

Comox Valley Regional District

Corporate Plan 2020



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Chair Message

Approved by Chair Ketler

What's up Comox Valley? Do you love where we live as much as we do? The Comox Valley is an extraordinary place filled with beautiful natural landscapes, and caring people who invest in our community. Yes, you are an investor in the region! We all contribute to critical regional services like clean water, hospitals and emergency operations. We invest in beautiful parks, affordable housing and recreation. And we are all striving to be in a community that is sustainable, safe, affordable, filled with natural greenspaces, and provided with effective service delivery.

In November 2019, I was elected as the Chair of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board. In my role, I try to bring people together so we can increase our collective impact.

The CVRD developed the Corporate Plan to help map out the upcoming year's priorities based on the CVRD Board's strategic drivers.

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Climate Crisis and Environmental Stewardship and Protection
- Community Partnerships
- Indigenous Relations

The idea of having drivers that guide service delivery is new to the CVRD. Do you agree with the Board's direction? As an investor, please share your thoughts about your priorities for our community.

I want to acknowledge the remarkable amount of very important work – many other projects and day-to-day operations - underway by the staff that is not captured within this document. Every task accomplished contributes to the amazing place we all call home, so thank you.

I am honored to be working alongside dedicated staff, board members and passionate residents that care about our shared future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Ketler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.







Vision Statement

The **Comox Valley Regional District** is a partnership of three electoral areas and three municipalities providing sustainable services for residents and visitors to the area. The local governments work collaboratively on services for the benefit of those living and visiting the diverse urban and rural areas of the Comox Valley.

The CVRD Strategic and Financial Plans are guided by four key drivers:



Fiscal
Responsibility

Careful management of services and assets is essential to providing affordable and reliable services to citizens and businesses in the CVRD.



Climate Crisis and Environmental
Stewardship and Protection

The CVRD is committed to reducing our impact on the environment and ensuring we can adapt and respond to climate change impacts.



Community
and Social Wellbeing

The social fabric of our communities, health and well-being of citizens, and community partnerships is ever present in guiding our service delivery.



Indigenous
Relations

We are committed to reconciliation and relationship building with indigenous peoples and specifically K'ómoks First Nation (KFN).

What are Core Values and why do they matter?

Core Values are the root of how we conduct ourselves, individually and as an organization. They define the important ways in which we interact with others. Core Values matter because they describe the ways we set ourselves apart from others and help to illustrate the organization that the Comox Valley Regional District is striving towards.

Collaboration

- Consensus building, teamwork
- Internal, external and stakeholder engagement

Service

- Resident focus that is accessible, honest, fair, trustworthy
- Support each other, respect each other, empower each other

Accountability

- Transparent, fiscally responsible, efficient, reliable
- Personal, collective and community focused

Sustainability

- Protect natural systems and maintain balance for future generations
- Balance interests, priorities, and manage risk

What We Do

In 2019 **99 services** were delivered to residents in Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Electoral Areas A, B, and C including...

Water

Comox Valley Water Supply System – connecting

45,000

residents to clean, safe drinking water at an affordable price.



Sewer

Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre – ensuring that Comox and Courtenay’s liquid waste is effectively managed to minimize environmental impacts and follow regulatory requirements.



Solid Waste

Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service – ensuring that garbage is properly dealt with along with household hazardous waste, compost and recycling.



Parks & Recreation

Managing and protecting regional parks, forests, beaches and over 100 kilometres of trails.

Supporting recreation facilities that encourage active, healthy lifestyles for all residents.



We Are Three Electoral Areas & Three Municipalities

The Comox Valley boundaries extend north to the Oyster River, south to Cook Creek and west to Strathcona Park and includes Denman and Hornby Islands. The CVRD acknowledges that it is on the unceded territory of the K'ómox First Nation.

Services provided vary from water, sewer and solid waste to street lighting and transit.



Each service or function is a stand-alone service. A five-year plan is prepared for each of the services.



Each service has its own revenue source and expenditure plan as well as reserves, debt and grant funds.



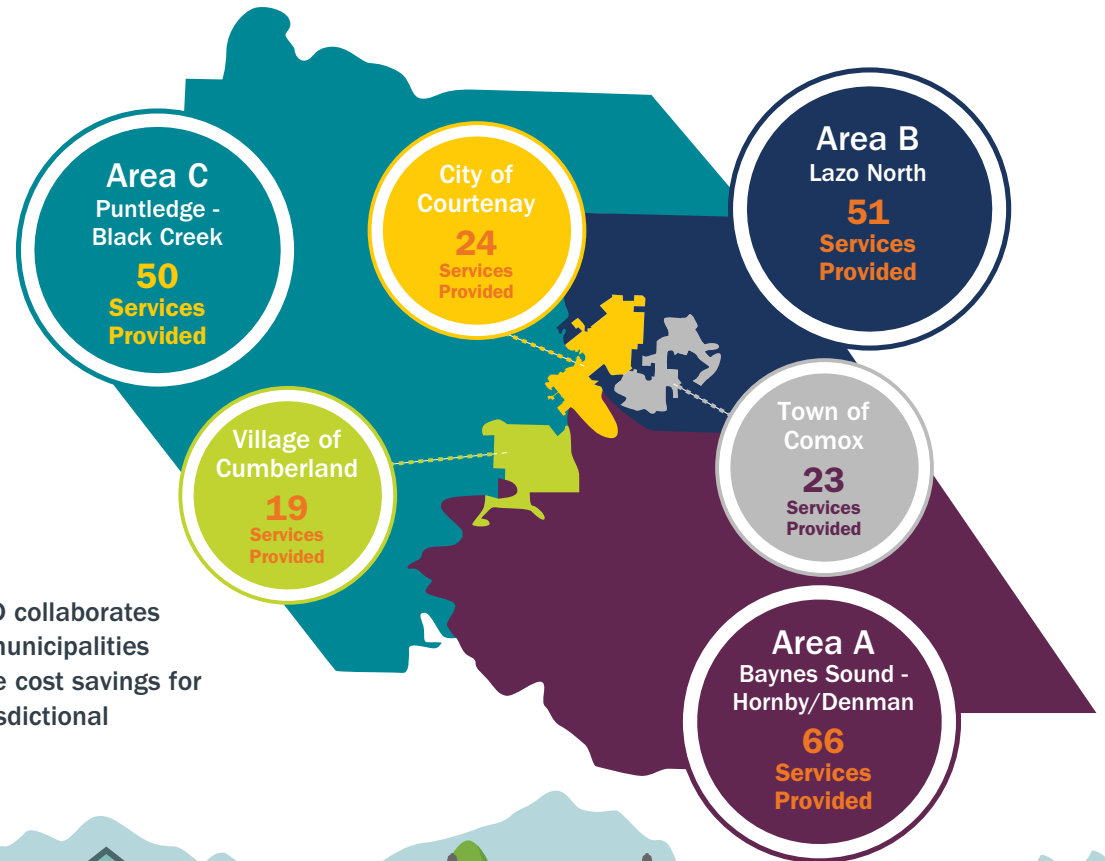
No ability to transfer funds from one service to another.



Only those municipalities or electoral areas that sign up for a service pay for the service.

The CVRD Board includes members of municipal council and electoral area directors who determine direction and approve all projects and expenditures in the best interest of every resident.

The CVRD collaborates with its municipalities to provide cost savings for cross-jurisdictional services.



2019 Financials

Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

Management maintains a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that transactions are authorized, recorded and reported properly.

Management also maintains a program of proper business compliance.

The board of directors is responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements and for

ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control.

MNP LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, the regional district's independent auditor, has conducted an examination of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and has expressed an opinion in the auditor's report which accompanies the complete audited

financial statements available at the regional district office or online at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca.



E.J. Dunlop, CPA, CGA
Officer responsible for Financial Administration,
pursuant to Section 237 of the Local
Government Act



Comox Valley Regional District

Core Services





SAUNA

0.9M

1.2M

1.5M

Core Services

While the **Comox Valley Regional District** has **99 independent functions**, for reporting purposes and defining vision and goals, eight core services focus the regional district's efforts:

**Finance
and Administration**

Water Supply

Recreation

**Regional Growth
Strategy**

Sewage Treatment

**Regional Emergency
Services**

Transit

**Electoral Area
Services**

CORE SERVICES AT WORK



163
contracts
& agreements
in place

156 km of trails



65
volunteers supporting
Comox Valley
Emergency Program



572
calls dispatched
by North Island 911
to CVRD Fire
Departments



143
planning applications
in 2019



114,506
drop-ins
for Sports Centre
and Aquatic Centre



50+volunteers
for search and rescue



8,639,748
cubic meters
of treated water




233,013
active participant
visits to the Sports
Centre Arena



16.4
square kilometers
amount of green
space

675,000
transit riders

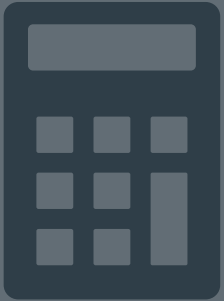


130 
volunteer
firefighters in CVRD
fire departments



4,864,849
cubic meters of wastewater
treated (sewage) that equals
1.945 Olympic swimming pools

Finance and Administration





Core Services

Finance and Administration

Finance and Administration provides support services for: legislative, financial, personnel, communications, executive, information technology and administrative functions. In addition, it oversees borrowing for large scale projects, elections, and public approval processes.

Key Service Outcomes

- Fiscal responsibility and management
- Quality information and communication for residents and businesses
- Social procurement
- Partnerships e.g. school district, elected officials forums
- Community leadership e.g. electric vehicle best practices

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Strategic planning process redesigned to a comprehensive step-by-step process for 2019/2020	F, C	\$	1 person icon	2020
2. Regular upgrades to existing systems (e.g. financial reporting and asset management) to achieve a higher degree of integration and more efficient practices (ongoing)	F	\$	1 person icon	2020
3. Comox Valley Economic Development Society contract review	F, P	\$\$	1 person icon	2020
4. Regional office project (move in late 2019)	F, C, I	\$	1 person icon	2020
5. Coordinating asset management across all CVRD services (ongoing)	F, C, P	\$\$	1 person icon	2020
6. Supporting K'ómoks First Nation community to community forums, regular project updates with KFN Chief and Council, broad cultural awareness associated with indigenous relations for staff, elected officials and public (ongoing)	P, I	\$	2 person icons	2020

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Water Supply





Core Services

Water Supply

CVRD owns and operates the water supply system which provides treated water in bulk for 45,000 residents in Courtenay, Comox and parts of the surrounding electoral areas. Water from Comox Lake is drawn from the Puntledge River, is treated with chlorination and ultraviolet and then flows through a network of reservoirs, pumping stations and transmission mains or pipes. Distribution to residents and businesses is managed by municipalities and individual electoral area water services.

Key Service Outcomes

- High quality water
- An adequate water supply to accommodate current and future demands
- Water conservation (reduction of per capita usage)
- Adequate, maintained, reliable and resilient infrastructure
- Source and infrastructure resiliency to climate change impacts
- Affordable water
- Positive KFN relations regarding water supply
- Watershed protection
- Reduced conflicts with watershed recreational users
- Supply source redundancy

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Completion of the Water Treatment Project	F, C, P, I	\$\$\$		2020
2. Partnership with KFN to commit to extend water services south to development lands north east of Union Bay*	P, I	\$\$		2020
3. Ongoing implementation of the Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Municipal natural assets inventory (MNAI) o Future use consideration of Coal Beach property o Perseverance Creek risk reduction 	F, C, P, I	\$		2020
4. Asset management to confirm current conditions and define future asset renewal requirements	F, C	\$		2020
5. Consideration of southern communities for expanded services (aligned with RGS goals and objectives)*	F, P, I	\$\$\$		2021

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Water Project Moves into Construction Phase

The Comox Valley Water Treatment Project, the CVRD's largest infrastructure project to date, made great strides in 2019, moving from desktop design and planning to seeing shovels officially hit the ground.

Early in 2019, as three shortlisted companies worked to develop proposals for the design-build of the facility, the CVRD wrapped up a public engagement process on proposed trailhead facilities at the future water treatment plant property. The feedback was shared with design-build teams vying for the project contract.

While the design-build efforts continued into Spring, the CVRD's successful signing of all water licenses and land use agreements was

announced in the project's first stakeholder newsletter. These approvals set a clear path to the project's next step: selecting the design-build contractor.

In July 2019, the design-build contract was awarded to AECON Water Infrastructure Inc. and project budget was updated to \$126 million.

The project celebrated a major milestone on Oct. 30 with the official ground-breaking celebration marked by a kick-off event at Comox Lake with municipal, K'ómoks First Nations and community organization partners. Following this celebration, the project team wrapped up the year by officially starting construction with land clearing and the start of intake drilling and

treatment plant foundation building in November and December.

Looking Ahead to 2020

Work is now well underway at the raw water pump station and water treatment plant sites. This includes completion of preparatory work around Comox Lake and at the treatment plant site, while tree clearing has commenced in the penstock corridor. The well to access the water intake is being installed and water treatment plant foundations are advanced. There is a lot of work ahead – with the project expected to be complete in summer 2021.





Recreation





Core Services

Recreation

CVRD owns and operates the Comox Valley Aquatic Centre (pool facilities), Comox Valley Sports Centre (two ice sheets, wellness centre and pool facilities) and Comox Valley Curling Centre. Administration and oversight of the Sports and Aquatic Centres and programming is delegated to the Comox Valley Sports Centre Commission.

The Commission undertook its own strategic planning session in spring 2019. The following outcomes and initiatives are affirmed through the Commission's independent plan.

Key Service Outcomes

- Supporting the health of citizens
- Asset management
- Partnerships between jurisdictions and external stakeholders
- Connectivity to recreational services
- Accessibility to recreational services
- Volunteer engagement
- Cooperation with School District 71 facilities
- Greenhouse gas and environmental impact reduction
- Partnerships with K'ómoks First Nation

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Implementation of the CVRD Sports Centre Strategic Plan 2019 - 2021	F, C, P, I	\$		2020-2021
2. Opportunities for organizational improvement including information technology supports, management structural changes	F, C	\$		2021
3. Implementation of a low-income regional pass*	F, P	\$		2020
4. Energy reduction improvements such as: switching to LED lighting; evaluating heat reclamation potential; and acquisition of an electric ice resurfacing equipment	F, C, P	\$		2021
5. Enhanced programming with First Nations involvement*	P, I	\$		2020

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Regional Growth Strategy





Core Services

Regional Growth Strategy

The Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), adopted in 2011, promotes human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources. In addition, one of the intents of the RGS is to provide a mechanism for regional collaboration.

The RGS includes eight goals related to: housing; ecosystems, natural areas and parks; local economic development; transportation; infrastructure; food systems; public health and safety; and climate change.

The RGS provides broad opportunity for data collection, monitoring and reporting to support regional district, municipal and senior government decision-making and public awareness and education.

Key Service Outcomes

- Settlement that is socially, economically, environmentally healthy
- Adequate housing supply for current and future needs
- Affordable housing
- Affordable servicing
- Partnerships with KFN and other organizations
- Improved air quality
- RGS monitoring and evaluation

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)				
Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Regional housing needs assessment*	F, C, P, I	\$\$		2020
2. Air quality framework identified to improve Comox Valley air quality*	C, P	\$		2020
3. Multi-modal integrated regional transportation implementation agreement*	F, C, P, I	\$		2020
4. Integrating regional growth principles with sustainability strategy principles – develop CVSS Scorecard (dashboard)	F, C, P	\$		2021
5. Review of the RGS*	F, C, P, I	\$\$\$		2021

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
6. Regional approach and cooperation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o BC Energy Stepcode o Transportation o Plastic bags o Food security/system o Farming* 	F, C, P, I	\$	1 person icon	2020
7. Partnerships with KFN*	F, C, P, I	\$	2 person icons	2021
8. Evaluation framework and data collection	F, P	\$	1 person icon	2020
9. Climate change mitigation and adaptation planning	F, C, P, I	\$	2 person icons	2020

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations



The Regional Growth Strategy Helps Build Our Community

The Regional Growth Strategy provides long-term, collaborative and sustainable planning in the Comox Valley. It is a commitment made by the municipalities and the regional district to work together on a common vision for the Comox Valley by taking into account shared services, unique natural environments, and available resources and opportunities. The strategy provides a framework for sustainable development over a twenty year period by encouraging and directing development to the municipal areas and established rural settlement nodes. These are the areas that have existing, or planned, servicing. The RGS aims to keep urban settlement compact, protect the integrity of rural and resource working lands, protect the natural environment, increase servicing efficiency, and enhance transportation diversity within the region. The Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy was adopted in 2011, following three years of extensive public engagement.

Eight policy areas are the backbone of the CVRD's Regional Growth Strategy:

- Housing
- Ecosystems, Natural Areas and Parks
- Local Economic Development
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Food Systems

- Public Health and Safety
- Climate Change

The Regional Growth Strategy helps create the liveable community we all strive to be a part of.

Affordable housing that meets the needs of citizens is a challenge in many B.C. communities. In 2019, the CVRD, the Village of Cumberland, the Town of Comox and the City of Courtenay partnered under the Regional Growth Strategy to undertake a regional housing needs assessment. The purpose is to understand housing demand, supply and needs across the housing spectrum and identify gaps. The data will support local government to make evidence-based decisions on the matters that affect citizens' housing needs. The findings of this work are helping to meet Goal #1 of the Regional Growth Strategy: Ensure a diversity of affordable housing options to meet evolving regional demographics and needs. Many citizens contributed to the housing needs assessment by participating in focus groups and interviews and completing paper and on-line surveys. These findings along with statistical data will be presented to the community in March and April 2020.

To learn more about the RGS visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rgs



Sewage Treatment



WIMBORNE VALLEY
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL CENTRE



Core Services

Sewage Treatment

CVRD owns and operates conveyance and treatment infrastructure for wastewater from the communities of Courtenay, Comox, CFB Comox (19 Wing) and K'ómoks First Nation (by service contract). The Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (CVWPCC), commissioned in 1984, is a secondary wastewater treatment facility. The CVRD Board delegates operational and administrative decisions to the Comox Valley Sewage Commission.

The CVRD also provides liquid waste management planning on sewer and septic matters in the electoral areas.

Key Service Outcomes

- Asset management
- Affordability of service
- Infrastructure resiliency to climate change impacts
- Partnerships with KFN
- Reduce storm water infiltration
- Willemar Bluff risk reduction

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)				
Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Comox Valley Liquid Waste Management Planning (LWMP) to select optimal conveyance solution, level of treatment for the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Center and explore opportunities for further resource recovery*	F, C, P, I	\$\$		2020
2. Upgrades and equipment at the CVWPCC to address odour, good neighbour, operations	F, P	\$\$\$		2020
3. Area "A" analysis - In April 2018 the sewage commission provided support in principle for receipt of Area A wastewater, subject to resolution of concerns relating to governance, financial and regulatory impacts on existing service*	F, C, P	\$		2020

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Talking Poop with Neighbours: Comox Valley Sewer Planning Focuses on Engagement and Consultation

In 2019, the project team plunged right in to planning for the Comox Valley sewer service (Courtenay/Comox/K'ómoks First Nation and Area B), presenting the public in January with a long-list of options for the conveyance, treatment and resource recovery for their future liquid waste service. The engagement – which included open houses and online consultation – narrowed the field of options, resulting in further assessment from technical experts. At the same time, the CVRD opened an in-depth engagement

with K'ómoks First Nation discussing paths forward that are respectful and beneficial. This detailed work carried the project team through 2019, setting up the process for a preferred path being identified for treatment and resource recovery and a short list to be set for conveyance options in the first quarter of 2020.

This year – 2020 – will once again kick off with intensive engagement. The community will be asked over a 5-week period to provide

their comments and questions regarding the shortlisted options. This feedback will be considered as the public and technical advisory committees make a recommendation, to be presented to the CVRD's sewage commission. A draft Liquid Waste Management Plan will then be shared with the provincial government for review and consideration – laying the foundation for a sewer plan to serve Comox Valley communities for decades to come.







Regional Emergency Services





Core Services

Regional Emergency Services

CVRD Regional Emergency Services provides Comox Valley wide collaboration and coordination of emergency management under the four pillars of emergency management – mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The CVRD activates and operates the regional emergency operation centre in emergency situations.

Several rural and community fire department services (under a volunteer fire fighter model) are delivered through CVRD.

Key Service Outcomes

- Emergency prevention and mitigation
- Emergency Operations Centre preparedness
- Business and resident emergency preparedness
- Support for emergency staff and volunteers
- Resilient communities
- KFN partnerships
- Emergency food supply preparedness and recovery

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Completion of the new Regional Emergency Operations Centre	F, C, P	\$		2020
2. Preparation for 2020 earthquake emergency functional exercise*	F, P, I	\$\$\$		2020
3. National Disaster Mitigation Program – Flood Risk Mapping for entire CVRD Coastline, in collaboration with CVRD Planning*	C, P, I	\$\$		2020
4. Consideration of Merville and Mount Washington fire service buildings	F, P	\$\$\$		2020 - 2022
5. Community Fire Smart Program and wildfire protection planning	F, C, P	\$		2020 - 2022
6. Exploration of available space for volunteers (Search and Rescue)	P	\$		2021

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Transit





Core Services Transit

CVRD partners with BC Transit and a local operating contractor to deliver public transit services in the Comox Valley; Transit is a Comox Valley wide service that serves most of the Comox Valley and links up with the Campbell River transit system at the Oyster River.

The Provincial Government oversees public transit through BC Transit, working in partnership with local government and various local transit management companies. Together, these groups set fare levels, establish schedules, gather public feedback and review growth patterns to determine future expansion of the system.

Key Service Outcomes

- Affordable fares
- Access equity
- Greenhouse gas reduction
- Alternative services in rural areas
- Link high need users to services e.g. food bank, farmers market
- Integration with School District 71 student transportation needs
- Mode shift – Transit Future Action Plan

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Annual Transit Improvement Plans based on BC Transit and local input	F, C, I	\$		Ongoing
2. Development of a Transit Future Action Plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o review mode share targets and service levels o local government land use and transportation plans and o identify future service and infrastructure 	F, C, P, I	\$		2020

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Electoral Area Services





Core Services

Electoral Area Services

CVRD delivers local government and services to electoral areas (street lighting, planning, grants-in-aid, fire protection, building inspection, bylaw compliance, water distribution, Islands-based services, parks, heritage conservation, community hall supports, and more).

Electoral area directors advocate for services with the CVRD itself, senior government and other stakeholders.

Key Service Outcomes

- Local government for rural areas
- Advocating for equitable and appropriate service delivery
- Infrastructure and community resiliency
- Responding to and partnering with community groups and residents

Initiatives (Proposed for 2020-2024 Budget)

Key Projects	Strategic Drivers	\$ Cost	Public Engagement	Timing
1. Rural roadside garbage, recycling and organics collection – public engagement	C	\$		2020
2. Septic regulation / education (enhanced efforts)	F, C, P	\$		Ongoing
3. Air quality (in rural areas)	C, P, I	\$		2020 - 2021
4. Agricultural planning (OCP updates – follows RGS review)	C, P	\$		2021 - 2022
5. Regional parks*	F, P	\$		2022
6. OCP updates: Cannabis policies (operational)	F, P	\$		2020
7. OCP updates: Saratoga settlement node (operational)	F, P	\$\$		2020 - 2021
8. OCP updates: Development permit revisions (operational)	F, C	\$		2020

*Depends on partner collaboration and advocacy with partners is encouraged

Strategic Drivers: F = fiscal responsibility; C = climate crisis; P = community partnerships; I = Indigenous relations

Rural Areas Investing In Fire Protection

2020 will be a big year for the CVRD fire protection service in Electoral Area C. Both the Merville Fire Protection Service and Mount Washington Fire Protection Service are looking to advance their level of service within the community by working with community partners.

This year will see significant progress in the creation of the Merville Auxiliary fire hall. Electoral Area Directors have agreed on next steps for 2020, which will include preconstruction work (such as project coordination and refined cost estimates), and an electoral assent process to seek community support to borrow funds for construction of the facility.

A tentative lease arrangement has been reached

with the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, for the hall to be constructed at their property on Williams Beach Road. If electoral assent is received, construction is targeted to begin in fall this year.

The fire hall location will benefit the community by providing local fire protection and medical first responder services, and also provide for a long-term partnership with MARS and the Wildlife Rescue Centre. The CVRD recognizes the important role MARS plays in rescuing and rehabilitating ill and injured wildlife and is working to ensure the animal patients wellbeing is not compromised. Sound from the fire hall will be minimized through operational practices and with construction of sound-reducing measures.

As well, the CVRD is working towards the construction of a fire services building on Mount Washington, with the building work targeted to begin in 2021. Geotechnical challenges with the designated site have required a revised cost estimate and delay in construction. On the advice of the steering group for this service, the CVRD plans to seek elector assent to increase the maximum tax levy and the maximum funds permitted to be borrowed for the construction. More information will be shared with each property owner in the area as 2020 moves forward.

For more information on fire protection services within the region visit

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/fire





MOMENT IN TIME: Supporting Federal and Provincial Health Authorities During COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) outbreak as a global pandemic.

In response, your Comox Valley local governments took precautionary measures in support of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health and their efforts to contain COVID-19.

A regional level 2 emergency operations centre was established in mid-March to support public health and the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Representatives from the DND/19-Wing Comox, K'ómoks First Nation, CVRD, City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland, Fire Chiefs Association, and many other external agencies and organizations have worked together to collaborate on supporting response measures and best practices for the region within the EOC.

The regional EOC spokesperson appointed for all COVID related matters in the region was CVRD Board Chair and Cumberland Councillor, Jesse Ketler.

On March 18th the British Columbia Ministry of Health declared a state of emergency to support the province wide response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In response to the unprecedented times, the CVRD EOC announced various closures within the region to help flatten the curve of COVID-19. Public sector facilities, playgrounds, outdoor skate parks, and community gathering spots were closed in response. In addition, the Ministry of Health ordered the closure of schools, daycares, restaurants, pubs, bars, hair salons, gyms and many other small businesses. Additionally, Comox Valley residents have taken

the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry by staying home and practicing physical distancing.

By the end of March, the regional EOC was still supporting Island Health and the Ministry of Health in response to the pandemic. Support will continue until the pandemic is declared over by the Ministry of Health and Public Health Agency of Canada. The CVRD is also looking at its own operations and the services it provides to the public. Recognizing the uncertainty and impacts related to community health, security and economics, work plans are being adjusted to focus on critical tasks and projects that align with the COVID-19 response and ultimately recovery.

To learn more about emergency preparedness visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getprepared



 **Comox Valley**
REGIONAL DISTRICT

comoxvalleyrd.ca   