

Appendix C – Example actions/policies for local government biodiversity strategies

Extract from:

Environmental Values Policy Toolkit

A component of the Regional Framework for Nature-based Solutions on BC's South Coast

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The Action for Adaptation website supports policy and land use planning for local governments and First Nations in southwest BC.

The project is a collaborative effort by the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (CDFCP), UBC Botanical Gardens to produce an online biodiversity atlas and climate adaptation tools that will provide First Nations, local governments and land managers with the resources that they have indicated they need to make informed decisions related to biodiversity in a changing climate.



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Appendix C – Example actions/policies for local government biodiversity strategies

Theme	Strategy statement	Adapted from	Indicator / target
General / multi-theme	Base decisions on sound science while incorporating local knowledge and expertise.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg 23	
	Manage biodiversity at a city-wide scale and engage neighbouring jurisdictions to build on existing networks of natural areas and biodiversity hotspots.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg 23	
	Develop an inventory of natural assets and develop a Natural Asset Management Plan (see section Error! Reference source not found.).	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.1, pg 51	Inventory completed by [date]
	Make restoring ecological function a priority over rigid interpretations of naturalness. Favour planting native species but consider appropriate non-native species to enhance biodiversity in urban areas.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg 23	Biodiversity consists of >75% native species
	Encourage “urban ecosystems” such as green roofs, rain gardens, and wildflower meadows that have a mix of native and non-native species to enhance urban biodiversity and provide people with access to nature.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg 23	
	Incorporate climate projections such as increased summer drought, rising sea level, and more intense rainfall and storm events into all biodiversity projects such as tree planting and wetland restoration.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg 23	
	Improve development review and permitting processes, including the tree protection bylaw and other green policies to better protect and enhance biodiversity during development.	City of Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy , action 21, pg 37	Policies are vetted by a QEP or similarly experienced staff. Policies are integrated across all departments.
	Consider incentives to restore degraded habitat during re-development.	City of Surrey’s Biodiversity Conservation	Incentives are established and promoted.

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		Strategy , A-2.8 pg 84	## of hectares of habitat restored in [timeframe]
	Allocate resources to identify and deal with encroachments into [jurisdiction] owned natural lands, including naturalized right of ways and mandate their restoration.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.2, pg 51	Resources are allocated. ## of hectares of natural lands by [timeframe]
	Implement an environmental development permit area or for the protection of the natural environment and ensure guidelines are clear and well-communicated.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.12, pg 53	
	Monitor and measure performance and adapt actions accordingly. This requires establishing appropriate indicators and measuring against targets. Draw on ecological expertise to identify appropriate indicators and targets.	City of Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy , pg. 23.	The status of biodiversity and the success of biodiversity programs and projects are measured using monitoring and other methods.
	Adopt and implement an Urban Forest Strategy.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.8 pg 52	Urban Forest Strategy in implementation within 2 years of adoption.
First Nations	Build partnerships with First Nations to collaborate on biodiversity management.	City of Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy , action 25, pg 39	Collaborative biodiversity tables with local First Nations established and functioning.
	Support local Indigenous peoples in spatial knowledge acquisition and organization on their terms.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.7 pg 46	
Land cover and land use	Develop a long-term land cover monitoring program to reflect the state of biodiversity in the community.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.6 pg 46	
	Develop incentives to increase density and encourage alternative development approaches (e.g. cluster housing, Conservation Subdivision Design) to retain natural areas and enhance buffer	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.6 pg 84	Density incentives are established and promoted. ## of hectares of natural area

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	zones adjacent to green infrastructure, particularly inside the urban containment boundary.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.7, pg 52	protected through alternative development approaches.
	Establish forest canopy baseline and cover targets for different land uses that will contribute towards the community goal of ##% canopy cover.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.9 pg 85	Canopy cover baseline and targets established.
	Develop / support a tree incentive program to increase tree cover on private land.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.11 pg 85	# of private land owners utilize the incentive program by [date] Tree canopy or number of trees on private land increased by X% by [date]
	Develop / update the Tree Bylaw to enhance protection and replacement criteria for all healthy single stemmed trees with a diameter greater than 100 cm measured at 1.4 m above ground.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.12 pg 85	Tree Bylaw created / updated with specific targets
	Develop or update ground-truthed terrestrial ecosystem mapping (TEM) that identify disturbance levels.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.4 pg 46	TEM updated/completed by [date]
	Review and update existing data capture guidelines and develop a structured procedure for evaluating and submitting data to be included as part of terrestrial ecosystem mapping.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.2.2 pg 45	TEM data guidelines updated by [date] and widely shared.
Environmentally sensitive areas	Establish an EDPA to protect the ecological integrity of the [Green Infrastructure Network]. The DPA will include all GIN areas (hubs, sites and corridors) and extend 50 m from the edge of GIN. All properties including all or a portion of the EDPA will be subject to the DPA guidelines.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.4 pg 84	
	Require that any development within the EDPA requires a QEP to assess and prescribe management that will meet the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.4 pg 84	

	Review all development applications to ensure objectives of the Sensitive Ecosystem Development Permit Area are met.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.1 pg 84	
	Refine terrestrial ecosystem and ESA polygon boundaries using current criteria and through ground-truthing and high resolution ortho-imagery.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.2.1 pg 45	
	Enforce appropriate timing windows established by the province for fish and wildlife during development and building. Avoid tree clearing during bird nesting season. Ensure work in and around watercourses respects fish timing windows developed by the province.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.5 pg 84	Wildlife and fish windows are understood, identified, and respected.
	Require site inspections within 3-5 years of restoration as a condition of streamside development permits. Collect bonding to enforce this inspection period. Update bonding timelines to match inspection timelines and restoration projects.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.17 pg 54	Compliance with permit conditions requiring restoration is >90% Success of restoration after 5 years is >90%
	Require that QEPs assess and confirm the compliance of restoration sites.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.16 pg 54	
	Develop a spatial inventory of invasive plant species growing on public lands and establish a management program.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.14 pg 48 Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy 2-1 , pg. 33	Invasive plant management program for public lands established by [date].
Hydroriparian (including marine)	Ensure the Zoning Bylaw is consistent with the Streamside Development Permit Area (SDPA) to better protect streams and the marine shoreline.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.13.3 pg 53	

	Clarify all watercourses are included in the SDPA that meet the definition, including unmapped watercourses.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.13.2 pg 53	
	Increase the minimum riparian setback enforced in the Zoning Bylaw to 10 m for watercourses and 2 m for ditches to better align with minimum RAPR SPEA sizes. Apply to both fish-bearing and non-fish-bearing streams.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 3.13.4 pg 53	
	Establish a Riparian Development Permit Area (DPA) for all Class A, A(0) and B watercourses outside of the ALR to protect biodiversity, water quality and slope stability.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.2 pg 84	Width of DPA will include the watercourse, riparian area and extend to 50 m from the top of bank.
	Enforce minimum Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas setbacks from top of bank for Class A, A(O) and B watercourses; disturbed areas within SPEAs must be restored as a condition of development.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.3 pg 84	
	All properties, including all or a portion of the Riparian DPA, are subject to the DPA guidelines. Any development within the Riparian DPA requires a QEP to assess and prescribe management that will meet the objectives of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.2 pg 84	
	Accurately map the locations of connected and disconnected wetland systems and use this information in planning and development permit application reviews. Make this information available via the GIS portal.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.10 pg 47	
	Update the mapping of marine-influenced ecosystems and make this available via the GIS portal.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.11 pg 47	
Ecosystem connectivity	Implement measures to improve wildlife crossings within the green infrastructure network to facilitate movement and reduce traffic mortality.	City of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , A-2.7pg 84	
	Protect land in the Biodiversity Habitat Network through working with private landowners using a	District of Saanich Biodiversity	

	variety of existing tools such as covenants, and through land acquisition.	Conservation Strategy , pg 49	
	Protect land in the Biodiversity Habitat Network through priority invasive species removal and ecosystem restoration on public land.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 2.1.3, pg 49	
	Identify missing components adjacent to the Biodiversity Habitat Network that could be restored to improve the network.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 2.3, pg 50	
	Add the Biodiversity Habitat Network to the Park Acquisition Plan and identify priority lands for acquisition.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 2.4, pg 50	
	Assess unused rights-of-way within the Urban Containment Boundary for restoration potential and/or potential to rezone to natural area parks.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 2.6 & 2.7, pg 50 Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , 1-1, pg. 31	
Species at risk	Update and map the known locations of species and ecological communities at risk and provide this information to the BC Conservation Data Centre.	District of Saanich Biodiversity Conservation Strategy , 1.12, pg 48	
	Work with provincial government and stewardship groups to help restore ecologically important native species.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , 1-2, pg. 31	
	Identify opportunities to rezone lands containing, in whole or in part, critical habitat for species at risk to natural area parks.		
	Ensure critical habitat for species at risk that occurs in natural areas is protected from inappropriate use and disturbance.		

Nature-based solutions to climate change	Incorporate smaller natural areas, including meadows, rain gardens, and wetlands into new and redeveloping parks, streets, and community gardens to augment existing natural assets and mitigate climate change impacts.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , 2-1, pg. 33	
	Recognize backyard gardens, neighbourhood parks, green roofs, and other urban habitats as ways to sustain biodiversity and support climate resilience.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg. 23	
	Allow natural processes such as forest succession, windthrow, and beaver-caused flooding, along with natural variability and ecological complexity in and near natural areas to support climate resilience and ecosystem health.	Vancouver Board of Parks & Rec Biodiversity Strategy , pg. 23	Healthy ecosystems are sustained by natural processes.