

Table 6. Policy provisions for Regional Growth 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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- 1.1 The Action for Adaptation website supports policy and land use planning for local governments and First Nations in southwest BC.
- 1.2 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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COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR
& ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

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Table 6. Policy provisions for Regional Growth Strategies

Theme	Policy statement	Adapted from	Indicators
Multi-theme	Conserve and enhance biodiversity and ecological services by protecting ecologically important features and corridors, including floodplains, shorelines, intertidal areas, stream systems, aquifers, and urban forests.	City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 2.8, pg 29	Area of natural forest, floodplain, riparian buffers, intertidal areas, aquifers – tracked over time.
Land cover and land use	Encourage land use, infrastructure, and human settlement patterns that reduce fossil fuel and the associated emissions, create carbon storage opportunities, and improve ecological connectivity.	City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 1.2, pg 25	Tonnes of carbon stored in intact ecosystems. Tonnes of carbon stored in the urban forest canopy. Total hectares of connected and intact habitat.
Environmentally sensitive areas	1. Work with the federal and provincial governments to identify and protect natural areas that are representative of the region’s ecosystem and form systems of interconnected areas and natural corridors capable of sustaining native plant and animal communities.	City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 2.6, pg 29	The area of land protected in the CRD as Regional Park (Capital Regional District, Summary). Change in area and quality of ESA.
	2. Work with property owners, businesses, the provincial government, and First Nation communities to improve, support, and increase awareness of the essential services that forests provide in the region such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological diversity and a healthy natural environment • natural stormwater management, erosion reduction, water filtration • carbon dioxide storage • air temperature moderation in urban areas • spiritual and cultural enrichment 	City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 1.12, pg 27	

Theme	Policy statement	Adapted from	Indicators
	3. Use a sensitive ecosystems atlas as a common method of collecting and displaying conservation and environmental information.	Comox Valley RD RGS obj 2-A3, pg 35	
	4. Encourage local governments to either individually or jointly regularly update environmental mapping that depicts critical information such as sensitive ecosystems, watercourses and riparian areas, parks and greenways.	Comox Valley RD RGS obj 2-A2, pg 35	
	5. Prepare a complete bio-inventory of regionally significant ESAs, SAR, and the natural biodiversity of the region.	City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 2.11, pg 29	
Hydrologically sensitive	Undertake watershed-based planning , integrated with the protection of ESAs, including wildlife corridors.	City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 2.1, pg 28; CRD RGS Indicators Report 2023 , 2.1(d), pg 11	Length of stream with canopy cover and or naturalised embankments. Length of stream that is compliant with provincial legislation setbacks.
Ecosystem connectivity	1. Ensure OCPs adopt clear definitions and guidelines for ecological greenways and work with neighbouring local governments to create region-wide linkages .	Comox Valley RD RGS obj 2-B2, pg 37	Percentage of green infrastructure network in public ownership (City of Surrey, pg 304)
	2. Work with member local governments to establish or strengthen policies within OCPs that ensure the long-term protection of ecological connectivity hubs and corridors depicted on [maps], including policies aimed at connecting these lands and buffering them from activities in adjacent urban areas.	after Curran et al , s. 17.1, pg 189	

Theme	Policy statement	Adapted from	Indicators
Nature-based solutions to climate change	<p>1. Maximize co-benefits by coordinating land use planning and future infrastructure investment efforts (including natural assets) to reduce the risk of climate change impacts (wildfires, extreme weather events, flooding, coastal storm surge, erosion, sea level rise, etc.).</p>	<p>City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 1.9, pg 26</p>	
General	<p>1. Encourage local governments to work together and with First Nations and other organizations to adopt consistent actions and policies for environmental and natural asset protection, through OCPs, zoning (protection or EDPAs), restoration, ecological connectivity, watershed health and other mechanisms, that promote the principles of precaution, connectivity and restoration.</p>	<p>Comox Valley RD RGS obj 2-B1, pg 37</p>	
	<p>2. Consider the impacts on ecological structure and function of land use decisions and require an environmental review for projects with the potential to negatively affect ESAs, the coastal zone, or environmental quality.</p>	<p>City of Nanaimo Shaping Our Future 2040 (2024), policy 2.13, pg 29</p>	

