

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Cowichan Valley Regional District Adopts Official Community Plan for the Electoral Areas

Duncan, B.C. –The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is pleased to announce that the CVRD Board of Directors has officially adopted Bylaw no. 4373, the Official Community Plan (OCP) for the Electoral Areas on November 26, 2025, marking a significant milestone in shaping the region’s future growth and development.

The OCP provides a comprehensive framework for land use and community planning across all nine electoral areas for the next 20 years. Developed through extensive public engagement, the plan reflects a fusion of the communities’ vision and values as well as long-term planning objectives and policy directions.

The OCP brings more clarity and simplicity to a range of complex issues and priorities that the CVRD’s electoral areas face, such as sustainable growth, housing diversity, climate action, and environmental stewardship.

“Throughout this process, we heard clearly what matters most to residents: strengthening our communities, supporting responsible growth, and protecting the rural landscapes that define us. Residents shaped this plan over many years, and their voices are reflected throughout it,” said CVRD Board Chair, Kate Segall. “The Board and CVRD staff worked thoughtfully to bring that input into the document, and we are grateful for the community’s commitment to understanding how this plan guides our shared future. By modernizing and updating the plan, we are improving timely decision-making and achieving significant cost savings through clearer policies and planning efficiencies.”

Key Highlights of the OCP:

- **Growth Management:** Establishes growth containment boundaries and land use designations using a “Transect” approach, which organizes land into zones that transition smoothly from natural to rural to urban. The Transect approach is commonly used in ecology and when applied to land use can help us better understand human settlements and how they relate to each other.
- **Detailed Schedules:** Includes policies for development permit areas, agricultural lands, transportation networks, heritage conservation, and natural asset protection.
- **Community Input:** Informed by substantive public consultation, including a public hearing for the MOCP, open houses, community circles, ideas fairs, and workshops. Engagement took place throughout OCP development from 2020 to 2025. There were over 3,000 participants and submissions that contributed to the development of the OCP.

The OCP has been a multi-year, multi-faceted project aligned with the CVRD’s Corporate Strategic Plan seeking to support more sustainable and coordinated growth and development in the region with a focus on growth management, climate change and First Nations relationships.

Community members, residents and the general public can explore the full plan, videos, and interactive maps at **PlanYourCowichan.ca**.

- 30 -

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