PLANNING
Help shape your community!
Join the Saanich Planning Department

See some examples below of the plans and strategies created by the Planning Department that help shape the Saanich community.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN
The District of Saanich has numerous community plans and policies to guide growth and change within our municipality. The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the most important, providing the primary guidance. In concert with other plans and policies, the OCP provides a flexible framework to advance initiatives toward ensuring that Saanich is a livable sustainable community.

The OCP contains policy to inform decisions by Council, staff and the public to:
- Manage growth and land use
- Protect the natural environment
- Guide transportation and mobility priorities
- Develop the economy
- Meet housing needs
- Address climate change
- Build infrastructure

UPTOWN-DOUGLAS PLAN
The Uptown-Douglas area is located at the core of the Capital Region and is expected to experience significant growth and change as it evolves into the heart of Saanich.

The Uptown-Douglas (UD) Plan provides a 20 to 30 year vision with objectives and actions to implement the goals and policies of the Official Community Plan. The UD Plan has a focus on affordable and diverse housing, active transportation, economic vibrancy, urban design, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and resilience.

SHELBOURNE VALLEY ACTION PLAN
Plan Highlights
- Strengthening of Centres and Village as vibrant community hubs that provide a range of goods and services within walking distance of most households;
- A new design for Shelbourne Street that includes separated cycling facilities, transit enhancements, and a safe, more enjoyable pedestrian environment;
- Short-term actions that will add a continuous bike facility on Shelbourne Street, upgrade 2.3 km of sidewalk and enhance pedestrian and transit condition in Centres;
- More housing opportunities along Shelbourne Street to support transit, improve housing choice and enable improvements to the public realm;
- A network of greenways and bikeways that provide improved walking and cycling opportunities for people of all ages and abilities;
- A better-designed community that improves the relationship between buildings and pedestrian areas and highlights streets as a space for community enjoyment and activity;
- A healthier environment through Bowker Creek restoration, environmentally significant areas protection and urban forest enhancement.

HOUSING STRATEGY
The 2021 Housing Strategy is a comprehensive plan that provides clear direction to improve housing opportunities and address the urgent need for housing affordability, diversity, and supply. The Strategy was developed over a 13-month process involving community consultation and recommendations from the Housing Strategy Task Force.

The Housing Strategy includes these focus areas:
- Increasing the supply of affordable and supportive housing
- Promoting and protecting rental housing
- Supporting housing diversity and increasing supply
- Reducing barriers to housing development
- Strengthening partnerships
- Enhancing community engagement
- Understanding housing demand and addressing land speculation

GARDEN SUITES
Garden suites are detached, ground-oriented dwellings located in the rear yard of a property with a single family house as its principal use.

This new housing form contributes to the amount and diversity of rental housing available in Saanich. Garden suites can be used for family or as rental units.