

Appendix 3 – Regional Growth Strategy Survey

1. Welcome to our Survey

Help us shape the future of our region by completing a short 10 minute survey on the draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Your answers and comments will be used to help us assess how well the draft RGS meets community expectations. Survey results will be used to provide guidance to the RDN Board on possible changes to the draft RGS. Your answers and comments will be kept anonymous.

Help Shape Our Future by telling us what you think of the draft RGS!

Enter a draw to win \$400 for food when you complete this survey. Other prizes include Bus and Recreation Passes.



What is this Survey About?

This survey is about the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The RGS is a long term plan that supports making better choices about how we use land so that we can have a more sustainable way of life in the RDN over the next 25 years. It is a commitment made by the RDN's partners (rural electoral areas and the member municipalities including Lantzville, Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum) to try to shape their own land use plans to reach a shared dream for a more sustainable future. The RGS guides the content of other plans and bylaws including Official Community Plans and Zoning.

Do I have to read the Draft to do the Survey?

The survey below can be completed without reading the draft RGS or any background material. This will allow those of you with limited time to still provide us with feedback on key concerns. Goal Support sheets that summarize the goals of the RGS will give you a quick overview of the key directions behind the RGS. Links to these documents are provided within the survey and are also available on our website www.shapingourfuture.ca. We strongly encourage those with more time to complete both this survey and share more detailed comments with us once you have read the full draft of the RGS.

Growth Containment Boundaries

The draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) continues to use a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) as the primary way of managing growth. Basically, the GCBs are lines that separate land intended for future urban growth from other lands intended to remain available for natural areas, farming, forestry and other rural uses. This strategy has been the foundation of the RGS since it was first established in 1997. The image below shows the GCB as a line separating residential development in Parksville inside the GCB from land to be maintained for agriculture outside the GCB.



You can find out more about Growth Containment by linking to the online support sheet. [click here](#)

1. Do you agree that using a boundary to separate areas intended for future urban growth from other areas where urban growth is not supported is an effective way of managing growth in our region?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Rural Village Centres

Rural Village Centres are areas designated for growth in the rural electoral areas of the RDN (see an example of the Red Gap Rural Village Centre in Nanoose below). These lands are within the Growth Containment Boundary, and are intended to accommodate a smaller portion of the region's population growth in a way that is consistent with the rural character of the area. Areas that are designated as Rural Village Centres support a mix of housing, shops, services, and amenities primarily for those who live in the village and surrounding rural areas.



You can find out more about the benefits of compact communities in Rural Village and Urban Centres by linking to the online support sheet. [click here](#)

*** 2.**

There are 14 Rural Village Centres identified in the RGS. Questions have been raised about the ability of some of these centres to accommodate new growth because of a lack of services such as water and sewer. The draft RGS proposes that a study be conducted to identify those village centres which have the most potential to accommodate new growth. Those that are not able to accommodate new growth will be re-designated to ‘local service centres’ that allow a smaller amount of new development.

Do you agree that we need to evaluate which areas should remain as Rural Village Centres?

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

*** 3. Transportation**

The new draft RGS makes the connection between where people choose to live, work, and play, and the government’s ability to provide a range of transportation choices. The RGS encourages more people living and working within urban or rural village centres. When more people live and work closer together it becomes easier to provide cost effective infrastructure to support alternatives to private car use within and between these centres (such as sidewalks, bike paths or transit).

Do you support encouraging more people to live in urban and rural village centres in order to increase the opportunities to walk, cycle or take transit?

Strongly Support Support No Opinion Oppose Strongly Oppose

Rural Integrity

The new draft RGS includes support for different forms of subdivision in rural areas provided that it results in greater protection of lands for farming, forestry, environmental conservation and public open space. For example, in areas where lots may be divided under current zoning, there may be opportunities to allow for the same number of lots while protecting a larger area of land. The following two images show how this could be done.



Traditional Subdivision

- More land clearing is required for traditional subdivisions that have larger site area per lot.
- High infrastructure costs are associated with providing and maintaining roads and related infrastructure to large lot subdivisions.
- Limited lot sizes and housing choice available under current subdivision regulations.
- Few legal or regulatory means to protect environmentally sensitive areas from land clearing and construction.

Sustainable Subdivision

- More land is retained as open space and there are opportunities to preserve environmentally sensitive areas or culturally significant features.
- Less land and lower infrastructure costs are required to provide roads and services to a concentrated area of housing compared to a traditional layout.
- Opportunity to provide a greater choice of housing types that may accommodate a diversity of housing needs including affordability.



*** 4.**

Do you agree that this will be an effective way to protect our important rural landscapes?

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

*** 5. Affordable Housing**

The current RGS does not clearly address the issue of affordable housing. The new draft RGS now provides clear direction for the RDN and its member municipalities to increase the amount of affordable housing especially in areas with a mix of land uses (houses, shops, services etc.) and that are well served by transit.

Do you agree that the RDN and its member municipalities should play a larger role in the provision of affordable housing?

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

You can find out more about affordable housing by linking to the online support sheet. [click here](#)

*** 6. Food Security**

The new draft RGS encourages the RDN and its member municipalities to take steps to support sustainable food production. This includes support for complementary land uses, reducing conflicts with other land uses, provision of processing facilities and, allowing farmers markets in more locations.

Do you agree that local governments (regional districts and municipalities) need to play a larger role in supporting agriculture?

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

You can find out more about food security by linking to the online support sheet. [click here](#)

*** 7. Sewer and Water**

The provision of community water and wastewater services is one of the most powerful tools the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and member municipalities have to direct and manage growth in the region. The new draft RGS continues to encourage the supply of community water and sewer services to areas designated for future growth within the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB). This is to encourage better use of land in these areas and discourage growth into areas that are more rural and expensive to service. Restricting servicing outside of the GCBs limits the amount of development possible in rural areas.

Do you support providing community water and sewer to lands that are inside of the Growth Containment Boundary while at the same time restricting these services to lands located outside of the Growth Containment Boundary (that are not intended for future growth)?

- Strongly Support Support No Opinion Oppose Strongly Oppose I Don't Understand the Question

You can find out more about sewer and water servicing by linking to the online support sheet. [click here](#)

*** 8. Monitoring and Reporting**

A key concern about the RGS is that we do not know if it has been effective, as there is no established system to measure how well it is being implemented. One way of addressing this concern is to establish a program to monitor, evaluate and periodically report on regional economic, population, social and environmental trends and progress towards achieving RGS goals and policies. The draft RGS identifies establishing a monitoring program as a high priority.

Do you agree that establishing a monitoring and reporting program for the RGS is a high priority?

- Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

9. Amending the RGS

The RGS, like other local government bylaws is a document that can be changed by the RDN Board. There has been concern that the process to make changes to the RGS is unclear and inconsistent. The current RGS does not include a process to amend the document. To address these concerns, the new draft RGS contains a clear process for making changes to the document.

- Yes - I strongly agree with including the process for amending the RGS within the document.
- No - The process for amending the RGS should not be included in the document.
- Not Sure - I am not sure whether or not the process for amending the RGS should be included in the document.
- I Don't Understand the Question

10. Different processes for Minor and Major Amendments

The process for making changes to the RGS now includes different steps for changes considered to be “minor” and for those that are considered to be more significant. The RDN has the ability to determine what types of changes are considered minor and how they will be addressed.

The minor amendment process includes fewer steps and applies to changes that do not alter the intent of the RGS such as small errors or updating new information (e.g. tables, figures, grammar). It also applies to amendments resulting from a full Electoral Area or Municipal Official Community Plan (OCP) Review involving community consultation. All other amendments are considered major and would involve an extensive process with more public involvement. Updating policies, making changes to land use designations and the Growth Containment Boundary outside of an OCP review would all be considered 'major amendments'.

Do you agree with limiting minor amendments to small errors, updating new information and changes resulting from full OCP reviews?

- Yes – I strongly agree that minor amendments should be limited to these things.
- No – Minor Amendments should cover other types of amendments.
- Not Sure – I am not sure whether or not minor amendments should be limited to these things.
- I Don't Understand the Question

11. In which area of the Regional District of Nanaimo do you live in? Please check one box

- Lantzville
- Nanaimo
- Parksville
- Qualicum Beach
- Electoral Area A (Cassidy, Cedar, Yellowpoint, South Wellington)
- Electoral Area B (Gabriola, DeCourcy, Mudge Islands)
- Electoral Area C (Extension, Arrowsmith-Benson, East Wellington, Pleasant Valley)
- Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay)
- Electoral Area F (Coombs, Hilliers, Errington)
- Electoral Area G (French Creek, Dashwood, Englishman River)
- Electoral Area H (Qualicum Bay, Deep Bay, Bowser)

Out of the Region (Please Specify)

12. How long have you lived in the RDN?

- 1 year or less
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- Over 20

13. What age group are you in?

- 15 and under
- 16-20
- 21-30
- 31-55
- Over 55

14. Please enter your name, email address and phone number to be entered to win one of the following prizes:

- Grand prize \$400 groceries from a store of your choice
- One of three 1 month Regional Transit Passes
- One of 10 recreation day admissions to recreational facilities in either Nanaimo, Parksville or Qualicum Beach.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

15. Any more Comments on the Draft Regional Growth Strategy?