

TEXADA OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Vol. 28

Phase 3 of the planning process is wrapping up for the new **Texada Island Official Community Plan!** The Area D Official Community Plan – Planning Advisory Select Committee has been playing an important role in reviewing and refining the plan policies and objectives. Over the last several months we have been evaluating different sections of the plan as they have been created. The focus this month is on Environmental Protection objectives and policies. To see the entire draft plan visit www.bit.ly/advisory-link and watch for the newsletter insert coming out in next month's issue of Express Lines.

Environmental Protection

The provincial *Local Government Act* provides for the inclusion of policies within an Official Community Plan relating to the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

General Objectives

To relate the type, scale and intensity of land use to the natural capacity of the land to support development.

To promote development design that is sensitive to landscape features such as watercourses, riparian areas, and environmentally sensitive areas.

To oppose the discharge of untreated sewage or other potentially toxic substances into fresh or saltwater bodies.

General Policies

Support community education to increase public awareness of Official Community Plan policies that support environmentally sensitive development.

Liase with federal and provincial agencies to advocate that development meet environmental standards and comply with federal and provincial legislation and regulation.

Discourage the use of pesticides and herbicides throughout the planning area.

DID YOU KNOW...

Under the legislation that governs regional districts, *Local Government Act* R.S.B.C., Part 14, Division 4, Section 474 (2), it states that if a local government proposes to include a matter in an official community plan the regulation of which is not within the jurisdiction of the local government, the plan may state only the broad objective of the local government with respect to that matter.

Environmental Protection includes...

Climate Change

To support climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the community level.

To support climate change adaptation by incorporating natural hazard risk assessments (sea level rise, coastal flooding, landslide, community wildfire) into planning and decision-making as it relates to land use and infrastructure.

Coastal Areas

To preserve the integrity of coastal processes, maintain habitat diversity and function, and reduce cumulative impacts to the coastal environment.

To foster public ownership and stewardship of the foreshore.

Natural Hazard Areas

To increase public awareness of high-level landslide and fluvial hazard assessments.

To promote the need for site-level assessments to inform development and minimize risk from hazardous conditions.

Sensitive Ecosystems & Species at Risk

To support protection of sensitive and endangered ecosystems and species at risk on Texada Island.

Liase with provincial agencies and private property owners to advocate for the protection of critical habitat of the endangered Paxton Lake and Vananda Creek Stickleback Species pairs.

Riparian Areas

To promote retention and rehabilitation of native vegetation and forest cover within 30 metres of watercourses (lakes, streams, creeks, wetlands) to stabilize banks, moderate water temperature, filter pollutants and control runoff and sedimentation.

Water Resources

Promote water conservation and foster stewardship of this valuable resource.

Promote retention and rehabilitation of native vegetation and forest cover within 30 metres of watercourses (lakes, streams, creeks, wetlands) to stabilize banks, moderate water temperature, filter pollutants and control runoff and sedimentation.

Recommend completion of environmental assessments by a qualified professional prior to any proposed industrial development within a community watershed and ongoing water quality monitoring related to all industrial activities.

Liase with Ministry of Environment and Vancouver Coastal Health to advocate that development meet environmental standards and comply with provincial legislation and regulation.

Community Open Houses

Saturday, June 8, 2019

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Monday, June 10, 2019

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Texada Community Hall, Gillies Bay



Planning Advisory Committee

The next meeting is:

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

5:00 - 7:30 pm

Texada Community Hall, Gillies Bay



qathet

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