolmie/PKOLS	Yes	No
Yellow Sand-verbena B	Cadboro Bay	Yes	No
Slimleaf Onion B	Last seen Mt. Tolmie 2003	Unknown?	Extirpated
Ozette Coralroot B	Not known from Saanich	no	no
Common Spike-rush B	Yellow listed		
<mark>Near Navarretia B</mark>	Beaver Lake – 1 plant	Yes	no
	2013		
Hard-stemmed Bulrush B	Yellow listed		
White-top Aster B	Yes	Yes	Yes – 1 pop known
Poverty Clover B	Last seen in 1961	Extirpated	No
Common Cattail Marsh B	Not a vascular plant		

Yellow-highlighted species presently occur in Saanich – the others do not – I am unsure if a targeted species at risk inventory has ever been done in Saanich. Elsewhere, many new populations have been found.



# The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# Memo

То:	Resilient Saanich Technical Committee
From:	Amber Walker, Community Planner
Date:	6/7/2023
Subject:	Strategic OCP Update – Seeking Input on Draft Plan

#### Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the Strategic Official Community Plan (OCP) Update process and share opportunities to provide input on the Draft Plan.

#### **Draft Plan Overview**

The focus of the Strategic OCP Update is on incorporating adopted Council direction and new data, updating the land use framework to address emerging policy priorities, and strengthening the sustainability framework and implementation plan. The Draft Plan retains the adopted Saanich Vision and three-pillar sustainability foundation (Natural Environment, Social Wellbeing, and Economic Vibrancy) from the 2008 OCP. Also, the update of the Draft Plan includes a significant revision to document layout and design to give it a fresh, new look and make the document easier to navigate and use. Graphical elements have been added to help to communicate OCP concepts and Vision.

A key element of the Strategic OCP Update is to incorporate recently adopted plans and inprogress initiatives within the OCP. To that end, the Resilient Saanich Draft Environmental Policy Framework goals and guiding principles have been embedded directly in the OCP in Section 6. The intention is that as the Resilient Saanich initiative is completed, further amendments to the OCP could be incorporated to ensure alignment of the OCP with outcomes of the initiative.

More information on the Strategic OCP Update project can be found on the project website: <a href="http://www.saanich.ca/ocp">www.saanich.ca/ocp</a>

The website 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 (May 15)
- Supporting documents
- Project contact information
- Link to sign-up for project updates

### Draft Plan and RSTC Considerations

While principles supporting sustainability, biodiversity, and ecosystem services are woven throughout the plan, specific sections of the plan addressing considerations within the scope of the RSTC's Term of Reference are outlined in Table 1 (next page).

Table 1: Draft Plan and RSTC	Table 1: Draft Plan and RSTC Scope							
Section 3.0 Challenges and Opportunities	Discusses the importance of "Taking Action on Climate" and "Strengthening Natural Areas and Biodiversity".							
Section 4.0 Sustainability Foundations	Reinforces existing 3-pillar approach and combines it with One Planet Living and Making Saanich a 15-minute Community to provide a strong sustainability foundation. The Ecological Footprint indicator will be part of plan monitoring.							
Section 5.0 Climate Change Response	Section was pulled up from a focus area linked with the environment (2008 OCP) to an overarching plan foundation to recognize the need for an integrated response.							
Section 6.0 Natural Areas – Resilient Saanich specific	Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework Goals & Guiding Principles are incorporated into the section introduction and framing.							
Section 6.0 – General	Section incorporates framing language from the State of the Biodiversity Report and State of the Urban Forest Report (both 2023) and some initial direction from these documents. Overall, this section closely mirrors the 2008 OCP as an update to this area was outside the scope of the project. The intention is to review this section following the completion of the Resilient Saanich and other ongoing processes. Additional changes to the OCP could be considered as part of a future housekeeping amendment (anticipated to occur regularly on an as needed basis).							
Section 7 Land Use	Section includes policies to support the Regional Growth Strategy, including its environmental policies. "Maintaining the Urban Containment Boundary" is one of the four Strategic Land Use Directions (supports retention of natural areas/reduces urban sprawl). Another direction "Make Saanich a 15-minute Community" recognizes Natural Areas as a component of a complete community. The Core Urban Design Principles include "Grow the Urban Forest and Enhance Green Infrastructure," and several policies speak to sustainable building and side design practices.							
Section 10 Utilities & Service Infrastructure	Identifies "integrate natural assets and ecosystem services into the District's broader approach to infrastructure management" as a section objective.							
Section 11 Parks, Trails, and Open Space	Identifies "protect, restore and enhance natural areas, ecological function and biological diversity" as a section objective. Provides more structure to the Parks and Open Space Framework to support different types of/uses in parks.							
Section 15 Implementation	Priory Action items for OCP implementation include completing the Resilient Saanich, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and Urban Forest Strategy processes.							

District staff are interested in hearing your feedback both as a committee, as it relates to your mandate, and as an individual resident participating in the broader process.

Amber Walker Community Planner, Planning Department

# Principles – June 2, 2023

- Recognize the intrinsic value of nature. This is an ethical commitment to recognize and respect the right to exist of other life forms and the ecological processes that support us all.
- 2. Apply the ÁTOL,NEUEL ("Respecting One Another") memorandum of understanding: respect and consider Indigenous knowledge, worldviews and perspectives in environmental decisions and actions.
- 3. Use evidence-based decision making; adopt the precautionary approach when the supporting science is absent or incomplete.
- 4. Lead by example through innovation and improving on best practices.\*
- 5. Look beyond Saanich's borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale.
- 6. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do.
- 7. Collaborate with diverse interests and backgrounds to develop more durable, fair and effective environmental policies and programs.
- 8. Ensure open, accurate environmental information to encourage an informed citizenry that participates in building policies and programs for a more resilient Saanich.

\*Ensuring the District's policies and operations showcase and embody the attitudes and practices that it asks of the public.

# **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**

DHC scope of work (from their proposal)

Provided to RSTC June 15, 2023

# 1 State of Biodiversity Report, completed

## 2 Green Infrastructure Network (current working name: Habitat Network)

The principles of biodiversity conservation include protecting large core habitat areas, ensuring connectivity between them, and providing a diversity of habitat features within these areas. Natural corridors will be identified that connect core habitat areas and support wildlife movement between them. Corridor width and design will vary depending on the species they are intended to support. A final network of critical habitat will be defined as the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) and will form the foundation of biodiversity conservation in the District.

# **3 Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy will highlight tools and policy opportunities for the District to protect, maintain and enhance Saanich's natural assets. This Strategy will identify opportunities and actions which may be district-wide or targeted, including regulatory tools and natural asset management initiatives. It will include strategic actions that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).

The Strategy will explore an Enhanced Stewardship Program for private and public lands to restore and enhance existing natural areas. Options to reintroduce an Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA) may also be explored. The following themes will be used to frame the Strategy:

- 1. *Protecting:* Protecting the highest value and most sensitive habitats. Threats to biodiversity will be reviewed such as climate change, urban development, increased recreation, invasive species, pests and wildfire. Measures will be identified to best mitigate these impacts.
- 2. *Connecting:* Enhancing and protecting the connectivity between habitat patches, both within the District and the region. A Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) will be developed and presented with discussion of the core habitat hubs and corridors. Recommendations for connecting the urban matrix following the identified GIN will be provided.
- 3. *Enhancing:* Improving the quality and function of protected habitat areas. Recommendations will be made for land use types including natural area parks, urban parks, streets and boulevards, private residential lots, and high density development. Priority strategies and recommendations will be made.
- 4. *Understanding*: Recommendations will be made to improve the current understanding of species that exist within the District. This will include recommendations for monitoring.

5. *Educating:* Recommendations will be made to improve the public's understanding of the importance of wildlife and natural areas for our health and wellbeing. This discussion will include recommendations to improve education and engagement, and to promote stewardship through the enhanced stewardship program. Incentives will also be considered.

Deliverables: draft strategy and final strategy based on review.

GAANT chart outlining remainder of DHC contract. R indicates engagement with RSTC.

TASKS	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	N
Phase 1 - Assess and Review Existing Datasets													
Project charter & start up meeting							Complete	d					
Desktop review of background materials, recommended							Complete	d					
methodologies, and information from the RSTC							1 - C						
Engagement Strategy							Complete						
Internal RSTC Meeting (#1)							Complete						
First Nations Introduction (#1)							Complete	d					
Phase 2 - Analysis and Green Infrastructure Network													
Identification of GIN hubs, core areas, and corridors							Complete	d					
Preliminary Green Infrastructure Network							Complete	d					
Staff consultation to review draft mapping/ranking							Complete	d					
Internal RSTC Meeting (#2)							Complete	d					
Expert/Focus Group Workshop (#1)					Comple	eted - rep	aced with	RSTC GIN	Worksho	p			
First Nations engagement (#2)							Complete	d					
Finalization of biodviersity and GIN mapping												R	
Phase 3 - Developing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy													
Staff workshop to understand current policy context													
Discussion and recommendations for monitoring and education										R			
Recommendations for policy development and neighbourhood										R			
planning Death and a state													
Draft report													
Review of draft report with staff													R
Provide materials to District staff for the Saanich website													
Public Consultation - Stakeholder Workshop													
Internal RSTC Meeting (#3) to discuss education, stewardship, policy and regulations										R			
Expert/Focus Group Workshop (#2) - RSTC Expert Workshop													
First Nations engagement (#3)													
Internal RSTC Meeting to review draft report (#4)												R	
Finalize report content													
Formatting and design for a public facing report													
Presentation to NAPT Committee, Council													
Public Survey													
Develop public survey questions							Complete	d					
Review questions with Staff and RSTC							Complete	d					
Set up survey online							Complete	d					
Review survey and responses							Complete						
Draft public survey summary report													
Incorporate public survey into strategy													+
Public engagement on draft strategy													+
Incorporation public feedback				$\vdash$	+ $+$	+ $+$	+ $+$ $-$						

### Milestone 3 Workplan

Action	Level of Public	Relative	RSTC Role	Staff Role	Council Role
<ul> <li>21. Hire consultant team to develop the Biodiversity</li> <li>Conservation</li> <li>Strategy</li> <li>Apply future climate change, demographic and development predictions</li> <li>Apply outcomes</li> </ul>	Participation	\$\$\$\$	Advise team	Hire consulting team and oversee contract	
of additional studies that may have occurred 22. Continue the			Form a working	Initial gap	
environmental policy gap analysis			group to decide how detailed this analysis should be. Use secretariat to help complete.	analysis completed by staff and included in the RSTC binder	
23. Review and evaluate Saanich's Urban Forest Strategy			Provide input at draft document. Test the utility of the proposed EPF program plan outline and evaluation tool.	Apply RSTC EFP Principles and Goals	Council will consider the entire UFS as part of a separate process.
24. Review and evaluate the Ecosystem Section of the Climate and recommend improvements if necessary			Work with the Sustainability Section to understand goals and RSTC role. Draft SMART objectives.	Sustainability Section to engage with RSTC	
25. Identify and analyze appropriate tools for	Consult and Collaborate		Work with the BCS consulting team and staff	Work with RSTC and BCS consulting team	Page 18 of 20

Page 18 of 20

conconvotion		to identify and	to identify and	
conservation,		to identify and	to identify and	
including an		incorporate	incorporate	
enhanced		appropriate	appropriate	
Stewardship		tools into the	tools into the	
Program.		strategy	strategy.	
26. Complete the	Consult	Work with staff	Work with RSTC	Council will
Biodiversity		to advise the	to advise the	consider the
Conservation		consulting	consulting	entire BCS
Strategy and		team. Review	team. Review	in a
identify		draft strategy.	draft strategy.	separate
enhancements for				process.
the stewardship				
program with				
recommendations				
for implementation				
including indicators				
and monitoring.				
27. Complete the		Complete draft	Use RSTC advice	
draft Environmental		report of	to write final	
		advice to staff.	EPF.	
Policy Framework		advice to stall.	EPF.	
document.		DCTC :	<u> </u>	
28. Submit a		RSTC is	Staff to prepare	
progress report on		dissolved.	report.	
Milestone 3 to				
Advisory				
Committees				
(Environment and				
Natural Areas, and				
Parks, Trails and				
Recreation) and				
Council.				
29. Present a			Staff to prepare	Council to
complete Resilient			package for	consider for
Saanich			Council.	approval.
Environmental				
Policy Framework				
including a State of				
Biodiversity Report,				
a Biodiversity				
Conservation				
Strategy				
(incorporating the				
Enhanced				
Stewardship				
Program) to Council.				

Page 19 of 20