

How Saanich plans connect

Shaping
Saanich

The District of Saanich has numerous plans that help guide our community. It is important to us that Saanich residents understand the purpose of all of our different plans and how they connect.



In addition to what may be the most well-known of our plans—the Official Community Plan (OCP), Strategic Plan and Financial Plan—Saanich has many master plans and strategies that outline goals and community improvements. These plans were developed over the past several years through extensive public engagement.

Master plans set out a vision, strategic objectives, and initiatives for a specific period of time and for a specific service that Saanich delivers. Council makes decisions and approves these proposed plans based on alignment with the Saanich vision, strategic planning goals and available funding.

Some examples of our master plans and strategies include the:

- Active Transportation Plan
- Agriculture and Food Security Plan
- Climate Plan
- Cedar Hill Park Management Plan
- Local Area Plans
- Older Adult Strategy
- Strategic Facilities Master Plan
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Water, Sewer and Drain Master Plans
- Housing Strategy

All of the master plans closely align with the overarching vision and policies in the OCP and, as applicable, are reflected in the strategic and financial plans. The master plans and strategies serve as a guide to decision-making for future capital and operational initiatives.

The next few pages will demonstrate how we use our plans as to reach our vision, mission and values.



START

Our **vision, mission** and **values** articulate the dreams and hopes for a future Saanich. They point us in the direction we want our community to go, but they don't tell us how to get there.

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It is critically important to hear from citizens and businesses about their interaction with Saanich. We conduct a small online survey every year. Then after the municipal election, we conduct a more comprehensive, statistically significant citizen and business survey. These surveys help us understand the overall impression of the quality of life in Saanich; the level of satisfaction and importance of services Saanich provides; and resident and business perceptions about taxation, services, and the allocation of municipal funding.

Master plans set out a vision, strategic objectives, and key initiatives for a specific period of time and for a specific service Saanich delivers.

View all of our master plans and strategies at saanich.ca/plans.

Motivate

The **Official Community Plan** (OCP) provides direction, focus and guidance on how to manage future growth and change in our community. Our OCP (adopted in 2008) places emphasis on three themes:

- environmental integrity
- social well-being
- economic vibrancy

Election

The general municipal election for Saanich citizens to elect their council of one mayor and eight councillors is held every four years in October.

Citizen and business survey

Following the election, we conduct the **citizen and business surveys**. Regularly scheduled surveys may also be complemented by smaller annual online surveys. The last Citizen Pulse Survey was conducted in 2021. The survey results inform Council during their decision making processes such as strategic and financial planning.

Master plans and strategies

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Fund

The **Financial Plan**, also known as the budget, provides funding for the priority initiatives and actions decided upon by Council as well as the ongoing operations of the municipality. Our municipality plays an essential role in helping citizens and businesses enjoy and contribute to a vibrant, livable and sustainable region. This means providing the right level of service at the right cost for a diverse and growing region. Saanich Council and staff must balance the need to provide services, facilities and infrastructure with the need to keep property tax and utility rate increases at manageable levels for businesses and residents. The Community Charter requires that all municipalities create a five-year Financial Plan. Through the process, Council determines which master plans and strategies and Strategic Plan initiatives receive funding.

Read more about the financial planning process at saanich.ca/budget.

We repeat the **Prioritize, Fund** and **Measure** cycle every year for four years until the end of a council term.

Prioritize

Following the election, Council develops a four-year **Strategic Plan** to guide the activities during their term in office and beyond. Council use the survey results, feedback they received during their election campaigns, and the existing master plans and strategies to prioritize goals, initiatives and actions to include in their plan.

The Strategic Plan goals, initiatives and actions will move Saanich toward its future vision as outlined in the OCP.

Read the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan at saanich.ca/strategicplan.

While the Strategic Plan is the focus of Council's term, the Strategic Plan goals and initiatives complement the previously approved operational activities, master plans and strategies.

Measure

The **Strategic Plan** outlines goals that guide staff to deliver services and develop programs. The initiatives and actions in the plan are a to-do list; they are concrete steps to achieve the goals in the plan. We annually measure how we are doing in terms of meeting our goals. We prepare the **Annual Report** every spring to share information about our accomplishments with our residents.

More educational resources

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Our Shaping Saanich education campaign was launched to explain our strategic and financial planning processes.

We created this resource to help demystify how our master plans and strategies connect with these major decision-making processes and the Saanich vision.

Ultimately, Council oversees all of our plans—our OCP, Strategic Plan, Financial Plan, master plans and strategies—to ensure they will move Saanich in the right direction.

Want to learn more about strategic and financial planning? Read our informational fact sheets:

- [Understanding how property assessments relate to property taxes](#)
- [Understanding how financial planning works in Saanich](#)
- [Saanich service delivery](#)

You can find all of our educational resources at saanich.ca/shapingsaanich.

Let us know if there's something you don't understand or if you want to know more about a certain topic.



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