

**FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT  
BYLAW NO. 1747, 2024**

**To adopt the Official Community Plan for portions of  
Electoral Area C - Lake Errock and Harrison Mills**

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**WHEREAS** the Board of Directors of the Fraser Valley Regional District ("the Board") wishes to adopt an Official Community Plan for portions of Electoral Area C - Lake Errock and Harrison Mills.

**THEREFORE** the Board enacts as follows:

**1) CITATION**

This bylaw may be cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Official Community Plan for Portions of Electoral Area C - Lake Errock and Harrison Mills, Bylaw No. 1747, 2024*.

**2) AREA OF APPLICATION**

This bylaw shall apply to the areas shown on the map attached hereto as **Schedule 1 – Plan Area Boundary** and forming an integral part of this bylaw.

**3) SCHEDULES**

The Official Community Plan for Portions of Electoral Area C is comprised of the text, schedules, maps, tables and figures contained in Schedule 1747-A attached hereto and forming an integral part of this bylaw.

**4) SEVERABILITY**

If a portion of this bylaw is found invalid by a court, it will be severed and the remainder of the bylaw will remain in effect.

**5) REPEAL**

*Fraser Valley Regional District Official Community Plan for Portions of Electoral Area C, Morris Valley, Harrison Mills and Lake Errock, Bylaw No. 0020, 1998* is hereby repealed.

**6) READINGS AND ADOPTION**

READ A FIRST TIME THIS            25<sup>th</sup>       day of   July, 2024.

READ A SECOND TIME this                               day of

A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD this                   day of

READ A THIRD TIME this                               day of

ADOPTED THIS     day of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair/Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer/Deputy

**7) CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of *Fraser Valley Regional District Official Community Plan for Portions of Electoral Area C – Lake Errock and Harrison Mills, Bylaw No. 1747, 2024* as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Fraser Valley Regional District on

Dated at Chilliwack, B.C. on

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer/Deputy



**Schedule 1747-A – Official Community Plan for Portions of Electoral Area C - Lake Errock and Harrison Mills**

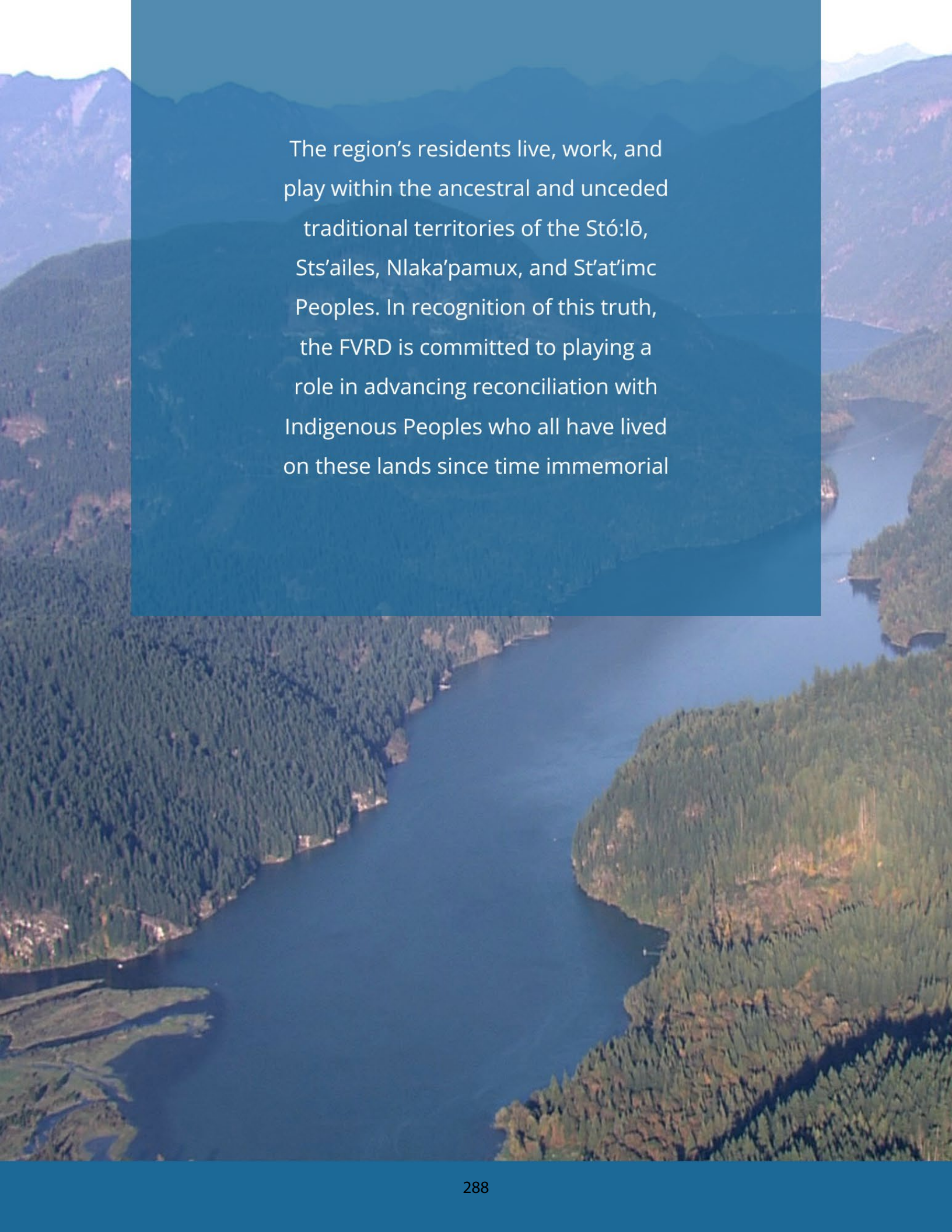


# OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN LAKE ERROCK - HARRISON MILLS



Fraser Valley Regional District



An aerial photograph of a wide river flowing through a lush, green forest. The river is dark blue and occupies the central part of the image. On either side, the forest is dense with tall evergreen trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

The region's residents live, work, and play within the ancestral and unceded traditional territories of the Stó:lō, Sts'ailes, Nlaka'pamux, and St'at'imc Peoples. In recognition of this truth, the FVRD is committed to playing a role in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples who all have lived on these lands since time immemorial

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# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of the Official Community Plan

### What is an Official Community Plan?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies where we are going and how we will respond to growth and change over the next 20 years. The OCP aims to achieve the following:

- » Sets out the big picture for the future of the community
- » Provides a long-term perspective of how Area C will evolve over the next 20 years
- » Serves as a broad statement of objectives and policies that support the long-term vision
- » Guides the Regional Board with Plan policies and gives direction to decisions, but is not a regulation
- » Reflects community values and balances interests based on feedback from affected parties and residents
- » Conveys a broad impact and scope with policies that affect a range of Regional District interests, from sewage disposal and subdivision to parks and more
- » Identifies steps to address community needs. Not all issues can be resolved by the Plan. Implementation of the Plan policies will occur over time through subsequent specific plans, bylaws, and as development occurs

Provincial legislation in the *Local Government Act* requires OCPs to address the following key areas:

- » Residential development and their location, amount, type, and density required to meet anticipated housing needs over at least 20 years, including consideration for affordable, rental, and special needs housing
- » Commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, recreational, and public utility land uses and their respective location, amount, and type of present and proposed uses
- » Sand and gravel deposits, their location, and areas suitable for future extraction
- » Hazardous and environmentally sensitive lands, and development restrictions for their use
- » Major road, sanitary sewer, and water systems with their approximate location and phasing
- » Public facilities proposed for the area, and their approximate location and type



- » Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets within the Plan area, along with policies and actions of the Regional Board to achieve these targets

## Effect of the Plan

### What does an Official Community Plan do?

The Regional Board is required by the *Local Government Act* to comply with the policies of this OCP as follows:

- » **All bylaw amendments shall be consistent with the OCP.** A bylaw enacted prior to the effective date of this Plan is not altered by this Plan. Where such a bylaw is amended, the amending bylaw shall be consistent with the provisions of the Official Community Plan.
- » **OCP policy is a guide, not an obligation.** The adoption of this Plan provides a guide to the Regional Board in decision making but does not commit the Regional Board or any other governmental body to undertake any project outlined herein. Nor does the Plan authorize the Regional Board or any other governmental body to proceed with a project except in accordance with the procedures and restrictions established by any Act.

## POLICY

- 0.1.1 **Conformance with zoning bylaw.** It is not the purpose of the Regional Board to proactively rezone lands to achieve the goals set out in this Plan or to achieve immediate consistency between the Plan and the zoning bylaw. Rather, the Regional Board will implement the goals of the Plan over time and through site-specific consideration and application of the policies contained herein. Accordingly, development proposals shall be required to conform to this Plan or any Neighbourhood Plan, and, where necessary, shall require an amendment to the zoning bylaw to ensure consistency.

## Planning Area Boundaries

The Plan area for the Area C OCP includes the rural village areas of Harrison Mills and Lake Errock. The formal boundaries of the Plan area, including neighbourhood planning areas, are identified on Schedule 1 - Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas.

## Planning Process

The development of this Plan is based on the recognition that the policies outlined in the previous Plan have largely been achieved. Additionally, it acknowledges the need to address

the growing and unforeseen development pressures in Area C through updated policies, informed by current data and reflective of the values and priorities of the present community. The development of the Plan involved consultation with Area C residents, landowners, Indigenous communities, provincial and federal agencies, local interest groups, and other affected parties. Consultation for the Plan was guided by the *Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Update - Engagement Strategy*, the Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC), and the Regional Board and included:

- » A project website on Regional Districts Have Your Say platform, active for the duration of the project
- » Communications via project newsletters
- » Community survey
- » Five public meetings
- » Engagement with Indigenous government staff and officials
- » Engagement with provincial and federal government agencies
- » Engagement with local landowners and businesses

The planning process included referrals, collaboration with Indigenous governments and knowledge keepers, and information sharing between provincial and federal levels of government. The process included the acquisition of numerous technical inputs, which included:

- » FVRD Housing Needs Reports
- » Overview Geohazard Assessment
- » Overview Environmental Assessment
- » Statistics Canada Data
- » FVRD Age-Friendly Rural Communities Gap Analysis

This Plan was developed concurrently with the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan and the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan. Consultation and technical assessments undertaken for those projects informed policy development for the OCP and vice versa and are outlined in detail within the Neighbourhood Plans.



*Figure 1: Components/Influences contributing to OCP*

This OCP and the policies contained herein set out the vision, strategies, and objectives for the community over the next 20 years. The Plan is intended to provide guidance and direction to the Regional Board, provincial and federal levels of government, and the community on a variety of topics, including land use, housing, transportation, and infrastructure.

## **Consultation & Collaboration**

Successful implementation of the OCP depends upon community support, stakeholder involvement, and the cooperation of senior governments. Accordingly, the policies of this Plan reinforce the Regional Board's commitment to open discussion, local involvement, reconciliation, and cooperation in community development. Key partners in the development and ongoing implementation of this OCP include:

- » Business and industry
- » City of Mission
- » District of Kent
- » Leq'á:mel First Nation
- » Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT)
- » Province of British Columbia
- » Residents and property owners
- » School Districts Nos. 75 and 78
- » Sq'éwlets
- » Sts'ailes

## POLICY

- 0.1.2 **Commitment to consultation.** The Regional Board is committed to ensuring that consultation undertaken during the development, amendment, or repeal of this Official Community Plan will meet or exceed the requirements of the *Local Government Act*. Consultation should be commensurate with the scope and scale of the change contemplated.
- 0.1.3 **Early and ongoing consultation is encouraged.** Development proponents who require an Official Community Plan and/or zoning amendment should undertake early and ongoing communication and consultation with Indigenous governments and affected community members, including but not limited to landowners, residents, and business operators, to identify areas of shared interest, concerns, and optimal outcomes.
- 0.1.4 **Coordination with the Agricultural Land Commission.** All applications for zoning amendments, plan amendments, and temporary use permits within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and directly adjacent to Agricultural Land Reserve lands shall be circulated to the Agricultural Land Commission for review.

## Plan Structure & Interpretation

Policies in this Plan are numbered and identified. Policies are often preceded by a discussion which is intended to provide context to the policy statements. The discussions are intended as summaries for the reader's convenience and do not represent official Plan policy. Policies stand on their own as expressions of the Regional Board.

References to Area C refer to the OCP area. References to Electoral Area C refer to the broader Electoral Area C and include lands outside the boundary of the Plan, such as Hemlock Valley.

Neighbourhood Plans are included as schedules to this Plan, where available, and may be amended and developed from time to time as the community evolves. Neighbourhood Plans are intended to provide additional objectives and policies specific to each neighbourhood planning area. Neighbourhood Plans are aligned with, informed by, and help achieve the overarching vision of the OCP. Neighbourhood Plans will be adopted through an OCP amendment process and shall meet the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act*. Each Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a public consultation process consistent with the requirements for an OCP amendment.

Development Permit Area guidelines are also provided as part of this Plan. The guidelines shape the form and character of new development, protect development from hazardous

conditions, and encourage best practices or promote environmental integrity. The guidelines ensure that all new development continues to achieve the policies of this Plan.

## Key Interpretation Terms

The policy intent of the Regional Board is expressed through Plan policy. Particular attention should be given to the wording of policies contained in the Plan:

<b>“Shall”</b>	refers to an imperative course of action which is within the scope of the Regional Board’s powers to provide, enact, regulate, or enforce;
<b>“Should”</b>	refers to a desirable course of action to be taken by the Regional Board or other bodies or persons;
<b>“May”</b>	refers to a permitted course of action which is available to the Regional Board or other bodies or persons; and,
<b>“Will”</b>	refers to an expected result based on present information.

## POLICY

0.1.5 **Designation boundaries are generalized.** Boundaries between different land use designations are general and not intended to be hard boundaries. In instances of split designated lands, or in circumstances where topography or watercourses affect land use, the exact boundary may be determined by the Regional Board.

## Plan Amendment & Review

OCPs may be reviewed and amended as community values and priorities evolve, new legislation or contextual information arises, significant or unanticipated development proposals come forward, and in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act*.

Neighbourhood Plans are included as schedules to this Plan and will continue to evolve as necessary. Neighbourhood plans provide additional goals, objectives, and policies specific to each neighbourhood planning area and have been developed to achieve coordination between servicing, transportation, and other services.

## Implementation, Monitoring, & Evaluation

The Regional District will periodically review the implementation of this Plan and monitor progress to track the effectiveness of its policies and actions. Performance indicators may be used to evaluate current realities against past trends and future directions in order to support decision making.

## POLICY

- 0.1.6 **Implementation roles and responsibilities.** The policies of this Plan will be implemented by the Regional Board in a variety of ways, including through subdivision and development control, servicing decisions, and policy approaches. Plan policies which relate to matters that are under the jurisdiction of provincial agencies or other authorities will be advanced through liaison, advocacy, and referral responses.
- 0.1.7 **Statement of public interest.** This Plan may be taken by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit Approving Officer as a statement of the public interest when evaluating the suitability of development activities.
- 0.1.8 **Implementation evaluation.** The Regional District will undertake periodic evaluation of the Plan and the progress on implementation of goals and policies. Evaluation will ensure the assumptions of the Plan remain valid and the priorities identified remain constant and will be used to determine if additional resources, support, or adjusted work planning are required to better implement and achieve the policies of this Plan.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

- A document that guides long-term decision-making at the neighbourhood level
- Shaped by resident vision and input for where they live
- Allocates land use and sets regulation for appropriate forms of development
- Contains supporting policy on neighbourhood components (environmental, cultural, archeological)

## BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

### PROJECT TIMELINE

#### 01. Project Introduction

- Project website launch
- Community survey
- Letter to the state
- Community meeting

#### 02. Setting the Vision

- Strategic vision and values
- Review of local history
- Public engagement forum
- Local Plan Strategy Review
- Public engagement forum
- Local Plan Strategy Review
- Review of local history

#### 03. Drafting the Plan

- Review of local history
- Public engagement forum
- Local Plan Strategy Review
- Review of local history

FALL 2021

FALL/WINTER 2022

WINTER 2023

SPRING 2024

SUMMER 2024

FALL 2024

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# BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

## Geographic Context

The Area C OCP area covers a broad land area north of the Fraser River, spanning from just east of Deroche along the Lougheed Highway to the Harrison River, and up the western shores of Harrison Lake. The Plan area includes the rural village areas of Lake Errock and Harrison Mills which are located within the narrow linear corridor running east to west between mountain slopes to the north, and Nicomen Slough, Lake Errock, and Harrison River to the south. This narrow corridor also contains the Lougheed Highway and CPKC rail line providing connectivity to the neighbouring municipalities of City of Mission to the west and District of Kent to the east. Significant amounts of mountainous, forested Crown land are contained within the Plan area.

## Regional Context & Regional Growth Strategy

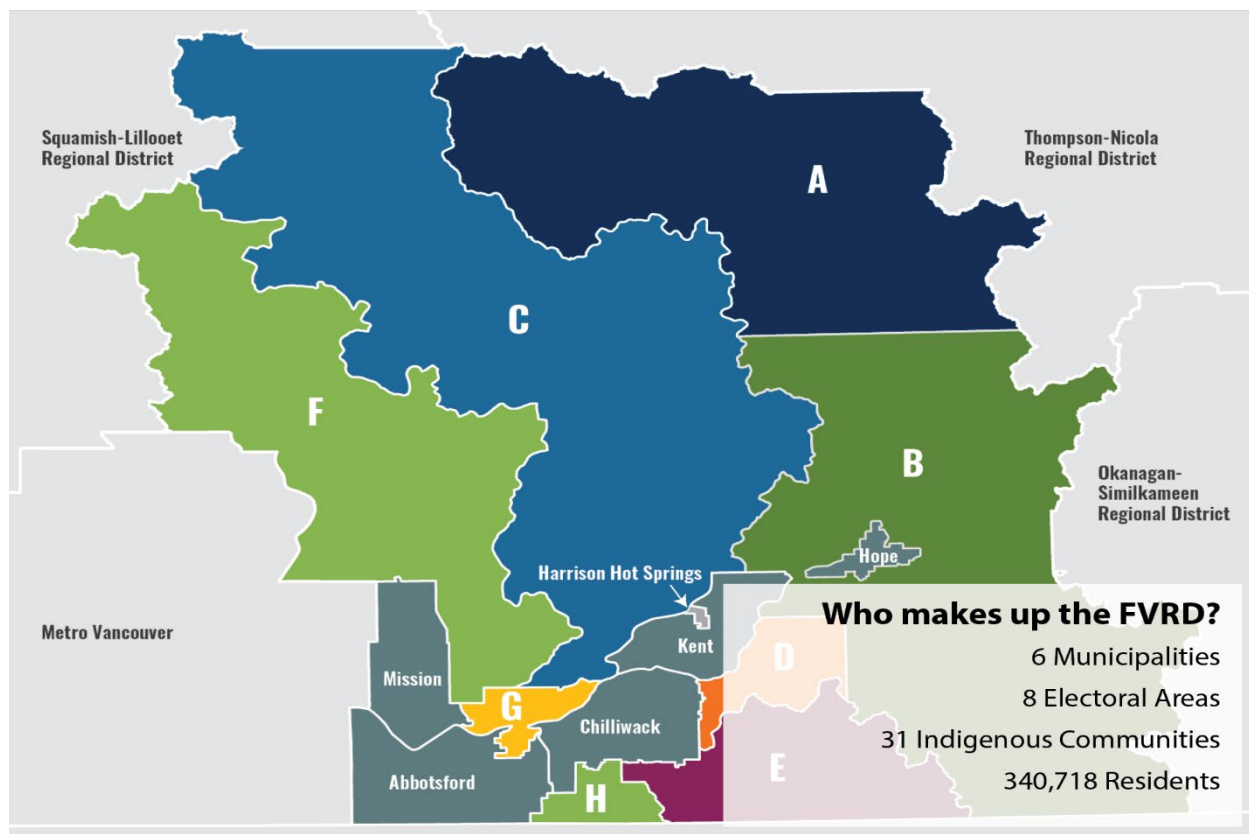


Figure 2: Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Areas and Member Municipalities



## How does Area C fit within the Fraser Valley?

Future growth and change for Area C are not only guided by the OCP but also by a larger regional plan that guides the overall development of the Fraser Valley. The Regional District's *Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)*, adopted in 2024, is a strategic plan enabled by the *Local Government Act* that provides an overarching planning framework for coordinating the activities of local governments and the provincial government. It considers transit, housing, parks, economic development, and environmental issues from a regional perspective with the goal of creating healthy, sustainable communities. As a long-range vision with a 20 to 30-year scope, it aims to ensure the region as a whole is working toward a common future.

## Regional Growth Influences

The Fraser Valley is a fast-growing region and the third most populous regional district in British Columbia with a total population of 340,718<sup>1</sup> in 2021. The majority (89%) of Regional District residents reside in the three municipalities of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission. By 2050, the population is estimated to increase by as much as 48% to around 504,000<sup>2</sup> people. Anticipating and accommodating this growth will create both opportunities and challenges for the region. Most growth is planned to continue in the member municipalities, but the surrounding electoral areas may absorb some of this growth.

The RGS anticipates that the Fraser Valley region will grow by an additional 163,000 residents from 2021 levels. It is expected that 96% of this growth will take place within the six member municipalities, in areas near employment and amenities. Only 4% of this projected growth will be accommodated in the rural electoral areas. This still means the electoral areas must be poised to accept up to 6,520 new residents by 2050. Recognizing the constraints to accommodating growth within the electoral areas, such as geotechnical hazards and Agricultural Land Reserve, this growth is unlikely to be evenly distributed throughout the Regional District's eight electoral areas. Instead, growth will be concentrated in the electoral areas that can offer proximity to member municipalities and urban centres and are located along major highways. Area C is well positioned to absorb a majority share of this growth due to these attributes.

The RGS aims to preserve rural lands, ensuring stable and modest growth over the next 20 years, and supports concentrated and compact growth in neighbourhood centres that are readily serviced by transit, community water and sanitary sewer service, public utilities, and community amenities. Area C is currently underserved by important services, infrastructure,

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<sup>1</sup> Fraser Valley Future 2050: Regional Growth Strategy. High estimates including Indigenous Reserves and taking Census undercount and correctional facility populations into account.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

and amenities to support all types of housing needs. This means that Area C's ability to accept new growth will be contingent on significant improvements to levels of service.

The growth outlined in this Plan aligns with the goals of the RGS, aiming to develop and establish compact and complete rural village areas that prioritize environmental preservation, transit connections, active transportation networks, and sustainability. This entails diversifying housing options, expanding employment prospects, and enhancing overall community amenities, while ensuring the preservation of low-density, rural areas between villages. The evolution towards compact rural village development will result in an Area C community that better serves the needs of existing and new residents.

## Consistency with the Regional Growth Strategy

The Area C OCP is consistent with the Regional Districts growth strategy's vision of being "a network of healthy, vibrant, distinct, and sustainable communities that accept responsibly managed growth while being committed to protecting the land resource and the natural environment to ensure that a high quality of life is accessible to all".

Section 445 of the *Local Government Act* requires that all bylaws adopted by the Regional District are consistent with the RGS. The table below outlines how the Plan meets the RGS goals.

RGS Goal	How This Plan is Consistent
<b>Collaboration</b>	Supports and encourages working collaboratively and identifying shared goals through land use planning and development
<b>Economic Strength &amp; Resiliency</b>	Encourages economic growth within rural village areas and supports Indigenous economic development occurring within the Plan area
<b>Living Well</b>	Encourages compact development patterns that foster healthy choices through an accessible active transportation network and local provision of services and amenities
<b>Community Building</b>	Demonstrates collaborative plan development with residents, Indigenous communities, and policies that support and encourage community organizations
<b>Ecosystem Health</b>	Recognizes the unique ecosystem of the Plan area and the importance of the natural environment, preserves wildlife and fish habitats, and water resources
<b>Transportation &amp; Mobility</b>	Recognizes the importance of pedestrian and trail connectivity. Prioritizes integrating new development with existing rural village areas through active transportation
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Services</b>	Addresses water and waste servicing and other issues, and advocates for centralized systems and the transition away from on-site service delivery where appropriate

## Climate Change

Advocates for improved transit, active transportation infrastructure, and complete community development principles to reduce car trips in rural villages

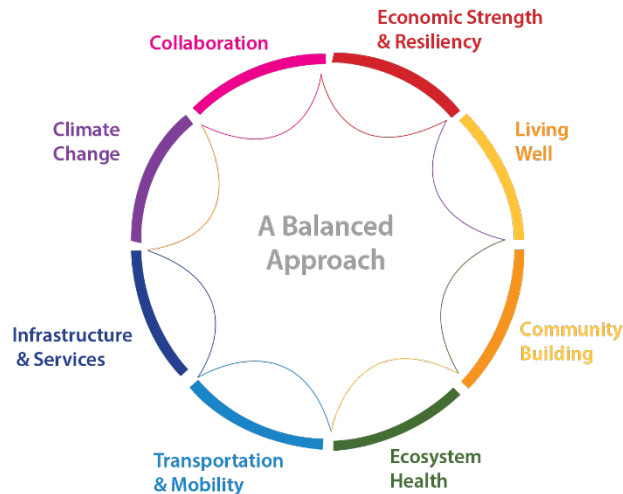


Figure 3: Balancing interconnected RGS objectives  
Source: Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy

## Community Profile

Looking forward, the Regional District and Area C are projected to continue growing. The projected population of Area C could rise from 1,053 people in 2021<sup>3</sup> to 1,550 in 2041<sup>4</sup> based on recent growth patterns. This represents a 47% population increase and an annual growth rate of 2.3% over 20 years. However, this Plan contemplates accommodating even more growth, departing from historical growth rates in Area C, to address the increasing regional growth pressure facing the Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver.

Understanding the dynamics of population growth is important for identifying the housing needs of a community and the amount and types of land uses to support the population.

Indigenous reserve lands within the Plan boundaries include:

- » Leq'a:mel - Holachten 8
- » Sq'ewlets - Squawkum Creek 3
- » Sts'ailes - Chehalis 5

While reserve lands are not subject to OCP policies, the Community Profile section accounts for on-reserve Indigenous populations, where noted, to better understand potential housing

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.

<sup>4</sup> Calculated using the Linear Growth Model

needs, desire for services and amenities, and servicing coordination potential with future on-reserve developments.

## Overall Population

The overall population in the Plan area grew by 6.2% between 2011 and 2021; however, the Plan area population, exclusive of Indigenous reserve lands, experienced a population increase of 12.7%. This is in comparison to a 13.7% population increase in British Columbia during the same timeframe.

	2021	2016	2011
<b>Overall Population</b>	2,013	1,928	1,895
» Area C OCP Area	1,053	975	934
» Indigenous Reserve Lands <sup>5</sup>	960	953	961

Table 1: OCP Area Populations 2011-2021

Source: Derived from Statistics Canada 2021, with Designated Place data from Hemlock Valley extracted

On-reserve population in the Plan area remained stable between 2011 and 2021, demonstrating 0% change overall despite notable population fluctuations experienced by each of the reserves in the Plan area.

Community	Reserve	2021 Population	2016 Population	% Change (2016-2021 population)
Leq'á:mel First Nation	Holachten 8	330	300	10.0% ↑
Sq'éwlets	Squawkum Creek 3	130	116	12.1% ↑

<sup>5</sup> Population data for Indigenous Reserve Lands is less reliable and likely an undercount. This is typical for Census data for any year, but especially for 2021, as data collection was during the peak of the pandemic and many Reserve Lands limited outside visitors.


Sts'ailes	Chehalis 5	500	537	-6.9% 
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Table 2: OCP Area On-reserve Population Changes (2016-2021)  
Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile 2021 and 2016

## Demographic Trends

On average, Area C has a significantly older population than that in the Regional District or on-reserve populations. The median age of Area C residents is 58.8 years, compared to 40.8 years in the Regional District. Additionally, the average household size is 2.0 residents per household, compared to 2.7 in the Regional District. The median age for on-reserve populations ranges by community, from 27 to 45.2 years, and household sizes are generally larger ranging by community, from 2.4 to 3.7 persons.

	Area C	Regional District	Indigenous Land Reserves
<b>Median Age</b>	58.8 years	40.8 years	27 - 45.2 years
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.0 persons	2.7 persons	2.4 - 3.7 persons

Table 3: OCP Area Household Demographics  
Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile 2021

The demographic structure of Area C has remained relatively unchanged in the last number of years, with limited growth occurring within the youngest age range. There is a persistent portion of the population within the 60-74 age range. From 2011 to 2021, there was little change to the age ratios other than slight growth in the 60-74 age range. This suggests the community continues to attract this particular age of residents.

## Housing Units in Area C

	Private Dwellings	Private Dwelling Occupied by Usual Residents	Unoccupied Dwelling Rate <sup>6</sup>
Area C OCP	713	503	29.5%
Indigenous Reserve Lands	348	332	4.6%

Table 4: OCP Area Housing Units and Occupancy

Source: Derived from Statistics Canada 2021, with Designated Place data from Hemlock Valley extracted

The number of dwelling units in Area C exceeds the housing unit needs for the area, however, a significant proportion of the dwelling units are not occupied on a full-time basis and may not contribute to the housing supply. In 2021, there were a total of 503 private dwellings occupied by usual residents, and 713 private dwellings within the OCP area. This means that there were approximately 210 unoccupied units (i.e., vacant units, vacation properties, short-term rentals) or units occupied by foreign residents and/or temporarily present persons (i.e., students, temporary foreign workers). Feedback received from residents referenced the growing appeal of Area C as a vacation destination and highlighted that with COVID-19, there has been an increase in the number of Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley residents investing in second properties. Given vacation homes are not usually occupied full-time, this trend may also be a contributing factor to the difference between private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents<sup>7</sup>. This trend does not translate to Indigenous reserve lands, where only 4.6% of dwellings are unoccupied.

## Housing Needs Report

The *Local Government Act* requires that an OCP includes statements and map designations with the approximate location, amount, type, and density of residential development required to meet anticipated housing needs over a period of at least 20 years. The sections below utilize the BC Census of Population, the 2021 *Electoral Area Housing Needs Report*, the 2024 *Interim Housing Needs Report*, and development approval data to provide context for guiding future growth management.

<sup>6</sup> Unoccupied dwelling may include vacant dwellings, and seasonal or short-term rentals.

<sup>7</sup> City Spaces Consulting Ltd. (2021, March). *Electoral Area Housing Needs Report Fraser Valley Regional District*. Prepared for the Fraser Valley Regional District.

## Housing Supply Gaps

In 2021, the Regional District completed a Housing Needs Report (Report) for all eight electoral areas. The Report is based on the 2016 census data which was the most recent data available at that time. An Interim Housing Needs Report (Interim Report) was completed in 2024 to reflect updated housing need projections and to meet new legislative requirements.

When the Report was completed, it anticipated a higher rate of population growth than was later demonstrated in the 2021 census. Due to assumptions that differed from those confirmed by the 2021 census data, the Report may overestimate the number of required housing units. Nonetheless, the Report offers several key findings that remain valuable for understanding the potential for population growth and housing needs in Area C.

The policies of this Plan will focus on meeting housing needs that are better suited for the Plan area and will address, where possible, the housing supply gaps identified in the Report.



### **Affordable Housing.**

Significant price increases have occurred in Area C's housing market in recent years and prices are no longer affordable when compared to median income.



### **Purpose-Built Rental Housing.**

Based on core housing need data, renter households are challenged to afford shelter costs and are living in inadequate housing at a higher rate than homeowners.



### **Accessible Housing.**

Given the proportion of seniors in Area C and the limited diversity of the existing housing stock, there is a need for more accessible housing to enable independent living for seniors. As Area C's population continues to age, it will be important to ensure some new development is constructed to meet accessibility requirements.



### **Employee Housing.**

With anticipated expansion plans for Sasquatch Mountain Resort and Sandpiper Resort, it will be important to consider housing options for future residents, such as dedicated purpose-built rental housing for resort staff employees.





### Diversified Housing Stock.

With increasing home prices across Area C, a greater diversity of building types is needed to provide additional lower-cost housing options for entry-level homebuyers (e.g., young families, singles). Feedback from stakeholders expressed a desire to see additional housing options that may also accommodate downsizing seniors. Such housing options could be provided in the form of accessory dwelling units, duplexes, townhomes, and mixed-use developments.

## Housing Needs

According to Statistics Canada, the total number of households and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the Plan area increased from 438 in 2016 to 503 in 2021. This is an increase of 65 new dwellings in five years, an average of 13 new dwellings per year. This average is generally supported by the Regional District building permit data which indicates moderate construction of new housing with 148 new dwelling units completed between 2016 and 2024. This is an average of 16.4 new dwelling units completed per year. Most of this demand has been accommodated on existing parcels rather than through new subdivisions.

Looking forward, the Interim Report estimates that a total of 940 housing units are required within Electoral Area C by 2041<sup>8</sup>. This represents an additional 394 housing units over 2021 levels. These projections are calculated using a methodology established by the Province. However, the methodology necessitates incorporating regional growth rates that do not necessarily reflect historical growth rates in the electoral areas. This results in housing need projections that significantly exceed earlier housing estimates. These projections include housing needs for Hemlock Valley, a community located outside of the Area C OCP boundary.

### Average Annual New Housing Units Constructed vs. Projected Housing Need

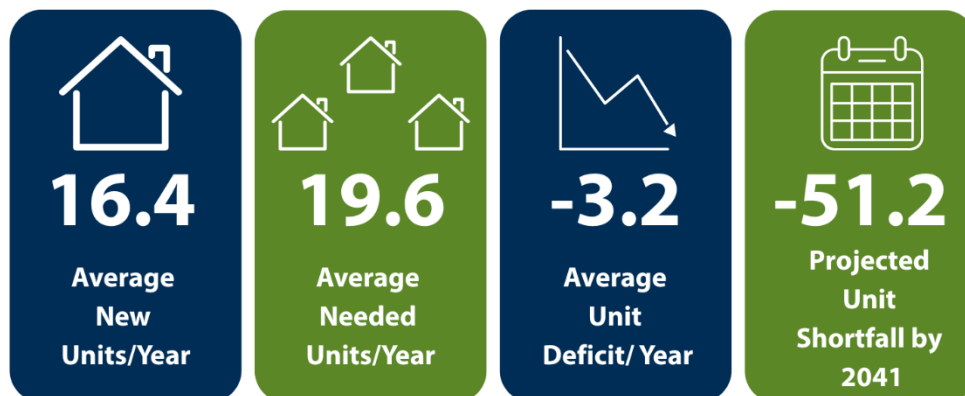


Figure 4: Tracking the Housing Gap: Units Built vs. Units Needed

<sup>8</sup> Fraser Valley Regional District. (2024, November). *Electoral Areas Interim Housing Needs Report Addendum Fraser Valley Regional District*.



The anticipated need for 394 additional housing units averages to 19.6 housing units annually across the entire electoral area by 2041. Based on historical building permit data and construction trends, Area C will not meet the Interim Report's growth expectations by maintaining a similar pace of new construction. However, housing units may be increased within the Plan area to meet the projections over the life of the Plan, through the following alternatives to new subdivisions:

- » Uptake on new zoning provisions for accessory dwelling units and secondary suites;
- » Infill construction on existing vacant parcels (approximately 115 across the Plan area in 2023); and,
- » Supporting conversion of short-term rentals to long-term housing supply.

## Growth Management

### Neighbourhood Plan & Rural Village Developments

The OCP sets a vision to work towards creating a more complete community through adopting smart growth principles relevant to rural areas. The Province of British Columbia released their first Complete Communities Guide<sup>9</sup> in 2023. The guide defines complete communities as:

"Complete communities are communities – or areas within a community – which provide a diversity of housing to meet identified community needs and accommodate people at all stages of life, and provide a wider range of employment opportunities, amenities, and services within a 15–20-minute walk."

The Plan policies are drafted with the understanding that rural communities experience numerous challenges that can make it difficult to achieve the principles of complete communities. Amenities are typically few and far between, and connectivity through pedestrian linkages and transit are also limited. However, by establishing rural village areas that foster compact development and by preserving the rural character of the open space between village areas with intention, Area C can support many principles of a complete community.

There are two distinct rural village areas identified within the Plan area, as identified on Schedule 1 - Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas. Each of these areas is supported by a Neighbourhood Plan, which outlines the anticipated level of growth and

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<sup>9</sup> Government of British Columbia. (2023, April). *Complete Communities A guide to geospatial land use assessments for British Columbia's communities*.

development. The designated neighbourhood planning areas are Harrison Mills and Lake Errock. For the purposes of this Plan:

1. Harrison Mills primarily includes Morris Valley Road strata developments (e.g., Tapadera Estates, Harrison Lanes, River Reach, and Eagle Point), Sandpiper Golf Course, and Beach Camp Road properties.
2. Lake Errock will refer to all properties between Beaudry Road and those just north of Holatchen Creek on the northwest side of the Lougheed Highway, and on the southeast side, it includes the existing North and South Lake Errock Community.

While each rural village is unique, they collectively contribute to the rural–recreational character and environmental significance of the area. The goal is to collectively create a complete community anchored by two interconnected rural villages. Complete communities offer a mix of housing to accommodate people at all stages of life, a range of employment, and easy access to amenities to meet daily needs. Integrating new development into the existing rural village footprints, while maintaining the unique characteristics of each rural village will be an important consideration for future zoning and OCP amendment applications.

## POLICY

- 0.2.1 **Housing needs to be provided in Neighbourhood Plan areas.** The anticipated housing needs in the Plan area will be accommodated through the development and redevelopment of the Harrison Mills and Lake Errock rural villages, consistent with their respective Neighbourhood Plans.
- 0.2.2 **Preservation of large rural parcels.** The Regional Board supports the preservation of large parcel sizes in areas outside the Neighbourhood Plan areas and will not support zoning amendments for greater densities in the absence of a comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan.
- 0.2.3 **Considerations outside the Neighbourhood Plan boundary.** Notwithstanding Policy 0.2.1 and the provisions of the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan, the Regional Board may consider land development proposals for the property located at 42904 Tait Road (PID 013-442-384) to support Indigenous-led development.
- 0.2.4 **Consistency with Neighbourhood Plans.** The Regional Board will support new development that requires an expansion of infrastructure or zoning amendments only in accordance with the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan or the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan.

- 0.2.5 **Development considerations.** The Regional District may impose requirements in addition to those identified in the Plan policies based on specific implications identified during the review of a development application.
- 0.2.6 **Core area creation.** The Regional Board will support development proposals that reinforce the concept of compact rural village areas that provide for the commercial needs of the Plan area.
- 0.2.7 **Neighbourhood plan review/amendment.** The Regional Board may consider a neighbourhood plan amendment provided:
- a. Comprehensive and integrated plans are presented which demonstrate and identify additional land use and densities;
  - b. Development trends, market absorption data, and updated housing needs assessment warrant such an extension or creation;
  - c. Development will bring meaningful community benefits that will increase the quality of life of the residents, not limited to meeting housing demands;
  - d. Development is planned and integrated with the rest of the neighbourhood plan area in a manner that respects the area's environmental sensitivity; and,
  - e. The long-term viability of service expansion is proven.

## Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

The Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan (HMNP) (Appendix I) is integral to this OCP. The HMNP area primarily includes Morris Valley Road developments (e.g., Tapadera Estates, Harrison Lanes, River Reach, and Eagle Point), Sandpiper Golf Course, and Beach Camp Road. A series of public, Indigenous, and interagency consultations were completed to shape the vision of the rural village.

The HMNP estimates a range of 180-250 additional units for single family, duplex, townhome, and apartment development. Assessing true subdivision and development potential is challenging, as each development must be determined on a site-specific basis. Additionally, uncertainties from housing market fluctuations create challenges in predicting the rate of growth over time.

The Harrison Mills area, which includes the junction of Morris Valley Road and the access route to Sasquatch Mountain Resort, will serve as the developed core for the Plan area with the implementation of the HMNP, redevelopment of Sandpiper Golf Resort, construction of the primary health care centre and expansion of the existing commercial uses.

In recent years, development interest in Harrison Mills has increased. Most notably, Sandpiper Resort has expressed its interest in redeveloping a portion of the golf course and the 'Beach Camp' land. Harrison Mills is home to the traditional territories of Sq'ewlets and Sts'ailes and is also an area of interest for other Indigenous communities. Parts of the HMNP area overlap with the Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area as a Salmon Stronghold and vital habitat for a significant eagle population. Before development is considered, the Regional Board directed staff to undertake a comprehensive neighbourhood plan to ensure the protection of the environment and provide for a healthy community.

## Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

The Lake Errock area is positioned to be an additional long-term rural village area within Area C. The Lake Errock area refers to all properties southwest of Harrison Bay to Watkins Road. The Lougheed Highway runs through the proposed Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan (LENP) area, severing the west side from the east side. The west side includes the existing Fraser Valley Aggregates gravel pit. The east side of the highway and the rail tracks include the lakeside community, commonly known as the Lake Errock community. In the 1960s, Lake Errock became a predominantly residential area with many vacation properties. The initial development pattern was located on the north and south sides of Lake Errock. The community is constrained by a single access and egress route, the CPKC rail line, and the lake that separates the north side from the south side. The Lougheed Highway and the rail tracks make it challenging to provide practical connections between the north and south settlement areas, as well as between the west and east sides of the Lougheed Highway.

In addition to planning for the existing Lake Errock development, the Regional Board is also considering the Harrison Rise development proposal which envisions ceasing the Fraser Valley Aggregates gravel pit operation and redeveloping the site for primarily residential uses. Together, the existing settlement area integrated with the redeveloped gravel pit properties offers a promising long-term option for development and growth under the guidance of a LENP as a compact rural village area. This area can accommodate increasing growth pressures along the Lougheed Highway, as it is currently served by a Regional District community water system with the potential to establish a Regional District community sanitary sewer system. Through a comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan process, new development will only take place where services can be provided in a timely, economically, socially, and environmentally sound manner. To that end, efficient use of land, transportation, and infrastructure systems will be an important consideration in major development decisions.

The Harrison Rise development is currently at a preliminary stage of application and envisions approximately 340 residential units, including single-family dwellings with the potential for up to 145 secondary suites. The concept also includes some commercial land uses along the Lougheed Highway. These units are in addition to approximately 260 lots existing within the

North and South Lake Errock settlements. The Plan policies support future development of the area ensuring that development occurs in a planned and comprehensive manner, rather than on an ad-hoc basis. The policies outlined in the LENP (Appendix II) must address the known challenges of the area, as well as concerns raised by residents and adjacent Indigenous communities, including:

- » Impact on lake water quality from increased development of the surrounding areas;
- » Consideration of community sanitary sewer connection to Sq'ewlets and the existing Lake Errock community to address lake water quality concerns due to potentially aging on-site sanitary sewer systems;
- » Improvement of the existing community water system and increased capacity for future expansion within the LENP Area;
- » Environmentally sensitive areas, such as watercourses, vegetation, and wildlife corridors to ensure their early identification, protection, and integration into the development;
- » Geohazard areas identified by site-specific study to address any avoidance areas, lot layout, and mitigation measures;
- » Connection of new development to existing residential areas and natural amenities through the development of transit and active transportation infrastructure;
- » Pressure on existing limited community recreational amenities, such as parks, trails, and waterfront locations;
- » Pressure on current Regional District service areas such as water, sanitary sewer, street light, fire services, solid waste, and potential transit delivery; and,
- » Long-term financial viability of servicing new development, providing connections to existing development, and providing community amenities that will be required to be undertaken by the Regional District.



A photograph of several sharks swimming in the water. The water is dark and choppy. In the foreground, a shark is swimming towards the left, with a large splash of water behind it. Other sharks are visible in the background, some swimming and others partially submerged. The overall scene is dynamic and captures the movement of the sharks in their natural habitat.

## VISION & VALUES





resources are maintained and, where possible, improved through development.



**Support compact rural village characteristics.**

Growth shall respect the natural environment and greenspace, prioritize the protection of rural character and maintain the integrity of natural areas while supporting rural village development. Development within rural villages shall meet the principles of a complete community, such as concentrated and compact growth with safe and efficient access to day-to-day needs.



**Create an integrated and interconnected series of rural village areas.**

Rural village areas should be interconnected through an active transportation network (pedestrian and cycling paths) to natural amenities and recreational features. All rural village areas will be connected through the introduction of public transit to provide access to local services (e.g., grocery stores, medical centres) and integrated into the broader region.



**Concentrate commercial uses along the highway corridor and within rural villages.**

Ensure commercial and mixed-use developments are concentrated within designated areas of rural villages and avoid the proliferation of commercial uses along the Lougheed Highway corridor to increase the viability of businesses and maximize access. Support commercial development that prioritizes environmental sustainability, preserves rural community character, safeguards privacy, protects natural and open areas, and elevates the overall quality of the neighbourhood.



**Safeguard human health.**

Avoid development in hazardous locations and facilitate development that is serviced by high-quality and well-managed services for drinking water and wastewater treatment. Ensure the transition of existing development to community services for drinking water and sewage treatment within rural village areas to address aging private and on-site systems. New development should only be considered in rural village areas where connections to community infrastructure are possible and where hazards can be avoided.



**Expand parks, trails, and open spaces.**

Provide accessible outdoor recreation opportunities that connect residents and visitors to existing and future parks and open space sites. Improve connectivity between rural villages through a contiguous network of trails and active transportation linkages.

**Ensure sustainable and financially viable growth.**

Ensure infrastructure expansion for growth is designed and planned to be operationally efficient and financially viable without adding undue financial burden to existing service areas.

**Diversify housing stock to meet evolving community needs.**

Providing housing that meets the needs of all stages of life and supports the operation of existing businesses, addressing the housing gaps in Area C.

The policies of this Plan are intended to achieve these goals. In many cases, individual Plan policies achieve several goals. For example, sewage disposal standards ensure that developments are provided with appropriate services, protect environmentally valuable resources, and safeguard human health. This overlap reflects the many ways human and natural systems are interconnected.





# SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION



# 1 SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION

## 1.0 Overview

The lands and waters encompassing the Plan area for Area C form part of the traditional territories of Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes with several other Indigenous communities who also share an interest in this area. The lands in Area C contain a significant record of the historical, traditional, and cultural uses of these Indigenous communities, much of which persists today. The Regional District recognizes that reconciliation is an ongoing process and shall be centered on the development and continued care of strong relationships. This is supported through a commitment to continued dialogue, coordination, and collaboration with the Indigenous communities within Area C. The Regional District recognizes the ongoing reconciliation work that is taking place throughout Area C between Indigenous communities and the provincial and federal governments, which may result in lands being added to reserves. Once land is designated as reserve, it falls outside the jurisdiction of the Regional District, and Regional District bylaws no longer apply. The Regional District will work to amend the Plan map boundaries from time to time to reflect the changes in land status related to Additions to Reserve lands.

This Plan provides an opportunity to work collaboratively towards shared goals through land use planning and development. The traditional knowledge, histories, and perspectives that have been generously shared from Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes have been integral to the formation of the Plan and are woven into the objectives and policies throughout.

## Leq'á:mel First Nation

Leq'á:mel First Nation people, whose name originated from the Halq'emelyelm name for the Nicomen Slough, have practiced their culture in the land of their ancestors since time immemorial. Leq'á:mel First Nation people are part of a complex network of relationships between families, villages, and resources that developed out of thousands of years of societal growth within S'ólh Téméxw ("our world, our land")<sup>10</sup>. Leq'á:mel First Nation, once one of the most popular trading stops in Stó:lō territory, is said to have been the birthplace of the Halq'emelyem language. With their home and territory serving as a centralized hub, Leq'á:mel First Nation people developed deep historical connections to Semá:th, Sq'éwlets, Matsqui, and Nooksack tribes.



Image 1: Leq'á:mel First Nation logo. Source: [www.leqamel.ca](http://www.leqamel.ca)

Leq'á:mel First Nation is deeply connected to the land and waterways of their traditional territory, which has sustained them and played a pivotal role in ensuring their people were fed, nurtured, healed, and protected since the beginning of their time. The ancient account of Leq'á:mel First Nation's origin centres around Lalepke'lem. "Their ancestor, Lalepke'lem lived with his mother. People in those days didn't yet have fire and were living as if in a dream. When Sun saw this, he took pity on them and descended from the sky in the form of a man. He gave fire to Lalepke'lem. Then he awoke from his dreamlike existence to real life. Sun taught him and his people all the skills. Later Qals passed by and fought Lalepke'lem. They stood opposite each other and tried to transform one another. Lalepke'lem picked up some white wood ashes, and sprinkling them over himself, boasted to have become powerful and wise through Sun's help. He was jumping high into the air. So Qals called out, "In the future, do the same in the water", and transformed him into a sturgeon."<sup>11</sup>

Today, Leq'á:mel First Nation centres their evolving economic development initiatives around the environment, prioritizing sustainability and exercising their rights to resources that arise from the land. With holdings in farms, commercial services, housing, and forestry tenures, Leq'á:mel First Nation is focused on creating a healthy, safe, self-sustaining home for future generations.

<sup>10</sup> Leq'á:mel First Nation Land Use Plan. (2015). Leq'á:mel First Nation. <https://Leq'á:mel.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FINAL-Land-Use-Plan-March-26-2015.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Boas, F. (1891). Accessed via: <https://Leq'á:mel.ca/discover-Leq'á:mel/arts-culture-heritage/>



## Sq'ewlets



*Image 2: Sq'ewlets logo depicting two sturgeon in a mirror image.<sup>12</sup>*

Sq'ewlets people are the people of the Sqwōwich (Sturgeon). As Stó:lō, in S'ólh Téméxw, they are also the people of the river and people of the land. Sq'ewlets share many beliefs and customs with the Stó:lō world and also revere their own tribal history. The ancient and current home of the Sq'ewlets people is where the Harrison River and Fraser River meet. It is where their village sites, cemeteries, and current reserves are located, including their ancient villages of Qithyil and Qwi Qweqwom.

Stories of Sq'ewlets origin have been passed down through generations, from grandparents to grandchildren. The sxwōxwiyám, or ancient stories, tell the origins of the Sq'ewlets people from their skyborn and sturgeon ancestors. Sturgeon are considered by Sq'ewlets people as both a source of food and an important part of their community. The sturgeon can transform between human and fish form. The sturgeon's well-being is dependent upon its respectful treatment by the Sq'ewlets.

Traditionally, life for Sq'ewlets people closely followed the seasons. The extensive waterways surrounding the Sq'ewlets villages were used for canoe travel to places for hunting, gathering, and fishing. Winters were spent in longhouses. Families owned and managed many types of resources, such as salmon fishing sites, fish traps and weirs, upland berry patches, wetlands growing basketry plants, and hunting territories. High-status Sq'ewlets people arranged for their sons and daughters to marry into other communities. This meant that Sq'ewlets people had strong ties to people from other nearby villages. These ties brought access to many types of food resources and created peace with their relations.<sup>13</sup>

Many of these customs continue today and Sq'ewlets families continue to harvest and preserve wild food throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Winter is still a time when Sq'ewlets people come to the longhouse. Sq'ewlets people continue to perform ceremonies from ancient times. Some of these include naming ceremonies and burning ceremonies that honour Sq'ewlets' ancestry. These continued cultural and spiritual practices are intrinsically tied to the rich forested lands and mountains where the clear waters of the Harrison River meet the strong waters of the Fraser River.

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<sup>12</sup> Sq'ewlets Logo credit: Alicia Point

<sup>13</sup> Sq'ewlets | a Stó:lō- Coast Salish Community in the Fraser River Valley. <http://digitalsqewlets.ca/index-eng.php>

## Sts'ailes

Sts'ailes histories tell how the first ancestors came from the sky, made lives for themselves in the Harrison Watershed, forged powerful kinship bonds with other living plants and animals, developed skills, practices, and respect to live and thrive since time immemorial. For these reasons, the Sts'ailes are inextricably linked with their Xaxa Temexw (Sacred Earth), maintaining, "We are the land".

For thousands of years, the ancestors of the Sts'ailes people have been living in dozens of settlements along the shorelines of the lakes and rivers of their Xaxa Temexw. In the largest settlements, Sts'ailes people built and lived in monumental cedar plank houses that extended for hundreds of metres along the shore, and underground pit houses that kept them warm through the coldest parts of winter.



# Sts'ailes

*Image 3: Sts'ailes logo depicting Sas'quats.  
Source: [www.stsailes.com](http://www.stsailes.com)*

The households in each of the settlements were interconnected through marriage and kinship ties, ceremonies, cooperation in harvesting resources like salmon, building houses, and in defense of their land and interests. From these bases on the Harrison River, Chehalis Lake, and Harrison Lake, the Sts'ailes accessed materials for life from across their territory by both land and water. Archeological traces, such as pictographs, quarries, culturally modified trees, rock shelters, trails, and villages - including at the highest points of land - are a record of occupation, diverse activities, and extensive landscape use. Both the deep-rooted connections to territory and regional interactions are documented throughout Sts'ailes' histories and narratives, which are central to their social identity. Today, Sts'ailes continues to center its culture and economy on the land and its resources. The present community village is one of the ancient village sites on the banks of the Harrison River. Sts'ailes continues to function in accordance with Snowoyelh (traditional laws) while pursuing self-governance and self-determination through a Self Government Agreement (SGA).

## Broad Historical and Contemporary Indigenous Significance

Area C is centrally located within the Lower Fraser River watershed and, as a result, has historically been a region integral to the culture and heritage of numerous Stó:lō communities as well as other various Indigenous communities in Southwestern BC. The following nations, through traditional territories or seasonal resource uses, may also have an interest in Area C and have been consulted on their interests as part of this OCP update:

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| » Nooaitch Indian Band               | » Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation       |
| » Cheam First Nation                 | » Halalt First Nation               |
| » Union Bar First Nation             | » Penelakut Tribe                   |
| » Peters First Nation                | » Stz'uminus First Nation           |
| » Popkum First Nation                | » Cowichan Tribes                   |
| » Semá:th                            | » Lyackson (Leey'qsun) First Nation |
| » Sqwá First Nation                  | » Snuneymuxw First Nation           |
| » Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt First Nation       | » Kwantlen First Nation             |
| » Sq'ewá:lxw Skawahlook First Nation |                                     |

## 1.1 Government-to-Government Relationships

### POLICY

- 1.1.1 **Engagement with Indigenous communities.** In the interest of building collaborative partnerships, the Regional District will meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities and organizations respecting amendments to this Plan that may affect their interests, particularly when land designations on Crown land or along community interfaces are under consideration. Areas of consideration include cultural impacts, shared services, or partnership opportunities. The scope and form of consultation shall be determined through discussions between the Regional District and Indigenous governments and will at a minimum be in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act*, the policies of the Regional Board, and the principles of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) and the Province of British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) legislation.
- 1.1.2 **Capacity funding for Indigenous engagement.** The Regional Board will advocate that it is the responsibility of the provincial and federal governments to provide financial assistance and capacity funding for Indigenous government participation in local government planning matters. The Regional District will advocate to the provincial and federal government in coordination with Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'ewlets, and Sts'ailes, to establish a consistent funding model for Indigenous communities to develop internal capacity for meaningful engagement and

collaboration on projects of shared interest, such as official community plans, neighbourhood plans, technical studies, and referrals.

- 1.1.3 **Partnerships.** The Regional Board will take a collaborative approach to the consideration of shared servicing plans and partnership opportunities and will engage with Indigenous communities regarding the provision of services to reserve lands.
- 1.1.4 **Recognition of Indigenous territory.** The Regional Board recognizes the close relationship that Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'ewlets, and Sts'ailes have with the lands and waters encompassing the Plan area, as such, the Regional Board prioritizes thoughtful consideration of impacts on this territory.
- 1.1.5 **Common interests.** The Regional Board will work collaboratively to identify areas of common interest with Indigenous communities within the Plan area and proactively seek opportunities to work jointly on projects.
- 1.1.6 **Recognition for guardian programs.** The Regional Board will advocate for increasing the capacity and application of Indigenous guardian programs. The Regional District will liaise and coordinate with Indigenous communities as necessary on relevant projects.

## 1.2 Indigenous Heritage Preservation & Development

### POLICY

- 1.2.1 **Archeological sites mapping.** As opportunities arise, the Regional District will liaise with Indigenous communities regarding external funding opportunities to improve archaeological site mapping.
- 1.2.2 **Artifacts.** Discovery of archaeological artifacts should be immediately reported to the Province of British Columbia - Archaeology Branch, relevant Indigenous communities, and others, as appropriate.
- 1.2.3 **Archeological assessment.** The Regional Board may require an archaeological impact assessment for zoning and Official Community Plan amendment applications related to developments in areas of known or potential archaeological value.
- 1.2.4 **Indigenous planning tools.** Landowners and developers should refer to Indigenous land use codes and plans to inform development plans in the interest of balancing land use interests and needs with those of Indigenous communities in Area C.
- 1.2.5 **Indigenous lands buffer.** Where developments are proposed along Indigenous land boundaries, applications should consider potential interface conflicts and trespass issues and minimize these conflicts through appropriate mitigation measures through



demonstrated cooperation with the Indigenous community. Where development already exists along Indigenous land boundaries, encroachments shall be avoided.

- 1.2.6 **Collaborative planning.** The Regional District will collaborate with Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes on matters of community planning and future growth for Area C, fostering coordination and identifying opportunities for development plan harmonization. Similarly, Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes are invited to engage in collaborative discussions on matters that may affect Regional District interests.



## GENERAL LAND USE POLICIES

# 2 GENERAL LAND USE POLICIES

## 2.0 Permitted Uses & Parcel Sizes

OCP designations facilitate effective planning by providing a basis for avoiding land use conflicts and predicting density levels, servicing needs, and environmental impacts. Permitted use considerations include:

- » Suitability of the land
- » Service levels
- » Hazards
- » Access
- » Community planning objectives
- » Regional growth goals
- » Environmental carrying capacity and thresholds

Specific conditions of use may apply, as prescribed in designations or other parts of this Plan or zoning bylaws, and other regulations. Use policies outlined in each designation are particularly relevant to the Regional Board's consideration of proposals to establish, or temporarily permit, new uses not currently permitted by zoning.

## 2.1 Lawfully Non-Conforming Use

Legally established existing land uses that are not permitted in their current zoning are governed by Division 14 of the *Local Government Act*. Most lawfully non-conforming uses are associated with developments that predate the establishment of zoning bylaws. In many cases, aligning the use with the current zoning is not an acceptable option; however, continuation of the use under specific conditions may be acceptable. Additionally, the siting and dimensions of buildings may also be considered lawfully non-conforming under the *Local Government Act*.

### POLICY

- 2.1.1 **Legitimize lawfully non-conforming uses.** Where the continuance of lawfully non-conforming land use would not be hazardous or in conflict with surrounding land uses and where the applicant indicates a desire to negotiate a covenant with the Regional Board limiting future uses, buildings, and structures to those legally established at present, the Regional Board may consider rezoning the property to reflect the actual use.

- 2.1.2 **Development variance permits.** The Regional Board may consider the issuance of a development variance permit to vary siting regulations to address and render the siting or dimensions of a building or structure conforming.

## 2.2 Industrial Use

Section 473 of the *Local Government Act* requires that OCPs identify the approximate location, amount, and type of present and proposed industrial land uses. Industrial uses in the electoral areas generally relate to resource sector activities, such as aggregate or forestry which occur on or near Crown land but can impact neighbouring residential, agricultural, and institutional uses. These resource industries provide local employment and economic investment. Furthermore, these uses can be temporary or seasonal. Balancing the impacts and benefits of industrial development will be a consideration of the Regional Board in commenting on senior government referrals and in decisions on land use activities including temporary use permits (Section 13).

The Plan area has limited industrial land, as the services necessary to support industrial development are generally not available in the Plan area. Industrial development requires water, sanitary sewer, three-phase power, proximity to highway corridors, and amenities (e.g., transportation, housing) catered to employees. Such requirements make it challenging for industries to locate in rural areas. Industrial lands are typically located in urban areas, such as Chilliwack or Mission, where adequate services and population centres exist. However, some industrial land uses also occur on reserve lands in the area.

There are a few existing industrial operations along the Chehalis Forest Service Road. They include a water bottling plant, forest and wood processing, and a log sort yard. There are multiple resource extraction sites in the area. They include Deroche Pit, Ohman Road Pit, Lake Errock Pit, and Statlu Pit. Understanding the long-term gravel extraction plans and potential redevelopment plan for the Deroche Pit and Ohman Road Pit will be crucial to evaluating industrial and resource development potential in the Plan area and overall Lower Mainland. Further discussion on resource management is in Section 7 – Environment & Natural Resources.

### POLICY

- 2.2.1 **Improved access.** The Regional District will advocate to the province to work with the existing industrial operators to improve the condition of the Chehalis Forest Service Road to provide better and more viable access to industrial sites.



## 2.3 Short-Term Rental Use

In recent years, short-term rentals (STRs) (e.g., AirBnBs, VRBOs) have become increasingly popular in the province and around the world. Housing affordability and availability are topics of utmost concern for all levels of government in British Columbia. The province's rental housing task force recommended in December 2018 that the province work with local governments to develop, implement, and enforce STR rules to better protect long-term rental stock. The advisory committee acknowledged that it was particularly concerned about the impacts of STRs on long-term housing supply. While these impacts are hard to measure with available data sets, the diversion of housing units from long-term supply is a significant problem affecting housing in many communities. According to the province, the STR market in BC is dominated by a small segment of profit-driven operators. Research from McGill University shows the top 10% of hosts earn nearly half of all revenue. In June 2023, STRs were taking 16,810 housing units off BC's long-term market. This was a 19.1% increase compared to June 2022.<sup>14</sup> The Province of British Columbia has recently introduced the *Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act* to address the competition between rental supply and STRs. This Act allows Regional Districts to regulate STRs through business licensing.

The 2021 *FVRD Housing Needs Study* identified long-term rental units as a housing need in Area C. In addition to introducing different housing options for residents, rental units are necessary to support young families, individuals, young professionals, employee housing, and downsizing seniors. While the exact number of active STR listings in the Plan area is uncertain, the development of new housing in the Plan area increases the potential for future listings. With this in mind, the Regional District asked residents to provide comments on STRs during the public engagement process for the OCP. There were some voices supporting the legalization of STRs as a mortgage helper; however, significant concerns were raised about the implementation and enforcement of STR regulation. Common concerns included nuisances (e.g., garbage, noise), inadequate parking, lack of services, lack of enforcement, safety, and traffic. The Plan area policies are attuned to the need to diversify housing for long-term residents and resident concerns, while balancing the interests of STR operators and visitors.

### POLICY

- 2.3.1 **Short-term rentals on large parcels.** The Regional District supports the implementation of short-term rental use on parcels exceeding 1.0 hectares in conjunction with a principal residence requirement, subject to the requirements of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Agricultural Land Reserve Regulations* within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

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<sup>14</sup> Wachsmuth, D. (2023, August 10). *The housing impacts of short-term rentals in British Columbia's regions* [Report]. UPGo-McGill.

- 2.3.2 **Short-term rentals in the Neighbourhood Plan areas.** The Regional District may consider short-term rental use within the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan and Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan areas on properties less than 1.0 hectares through the use of temporary use permits, where properties meet, at a minimum, the following criteria:
- a. Connection to a community sanitary sewer system;
  - b. Principal residence or on-site caretaker; and,
  - c. Structures meet all health and safety requirements from the *British Columbia Building Code*, Fire Code, and other applicable safety standards as certified by a Qualified Professional.
- 2.3.3 **Additional regulatory mechanisms.** The Regional District will explore options to implement business licensing, health and safety requirements, and servicing fee bylaw amendments to address the additional demand on community infrastructure and increased enforcement associated with short-term rentals.

## 2.4 Amenity Cost Charges

The Regional District strives to provide local amenities for its residents in Area C. However, there is an understanding that rural areas often do not have the population needed to support all types of amenities that are available in urban environments. Public amenities play a large role in making Area C a desirable place to live for current residents and for potential new residents, employers, and visitors. New development puts pressure on the existing local services. Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs) require developers to contribute towards the anticipated demand increase for these local services and amenities.

ACCs can be collected for a wide variety of amenities including, but not limited to, a community, youth, or senior's centre, a recreational or athletic facility, a library, and a public square. Additional examples of amenities could include community arts spaces, community museums, and streetscape gardens. Like Development Cost Charges (DCCs), ACCs can only be used to fund the capital costs of amenities, which include planning, engineering, construction, and interest costs attributable to an amenity project. Cash or in-kind contributions toward the following categories of public benefits may be considered ACCs in the Plan area:

- » Transportation and transit infrastructure
- » Arts and culture spaces
- » Community facilities (e.g., community centres, libraries, social facilities)
- » Parks, open spaces, and public realm facilities

The Regional District hosted a series of public engagement meetings to identify the missing amenities in the Plan area. The residents stated the following amenities would be a priority:

- » Community facility space
- » Daycare centre
- » Medical centre
- » Trail networks

Transit connectivity to larger urban centres for other basic amenities is important to area residents. Based on the above, the Area C ACCs will be focused on the following contribution areas:

- » Community facilities (e.g., community centres, daycare space)
- » Trails, parks, and open spaces

## POLICY

**2.4.1 Development application.** Development applications such as Official Community Plan and zoning amendments that result in the following should be considered for Amenity Cost Charges:

- a. Results in an increase of the current population by 250 or more persons;
- b. Results in the creation of 100 or more dwelling units;
- c. Requires a new neighbourhood plan; or,
- d. Requires a local servicing plan.

**2.4.2 Connection to growth.** Amenity Cost Charges should be connected to growth and directed to public benefits that are located within the broader neighbourhood plan area provided there will be a demonstrable benefit to the overall community.

**2.4.3 Consistent with current services.** Amenity Cost Charges should be consistent with services normally provided by the Regional District.

**2.4.4 Operational viability.** Amenity Cost Charges should be used for amenities that have long-term operational viability.

**2.4.5 Specified Amenity Cost Charges.** The Regional District will develop a Plan area-specific Amenity Cost Charges policy that will identify the specific amenities desired by the community and guide Amenity Cost Charge implementation.

**2.4.6 Flexible Amenity Cost Charge contributions.** The Regional Board will consider receiving in-kind construction or cash for Amenity Cost Charges when deliberating on

Official Community Plan amendment and zoning amendment applications that will put pressure on current services or that will require providing new services.



A scenic landscape featuring a golf course, a river, and mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows a lush green golf course with a winding path and a small pond. In the background, there are dense evergreen forests and majestic mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. A river flows through the middle ground, reflecting the surrounding greenery and sky.

## LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

# 3 LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

The Plan provides land use designations to identify preferred locations of broad land uses. This section describes the general land use policies for the land use designations, which are identified on Schedule 2 - Land Use Designations, Schedule 2A - Land Use Designations - Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan, and Schedule 2B - Land Use Designations - Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan.

## Understanding the Land Use Designations

Within these designations, the policies of the Regional Board are contained under the four following sub-headings:

- » General policies outline the local and regional development policies in a particular designation
- » Designation policies state the type of land placed in a particular designation and the conditions for extending existing areas or creating new areas in the designation
- » Use policies list the uses that may be permitted on land within a designation and in some cases, state the standards under which a permitted land use shall be developed
- » Subdivision policies specify the minimum lot size permitted within a designation and other conditions of subdivision

The Regional District respects and acknowledges that notwithstanding the use policies of the Plan, traditional uses of Sts'ailes, Sq'ewlets, and Leq'á:mel First Nation Land Use Plans occur within culturally sensitive and sanctuary lands.

## POLICY

- 3.0.1 **Consistency with zoning bylaw.** The Regional Board will consider future zoning bylaw amendments to achieve consistency between the designations of this Plan and zoning.
- 3.0.2 **Public use in all designations.** Notwithstanding the use policies of each land use designation of the Plan, public use is permitted in all designations.

## 3.1 AGRICULTURAL (AG)

Lands designated AGRICULTURAL within the Plan area are within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The ALR is administered by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) with the mission to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming in British Columbia.

The total ALR land within the Plan area, excluding Indigenous reserves, is 207.25 hectares. An additional 598.45 hectares of ALR are within Indigenous reserves. ALR lands represent only 2.42% of lands within the Plan area (Map 7 – Agricultural Land Reserve). Therefore, the Plan policies must seek to preserve existing ALR land by designating them AGRICULTURAL.

Plan policies will aim to preserve the ALR lands within the OCP area through the AGRICULTURAL designation. The purpose of the AGRICULTURAL designation is to ensure permissible land uses are restricted to agricultural uses.

The *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, its regulations, and Orders of the Commission take precedence on matters of land use and subdivision in the ALR. The *Act* and its regulations generally prohibit or restrict non-farm use and subdivision of ALR lands, unless otherwise permitted or exempted. The Regional Board assists in the administration of the ALR land by reviewing applications for subdivision, non-farm use, non-adhering residential use, soil use for placement of fill or removal of soil, and inclusion of land in the ALR, and by determining if an application should be forwarded to the ALC. Recent changes to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (Bill 15) have restricted private landowners from submitting ALC exclusion applications; only the province, an Indigenous government, or a local government may now apply.

The policies established in this Plan will guide future Regional Board consideration of these applications.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.1.1 Agricultural lands shall be preserved by preventing fragmentation of farms, supporting AGRICULTURAL land uses in accordance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations, minimizing conflicts between agriculture and other land uses, and avoiding the development of rural residential subdivisions in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- 3.1.2 Agricultural activities in the Plan area should be conducted in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner that is consistent with the *Environmental Management Act*, *Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management*, and associated regulations.
- 3.1.3 The Regional Board values agriculture and its contribution to the local economy, the availability of local food products, and the rural character of Area C.

- 3.1.4 The Regional Board supports the efficient and clustered siting and size of on-farm residential uses to retain more land area for farming uses. The Regional Board may consider options for farm home plate bylaw provisions to further protect farming activities.
- 3.1.5 The Regional Board will consider applications that support a broad range of agricultural opportunities and uses which:
- a. Are supplementary and ancillary to farm use;
  - b. Support value-added activities that improve farm viability;
  - c. Are consistent with the environmental policies of this Plan;
  - d. Will not jeopardize the long-term productivity of farmland; and,
  - e. Adhere to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.1.6 The Plan designates all land within the Agricultural Land Reserve as AGRICULTURAL.
- 3.1.7 AGRICULTURAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment where additional areas suited to farm production are identified through an application process or pursuant to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.
- 3.1.8 Where land presently within the Agricultural Land Reserve is excluded from the Agricultural Land Reserve or meets the criteria for exception from the land use restrictions under Section 23(1) of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, the provisions of the Official Community Plan shall be binding, and the lands shall remain in AGRICULTURAL designation until the land is re-designated by bylaw amendment.

## USE POLICIES

- 3.1.9 AGRICULTURAL areas shall be used for the following only if in accordance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations:
- a. Farm;
  - b. Conservation, including park and park reserve;
  - c. Single family residential;
  - d. Agri-tourism;
  - e. Associated rural residential; and,
  - f. Accessory farm employee dwelling if permitted by an Order of the Agricultural Land Commission.
- 3.1.10 AGRICULTURAL areas in the Agricultural Land Reserve are subject to the provisions of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.



- 3.1.11 The Regional Board may support zoning amendment applications for non-farm uses as approved by the Agricultural Land Commission, provided the property remains designated as AGRICULTURAL.
- 3.1.12 The removal of soil or placing of fill on land in AGRICULTURAL areas shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations, and the bylaws of the Regional District.
- 3.1.13 Agri-tourism uses may be supported provided that parking and servicing needs can be met on-site, where required a Special Events License is obtained, and the use meets the requirements of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.
- 3.1.14 The Regional Board may consider zoning amendment or temporary use permit applications for agri-tourism accommodation use which:
- a. Provide on-site water and sewage disposal;
  - b. Minimize impact on adjacent land uses and character of the existing area;
  - c. Avoid conflict with adjacent agricultural uses;
  - d. Minimize area of development through the clustering of buildings, shared driveway and surfaced areas, and efficient siting of on-site services; and,
  - e. Adhere to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.
- 3.1.15 Notwithstanding Policy 3.1.14 above, where a land use is proposed but not permitted within the AGRICULTURAL designation, the applicable zoning bylaw, or the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations, the Regional Board may issue a temporary use permit, provided the following are all met:
- a. The Agricultural Land Commission approves the use;
  - b. The use is temporary and compatible with surrounding uses;
  - c. The use will not interfere with long-term agricultural capabilities on the parcel and surrounding area;
  - d. No extension of services or public infrastructure is required;
  - e. On-site services and infrastructure are provided to support the use;
  - f. The use is small-scale in nature; and,
  - g. A public meeting is held if required by the Regional Board.
- 3.1.16 The preservation and enhancement of existing agricultural operations in the AGRICULTURAL designation shall have priority over newly proposed non-farm uses.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

- 3.1.17 Land in AGRICULTURAL areas within the Agricultural Land Reserve shall be subdivided only in accordance with the provisions of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations, and Order of the Commission.
- 3.1.18 New parcels created by subdivision within the AGRICULTURAL areas shall be configured to maximize agricultural sustainability and minimize potential conflicts between farm and non-farm uses.
- 3.1.19 The Regional Board will support applications for subdivision in the AGRICULTURAL areas which reconfigure or consolidate existing parcels to create a more efficient agricultural operation and result in no increase in the number of parcels.
- 3.1.20 Land in AGRICULTURAL areas shall be subdivided only in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall be:
- a. Not less than 8.0 hectares for lands in a floodplain; or,
  - b. Not less than 4.0 hectares for lands outside of a floodplain.

It is noted that the minimum parcel sizes above may not be achievable in the Agricultural Land Reserve without approval by the Agricultural Land Commission.

- 3.1.21 The Regional Board supports the consolidation of lands in AGRICULTURAL areas where the parcel size is less than 8.0 hectares to protect and enhance the agricultural viability of these lands.
- 3.1.22 The Plan demonstrates that the anticipated demand for housing over the next 20 years can be reasonably accommodated in the Harrison Mills and Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan areas. As such, the Regional Board does not consider the Agricultural Land Reserve as a barrier to efficient residential development and will not lead, advocate, or support Agricultural Land Reserve exclusion applications that present residential development as the rationale for the application.
- 3.1.23 Notwithstanding that the Agricultural Land Commission may have indicated approval or no objection to this Plan, the Commission is obliged to consider individual applications on their own merit under the mandate of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations and is not obliged to approve applications that comply or refuse applications that do not comply with the minimum lot size or densities of this Plan.

## 3.2 APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL (AR)

The APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL designation is intended to permit two to four storey apartment buildings on the lands designated as Harrison Rise in the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan. APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL provides diversified housing choices to facilitate a community that supports residents of various ages and needs. APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL is connected to community water and sanitary sewer and makes efficient use of existing infrastructure services. APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL designations will ensure the impact on adjacent land uses will be minimized through screening, building siting, and location.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.2.1 Development shall be sited to provide adequate separation through landscape buffers and setbacks from Lougheed Highway.
- 3.2.2 Development shall be well connected through pedestrian and cycling paths to nearby parks, transit stops, and other amenities.
- 3.2.3 Development shall ensure that adequate on-site parking and safe access/egress are provided.
- 3.2.4 Development shall provide a buffer to screen the view of the new development from Lougheed Highway and adjacent natural areas.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.2.5 Land designated as APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL shall have the following characteristics:
  - a. Connected to Regional District community water and community sanitary sewer systems;
  - b. Unencumbered access to public roads;
  - c. Proximity to anticipated transit and local commercial uses;
  - d. Connected to pedestrian and cycling networks; and,
  - e. Able to provide apartment building amenities on site, such as playground equipment, community spaces, cycling storage facilities, and electric car charging facilities.
- 3.2.6 APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL lands may be created or extended through Plan amendment where:
  - a. Lands are specifically identified through a comprehensive neighbourhood plan process;
  - b. The *FVRD Electoral Areas Housing Needs Report for Electoral Area C* identifies gaps in apartment supply;

- c. Existing lands designated for apartment buildings are substantially built and an existing need for apartment supply exists and is demonstrated;
- d. A connection to Regional District community water and sanitary sewer systems is provided;
- e. Fire protection is proven feasible in terms of capacity and fiscal sustainability through a fire protection study;
- f. Lands provide direct and convenient vehicle access to minimize traffic on local streets;
- g. Lands are located within walking access of transit, parks, recreational areas, commercial and employment areas; and,
- h. Lands can accommodate landscape buffers and setbacks from the highway and adjacent lower-density development.

## **USE POLICIES**

3.2.7 APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL shall be used only for:

- a. Apartment residential; and,
- b. Accessory amenities.

3.2.8 At the time of a development application, the Regional District will be open to exploring innovative living formats and building forms that address local design challenges and contribute to the character and quality of the neighbourhood.

## **SUBDIVISION POLICIES**

3.2.9 Land in the APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL areas shall be subdivided only with approved community water and Regional District community sanitary sewer.



## 3.3 COMPACT RESIDENTIAL (CR)

The COMPACT RESIDENTIAL designation is intended to gently increase the range of housing types and offer a transition from larger single-family dwellings to a diverse range of similar housing choices. In addition to diversifying housing, the objective is to reduce the impact of development adjacent to areas with identified high conservation values by clustering density on small development footprints.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.3.1 Development in the COMPACT RESIDENTIAL designation area shall provide a diverse range of housing types.
- 3.3.2 Development in the COMPACT RESIDENTIAL designation shall be clustered to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- 3.3.3 Development in the COMPACT RESIDENTIAL designation will be well connected through pedestrian and cycling paths to nearby parks and other amenities.
- 3.3.4 Development in the COMPACT RESIDENTIAL designation shall ensure a high level of unobstructed visual connectivity between residential areas and park areas.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.3.5 The Plan designates land with some or all of the following characteristics as COMPACT RESIDENTIAL:
  - a. Outside of significant hazard areas, such as a floodplain;
  - b. In proximity to existing residential area;
  - c. Connection to community water and sanitary sewer systems;
  - d. Unencumbered access to public roads;
  - e. Proximity to anticipated transit and local commercial uses;
  - f. Connected to pedestrian and cycling networks; and,
  - g. The transition area between low-density residential and other uses.
- 3.3.6 COMPACT RESIDENTIAL lands adjacent to the Elbow Creek Natural Area as identified on the Map 1A - Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan shall consider the following based on recommendations from a Qualified Environmental Professional:
  - a. Environmental impacts on the wildlife corridor;
  - b. Retention of natural vegetation where feasible;
  - c. Delineate sensitive areas through appropriate signage and screening;
  - d. Preservation of the existing stands of trees between fairways 8 and 9; and,

- e. Development shall be public street oriented with linear parks, attractive streetscape, and trails connecting to the wildlife corridor area.

## USE POLICIES

3.3.7 COMPACT RESIDENTIAL shall be used only for:

- a. Residential;
- b. Duplex;
- c. Multi-unit residential; and,
- d. Accessory dwelling units.

3.3.8 Small-scale infill development in the form of accessory dwelling units is encouraged in COMPACT RESIDENTIAL areas.

3.3.9 New development shall enter into a building scheme agreement between the developer and builder to sufficiently address the design guidelines for COMPACT RESIDENTIAL lands. They should be designed to incorporate the following form and character:

- a. Building designs and forms shall be designed to reflect the existing neighbourhood character while meeting current market interests and expectations;
- b. Multi-unit residential dwellings shall be designed to mimic the appearance of detached single family dwellings to fit into the existing neighbourhood character;
- c. Residential dwellings shall front roads on both sides wherever possible to maximize servicing efficiency and reduce infrastructure costs. Double-fronting lots where the rear of homes face a public road should be avoided. Corner lots should be designed to address both street edges;
- d. Tree and vegetation plantings to create privacy and natural aesthetic;
- e. Greenways and natural park space should be integrated to support connectivity, recreation, and environmental benefits;
- f. Identification of mature trees for retention by a Certified Arborist, including protection measures during construction and post-development;
- g. Encourage lot grading and building design that respects the natural grade, incorporates ground-oriented design, and prioritizes privacy protection;
- h. Providing privacy between neighbouring homes is an important factor in design and lot layout. Elements can include:
  - i. Angled or staggered house placement; and,

- ii. Curved street network.
  - i. The developer shall work with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to ensure universally accessible pedestrian and cycling paths along major streets. Any infrastructure within or affecting the Ministry's right-of-way is subject to Ministry standards, design review and permitting requirements; and,
  - j. Gated communities or the formation of strata that limit or exclude public access for passing through or connection to adjacent public uses shall not be permitted.
- 3.3.10 The Regional Board will secure additional community amenities such as parks, trails, and pedestrian and cycling networks, as part of new development at the time of zoning amendment.
- 3.3.11 At the time of development applications, the Regional District will be open to exploring innovative living formats and building forms that address local design challenges and contribute to the character and quality of the rural village area.

## **SUBDIVISION POLICIES**

- 3.3.12 Land in the COMPACT RESIDENTIAL areas shall be subdivided only with approved community water and Regional District community sanitary sewer.

## 3.4 CONSERVATION (C)

There are several significant ecological areas within the broader Area C Plan boundary such as the Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area, Echo Lake area, Elbow Creek watershed, the confluence of Harrison River, Fraser River, and Lake Errock. The Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area supports some of North America's most critical wintering, migration, and breeding habitats for salmon, trout, raptors, aquatic birds, amphibians, mammals, and other wildlife. Area C supports an internationally significant number of Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans. The Harrison River is one of the only remaining watersheds that supports five species of Pacific Salmon, as well as Steelhead. It is also believed to provide spawning and rearing habitats for White Sturgeon, which is a red-listed species in BC. It is an internationally recognized salmon stronghold and an important raptor (i.e., Bald Eagle, Owl) area. The Lake Errock and Deroche Bench areas are home to significant natural assets that provide rich wildlife and aquatic diversity, traditional foods and supplies, and places for outdoor recreation not only for the residents but also for a regional population. Holachten Creek, Siddall Creeks, and their tributaries are important wildlife corridors. Squakum Creek, a critical connection between Lake Errock and Harrison Bay, serves as a vital salmon spawning channel.

The purpose of the CONSERVATION designation is to protect and provide for the public use of lands and waterbodies suitable for outdoor recreation and environmental or heritage conservation. This designation includes existing parks and recreational areas, primarily undisturbed existing environmentally sensitive areas and potential regional parks. Development on these lands is limited to natural outdoor recreational uses. The Regional District acknowledges Indigenous rights and title interests on Crown lands. The Regional Board is interested in the formal identification of conservation lands, parks, and recreational area development in the Plan area through partnerships with local Indigenous communities.

The CONSERVATION designation allows for the preservation of areas for the enjoyment of outdoor recreational activities within the Plan area. When determining parkland designation, it is essential to distinguish between the proposed and potential parks. Proposed parks are those under active consideration by the Regional District. Additional policies relevant to park planning, management, and development are outlined in the Neighbourhood Plans.

### GENERAL POLICIES

3.4.1 The CONSERVATION area designation is established to:

- a. Identify designated and proposed local, regional, or provincial parks or protected areas;



- b. Provide walking and cycling access to park and recreation areas, excluding ecological reserves, while minimizing ecological impact and maintaining the enjoyment of the natural environment;
- c. Conserve environmental assets, including unique natural features, distinctive landscapes, and areas of high recreational value;
- d. Recognize environmental values and management requirements of Crown riparian and littoral areas;
- e. Reserve areas of significant recreation or conservation potential for future park development; and,
- f. Support the acquisition and maintenance of recreational land that provides access to rivers and lakes.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

3.4.2 The Plan designates land with some or all of the following characteristics as CONSERVATION area:

- a. Areas owned or under long-term lease by a responsible authority for public recreation use or regional or local significance including regional parks, community parks, recreation reserves and areas with recreational potential, and land of significant recreational potential which is suitable to reserve for future public and park use;
- b. Areas that may have geological or flood hazards;
- c. Areas of important wildlife or environmental value, including habitat and lands requiring conservation management;
- d. Land with significant recreation potential which may be suitable for future park use; and,
- e. Riparian and littoral areas under Crown ownership.

3.4.3 CONSERVATION areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment provided that additional lands that meet the required designations policies above are identified.

## USE POLICIES

3.4.4 CONSERVATION areas may be used only for:

- a. Conservation;
- b. Park and park reserve; and,
- c. Recreation use, in accordance with the conservation objectives and management of the responsible authority.

- 3.4.5 Notwithstanding Policy 3.4.4 above, CONSERVATION areas may also be used for hazard land management uses, including works, facilities, and activities to provide protection from and to manage flooding, snow avalanches, rock falls, landslides, and other natural hazards.

## **SUBDIVISION POLICIES**

- 3.4.6 Land in CONSERVATION areas shall only be subdivided under circumstances where subdivision is required in the interests of responsible park or environmental management.

## 3.5 CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT (CLD)

Regulating the use of federal land is beyond the jurisdiction of local governments. Also, the use and development of provincial Crown lands by the provincial government, or an agent of the provincial government, is immune to local government regulations and policies. As a result, the designations and policies of this Plan may not apply or may not be binding on lands or resources owned and administered by federal and provincial governments. While the Plan policies may not be binding on the Crown, leaseholders or other tenure holders must conform to these policies.

The Crown land to the north of Beach Camp along Chehalis Forest Service Road (FSR) is critical for the Plan area. It is subject to several land tenures such as leases, licenses, and rights-of-way, under the *Land Act*. The Western Timber Forest Products on Chehalis FSR has been an active industrial operation since 1992. The Regional District transfer station for the area is also located on the Chehalis FSR and will require expansion to service the projected growth. It is important that such uses continue in the area to service the population.

The Regional District acknowledges Indigenous rights and title interests over Crown land. The strength of claim is significant due to evidence of past settlements and archaeological sites of Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets. There are noted protected archaeological sites in the CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT area that must be protected through an archaeological impact assessment. Future development of CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT lands may support the upgrade, expansion, and service area costs for the community water and sanitary sewer system in the Plan area. While the CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT area has further development potential, a neighbourhood plan amendment is required prior to the consideration of development applications.

While local government regulations may not be binding on the use of Crown land by the Crown, the provisions of the Plan should be considered by the Crown as an expression of Regional Board objectives and a basis for cooperation between different levels of government.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.5.1 The Regional District acknowledges Indigenous rights and title interest on Crown lands. The Regional District seeks to collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop a land use plan for this area that aligns with the Plan's objectives.
- 3.5.2 Provincial and federal governments should use Crown land in a manner that conforms to Regional District bylaws, policies, and regulations.

- 3.5.3 The Regional District will explore opportunities to partner with provincial agencies and Indigenous communities to establish connections to existing active transportation infrastructure.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.5.4 The CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT designation may be extended or created through Plan amendment where:
- a. Additional lands are shown to meet the designation policies;
  - b. Comprehensive, integrated plans, including environmental impact assessments, hazard assessments, and feasibility studies, are presented;
  - c. Similar uses already exist within a 500 metres radius; or,
  - d. Community or regional trends warrant such extension or creation.
- 3.5.5 New development within the CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT designation shall meet the following:
- a. Geohazards which can be mitigated on-site;
  - b. Access to transportation networks;
  - c. Connection to community infrastructure; and,
  - d. Complies with the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

## USE POLICIES

- 3.5.6 CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT designation may only be used for:
- a. Forest;
  - b. Conservation;
  - c. Resource industrial;
  - d. Local institutional;
  - e. Public utility; and,
  - f. Outdoor recreation.
- 3.5.7 Where a government ministry, agency or other Crown Corporation proposes a land use which is contrary to the policies of this Plan, the responsible authorities are encouraged to make an application for Plan amendment as outlined in this Plan.
- 3.5.8 The Regional District wishes to work with the province and Indigenous communities to continue the existing public infrastructure use for a transfer station and identify potential future locations required to service the anticipated growth in the Plan area.



## 3.6 FOREST (F)

The FOREST designation recognizes the extensive areas of Crown land within the Plan area are part of the province's "working forest". These lands are managed by the Province of British Columbia in conjunction with Indigenous communities. A range of forestry, resource, and recreation uses are expected to continue in these areas, including logging, reforestation, silviculture, mining activities, and resort tourism uses.

FOREST lands include areas with steep slopes and streams located above settlement areas. Forestry and resource activities in these areas may initiate or exacerbate hazards on Crown land which can impact private lands and infrastructure below. Special consideration should be given where forest and resource uses may have an impact on settlement and habitat areas. In these situations, the Regional Board will recommend to the provincial agencies having jurisdiction that habitat assessments, geotechnical and hydrological studies and mitigation works be undertaken in association with any development plans.

In addition to a working forest, Crown lands in the Plan area provide access to front country, backcountry, and wilderness recreational opportunities. At times, elements of working forests conflict with the expectations of recreational users. Policies in the FOREST designation recognize these different users and associated uses, but they are primarily addressed in other sections of the Plan including Section 7 - Environment & Natural Resources and Section 11 - Recreation, Parks, & Trails.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.6.1 The Province of British Columbia should preserve the integrity of provincial forest boundaries in the long-term economic interests of the region and recognition of the area's forest production.
- 3.6.2 The Regional Board will not support or encourage Crown lease applications and development schemes involving land uses not compatible with forest development, public recreation, or conservation use of FOREST lands.
- 3.6.3 The Regional District will review and respond to Crown referrals of development proposals guided by the *Regional District Crown Community Interface Management Policy*, or equivalent Regional Board policy, as it exists at the time.
- 3.6.4 The Regional Board supports the Province of British Columbia, working in close coordination with communities, to undertake prescribed fire and cultural burning on FOREST designated lands for wildfire mitigation.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.6.5 This Plan designates Crown lands identified by the province within the forest land base as FOREST.
- 3.6.6 FOREST areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment when new areas that meet the designation criteria are identified. FOREST areas may be reduced or removed if the land is removed from the working forest.

## USE POLICIES

- 3.6.7 FOREST areas shall be used only for:
- a. Forestry activities, including silviculture, logging, reforestation, and stand tending approved by the Ministry of Forests;
  - b. Conservation;
  - c. Park and park reserve;
  - d. Local institutional;
  - e. Major institutional;
  - f. Natural campground; and,
  - g. Recreation.
- 3.6.8 Development located upslope or upstream of rural village areas and community infrastructure requires a review by a geotechnical and/or hydrological professional to ensure that no increase in risk (landslide, gully process, fan destabilisation, etc.) to human safety, private property, and water supplies will result. The assessment should be consistent with Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (EGBC) guidelines for terrain stability assessment in the Forest Sector, or other guidelines as they apply.
- 3.6.9 Proposals with associated infrastructure that require zoning and Official Community Plan amendments may require a comprehensive review of servicing, visual impacts, hydrological and geotechnical impacts, habitat impacts, and consultation.
- 3.6.10 Provincial plans within the Plan area should include consultation with the Regional District and the Regional District will prioritize timely responses to referrals of this nature.
- 3.6.11 Development proposals within the FOREST designation which require an amendment to the Official Community Plan should undertake consultation with the Regional District, residents, stakeholders, and affected Indigenous communities.
- 3.6.12 These uses within the FOREST designation are primarily governed by the Province of British Columbia and may also require Regional District permits and approvals.

- 3.6.13 Where forestry and resource extraction development has occurred on lands within the FOREST designation, remediation planning and implementation should be undertaken in accordance with resource management laws, sustainable forest management, and environmental practices.
- 3.6.14 Visual values of the mountain slopes surrounding Harrison Bay, Lake Errock, and the Chehalis River watershed, visible from the rural villages of Harrison Mills and Lake Errock, are important to the local rural character and economy. These visual values should be maintained and where applicable, improved where historic uses resulted in negative impacts.
- 3.6.15 Resource roads are an important recreational asset for visitors and residents to the area. Alteration or deactivation plans for any major resource road should include consultation with the Regional District, affected Indigenous communities, and other affected parties.
- 3.6.16 The Regional District's Lake Errock Community Water System is supplied by a groundwater supply well from Lake Errock-Deroche Creek Aquifer 11. Proposed developments and plans on surrounding Crown lands which may affect the watershed and aquifer should be referred to the Regional District for comment and may require an impact assessment.

## **SUBDIVISION POLICIES**

- 3.6.17 Land in FOREST areas shall only be subdivided when subdivision is required in the interests of responsible forest management, in which case no parcel smaller than 35.0 hectares shall be created.

## 3.7 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (HC)

The purpose of the HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL designation is intended to serve the needs of an itinerant motoring population. The designation is applied to lands utilized for existing service commercial (e.g., service station) lands.

Plan policies do not anticipate the expansion of HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL designated lands within the Plan area. Should new proposals arise which warrant a new or expanded HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL designation, they will be considered by the Regional Board in accordance with the policies of the Plan.

The Plan is deliberate in avoiding the proliferation of commercial uses along the Lougheed Highway to ensure commercial uses along the corridor complement each other and foster good economic development. Tourist commercial and day-to-day commercial uses are supported on lands designated as VILLAGE CENTRE and NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.7.1 Land designated HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL should accommodate the commercial needs of the traveling public.
- 3.7.2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL uses shall have adequate road access that is approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.
- 3.7.3 Development proposals shall ensure that adequate on-site parking facilities and that safe, accessible access and egress are provided.
- 3.7.4 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL uses shall provide adequate sewage disposal and safe water supply as required by the responsible authorities and in accordance with the Regional District *Sustainable Service Provision for Community Water Systems* policies or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time.
- 3.7.5 Development proposals for HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL lands along the Lougheed Highway shall be encouraged to incorporate transit-supportive infrastructure and amenities, where feasible.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.7.6 Land designated as HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL should accommodate the commercial needs of the travelling public.
- 3.7.7 The Plan area limits the HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL designation to existing lands with current or historic establishment of such uses.



3.7.8 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment where additional land meets the following criteria:

- a. Additional commercial services for the itinerant motoring population are needed;
- b. Layout and design address impacts on the neighbouring land uses;
- c. Architectural design is respectful of the natural and rural resource character;
- d. Water supply, wastewater, and storm water facilities are adequate;
- e. Fire protection is adequate;
- f. Accessible from the Loughheed Highway to avoid increased traffic through residential areas;
- g. Suitable access and egress exist or can be developed;
- h. Traffic and parking can be accommodated on-site; and,
- i. Hazard mitigation requirements can be met.

## USE POLICIES

3.7.9 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL areas shall be used for only:

- a. Highway Commercial; and,
- b. Local Commercial.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.7.10 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL areas shall only be subdivided in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities except that the minimum parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewage	1.0 hectare
Approved community water & on-site sewage disposal	0.2 hectares

## 3.8 INDUSTRIAL (I)

There are limited existing industrial operations along the Chehalis Forest Service Road. They include a water bottling plant, forest and wood processing, and a log sort yard. While limited, they are a source of local employment. The INDUSTRIAL designation is intended to protect the existing industrial sites to ensure the long-term supply of the limited industrial land within the Plan area.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.8.1 The Regional Board will consider proposals to rezone or establish community plan designations for industrial uses on an individual basis, with consideration to rural village impacts including noise, traffic, sight, sound, screening, odour, dust, and storm water runoff.
- 3.8.2 New INDUSTRIAL areas should be located in areas where the high demand for utility services can be met, transit services are located within 400-500 metres, the conflict between local traffic and industrial traffic is minimized, and the site has connectivity to a provincial transportation corridor and established road network.
- 3.8.3 Buffers shall be provided along all lot lines to screen INDUSTRIAL uses from adjacent uses.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.8.4 The Plan designates existing industrial sites as INDUSTRIAL where the intent is to retain the INDUSTRIAL use in the long-term. The Regional Board does not anticipate the designation of significant additional lands as INDUSTRIAL.
- 3.8.5 Lands with approved aggregate extraction operations may be designated INDUSTRIAL for resource industrial uses, provided that:
  - a. Uses of the lands can be limited to resource industrial use;
  - b. Off-site impacts can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Regional Board;
  - c. The use will not result in environmental contamination or hazards; and,
  - d. The parcel size is not less than 4.0 hectares.
- 3.8.6 INDUSTRIAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment provided that additional lands are:
  - a. Located away from environmentally sensitive areas;
  - b. Avoid or mitigate natural hazards;
  - c. Free from geological and hydrological impacts, space, and adequate drainage and soils are demonstrated;

- d. Designed to protect the quality of life for the surrounding community by incorporating traffic management measures and addressing nuisance concerns, such as dust, light spill, and odour;
- e. Adequately serviced by Regional District community water and sanitary sewer systems;
- f. Provided with suitable access and egress; and,
- g. Accessible from a collector or arterial road to avoid increased traffic through residential areas.

## USE POLICIES

3.8.7 INDUSTRIAL areas shall be used only for:

- a. General Industrial;
- b. Heavy Industrial;
- c. Resource Industrial;
- d. Accessory Industrial; and,
- e. Accessory Residential.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.8.8 Lands in INDUSTRIAL areas shall only be subdivided in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewage	4.0 hectares

## 3.9 LIMITED USE (LU)

The LIMITED USE designation is intended to limit development in areas with significant geologic and flood hazards, limited road access, areas isolated from community services, zones of groundwater recharge, and areas which are environmentally sensitive or otherwise best suited to low-density rural uses. However, LIMITED USE lands may be re-designated in accordance with the Plan policies if future studies show that an area can accommodate a broader range of uses without being affected by geologic hazards or damaging environmentally sensitive areas, and where access and other requirements can be met.

LIMITED USE designation has been established in portions of the Plan area due to the rural nature of the area, limited road access, and limited services that are provided. Thus, the LIMITED USE designation is appropriate for many outdoor recreational uses, including church camps, dude ranches, and some kinds of campground development if supported by a geohazard assessment prepared by a Qualified Professional, stating the land is safe for the intended use. Nevertheless, the general policy of this Plan respecting LIMITED USE areas is to prevent isolated development, to protect the environment, and to preserve and buffer areas of environmental sensitivity and special value.

The LIMITED USE designation is also intended to apply to civic infrastructure facilities, such as wastewater treatment plants, water reservoirs, solid waste transfer stations, and other infrastructure facilities.

Subdivision policies of the LIMITED USE designation accommodate the creation of new parcels 8.0 hectares in area or greater, except that infrastructure facilities may have a smaller parcel size. In recognition of the difficulties of site development within this designation, subject to zoning amendment, the clustering of parcels may be permitted in the LIMITED USE designation provided that the average density of the parent parcel being subdivided will not exceed one parcel per 8.0 hectares. Clustered subdivisions will normally take the form of bare land strata developments with the remainder lands becoming common property that is protected from further subdivision, development, or disturbance by way of a restrictive covenant in favour of the Regional District.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.9.1 LIMITED USE areas are established to minimize development in remote, inaccessible, hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas with limited or no access to community services, and to maintain low development densities.
- 3.9.2 Development shall be controlled and uses may be restricted in areas of natural hazard potential and environmental sensitivity.



- 3.9.3 Environmentally sensitive areas shall be identified, preserved, and buffered from development.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.9.4 The Plan designates land with some or all of the following characteristics as LIMITED USE:

- a. Geologic hazard;
- b. Flooding hazard;
- c. Environmental sensitivity;
- d. Limited community or development services;
- e. Poor road access;
- f. Lands best suited to low-density rural uses; and,
- g. Lands used for institutional infrastructure facilities.

- 3.9.5 LIMITED USE areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment.

- 3.9.6 LIMITED USE areas may be reduced and re-designated if future studies show that an area can safely accommodate a broader range of uses without environmental damage, unacceptable public risk, or excessive public expenditure on access or other public works.

- 3.9.7 Proposals to re-designate lands designated LIMITED USE shall undertake technical assessments that assess future development potential and address the following issues:

- a. Comprehensive and coordinated application between interested landowners to ensure an applicant-initiated process, and to avoid fragmented development and servicing;
- b. Avoidance and mitigation of natural hazard areas;
- c. Identification and protection of environmentally sensitive areas;
- d. On-site services located away from hazardous conditions;
- e. Opportunities for clustering of new parcels to address hazard and environmental site constraints;
- f. Lot layout which includes preservation of natural areas and vegetation, where feasible;
- g. Connections to existing parks and active transportation network;
- h. Road and traffic access from Ministry of Transportation and Transit roads; and,

- i. Identification and protection of archeologically significant areas through an archeological overview assessment and an archeological impact assessment, as required.

## USE POLICIES

3.9.8 LIMITED USE areas shall be used only for:

- a. Farm;
- b. Conservation;
- c. Local institutional;
- d. Low-density commercial recreation;
- e. Park and park reserve;
- f. Recreation;
- g. Single family residential use; and,
- h. Associated rural residential.

3.9.9 Notwithstanding Policy 3.9.8 above, associated rural residential uses are permitted unless prohibited by the zoning bylaw.

3.9.10 Low-density commercial recreation uses may be permitted in the LIMITED USE designation on parcels 8.0 hectares in area or greater, subject to zoning amendment.

3.9.11 Zoning amendment applications to permit low-density commercial recreation uses shall include a geohazard assessment and/or an environmental impact assessment and, if deemed necessary by the Regional Board, an engineering feasibility study to ensure that the proposed use will not result in unacceptable public expenditures or service demands.

3.9.12 Notwithstanding Policy 3.9.8 above, land in the LIMITED USE area may also be used for resource extraction uses provided that the area is zoned for the use intended, it is located outside of the restricted areas identified in the *FVRD Electoral Area Commercial Gravel Operations Bylaw No. 1181, 2014* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time, and has been the subject of a Plan amendment supported by studies which demonstrate that such uses:

- a. Will not adversely affect surrounding lands;
- b. Will not adversely affect the geological stability of adjoining lands; and,
- c. Are in keeping with the development objectives and policies of this Plan.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.9.13 Land in LIMITED USE areas shall only be subdivided in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewage	8.0 hectares

3.9.14 Notwithstanding Policy 3.9.13 above, parcels designated LIMITED USE for public infrastructure facilities may have a smaller parcel size.

3.9.15 Notwithstanding Policy 3.9.13 above, subject to a zoning amendment, density averaging may be permitted to facilitate the clustering of parcels away from hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas provided that the average density of the parent parcel being subdivided, excluding road and park dedications, will not exceed one parcel per 8.0 hectares, and provided that each lot is suitable for its intended use.

3.9.16 Where a clustered subdivision is proposed, the developer shall be required to register a restrictive covenant in favour of the Regional District which prohibits the subdivision or alteration of hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas, except for:

- a. Alterations or construction necessary to protect the residential parcels from geohazards or other hazards;
- b. The location of services; and,
- c. Trails.

3.9.17 The covenanted area of a clustered subdivision should normally be continuous and not fragmented. However, in some circumstances, fragmentation may be desirable to avoid development in hazardous areas or preserve identified environmental values.

3.9.18 Where possible, the covenanted area of a clustered subdivision should:

- a. Border Crown land, park, or covenanted area on an adjacent property; and,
- b. Include stream corridors, wetlands, sensitive or hazardous slopes, and other areas of hazard or environmental value.

## 3.10 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL (NC)

The main purpose of the NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL designation is to accommodate day-to-day commercial uses. The existing NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL uses provides services and employment opportunities for residents. They are essential in creating complete communities that complement the residential development, accommodate people at all stages of life, and provide a wider range of employment opportunities, amenities, and services within a 15–20-minute walk. It is also intended to concentrate growth in the existing rural village areas and thereby direct development away from the primarily RURAL lands outside of the rural village areas. The designation is intended to allow land uses that serve local needs, such as general stores, convenience stores, small personal service establishments, and workshops for local producers.

The NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL lands are intended to support residents by supporting small-scale businesses, local employment opportunities, and live-work-play opportunities. While there are incidental benefits to the travelling public, the NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL designation is generally not intended to primarily support the needs of the travelling public, such as tourist accommodation and drive-through restaurants. Such uses are better suited on the lands designated as HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL. The Plan policies are deliberate in designating lands to foster commercial uses that complement each other and foster a sustainable environment for economic development.

Plan policies do not anticipate the expansion of commercially designated lands within the Plan area. One of the goals of deliberately restricting commercial areas to locations within neighbourhood plan areas is to avoid the proliferation of commercial uses along the Lougheed Highway corridor. Should new commercial proposals arise that warrant new or expanded commercial designations, they will be considered by the Regional Board in accordance with the policies of the Plan.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.10.1 Land designated NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL should accommodate the commercial needs of the local community.
- 3.10.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL should be flexible to accommodate a mix of residential and commercial through live-work spaces and ground floor commercial buildings.
- 3.10.3 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL uses shall have adequate road access that is approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.
- 3.10.4 Development proposals shall ensure that adequate on-site parking facilities and that safe and accessible access and egress are provided.

- 3.10.5 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL uses shall be connected to community water and community sanitary sewer systems.
- 3.10.6 Development proposals shall demonstrate high-quality architectural design, land use, and site layout which respects the area's natural and rural resource character. Proposals should incorporate pedestrian connections, cycling storage facilities, and outdoor seating areas while providing appropriate buffering between surrounding residential uses. Additionally, storm water and wastewater management shall respect the natural environment.
- 3.10.7 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL uses shall incorporate walkable and bikeable streetscapes to serve nearby residents.
- 3.10.8 Development proposals for NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL lands along the Lougheed Highway shall be encouraged to incorporate transit-supportive infrastructure and amenities where feasible.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.10.9 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment where additional land meets the following criteria:
- a. Additional commercial services to serve the local community are needed;
  - b. Layout and design address impacts on the neighbouring land uses;
  - c. Architectural design is respectful of the natural and rural resource character;
  - d. Storm water, wastewater, and water supply facilities are adequate;
  - e. Fire protection is adequate;
  - f. Suitable access and egress exist or can be developed;
  - g. Traffic and parking can be accommodated; and,
  - h. Hazard mitigation requirements can be met.

## USE POLICIES

- 3.10.10 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL areas shall be used only for:
- a. Local commercial; and,
  - b. Local Institutional.
- 3.10.11 The Regional Board may consider NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL areas along Lougheed Highway for a broader range of uses compatible with local commercial, such as mixed residential-commercial buildings or live-work spaces provided that:



- a. The proposed development is connected to a community water system and a community sanitary sewer system; and,
- b. The development is intended to encourage a diversified housing stock while still meeting the day-to-day commercial needs of the local community. This would be considered consistent with the policies of this Plan.

3.10.12 New or expanded NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL uses should be:

- a. Accessible from a collector or arterial road to avoid increased traffic through residential areas;
- b. Designed to ensure high-quality architectural standard which incorporates accessibility principles, respects the character and does not reduce the quality of life for the surrounding community; and,
- c. Served by an approved community water system and community sanitary sewer system.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.10.13 Land in the NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL areas shall be subdivided only in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
Approved community water & Regional District community sanitary sewer	0.2 hectares

## 3.11 RESORT (RT)

The RESORT designation is intended to ensure that resort developments maintain public access to natural assets, mitigate impacts on the natural environment, and provide adequate water and sanitary sewer systems. The designation envisions self-contained and self-supporting developments on unitary resort properties with a variety of compatible uses and services.

The Neighbourhood Plan respects and builds upon recreational uses associated with the golf course operations in the area designated as RESORT. These policies intend to support additional commercial uses to continue supporting the recreational golf course and associated accommodation operations.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.11.1 Developments in the RESORT designation should be fiscally self-supporting in terms of the infrastructure and recreational facilities they provide.
- 3.11.2 The cluster of buildings and structures on RESORT properties will be encouraged so that environmental impacts may be limited and hazards avoided.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.11.3 This Plan designates existing RESORT uses as Resort.
- 3.11.4 The RESORT designation may be extended or created through Plan amendment where:
  - a. Additional lands are shown to meet the designation policies;
  - b. Comprehensive, integrated plans, including environmental impact assessments, hazard assessments, and feasibility studies, are presented;
  - c. Resort uses already exist; or,
  - d. Recreational development trends warrant such an extension or creation.
- 3.11.5 New RESORT areas:
  - a. May have minor geological and flood hazards which can be mitigated on-site;
  - b. Shall have adequate transportation access;
  - c. Shall have access to community services; and,
  - d. Shall have areas that are well-suited because of their location, scenic landscape, natural environment, physical characteristics, or natural amenities, for RESORT uses.

## USE POLICIES

3.11.6 RESORT areas may only be used for:

- a. Golf course;
- b. Outdoor recreation;
- c. Restaurant;
- d. Alcoholic beverage service;
- e. Tourist accommodation;
- f. Accessory employee residential;
- g. Commercial campground;
- h. Conservation;
- i. Low-density commercial recreation;
- j. Accessory retail uses; and,
- k. Marina.

3.11.7 Development in RESORT areas shall avoid or mitigate environmental impacts, maintain access to riparian foreshore areas, and avoid alienation of public amenities.

3.11.8 Development in RESORT areas shall include active transportation routes that connect RESORT areas to nearby outdoor recreation amenities.

3.11.9 All resort development, including the Sandpiper Resort, shall adhere to Plan policies related to the following:

- a. Tree management policies;
- b. Environmental management zone requirements;
- c. Culturally significant and archaeological sites;
- d. Shoreline protection policies;
- e. Elbow Creek Wildlife Corridor; and,
- f. Raptor nests.

3.11.10 Redevelopment proposals and zoning amendments for Sandpiper Resort should incorporate the following:

- a. Submission of a comprehensive resort plan outlining proposed land uses, amenities, and phasing of development;
- b. Redesign of the golf course is encouraged in a manner that retains 18 holes;
- c. No development shall occur north of Elbow Creek, with the exception of golf course fairways;

- d. No development shall occur within 50 metres of the natural boundary of the Harrison River, in accordance with Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C;
- e. Development shall avoid all protected heritage sites. The resort shall work with Indigenous communities and follow the *Heritage Conservation Act* to identify and develop a plan for all archaeological sites;
- f. The Regional District encourages the developer to work with the federal government (i.e., Transport Canada) to remove the private airstrip at Sandpiper Resort due to its potential impact on bird populations, particularly Bald Eagles, including risks such as nest abandonment, reduced reproductive success, and other stress-induced behavioural changes;
- g. Tourist accommodation uses are encouraged to incorporate additional visitor parking into development plans for the wildlife viewing area and proposed natural amenities of the Plan area.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.11.11 Land in the RESORT designation shall only be subdivided in accordance with the standard of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewage	8.0 hectares

## 3.12 RURAL (R)

The primary purpose of the RURAL designation is to maintain the existing rural character of the Plan area and provide for residential and low-density recreational land uses compatible with the Plan area. The designation is intended to provide a transition between the rural village areas, which support integrated growth, and the broader Plan area. This approach helps preserve the existing rural character and supports rural lifestyles, while also aligning with Plan policies that prioritize the protection of high ecological values outside neighbourhood plan areas.

The RURAL designation is applied to existing rural lots that have good road access but may have potential geohazard implications, environmental considerations, servicing limitations, hydrological conditions, or other constraints. Densities within the RURAL designation reflect these site conditions and are compatible with existing development and levels of servicing.

Subdivision policies of the RURAL designation accommodate the creation of new parcels 2.0 hectares in area or greater. In recognition of the difficulties of site development within the Plan area, subject to zoning amendment, the clustering of parcels may be permitted in the RURAL designation provided that the average density of the parent parcel being subdivided will not exceed one parcel per 2.0 hectares.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.12.1 RURAL areas are established to accommodate a variety of rural lifestyles and to maintain the low-density rural character of the Plan area.
- 3.12.2 RURAL areas shall generally limit the demand for infrastructure and public services through the provision of on-site services.
- 3.12.3 The Regional Board may consider a broad range of uses in keeping with rural lifestyles and the environmental policies of the Plan whenever possible.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.12.4 The Plan designates land with some or all the following characteristics as RURAL:
  - a. Outside the Agricultural Land Reserve;
  - b. Constrained by minor geohazards;
  - c. Predominantly rural in character;
  - d. Anticipated to be suitable for on-site servicing; and,
  - e. Adequate access to public roads.
- 3.12.5 RURAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment where:



- a. Additional lands are shown to meet the designation policy criteria above;
- b. It can be shown that a safe building site exists;
- c. Lands are shown to be suitable for on-site services; and,
- d. Impact on ecologically sensitive wildlife habitats can be managed through provincial best management practices and Plan policies.

3.12.6 Development on RURAL lands may be constrained by minor geotechnical or flooding hazards, however, it is anticipated that safe building sites can be identified and protected through site-specific measures.

## USE POLICIES

3.12.7 RURAL areas shall be used only for:

- a. Farm (excluding intensive agriculture);
- b. Conservation;
- c. Park and park reserve;
- d. Local institutional;
- e. Low-density commercial recreation;
- f. Single family residential; and,
- g. Associated rural residential.

3.12.8 Notwithstanding Policy 3.12.7 above, low-density commercial recreation uses in RURAL areas will only be permitted on parcels greater than 2.0 hectares.

3.12.9 Notwithstanding Policy 3.12.7 above, associated rural residential uses are permitted unless prohibited by the zoning bylaw.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.12.10 Land in RURAL areas shall be subdivided only in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the minimum parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewage	8.0 hectares

3.12.11 Notwithstanding Policy 3.12.10 above, density averaging may be permitted subject to a zoning amendment to facilitate clustering parcels to avoid hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas provided that the average density of the parcel being subdivided, excluding road and park dedications, will not exceed one parcel per 2.0

hectares, and provided that each parcel created is 0.2 hectares in size or greater and is suitable for its intended use.

3.12.12 Where a clustered subdivision is proposed, the developer shall be required to register a restrictive covenant in favour of the Regional District which prohibits the subdivision or alteration of hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas except for:

- a. Alterations or construction necessary to protect the residential parcels from geohazards or other hazards;
- b. The location of services; and,
- c. Trails and parks.

3.12.13 The covenanted area of a clustered subdivision should normally be continuous and not fragmented. However, in some circumstances, fragmentation may be desirable to avoid development in hazardous areas or preserve identified environmental values.

3.12.14 Where possible, the covenanted area of a clustered subdivision should:

- a. Border Crown land, park, or covenanted area on an adjacent property; and,
- b. Include stream corridors, wetlands, sensitive or hazardous slopes, and other areas of hazard or environmental value.

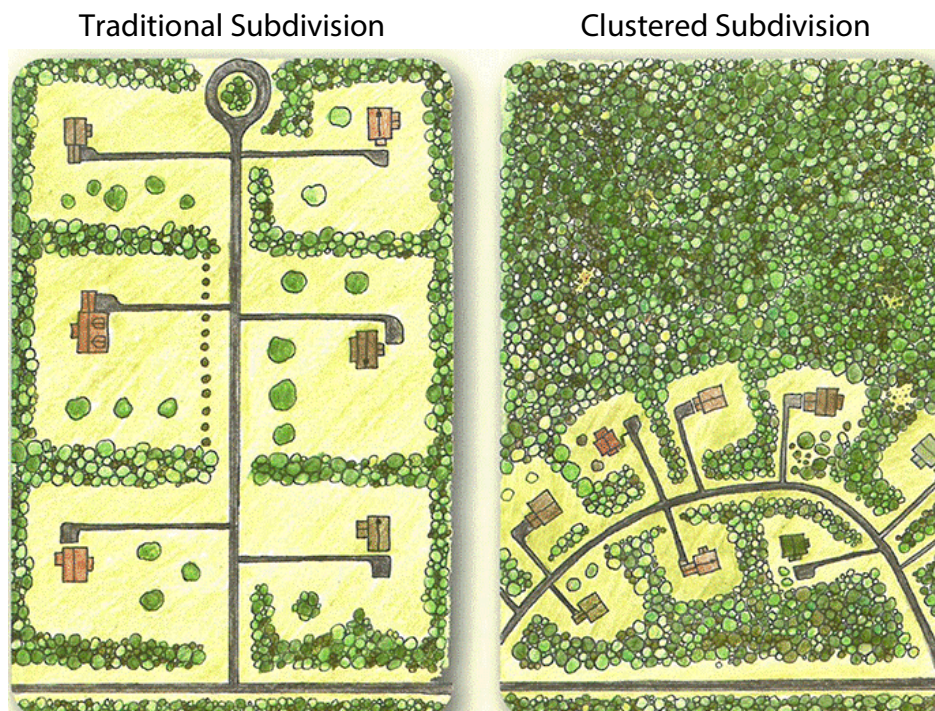


Figure 6: Clustered Subdivision

Source: Wildlife Conservation Society, Adirondack Program

- 3.12.15 The Regional Board or the Subdivision Approving Officer may require upon zoning amendment or subdivision of land that advance street and conceptual lot layout plans be provided to demonstrate how the proposed lot layout would not frustrate the viability of the future subdivision of adjacent lands.
- 3.12.16 Where a subdivision is proposed along the Agricultural Land Reserve boundary, the developer shall be required to demonstrate implementation of residential-agricultural edge planning tools through subdivision design, building design and layout, open space and landscape design, storm and groundwater management, and residential side buffer design to promote land use compatibility.

## 3.13 SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL (SR)

The SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL designation provides for a desirable, well-serviced, high-quality community with a suburban lifestyle with a rural context on the lands designated as Harrison Rise. Lands designated as SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL reflect the ideals of complete communities with well-established connectivity to active transportation and transit. These lands are adjacent to local services, such as parks, recreation, local commercial, and industrial.

Where lands cannot connect to approved community water and sanitary sewer services, the minimum parcel size in SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL areas is 2.0 hectares. The minimum parcel size may be reduced to 0.5 hectares where the proposed development will be served by an approved community water system, or 510 square metres where served by both a Regional District community water and sanitary sewer system. This designation reflects integrated Regional District community water and sanitary sewer systems for the rural village areas in the future.

### GENERAL POLICIES

3.13.1 The design and layout of new developments in SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL areas should include special consideration of the following:

- a. The character, scale, and layout of existing adjacent residential areas;
- b. Updating and improving servicing facilities of existing areas;
- c. The traffic flow on existing residential streets and pedestrian circulation;
- d. Conservation of areas of natural or cultural significance; and,
- e. The orderly growth of residential communities.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

3.13.2 SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL lands are generally:

- a. Above the floodplain and generally free from geological hazards;
- b. Already zoned for suburban residential densities or subdivided into small parcels;
- c. Easily accessible by public roads;
- d. Large parcels with a significant portion of the property suitable for small lot development;
- e. Located outside the Agricultural Land Reserve; and,
- f. Areas anticipated to be suitable for on-site sewage disposal at the planned density.

3.13.3 SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment, provided that:

- a. Comprehensive, integrated plans are presented that identify additional lands meeting the designation policies;
- b. Development trends and community needs warrant such an extension or creation; and,
- c. The creation or extension does not contravene the Plan objectives and policies.

3.13.4 New bare land strata developments shall be fiscally self-supporting in terms of the infrastructure provided.

## USE POLICIES

3.13.5 SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL areas shall be used only for:

- a. Single family residential;
- b. Accessory dwelling unit;
- c. Park and park reserve; and,
- d. Recreation.

## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.13.6 Land in the SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL areas shall be subdivided only in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewage	2.0 hectares
Approved community water & on-site sewage disposal	0.5 hectares
Approved community water & Regional District community sanitary sewer	510 square metres

3.13.7 Where land is proposed to be subdivided and a portion of the parcel is subject to hazards which make the lands unsafe for residential development, each parcel created by subdivision shall meet the minimum parcel size policies of this Plan, exclusive of the hazard lands.



- 3.13.8 To achieve a connected and comprehensive development over time, development proposals should provide street and conceptual lot layout plans to demonstrate how the proposed lot layout would facilitate future development of adjacent lands, including subdivision, road connection, and trail improvements.
- 3.13.9 Water systems serving developments in the SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL designation shall provide sufficient water flows for fire protection and adequate fire hydrants subject to the *Fraser Valley Regional District Subdivision Development Servicing Bylaw*.
- 3.13.10 Subdivision and development of land in the SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL areas should limit impacts and disruption on existing and nearby homes by following the Regional District's *Good Neighbour Practices*, including containing waste and litter onsite, parking on-site, avoiding degradation of linear parks/sidewalks, and communication with neighbours by providing contact and project information.

## 3.14 VILLAGE CENTRE (VC)

The VILLAGE CENTRE area in Beach Camp will accommodate a mix of neighbourhood-scale civic and public uses (e.g., medical centre, elder's care facility), commercial, and residential land uses. It will support a Main Street concept connected to the Harrison River waterfront to the south and an upgraded four-way intersection to the north. The area will be connected via transit and served by a pedestrian network connecting to community parks, shoreline trails, and other non-motorized waterfront recreational amenities. This area will serve as a commercial hub that will be supported by the residents in the overall Electoral Area C.

The Beach Camp lands and part of the Crown land north of Beach Camp have significant development potential and the capacity to support future community infrastructure. The Regional District acknowledges Indigenous rights and title interests over Crown land. The strength of these claims are strong due to evidence of past settlements and archaeological sites of Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets. Both Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets have indicated a shared interest to co-develop the crown land to the north of the Beach Camp area. When the land claims and Crown tenure are settled, the Crown land area has the potential to be redeveloped into similar uses as the Beach Camp area. Together, they are designated as the future VILLAGE CENTRE of Harrison Mills (Schedule 2A - Land Use Designations - Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan).

The VILLAGE CENTRE designation area is an ideal location for a future neighbourhood centre for the following reasons:

- » Proximity to the Harrison River shoreline
- » Located at the junction of Hemlock Valley, Sandpiper Resort, Morris Valley, existing neighbourhood local commercial establishments, and the future Sts'ailes medical centre facility
- » Future intersection improvement to create one major intersection by closing the existing Morris Valley Road and the Chehalis Forest Service Road
- » Future potential transit connection

Harrison Mills is a predominantly residential community with limited commercial uses providing services and amenities. Residents rely on travel outside of the community to neighbouring urban centres to access daily needs, groceries, medical services, shopping, and entertainment. While the current population of Harrison Mills is unlikely to support additional commercial uses, over time, through modest densification to accommodate new residents and visitors, opportunities to increase the services provided locally will be made possible.

This section presents actionable policies that focus on supporting small-scale businesses, local employment opportunities, and collaboration with property owners to maximize

potential opportunities. The policies are intended for the Regional District, landowners, and developers prior to, during, and post-development.

## Local Business & Employment

Additional commercial uses are needed in Harrison Mills to meet community needs, create local employment opportunities, as well as to attract and retain younger demographics and families in the neighbourhood. Co-locating residential and commercial uses within mixed-use development offers the potential to support more services and amenities for a growing population. These policies intend to support additional commercial development to meet community needs both now and in the future in a manner that respects the existing neighbourhood character.

## Collaboration with Community Partners

To ensure that any potential future development meets community needs, a collaborative approach among community partners is critical. These policies intend to support collaboration between the Regional District, existing property owners, and Indigenous community partners.

## GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.14.1 Land designated VILLAGE CENTRE should accommodate the commercial needs of the local community.
- 3.14.2 Development proposals shall ensure that adequate on-site parking facilities and safe access and egress are provided.
- 3.14.3 Development proposals shall satisfy the requirements of the Development Permit Area 6-C to ensure high-quality architectural design by incorporating the historical and rural character of the area in selecting the proposed use, design, and layout of the new development.
- 3.14.4 Single storey commercial use is discouraged.
- 3.14.5 The provision of parking spaces in the VILLAGE CENTRE area will be based on the findings of a shared-use parking study. Shared parking prevents the construction of large, underutilized parking areas that detract from the community experience during off-peak times. To facilitate parking in this area, a shared-use parking agreement should be prepared.
- 3.14.6 The Regional District encourages developers to prioritize small-scale locally serving businesses to locate where commercial uses are permitted within the Plan area. Small-scale businesses will benefit the community by:

- a. Providing access to services and amenities to allow current and future residents to meet their daily needs; and,
- b. Creating local employment opportunities.

3.14.7 The Regional District discourages the incorporation of drive-through businesses in mixed residential-commercial buildings.

3.14.8 The Regional District will collaborate with provincial partners (e.g., Ministry of Transportation and Transit) to encourage developers to explore redevelopment options that seamlessly integrate commercial and residential uses and respect the existing neighbourhood character. For example:

- a. Development should incorporate future ground floor lobbies with multiple windows in mixed residential-commercial or multi-unit residential buildings to create a visual connection to the street; and,
- b. At the time of zoning amendment, the developer shall demonstrate how subsequent development phases will continue to contribute to the character, quality, and functionality of each site in their development application.

3.14.9 The Regional Board will be a supportive partner to Sts'ailes in the anticipated development of a medical and community care centre at Beach Camp.

## DESIGNATION POLICIES

3.14.10 VILLAGE CENTRE designation may be extended to the north of Beach Camp in the area designated as CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT area.

3.14.11 VILLAGE CENTRE designation may be extended or created through Plan amendment where:

- a. Additional commercial services to serve the local community, tourist recreation uses, and the travelling public are needed;
- b. Architectural design is respectful of the natural and agricultural character;
- c. Layout and design address impacts on neighbouring residential land uses;
- d. Storm water, wastewater, and water supply facilities are adequate;
- e. Suitable access and egress exist or can be developed;
- f. Traffic and parking can be accommodated;
- g. Environmental management policies and objectives can be met;
- h. Hazard mitigation requirements can be met; and,
- i. Indigenous shared interests are accommodated.

## USE POLICIES

3.14.12 VILLAGE CENTRE designation shall be used for only:

- a. Mixed residential-commercial;
- b. Multi-unit residential;
- c. Apartment residential;
- d. Tourist accommodation;
- e. Local tourist commercial;
- f. Local commercial;
- g. Local institutional;
- h. Marina;
- i. Park and park reserve; and,
- j. Conservation.

3.14.13 New or expanded VILLAGE CENTRE designations should be:

- a. Accessible from a collector or arterial road to avoid increased traffic through residential areas;
- b. Designed to ensure a high-quality architectural standard which incorporates accessibility principles, respects the character, and does not reduce the quality of life for the surrounding community;
- c. Designed to incorporate suitable buffer areas or setback distances around commercial development;
- d. Served by an approved community water system; and,
- e. Served by an approved community sanitary sewer system or where connection to an approved community sanitary sewer system cannot be achieved by an on-site sewage disposal system.

3.14.14 VILLAGE CENTRE lands shall be designed to incorporate the form and character detailed in the Harrison Mills Village Centre Development Permit Area 6-C.

3.14.15 Future development shall have a buffer to screen the view of new development from Morris Valley Road and adjacent natural areas as well as to protect wildlife corridors.

3.14.16 The Regional Board will secure additional community benefits such as parks, trails, pedestrian and cycling networks, as part of new development at the time of zoning amendment.

3.14.17 At the time of a development application, the Regional District will be open to exploring innovative living formats and building forms that address local design



challenges and contribute to the character and quality of the Harrison Mills neighbourhood.

3.14.18 Notwithstanding Policy 3.14.12, within the Crown land section of the VILLAGE CENTRE area, the Regional Board may deem additional land uses similar to the VILLAGE CENTRE designation consistent with this Plan where they are led by Indigenous communities. The Regional Board may consider the following in making such a decision:

- a. Environmental assessment;
- b. Archaeological impact assessment;
- c. Geohazard assessment;
- d. Adequate road access and frontage;
- e. Fire protection;
- f. Emergency management;
- g. Consistency with the Harrison Mills Local Servicing Plan;
- h. Regional District local service area impacts and agreements;
- i. Traffic impact assessment; and,
- j. Integration with the overall Plan policies.

## 3.15 VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL (VR)

The existing Lake Errock community emerged as a predominantly residential neighbourhood in the late 1960s with the approval of the first subdivision built at the lake. It was primarily intended to be a recreational community with modest-sized lots. The development concept of small-footprint seasonal cabins supported the development of on-site systems. Over time, it has experienced an increased number of permanent residents and the replacement of small cabins with large homes that maximize the buildable area. The lot sizes can range from approximately 750 square metres closer to the lake to 2,500 square metres in the periphery of the community. Most of the lot sizes are equivalent to those often found in fully serviced suburban areas. Discussions with Fraser Health indicated knowledge of failed septic systems in the community. The Regional District installed a community water system that connected most of the parcels through a service area creation process in 2009. The community is not served by a community sanitary sewer or storm water system. Small lot, dense development serviced by private on-site septic systems, with wastewater discharge in close proximity to Lake Errock, poses potential hydrogeological risks and continues to be a concern for the Lake Errock neighbourhood.

The Plan policies intend to limit further small lot subdivisions without the connection to community water and sanitary sewer systems. It will also restrict impervious surfaces and run-off which may negatively impact the lake. It is anticipated that the eventual transition to a community sewer system will be achieved through a combination of federal or provincial government grants, the introduction of financial tools such as service area taxation, and Development Cost Charges, and acquiring community benefits from new development.

### GENERAL POLICIES

3.15.1 Outside of the zoned densities, the Regional Board will not be supportive of development applications for increased density or infill subdivisions in the VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL lands until such time that they are connected to both Regional District community water and community sanitary sewer systems.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

3.15.2 VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL lands are generally:

- a. Areas that may have minor geological hazards;
- b. Areas with adequate transportation access;
- c. Areas suitable for seasonal and year-round residential development; and,
- d. Areas suited to VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL because of their location, scenic landscape, natural environment, and physical characteristics.

3.15.3 VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment provided:

- a. Comprehensive, integrated plans are presented which demonstrate that additional lands that meet the designation policies are identified;
- b. Development trends and community needs warrant such an extension or creation; and,
- c. The creation or extension does not contravene the Plan objectives and policies.

3.15.4 The Regional District will not support new bare land strata developments unless they are connected to a Regional District community water and sanitary sewer system. New bare land strata development shall be fiscally self-supporting in terms of common amenities provided.

## **USE POLICIES**

3.15.5 VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL areas shall be used only for:

- a. Residential; and,
- b. Park and park reserve.

## **SUBDIVISION POLICIES**

3.15.6 Land in the VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL areas shall be subdivided only with approved community water and Regional District community sanitary sewer.

## 3.16 VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL (VRR)

Tapadera Estates was originally developed in 1992 as a seasonal recreational development. Over time, it has evolved into a primarily year-round community. As recreational developments such as campgrounds or holiday home parks evolve into year-round living, there is an increased demand to accommodate land uses that meet the needs for permanent living. In Tapadera Estates, this shift has led to a rise in variance requests, including allowances for oversized sheds, reduced setbacks between structures, and enclosed or partially enclosed decks to create additional interior space, such as mudrooms. Requests have also been made to permit park model trailers on smaller RV-designated lots.

However, Tapadera Estates was not originally designed with standard fire separation, electrical power capacity, and servicing infrastructure necessary to accommodate year-round living. Additionally, parts of the development are within the Harrison River floodplain and experience frequent freshet flooding. Considering these challenges, the Regional Board issued a resolution in 2007 to not approve further variances until these issues are resolved.

The purpose of the VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL designation is to encourage a comprehensive review of current day needs of Tapadera Estates and to plan for a transition of the historic resort recreational development to year-round living through a thorough review of the servicing, fire separation, geohazard, and electrical power capacity.

### GENERAL POLICIES

- 3.16.1 The Regional Board will not be supportive of development applications for increased density or infill subdivisions in the VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL lands until such time that they are connected to both Regional District community water and community sanitary sewer systems.
- 3.16.2 Where Regional District community water and sanitary sewer systems do not exist in VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL areas, no new bare land strata lots will be approved until a comprehensive analysis, supporting the feasibility of such services, has been completed.
- 3.16.3 Bare land strata developments should be fiscally self-supporting in terms of the infrastructure provided.
- 3.16.4 Bare land strata developments should provide recreational facilities that are self-supporting.

### DESIGNATION POLICIES

- 3.16.5 VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL lands are generally:

- a. Areas with mitigatable geological hazards;
- b. Areas with good transportation access;
- c. Areas suitable for seasonal and year-round residential development; and,
- d. Areas suited for VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL because of their location, scenic landscape, natural environment and physical characteristics.

3.16.6 VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL areas may be extended or created through Plan amendment where additional lands are shown to meet the designation policies above, where comprehensive, integrated plans are presented, and where recreational development trends warrant such extension or creation.

3.16.7 Zoning amendment applications to permit private resort development should be comprehensive, integrated plans that address servicing issues, code standards, fire separation, natural features, public access, and environmental protection.

## USE POLICIES

3.16.8 VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL areas shall be used only for:

- a. Private resort development;
- b. Park and park reserve; and,
- c. Recreation.

3.16.9 The Regional Board will require the following when considering future ad-hoc variance permits or redevelopment applications at Tapadera Estates:

- a. Comprehensive technical assessment related to fire protection and spatial separation reviewing the density and siting of the structures;
- b. Comprehensive flood avoidance and mitigation measures;
- c. Comprehensive servicing study;
- d. Connection to the Regional District community sanitary sewer system;
- e. Confirmation of the capacity of the electrical system; and,
- f. Connection to and extension of Eagle Point Park.



## SUBDIVISION POLICIES

3.16.10 Land in the VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL areas shall be subdivided only in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities, except that the parcel size shall not be less than:

LEVELS OF SERVICE	MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE
On-site services – water & sewer	2.0 hectares
Approved community water & on-site septic	0.5 hectares
Approved community water & Regional District community sanitary sewer	130 square metres for Private Resort Development



## TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY





# 4 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

## 4.0 Overview

Transportation policies aim to ensure there is a safe and efficient transportation system within the Plan area. Transportation includes the road network, rail network, transit systems, and active transportation routes (walking, cycling, etc.).

The Plan supports the ongoing expansion of the transportation network to meet the needs of existing and future residents, businesses, visitors, and travellers. The Plan advocates for and supports improvements to highways, public transportation, and active transportation routes. Achieving these improvements over time will require continued collaboration between the Regional District, the province, developers, and the community.

The Plan acknowledges that while the primary purpose of highways is to facilitate the efficient movement of goods and services, highways also connect communities. Highways play an integral role in shaping communities, particularly the historic rural villages within the Plan area, such as Morris Valley, Harrison Mills, Lake Errock, and multiple Indigenous communities. The Plan policies envision two future growth areas: Harrison Mills and Lake Errock, which are both dissected by integral highway infrastructure. It is essential that Highway planning considers the integration and interconnectedness of existing and planned communities in conjunction with the highway's purpose of serving as an essential corridor for the movement of traffic and transportation of goods. The Regional District is committed to working closely with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and BC Transit to ensure regional transportation goals are balanced with rural village safety and interconnection needs.

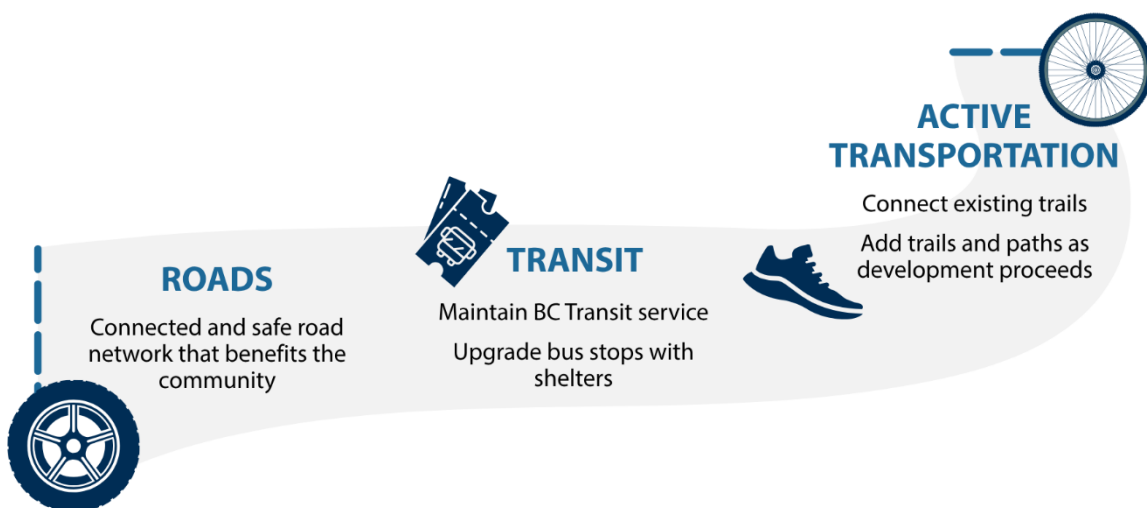


Figure 7: Main Transportation Policy Areas

## 4.1 Transportation Network

### Road Network

Area C is well connected to the provincial highway system. The two significant roads within the Plan area are Lougheed Highway and Morris Valley Road, identified in Map 5 – Utility and Transportation Network.

Lougheed Highway is a two-lane controlled access provincial highway designed for through traffic and is expected to provide for high overall travel speeds with minimum interference to movement. While its primary function is to facilitate regional connectivity to larger centres in the west and east, it also serves as a critical part of the local road network within Area C.

Morris Valley Road is a two-lane arterial road serving Harrison Mills, Morris Valley, the Sts'ailes Reserve in the northern part of the Plan area, as well as a connection to Sasquatch Mountain Resort beyond the Plan area boundary. The purpose of an arterial road is to serve as a continuous route for through traffic and is usually fed by two or more collector roads.

Ministry of Transportation and Transit is the primary agency responsible for roads, road right-of-way improvements, and maintenance in Area C. There is also resource roads used to access recreation areas which are overseen by the Ministry of Forests. The Regional District does not own or maintain roads within the Plan area. However, the Regional District works together with the province to plan for an efficient and safe road network.

The Regional District recognizes that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit prioritizes the efficient movement of goods on controlled access highways. Members of the community use local roads to engage in active transportation. The absence of well-defined road shoulders and designated cycling lanes, coupled with traffic, can create discomfort and potential hazards for non-vehicular road users. These scenarios also greatly restrict residents' ability to move between rural village areas through an active transportation mode. Ideally, a comprehensive active transportation network should be identified and gradually developed, prioritizing routes leading to community gathering spaces and commercial services.

The Regional Board supports increasing active transportation in the Plan area. Active transportation includes all human-powered modes of transportation, including walking, biking, rolling, and using a mobility aid, like a wheelchair. Priorities for active transportation include connections that link:

- » Rural villages to Lougheed Highway crossings
- » Communities to services and amenities
- » Communities to transit stops

Priorities for active transportation in the Regional District are outlined in the *FVRD Active Transportation Network Plan*, and where relevant priorities are reflected in the OCP. Undeveloped road rights-of-way within the Plan area present excellent opportunities for establishing a trail network. In some cases, park dedication or land acquisition may be necessary to connect trail segments.

Areas between Agassiz and Mission, referred to as the North of Fraser Route, are not currently served by public transportation. One of the strategic priorities of the Regional Board has been to expand public transit north of the Fraser River. The Regional Board and BC Transit are exploring the feasibility of implementing transit services between the District of Kent and the City of Mission; however, this route is contingent on provincial funding availability. This process will include consultation and public engagement with area residents.

## POLICY

### Road Design & Access

- 4.1.1 **Frontage.** Each new parcel of land should have frontage on and reasonable and practical access to a public road. For new parcels, access by easement and access by panhandle may only be permitted when no other reasonable options are available.
- 4.1.2 **Safe access.** Each new parcel of land shall be provided with adequate and safe access for all traffic including emergency vehicles.
- 4.1.3 **Driveways.** Access for residential uses on side roads should be constructed in accordance with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit standards outlined in *Location, Design and Construction of Residential Driveways on Side Roads Outside Municipalities*.
- 4.1.4 **Connections to existing road network for new developments.** The Regional Board will require that significant development proposals provide a minimum of two connections to the existing road network to increase the resiliency of new developments and ensure the safety of residents and responders in cases of emergency and disaster. The Regional District may not support developments that propose closed road networks or single access.
- 4.1.5 **New road design.** New road alignments should be designed to provide:
  - a. Extension and connection to existing or proposed roadways adjacent to or beyond the subdivision;
  - b. Alternate route choices, where possible;
  - c. Minimal or no stream crossings through environmentally sensitive areas;
  - and,



- d. Adequate and safe access for all land uses consistent with the level of traffic generated and the need for emergency access.
- 4.1.6 **Road shoulders.** The Regional Board will advocate for upgrades to Lougheed Highway to include road shoulders in consideration of the *FVRD Active Transportation Network Plan* and *Chilliwack and FVRD Transit Future Action Plan*, to provide suitable and safe designated paths for pedestrian and cycling uses and opportunities for bus stops.
- 4.1.7 **Active transportation infrastructure improvements.** The Regional Board will advocate for pedestrian crossings and improved active transportation infrastructure where development within rural village areas occurs along the Lougheed Highway, which poses an increased need for safe connections.
- 4.1.8 **Culvert capacity analysis.** The Regional Board will advocate to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit for a culvert capacity analysis that applies a climate change lens along highway corridors.
- 4.1.9 **Lougheed Highway improvements.** The Regional Board will advocate for the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to undertake necessary improvements to support, accommodate, and improve safety where rural village development in Harrison Mills and Lake Errock intersects the Lougheed Highway.
- 4.1.10 **New transportation networks within the Agricultural Land Reserve.** Development of new transportation networks within the Agricultural Land Reserve may require approval from the Agricultural Land Commission.

## Traffic Impact

- 4.1.11 **Traffic impact and access.** The Regional District may require that zoning amendment and subdivision applications include a traffic impact analysis assessment prepared by a Qualified Professional.
- 4.1.12 **Resident concerns.** The Regional District recognizes impacts to local road safety and conditions resulting from resource extraction industries operating in Area C and will continue to amplify resident concerns to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement, and/or local police.
- 4.1.13 **Mitigate industrial traffic impacts.** The Regional District will advocate for opportunities to increase road safety and mitigate impacts from industrial traffic and recommend that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit should take these concerns into account when undertaking highway and road network improvements.

## Railway Crossings

- 4.1.14 **Safety and noise standards.** New residential subdivisions adjacent to railway lines should provide adequate safety and noise standards, as outlined in the *Federation of Canadian Municipalities guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations*.

## Transit

- 4.1.15 **Chilliwack-FVRD Transit Future Action Plan.** The Regional Board supports the implementation of the priorities identified in the *Chilliwack-FVRD Transit Future Action Plan*.
- 4.1.16 **Transit service expansion.** The Regional Board advocates for the expansion of transit service along the Lougheed Highway corridor to serve a growing population.
- 4.1.17 **Transit and new development.** Development will be concentrated within rural village areas and should be serviced by transit. Expansion of transit services to serve rural village area build-out shall be considered as part of all major zoning and Official Community Plan amendments.
- 4.1.18 **Indigenous communities.** The Regional Board supports the expansion of transit services which serve Indigenous communities, including Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes. The Regional Board will work with Indigenous communities in the planning and delivery of transit services and will jointly advocate to the province for increased transit options within Electoral Area C.

## Active Transportation

- 4.1.19 **Active Transportation Network Plan.** The Regional Board supports the implementation of the priorities identified in the *Fraser Valley Regional District Active Transportation Network Plan*.
- 4.1.20 **Accessibility lens.** The Regional District will ensure that accessibility is a primary consideration for all active transportation initiatives undertaken in Area C.
- 4.1.21 **Major development.** The Regional Board will require that major development proposals provide multi-modal connectivity within the development area and ensure connectivity to the existing active transportation network, consistent with the principles of the *Fraser Valley Regional District Active Transportation Network Plan*.





## INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES



# 5 INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

## 5.0 Overview

Future growth in Area C will be characterized by concentrated development in rural village areas. These rural village areas will be distinguished by distinct development boundaries and will be serviced by publicly owned, high-quality community water and sanitary sewer systems. Rural lands beyond the village areas will be generally serviced by on-site services and suitable only for low-density development.

New community systems will be required in the established rural village areas as major development is proposed. The policies of this Plan recognize that Regional District infrastructure and services, water and sanitary sewer, fire, parks and trails, storm water, street lighting, and transit, will need to expand as density increases in the village areas. Service expansion that is sustainable, effective, high quality, efficient, minimally impactful to the natural environment, and financially viable is prioritized. Infrastructure and services are vital aspects of the community as they contribute to the overall health, safety, and quality of life for residents in Area C.

Additional Plan policies provide a strategy to avoid ad-hoc sewage system and water system development areas outside of the established rural village areas. The proliferation of small-scale systems resulting in overlapping connections throughout the community can create financial and operational challenges and inefficient service. A centralized servicing strategy for the rural village areas will complement the two existing water systems owned and operated by the Regional District.

There continues to be a legacy of on-site servicing and historic small-scale community services throughout Area C and within Indigenous communities. In some cases, these systems are failing to meet modern quality standards and increasing demand. Additionally, numerous facilities within the Regional District and Metro Vancouver that previously accepted Trucked Liquid Waste (TLW) from private on-site systems within the region have increased restrictions and limited intake from regional sources. This has added additional pressure for a regional TLW solution. The Regional District recognizes the importance of transitioning towards centralized community sanitary sewer systems within rural village areas that serve the needs of both on and off-reserve populations within Area C.

## POLICY

- 5.0.1 **Servicing coordination with Indigenous communities.** The Regional District will continue engagement with Indigenous communities to explore opportunities for the

provision of Regional District services to reserve lands where it is deemed feasible and where there is a demonstrated interest in service provision.

- 5.0.2 **New infrastructure within Agricultural Land Reserve.** Development of new infrastructure within the Agricultural Land Reserve may require approval from the Agricultural Land Commission.

## 5.1 Water Supply

Residents of Area C obtain drinking water from a variety of sources, including private water systems, individual on-site water supplies, and two Regional District Water Systems in Lake Errock and Morris Valley, which service the majority of residents. Improvements to the existing Regional District systems will be necessary to serve the growth envisioned in the rural village areas outlined in the Neighbourhood Plans. It is important that the community is served by a high-quality and reliable water supply that will be sustainable over the long-term and resilient to a changing climate. Where appropriate, this Plan supports public ownership and operation of any future water supply systems that service rural village areas.

### Regional District Water Systems

#### Lake Errock Water System

This Regional District water system was established in 2009 and currently serves 162 properties. The system includes a well, pump stations, and a reservoir along with distribution mains and fire hydrants. Detailed servicing expansion plans to accommodate rural village growth are discussed in the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan.

#### Morris Valley Water System

This Regional District water system was established in 2001 and serves four stratas for a total of 442 individual strata properties. The system includes a well, pump house and a reservoir along with distribution mains, fire hydrants, and a bulk water fill station.

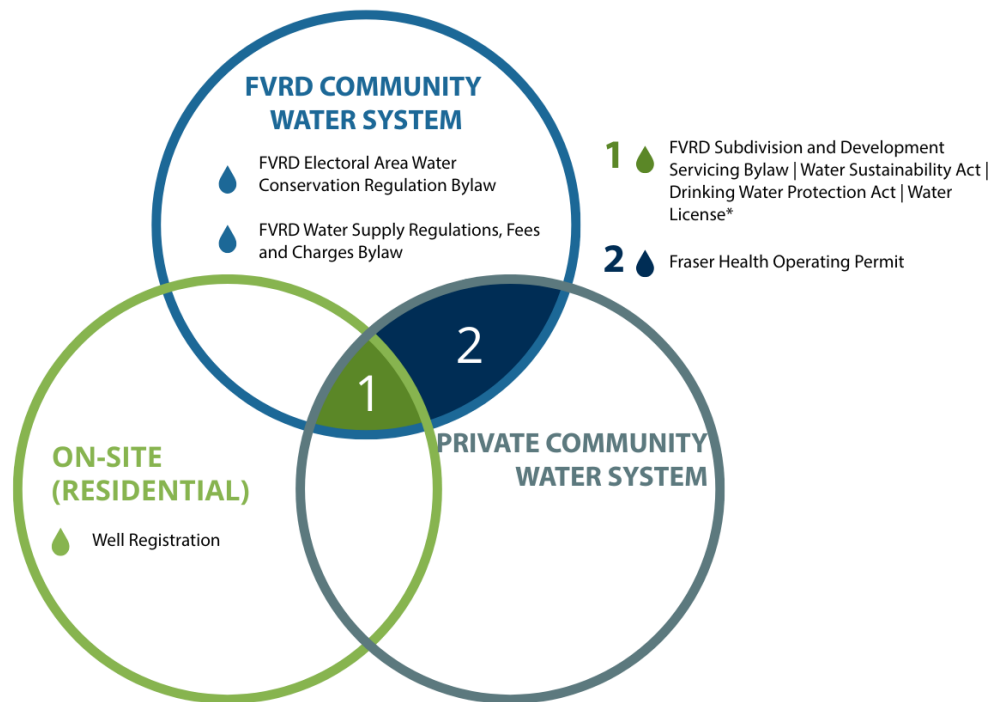
#### Private Community Systems & On-site

There are three private community systems within the Plan area that are regulated under the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. The Regional District is not involved with the licensing or registration of these systems, which is undertaken by the province, and has limited information on the number of users, infrastructure, and status of the systems. The systems include:

- » South Lake Errock Improvement District
- » Harrison Bay Improvement District
- » Pretty System



Many of the residents of the Plan area obtain drinking water through individual, on-site ground or surface sources. Private water supplies are regulated through the Fraser Health Authority and water licenses are managed through the province.



\*Water License is only required for any non-domestic purpose, such as irrigation, commercial or industrial use under WSA.

Figure 8: Sphere of Authority for Water Systems

## POLICY

- 5.1.1 **Community systems restricted to rural villages.** The Regional Board supports establishing Regional District community water systems within rural village areas as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plans. Lands located outside of rural village areas are to maintain low densities, rely on individual on-site water provision, and should not anticipate opportunities to connect to community systems.
- 5.1.2 **New commercial development.** The Regional District will require that all new commercial developments within the NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL and VILLAGE CENTRE designations shall provide a connection to a Regional District community water system as established in the *Fraser Valley Regional District Subdivision Development Servicing Bylaw*.
- 5.1.3 **New residential subdivision.** The Regional District will require that subdivisions which create parcels of less than 1.0 hectare shall provide a connection to a Regional

District community water system as established in the *Fraser Valley Regional District Subdivision Development Servicing Bylaw*.

- 5.1.4 **Connection to the existing water system.** The Regional District will require that extensions to a Regional District community water systems shall be paid for by developers.
- 5.1.5 **Funding for future expansions.** The Regional District will explore alternative funding mechanisms to offset capital infrastructure costs at the time of development.
- 5.1.6 **Guide to service delivery.** Water system service delivery, governance cost recovery, priorities and acquisition policies are set out in the *Sustainable Service Delivery for Community Water Systems: Policies to Guide Service Delivery in FVRD's Electoral Areas* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time.
- 5.1.7 **Expansion of water utility to Sq'ewlets.** The Regional District will explore the feasibility of a long-term agreement for the expansion of the Regional District Lake Errock Community Water System to provide service to Sq'ewlets.
- 5.1.8 **Protection of existing water supply and sources.** The Regional District will ensure that the provision of safe and reliable water supplies, and the protection of existing water supplies and sources will be a consideration in all zoning and official community plan amendments and subdivision referrals.
- 5.1.9 **Sustainable on-site water provision through development.** The Regional District may require that applications for zoning and official community plan amendments to facilitate new development not served by the Regional District community water system include a report by a Qualified Professional engineer. Where required, the report should:
  - a. Provide reasonable rationale and assurances respecting the feasibility and long-term suitability of the proposed water supply;
  - b. Assess the compatibility of the proposed water supply with other on-site services (e.g., sewage disposal field) or nearby services on adjacent lands;
  - c. Address the cumulative impacts the proposed water supply may have on the source and determine whether the proposed supply will adversely affect existing water supplies drawing from the same source; and,
  - d. In the case of groundwater sources, identify the type of aquifer from which the well will draw and any implications of the aquifer type for drinking water quality and quantity as well as the sustainability of the supply.
- 5.1.10 **Reliance on water treatment systems.** The Regional District will not support individual, on-site water supplies which rely solely on treatment systems to produce

potable water that meets the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* for new subdivisions and development.

5.1.11 **Contamination prevention.** The Regional District encourages owners of water supplies to implement source control measures to prevent contamination of water sources and supply systems.

5.1.12 **Groundwater protection.** The Regional District strongly encourages landowners, in accordance with the *Ground Water Protection Regulation*, to ensure the following:

- a. Promptly deactivate or close unused wells to prevent contamination of the aquifer; and,
- b. Flood-proof wells in locations subject to potential flood flows.

5.1.13 **Water conservation.** The Regional District encourages development proposals to consider water conservation measures and water recycling in line with provincial water conservation guidelines and the *Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw*.

5.1.14 **Source protection.** Wellhead or source protection implementation for the Lake Errock Water Supply System wells should continue to be completed as outlined in the *Electoral Area Source Water Protection Assessments (2015) Report*.

## 5.2 Sewage Disposal

Area C is served by a combination of sanitary treatment options ranging from shared or private treatment systems regulated by the Ministry of Environment to individual, on-site septic systems.

The policies of the Plan support establishing a single publicly owned community sanitary sewer system to serve each rural village area. A publicly owned sanitary sewer system will support the future growth envisioned in the rural village areas while ensuring an efficient and high-quality system. Rural areas outside the established rural village areas will continue being serviced by individual, on-site systems.

### Transition to Sanitary Sewer

The demand for increased density and a higher level of service provision in Area C necessitates a comprehensive strategy for sanitary sewer provision in the rural village areas. Ensuring an efficient sanitary sewer service that avoids ad-hoc collection of individual systems is critical to long-term operational efficiency and financial viability. Plan policies support the expansion of the existing Morris Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant to service the anticipated growth within the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area and the establishment of a new

sanitary sewer system in Lake Errock to service the anticipated growth within the future Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area.

Regional District-owned and maintained sanitary sewer systems will serve new rural village growth, connect existing lots as on-site sewage system replacement is necessary, and serve commercial developments as needed. To ensure a high-quality treatment standard, operational efficiency, and oversight, the system will be publicly owned and operated to a Class A standard. These policies intend to ensure that the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater will be conducted in a manner that does not pose risks to human health or the environment.

The Regional Board has adopted the *Regional District Sustainable Sanitary Sewer Service Provision – Policies to Guide Service Delivery in Electoral Areas of the FVRD* to guide sanitary sewer development and expansion in rural areas which outlines objectives to:

- » Ensure community sanitary sewer systems are effectively managed
- » Prioritize recommended upgrades and initiatives related to Regional District sewer service provision
- » Guide sanitary sewer service provision through the acquisition of new and existing community sanitary sewer systems
- » Regulate on-site individual sanitary sewer systems
- » Guide the review of the sanitary sewer servicing components of development applications

In addition to these overarching policies, two key documents provide specific guidance for the neighbourhood plan areas. These are: for the two neighbourhood plan areas the Regional District will rely on the:

1. Harrison Rise Feasibility Study<sup>15</sup> and the associated Local Servicing Plan which outline objectives to:
  - » Identify options for the future establishment of a sanitary sewer system for Lake Errock
2. Harrison Mills Feasibility Study<sup>16</sup> and the associated Local Servicing Plan which outline objectives to:
  - » Identify options for the expansion of the Morris Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant

Together, the policy framework and the neighbourhood specific studies ensure that sanitary sewer is planned in a coordinated, sustainable, and locally responsive manner.

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<sup>15</sup> Urban Systems Ltd. (2024, May 30). *Servicing Feasibility Study for Harrison Rise*.

<sup>16</sup> Urban Systems Ltd. (2024, April 15). *Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Financial Analysis*.

### Private Systems

There are several privately operated community sanitary sewer systems within the Plan area. The feasibility of the consolidation of the systems and transitioning private system users to Regional District sanitary sewer systems in the future should be explored through neighbourhood plans and be restricted to rural village areas. Known private systems include:

- » Leq'á:mel First Nation
- » Sq'éwlets
- » Sts'ailes
- » Tapadera

## **Growth Expectations**

The Plan policies provide flexibility in development scenarios. As the rural village areas are developed or redeveloped for residential and mixed uses, the total number of people in Area C will increase substantially over the life of this Plan.

Plan policies also consider Indigenous community growth potential. Increasing residential development on and adjacent to Indigenous reserve lands has the potential to increase the populations of members and non-members. However, this development is dependent on the existing servicing capabilities of the communities. Plan policies advocate for exploring joint servicing arrangements between the Regional District and Indigenous communities, where feasible.

The Plan acknowledges that additional growth, beyond what is considered for the life of this Plan, may potentially be accommodated in the future Deroche Bench rural village area. Recognizing the feasibility of establishing an additional neighbourhood planning area and the need for financially viable servicing systems, the substantial build-out of planned rural village areas in Harrison Mills and Lake Errock is critical. This approach ensures efficient infrastructure for services like sewer and water and helps create complete communities while minimizing disruptive transition periods. Prior to consideration of any further development outside of established neighbourhood plan areas, a comprehensive neighbourhood plan is needed which considers an area as a whole rather than through ad-hoc applications and requires landowners to work together with the Regional District to address challenges related to the servicing, geohazard, environmental, archeological, functional, and financial impacts of development.

## **Current & Proposed Regional District Sanitary Sewer Systems**

Regional District sanitary sewer service in Area C will be restricted to the rural village areas and the appropriate strategy, details and viability will be determined through neighbourhood plans. Current sanitary sewer service is provided in Harrison Mills by the Regional District Class C sanitary sewer system located on Morris Valley Road, west of the Eagle Point and River Reach strata developments. The system has been evaluated to determine the necessary



upgrades and expansion to accommodate the development densities envisioned through the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan. A second Regional District Class A system is proposed to accommodate the potential development densities envisioned through the future Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan. A complete servicing feasibility discussion is undertaken in each applicable Neighbourhood Plan.

Regional District Sanitary Sewer Systems			
System Name	Servicing Capacity	Treatment Class	Ownership
Morris Valley Sanitary Sewer System	Current: 214 Units - At Capacity  Replacement: Existing + 250 units	Current: Class C  Replacement: Class A	Regional District-owned and operated
Lake Errock Sanitary Sewer System (Potential)	485 Harrison Rise Units + 35 Sq'ewlets Units Initially  Expansion potential: +260 Lake Errock Units + Sq'ewlets Growth	Class A	Regional District-owned and operated

Table 5: Regional District Sanitary Sewer Systems

## Costs

The cost of community sanitary sewer service provision will be borne equally by those benefiting from the service. It is anticipated that the cost of expanding the community sanitary sewer service in Harrison Mills and establishing a new community sanitary sewer service in Lake Errock will be paid by developers in the form of Development Cost Charges and latecomer agreements for subsequent connections. A financial plan will be necessary to identify appropriate Development Cost Charges for each sanitary sewer service and will be addressed through the applicable Neighbourhood Plan.

## POLICY

- 5.2.1 **Community systems restricted to rural villages.** The Regional Board supports establishing Regional District sanitary sewer systems within rural village areas as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plans. Lands located outside of rural village areas are to maintain low densities, rely on individual on-site sewage disposal, and should not anticipate opportunities to connect to community systems.

- 5.2.2 **Guide to service delivery.** The Regional District is guided by the *Regional District Sustainable Sanitary Sewer Service Provision – Policies to Guide Service Delivery in Electoral Areas of the FVRD*, as updated from time to time, for the provision of sanitary sewer services.
- 5.2.3 **Community system establishment and extension.** Regional District Sanitary Sewer System establishment for new development will be paid for by developers. The provision of reliable on-site sanitary sewer service will be evaluated to ensure it is practical, well-managed, and financially sustainable in all zoning and official community plan amendments and subdivision referrals.
- 5.2.4 **Community system location.** Community sanitary sewer service infrastructure should be located in a manner that avoids the disturbance of environmentally sensitive areas and poses no significant negative impact on the environment.
- 5.2.5 **On-site servicing outside rural villages.** The Regional District will require that lands outside of rural village areas, as determined by neighbourhood plans, shall be restricted to an on-site level of servicing and with no expectation that community services will be available.
- 5.2.6 **On-site sewage provision.** The Regional District may require developments with on-site sanitary sewer to include a report by a Qualified Professional Engineer. The report should:
- a. Provide reasonable rationale and assurances respecting the feasibility and long-term suitability of the proposed sewage treatment;
  - b. Assess the compatibility of the proposed onsite sewage supply with other onsite services (such as storm water management) or nearby services on adjacent lands;
  - c. Address the cumulative impacts that the proposed sewage treatment may have on nearby water sources and determine whether the proposed supply will adversely affect existing water supplies; and,
  - d. Identify any operation and maintenance requirements for the property owner to ensure the long-term sustainability of the system, including considerations and provisions for trucked liquid waste disposal.
- 5.2.7 **Rural village area sanitary sewer systems.** Each rural village area should be serviced by a single community sanitary sewer system. Where it is not feasible to connect to a community sanitary sewer system and a covenant is offered in favour of the Regional District, the Regional District may consider the development of a smaller onsite system that serves a single property or parcel, where it is consistent with a local servicing plan,

where a capital cost recovery mechanism equivalent to Development Cost Charges is established, and where a report by a Qualified Professional engineer provides:

- a. A robust rationale and assurances respecting the feasibility and long-term suitability of the proposed sewage treatment;
- b. An assessment of the compatibility of the proposed onsite sewage supply with other onsite services or nearby services on adjacent lands;
- c. A statement of the cumulative impacts of the proposed sewage treatment may have on the nearby water sources determining whether the proposed supply will adversely impact existing water supplies; and,
- d. A plan to meet operation and maintenance requirements that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the system.

## 5.3 Storm Water Management

Storm water is created when land alterations change the pre-existing water balance. When vegetation and soils are replaced with roads and buildings, less rainfall infiltrates into the ground and is taken up by vegetation, and more becomes surface runoff.<sup>17</sup> Rural development, particularly the construction of impervious surfaces and land clearing, may increase storm water flows and negatively impact streams, groundwater reservoirs, and downslope properties.

Even relatively low levels of impervious cover can produce significant and often irreversible impacts on streams and aquatic resources.<sup>18</sup> Storm water begins to have a negative impact on streams when the amount of impervious surface in a watershed equals as little as 10% of the watershed area.<sup>19</sup> Parcel size is also an important indicator. Most residential developments with densities greater than one parcel per hectare will exceed 10% of impervious area and alter drainage regimes.<sup>20</sup>

As a result, best management practices are needed at densities greater than one parcel per hectare, and where impervious cover may exceed 10% of the watershed area, to avoid damage to aquatic environments, public expense for unplanned infrastructure, and possible flood damage associated with increased runoff. The policies below outline expectations for storm water management for new developments and encourage landowners to develop and manage existing properties with storm water in mind.

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<sup>17</sup> Government of British Columbia. (2002, May). *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*.

<sup>18</sup> Schueler, Thomas R. (1995). Site Planning for Urban Stream Protection. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

<sup>19</sup> This is a generally accepted threshold. For a British Columbia source, see: Government of British Columbia. (2002, May). *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*. A Washington State example is: Derek Booth. (2000, September). *Forest Cover, Impervious-Surface Area, and the Mitigation of Urbanization Impacts in King County, Washington*.

<sup>20</sup> Government of British Columbia. (2002, May). *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*.

## POLICY

- 5.3.1 **Maintenance of natural flow patterns.** Development proposals should ensure post-development storm water flows maintain natural flow patterns and water quality of receiving waters.
- 5.3.2 **On-site accommodation of storm water flows.** Development proposals should ensure foundation, roof drainage, and other surface drainage are disposed of on-site, returned to the ground, and not connected to collector systems for roads. The Regional District encourages the use of bio-swales, ponds, French drains, rain barrels, and other naturalized means of detaining and infiltrating storm water on-site.
- 5.3.3 **Integration of storm water management strategies.** The Regional District will require that storm water management plans, as required through development applications, are prepared by a Qualified Professional Engineer and that storm water management strategies be integrated into the grading of the lot, planning and design of buildings, infrastructure, and recreational and open spaces.
- 5.3.4 **Zoning and Official Community Plan amendments.** The Regional District will require applications for zoning and Official Community Plan amendments to facilitate new developments at densities of one parcel per hectare or greater, or for commercial developments, including a storm water management plan prepared by a Professional Engineer.
- 5.3.5 **Storm water management plans.** The Regional District will require that site-specific storm water management plans meet the following objectives:
- a. Ensure post-development storm water flow volumes will not exceed pre-development flow volumes in receiving waters;
  - b. Maintain, to the extent possible, pre-development flow patterns and velocities;
  - c. Provide conveyance routes for major and minor storm events that manage the runoff within individual lots and the overall development;
  - d. Certify that water quality of receiving surface and ground waters will not be negatively affected by storm water surface run-off during development and post-development;
  - e. Integrate final lot grading into the management strategies;
  - f. Certify, where applicable, that there will be no negative effect on neighbouring properties; and,
  - g. Incorporate best practices, including but not limited to recommendations provided by the provincial government and its agencies.

- 5.3.6 **Incorporation of storm water strategy and techniques in design.** The Regional District encourages, through neighbourhood plans and updates, storm water features or designs to form part of a broader open space network.
- 5.3.7 **Support storm water management innovation.** The Regional District encourages innovation that leads to affordable, practical, and sustainable storm water management solutions and increased awareness and application of these solutions.
- 5.3.8 **Limit overall impervious surfaces.** The Regional District encourages developers and property owners to limit impervious surfaces, which includes buildings, pavement, and any surface through which water cannot infiltrate by limiting built space where possible and the use of aggregate, permeable pavement, pavers, and similar materials for driveways, patios, and other surfaces that are often constructed of impervious materials.

## 5.4 Solid Waste Management

Most residents in Area C currently utilize the Harrison Mills Transfer Station to deposit household garbage, recycling, compost, and limited yard waste. The capacity of this transfer station and necessary upgrades to accommodate increasing growth are addressed in the Neighbourhood Plans for Harrison Mills and Lake Errock.

Waste collection for strata and commercial developments is individually arranged by residents and business owners who engage private haulers or utilize the transfer station.

### Waste Reduction

Waste reduction targets and management in the Regional District are governed by and implemented through the *Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan*, which was approved by the Ministry of Environment in 2015. The Plan, valid until 2026, contains a few milestones related to waste diversion and reduction goals in the region.

### New Developments

To meet the progressive waste diversion targets, new developments shall ensure that there is adequate room reserved in development plans for the provision and placement of solid waste bins, recycling bins, and food waste bins. The Regional District requires that all recyclable and compostable material be sorted out of the garbage, kept separate, and delivered to appropriate waste processing or disposal facilities. Developments must ensure adequate space for a full range of waste diversion bins.



## Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping of garbage is a hazard, regardless of whether it is from residential uses, construction waste, stolen vehicles, or other materials. Dumping presents an environmental hazard and degrades the aesthetic and recreational experience of the area. The Regional District encourages any incidents of illegal dumping to be reported to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) toll-free hotline number 1-877-952-RAPP (7277). Reported information is logged and referred to the appropriate agency or organization for clean-up. The hotline supports public outreach and tracks dumping activities and patterns over time to assist with prevention efforts.

## Wildlife & Waste

Area C borders Crown forest and numerous lakes and rivers. There are high wildlife populations throughout the electoral area. Landowners must ensure that waste containers are adequately stored and inaccessible to wildlife. The Regional District Parks Department offers a Bear Aware program to assist residents and business owners in minimizing bear interactions to supplement the proper management of waste bins.

The policies of this Plan support the *Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan* which should be consulted, as updated from time to time, for detailed and current guidance respecting waste management, composting, recycling, and waste reduction.

## POLICY

- 5.4.1 **Solid waste management plan.** The Regional District will continue to advance the objectives and targets of the *Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan* throughout Area C, including by identifying opportunities for improved waste management and by meeting the waste reduction targets of the Plan.
- 5.4.2 **Adequate access for containers and facilities.** The Regional District will ensure adequate access to recycling, composting and disposal facilities within public and private developments by:
  - a. Requiring new developments to ensure adequate space in development plans to accommodate for source separation and the provision/placement of garbage bins, recycling bins, and compostable waste bins; and,
  - b. Encouraging all publicly operated recreational sites to provide adequate waste, recycling, and compostable waste bins.
- 5.4.3 **Solid waste considerations in neighbourhood planning.** Through neighbourhood plans and updates, a comprehensive analysis of existing solid waste infrastructure capacity, and accommodations for infrastructure improvements and expansions shall

be considered commensurate with the scale and impact of the proposed development.

- 5.4.4 **Waste diversion.** The Regional District will continue to disseminate information to residents and businesses regarding the *Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan* and its waste diversion targets and encourage participation in the achievement of these targets.
- 5.4.5 **Reduce wildlife conflicts.** The Regional District will continue to provide residents and businesses with information regarding waste management and wildlife and encourage secure and proper handling of waste containers.
- 5.4.6 **Reduce burning.** The Regional District will continue to encourage residents to avoid the burning of garbage and waste which results in reduced air quality and hazardous fine particulate matter emissions.
- 5.4.7 **Coordination to address illegal dumping.** The Regional District will work with provincial ministries and other appropriate organizations to combat the illegal dumping of household garbage and other prohibited materials.
- 5.4.8 **Monitoring of illegal dumping.** The Regional District will encourage citizen efforts to clean up dumped material and monitor for illegal dumping. Where possible, the Regional District will support voluntary community clean-up efforts, particularly through in-kind contributions such as tipping fees.

## 5.5 Utilities & Communication Services

Utility and communication services, including residential electricity, gas, cable, cellular, high-speed internet services, and landline telephone services are inconsistently available throughout the Plan area. Cellular coverage, high-speed internet, and reliable residential electricity are an important daily service need for the safety and convenience of those living, travelling, or working in the Plan area. Improvements to these services, especially a more resilient electrical utility, have been identified as priorities by area residents.

### POLICY

- 5.5.1 **Improvements to electrical utility infrastructure.** The Regional District supports electrical utility upgrades that improve service provisions, address the frequent and prolonged service interruptions in Area C, and will continue to elevate the concerns of residents to the responsible utility company.
- 5.5.2 **Electrical utility considerations.** The Regional District will coordinate with the applicable utility, through neighbourhood plans and updates, to ensure existing residential electricity infrastructure capacity and accommodations for infrastructure

improvements and expansions shall be considered commensurate with the scale and impact of the proposed development.

- 5.5.3 **Appropriately serviced new development.** New development should be coordinated with and provisions made for essential community services such as electrical and telecommunications servicing, at levels appropriate to the proposed development.
- 5.5.4 **Internet and cellular services for residents.** The Regional Board will advocate for improvements to existing cellular coverage and opportunities for the expansion of high-speed internet services for residents consistent with the *Regional District Rural Broadband Strategy*.
- 5.5.5 **Minimize visual impact.** Utilities and cellular tower infrastructure shall be designed and situated in a location which reduces visual impacts on neighbouring businesses and residents.
- 5.5.6 **Community consultation.** New utility and cellular developments should undertake community engagement, including with local Indigenous communities, early in the project to obtain and address community input.

## 5.6 Emergency & Protective Services

### Fire Protection Services

Area C is served by a group of committed and highly trained volunteer fire department members. The North Fraser Volunteer Fire Department is located at 43824 Watkins Road in Lake Errock and serves the entire Plan area, in addition to residents in adjacent Electoral Areas F and G and some Indigenous communities through service agreements. Fire response is coordinated and dispatched through E-911.

Fire protection requirements for new developments are determined under the *British Columbia Building Code* (BCBC) and the BC Fire Code. Fire response times are an important consideration in the BCBC, which establishes a 10-minute response time threshold. Where buildings are constructed outside of a 10-minute fire response from a fully staffed fire hall, they are subject to increased setback requirements.

The Regional District uses the *Fire Underwriters Survey* guidelines regarding the design of water systems that provide flows for fire protection. The Regional District water systems in Harrison Mills and Lake Errock provide fire flows to properties within each service area.

The growth contemplated in the Neighbourhood Plans for Lake Errock and Harrison Mills will necessitate a comprehensive analysis of the existing fire service infrastructure capacity with

recommendations for upgrades to equipment and capacity commensurate with the scale of development.

## POLICY

- 5.6.1 **Fire service capacity considerations.** The Regional District's consideration of development proposals will include a comprehensive analysis of existing fire service infrastructure capacity, personnel needs, and accommodations for service improvements and expansions commensurate with the scale and impact of the proposed development.
- 5.6.2 **Limit development in unserviced areas.** Lands outside of fire protection service areas, such as Crown lands or lands without public fire protection, should generally remain at low rural development densities.
- 5.6.3 **Adequate hydrant service for new development.** The Regional District will require that significant developments be serviced with fire hydrants for fire protection and shall ensure adequate capacity and flows within the community water system.

## E911 Services - Police & Ambulance

The Plan area receives ambulance, police, and fire services through E-911 operations. Police services are provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) dispatched from the Agassiz, Chilliwack, or Mission detachments. Ambulances are dispatched from Chilliwack. Response times for emergency services are consistent with rural areas, however, residents in the Plan area have expressed concerns with delays in service during times of emergency.

## POLICY

- 5.6.4 **Community policing presence.** The Regional Board will participate in discussions with the RCMP, Indigenous communities, and other partners to determine the feasibility of establishing a community policing office to increase police presence and response times in the community.
- 5.6.5 **BC Ambulance Service.** The Regional Board will advocate for an increased level of service and improved response times to the communities within Area C.

## Emergency Management

The management of disasters and emergencies in British Columbia is performed using an 'all-hazards' approach, including all activities and risk management measures related to the four components of the emergency management cycle which are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

In the Regional District, Emergency Management staff develop and maintain the program that integrates the independent and unique skill sets of all Regional District functions, departments, personnel, volunteers, and facilities to ensure that the Regional District as a local authority, can manage emergencies and disasters that occur within our jurisdiction, in all four phases of emergency management.

Many organizational factors have a significant bearing on the Emergency Management service, including financial constraints and jurisdictional limitations. Effective preparedness improves the Regional District's ability to manage and recover from disasters and emergencies in the electoral areas. Ongoing training to ensure operational readiness to fulfil these functions is a critical component of the service, as are community resiliency initiatives.

During emergencies and disasters, the best outcomes occur when residents are personally prepared for emergencies, and when the knowledge and capacity exist within the local community to allow residents to effectively assist one another. Accordingly, it is a core component of the Emergency Management Program to foster resiliency in Regional District electoral area residents and communities.

## POLICY

- 5.6.6 **Emphasis on risk reduction and disaster mitigation.** The Regional Board will require new developments to be considered in accordance with the policies of the Regional District Emergency Management Program and associated plans.
- 5.6.7 **Support personal preparedness.** The Regional District will foster resiliency among residents and communities by making information regarding hazards and risks available to residents, communicating about personal preparedness strategies, and providing resources to residents to increase their preparedness for emergencies.





## HAZARD & RISK MANAGEMENT



# 6 HAZARD & RISK MANAGEMENT

## 6.0 Overview

The Area C Plan area is located in the Coast Mountains on the north side of the Fraser River. Major waterways include the Chehalis River which flows southeast into the Harrison River, a tributary of the Fraser River. Lands within this area are subject to a variety of hazards, including geological and mountain stream hazards, seasonal and freshet flooding from Harrison River and Fraser River, seismic slope instability, and soil liquefaction caused by earthquakes and wildfires.

The Regional District works proactively to plan safe development by avoiding and managing risk areas. When creating new communities or growth areas, the Regional District identifies areas where people and their investments (i.e., homes, businesses, roads, etc.) can safely grow and prosper for generations to come.

In the last two decades, the Regional District has undertaken four comprehensive geohazard studies within the Plan area. The latest two, conducted by Cordilleran Geoscience in 2023 and 2012, focus on the settlement areas along the Lougheed Highway and offer some specific recommendations for residential construction at particular sites. Meanwhile, the Thurber reports, which provide an overview assessment, identify broad areas within Electoral Area C that exhibit significant and potential hazards and highlight the need for a more detailed study. All four assessments meticulously analyze various geohazards, including flooding, landslides, rockfall, debris flow, and others. The four overview assessments are:

- » *Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C*, prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience, January 2023
- » *Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock*, prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience, April 2012
- » *Lake Errock Area Stage 1 Study, Geotechnical Overview*, prepared by Thurber Engineering, September 1998
- » *Harrison Area Stage 1 Study Geotechnical Overview*, prepared by Thurber Consultants Ltd., November 1995

The *Local Government Act* requires that OCPs contain statements and map designations respecting restrictions on the use of land that is subject to hazardous conditions.



Figure 9: Factors Culminating in Hazard Events

## 6.1 Geologic & Stream Hazards

The mountainous terrain of Area C, encompassing Elbow Creek, Echo Lake, Holachten Creek, and the eastern slopes of Harrison Lake, is prone to various hazards, prominently rock falls and landslides. These natural events have had significant repercussions, including periodic closures of Highway 7.

Steep slopes south of the Fraser River and Highway 7 have raised concerns for creeks facing hazard assessments, including the risk of debris flow, debris flood, and erosion.

Cordilleran's 2012 assessment for Lake Errock determined existing developments to be safe, thanks to protective measures against overbank flows in Siddall Creek and Holachten Creek. However, detailed hazard assessments are strongly recommended for potential development on the fans of Siddall Creek, Squakum Creek, and Holachten Creek, particularly in areas with heightened risk exposure, such as the subdivision of lots.

The region faces additional concerns at the Highway 7/ CPKC rail line crossing of lower Holachten Creek, where issues related to channel capacity and erosion have been raised. Elbow Creek, near Eagle Point Estates, known for its significant sediment transport, is protected by a dike along its north side.

Further exacerbating the hazard landscape are the steep slopes surrounding Weaver Creek, Harrison Mills, and Lake Errock, contributing to localized flooding from numerous creeks and gullies during intense rainfall. The northern area of Harrison Mills on the Elbow Creek alluvial fan is identified as particularly prone to channel flooding. In light of these hazards,

comprehensive hazard assessments and proactive measures identified in the policies of this Plan are essential for sustainable development and the protection of the local population and infrastructure.

## POLICY

- 6.1.1 **Geohazard assessments.** The Regional District shall require that assessments submitted in support of development meet the requirements of the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time and Engineers and Geoscientists BC Practice Standards.
- 6.1.2 **Hazard acceptability thresholds.** Acceptable hazard thresholds for development approvals shall be those set out in *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time.
- 6.1.3 **Development approvals.** The Regional District shall apply the following principles to development approvals on lands subject to geological and mountain stream hazards:
- a. As a priority, development should be sited to avoid hazards. Where it is impossible or impractical to avoid a hazard, mitigation measures may be considered;
  - b. Proposed developments within the 200-year floodplain of a natural watercourse should be flood-proofed to standards outlined in the *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* and *Fraser Valley Regional District Floodplain Management Bylaw No. 1669, 2022* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time;
  - c. Where construction would be on land that is, or is likely to be, subject to hazards, a building inspector may require a site-specific geohazard or hydrological engineering assessment prepared by a professional engineer or geoscientist to certify that the land may be used safely for the use intended;
  - d. In alignment with risk management best practices, the precautionary principle shall be applied to development approvals in instances where there is both risk of serious or irreversible harm and significant scientific uncertainties;
  - e. In circumstances where land is subject to geological hazards, the Regional Board may give special consideration to offset the constraints caused by geohazard problems. These special considerations may include altering siting and subdivision policies through a development permit or development variance permit in accordance with the results of a geohazard

assessment. These considerations may allow greater flexibility within a safe building area; and,

- f. Proposed mitigation measures should be located within property boundaries and be feasible for the property owner, or any subsequent property owner, to maintain in perpetuity.

6.1.4 **Minimize exposure and risk.** Reducing exposure to risk and minimizing the consequences of hazard events and Harrison River and Fraser River flood events will be central concerns in land use planning decisions.

6.1.5 **Avoid impacts to hazards and slopes.** Property owners are advised that the following activities may exacerbate hazards and contribute to slope failure and should generally be avoided:

- a. Placing fill, organic wastes, and debris along or below the crest of slopes;
- b. Excavation on steep slopes or at the base of slopes;
- c. Discharge of surface or ground water on or below the crest of slopes; and,
- d. Cutting trees on or below the crests of slopes.

6.1.6 **Hazard mitigation works ownership.** The Regional Board may consider accepting ownership and maintenance (via a service area) of hazard mitigation works that:

- a. Are designed by, and constructed under the supervision of, a Qualified Professional Engineer, to standards acceptable to the Regional Board;
- b. Meet the requirements of applicable provincial and federal legislation;
- c. Benefit a significant area;
- d. Are environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable over the long term; and,
- e. Involve a predictable maintenance and cost profile.

6.1.7 **Stream channels.** At the time of development application, the developer should explore different options to facilitate land and environmental management through a return of lands consisting of stream channels and appropriate buffers to the Crown land base ("return to Crown"). However, where return to Crown is not feasible then explicit management criteria shall be integrated into the development plan.

6.1.8 **Funding opportunities.** The Regional Board will advocate for provincial and federal funding to identify and update hazard areas, risks and mapping, as well as to conduct flood profiling for the Harrison Mills, Harrison River, and Harrison Bay areas. This will support the proactive management of these hazardous and flood-prone regions.



## 6.2 Floodplain

Development within floodplain areas is managed by the Regional District Floodplain Management Bylaw. The bylaw includes requirements for building elevation, setbacks, and avoidance of erosion areas. The Province of British Columbia sets out the overall framework and guidance for the development of flood management bylaws through the *Flood Hazard Land Use Management Guidelines (2004)*, as it exists at the time.

The low-lying areas of Harrison Mills and Lake Errock situated along the Fraser River and Harrison River floodplain, are susceptible to flooding during periods of high flows, spring freshet, and heavy rainfall and snowmelt occurrences.

### POLICY

- 6.2.1 **Minimize exposure and risk.** Reducing exposure to risk and minimizing the consequences of hazard events and Fraser River flood events will be central concerns in land use planning decisions.
- 6.2.2 **Regional District bylaws and regulations.** The Regional District will utilize floodplain management and zoning bylaws, Official Community Plan policies and covenants to limit development within floodplains and minimize risk exposure.
- 6.2.3 **Funding for flood protection works.** Significant upgrades to flood protection works require major contributions from provincial and federal governments. Senior governments should pay the costs of capital improvements, and the local community should pay costs for ongoing operation and maintenance through a service area.
- 6.2.4 **Floodplain management bylaw updates.** The Regional District will ensure the Regional District Floodplain Management Bylaw remains up to date with the most current Fraser River flood profile modelling. Additionally, the Regional District will ensure that relevant bylaws reflect the most recent hydraulic modelling available from the Province of British Columbia.

## 6.3 Wildfire Interface Hazards

The Wildland Urban Interface may be defined as the area where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland. In more general terms, it is where houses or commercial development and fairly dense vegetation are both present. Wildland Urban Interface zones are at particular risk of wildfire. Fire is a natural part of forest ecology, but in interface zones, the risk of occurrence is greater, and the consequences are more severe due to the proximity to human activities. Projected changes in climate, including warmer, drier summers will likely elevate wildfire risk over time. Interface fires can lead to tragic loss of homes, businesses, and even lives.

Area C boasts a diverse landscape that includes mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, and lakes. The presence of steep slopes in this region can intensify the rapid spread of wildfires, facilitating the swift movement of flames. The dense forests and vegetation play a crucial role in influencing the fuel available for wildfires. While lakes and rivers can act as natural firebreaks, hindering the progress of wildfires, there are instances where winds may carry embers across these water bodies, posing a threat to areas on the opposite shore. The combination of frequent recreational activities, forestry practices, and the presence of a railway in Area C contribute to the heightened risk of wildfires. Human activities related to recreation may unintentionally trigger fires.

The Coastal Fire Centre under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Forests has developed Wildland Urban Interface Fire Hazard maps. Within the designated area, forests bordering private properties have been assessed with a moderate to high hazard rating. Whether a specific location is exposed to wildfire depends on its distance to surrounding hazard fuels. Each potential ignition source (short-range ember transport, long-range ember transport, and radiant heat) works over a different range. Long-range ember transport can occur over a distance of up to 500 metres.<sup>21</sup> The interface wildfire hazards can be found on Map 8 - Interface Wildfire Hazards. The risk of wildfires will increase if climate change results in reduced summer precipitation. The Ministry of Forests - Wildfire Management Branch holds the responsibility for wildfire suppression on Crown land.

## POLICY

- 6.3.1 **Improvements to provincial mapping database.** The Regional District will seek opportunities to coordinate with the province to develop private property interface hazard mapping to inform future wildfire hazard management strategies.
- 6.3.2 **Hazard avoidance.** New subdivisions and development should be avoided in locations subject to unacceptable risk from wildfire hazards.
- 6.3.3 **Building design and construction.** New development should be designed and constructed to minimize the risk of interface fire hazards to people and property, utilizing non-combustible materials.
- 6.3.4 **Wildfire risk reduction techniques.** The Regional District will require a wildfire assessment for any zoning amendment or subdivision within 500 metres of forests designated Moderate, High, or Extreme interface fire hazard (Map 8 – Interface Wildfire Hazards). Wildfire assessments shall be:
  - a. Conducted by a Professional Forester licensed in BC, specializing in forest wildfire assessment; and,

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<sup>21</sup> FireSmart. (2018, September). *Wildfire Exposure Assessment - A planning tool for identifying values at risk and prioritizing mitigation effort*.

- b. Prepared in accordance with the *Regional District Wildfire Assessment Terms of Reference*.

Completion of works that reduce the hazard may be required prior to and as a part of any development approvals.

- 6.3.5 **Protection services.** The Regional District will coordinate with the province to enhance wildfire protection services.
- 6.3.6 **Reduce risk of damage.** Owners of land subject to wildfire hazards are encouraged to consider strategies to reduce the risk of damage from wildfire and to increase the ability to fight wildfire on the property, including:
  - a. Building or retrofitting in accordance with the *British Columbia FireSmart Homeowners Manual* which recommends the use of non-combustible materials and other building and fuel management techniques;
  - b. Utilizing fire-resistant native plants in landscaping and applying FireSmart, “fire scaping”, and fuel management strategies;
  - c. Installing a well, pump, low-flow-resistance piping, and full-flow yard hydrant system delivering at least 20 gallons per minute per house for sprinklers; and,
  - d. Ensuring access to ponds, creeks, pools, and other sources of water supply for fire protection.
- 6.3.7 **Open fire bans.** Residents, business owners, and visitors in Area C should diligently observe open fire bans initiated by the province and practice FireSmart behaviour to reduce the risk of wildfire initiation. The Regional District will make reasonable efforts to circulate FireSmart information to residents.
- 6.3.8 **Fire rating sign.** The Regional District will advocate to the BC Wildfire Service for the installation of a fire danger rating sign at a prominent location within the community to increase the level of public awareness of wildfire risk.





## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

# 7 ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

## 7.0 Overview

The Plan area is within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone, which is the most productive biogeoclimatic zone in BC in terms of overall biomass. The lands along the northern banks of the Fraser River and the western shores of Harrison Lake embody some of the few remaining pristine ecosystems in the Fraser Valley. They have long been acknowledged for their crucial role in supporting wildlife and their exceptional historical and cultural value. The area contains old growth forests which are vital, mature ecosystems characterized by large, ancient trees and diverse understory. These areas play a key role in biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and cultural heritage. Conservation efforts are essential to preserve these ecosystems for the environment and future generations. Notable protected species including Bald Eagles, Osprey, Salmon, Great Blue Herons, and Sturgeon find sanctuary in this area.

As part of the OCP update process and the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan, the Regional District commissioned environmental assessments from the Hancock Wildlife Foundation (HWF). HWF prepared two reports, the first report *Understanding Wildlife Values in Harrison Mills* (2023), provides an overview of the significant ecological area at the confluence of the Chehalis River, Harrison River, and Fraser River (Harrison Mills). This area covers approximately 200 hectares and includes the Harrison Salmon Stronghold, Chehalis River Estuary Important Bird Area, and Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area. This region is rich in biodiversity and Indigenous cultural value and requires careful stewardship and protection. The second report, *Valued Environmental Components & Ecologically Sensitive Areas with the Area C OCP* (2024), provides an overview of the area from Deroche, northeast through Lake Errock, Harrison Bay, Harrison Mills, and into Morris Valley headwaters. The area holds significant ecological value, underscored by the report's emphasis on preserving its natural ecosystems and diverse wildlife. This preservation is crucial for cultural, economic, and ecological reasons. The report suggests conservation strategies such as ecosystem-based management, enhancing connectivity for preservation efforts, and adapting to climate change. Additionally, the developer for Harrison Rise lands commissioned an environmental assessment, Proposed Subdivision at Lake Errock (2022) prepared by Envirowest Consultants Inc.<sup>22</sup>

The policies of this Plan aim to achieve a balance between development and environmental preservation. This is facilitated through several measures, including the establishment of

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<sup>22</sup> Envirowest Consultants Inc. (2022, June 9). *Proposed Subdivision at Lake Errock, Fraser Valley Regional District, Environmental Assessment Update*.



development permit areas designed to safeguard riparian and terrestrial habitats, ecologically significant areas, and minimize groundwater impacts. Additionally, the Plan incorporates a CONSERVATION land use designation, prioritizing the avoidance or mitigation of development impacts in regions of significant ecological importance. Adherence to provincial and federal guidelines ensures consistency and adherence to broader environmental standards. Moreover, the Plan integrates the recommendations from the two environmental assessments conducted by Hancock Wildlife Foundation, highlighting a commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Furthermore, ongoing collaboration with Indigenous communities is emphasized, aiming to integrate traditional ecological knowledge essential for a holistic understanding of the area's ecological dynamics and its intricate ecosystem interactions.

## 7.1 Watershed Management

### Groundwater

The rural nature of the Plan area means that water supplies are well based, or surface water supplied. Groundwater is vitally important to daily life, human health and the environment. The Area C Plan area features two known aquifers:

- » Aquifer 0011 (Lake Erroch/Deroche Creek)  
An unconfined glaciofluvial sand and gravel aquifer. High vulnerability and moderate productivity. Aquifer 0011 spans from Deroche to Harrison Bay and has 12 wells drawn from it
- » Aquifer 0005 (Chehalis)  
An unconfined alluvial fan aquifer. High vulnerability and high productivity. Aquifer 0005 spans from Harrison Mills to Weaver Creek and has 10 wells drawn from it

These aquifers are the drinking water source for most residents and businesses within the Plan area, whether it is from Regional District community water systems in Lake Erroch and Morris Valley, private community systems, or domestic groundwater wells.

Ensuring high-quality groundwater is important. However limited technical information is available on the aquifers within the Plan area. Land uses located above the aquifer are primarily large lot residential with denser residential villages in Lake Erroch and Harrison Mills and minimal commercial, most of which discharge wastewater via onsite septic. As Lake Erroch transitions to a sewage facility, wastewater discharge for new developments will meet the highest standard of Class A treatment, and opportunities for existing development to retroactively connect will be available.

Other uses that may potentially impact groundwater are the numerous industrial uses scattered throughout the Plan area, such as mining and forestry activities, which can involve

significant land alteration as part of regular operations. Residents in the Plan area have expressed concerns that aggregate mining and forestry activities could negatively impact groundwater.

Plan policies focus on groundwater protection through education and awareness, resource stewardship by property owners, and consideration of groundwater impacts in the development approval processes.

## Stream & Watershed Protection

Surface water resources have historically been an important issue in the Plan area. Many of the south slope creeks within the Plan area, including Pye Creek, Gerard Creek, Barnes Creek, Siddall Creek, Holachten Creek, Elbow Creek, and Weaver Creek support diverse fish populations, including white sturgeon, Harrison ocean-type Chinook, Harrison River-rearing sockeye, pygmy longfin smelt, and various others. Changes to hydrological regimes can result in significant ecological impacts and greatly reduce ecological function in habitats that require high water tables and moist forest floors. To minimize impacts on the hydrological systems within the Plan area, Plan policies must be established to protect streams and watersheds.

Development Permit Areas 3-C, 4-C, and 5-C policies focus on the protection of watersheds from the adverse effects of development, ensuring that they will continue to be able to maintain the quality of the environment and an adequate and safe water supply for residents.

## POLICY

- 7.1.1 **Impacts of on-site sewage disposal.** The Regional District will ensure that the potential for negative impacts to groundwater and soil from ground-based disposal of sewage will be a primary consideration in land use planning.
- 7.1.2 **Hydrological assessment.** The Regional District will require that where activities or development may result in potentially significant inputs to groundwater or significant groundwater withdrawals, or which could otherwise have negative effects on the groundwater system, a hydrological assessment by a Qualified Professional is conducted with a climate change lens to identify and mitigate impacts.
- 7.1.3 **Groundwater strategy.** The Regional District will encourage the efforts of senior governments, community groups, and industry representatives to collect data and develop strategies to protect groundwater for the long-term.

## 7.2 Avoiding & Mitigating Impacts

The Plan area encompasses many ecologically sensitive areas that play a pivotal role in shaping the rural villages, seamlessly integrating them with nature. It is imperative to protect and enhance the enduring health of these natural settings to preserve the distinctive character of the area. Consequently, future developments should prioritize the conservation and safeguarding of the environment.

The policies of the Plan aim to foster responsible development by adhering to *Develop with Care 2014 Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development In British Columbia*, which places a strong emphasis on environmental conservation, advocating for vegetative buffers around crucial ecological areas, and preserving wildlife corridors. The Regional District proposes expanding the Wildlife Management Area to encompass critical roost sites, utilizing buffers to protect environmental values, and fostering future eco-tourism and recreation. These policies work in tandem with provincial legislation to ensure a comprehensive assessment and implementation of environmental initiatives and provide guidance in the assessment of development applications.

### POLICY

- 7.2.1 **Develop with care.** New development shall adhere to the guidelines outlined in the *Develop with Care 2014 Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development In British Columbia* as updated from time to time.
- 7.2.2 **Vegetative buffers.** Safeguards such as vegetative buffers surrounding critical nesting trees, foraging sites, colonies, etc., are accommodated in all new developments consistent with provincial best management practices as a minimum threshold, and implemented through Development Permit Area 3-C, 4-C and 5-C.
- 7.2.3 **Environmental corridor preservation.** Establishment and/or preservation of environmental and wildlife corridors along natural topographical features, particularly between foreshore and terrestrial habitats, shall be integrated into development.
- 7.2.4 **Expansion of wildlife management area.** The Regional District will advocate to the province for lands located along the south and west slopes of Echo Lake, identified as critical roost sites to be incorporated into the Wildlife Management Area.

## 7.3 Resource Management

Extraction of resources through mining and processing of aggregate materials in the Plan area has been a major source of intense and sustained conflict. The Lake Errock Gravel Pit and Statlu Pit are examples of such conflict. Many residents are particularly concerned with noise, dust, blasting, vibration, truck traffic, impacts on ground and surface water supplies, aesthetic

impacts, health impacts, loss of rural lifestyle, and loss of property value associated with quarry operations. There are various causes of these problems, including:

- » Inability or unwillingness to adequately mitigate off-site impacts
- » Inadequate enforcement
- » Insufficient regulatory tools
- » Not enough local involvement in approval processes
- » Absence of planning for suitable locations for aggregate extraction
- » Lack of infrastructure, particularly roads, suitable to support industrial uses in rural areas

Consequently, existing operations have generated a great deal of conflict and community opposition. These conflicts will persist if significant changes are not made in the regulation of aggregate extraction, the enforcement of regulations, and the approval process for extraction sites. Moreover, existing operations should be more successfully integrated into the community.

Achieving this change will require cooperation and coordination between local and provincial authorities, the aggregate industry and the community. Provincial legislation surrounding aggregate operations provides jurisdiction to the provincial authorities through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and the *Mines Act*. The extraction of aggregates may not be prohibited by local governments without the approval of the Ministry.

The primary tool local governments have for regulating land use and avoiding use conflicts is zoning. Based on recent case law, extraction is not considered a land use, and it cannot be regulated or prohibited through zoning bylaws<sup>23</sup>.

The *Local Government Act* requires a bylaw that prohibits the removal and deposit of sand, gravel, and other soil to be approved by the Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation. After a decade of coordination between the Regional District and the Ministry paired with extensive engagement with the BC Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association, the Regional District adopted the *Electoral Areas Commercial Gravel Operations Bylaw No. 1181, 2014*. The bylaw intends to support a viable commercial aggregate extraction industry as a crucial component of the regional economy, while mitigating the impacts of aggregate operations in local communities. It does this by:

- » Mapping restricted areas where new gravel operations are prohibited;
- » Identifying community areas where noise and dust emissions are regulated, monitored, and reported on;

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<sup>23</sup> O.K. Industries Ltd. v District of Highlands 2021 BCSC 81 (CanLII).

- » Requiring permits for commercial gravel operations; and,
- » Establishing annual volume-based fees which will support the administration of the bylaw and associated services provided by the Regional District.

Map 6 – Sand and Gravel Areas identifies the locations where commercial aggregate extraction is permitted. It is recognized that aggregates are essential for the infrastructure and economy of our region, not only for supporting new development but for maintaining existing infrastructure. Demand for aggregates in the Regional District appears to be increasing and is projected to double over the next 20-25 years.

Furthermore, there is proportionate demand for aggregates in Metro Vancouver where supplies are limited or unavailable. A large proportion, perhaps two-thirds, of aggregate produced in the Regional District is transported to markets in Metro Vancouver or adjacent jurisdictions. As a result, the benefits of aggregate production in the Plan area are dispersed throughout the Lower Mainland while the negative impacts of extraction and processing are focused primarily on the local level.

## POLICY

- 7.3.1 **Resource extraction lands study.** The Regional Board will consider a future resource extraction lands study for the Plan area to address the current gap in understanding regarding the demand for industrial lands and existing industrial land uses occurring on adjacent Indigenous lands.
- 7.3.2 **Consistent with the Regional District Commercial Gravel Operations Bylaw.** A permit under the *Electoral Areas Commercial Gravel Operations Bylaw No. 1181, 2014* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time shall be required prior to the removal of sand, gravel, rock, and other substances of which the land is composed, from any new mine or quarry, including bulk sample site except as exempted by the bylaw. A permit shall also be obtained for existing mining operations.
- 7.3.3 **Mitigate off-site impacts.** The Regional Board will give considerable weight to an aggregate operation's ability to mitigate off-site impacts when considering zoning and Official Community Plan amendments. While the Regional District does not regulate mineral extraction under provincial jurisdiction, applicants for mineral-related activities are strongly encouraged to proactively address potential off-site impacts. All aggregate operations shall aggressively seek to mitigate off-site impacts using best available practices, including but not limited to screening, noise deflection berms, enclosure of processing equipment, wash bays for trucks, dust suppression systems, and blasting noise/vibration suppression.



- 7.3.4 **Environmental buffer.** All mining activities shall maintain a “no disturbance” riparian buffer from all streams, watercourses, and wetlands to protect water quality, hydrological functions, and riparian habitat.
- 7.3.5 **Technical assessments.** The Regional Board recommends that all aggregate mining or quarrying proposals, including bulk samples and expansion of existing operations, be supported by professional assessment and mitigation of:
- a. Cumulative environmental impacts;
  - b. Cumulative hydro-geological impacts, including effect on ground and surface water quality and quantity, wells, and water movements;
  - c. Geohazard and hydrological impacts;
  - d. Cultural (archaeological) impacts, if appropriate;
  - e. Cumulative road maintenance, road safety, and traffic impacts; and,
  - f. Community impacts, including noise, dust, blasting, and vibration.
- 7.3.6 **Resource extraction within Agricultural Land Reserve.** Resource extraction within the Agricultural Land Reserve may require approval from the Agricultural Land Commission.



## ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

# 8 ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

## 8.0 Overview

Global climate change is occurring primarily from the emission of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels. Climate change also results from the emission of other greenhouse gases (GHGs), methane released from landfills, deforestation, and livestock agriculture. Reducing GHG emissions is a shared responsibility that includes all levels of government, residents, businesses, and industry.

As one of the 187 local governments that are signatories to the *BC Climate Action Charter*, the Regional District is committed to reducing GHGs and has agreed to take action to achieve certain goals.

The Province of British Columbia has enacted climate action legislation that sets targets for reducing emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. To reflect the province's mandate, the Regional District included GHG reduction targets in the *Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy* (RGS).

Key areas where local government can play a role in reducing GHG emissions include transportation, waste management, and the building sectors. This Plan reflects the short and long-term targets set by the RGS and will strive for excellence in GHG mitigation efforts, which include a GHG reduction target of 50% by 2050, compared to 2007 levels.

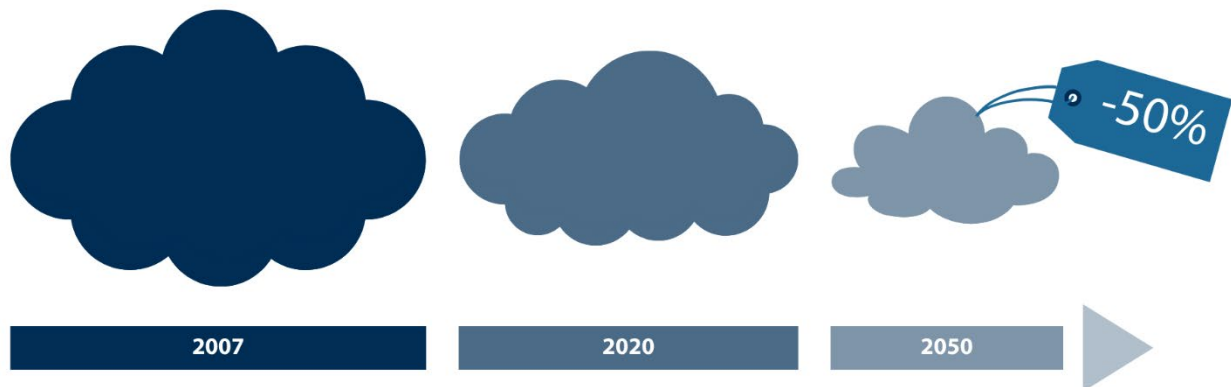


Figure 10: Regional GHG Emission Reduction Targets (Per Capita)  
Source: Fraser Valley Future 2050: Regional Growth Strategy

The emission targets set in the *Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy* (RGS), are regionally based and may not be applied within the Regional District's rural electoral areas as easily. GHG emissions in rural regions may be higher compared to urban centres for several reasons, including a large land base, low density that is widely dispersed throughout the

region, lack of public transit, and resource-dependent livelihoods. The RGS sets out how the Regional District will work with member municipalities to update regional community GHG and emissions targets and methodology, as well as to develop a climate resiliency plan.

In 2022, the Regional District completed a *Climate Change Integration and Geohazard Guidance Study*, which provides future climate projections and recommendations, related to integrating projections into development approvals. This study includes the following projections:

- » Average temperatures will increase by 5.4° C above the 1981-2010 baseline
- » Average annual total precipitation (i.e., rainfall) will increase by 11% with the largest increase in fall and a notable decrease in summer
- » Decrease in snowpack and accumulation period, consequently resulting in higher streamflow from the increased snowmelt

The change in temperature and precipitation patterns could increase the intensity and duration of summer dry seasons, resulting in:

- » Increase in wildfire activity and scarcity
- » Increased frequency, duration, and intensity of heat waves
- » Increased frequency and intensity of heavy late fall rain events, with a corresponding increase in flooding events
- » Generally decreased snowpack
- » More frequent rain-on-snow events, particularly in winter shoulder months
- » Earlier freshet and more rapid spring warmups may lead to freshet flooding if the snowpack is sufficient
- » Invasive pest (e.g., bark beetles) activity/damage will be more widespread due to warmer summers and winters, and drier summers
- » Climate change impacts on physical geography

## 8.1 Climate Change Impact on Physical Geography

The flow regime of the Fraser River is currently snowmelt-dominated and is expected to continue to experience maximum flow from spring freshet through much of the rest of the century, but with a declining magnitude toward the end of the century due to declining snowpack and a shorter snow accumulation season. The following additional impacts on physical geography are anticipated:

- » Shallow landslides (debris slides, debris avalanches, and debris flows) will likely respond with increases in frequencies where there are no or little moisture limitations and sufficient debris available for initiation and transport
- » Floods in small, rain-dominated watersheds will increase in both frequency and magnitude as precipitation increases and episodes of extreme precipitation become more frequent
- » Climate change may affect the recharge of the aquifer and discharge to streams, local water budgets, and infiltration rates. Mining of groundwater, which is the unsustainable withdrawal of groundwater leading to ongoing lowering of groundwater levels, may result from failure to adapt to such changing water balances. Consequently, limiting groundwater abstraction, particularly for irrigation, may be required to maintain groundwater levels

## POLICY

- 8.1.1 **Climate adaptation and mitigation study.** The Regional Board supports the completion of a climate adaptation and mitigation study for the region to measure greenhouse gas emissions, establish emission reduction targets, and integrate both climate mitigation and adaptation considerations into decision-making processes.

## 8.2 Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions

In 2021, the Regional District completed a new 10-year Air Quality Management Plan<sup>24</sup> that looked at air quality trends and identified actions to take to improve the health of the airshed. Air pollution and climate change are directly linked, and GHGs and air contaminants often come from the same source.

The Regional District will work toward achieving its GHG targets through a combination of efforts to reduce the consumption of energy, increase energy efficiency, prioritize clean air, and reduce GHG emissions by focusing on public mobility. The policies of this Plan will address how Area C will contribute to achieving the Regional District's emissions targets through the following measures:

- » Restricting new development to rural village areas through neighbourhood plans
- » Establishing transit connections to larger urban centres and employment areas
- » Improving active transportation network links between rural villages for easier access to local services and reduced trip generation
- » Encouraging energy efficiency in the construction of new developments
- » Supporting solid waste reduction initiatives

<sup>24</sup> Fraser Valley Regional District. (2021). *Air Quality Management Plan*.



## POLICY

- 8.2.1 **Reducing emissions in Area C.** The Regional District will prioritize initiatives in Area C that contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the targets set in the *Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy*.
- 8.2.2 **North Fraser transit expansion.** The Regional District shall work with BC Transit to introduce rural transit services between Agassiz and Mission with transit stops near communities and employment areas located along the Lougheed Highway, with plans to include transit stops within proposed developments along the planned transit route.
- 8.2.3 **Compact communities.** Major development shall adhere to the principles of compact communities that are focused on smart density principles, including environmental sensitivity, hazard management, active transportation, and a mix of land uses that reduce trip generations in the community.
- 8.2.4 **Solid waste.** The Regional District will work collaboratively with governments, communities, businesses, industry, and institutions to achieve the waste reduction vision of the *Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan* update.

## 8.3 Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency

Local governments play a vital role in addressing climate impacts through land use planning, infrastructure, and community services, necessitating proactive engagement in adaptation measures. Adaptation encompasses both preparing for future climate effects and responding to ongoing changes. Some climate shifts may present opportunities, while others pose challenges with less apparent solutions.

Climate resilience refers to the capacity of human and ecological systems to endure weather and climate-related stresses while maintaining their fundamental structure and functioning. This includes the ability of these systems to manage, adapt to, and recover either partially or fully from climate-induced stress and changes.

The policies of the Plan aim to strengthen community resilience by increasing awareness. This involves supporting community organizations, fostering collaboration with community partners, and collectively developing a strategic direction. An essential component is discouraging, managing, and mitigating development activities in areas susceptible to hazards, thereby minimizing potential risks. To reinforce these efforts, the Plan advocates for seeking provincial funding to update hazard maps, ensuring accurate and up-to-date information that can be instrumental in regulating developments in hazard-prone areas.

## POLICY

- 8.3.1 **Climate-informed decision-making.** The Regional Board will consider all new development and policy decisions through a climate-informed lens, ensuring that climate adaptation and mitigation principles are integrated into land use planning and service delivery.
- 8.3.2 **Step code implementation.** The Regional District will work with local builders and residents to implement the *British Columbia Building Code* requirements for improved energy efficiency for new buildings in British Columbia.
- 8.3.3 **Environmental building design.** The Regional District will encourage new developments to construct energy-efficient, low-impact buildings, that incorporate sustainable design principles, such as passive house design and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. Developments should also include storm water management, water conservation, drought-resistant landscaping, and minimal impervious surfaces.
- 8.3.4 **Increase tree canopy in new development.** The Regional District will encourage new developments to strategically increase the existing tree canopy of the development site, adapt to increased extreme heat vulnerability, and improve the energy efficiency of buildings.
- 8.3.5 **Energy efficiency incentive program.** The Regional District may explore the opportunity and viability of introducing energy efficiency incentive programs for major developments.

A person is paragliding over a vast, scenic landscape. The paraglider, wearing a black harness and a blue and black jacket, is suspended from a large, colorful parachute with yellow, green, and red sections. The parachute is fully inflated and billowing in the wind. The background features a deep blue lake, rolling green hills, and distant mountains under a clear blue sky with wispy clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of freedom and adventure.

## COMMUNITY WELL-BEING



# 9 COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

## 9.0 Overview

Well-being and quality of life is an important consideration in planning for the growth of any community. As continued development occurs in Area C and population densities increase, it will be important to consider continued improvements to the community's sense of well-being and social connectedness to achieve a complete community.

Healthy rural communities are characterized by their residents' ability to pursue healthy and active lifestyles, access necessary services, and experience a desired quality of life. Research suggests that approximately 60% of what makes people healthy is determined by our built, social, environmental, and economic environments<sup>25</sup>. These factors are known as the social determinants of health and can be heavily influenced by planning and policy decisions pertaining to the development of our communities.

Nearly 60% of the survey respondents for the Area C OCP indicated institutional amenities such as medical centres and daycare centres as important assets for the Plan area. In addition, access to parks and natural areas near residential neighbourhoods is increasingly recognized as a key contributor to both physical and mental health. Evidence shows that being in or viewing nature can help prevent chronic diseases and promote general well-being<sup>26</sup>. Parks also support climate change adaptation by providing natural and built shade that enhances thermal comfort and helps reduce heat-related illness<sup>27</sup>.

The policies of this Plan aim to address community health and well-being by making healthy choices easier for residents through community design, planning, and health promotion, while also recognizing the unique challenges presented in rural areas.

## 9.1 Creating a Diverse, Healthy, & Accessible Community

### POLICY

- 9.1.1 **Accessibility lens.** The Regional District, through neighbourhood plans and updates, will promote the development of an active transportation network that prioritizes accessibility in accordance with the policies of this Plan, specifically Section 4 - Transportation & Mobility.

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<sup>25</sup> BC Healthy Communities.

<sup>26</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control. (2018). *Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit: Making the links between design, planning and health* (Version 2.0).

<sup>27</sup> BC Cancer. (2024, May). *Shade Lookbook: A Guide to Designing Sun Safety*.

- 9.1.2 **Integration and connectivity.** The Regional District will encourage a connected network of trails and active transportation routes, that link parks, village centres, residential areas, and transit hubs.
- 9.1.3 **Aging in place.** The Regional District will encourage all new developments to consider and integrate intergenerational housing options with age-friendly design principles.
- 9.1.4 **Healthy food systems.** The Regional District will encourage establishing a local grocery store within Area C to maximize healthy, accessible, and affordable food options and increase access to local offerings.
- 9.1.5 **School capacity.** The Regional District will work closely with and support School District 75 – Mission, School District 78 - Fraser-Cascade, and Sts'ailes Community School to plan for future enrolments and address capacity issues that arise from the pressure of new developments.
- 9.1.6 **Community facility space.** The Regional District acknowledges that Indigenous communities in Area C are inviting the broader community to utilize community facilities, such as daycares and sports fields, on reserve lands. The Regional District supports the utilization of these existing community facilities to foster Indigenous community development and promote economic development and sustainability.
- 9.1.7 **Additional community facility space.** The Regional Board may require developer contributions toward capital costs of additional community facility spaces, as part of a development application, should the need for additional space within rural village areas be identified and required.
- 9.1.8 **Community associations and volunteers.** The Regional District will work with community associations, businesses, and other interested parties to enhance community well-being. The Regional District may offer support via grant-in-aid or in-kind contributions in recognition of the important role associations and volunteers have in the well-being of a community.





## ECONOMIC STRENGTH & RESILIENCY



# 10 ECONOMIC STRENGTH & RESILIENCY

## 10.0 Overview

Since the earliest days of British Columbia, employment in the Fraser Valley has centered around the agriculture and resource industry sectors. Compared to other electoral areas of the region, the Plan area has relatively little reliance on agriculture and related industries. Agricultural Land Reserve lands within the Plan area represent only 2.42% of lands, which amounts to only 207.25 hectares (Map 7 – Agricultural Land Reserve).

Area C is at the confluence of Harrison River, Fraser River, and Chehalis River. Outdoor recreation and tourism play an important role in the local economy with long-established businesses such as the Sandpiper Golf Course and Sasquatch Inn catering to tourists. Area C also serves as the gateway to Sasquatch Mountain Resort, an aspiring four-season resort, located to the north of the Plan area boundary. Additional commercial developments are being pursued by Indigenous communities along the Lougheed Highway and Morris Valley Road corridors.

Since the previous OCP was adopted in 2000, multiple commercial uses within the Plan area, such as the Silver Dollar gas station, convenience store in Harrison Mills, and the Harrison Bay General Store, have permanently shut down. Feedback from residents indicates there is a high demand for local commercial uses that provide for day-to-day retail needs. Established businesses have indicated a lack of employee housing has hindered the expansion of economic activities. Plan policies to address these needs are discussed further in the Neighbourhood Plans.

Research has demonstrated that quality of life has a direct correlation with economic prosperity. A strong economy that generates local, well-paying jobs for residents and supports services and amenities that can improve quality of life. Area C has a lower median household income than the region<sup>28</sup> as a whole and the province<sup>29</sup>. The policies of this Plan aim to lead the Plan area on the path of a complete community, including the creation and ongoing support of local commerce.

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<sup>28</sup> City Spaces Consulting Ltd. (2021, March). *Electoral Area Housing Needs Report Fraser Valley Regional District*. Prepared for the Fraser Valley Regional District.

<sup>29</sup> Statistics Canada. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.

## 10.1 Local Economic Development

### POLICY

- 10.1.1 **Encourage tourism recreation uses.** The Regional District will encourage business opportunities in the Harrison Mills area, which build upon and enhance existing tourist recreation businesses and infrastructure to develop Harrison Mills as the central rural village in the Plan area where people gather and shop.
- 10.1.2 **Consideration of commercial uses.** The Regional Board will support an appropriate scale of commercial uses along the Lougheed Highway Corridor, restricted to rural village areas, to meet community and visitor needs.
- 10.1.3 **Consideration of industrial uses.** The Regional Board shall consider proposals to rezone or establish community plan designations for industrial uses on an individual basis.
- 10.1.4 **Indigenous interests.** The Regional Board recognizes the significant economic development initiatives being undertaken by Indigenous communities within the Plan area and will work collaboratively with Indigenous governments to identify areas of economic development interests that bring shared prosperity to the area. The Regional District will coordinate with Indigenous governments as needed on issues related to servicing, housing demand, and transit provision.
- 10.1.5 **Visitor management strategy.** The Regional Board encourages communication between the Crown Land Management Branch (i.e., Ministry of Forests), Indigenous governments, and the Regional District to effectively coordinate visitor management strategies and operations on Crown land to ensure appropriate visitor carrying capacity and maintenance of recreational areas.
- 10.1.6 **Recognize employee and employer needs.** The Regional District recognizes the importance of housing and childcare in economic health, recruiting employees, and supporting a diverse workforce. The Regional Board will support home occupation and accessory dwelling units to diversify housing and provide opportunities for home-based businesses including in-home childcare centres.



## RECREATION, PARKS, & TRAILS



# 11 RECREATION, PARKS, & TRAILS

## 11.0 Overview

The scenic surroundings of Electoral Area C offer abundant outdoor recreation possibilities, thanks to the Crown lands encircling the rural village areas. The Plan area is minimally served by community parks and trails, with an absence of regional parks, which results in a significant dependence on the surrounding Crown lands for recreational activities.

The increased use of Crown land and recreation sites has significant impacts, demanding strategic enhancements for effective management. This heightened utilization places a burden on Indigenous land guardians, who face challenges managing the overuse and misuse of surrounding natural areas.

The projected growth within the Plan area will necessitate the need for expanding parks, recreation sites, and trails. To facilitate the growth of recreational areas, the Plan is committed to improving connectivity, fostering sustainable development, managing public access, and collaborating with Indigenous communities to promote the overall development of recreational spaces.

## 11.1 Community Parks & Trails

Within the Plan area, there are currently two community park facilities and two community trails. Ample outdoor recreation opportunities in the rural setting help mitigate the immediate need for additional community parks. However, additional community parks may be considered in conjunction with future development and growth. Delivering cost-effective community park services to areas with small and scattered populations remains a significant challenge.

The *Local Government Act* requires the allocation of parkland during subdivision processes, with provisions for cash in lieu under certain circumstances. It is the Regional Board's policy to ensure that lands identified for potential parks or trails are dedicated during subdivision. Additionally, the Regional Board reserves the right to accept or require park dedication in any location within the Plan area, provided it deems the site suitable for park purposes. Alternatively, cash-in-lieu may be accepted to support the development of a trail network, linear park system, or other local priorities. A guiding principle is that cash-in-lieu contributions should be reinvested in the local community for the benefit of its residents in a way that enhances parks, trails and/or outdoor recreation amenities.



Park Classifications	
Tot Lot	Small community parks with the primary purpose of providing local children with a place to play. A playground is the primary amenity. Benches and picnic tables may also be included.
Neighbourhood Park	Small public parks that offer access to open space for passive use, such as picnicking, resting, and walking. Amenities may include trails, picnic tables, garbage cans, etc.
Active Park	Medium-sized parks that offer opportunities for more active recreation, including organized sports. Park amenities may include athletic fields, playgrounds, and programming.
Special Interest Site	Special interest sites may vary in size, but are established to highlight important historical, cultural, ecological, or geological points of interest in the community.
Linear Trails/ Greenways	Linear trails or greenways are long, narrow stretches of parkland or greenspace designated for recreational uses such as walking or biking and may form part of the broader Regional District active transportation network. They often act as pedestrian linkages between neighbourhoods, parks, or communities. Greenways can include a variety of trail types, from single track and gravel paths to sidewalks and multi-use paths and may be located within utility rights-of-way.
Regional Parks	Regional parks and trails provide benefits and enjoyment to residents and visitors across the Fraser Valley. Regional Parks are generally considered to have three functions: to protect the natural landscape, to complement municipal recreation areas, and to contribute to open space and greenway connections. Each park has regional significance, whether recreational, ecological, or cultural.

Table 6: Park Classifications

Existing Community Park and Trail Assets				
Name	Type	Area	Tenure	Use
Eagle Point Park	Special Interest Site	5.54 acres (park area) 0.48 kilometres (trail to park)	Regional District Managed	Walking, Wildlife, Viewing, Birding
Elbow Creek Trail	Trail	0.78 kilometres	Regional District Managed	Recreation Network Trail - Nature Based
Lake Errock Community Park	Active Park	0.66 acres	Regional District Managed	Day use of Lake Errock
Morris Valley Roadside Trail	Trail	1.67 kilometres	Regional District Managed	Walking Trail (Active Transportation Network)
Sts'ailes Heritage Trail	Trail	3.15 kilometres	Sts'ailes	Walking, Wildlife, Viewing, Birding

Table 7: Existing Park and Trail Assets in Area C

## POLICY

**11.1.1 Connection between North and South Lake Errock.** The Regional Board supports exploring the feasibility of improving the pedestrian connectivity between the North and South Lake Errock communities through Neighbourhood Plans, development applications, and community initiatives.

## 11.2 Regional Parks, & Trails

The Plan area is not served by any regional parks and trails. However, the Regional Board supports other regional initiatives, such as the Experience the Fraser Trail, Blueway, and the FVRD Active Transportation Network Plan.

## POLICY

**11.2.1 Experience the Fraser Trail and Blueway.** The Regional Board supports continuation of the Experience the Fraser Trail and Blueway including the amenity and feature point

identified in the Sts'ailes node, in accordance with the Experience the Fraser concept plan.

- 11.2.2 **Dikes as trail infrastructure.** The Regional Board supports exploring the feasibility of integrating existing dike infrastructure into the *FVRD Active Transportation Network Plan*.

## 11.3 Future Opportunities

The future presents exciting opportunities for connectivity and recreational development in the Plan area. The policies of the Plan aim to enhance connectivity, manage public access, prioritizing the environment, wildlife, and cultural aspects. The policies of the Plan will also aim to strengthen collaboration with Indigenous communities in the development of recreational spaces and exploration of potential trail extensions while supporting the improvement of existing sites to promote sustainable and inclusive recreation within the Plan area.

### POLICY

- 11.3.1 **Connectivity.** The Regional Board supports trail connectivity and linkages between rural village areas, including Indigenous communities, within Area C to facilitate active transportation. Where feasible, trails should be designed as multi-use to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users.
- 11.3.2 **Echo Lake access.** The Regional Board may consider future public trail connections to Echo Lake that connect to the Harrison Mills rural village and balance private property owner concerns, environmental protection, and eagle habitat sensitivities with recreation needs and Indigenous cultural uses.
- 11.3.3 **Elbow Lake recreation area.** The Regional District supports collaboration with Sts'ailes in exploring opportunities for developing a recreation area at Elbow Lake in order to meet existing recreation demands and mitigate current unsanctioned use. This may include a potential Elbow Creek Trail extension to Elbow Lake.
- 11.3.4 **Weaver Lake Recreation Site.** The Regional District will support Sts'ailes in enhancing their recreational tenure and will advocate to the province for increased funding for the land guardian program, which provides extensive recreation management within the Plan area.
- 11.3.5 **Recreational sites.** The Regional District, in coordination with Sts'ailes, will explore opportunities to develop regional parks within the Plan area by potentially utilizing existing provincial recreation sites or supporting the long-term transition of lands from other land uses.

- 11.3.6 **Recreation reserves.** The Regional District will collaborate with provincial agencies to establish recreational uses on lands designated as recreation reserves that align with reserve objectives and support habitat preservation.
- 11.3.7 **Park infrastructure and trails.** New park infrastructure and trails within the Agricultural Land Reserve should be developed in collaboration with the Agricultural Land Commission.

Recreation on Crown Land

Crown land in the Plan area is located within the traditional and asserted territories of Sts'ailes, Sq'éwlets, Leq'á:mel First Nation, Semá:th First Nation, Sq'ewa:lxw First Nation (Skawahlook), and Matsqui First Nation.

Recreational users often utilize Crown land near community areas for activities like hiking and enjoying nature. As the recreation site managers for most of the sites in the Plan area, Sts'ailes, has indicated increased pressure due to the growing number of users and inadequate infrastructure, emphasizing the need for improvements to support sustained use. It is crucial to formally identify trails and recreation areas on Crown land to address community and partner agencies' concerns in planning resource activities.

The policies of this Plan aim to promote sustainable development and collaboration. This involves joint advocacy with Indigenous communities on trails and recreation areas, highlighting development access to Crown lands, and incorporating existing provincial rights-of-way into the Active Transportation Network.

The Plan area includes five provincial recreation sites, all of which are located along West Harrison Lake. These sites provide the opportunity to camp and often include access to lakes or waterways. These sites complement Regional District regional and community assets.

Name	Site Operator	Type	Number of Campsites	Facilities
Chehalis River	Sts'ailes Development Corporation	Maintained	57	Tables, Toilets
Francis Lake	Four Wheel Drive	User Maintained	4	Boat Launch, Tables, Toilets
Grace Lake	Sts'ailes Development Corporation	Maintained	10	Tables, Toilets

Weaver Lake	Sts'ailes Development Corporation	Maintained	38	Boat Launch, Tables, Toilets, Wharfs
Wolf Lake	Sts'ailes Development Corporation	Maintained	3	Tables, Toilets

Table 8: Provincial Recreation Sites within Area C

There is one recreation trail located within the Plan area in West Harrison.

Name	Site Operator	Type	Description
Denham Trail	Sts'ailes Development Corporation	Maintained	6.5 kilometres loop around Weaver Lake

Table 9: Provincial Recreation Trails within Area C

## POLICY

- 11.3.8 **Joint advocacy.** The Regional Board will jointly advocate with Indigenous communities to the provincial and federal government in areas of shared interest related to activities on Crown land, such as conservation capacity and recreation site management.
- 11.3.9 **Existing provincial rights-of-way and dedications for recreational use.** The Regional Board supports integrating existing Ministry of Transportation and Transit rights-of-way and unconstructed road dedications into the *Active Transportation Network Plan* for the purposes of expanding the trail network and increasing connectivity in Area C.
- 11.3.10 **Improved access to Crown lands.** The Regional Board requires that developments adjacent to Crown land incorporate access to Crown lands beyond and prioritize continuous connections to the existing active transportation network.
- 11.3.11 **Coordination with Indigenous communities.** The Regional Board encourages that the development of future and existing trails and recreation areas on Crown land should be pursued in partnership with Indigenous communities, especially where the community has indicated an interest in recreation management.



A photograph of a forest scene. In the center, a large tree trunk is visible, with its roots exposed and spreading out over a mound of soil. The roots are thick and brown, contrasting with the green foliage of the surrounding trees. The background is filled with tall, thin evergreen trees, creating a dense forest atmosphere. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day.

## DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS



# 12 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS

## 12.1 GEOHAZARD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 1-C

### Category of Designation

Geohazard Development Permit Area 1-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the protection of development from hazardous conditions.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area No. 1-C (DPA 1-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 3 – Geohazard Development Permit Area 1-C.

### Justification

DPA 1-C has been established to provide guidelines for development in areas with significant and potential geohazards. Three overview hazard assessments provide the basis for the recommendations and mitigation measures within DPA 1-C:

- » *Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C*, prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience, January 2023
- » *Lake Errock Area Stage 1 Study, Geotechnical Overview*, prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd., September 1998
- » *Harrison Area Stage 1 Study Geotechnical Overview*, prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd., November 1995

The Deroche Bench area is a terraced area lying between steep escarpment slopes to the north and the Fraser River floodplain to the south. Pye, Gerard, Barnes, and Siddall Creeks have cut deep ravines through the bench areas. These creeks are steep, classified as debris-prone, and support alluvial fans at their mouths. They pose risks from debris flow, debris flood, mountain stream avulsion, erosion, and overland flooding. The January 2023 Cordilleran Geoscience Assessment *Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C* provides general assessments for residential construction in the vicinity of Brooks, Bergen, Tait and Ohman Road areas.

The Thurber Engineering Ltd. reports summarize the findings of geological conditions in the Plan area and categorize land areas as having significant, potential, or no hazards. Areas with significant or potential hazards inform the boundaries of DPA 1-C.

The Cordilleran Geoscience report provides site-specific recommendations for residential construction to address some of the prevalent hazards, while the 1995 and 1998 Thurber Engineering Ltd. reports more generally identify areas with significant and potential hazards within the Plan area. Together, the assessments considered potential flooding, landslides, rock fall, debris flow, and other geohazards, depicted in Map 3 – Geologic & Stream Hazards.

#### Potential Hazards

- » Alluvial fan, debris flow, debris flood, mountain stream avulsion, and overland flooding
- » Debris avalanche and rockfall from adjacent mountain slopes
- » Localized landslip

## Objectives

The objectives of Development Permit Area 1-C are to:

- » Direct development away from hazardous areas;
- » Allow for land use suitable under hazardous conditions, in accordance with geohazard studies and the *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time;
- » Obtain assurance from a Qualified Professional that the development satisfies the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals*;
- » Ensure adequate professional assessment of geohazards and mitigation works;
- » Minimize the potential that new developments and land alterations will increase hazards to downslope lands; and,
- » Minimize the potential for damage to properties and the risk to life.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.1.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. The subdivision of land;
- b. The alteration of land;

Including, but not limited to:

- i. Removal, disruption, or destruction of vegetation;
- ii. Removal or disruption of soil;
- iii. Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
- iv. Private flood protection works;

- v. Development of drainage systems and utility corridors; and,
- vi. Construction of private roads and driveways; or,
- c. Construction of or addition to a building or structure.

## Exemptions

12.1.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.1.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Construction of, addition to, or alteration of buildings or structures where:
  - i. It is demonstrated through a certified site-specific geohazard assessment, prepared by a Qualified Professional geohazard engineer or geoscientist, that the potential risk to any geotechnical hazard which may affect the site is within the levels deemed acceptable in the Regional Board policy *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time, and that no mitigation or conditions (such as siting, elevation, berm, etc.) are required by the Qualified Professional;
  - ii. The proposed construction consists of interior or exterior alterations that do not expand the existing building footprint and that do not involve a change of use or the construction of a secondary suite or accessory dwelling unit;
  - iii. The proposed construction is a single-storey detached residential accessory building or structure, or addition thereto, or construction or reconstruction of decks, stairs, or outdoor components of a dwelling unit, which is not intended to be used for any residential occupancy and where the total floor area after the new construction or addition does not exceed 20 square metres (215 square feet), provided that it involves no alteration of land, excavation of potentially unstable slopes, or the placement of fill on potentially unstable slopes; or,
  - iv. The proposed construction is a building or structure, or an addition to an existing building or structure which is intended to be used as a farm building of low human occupancy as defined in the *National Farm Building Code of Canada* and where the total floor area after the new construction or addition does not exceed 30 square metres



(323 square feet), provided that it involves no alteration of land, excavation of potentially unstable slopes, or the placement of fill on potentially unstable slopes;

- b. Repair or replacement of an existing septic field;
- c. Removal of trees determined by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester (who is qualified to do tree risk assessment) that pose an imminent risk to the safety of life or buildings;
- d. Riparian habitat enhancement or restoration works under the guidance of provincial and federal agencies;
- e. Subdivision to facilitate a lot consolidation or boundary adjustment, provided no additional parcels are created;
- f. Local and regional park facilities;
- g. Emergency actions necessary to prevent, control, or reduce immediate and substantial threats to life or property during a flood, debris flood/flow, erosion, landslide, avalanche, stream avulsion, and other geohazard events;
- h. Repair, maintenance and improvement of flood protection infrastructure, and all related ancillary or accessory works, regulated and approved by federal or provincial agencies;
- i. Public road or highway works;
- j. Free-standing signs and signs attached to existing structures; or,
- k. Public utilities and infrastructure.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 1-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

### General

- 12.1.3 Where possible, development should be sited to avoid hazards. Where impossible or impractical to avoid hazards, mitigation measures may be considered.
- 12.1.4 No alterations to the natural drainage or vegetation, and no construction or excavation should be permitted which may cause or contribute to hazardous conditions on the site or adjacent lands.

## Integration of Overview Study with Site-Specific Assessments

- 12.1.5 Where a site-specific assessment is required, the recommendations set out in the 2023 Cordilleran Geoscience *Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C*, (see Table 10), must be considered and incorporated into the recommendations of the site-specific assessment.
- 12.1.6 The site-specific assessment must determine the land is safe for the use intended and certify and design any required hazard mitigation works necessary to protect development in accordance with the policies of this Plan.
- 12.1.7 Where a site-specific assessment is conducted, the Qualified Professional must consider all primary and accessory uses permitted in the hazard area as part of their assessment in order to establish a building envelope that could accommodate every permissible use.

Hazard Area	Description of Hazard	Hazard Mitigation
1. Hillslope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Greater than 50%</li> <li>» Open slope landslide, rockfall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Development is not recommended</li> <li>» Site-specific assessment required</li> </ul>
2. Proximal Fan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Moderate slopes (greater than 15%) composed of bouldery debris flow and/or rockfall</li> <li>» Alluvial fan hazards (debris flow, channel avulsion, overland flow) and hillslope hazards (landslides and rockfall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Development is not recommended</li> <li>» Site-specific assessment required</li> </ul>
3. Distal Fan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Alluvial fan hazards (debris flooding, channel avulsion, overland flow)</li> <li>» Area within 200 metres of the base of the hillside may be subject to landslide and rockfall</li> </ul>	<p>A. Beyond 200 metres hillslope setback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reinforced concrete foundation;</li> <li>» 1.2 metres elevation above finished grade; and,</li> <li>» Scour protection per design.</li> </ul> <p>B. Within 200 metres hillslope setback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reinforced concrete foundation;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 1.2 metres elevation above finished grade;</li> <li>» Scour protection per design; and,</li> <li>» Detailed assessment for landslide and rockfall hazards.</li> </ul> <p>C. Polygon 10a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reinforced concrete foundation;</li> <li>» 1.0 metre elevation above finished grade; and,</li> <li>» Scour protection per design.</li> </ul>
4. Hillslope Shadow (Terrain Abutting Steep Hill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Open-slope landslide, rockfall, overland flow</li> </ul>	<p>A. Beyond 200 metres hillslope setback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reinforced concrete foundation;</li> <li>» 1.0 metre elevation above finished grade; and,</li> <li>» Scour protection per design.</li> </ul> <p>B. Within 200 metres hillslope setback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reinforced concrete foundation;</li> <li>» 1.0 metre elevation above finished grade;</li> <li>» Scour protection per design; and,</li> <li>» Detailed assessment for landslide and rockfall hazards.</li> </ul>
5. Escarpment Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Greater than 50% slopes</li> <li>» Gullying, slumps, debris flow, rockfall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Site-specific assessment required</li> </ul>
6. Paleochannel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Localized flooding, overland flow, potential avulsion towards Siddall Creek, landslip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Flood hazard assessment required</li> </ul>

7. Ravine Floor	» Flood, debris flood, avulsion, erosion, raveling, slides, slumps from escarpment slopes	» Site-specific assessment required
8. Deroche Bench	» Free of hillslope and alluvial fan hazards. Slopes are generally less than 30% » No apparent hazard other than a 30 metre setback from the escarpment crest and toe (Hazard Area 5)	» Site-specific assessment is required for development within 30 metres of the crest and toe of the escarpment slopes (Hazard Area 5) » Qualified Professional to review local seepage and provide recommendations for foundation design (lift and bearing)
<b>Disclaimer: This table provides a summary of the recommendations contained within the <i>Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C</i> prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2023). It is provided for convenience only.</b>		

Table 10 – Overview Geohazard Assessment Recommendations Summary

Source: Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C, - Table 16. Prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2023).

- 12.1.8 Proposed developments may be required to determine the precise location of the setback from the hillslope through a topographic survey, sealed by a BC Land Surveyor.
- 12.1.9 Where recommendations of a site-specific geotechnical assessment differ from the requirements of Development Permit Area 1-C and the recommendations of *Overview Geohazard Mapping, Brooks and Ohman Road, Area C* prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2023), an independent third-party review of the site-specific geohazard assessment may be required, completed at the expense of the applicant and supporting the conclusions of the site-specific assessment.
- 12.1.10 Geohazard assessments submitted in support of a development permit application must meet the requirements outlined in the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time and the appropriate EGBC Professional Practice Standards.

### Coordination with Professionals

- 12.1.11 Where development requires a riparian assessment pursuant to Development Permit 4-C, the site-specific geohazard assessment must be coordinated with the riparian assessment in order to provide a comprehensive development permit application.



- 12.1.12 Where a proposed development requires additional technical assessments, the Qualified Professional preparing the geohazard assessment should coordinate with the other Qualified Professionals conducting assessments to ensure a comprehensive approach.

### **Letter of Assurance & Commitment, Field Reviews & Post Construction Reporting**

- 12.1.13 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance & Commitment* from a Qualified Professional must be submitted at the time of the development permit application. This letter must confirm the professional's commitment to review any proposed mitigation measures, conduct field reviews and monitoring as required, and provide post-construction reporting.
- 12.1.14 Upon completion of the works authorized by the development permit, and for certainty, once any timeline for the completion of works established as a term or condition of the development permit has expired, the permit holder may be required to submit a post-construction certification to the Regional District. This certification must be prepared by a Qualified Professional and must either:
- a. Certify that the development was carried out in accordance with the geohazard assessment and that the terms and conditions outlined in both the geohazard assessment and the development permit have been properly implemented; or,
  - b. Identify and document all instances of non-compliance with the geohazard assessment and the development permit and outline the measures necessary to correct these deficiencies, including any work that should be undertaken by the Regional District as contemplated in Section 12.1.19.
- 12.1.15 The requirement for post-construction certification and inspection may be waived by a condition in a development permit.

## **Terms & Conditions**

- 12.1.16 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Development Permit Area 1-C.
- 12.1.17 A development permit may include conditions or restrictions respecting the uses and densities permitted in the zoning bylaw, the sequence and timing of construction, areas to remain free of development, vegetation or trees to be planted or retained, natural drainage to be maintained or enhanced, or other matters as specified in Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Permit Security

- 12.1.18 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:
- Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
  - The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
  - The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; or,
  - The permit holder is required to retain, restore or replace native vegetation.
- 12.1.19 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.

## Offence

- 12.1.20 Failure to:
- Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
  - Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;
- are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction, penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.
- 12.1.21 Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the requirements of Development Permit Area 1-C and the terms and conditions of the development permit are being met.

## Refusal of Development Permit

- 12.1.22 The Regional Board or delegate may refuse to issue a development permit where:

- a. The hazard frequency, as determined by a Qualified Professional, exceeds the acceptability threshold for the proposed development stipulated in the Regional District *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or Regional Board policy as it exists at the time;
- b. The requirements of the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time have not been adequately met;
- c. Proposed mitigation measures:
  - i. Extend beyond the property boundary;
  - ii. Rely on natural vegetation located outside the property boundary; or,
  - iii. Require maintenance actions by another jurisdiction; or,
- d. Development Permit Area Guidelines have not been adequately met.

## 12.2 LAKE ERROCK GEOHAZARD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 2-C

### Category of Designation

Lake Errock Geohazard Development Permit Area 2-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the protection of development from hazardous conditions.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area No. 2-C (DPA 2-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 4 – Lake Errock Geohazard Development Permit Area 2-C.

### Justification

DPA 2-C has been established to provide guidelines for development in Lake Errock with significant and potential geohazards. Three overview hazard assessments provide the basis for the recommendations and mitigation measures within DPA 2-C:

- » *Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock*, prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience, April 2012
- » *Lake Errock Area Stage 1 Study, Geotechnical Overview*, prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd., September 1998
- » *Harrison Area Stage 1 Study Geotechnical Overview*, prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd., November 1995

The Cordilleran Geoscience report provides site-specific recommendations for alluvial fan and flood hazards for residential construction surrounding Lake Errock. The report assesses hazards arising from Siddall, Squakum, Holatchen Creek, and other watercourses.

The Thurber Engineering reports summarize the findings of geohazard conditions in the Plan area and categorize land areas as having significant, potential, or no hazards. Areas with significant or potential hazards inform the boundaries of DPA 2-C.

All of the assessments considered potential flooding, landslides, rock falls, debris flow, and other geohazards.

#### Potential Hazards

- » Alluvial fan, debris flow, debris flood
- » Mountain stream avulsion, overland flooding



## Objectives

The objectives of Development Permit Area 2-C are to:

- » Direct development away from hazardous areas;
- » Allow for land use suitable under hazardous conditions, in accordance with geohazard studies and the Regional District *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time;
- » Obtain assurance from a Qualified Professional that the development satisfies the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals*;
- » Ensure adequate professional assessment of geohazards and mitigation works;
- » Minimize the potential that new developments and land alterations will increase hazards to adjacent lands; and,
- » Minimize the potential for damage to properties and the risk to life.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.2.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. The subdivision of land;
- b. The alteration of land;

Including, but not limited to:

- i. Removal, disruption, or destruction of vegetation;
  - ii. Removal or disruption of soil;
  - iii. Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
  - iv. Private flood protection works;
  - v. Development of drainage systems and utility corridors; and,
  - vi. Construction of private roads and driveways; or,
- c. Construction of or addition to a building or structure.

## Exemptions

12.2.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.2.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Construction of, addition to, or alteration of buildings or structures where:
  - i. It is demonstrated through a certified site-specific geohazard assessment, prepared by a Qualified Professional geohazard

engineer or geoscientist, that the potential risk to any geotechnical hazard which may affect the site is within the levels deemed acceptable in the Regional Board policy *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time, and that no mitigation or conditions (such as siting, elevation, berm, etc.) are required by the Qualified Professional;

- ii. The proposed construction consists of interior or exterior alterations that do not expand the existing building footprint and that do not involve a change of use or the construction of a secondary suite or accessory dwelling unit;
  - iii. The proposed construction is a single-storey detached residential accessory building or structure, or addition thereto, or construction or reconstruction of decks, stairs, or outdoor components of a dwelling unit, which is not intended to be used for any residential occupancy and where the total floor area after the new construction or addition does not exceed 20 square metres (215 square feet), provided that it involves no alteration of land, excavation of potentially unstable slopes, or the placement of fill on potentially unstable slopes; or,
  - iv. The proposed construction is a building or structure or an addition to an existing building or structure which is intended to be used as a farm building of “low human occupancy” as defined in the *National Farm Building Code of Canada* and where the total floor area after the new construction or addition does not exceed 30 square metres (323 square feet), provided that it involves no alteration of land, excavation of potentially unstable slopes, or the placement of fill on a potentially unstable slopes;
- b. Repair or replacement of an existing septic field;
  - c. Removal of trees determined by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester (who is qualified to do tree risk assessment) that pose an imminent risk to the safety of life or buildings;
  - d. Riparian habitat enhancement or restoration works under the guidance of provincial and federal agencies;
  - e. Subdivision to facilitate a lot consolidation or boundary adjustment, provided no additional parcels are created;

- f. Local and regional park facilities;
- g. Emergency actions necessary to prevent, control or reduce immediate and substantial threats to life or property during a flood, debris flood/flow, erosion, landslide, avalanche, stream avulsion and other geohazard events;
- h. Repair, maintenance, and improvement of flood protection infrastructure, and all related ancillary or accessory works, regulated and approved by federal or provincial agencies;
- i. Public road or highway works;
- j. Free-standing signs and signs attached to existing structures; or,
- k. Public utilities and infrastructure.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 2-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

### General

- 12.2.3 Where possible, development should be sited to avoid hazards. Where impossible or impractical to avoid hazards, mitigation measures may be considered.
- 12.2.4 No alterations to the natural drainage or vegetation, and no construction or excavation should be permitted which might cause or contribute to hazardous conditions on the site or adjacent lands.

### Hazard Mitigation

- 12.2.5 It must be demonstrated through building plans and a sealed Letter of Assurance from a Qualified Professional that flood construction elevations, scour protection, and/or setbacks are implemented in accordance with the recommendations of the *Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock* report prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2012); and, the guidelines of this development permit area are met.
- 12.2.6 In accordance with the recommendations of the *Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock* report by Cordilleran Geoscience (2012), buildings and structures must be protected from hazards, as follows:

Hazard Area	Description of Hazard	Hazard Mitigation
Area 1	» Apices of Squuakum Creek, Holatchten Creek, and Siddall Creek fans	» Site-specific assessment required
Area 2*	» Alluvial fan area with gradient greater than 5% and near active channel	» Flood construction elevation of 1.2 metres above finished grade, or 0.6 metres above the crown of the nearest downslope embankment, greater of » Scour protection riprap D50 = 400mm
Area 3*	» Alluvial fan areas with less than 5% gradient and removed from an active channel	» Flood construction elevation of 1.0 metre above finished grade or 0.6 metres above the crown of the nearest downslope embankment, greater of » Scour protection riprap D50 = 300mm
Area 4*	» Distal fan and floodplain areas possibly overlapping with Lake Errock and Fraser River flood areas	» Flood construction elevation of 0.6 metres above finished grade or 0.6 metres above the crown of the nearest downslope embankment, greater of » Scour protection riprap D50 = 225mm; No less than 16.5 metres geodetic adjacent to Lake Errock
Area 5*	» Flood areas of Lake Errock, Fraser River, and small watercourses	» Flood construction elevation of 0.6 metres above finished grade or 0.6 metres above the crown of the nearest downslope embankment, greater of » Scour protection riprap D50 = 225mm; No less than 16.5 metres geodetic adjacent to Lake Errock; 1.5 metres



		above the natural boundary of any waterbody or stream
Area 6	» No apparent hazard	» No mitigation required
* Where proposed construction is an entryway, garage, workshop, or a non-habitable storage building in Hazard Areas 2 - 5, the flood construction level may be reduced to 0.6 metres above finished grade provided all electrical gear and equipment damageable by flood waters is raised to the specified flood construction level.		
<b>Disclaimer: This table provides a summary of the recommendations contained within the <i>Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock</i> prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2012) it is provided for convenience only.</b>		

*Table 11 – Overview Geohazard Assessment Recommendations Summary*  
Source: *Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock - Table 6 report prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2012).*

## Site-Specific Geohazard Assessments

- 12.2.7 Notwithstanding Section 12.2.6, if a hazard mitigation strategy is proposed that differs from the requirements of this development permit area and the recommendations of the *Review and Revision of Fan and Flood Hazard Management Measures, Lake Errock* report prepared by Cordilleran Geoscience (2012), a site-specific geohazard assessment will be required. An independent third-party review of the site-specific geohazard assessment may be required, completed at the expense of the applicant and supporting the conclusions of the site-specific report.
- 12.2.8 Where a site-specific assessment is conducted, the Qualified Professional must consider all primary and accessory uses permitted in the hazard area as part of their assessment, in order to establish a building envelope that could accommodate every permissible use.
- 12.2.9 A site-specific geohazard assessment may be required pursuant to Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*, prepared by a Qualified Professional engineer with training and expertise in high-energy creek engineering.
- 12.2.10 Geohazard assessments submitted in support of a development permit application must meet the requirements outlined in the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time and the appropriate Engineers and Geoscientists BC Professional Practice Standards.

- 12.2.11 The site-specific assessment must determine the land is safe for the use intended and certify and design any required hazard mitigation works necessary to protect development in accordance with the policies of this Plan.

### **Coordination with Professionals**

- 12.2.12 Where development requires a riparian assessment pursuant to Development Permit Area 4-C, the site-specific geohazard assessment must be coordinated with the riparian assessment in order to provide a comprehensive development permit application.
- 12.2.13 Where a proposed development requires additional technical assessments, the Qualified Professional preparing the geohazard assessment should coordinate with the other Qualified Professionals conducting assessments to ensure a comprehensive approach.

### **Letter of Assurance & Commitment, Field Reviews & Post Construction Reporting**

- 12.2.14 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance & Commitment* from a Qualified Professional must be submitted at the time of the development permit application. This letter must confirm the professional's commitment to review any proposed mitigation measures, conduct field reviews and monitoring as required, and provide post-construction reporting.
- 12.2.15 Upon completion of the works authorized by the development permit, and for certainty, once any timeline for the completion of works established as a term or condition of the development permit has expired, the permit holder may be required to submit a post-construction certification to the Regional District. This certification must be prepared by a Qualified Professional and must either:
- a. Certify that the development was carried out in accordance with the geohazard assessment and that the terms and conditions outlined in both the geohazard assessment and the development permit have been properly implemented; or,
  - b. Identify and document all instances of non-compliance with the geohazard assessment and the development permit, and outline the measures necessary to correct these deficiencies, including any work that should be undertaken by the Regional District as contemplated in Section 12.2.20.
- 12.2.16 The requirement for post-construction certification and inspection may be waived by a condition in a development permit.

## Terms & Conditions

- 12.2.17 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Development Permit Area 2-C.
- 12.2.18 A development permit may include conditions or restrictions respecting the uses and densities permitted in the zoning bylaw, the sequence and timing of construction, areas to remain free of development, vegetation or trees to be planted or retained, natural drainage to be maintained or enhanced, or other matters as specified in Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Permit Security

- 12.2.19 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:
- a. Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
  - b. The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
  - c. The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; or,
  - d. The permit holder is required to retain, restore, or replace native vegetation.
- 12.2.20 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.

## Offence

- 12.2.21 Failure to:
- a. Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
  - b. Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;
- are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction,

penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.

- 12.2.22 Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the requirements of Development Permit Area 2-C and the terms and conditions of the development permit are being met.

## Refusal of Development Permit

- 12.2.23 The Regional Board or delegate may refuse to issue a development permit where:
- a. The hazard frequency, as determined by a Qualified Professional, exceeds the acceptability threshold for the proposed development stipulated in the *Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or Regional Board policy as it exists at the time;
  - b. The requirements of the Regional District *Geohazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time have not been adequately met;
  - c. Proposed mitigation measures:
    - i. Extend beyond the property boundary;
    - ii. Rely on natural vegetation located outside the property boundary; or
    - iii. Require maintenance actions by another jurisdiction; or,
  - d. Development Permit Area Guidelines have not been adequately met.



## 12.3 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 3-C

### Category of Designation

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Development Permit Area 3-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area No. 3-C (DPA 3-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 5 – Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Development Permit Area 3-C.

### Justification

Numerous environmentally sensitive habitats have been identified throughout the Plan area for Area C and they represent some of the last relatively intact ecosystems in the Fraser Valley. A significant amount of federally identified Critical Habitats occur within this region, recognized through provincial designations (WMA, IBA, KBA<sup>30</sup>) and localized environmental studies (Hancock Wildlife Foundation, 2023, 2024). The region is important to the wintering, migration and/or breeding habitats for salmonids, sturgeon, aquatic birds, bald eagles and upland wildlife.

DPA 3-C encompasses wetland marshes, river deltas, and terrestrial old growth habitats. The area generally includes lands that contain Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) or are recognized for their high ecological and conservation value, warranting an environmental assessment prior to any significant alteration. The priority is to maintain the ecological health and functions of these natural systems with a focus on minimizing the impacts of land development and disturbances, particularly those that could alter existing hydrological regimes.

### Objectives

The objectives of Development Permit Area 3-C are to:

- » To protect wildlife, waterfowl and other environmentally valuable resources;
- » To allow for land uses compatible with the natural environment; and,

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<sup>30</sup>Provincial and international conservation designations such as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) help identify and support the protection of ecologically significant areas that contribute to species-at-risk conservation and overall ecosystem health.

- » To prevent the degradation of watersheds and groundwater.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.3.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. The subdivision of land;
- b. The cumulative total alteration of land exceeds 5 acres or 40% of the lot area, whichever is greater;

Including but not limited to:

- i. Removal, disruption, or destruction of vegetation;
- ii. Removal or disruption of soil;
- iii. Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
- iv. Private flood protection works;
- v. Development of drainage systems and utility corridors; and,
- vi. Construction of private roads and driveways; or,
- c. Where the cumulative total floor area of all buildings or structures exceeds 500 square metres (5,381 square feet).

## Exemptions

12.3.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.3.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Removal of trees determined by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester (who is qualified to do tree risk assessment) that pose an imminent risk to the safety of life or buildings;
- b. Riparian habitat enhancement or restoration works under the guidance of provincial and federal agencies;
- c. Local and regional park facilities;
- d. Emergency actions necessary to prevent, control or reduce immediate and substantial threats to life or property during a flood, debris flood/flow, erosion, landslide, avalanche, stream avulsion and other geohazards events;
- e. Repair, maintenance and improvement of flood protection infrastructure and all related ancillary or accessory works, regulated and approved by provincial or federal agencies;
- f. Public road or highway works;

- g. Public utilities and infrastructure; or,
- h. Soil-based agricultural activities.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 3-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

### General

- 12.3.3 An environmental assessment from a Qualified Professional is required which certifies that the development will not result in:
  - a. Contamination of the groundwater or increased surface run-off to identified environmental features; and,
  - b. Unacceptable impacts on environmental habitats and resources.
- 12.3.4 The assessment must meet the Regional District *Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference* and must address the following best practices:
  - a. Development must be screened from the environmentally sensitive habitat areas using natural vegetation to maintain a buffer. The buffer areas must remain free of development;
  - b. Dedication of natural watercourses or the construction of works to preserve or enhance natural watercourses may be required for environmental protection;
  - c. Identify areas and measures for habitat assessment and preservation;
  - d. Sequence and timing of construction must be controlled to avoid conflict with fish and wildlife resources; and,
  - e. Construction activities must include appropriate controls to minimize the discharge of sediment into water bodies.
- 12.3.5 The assessment must identify important wildlife habitat areas and migration corridors and provide leave strips of 100 metres or at a distance determined by the Qualified Professional.
- 12.3.6 The assessment must consider the impacts of any historical land alteration, vegetation removal, and tree removal dating back a minimum of five years from the date of the assessment.

### Coordination with Professionals

- 12.3.7 Where the development requires a riparian assessment pursuant to Development Permit Area 4-C, the environmental assessment must be

coordinated with the riparian assessment in order to provide a comprehensive development permit application.

- 12.3.8 Where a proposed development requires additional technical assessments, the Qualified Professional preparing the geohazard assessment should coordinate with other Qualified Professionals conducting assessments to ensure a comprehensive approach.

### **Letter of Assurance & Commitment, Field Reviews & Post Construction Reporting**

- 12.3.9 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance & Commitment* from a Qualified Environmental Professional must be submitted at the time of the development permit application. This letter must confirm the professional's commitment to review any proposed mitigation measures, conduct field reviews and monitoring as required, and provide post-construction reporting.

- 12.3.10 Upon completion of the works authorized by the development permit, and for certainty, once any timeline for the completion of works established as a term or condition of the development permit has expired, the permit holder may be required to submit a post-construction certification to the Regional District. This certification must be prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional and must either:

- a. Certify that the development was carried out in accordance with the environmental assessment and that the terms and conditions outlined in both the environmental assessment and the development permit have been properly implemented; or,
- b. Identify and document all instances of non-compliance with the environmental assessment and the development permit and outline the measures necessary to correct these deficiencies, including any work that should be undertaken by the Regional District as contemplated in Section 12.3.17.

- 12.3.11 The requirement for post-construction certification and inspection may be waived by a condition in a development permit.

## **Terms & Conditions**

- 12.3.12 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the Local Government Act provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Development Permit Area 3-C.
- 12.3.13 A development permit may include conditions or restrictions respecting the uses and densities permitted in the zoning bylaw, the sequence and timing of

construction, areas to remain free of development, vegetation or trees to be planted or retained, natural drainage to be maintained or enhanced, or other matters as specified in Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*.

- 12.3.14 The Regional District may require an independent audit by a third-party Qualified Environmental Professional at the cost of the applicant to evaluate the location of significant Environmentally Valuable Resources within the development area and satisfy whether the recommendations provided are sufficient.

## Permit Security

- 12.3.15 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:
- a. Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
  - b. The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
  - c. The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; or,
  - d. The permit holder is required to retain, restore or replace native vegetation.
- 12.3.16 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.
- 12.3.17 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance and Commitment* from a Qualified Environmental Professional may be accepted in lieu of security where:
- a. The nature of required works, such as landscaping, is minor and the risk of damage to the natural environment is low;
  - b. The Letter of Assurance and Commitment is signed and sealed by a Qualified Environmental Professional; and,



- c. The Qualified Environmental Professional will undertake the works and provide to the Regional District a post-construction certification and inspection report as outlined in Section 12.3.11.

## Offence

- 12.3.18 Failure to:
- a. Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
  - b. Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;
- are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction, penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.
- 12.3.19 Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the requirements of Development Permit Area 3-C and the terms and conditions of the development permit are being met.

## 12.4 RIPARIAN AREAS DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 4-C

### Category of Designation

Riparian Areas Development Permit Area 4-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area No. 4-C (DPA 4-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 6 – Riparian Areas Development Permit Area 4-C.

Development Permit Area 4-C consists of all those parcels of land:

- a. Within the area of this Official Community Plan; and,
- b. Entirely or partially within a riparian assessment area, which is:
  - i. For a stream, the 30 metre strip on each side of the stream, measured from the high water mark;
  - ii. For a ravine less than 60 metres wide, a strip on each side of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 30 metres beyond the top of the ravine bank; and,
  - iii. For a ravine 60 metres wide or greater, a strip on each side of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 10 metres beyond the top of the ravine bank.

Riparian Areas Development Permit Area 4-C includes the riparian assessment areas associated with all streams within the Plan area, whether mapped or unmapped, including but not limited to the streams identified on Schedule 6 – Riparian Areas Development Permit Area 4-C.

### Justification

Area C contains streams and riparian areas that directly or indirectly provide natural features, functions, and conditions that support fish life processes. The *Fish Protection Act* and the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* require local governments to protect these streams and riparian areas when exercising powers with respect to residential, commercial and industrial development. In the opinion of the Regional Board, this development permit area provides a level of protection that is comparable to the *Fish Protection Act* and the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation*.

## Objectives

The objectives of Development Permit Area 4-C are to:

- » Protect the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity; and,
- » Protect streams and riparian habitats primarily through the involvement of Qualified Environmental Professionals and the identification of Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas (SPEAs) that should remain free of development, including the disturbance of soils and vegetation.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.4.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. The subdivision of land;
- b. The alteration of land;

Including, but not limited to:

- i. Removal, disruption, or destruction of vegetation;
  - ii. Removal or disruption of soil;
  - iii. Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
  - iv. Private flood protection works;
  - v. Development of drainage systems and utility corridors; and,
  - vi. Construction of private roads and driveways; or,
- c. Construction or addition to a building or structure; within the riparian assessment area.

## Exemptions

12.4.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.4.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Development that is part of a farm operation as defined by the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*;
- b. Residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial development that is demonstrated to be outside of a riparian assessment area;
- c. Residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial development within a riparian assessment area where the development is separated from the stream by a dedicated and developed public road right-of-way;

- d. Renovations or repair of a permanent structure on an existing foundation to an extent which does not alter or increase the building footprint area;
- e. Minor additions to an existing building or structure, such as an increase in floor area up to 25% of the existing footprint, provided that the addition is located on the side or part of the building or structure most distant from the stream;
- f. Development in accordance with a registered covenant or approved development permit that pertains directly and explicitly to riparian habitat protection, which:
  - i. Is registered in favour of the Regional District and/or provincial or federal interests; and,
  - ii. Establishes a riparian buffer.
- g. Routine maintenance of existing landscaping or lawn and garden areas, including the removal of invasive plant species as listed and updated from time to time by the Province of British Columbia;
- h. Removal of trees determined by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester (who is qualified to do tree risk assessment) to represent an imminent risk to safety of life or buildings;
- i. Forestry activities on Crown land undertaken under an approved forest stewardship plan approved by the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations in accordance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act*;
- j. Riparian habitat enhancement or restoration works under the guidance of provincial and federal agencies;
- k. Installation of seasonal play or recreational equipment on existing yard/lawn areas, such as sandboxes or swing sets;
- l. Paths for personal use by parcel owners are permitted, provided they meet the following conditions: they do not exceed approximately 1.0 metres in width, are constructed of pervious natural materials (excluding concrete, asphalt, pavers or treated wood), do not involve structural stairs, do not require the removal of streamside vegetation, and do not impair stream bank stability;
- m. Local and regional park facilities;
- n. Emergency actions necessary to prevent, control, or reduce immediate and substantial threats to life or property during a flood, debris flood/flow, erosion, landslide, avalanche, stream avulsion, and other geohazards events;

- o. Repair, maintenance, and improvement of flood protection infrastructure and all related ancillary or accessory works, regulated and approved by provincial or federal agencies;
- p. The development of an approved community water or sanitary sewer system that is not ancillary to residential, commercial, or industrial development;
- q. Provincial and federal regulated utilities, including railways, transmission lines, or pipelines;
- r. Public road or highway works;
- s. Repair or replacement of an existing driveway, culvert or bridge; or,
- t. The construction of a single-storey, detached residential accessory building or structure which is not intended to be used for any residential occupancy and which had a floor area not exceeding 20 square metres (215 square feet) and where:
  - i. The building or structure is located as far from the stream as possible and in the location on the parcel that minimizes impacts to riparian habitat; and,
  - ii. It is not possible to construct the building, structure, or deck outside the riparian assessment area.

12.4.3 Where there is uncertainty regarding the location of development in relation to a riparian assessment area or the nature of a stream, the Regional District may require:

- a. A plan prepared by a BC Land Surveyor or Qualified Environmental Professional to confirm whether the planned disturbance is within the riparian assessment area; or,
- b. An assessment report prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional to determine if the stream satisfies the definition criteria.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 4-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

### General

- 12.4.4 Each development permit application should, as a minimum, be accompanied by:
- a. Where applicable, an assessment report prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional in accordance with the assessment



methods and Development Permit Area 4-C Guidelines to determine the applicable SPEA and other measures necessary for the protection of riparian areas;

- b. A scaled siting proposal clearly and accurately identifying all streams and water features, high water marks, the top of the bank, the top of the ravine bank, the edge of the wetland, the riparian assessment area and the SPEA boundary in relation to existing and proposed property lines and existing and proposed development, as well as the locations of works and activities recommended in the Assessment Report; and,
- c. Written certification that the proposed development is consistent with the Development Permit Area 4-C Guidelines and the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* and identifying any mitigation or compensation measures that are consistent with the guidelines, including measures that may be specified as development permit conditions.

12.4.5 Pursuant to the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* and the *Local Government Act*, the Assessment Report prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional should specifically consider and make recommendations respecting:

- a. The siting of buildings, structures, or uses of land;
- b. Areas to remain free of development;
- c. The preservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of any specified natural feature or area;
- d. Works to preserve, protect, or enhance a natural watercourse or other specified environmental feature;
- e. Protection measures to be taken to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance fish habitat or riparian areas, control drainage, control erosion or protect the banks of watercourses; and,
- f. Timing of construction to avoid or mitigate impacts.

12.4.6 Where a development permit relates to the subdivision of land, an Assessment Report prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional should:

- a. Identify adequate building sites on each proposed lot, including but not limited to building locations, front, rear and side yard areas, site services (including sewage disposal facilities and water supply), access, and, parking;
- b. Identify streams that may be impacted by the proposed development; and,

- c. Consider whether any natural watercourses should be dedicated pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

12.4.7 The Regional District is authorized to issue a development permit after receiving:

- a. Notification by the Ministry of Environment that Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry have been:
  - i. Notified of the development proposal; and,
  - ii. Provided with a copy of an assessment report which meets the requirements of the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulations*; or,
- b. Documentation demonstrating that Fisheries and Oceans Canada has, with respect to the proposed development, authorized the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat pursuant to Section 35 of the *Fisheries Act* or amendments thereto.

#### **Measures to Protect the Streamside Protection & Enhancement Area**

12.4.8 Land must be developed strictly in accordance with the development permit issued.

12.4.9 No building or structure of any kind should be located, no vegetation should be disturbed, and no soils should be removed or deposited within a SPEA except in accordance with the Development Permit and Assessment Report.

12.4.10 The SPEA boundary should be clearly flagged, staked or otherwise marked during all development phases to avoid encroachment into the SPEA.

#### **Coordination with Professionals**

12.4.11 Where a proposed development requires geohazard assessment pursuant to a geohazard development permit area or Section 56 of the *Community Charter*, the riparian assessment should be coordinated with the geohazard assessment in order to provide a comprehensive development permit application.

12.4.12 Where a proposed development requires additional technical reporting, the Qualified Professional preparing the riparian assessment should coordinate with the other Qualified Professionals conducting assessments to ensure a comprehensive approach.

#### **Letter of Assurance & Commitment, Field Reviews & Post Construction Reporting**

12.4.13 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance & Commitment* from a Qualified Environmental Professional must be submitted at the time of the development permit application. This letter must confirm the professional's

commitment to review any proposed mitigation measures, conduct field reviews and monitoring as required, and provide post-construction reporting.

- 12.4.14 Upon completion of the works authorized by the development permit, and for certainty, once any timeline for completion of works established as a term or condition of the development permit has expired, the permit holder may be required to submit a post-construction certification to the Regional District. This certification must be prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional and must either:
- a. Certify that the development was carried out in accordance with the Assessment Report and that the terms and conditions outlined in both the Assessment Report and the development permit have been properly implemented; or,
  - b. Identify and document all instances of non-compliance with the environmental assessment and the development permit and outline the measures necessary to correct these deficiencies, including any work that should be undertaken by the Regional District as contemplated in Section 12.4.20.
- 12.4.15 The requirement for post-construction certification and inspection may be waived by a condition in a development permit.

## Terms & Conditions

- 12.4.16 A development permit may include, as a term or condition, any recommendation made by a Qualified Environmental Professional in an assessment report respecting:
- a. The siting of buildings, structures, or uses of land;
  - b. Areas to remain free of development;
  - c. The preservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of any specified natural feature or area;
  - d. Dedication of natural watercourses to the Crown;
  - e. Works to preserve, protect, or enhance a natural watercourse or other specified environmental features; or,
  - f. Protection measures are to be taken to preserve, protect, restore or enhance fish habitat or riparian areas, control drainage control erosion or protect the banks of watercourses.
- 12.4.17 A development permit may impose terms and conditions respecting the:

- a. Sequence and timing of construction including but not limited to timelines for completion of the works identified in the permit;
- b. Coordination of geohazard recommendations by a Qualified Environmental Professional or Professional Engineer licensed in the Province of British Columbia; or,
- c. Minor modification of a SPEA as generally described in the *British Columbia Riparian Area Protections Regulation Implementation Guidebook (2016)* where no impacts to fish habitat occur and as recommended in an Assessment Report by a Qualified Environmental Professional.

12.4.18 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act* provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Development Permit Area 4-C.

## Permit Security

12.4.19 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:

- a. Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
- b. The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
- c. The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; or,
- d. The permit holder is required to retain, restore, or replace native vegetation.

12.4.20 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.

12.4.21 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance and Commitment* from a Qualified Environmental Professional may be accepted in lieu of security where:

- a. The nature of required works, such as landscaping, is minor and the risk of damage to the natural environment is low;
- b. The Letter of Assurance and Commitment is signed and sealed by a Qualified Environmental Professional; or,
- c. The Qualified Environmental Professional will undertake the works and provide to the Regional District a post-construction certification and inspection report as outlined in Section 12.4.14.

## Offence

12.4.22

Failure to:

- a. Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
- b. Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;

are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction, penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.

12.4.23

Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the requirements of Development Permit Area 4-C and the terms and conditions of the development permit are being met.

## Definitions

12.4.24

In Development Permit Area 4-C, the following terms have the meanings described below:

“Assessment Report” means a report by or under the direction of a primary qualified environmental professional. This report must be prepared in accordance with the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation Assessment methods and the guidelines of Development Permit Area 4-C. Its purpose is to assess the potential impact of a proposed development in a riparian assessment area.

“Development” includes the alteration of land, the disturbance of soil or vegetation, the construction of or addition to buildings and structures, and subdivision.

“High water mark” means the visible high water mark of a stream where the presence and action of the water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark on the soil of the bed of the stream a



character distinct from that of its banks, in vegetation, as well as in the nature of the soil itself, and includes the active floodplain.

“Qualified Environmental Professional” and “QEP” mean a qualified environmental professional as defined in the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation.

“Ravine” means a narrow, steep-sided valley that is typically eroded by running water and has a slope grade greater than 3:1.

“Riparian Assessment Area” means:

- a. For a stream, the 30 metre strip on both sides of the stream, measured from the high water mark;
- b. For a ravine less than 60 metres wide, a strip on each side of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 30 metres beyond the top of the ravine bank; and,
- c. For a ravine 60 metres wide or greater, a strip on each side of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 10 metres beyond the top of the ravine bank.

“Riparian Areas Protection Regulation” means B.C. Reg. 178/2019 and amendments thereto.

“Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA)” means an area:

- a. Adjacent to a stream that links aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems and is capable of supporting streamside vegetation, and exerting an influence on the stream; and,
- b. The size of which is determined in accordance with the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation based on an Assessment Report provided by a Qualified Environmental Professional.

“Stream” includes any of the following that provides fish habitat:

- a. A watercourse, whether it usually contains water or not;
- b. A pond, lake, river, creek, or brook; or,
- c. A ditch, spring, or wetland that is connected by surface flow to a watercourse or body of water referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

“Stream Boundary” means whichever of the following is farther from the center of the Stream:

- a. The visible high-water mark of a stream where the presence and action of the water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all

ordinary years, as to mark on the soil of the bed of the stream a character distinct from that of its banks, in vegetation, as well as in the nature of the soil itself; or,

- b. The boundary of the active floodplain, if any, of the stream.

## 12.5 HARRISON MILLS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 5-C

### Category of Designation

Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems, and biological diversity; and protection of development from hazardous conditions, such as flooding.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area 5-C (DPA 5-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 7 – Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C.

### Justification

The *Lhá:It/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area, (WMA) Management Plan (1997)* identifies the Harrison River, Chehalis River Delta, and Morris Creek Delta area as important to the wintering, migration, and/or breeding habitats for salmonids, sturgeon, aquatic and migratory birds, bald eagles, ungulates, and other upland wildlife. Development Permit Area 5-C includes land located in the Harrison River shoreline and Harrison Bay area, including important fish, bird, and wildlife habitat areas.

The Lhá:It/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area is geographically unique as it represents one of the largest estuarine environments above the mouth of the Fraser River. It is near the confluence of three rivers, the Harrison River, Chehalis River, and Fraser River. The Lhá:It/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area is approximately 200 hectares in size. The Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C as identified on Schedule 7 falls within this wildlife management area. The area is also home to one of the largest raptor populations in North America due to the symbiotic relationship between raptors (e.g., Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcon, Ospreys, and Great Blue Heron) and salmon. The existing stands of trees in the Development Permit Area 5-C are critical for the raptors and other birds. Trees play a significant role in the lifecycle of eagles from using those to perch on the foreshore, nest locations, and nighttime roost areas. More on the significance of the area is discussed in Section 3.3 Story of the Habitat in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan.

Parts of DPA 5-C along the Harrison River fall within a well-documented floodplain. The freshet regularly floods the areas near the shoreline such as parts of the golf course and Beach Camp. While the floodplain area presents risks to development, it also supports the aquatic species and habitat interrelationships.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Development Permit Area 5-C are to:

- » Protect the ecological integrity of the Development Permit Area within the Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area;
- » Maintain critical salmon stronghold areas and bald eagle habitat;
- » Protect the foreshore and shoreline areas that are key to the symbiotic relationship between eagles and salmon;
- » Protect, preserve, restore or enhance the environmental habitat, biological diversity, and ecological functions of floodplain environments and foreshore areas along the Harrison River and Harrison Bay;
- » Avoid development within floodplain areas, and where development is permitted, ensure that impacts on habitat are minimized and development risks are appropriately managed;
- » Identify specific areas of land that must remain free of development, as well as areas of land that must be managed for development impact in accordance with the guidelines; and,
- » Establish development guidelines that support and facilitate the protection and preservation of natural environments, ecosystems, and biological diversity, incorporating provincial and federal best practices.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.5.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. The subdivision of land;
- b. The alteration of land;

Including, but not limited to:

- i. Removal, disruption, or destruction of vegetation;
  - ii. Removal or disruption of soil;
  - iii. Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
  - iv. Private flood protection works;
  - v. Development of drainage systems and utility corridors; and,
  - vi. Construction of private roads and driveways; or,
- c. Construction of or addition to a building or structure.

## Exemptions

12.5.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.5.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Subdivision to facilitate a lot consolidation or a boundary adjustment provided no additional parcels are created;
- b. Maintenance of existing landscaping, removal of noxious weeds, and planting of native trees;
- c. Use of land for non-human occupancy, parks, and trails. Such uses include greenspaces, natural parks, recreation, and conservation lands;
- d. Construction of a building or structure outside Management Zones A and B (see Table 12) that results in a total floor area not exceeding 20 square meters (215 square feet);
- e. All interior/exterior building alterations that do not expand the existing building foundation;
- f. Reconstruction of an existing building or structure within the existing disturbed footprint outside of Management Zone A (see Table 12);
- g. Minor additions to an existing building or structure, such as an increase in the floor area up to 25% of the existing footprint and not exceeding 50 square metres;
- h. Buildings that have been destroyed by fire and/or natural disaster less than 75%, as determined by the building inspector, provided the building massing, siting, and general appearance are as prior to the destruction and the use conforms to the zoning bylaw;
- i. Where there is a restrictive covenant that effectively protects the entire natural environment area already registered on the subject property, all the conditions in the covenant are met, and the proposed activity will not affect any portion of the natural environment area;
- j. Alteration of trees that pose an imminent safety risk to life or existing buildings provided they are protected as wildlife trees based on the recommendations of a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester (who is qualified to do tree risk assessment).

Where conversion to a wildlife tree is unachievable as determined by a Qualified Professional (e.g., Certified Arborist, Registered Biologists, and Registered Professional Forester) with qualification to undertake tree risk assessment, and the tree poses an imminent risk to the safety of life or existing buildings. The professional must submit a report to be considered for such exemption. The report must include at minimum:



- i. Tree species;
- ii. Tree health: diseases, damages, and tree vigor;
- iii. Tree dimensions;
- iv. Tree risk assessment;
- v. Site plan;
- vi. Photographic evidence to support the recommendations outlined in the report;
- vii. Discussion and recommendations of potential concerns and actions to mitigate them;
- viii. Alternative options such as tree health care plan; and,
- ix. Replacement plan and cost estimate for security.
- k. Public utilities and infrastructure;
- l. Public road or highway works;
- m. Emergency actions necessary to prevent, control, or reduce immediate and substantial threats to life or property during a flood, debris flood/flow, erosion, landslide, avalanche, stream avulsion, and other geohazards events;
- n. Repair, maintenance, and improvement of flood protection infrastructure and all related ancillary or accessory works regulated and approved by provincial or federal agencies; or
- o. Restoration works under the supervision of a Qualified Professional. Any activity within the Development Permit Area requires compliance with provincial and federal legislation, and notification to the Regional District.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 5-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

### General

- 12.5.3 Proposed developments may be required to determine through a topographic survey sealed by a BC Land Surveyor the precise location of the zone setbacks.
- 12.5.4 Each development permit application should, as a minimum, be accompanied by:
  - a. Where applicable, an environmental assessment prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional in accordance with the

Development Permit Area Guidelines, *Regional District Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference*, and relevant provincial legislation to demonstrate how the development meets the Development Permit Area Guidelines and prescribe additional measures necessary to protect environmental values, avoid sensitive areas, minimize environmental impacts through mitigation measures, enhances, or restores the ecosystem from development impacts, and provides offset measures where impacts remain. The assessment should consider land alteration that has occurred within five years of the application date to capture cumulative land alteration;

- b. A scaled siting proposal clearly and accurately identifying all ecological values, including species-at-risk, sensitive and rare ecosystems, streams and water features, natural boundary of watercourses, protective buffer areas, riparian areas in relation to existing and proposed property lines, as well as the locations of works and activities recommended in the Environmental Assessment; and,
- c. Written certification from the Qualified Environmental Professional that the proposed development is consistent with the Development Permit Area Guidelines and the *British Columbia Procedures for Mitigating Impacts on Environmental Values (Environmental Mitigation Procedures) (2014)* and identifying any mitigation or compensation measures that are consistent with the guidelines, including measures that may be specified as development permit conditions. The written certification must include a checklist and an explanation of how the proposed development complies with the Development Permit Area Guidelines.

12.5.5 The Development Permit Area Guidelines are based on the following provincial environmental guidance for best management practices and technical assessments conducted for the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan. Reference to those documents must be made when interpreting these guidelines or to their equivalents as updated.

- a. *Develop with Care 2014 Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*;
- b. *Guidelines for Raptor Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia (2013)*;
- c. *A Users' Guide for Changes In and About A Stream in British Columbia (2022)*;

- d. *Requirements and Best Management Practices for Making Changes In and About a Stream in British Columbia (2022)*;
- e. *British Columbia Procedures for Mitigating Impacts on Environmental Values (Environmental Mitigation Procedures) (2014)*;
- f. *Environmental Assessment for the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan (2022)* prepared by Urban Systems;
- g. *Understanding Wildlife Values in Harrison Mills (2023)* prepared by Hancock Wildlife Foundation; and,
- h. *Geotechnical Input to Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan (2022)* prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd.

The *British Columbia Procedures for Mitigating Impacts on Environmental Values (Environmental Mitigation Procedures) (2014)* establishes a mitigation hierarchy to guide development. The principles of the mitigation hierarchy (Figure 11) are reflected in the Development Permit Guidelines. To achieve the objectives of the Development Permit Area, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of Development Permits.



Figure 11: Principles of Mitigation

### Environmental Management Zones

In addition to the general guidelines for all development, the following guidelines will apply to development within the applicable management zones.

Management Zone	Zone Boundary (from the natural boundary of Harrison River or nest site)	Environmental Sensitivity	Description of Environmental Value	Required Protection Measures
<b>A. Habitat Avoidance Zone</b>	100 metres of raptor nest	Very High, Avoid	Protection of raptor nests	Avoid development except by the Development Permit Area Guidelines
<b>B. Shoreline Avoidance Zone</b>	0-50 metres	Very High, Avoid	Protection of riparian ecosystem and salmon-eagle symbiotic relationship; avoid floodplain areas	Avoid development except the zone may be used for greenspaces, natural parks, trails, recreation, and conservation subject to an Environmental Assessment meeting the <i>Regional District Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference</i> and Geohazard Development Permit
<b>C. Environmental Management Zone</b>	50-100 metres	High, requires mitigation and compensation	Careful management of environmentally valuable terrestrial and aquatic resources	Development permitted subject to the DPA Guidelines and Environmental Assessment meeting the <i>Regional District Environmental</i>

				<i>Assessment Terms of Reference</i>
<b>D. Beyond Environmental Management Zone</b>	100 metres +	Moderate, requires management	Identification and management of Environmentally Valuable Resources as required	Development permitted subject to DPA Guidelines

Table 12: Environmental Management Zones

Source: *Understanding Ecological Values in Harrison Mills*, Hancock Wildlife Foundation (2023)

## A. Habitat Avoidance Zone

12.5.6 Protect, preserve, restore, or enhance the areas within 100 metres of a raptor nest. The Qualified Environmental Professional must conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the following guidelines and provincial *Guidelines for Raptor Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia (2013)* or equivalent as updated:

- a. Identify a radius of avoidance around the nest zone which protects the trees around the nest site in groups;
- b. Recommend measures to minimize development impacts on raptors and raptor's nests;
- c. Recommend measures to restore or enhance the nest and surrounding area including:
  - i. Creation of snags for perching, roosting, and nesting is encouraged for infected or dying trees;
  - ii. Providing a combination of natural trees, modified wildlife trees (e.g., artificial perches), poles, and platforms are encouraged as a form of compensation. The inclusion of artificial perches, poles and platforms, provides an important raptor habitat in the short-term as newly planted trees become mature; and,
  - iii. Recommend measures to offset any development impacts around the nest; and,
- d. The area must remain free of on-site sewage disposal or sanitary sewer systems.



## **B. Shoreline Avoidance Zone**

- 12.5.7 Protect, preserve, restore, or enhance the shoreline area within 50 metres of the natural boundary of Harrison River and Harrison Bay as identified on Schedule 7 – Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C.
- a. The area within 50 metres of the Harrison River and Harrison Bay natural boundary must remain free of development, except that the zone may be used for the following:
    - i. Greenspaces, natural parks, and trails, recreation, and conservation lands subject to an environmental assessment conducted by a Qualified Environmental Professional;
    - ii. Minor recreational structures only for public use such as viewing platforms, and picnic shelters;
    - iii. Natural storm drainage; or,
    - iv. Natural floodplain mitigation measures given the Qualified Environmental Professional and geotechnical professional mitigate and minimize any adverse impact on the shoreline environmental values.
  - b. Notwithstanding 12.5.7.a, a Qualified Environmental Professional may complete an environmental assessment which recommends minor modifications to the shoreline avoidance zone to accommodate low-impact land alterations given such minor modifications do not result in Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction of Habitat (HADD) and that the recommendations are consistent with the following guidelines:
    - i. Avoid the introduction of floodplain fill in the area;
    - ii. All perched trees identified for raptor-salmon interactions must be identified on a site plan and protected through fencing during construction;
    - iii. Signage must be installed to mark nesting, perched, or roost trees;
    - iv. Existing vegetation in the area must be maintained;
    - v. Minimize the amount of exposed soil to implement erosion and sediment control; and,
    - vi. Recommend protection measures, including planting or retaining vegetation or trees to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance fish habitat or riparian areas, control erosion, or protect banks.

- c. An environmental assessment for wildlife values including raptors, aquatic species, and riparian areas must be submitted prior to development. The report must be prepared in accordance with the provincial guidance documents, the *Regional District Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference*, and the Development Permit Area Guidelines.
- d. The area must remain free of on-site sewage disposal, water, or sanitary sewer systems.

### **C. Environmental Management Zone**

- 12.5.8 Development in the environmental management area between 50 metres and 100 metres of the natural boundary of Harrison River and Harrison Bay as identified on Schedule 7 – Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C. must be in accordance with the Development Permit Area Guidelines.
- 12.5.9 An environmental assessment for wildlife values, including raptors, aquatic species, and riparian areas must be submitted prior to development. The report must be prepared in accordance with the provincial guidance documents, the *Regional District Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference*, and the Development Permit Area Guidelines.
- 12.5.10 The environmental assessment report must provide the following:
  - a. Specify areas of land that must remain free of development, recommendations to minimize environmental impacts through mitigation measures, recommendations to enhance or restore the ecosystem from development impacts, and provide offset measures where impacts remain;
  - b. Identify any natural watercourses to be dedicated and recommend works to be constructed to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance natural water courses or other specified features of the environment; and,
  - c. Protection measures, including planting or retaining vegetation or trees to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance fish habitat or riparian areas, control erosion, or protect banks.
- 12.5.11 The environmental assessment report must meet the *Regional District Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference*.
  - a. Development that proposes floodplain mitigation measures must explore alternatives to traditional floodplain management approaches

to avoid any adverse impact on the environmental values and recommend strategies through the coordination between a Qualified Environmental Professional and a geotechnical professional.

#### **D. Beyond Environmental Management Zone**

- 12.5.12 Development in the management area beyond 100 metres of the natural boundary of Harrison River and Harrison Bay as identified on Schedule 7 – Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C must be in accordance with the Development Permit Area Guidelines.
- 12.5.13 A bio-inventory report identifying the wildlife values including raptors, aquatic species, and riparian areas must be submitted prior to development. The report must be prepared in accordance with the document *Terms of Reference for a Bio-Inventory* available from the Ministry of Environment Branch and Appendix B of *Develop with Care 2014 Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*.
- 12.5.14 Identification of existing nests of species protected under Section 34 of the *BC Wildlife Act* and make recommendations to avoid development within proximity to the nest areas in accordance with the Habitat Avoidance Zone Guidelines and provincial guidance documents.
- 12.5.15 If the Qualified Environmental Professional determines that significant Environmentally Valuable Resources may be impacted by development, the environmental assessment report must meet the *Regional District Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference*.

#### **Coordination with Professionals**

- 12.5.16 Where the proposed development requires a geohazard assessment pursuant to Geohazard Development Permit Area, and a Riparian Areas Protection Regulation assessment pursuant to the riparian areas Development Permit Area in addition to the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Development Permit; the site-specific studies must be coordinated in order to provide a comprehensive development permit application.

#### **Letter of Assurance & Commitment, Field Reviews & Post Construction Reporting**

- 12.5.17 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance & Commitment* from a Qualified Environmental Professional must be submitted at the time of the development permit application. This letter must confirm the professional's commitment to review any proposed mitigation measures, conduct field reviews and monitoring as required, and provide post-construction reporting.

- 12.5.18 The Qualified Environmental Professional may engage a qualified environmental monitor to monitor and report on the construction activities' adherence to the approved Environmental Assessment, provincial regulations and other environmental best management practices provided weekly field review reports are submitted.
- 12.5.19 Upon completion of the works authorized by the development permit, and for certainty, once any timeline for completion of works established as a term or condition of the development permit has expired, the permit holder may be required to submit a post-construction certification to the Regional District. This certification must be prepared by a Qualified Professional and must either:
- a. Certify that the development was carried out in accordance with the Assessment Report and that the terms and conditions outlined in both the Assessment Report and the development permit have been properly implemented; or,
  - b. Identify and document all instances of non-compliance with the environmental assessment and the development permit and outline the measures necessary to correct these deficiencies, including any work that should be undertaken by the Regional District as contemplated in Section 12.5.25.
- 12.5.20 The requirement for post-construction certification and inspection may be waived by a condition in a development permit.

## Terms & Conditions

- 12.5.21 A development permit may include as a term or condition any recommendation made by a Qualified Environmental Professional in an environmental assessment respecting:
- a. The siting of buildings, structures, or uses of land;
  - b. Areas to remain free of development;
  - c. The preservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of any specified natural feature or area;
  - d. Works to preserve, protect, or enhance an environmental value;
  - e. Protection measures to be taken to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance environmental values, erosion and drainage control, or protect the environmental buffer areas;
  - f. Sequence and timing of construction including but not limited to timelines for completion of the works identified in the permit;

- g. Maintenance responsibilities and conditions of a successful undertaking; or,
  - h. Coordination of geotechnical recommendations especially related to floodplain management and recommendations of a Qualified Environmental Professional licensed in the Province of British Columbia.
- 12.5.22 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act* provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C.
- 12.5.23 The Regional District may require an independent audit by a third-party Qualified Environmental Professional at the cost of the applicant to evaluate the location of significant Environmentally Valuable Resources within the development area and satisfy whether the recommendations provided are sufficient.

## Permit Security

- 12.5.24 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:
- a. Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
  - b. The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
  - c. The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; and,
  - d. The permit holder is required to retain, restore, or replace native vegetation.
- 12.5.25 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.
- 12.5.26 A signed and sealed Regional District *Letter of Assurance and Commitment* from a Qualified Environmental Professional may be accepted in lieu of security where:



- a. The nature of required works, such as landscaping, is minor and the risk of damage to the natural environment is low;
- b. The Letter of Assurance and Commitment is signed and sealed by a Qualified Environmental Professional; and,
- c. The Qualified Environmental Professional will undertake the works and provide to the Regional District a post-construction certification and inspection report as outlined in Section 12.5.19.

## Offence

12.5.27

Failure to:

- a. Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
- b. Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;

are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction, penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.

12.5.28

Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the requirements of Development Permit Area 5-C and the terms and conditions of a development permit are being met.

## 12.6 HARRISON MILLS VILLAGE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 6-C

### Category of Designation

Village Centre Development Permit Area 6-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development; establishment of objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial, or multi-unit residential development; revitalization of an area in which a commercial use is permitted; and the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems, and biological diversity.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area 6-C (DPA 6-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 8 – Harrison Mills Village Centre Development Permit Area 6-C.

### Justification

The Harrison Mills Neighbourhood is located adjacent to the Lougheed Highway, a major provincial transportation network. To support a strong sense of community identity, the Plan emphasizes the importance of consistent, high-quality architectural design. Creating a neighbourhood centre provides a sense of place, reflects the local character and history, and connects the rest of the community to a community hub. The Plan envisions the creation of a neighbourhood centre node that includes a mix of multi-unit residential buildings, commercial uses, and mixed residential-commercial buildings. The blend of uses is intended to foster a community that supports local businesses, functions as a shared service hub, and serves as a gateway to other nearby uses.

The neighbourhood centre in Harrison Mills is primarily in the Beach Camp area. This area is an ideal location for a future community hub for the following reasons:

- » Proximity to the Harrison River shoreline;
- » Located at the junction of Hemlock Valley, Sandpiper Resort, Morris Valley, existing neighbourhood local commercial establishments, and medical centre facility;
- » Future intersection improvement to create one major intersection by closing the existing Morris Valley and the Chehalis Forest Service Road; and,
- » Future potential transit connection.

Development Permit Area 6-C policies are to ensure new multi-unit, mixed residential-commercial, and commercial developments provide a high-quality architectural design and

layout, which complements and integrates into the residential community. Development should make use of natural materials such as stone and wood, varying roof pitches and building styles to respect the rural characteristics of the area and create a distinct sense of arrival for visitors and residents.

The Village Centre boundary as identified on Schedule 2A - Land Use Designations – Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan provides the basis for the boundary of Development Permit Area 6-C.

## Objectives

The objectives of Development Permit Area 6-C are to create a Village Centre character through:

- » A local main street with views and connection to the waterfront with streetscape that account for architecture and pedestrian connection to the Harrison River shoreline;
- » Restricting proliferation of commercial uses along the Lougheed Highway corridor by centralizing commercial uses;
- » Ensuring residential and commercial uses are properly integrated with their surroundings;
- » Ensuring new development demonstrates a high level of design that incorporates accessibility standards and is integrated into both the surrounding commercial uses and residential neighbourhoods;
- » Ensuring new development reflects the environmental and cultural context of the community through design guidelines related to siting, form, exterior design and finish;
- » Maintaining visual values, including views of mountains, sky, and the Harrison River, and an open feeling along the rural highway; and,
- » Ensuring appropriate pedestrian, cycling, and future transit connectivity within the Plan area; and,
- » Incorporating *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* principles in site and building design.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.6.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. Construction of, addition to, or exterior alteration of a:
  - i. Multi-unit residential building; or,
  - ii. Commercial building.

## Exemptions

12.6.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.6.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Subdivision of land;
- b. Construction of, addition to, or alteration of a single-family dwelling, duplex, or accessory residential building where no commercial component is present;
- c. Interior renovations;
- d. Exterior maintenance or repairs which do not involve substantial changes in the exterior finish, colour scheme, or size of the building;
- e. Minor additions to an existing multi-unit residential building or structure, such as an increase in the floor area up to 25% of the existing footprint; or,
- f. Buildings that have been destroyed by fire or natural disaster to the extent of 75% or less of its value above its foundation, as determined by the building inspector provided the building massing, siting, and general appearance are as prior to destruction and the use conforms to the zoning bylaw.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 6-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

12.6.3 General Siting and Design

- a. Designed to complement a pedestrian scale and focus;
- b. Locate the building face towards a road or highway, and where this is not possible, ensure a visually attractive appearance must be provided by a combination of landscaping, finishing, and fenestration of the structure to a similar standard as the front of the building;
- c. Avoid blank and monotonous facades;
- d. When located on a corner site, new development should orient frontages towards both streets or pedestrian walkways, with active ground-floor uses;
- e. Encourage buildings to address the street or greenway to create a well-defined public realm or open public space;

- f. Incorporate building design elements and landscaping that enhance rear lanes for pedestrian safety and establish a compatible interface with adjacent uses;
- g. Ensure cohesive design within multi-unit building developments using complimentary roof pitches, proportion, height, materials, fenestration, and design theme;
- h. Design primary building entrances that are clearly defined and provide a sense of entry;
- i. Encourage the inclusion of outdoor patios, as well as landscaped common and amenity areas;
- j. Incorporate the principles of *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* such as lighting, visibility or natural surveillance, control of trespass, prevention of blind spots or hiding places, clear access, and safe parking garages; and,
- k. Development must not be a separate gated community with walled or fenced enclaves that limit or exclude public connectivity to adjacent uses and must be integrated with and compatible with surrounding neighbourhoods.

#### 12.6.4 Multi-Storey Buildings

- a. Incorporate a landmark or focal point of the commercial node and high-quality design, materials, and architecture in the design of a multi-storey tourist accommodation use;
- b. Provide adequate common amenities for multi-unit residential buildings;
- c. Provide individual private outdoor amenity space for apartment buildings and mixed residential-commercial sites; and,
- d. Provide relief with changes of wall plane or differentiation that provides strong shadow or visual interest for buildings exceeding two stories or 10 metres in height.

#### 12.6.5 Architectural Design

- a. Demonstrate view corridor preservation through strategic massing and site design;
- b. Recognize the adjacent patterns of natural features and foreshore habitat in design;
- c. Building placement and design must consider stepping the upper storeys back to retain a comfortable pedestrian scale at the street level;



- d. Building must be designed to avoid presenting an overly massive appearance using architectural massing, roofline and balcony/terrace design, window treatments, and landscaping to reduce monolithic forms and improve their aesthetic appearance;
- e. Maximize sunlight penetration to open areas and pedestrian areas; and,
- f. Location of on-site services and infrastructure should not undermine future uses of adjacent properties.

#### 12.6.6 Materials and Exterior Finishes

- a. Materials, textures, and colour schemes must be consistent with the surrounding natural and cultural landscape by incorporating stone and wood features, and avoiding pastel colours;
- b. Continuous weather protection over main entrances and building facades shall be encouraged;
- c. Integration of Indigenous and culturally significant design and materials are encouraged where collaboration with Indigenous communities has occurred; and,
- d. Every dwelling unit should be designed to include private outdoor space and may include a private balcony with access to or views of adjacent semi-public spaces.

#### 12.6.7 Pedestrian and Cycling Routes

- a. Provide direct connections between building entrances and parking areas;
- b. Constructed of uniform and complementary material for a cohesive appearance throughout the development;
- c. Buffered where feasible from roadways, vehicular traffic, and parking areas;
- d. Provide end-of-trip facilities for cyclists;
- e. Provide pedestrian amenities, such as benches, human-scaled lighting, and recycling and refuse receptacles. These must be consistent, similar, or identical to the architectural character of the development and identified by type and source in the application; and,
- f. Incorporate accessibility standards consistent with *British Columbia Building Code* requirements.

#### 12.6.8 Borders, Landscaping, Screening and Trash Receptacles

The applicant must submit a landscape plan prepared by a Qualified Landscape Architect or equivalent Professional that meets the following guidelines:

- a. Provide an attractive, safe, and distinct edge along Lougheed Highway and Harrison River shoreline;
- b. Provide visual continuity;
- c. Define and buffer surface parking, storage, and service areas from adjacent residential uses, pedestrian corridors, and roadside views;
- d. Ensure visual privacy to any adjacent residential properties;
- e. Utilize native plant species and retain existing vegetation;
- f. All landscaping and screening must meet or exceed the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects and British Columbia Nursery Trades Association standards;
- g. A minimum of one exterior trash receptacle is provided for the development. Trash receptacles must be screened from public roadways, public parks and trails, and the Harrison River shoreline;
- h. Where appropriate, establish landscape buffers that create a natural transition between the public, semi-public and private uses through the use of hard and soft landscaping, such as areas containing layers of shrubs, trees, and low walls where required; and,
- i. Chain link fencing as screening must be avoided.

#### 12.6.9 Parking and Loading

- a. Parking spaces must be setback 3.0 metres from any lot line adjoining a residential use;
- b. Provide screening from public roadways with landscaping;
- c. Incorporate the use of walkways to separate parking and loading spaces from buildings and to provide orderly and attractive pedestrian circulation;
- d. Landscaping elements, such as parking islands or medians must be used to break up large parking areas into smaller cells. One shade tree must be provided for every eight parking spaces;
- e. Use paved surfacing or porous paving, paving stones, french drains, landscaped areas, and similar techniques are encouraged to facilitate exfiltration of storm water; and,
- f. Ensure all parking and loading spaces are delineated and provided with curbs or wheel stops.

#### 12.6.10 Signs

- a. Size, location, and design of free-standing commercial signs and other advertising structures not attached to buildings must be compatible with uses and structures on adjacent properties;
- b. Fascia signage recessed into the facade of the building, where possible;
- c. Form and character of signage should be consistent throughout the development and comparable quality to that of the principal buildings;
- d. Natural materials, including exposed aggregate, are encouraged for sign structures;
- e. The use of indirect and/or accent lighting on signage is encouraged;
- f. No rooftop signs shall be permitted. Multi-tenant buildings must provide combined tenant signage;
- g. Single pole sign supports are not permitted; and,
- h. The use of back-lit signage and LED or video signage is not supported.

#### 12.6.11 Lighting

- a. Avoid light pollution by directing lighting downwards and using full cut-off fixtures;
- b. Use sensory-activated lighting for security lighting;
- c. Site lighting must be designed to minimize light spill onto adjacent lands. Lighting should be designed in accordance with the dark sky principle to improve safety, minimize glare and preserve the ambience of the night sky; and,
- d. Within *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* guidelines, minimize exterior lighting energy demand by minimizing lighting and using high-efficiency luminaires and bulbs such as LEDs.

#### 12.6.12 Storm Water

- a. Storm water management plan prepared by a professional engineer to:
  - i. Ensure post-development storm water flow volumes will not exceed predevelopment flow volumes in receiving waters;
  - ii. Maintain, to the extent possible, pre-development flow patterns and velocities;
  - iii. Provide conveyance routes for major storms;
  - iv. Demonstrate the use of best practices;

- v. Certify that water quality of receiving surface and ground waters will not be negatively affected by storm water surface run-off during and post-development;
- vi. Certify, where applicable, that there will be no negative effect on neighbouring properties; and,
- vii. Low-impact storm water control measures must be integrated into paving treatments and landscape design to encourage detention and improve water quality.

### **Assurance & Compliance Report & Post Construction Reporting**

12.6.13 Assurance and compliance report<sup>31</sup> by a Registered Architect must include the following:

- a. Site schematic showing vehicular and pedestrian circulation, and the design and layout of pathways and linkages;
- b. Landscaping plan;
- c. Layout and design of parking areas, storm water infrastructure, and lighting;
- d. Design, materials, and colour scheme of proposed free-standing signs and sign supports;
- e. Architectural elevations of proposed buildings and structures showing finishing materials and colour schemes;
- f. Site plan showing the siting of all proposed buildings and structures; and,
- g. Itemized compliance report demonstrating how the Development Permit Area Guidelines have been satisfied.

12.6.14 A post-construction report by a Landscape Architect or equivalent must be submitted to confirm 80% plant species survival rate after one year of plantation.

## **Terms & Conditions**

12.6.15 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act* provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Development Permit Area 6-C.

12.6.16 A development permit may include conditions or restrictions respecting the uses and densities permitted in the zoning bylaw, the sequence and timing of

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<sup>31</sup> All drawings and illustrations must be in colour and scaled.

construction, areas to remain free of development, vegetation or trees to be planted or retained, natural drainage to be maintained or enhanced, or other matters as specified in Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Permit Security

- 12.6.17 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:
- a. Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
  - b. The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
  - c. The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; and,
  - d. The permit holder is required to retain, restore, or replace native vegetation.
- 12.6.18 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.

## Offence

- 12.6.19 Failure to:
- a. Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
  - b. Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;
- are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction, penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.
- 12.6.20 Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the requirements of Development Permit Area 6-C and the terms and conditions of the development permit are being met.



## 12.7 LAKE ERROCK HIGHWAY CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 7-C

### Category of Designation

Lake Errock Highway Corridor Development Permit Area 7-C is designated pursuant to Section 488 of the *Local Government Act* for the establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development, multi-unit residential development, commercial or industrial; or revitalization of an area in which commercial use is permitted; and the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems, and biological diversity.

### Area of Application

Development Permit Area 7-C (DPA 7-C) encompasses lands identified on Schedule 9 – Lake Errock Highway Corridor Development Permit Area 7-C. The area of application is in conjunction with the land use designations NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL and APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL and is subject to minor adjustments at the time of subdivision.

### Justification

The Harrison Rise lands within the Lake Errock Neighbourhood are located adjacent to the Lougheed Highway, a major provincial transportation network. To support a strong sense of community identity, the Plan emphasizes the importance of consistent, high-quality architectural design. A gateway feature along the highway corridor is intended to provide a sense of place, reflect the local character and history, and connect the rest of the community to a neighbourhood hub. The Plan envisions the creation of a highway corridor node that includes a mix of multi-unit residential buildings, commercial uses, light-scale industrial uses, and mixed residential-commercial buildings. The blend of land uses is intended to foster local employment, support community businesses, and provide services for both residents and visitors.

The Lake Errock Highway Corridor area is an ideal location for a future community gateway for the following reasons:

- » Access to the Lougheed Highway;
- » Future intersection improvement to connect the existing Lake Errock community to the Harrison Rise lands; and,
- » Future potential transit connection.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Development Permit Area 7-C are to:

- » Create a neighbourhood gateway character by:
  - Maintaining visual values, including views to Lake Errock, resembling the features of the hillside, respecting the history of the gravel pit, and an open feeling along the rural highway;
  - Creating a local bus loop area that accommodates the visitors as well as serves as the connection between the western and eastern edges of the Harrison Rise lands;
  - Restricting proliferation of commercial uses by centralizing commercial uses in the village centre to create a concentrated customer base for sustained economic development;
  - Ensuring residential and commercial uses are properly integrated with its surroundings;
  - Ensuring new development demonstrates a high level of design that incorporates accessibility standards;
  - Ensuring new development reflects the environmental and cultural context of the community through design guidelines related to siting, form, exterior design and finish;
  - Ensuring appropriate pedestrian and cycling connectivity with the rest of the Plan area, recreational amenities, and natural areas; and,
  - Ensuring site design and development is within walking distance of future transit connection.
- » Incorporate *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* in site and building design to improve quality of life by reducing incidence and fear of crime, especially in rural areas where police patrols may be limited and response times may be slower;
- » Ensure that all land uses are adequately served by the Regional District community water system; and,
- » Ensure that all waste produced on site (sanitary sewage and storm drainage) is disposed of through a community sanitary sewer system which reflects the sensitivity of the local environment and the need to protect the groundwater regime.

## Activities Requiring a Permit

12.7.1 A development permit must be obtained prior to:

- a. Construction of, addition to, or exterior alteration of a:

- i. Apartment residential building; or,
- ii. Commercial building.

## Exemptions

12.7.2 Notwithstanding Section 12.7.1, a development permit may not be required for any of the following:

- a. Subdivision of land;
- b. Construction of, addition to, or alteration of a single-family dwelling, duplex or accessory residential building where no commercial component is present;
- c. Interior renovations;
- d. Exterior maintenance or repairs which do not involve substantial changes in the exterior finish, colour scheme, or size of the building;
- e. Minor additions to an existing multi-unit residential building or structure, such as an increase in the floor area up to 25% of the existing footprint; or,
- f. Buildings that have been destroyed by fire or natural disaster to the extent of 75% or less of its value above its foundation, as determined by the building inspector provided the building massing, siting, and general appearance are as prior to destruction and the use conforms to the zoning bylaw.

## Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives of Development Permit Area 7-C, the following guidelines must apply to the issuance of development permits:

12.7.3 General Siting and Design

- a. Designed to complement a pedestrian scale and focus;
- b. Locate the building face towards a road or highway, and where this is not possible, ensure a visually attractive appearance must be provided by a combination of landscaping, finishing, and fenestration of the structure to a similar standard as the front of the building;
- c. Avoid blank and monotonous facades;
- d. When located on a corner site, new development should orient frontages towards both streets or pedestrian walkways, with active ground-floor uses;

- e. Encourage buildings to address the street or greenway to create a well-defined public realm or open public space;
- f. Incorporate building design elements and landscaping that enhance rear lanes for pedestrian safety and establish a compatible interface with adjacent uses;
- g. Ensure cohesive design within multi-unit building developments by the use of complimentary roof pitches, proportion, height, materials, fenestration, and design theme;
- h. Design primary building entrances that are clearly defined and provide a sense of entry;
- i. Encourage the inclusion of outdoor patios, as well as landscaped common and amenity areas;
- j. Incorporate the principles of *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* such as lighting, visibility or natural surveillance, control of trespass, prevention of blind spots or hiding places, clear access, and safe parking garages; and,
- k. Development must not be a separate gated community with walled or fenced enclaves that limit or exclude public connectivity to adjacent uses and must be integrated with and compatible with surrounding neighbourhoods.

#### 12.7.4 Multi-Storey Buildings

- a. Incorporate a landmark or focal point of the commercial node and high-quality design, materials, and architecture in the design of a multi-storey tourist accommodation use;
- b. Provide adequate common amenities for multi-unit residential buildings;
- c. Provide individual private outdoor amenity space for apartment buildings and mixed residential-commercial sites; and,
- d. Provide relief with changes of wall plane or differentiation that provides strong shadow or visual interest for buildings exceeding two stories or 10 metres in height.

#### 12.7.5 Architectural Design

- a. Demonstrate view corridor preservation through strategic massing and site design;
- b. Recognize the adjacent patterns of natural features and foreshore habitat in design;

- c. Building placement and design must consider stepping the upper storeys back to retain a comfortable pedestrian scale at the street level;
- d. Building must be designed to avoid presenting an overly massive appearance using architectural massing, roofline and balcony/terrace design, window treatments, and landscaping to reduce monolithic forms and improve their aesthetic appearance;
- e. Maximize sunlight penetration to open areas and pedestrian areas; and,
- f. Location of on-site services and infrastructure should not undermine future uses of adjacent properties.

#### 12.7.6 Materials and Exterior Finishes

- a. Materials, textures, and colour schemes must be consistent with the surrounding natural and cultural landscape by incorporating stone and wood features, and avoiding pastel colours;
- b. Continuous weather protection over main entrances and building facades shall be encouraged;
- c. Integration of Indigenous and culturally significant design and materials are encouraged where collaboration with Indigenous communities has occurred; and,
- d. Every dwelling unit should be designed to include private outdoor space and may include a private balcony with access to or views of adjacent semi-public spaces.

#### 12.7.7 Pedestrian and Cycling Routes

- a. Provide direct connections between building entrances and parking areas;
- b. Constructed of uniform and complementary material for a cohesive appearance throughout the development;
- c. Buffered where feasible from roadways, vehicular traffic, and parking areas;
- d. Provide end-of-trip facilities for cyclists;
- e. Provide pedestrian amenities such as benches, human-scaled lighting, and recycling and refuse receptacles. These must be consistent, similar, or identical to the architectural character of the development and identified by type and source in the application; and,
- f. Incorporate accessibility standards consistent with *British Columbia Building Code* requirements.



#### 12.7.8 Borders, Landscaping, Screening and Trash Receptacles

The applicant must submit a landscape plan prepared by a Qualified Landscape Architect or equivalent Professional that meets the following guidelines:

- a. Provide an attractive, safe, and distinct edge along Lougheed Highway;
- b. Provide visual continuity;
- c. Define and buffer surface parking, storage, and service areas from adjacent residential uses, pedestrian corridors, and roadside views;
- d. Ensure visual privacy to any adjacent residential properties;
- e. Utilize native plant species and retain existing vegetation;
- f. All landscaping and screening must meet or exceed the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects and British Columbia Nursery Trades Association standards;
- g. A minimum of one exterior trash receptacle is provided for the development. Trash receptacles must be screened from public roadways, public parks and trails;
- h. Where appropriate, establish landscape buffers that create a natural transition between the public, semi-public and private uses through the use of hard and soft landscaping, such as areas containing layers of shrubs, trees, and low walls where required; and,
- i. Chain link fencing as screening must be avoided.

#### 12.7.9 Parking and Loading

- a. Parking spaces must be setback 3.0 metres from any lot line adjoining a residential use;
- b. Provide screening from public roadways with landscaping;
- c. Incorporate the use of walkways to separate parking and loading spaces from buildings and to provide orderly and attractive pedestrian circulation;
- d. Landscaping elements such as parking islands or medians must be used to break up large parking areas into smaller cells. One shade tree must be provided for every eight parking spaces;
- e. Use paved surfacing or porous paving, paving stones, french drains, landscaped areas and similar techniques are encouraged to facilitate exfiltration of storm water; and,
- f. Ensure all parking and loading spaces are delineated and provided with curbs or wheel stops.

#### 12.7.10 Signs

- a. Size, location, and design of free-standing commercial signs and other advertising structures not attached to buildings must be compatible with uses and structures on adjacent properties;
- b. Fascia signage recessed into the facade of the building, where possible;
- c. Form and character of signage should be consistent throughout the development and comparable quality to that of the principal buildings;
- d. Natural materials, including exposed aggregate, are encouraged for sign structures;
- e. The use of indirect and/or accent lighting on signage is encouraged;
- f. No rooftop signs shall be permitted. Multi-tenant buildings must provide combined tenant signage;
- g. Single pole sign supports are not permitted; and,
- h. The use of back-lit signage and LED or video signage is not supported.

#### 12.7.11 Lighting

- a. Avoid light pollution by directing lighting downwards and using full cut-off fixtures;
- b. Use sensory-activated lighting for security lighting;
- c. Site lighting must be designed to minimize light spill onto adjacent lands. Lighting should be designed in accordance with the dark sky principle to improve safety, minimize glare and preserve the ambience of the night sky; and,
- d. Within *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* guidelines, minimize exterior lighting energy demand by minimizing lighting and using high-efficiency luminaires and bulbs such as LEDs.

#### 12.7.12 Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water

- a. Water must be provided by the Regional District community water system;
- b. Sanitary sewer must be provided by the Regional District community sanitary sewer system;
- c. Storm water management plan prepared by a professional engineer to:
  - i. Ensure post-development storm water flow volumes will not exceed predevelopment flow volumes in receiving waters;
  - ii. Maintain, to the extent possible, pre-development flow patterns and velocities;

- iii. Provide conveyance routes for major storms;
- iv. Demonstrate the use of best practices;
- v. Certify that water quality of receiving surface and ground waters will not be negatively affected by storm water surface run-off during and post-development;
- vi. Certify, where applicable, that there will be no negative effect on neighbouring properties; and,
- vii. Low-impact storm water control measures must be integrated into paving treatments and landscape design to encourage detention and improve water quality.

### **Assurance & Compliance Report & Post Construction Reporting**

12.7.13 Assurance and compliance report<sup>32</sup> by a Registered Architect must include the following:

- a. Site schematic showing vehicular and pedestrian circulation, and the design and layout of pathways and linkages;
- b. Landscaping plan;
- c. Layout and design of parking areas, storm water infrastructure, and lighting;
- d. Design, materials, and colour scheme of proposed free-standing signs and sign supports;
- e. Architectural elevations of proposed buildings and structures showing finishing materials and colour schemes;
- f. Site plan showing the siting of all proposed buildings and structures; and,
- g. Itemized compliance report demonstrating how the Development Permit Area Guidelines have been satisfied.

12.7.14 A post-construction report by a Landscape Architect or equivalent must be submitted to confirm 80% plant species survival rate after one year of plantation.

## **Terms & Conditions**

12.7.15 A development permit may vary or supplement a bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act* provided that the variance or supplement is in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of Development Permit Area 7-C.

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<sup>32</sup> All drawings and illustrations must be in colour and scaled.

- 12.7.16 A development permit may include conditions or restrictions respecting the uses and densities permitted in the zoning bylaw, the sequence and timing of construction, areas to remain free of development, vegetation or trees to be planted or retained, natural drainage to be maintained or enhanced, or other matters as specified in Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Permit Security

- 12.7.17 The Regional District may require the applicant to provide security in the form of cash or an unconditional, irrevocable, and automatically renewing letter of credit in cases where:
- a. Security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping is necessary;
  - b. The Regional District considers that damage to the natural environment could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit;
  - c. The Regional District considers that unsafe conditions could result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a development permit; and,
  - d. The permit holder is required to retain, restore, or replace native vegetation.
- 12.7.18 The amount of security should be sufficient to cover the cost of any work that may be undertaken by the Regional District to address unsatisfied permit conditions or to correct deficient landscaping conditions, unsafe conditions, or damage to the natural environment that could reasonably be expected to result from the contravention of the permit.

## Offence

- 12.7.19 Failure to:
- a. Obtain a development permit where one is duly required; or,
  - b. Develop land strictly in accordance with a development permit issued;
- are offences under the *Local Government Act* and are contrary to the bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Regional District. Upon summary conviction, penalties for offences may be up to the maximum set out in the *Local Government Act*.
- 12.7.20 Employees, officers, and agents of the Regional District may enter, at all reasonable times, a property to inspect and determine whether the

requirements of Development Permit Area 7-C and the terms and conditions of the development permit are being met.





## TEMPORARY USE PERMITS

# 13 TEMPORARY USE PERMITS

## 13.0 Overview

The *Local Government Act* allows for the issuance of temporary use permits in areas designated within an OCP. A temporary use permit may:

- » Allow a use not permitted by a zoning bylaw
- » Be issued for a period of up to three years and renewed, at the discretion of the Regional Board, only once

## Terms & Conditions

The Regional Board may impose special conditions under which the temporary use may be carried on. This may include regulating the construction of buildings or structures related to the temporary use and requiring security to guarantee adherence to the terms of the temporary use permit.

## Security

The security may be in the form of cash or a letter of credit, the amount of which is to be determined by the Regional Board. A major purpose of collecting the security is to ensure that the land is returned to the condition prior to issuance of the permit when the permit has expired. The Regional Board may utilize the security if the conditions of the permit are not met.

## Procedure & Public Notification

Sections 494 through 497 of the *Local Government Act* and Regional District Development Procedures Bylaw specify the process by which a temporary use permit may be issued. Public notification and input are a central part of the process. Notification of the Regional Board's consideration of a permit application must be mailed out to owners and occupiers of properties within a specified distance of the subject property. Public notice will also be provided in accordance with the Regional District Public Notice Bylaw, or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time. In addition, the application may be referred to key partners for comment. The Regional Board may also require a public information meeting to present the application to the community and receive input from residents.



## POLICY

13.0.1 **Designated area.** The Official Community Plan area, as identified on Schedule 1 - Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas, is designated for the issuance of temporary use permits.

13.0.2 **Eligibility Criteria.** A temporary use permit may be issued for the following:

- a. Special events which are of limited duration, and which will not preclude or compromise future permitted uses on the proposed site of the temporary use;
- b. Short-term industrial activity, such as portable sawmills, heavy equipment storage, log home building operations, and construction yards related to specific industrial projects of limited duration;
- c. A temporary sand and gravel extraction where a permit has been issued pursuant to *Electoral Areas Commercial Gravel Operations Bylaw No. 1181, 2014*, if required;
- d. Uses which comply with the designation policies but where appropriate zoning does not presently allow for such uses;
- e. Transitional uses or uses where uncertainty exists respecting appropriateness or viability of the use, and where it is premature to decide upon rezoning and long-term land use rights.

13.0.3 **Servicing.** The Regional Board will consider temporary use permits on sites that can generally be serviced by existing servicing capacity and do not require significant upgrades to the infrastructure.

13.0.4 **Recurrent applications.** The Regional Board may require temporary uses that have been renewed once to apply for a zoning amendment rather than issuing a new temporary use permit.

13.0.5 **Public information meeting.** The Regional Board may require the holding of a public information meeting prior to the issuance of a temporary use permit.

13.0.6 **Security requirement.** As a condition of issuing a temporary use permit, the Regional Board may require a security in an amount adequate to facilitate the completion of permit conditions and the return of the land to its pre-existing state.



A photograph of a pond filled with lily pads. The lily pads are in various stages of decay, with some showing vibrant green, others yellowing, and some turning brown. A single, small white water lily flower is in bloom in the center-left of the frame. The water is dark and still, reflecting the leaves and the flower. A semi-transparent blue banner is positioned at the bottom of the image, containing the word 'INTERPRETATION' in white capital letters.

# INTERPRETATION



# 14 INTERPRETATION

Unless otherwise stated in this Plan, the following terms have the meaning defined below. Terms not defined in this section carry the same meaning as in provincial statutes and the bylaws of the Regional District.

## **Access**

Means the way, or means of connection, between lands adjacent to a public roadway and the public roadway, which connection provides access to and from the private lands. Access may also mean the access permitted and specified in a Highways Access Permit issued by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit; see also Public Access.

## **Accessory Building or Structure**

Means a building or structure with a use and size that is incidental, subordinate, and exclusively devoted to a permitted use on that lot.

## **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)**

Means a detached dwelling unit for residential use that is accessory to a principal single detached dwelling unit on the same lot, where both dwelling units constitute a single, undivided, real estate entity (e.g., coach house, garden suite).

## **Accessory Employee Residential**

Means a residential use that is accessory to a non-residential use that is located on the same lot for the accommodation of employees or owners of that non-residential use.

## **Accessory Farm Employee Dwelling**

Means a building on a farm under the *BC Assessment Act*, used as a home or residence by a full-time employee of the farm and their family members, provided the use meets the requirements of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, its regulations, and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.

## **Accessory Retail Use**

Means the sale or trade of consumer goods that are incidental, subordinate, and exclusively devoted to a permitted use that is located on the same lot.

## **Agri-Tourism**

Means a tourist activity, service, or facility accessory to an agricultural activity on a parcel that is classified as a farm use under the *BC Assessment Act*; may include: tours, farm retail sales, food and beverage service, provided the use is in accordance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.



**Alcoholic Beverage Service**

Means the provision of liquor service authorized by a liquor primary license under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.

**Alluvial Fan**

Means the alluvial deposit of a stream where it issues from a steep mountain valley or gorge upon a plain or at the junction of a tributary stream with the mainstream.

**Apartment Residential**

Means the residential use of a building containing at least three dwelling units. Excludes Accessory Dwelling Unit, Secondary Suite, Temporary Tourist Accommodation, and Tourist Accommodation.

**Approval**

Means approval in writing.

**Approved Community Sanitary Sewer System**

Means a system for the collection, treatment, and disposal of domestic sewage, which has a design capacity of at least 22,700 litres per day, and which is approved as a Class A system under the Municipal Sewage Regulation of the *Environmental Management Act*, which is owned, operated, and maintained by the Regional District.

**Approved Community Water System**

Means a system of waterworks which is approved under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* and its associated regulations, which is owned, operated and maintained by either: an improvement district pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a water utility pursuant to the *Water Utility Act*, the Regional District, or a strata corporation pursuant to the *Strata Property Act* with a minimum of five strata lots served by the water system.

**Artisan-Craft Workshop Use**

Means an activity of a gainful nature which is carried on by an artisan who practices, cultivates or instructs in craftsmanship and/or arts; includes artists' and potters' studios, workshops for the assembly and manual repair of specialized equipment by skilled artisans, musicians, horologists and similar, antique furniture and painting, restoration and repair, glass blowing, wood or stone carving, and all other similar activities; specifically excludes automobile, trailer and bicycle workshops, yards for trade and landscape contractors, boat building, service establishments for small appliances, office and amusement machinery, audio-visual equipment, food processing, personal service establishments, gunsmithing, locksmithing, and similar pursuits, taxidermy, tanneries, and pet breeding or care facilities, laboratories and professional offices, audio-visual production services, and all other related occupations and businesses.

**Assembly Use**

Means a use of land that provides open space, buildings, or structures for private gatherings and assembly of people, which may be centered around education, religious gathering and worship or fraternal organization, and may include retreats, camps, private educational centres, meeting hall, and associated temporary lodging, boarding, and accommodation use, in addition to associated residential use.

**Associated Rural Residential Uses**

Means a variety of uses associated with, but ancillary or accessory to, a rural residential use; includes bed and breakfast operations, boarding use, home occupations, cottage industries, artisan craft workshop, and small-scale enterprise; unless prohibited by the zoning bylaw or, where land is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve, unless prohibited by under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.

**Bed and Breakfast**

Means a commercial use that is accessory to a residential use, and located within a dwelling unit. It provides temporary accommodation for the travelling public, in no more than three rented rooms, with meals served to overnight guests. No cooking facilities are permitted in the rooms being rented.

**Buffer**

Means any device arranged and maintained to screen or separate adjoining land uses or properties, and includes any combination of setbacks, existing vegetation, ditches, roads, landscaping, berms, and fencing.

**Commercial Campground**

Means the use of a lot where more than two camping lots are commercially operated for the temporary accommodation of campers in recreational vehicles or tents. Excludes a Natural Camping Ground, Holiday Park, Manufactured Home Park, Tourist Accommodation, and Temporary Tourist Accommodation.

**Commercial Use**

Means a use providing for the retail sale, repair, and servicing of household, non-household, personal and non-personal goods, or for providing services to people.

**Conservation**

Means the preservation or protection of natural resources and assets in their natural state, including the habitat of birds, fish and other wildlife.

**Cottage Industry Use**

Means an activity of a gainful nature which is not an offensive trade, which occupies a building accessory to residential and agriculture land uses, which includes ancillary retail and office facilities, and which does not employ or involve more than three operators or

employees, the principal of whom shall be resident on the parcel. Cottage industry use includes custom stone, textile, wood and metal working facilities, wholesale bakeries, plants, processing and packing food grown or raised on the parcel, cottage wineries, locksmiths, gunsmiths, tinsmiths, print shops, audiovisual and photographic studios, small appliances and office machinery repair, and non-motorized bicycle repair shops.

**Debris Flood**

Means a channelized slope hazard involving uncontrolled water flow, which can result in water damage to unprotected buildings, erosion, deposition of gravel and timber debris, and silting damage.

**Debris Flow**

Means a channelized slope hazard generally involving considerable amounts of sediments and debris, including trees and boulders, with small amounts of water, and is relatively confined to areas at the mouth of gullies, normally near the apex of the alluvial fans.

**Designation**

Means the land use designations set out in Section 3 of this Plan.

**Developer**

Means a person or entity undertaking land preparation or land alteration for the purposes of construction of any structure larger than 20 square metres.

**Development Application**

Means an application pursuant to an enacted provision of a responsible authority which affects the development of any land within the area covered by this Plan.

**Dwelling Unit**

Means one or more adjoining rooms in a building that together contain or provide for the installation of: a separate entrance from the exterior of the building; one or more sleeping areas; one or more washrooms; and a single cooking facility.

**Environmental Impact Assessment**

Means a field-based technical assessment conducted, prepared, and supported by a Qualified Professional including but not limited to a professional biologist, in accordance with the Ministry of Environment's recommended methodologies and best practices, which assessment provides: an inventory of fish and wildlife species and their habitats; threatened, rare, and endangered species and their habitats; other sensitive ecosystems in the proposed development area, and adjacent habitats or ecosystems which may be impacted by the proposed development area; and recommendations for avoiding, and if necessary mitigating, the impacts associated with a proposed development area.

**Farm Use**

Means the use of land, buildings, and structures for the production of agricultural products

and livestock. This includes the storage and processing of agricultural products produced on the lot, storage and repair of equipment necessary to farming on that lot, and storage of feed and fertilizers necessary to farming on that lot. For lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve and designated AGRICULTURAL in this Plan, farm use also includes activities designated as farm use pursuant to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations.

**Floodplain**

Means an area of land, whether flood-proofed or not, which is susceptible to flooding by a watercourse, lake, ocean, or other body of water.

**Forestry Use**

Means the cutting and preliminary grading of forest products for shipment, including temporary or portable sawmills or shake mills processing materials cut in the local area.

**Golf Course**

Means a use providing for the playing of golf, which may also include accessory food service and accessory retail pro shop.

**Highway Commercial**

Means a commercial use located adjacent, or nearly adjacent, to routes of travel of regional significance which is intended to serve the needs of an itinerant motoring population; includes service stations, gas bars, restaurants and tourist information booths, but excludes major tourist recreation commercial uses, local and local tourist commercial uses.

**Holiday Park**

Means any lot or parcel operated and maintained for the sole purpose of providing two or more recreational camping sites or lots, park model sites or lots, or holiday home sites or lots, together with all common leisure, services, and supporting facilities for the exclusive use of and occupancy for part of the year only by holiday-makers who are the owners or lessees of the said sites or lots; may include bare land strata lots under the *Strata Property Act* of the Province of British Columbia, or a cooperative ownership recreational club incorporated under the *Society Act* of the Province of British Columbia, or a three year or longer lease agreement approved by the responsible authority, but does not include a campground, manufactured home park, temporary tourist accommodation, tourist accommodation, social club or a camp licensed under the *Community Care Facilities Act* of the Province of British Columbia.

**Home Occupation Use**

Means a commercial use accessory to a residential use where the householder carries on an occupation, craft, or profession within the dwelling unit.

**Industrial Use**

Means the use of land, buildings, and structures for the manufacturing, processing,

fabricating, repair, packaging or assembly of goods; warehousing or bulk storage of goods; and related accessory uses.

**Land Alteration**

Means activities pertaining to the clearing or moving of land and earthwork, including compaction, excavation, grading, filling, stockpiling, striping and/or scarification of a site.

**Local Commercial Use**

Means a commercial use intended to serve the day-to-day needs of the local population residing in the vicinity of the local commercial use; includes general stores, convenience stores, small personal service establishments and artisan-craft workshop uses.

**Local Institutional**

Means an institutional use, which provides services for primarily local residents, including caregiving, cultural, historical, charitable, educational, health, religious, or welfare purposes.

**Local Tourist Commercial Use**

Means the use of land for commercial establishments intended primarily to serve the day-to-day needs and leisure time activities of a visitor population temporarily accommodated in the vicinity of the local tourist commercial use; includes local tourist attraction uses and artisan craft workshop uses but excludes major tourist recreation commercial uses.

**Low Density Commercial Recreation**

Means low-impact recreation uses in a natural setting, involving wilderness appreciation and related activities carried out on a seasonal or temporary basis; includes ranches, lodges, recreation camps, natural campgrounds, and private recreational, institutional or cultural facilities; excludes commercial campgrounds and holiday parks.

**Major Institutional**

Means a large-scale use of land by a governmental or administrative body, including Department of National Defense lands, correctional facilities, and other government lands, catering to a regional, provincial or national population.

**Major Tourist Recreation Commercial Use**

Means a commercial use involving, though not limited to, extensive open-air commercial recreation facilities for active physical participation, which is intended to serve the regional population and which would have transportation requirements of regional significance; it includes amusement parks, marinas, display gardens and golf courses, but excludes low-density commercial recreation uses and natural camping ground use.

**Maximum Density**

Means the maximum number of parcels achievable by subdivision from the parent parcel to establish a resort residential development.



**Mixed Commercial-Residential**

Means a multi-storey building with ground-oriented commercial and more than three dwelling units on the upper storey together with common and private amenity facilities.

**Mobile Home Park**

Means a residential use of a lot on which two or more mobile homes are located.

**Multi-Unit Residential**

Means the residential use of principal buildings containing multiple dwelling units, together with common and private amenity facilities.

**Natural Boundary**

Means the visible high-water mark of any lake, river, stream, or other body of water, where the presence and action of the water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years as to mark upon the soil of the bed or the lake, river, stream, or other body of water, a character distinct from that of the banks thereof in respect to vegetation, as well as in respect to the nature of the soil itself.

**Natural Campground Use**

Means a use of land for overnight camping in tents or recreational vehicles on camping sites on a rental basis, which involves no buildings, structures, or service connections; excludes commercial campgrounds, manufactured home parks, holiday parks and camps licensed under the *Community Care Facility Act* of the Province of British Columbia. Natural Campground Use located within the Agricultural Land Reserve is permitted under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and its regulations under certain conditions as an agri-tourism use. The regulations of the Agricultural Land Commission should be consulted to determine limitations and conditions for locations within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

**Marina**

Means the use of land, buildings, structures, accessory uses incidental to a marina use, and the surface of the water for providing docking, berths, and facilitates for launching and storage of pleasure boats on water or land.

**Official Community Plan**

Means a plan prepared and adopted by a Regional Board by bylaw pursuant to the *Local Government Act* which applies to all or parts of an electoral area of a Regional District. It forms the basis for preparing development bylaws in an electoral area.

**On-Site Services**

Means the provision of an individual water supply and on-site sewage disposal in accordance with the standards of the responsible authorities pursuant to the requirements of the *Public Health Act*, the *Environmental Management Act*, and bylaws of the Regional District.

**Outdoor Recreational**

Means the use of land for open-air, non-motorized commercial recreation facilities. Includes accessory retail and outdoor storage.

**Park and Park Reserve**

Means open space dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment and recreation use, including camping and a range of facilities associated with park activities.

**Plan Amendment**

Means a bylaw amending a schedule of this Plan prepared and adopted pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

**Public Access**

Means the unrestricted right of the general public to cross lands without the need for any approvals or specified permits.

**Public Use**

Means the use of land by a government or administrative body intended primarily to serve the day-to-day needs of the population residing in the local vicinity and includes civic, utility, institutional, recreation, and conservation uses, but excludes commercial recreation use.

**Public Utility**

Means a use providing for the servicing of the community with water, sanitary sewer, electrical, telecommunications, or other utilities or services by a government or non-governmental entity.

**Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP)**

Means a qualified environmental professional such as a registered Biologist with expertise in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and meets the criteria stated in the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, BC Reg 178/2019, s 21*.

**Qualified Professional**

Means an applied scientist or technologist specializing in a relevant applied science or technology including, but not limited to, agrology, forestry, biology, engineering, geomorphology, geology, hydrology, hydrogeology or landscape architecture, and, who is registered in British Columbia with their appropriate professional organization and acting under that association's Code of Ethics is subject to disciplinary action by that association, and who, through demonstrated suitable education, experience, accreditation, and knowledge relevant to the particular matter, may be reasonably relied on to provide advice within their area of expertise.

**Recreation Use**

Means a public park, conservation area, recreation area, and ancillary use as permitted by the responsible authorities; excludes commercial recreation uses.

**Residential**

Means the use of a dwelling unit as the permanent domicile of a person or household.

**Residential Occupancy**

Means a residential occupancy as set out and defined in the *British Columbia Building Code*.

**Resort Residential Use**

Means a resort residential use consisting of one or more dwelling units occupied as a residence or seasonal residence for one family per dwelling unit, together with accessory common and private amenity facilities which may include a clubhouse and other private recreational and social amenities.

**Resource Extraction**

Means the removal of naturally occurring materials, such as timber or groundwater, from land and such preparation of materials as required for practical shipment. Excludes the manufacturing of products from such materials, the excavation of land as part of a construction project, the removal of stones from land under cultivation, and the installation, modification or maintenance of a drainage system.

**Resource Industrial Use**

Means a use related to Resource Extraction. Includes log booming, sawmills, pole treatment plants, industrial works yards, industrial storage yards, preliminary gravel sorting and screening, and similar related industries.

**Responsible Authority**

Means a governmental and/or administrative body, operating in part or in total within the region, which is charged with or capable of enacting government provisions affecting the development of land or the construction of public works within the region; includes a member municipality, a Regional District, the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada, and their agencies.

**Secondary Suite**

Means a residential use within a self-contained dwelling unit that is accessory to, and within, a principal single detached dwelling, where both dwelling units constitute a single, undivided, real estate entity. Excludes Bed and Breakfast, Boarding, Duplex, Home Occupation, Multi-Unit Residential, and Temporary Tourist Accommodation.

**Single Family Dwelling**

Means a structure providing for a single family residential use for a person or persons,

includes accessory residential uses as well as mobile and modular homes, where permitted in the zoning bylaw.

**Single Family Residential Use**

Means the use of a building or part thereof as a single family dwelling with a maximum density of one single family dwelling unit per parcel.

**Special Event**

Means the use of land for temporary commercial or industrial use, including fairs or concerts, live performances, campsites, assembly use, recreation use, emergency operations, and other event-related land uses.

**Temporary Use**

Means a commercial or industrial use for which a temporary use permit pursuant to Section 921 of the *Local Government Act* is issued.

**Watercourse**

Means any natural depression with well-defined banks and a bed 0.6 metres or more below the surrounding land serving to give direction to a current of water at least six months of the year or having a drainage area of 2.0 square kilometres or more upstream of the point of consideration.

**Wetland**

Means land that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal conditions that supports, vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including, swamps, marshes, bogs, fens, estuaries, and similar areas that are not part of the active floodplain of a stream, that may not contain surface water, and that may not be connected to a stream.

# **APPENDIX I: HARRISON MILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**





# HARRISON MILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 Context

In the fall of 2021, the Regional District embarked on a planning process to develop a neighbourhood plan for the community of Harrison Mills. The Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan (HMNP) aims to outline the vision and policies that will guide long-term decision-making around land use and development in the neighbourhood.

Several factors contributed to the initiation of the neighbourhood planning process for Harrison Mills. First, Harrison Mills has grown and evolved since the Electoral Area C Official Community Plan was adopted in 2000. Existing policy direction no longer responds to present-day community needs. Second, development interests could contribute to prospective resort, residential, and commercial uses in the community. Third, external factors such as population growth and market realities contributing to a nationwide housing and affordability crisis cannot be ignored. A changing climate and unprecedented weather events further exacerbate these factors. New policy directions are needed to shape how decisions are made regarding the future of Harrison Mills in all these regards.

Harrison Mills is an area of high ecological and cultural value. Located at the confluence of the Chehalis, Harrison, and Fraser Rivers, Harrison Mills supports a unique ecologically sensitive and biodiverse habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species. It is a Salmon Stronghold, Chehalis River Estuary Important Bird Area (IBA), and Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The abundance of wildlife sustained Indigenous communities along the Lower Fraser River since time immemorial. Ensuring Harrison Mills' natural ecosystems are protected, stewarded, and enhanced amid any potential future growth and development has been a core principle in the neighbourhood planning process.

## 1.2 Planning Process

The HMNP is the product of a comprehensive planning process that consisted of six distinct phases. The process entails the completion of technical work including archaeological, environmental, geotechnical, parks and recreation, and Crown land assessments; community and stakeholder engagement; and the application of best practices and sound planning principles. The HMNP is a compilation of all this work and includes a Land Use Plan that allocates appropriate land uses within Harrison Mills. The Land Use Plan is supported by a conceptual plan demonstrating the future vision for the neighbourhood as well as policies that guide appropriate forms of development and provide a framework for key neighbourhood components such as the natural environment, parks and recreation, community infrastructure, and cultural assets.



The HMNP is supported by a Local Servicing Plan that identifies the servicing needs, capacity, and options for providing community water and sanitary sewer systems to meet the vision established in the HMNP. The preparation of these documents has been a coordinated process as the technical components of the Local Servicing Plan have informed the implementation and servicing viability of the HMNP. Together, the plans outline a long-term framework at the neighbourhood level that provides for sustainable and efficient development to meet community needs while simultaneously respecting ecological assets, cultural values, and physical development constraints.

## 1.3 The Future of Harrison Mills

Harrison Mills will remain an area of high ecological value and important habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Residents and visitors will be able to recreate in this scenic and peaceful rural landscape, enjoying a variety of outdoor activities. The community will experience gentle/modest growth to support community needs including the provision of housing, amenities, and economic opportunities, while ensuring ecologically and culturally significant areas are respected, protected, and enhanced wherever possible.

### Plan Objectives

The following six plan objectives represent the defining features of the HMNP to achieve the overall vision for the neighbourhood:

1. **Protect** and enhance the natural environment and wildlife habitat
2. **Respect** areas of cultural and archaeological significance, Indigenous rights, and title claims on Crown land
3. **Accommodate** housing diversity to meet Electoral Area C's housing needs
4. **Expand** parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities
5. **Foster** an integrated community
6. **Ensure** safe development and sustainable growth

An aerial photograph taken from the perspective of someone looking out of an airplane window. The foreground shows the white wing and fuselage of the aircraft, with some rivets and circular access panels visible. Below the wing, a large, turquoise-colored lake stretches across the middle ground, surrounded by lush green forests and rolling hills. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is a scenic landscape view from a high altitude.

## INTRODUCTION

# 2 INTRODUCTION

## 2.1 Purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan

A neighbourhood plan is a community document shaped by residents sharing their vision for where they live. Neighbourhood plans guide long-term decision-making at the neighbourhood level. They allocate land use, set directions for appropriate forms of development, and contain supporting policies on neighbourhood components, such as the natural environment, parks and recreation, and community infrastructure. The neighbourhood plan identifies where the neighbourhood is going and how it will respond to growth and change in the next 20 years. The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the roadmap for the community's long-term vision. The OCP is supported by policies to guide decision-making around growth and land use management. The OCP reflects and is informed by the policy set out at the regional planning level. Bylaws, strategies, and tools that derive from the OCP enable local governments to implement the vision set out in their OCP.

While the OCP is an overarching plan that provides general policy direction and guides land use for all of Area C, the HMNP provides more detailed policy direction on different community aspects (e.g., land use, natural environment, and infrastructure) that are specific to Harrison Mills. The HMNP forms part of the Electoral Area C OCP as an appendix. An important part of a neighbourhood plan is to identify how it complements the overall OCP area vision.

Figure 1 below depicts the hierarchical relationship between planning and policy documents in the Regional District. The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) serves as the overarching planning framework to coordinate provincial and local government initiatives and activities.

The HMNP is the result of a comprehensive planning process. It is intended to be a living document that is monitored and evaluated through implementation to ensure it reflects emerging community needs.

The HMNP and Local Servicing Plan were developed through a highly community-driven and collaborative planning process that integrated the experience and community values of residents with the technical expertise of professionals from multiple disciplines.



Figure 1: Regional District Planning Hierarchy Graphic

## 2.2 Why a Neighbourhood Plan for Harrison Mills?

Several factors contributed to the initiation of the neighbourhood planning process for Harrison Mills. These factors created conditions that identified a need for new and updated policy direction to guide future decision-making around land use and development activity in the community.



**Harrison Mills has evolved. Existing OCP policy no longer reflects the community needs.**

The existing land use policy direction for Harrison Mills was previously contained within the OCP that was adopted in 2000 and is now over 20 years old. Over this time, the community of Harrison Mills has grown and evolved, and the Plan no longer reflects the needs of the community. Since the vision of the OCP has been largely achieved, new policy direction is needed to shape how decisions are made regarding the future of Harrison Mills for the next 20 years.





### **Development interests in the community.**

In recent years, landowners with development and redevelopment proposals to support residential and tourism growth, many of which require amendments to the existing OCP, have approached the Regional District. The new HMNP and Local Servicing Plan, specific to Harrison Mills, will ensure future growth and development of the community comprehensively, coordinated with a servicing plan to address community water and sanitary needs.



### **External pressures must be balanced with appropriate and sustainable community growth.**

Market realities, housing needs, affordability, population growth and environmental issues all impact current and future generations of residents in Harrison Mills. In planning for the next 20 years, all of these factors need to be considered holistically.

The HMNP presents a framework to guide future growth and development decisions in Harrison Mills by providing a clear vision and supporting policies that respond to the community's needs.

## **2.3 Justification for Neighbourhood Plan Update**

The HMNP and its boundaries may need to evolve and change over time when community values shift, new information or legislation arises, or significant or unanticipated development proposals come forward. Plan amendments should include extensive public input and reflect the interests of the community.

A neighbourhood planning process may also be triggered at the request of a developer or Indigenous development interests to facilitate a substantive update to an existing neighbourhood plan. For example, Indigenous economic development interests in the periphery of the HMNP area may require a neighbourhood plan amendment to ensure that land uses are complementary, servicing is unified, and new land uses are not causing unintended proliferation of development areas.

### **POLICY**

- 2.3.1 **Periodic updates anticipated.** An update and review of the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan should occur periodically to ensure policies reflect evolving community values and incorporate housing needs reports as updated.
- 2.3.2 **Bylaw amendments.** Development proposals that require a zoning amendment and are inconsistent with Plan policy, will require an Official Community Plan amendment



application. The Regional Board will defer, reject, or accept the application, and determine if policy review is necessary.

- 2.3.3 **Major development.** The Regional Board will not support any major development proposal that will substantially amend the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan without a comprehensive update to the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan or a new neighbourhood plan. Additionally, the Regional Board may wish to consider such Plan amendment applications separate from any related zoning amendment applications.
- 2.3.4 **Shared interests.** The Regional Board acknowledges Indigenous rights and title interest on Crown lands. The Regional Board will work collaboratively in the spirit of reconciliation with Indigenous communities to advance their interests on Crown lands. The Regional Board may deem development proposals that arise out of shared interests consistent with the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan subject to the policies in Section 8.





## UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY



# 3 UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY

## 3.1 Plan Area Location & Boundary

The Harrison Mills neighbourhood is in Electoral Area C. Harrison Mills primarily includes Morris Valley area developments (e.g., Tapadera Estates, Harrison Lanes, River Reach, and Eagle Point), Sandpiper Golf Course, and Beach Camp.

The HMNP area covers a total land area of approximately 209 hectares.

### POLICY

**3.1.1 Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.** This neighbourhood plan shall apply within the boundaries established in Schedule 2A - Land Use Designations - Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan.

## 3.2 Habitats & Habitants

The HMNP area is rich in both biological as well as Indigenous cultural values. Recent studies have demonstrated that multiple forest gardens and managed landscapes in proximity to the neighbourhood have existed for nearly 3,000 years. The story of this area is one that is about the relationship among the wildlife, flora and fauna, rivers and rivulets, and the historic villages and hamlets.

The year-round resources sufficient to sustain Sts'ailes villages throughout the year evidence a cultural example of the wildlife abundance of the area. Moving between summer villages near the coast and winter villages along salmon-bearing rivers was a common seasonal strategy used by Indigenous communities in the region; however, the Harrison/Chehalis River and ecosystem were so productive, that it allowed for year-round residence. At the heart of this HMNP is land stewardship.

## 3.3 Story of the Habitat

### Environmental Values

The HMNP area is within the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) biogeoclimatic zone, which is the most productive biogeoclimatic zone in B.C. in terms of overall biomass.<sup>1</sup> The Harrison River is an important conservation area for salmon supported by the 2010 designation as an International Salmon Stronghold, which represents one of the most ecologically significant

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<sup>1</sup> Meidinger, D., and Pojar, J. (1991). Ecosystems of British Columbia. *Special Report Series-Ministry of Forests, British Columbia*, (6).

watersheds in North America for Pacific Salmon. The Harrison River Salmon Stronghold spans the length of the Harrison River from Harrison Lake to the confluence with the Fraser River. The Chehalis River discharges into the Harrison River approximately 1 km upstream of the study area and is significant in its role in shaping the landforms northeast of the study area. The Chehalis River's massive alluvial fan has created extensive mudflats that provide important habitat to numerous fish, bird, and wildlife species.

*The Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Management Plan (1997)* identifies the Harrison River, Chehalis River Delta, and Morris Creek Delta area as important to the wintering, migration, and/or breeding habitats for salmonids, sturgeon, aquatic birds, bald eagles, and upland wildlife.

The Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area is geographically unique as it represents one of the largest estuarine environments above the mouth of the Fraser River. It is near the confluence of three rivers – the Harrison River, the Chehalis River, and the Fraser River. The Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area is approximately 200 hectares in size. Due to its proximity near the confluence of three major river systems, a multitude of ecosystems can be found in these watercourses. The three rivers are home to all five species of Pacific Salmon and harbour one of the strongest populations of White Sturgeon in the province. Recognition of the area's importance to wildlife has been demonstrated through the designation – Canada's only Salmon Stronghold, showing its importance in not only Canada but also continentally. The river basins also support other terrestrial wildlife, which has resulted in the area being designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) as well as candidate status as a key biodiversity area.<sup>2</sup>

Bird species that are known to feed, nest or winter in the IBA/Chehalis WMA include Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron (*fannini subspecies*), Peregrine Falcon, Purple Martin, Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, and Grey Catbirds. The area is also home to Canada's most important raptor populations – particularly for piscivorous species such as Bald Eagle and Osprey - due to the abundance of salmon in the three main rivers. An estimated 35,000 Bald Eagles are thought to overwinter within the Fraser River Lowlands and along the Salish Sea. A large portion, up to 15,000, of this population spends considerable time within the development permit area foraging on the banks of Harrison River and Chehalis River. This represents the largest concentration of this species globally.<sup>3</sup>

There are also several known, and historically known, protected wildlife habitat features under the *Wildlife Act*, including Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, and Great Blue Heron. Outside of the HMNP area, Echo Lake, which is a few kilometres to the north of the Plan area, represents the largest known roost site for Bald Eagles anywhere in the species range. Upwards of 1,000

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<sup>2</sup> Hancock, D. & Lamont, M. (2023, April 10). *Understanding Wildlife Values in Harrison Mills*. Hancock Wildlife Foundation.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

birds are known to use Echo Lake to roost. The forest and tree canopies are important to support the raptor population reliant on this area, as well as providing valuable vegetative buffers, nesting, roosting, hunting, and perching locations to feed on spawning salmon and other prey. The area is also recognized as a potentially important habitat for at least 50 other species of conservation concern (vertebrate and invertebrate) that may be resident or vagrant within the area.

The unique and productive aspects of the area's fishery support significant numbers of terrestrial wildlife. The densities of marine nutrient inputs in the area through salmon migration and dispersal of salmon carcasses through avian and mammalian scavengers have likely also contributed to the productive nature of the region's forests over millennia. Most of these forests have been harvested, but some small areas of the Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) can still be found adjacent to the HMNP area. As a result, Harrison Mills is considered to have highly valued ecosystem components that warrant protection, sound stewardship, and careful consideration of development pressures.

## 3.4 Story of the Inhabitants

### Indigenous Communities

Archaeological evidence indicates people have been living in the Harrison Watershed since at least 9,000 years ago, with occupation increasing ~6,500 calendar years before the present (cal. B.P.). These early settlements are located on raised terraces above active waterways and appear to be relatively small and far between. Settlements on the Harrison River increased in number and size considerably around 3,000 years ago. For the last two millennia, the area around the Chehalis-Harrison confluence was one of the most densely populated areas of the Northwest Coast, with many house pits and plank houses clustered into over a dozen settlements on both banks of the Harrison and Chehalis Rivers.<sup>4</sup>

Present-day Harrison Mills is located within the traditional and asserted territories of Sts'ailes, Sq'ewlets, Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation, Sq'ewa:lxw (Skawahlook) First Nation, Leq'á:mel First Nation, and Matsqui First Nation. The study area is primarily situated on the edges of Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets traditional territories, with both communities having a deep-rooted and ongoing cultural connection to the land.

The Study area is known to be the location of an ancestral Sts'ailes village, Skwâltúq, as well as a large mortuary complex. Yet, because of early land pre-emption, which effectively prevented the Sts'ailes from using this area after around 1860, and significant land disturbance, we know very little about its history. Logging and mill operations, agriculture,

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<sup>4</sup> Ritchie, J. & Ritchie, M. (2021, December 17). *Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Archaeological Overview Assessment*. Sts'ailes Heritage Consulting.



and more recently, housing and the creation of a golf course, have damaged most traces of the settlement, burials, and other associated cultural sites and activity areas. Today, none of the plank houses or house pits of the settlement are visible, and the *Heritage Conservation Act* protects only fragmentary portions of the ancient cemetery. Ten archaeological sites are recorded within the study area, which represents the once extensive use of this area. The Elbow Creek area has a great deal of cultural significance which transcends the archaeological record, and both the Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets feel deeply connected to the ancestors that lived and died at the settlement of Skwâtúq.

It is well documented that both Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets had settlements along the Harrison Watershed. Some of the settlement data in the Harrison Watershed includes evidence of house pits, plank houses, historic camps, and burial mounds. This data also suggests that the Sts'ailes utilized a great deal of the landscape because they lived in widely dispersed settlements throughout the watershed. While outside the HMNP area, archaeological sites along the Silver River trade route, the top of Viennese Ridge and the summit of Mt. Woodside (Kweh-Kwuch-Hum), illustrate this wide use of the landscape. Despite the evidence for overall utilization of the landscape, however, it is clear that Sts'ailes spent the majority of their time near or on the major rivers and lakes.<sup>5</sup>

Sq'ewlets people are the people of the Sqwōwich (Sturgeon). As Stó:lō, in S'ólh Téméxw, they are also the people of the river and people of the land. Sq'ewlets share many beliefs and customs with the Stó:lō world and revere their tribal history. The ancient and current home of the Sq'ewlets people is where the Harrison and Fraser Rivers meet. It is where their village sites, cemeteries, and current reserves are located, including their ancient villages of Qithyil and Qwi Qweqwom. Sq'ewlets settlement areas were strategically located on one of the major trade and transportation routes linking the coast with the southern Interior of the province. Though many overland trails were maintained throughout the Fraser Valley, water transport was the fastest and easiest way to travel. There was a well-developed trade network between the west coast and the dry interior, as the Harrison River is navigable by canoe over 100 kilometres into the interior. The Sq'ewlets people would have been well situated to act as middlemen in some of the transactions between the coast and the interior.<sup>6 7</sup> Sq'ewlets have similar settlement data in the Harrison Watershed including evidence of burial mounds within the HMNP area.

Ethnographic information indicates that social relations were closer within the Harrison Watershed settlements compared to those between the Indigenous settlements inside and outside the watershed.

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<sup>5</sup> Ritchie, P. (2010, May 21). *From Watershed to House: the Cultural Landscapes of the Sts'ailes People*. (Master's thesis, Simon Fraser University).

<sup>6</sup> Carlson, K.T. (Ed.). (2001). *A Stó:lō-Coast Salish Historical Atlas* (A.J. McHalsie, cultural advisor; J. Perrier, graphic artist & illustrator). Douglas & McIntyre.

<sup>7</sup> Bellissimo, S. (2011). *Scowlitz: A Preliminary History* (Ethnohistory Field School report). University of Saskatchewan).

## Recent Evolution of Harrison Mills

Harrison Mills has evolved as a rural community within an ecologically sensitive and popular recreational area, while also being the historic site of Skwâltúq, an ancestral Sts'ailes village, and a significant mortuary complex. Beginning in the 1820s, settlers started to locate in the area. Mining and logging in the mid-1850s and early 1920s largely contributed to the development of the community. Several houses were built to accommodate sawmill workers. The introduction of the nearby CPKC rail line increased industrial capacity, and in turn, development potential.

Residential development continued at a slow pace throughout Electoral Area C into the 20th century, constituted by rural, single-family development. Prior to the development of Tapadera Estates and the Sandpiper Golf Course in the early 1990s, Harrison Mills experienced minimal building activity.

In 1996, the three Regional Districts amalgamated to form the Fraser Valley Regional District. At this point, the area was largely shaped by the Tapadera subdivision, Sasquatch Inn, and the recreational developments of Sandpiper Golf Course. The existing water and community sanitary sewer services were designed to accommodate the current development.

Shortly after amalgamation, the Regional District prepared the current OCP for Electoral Area C, adopted in 2000. Following the adoption of the OCP, additional residential developments (Eagle Point, River Reach, and Harrison Mills) were added to the community.

The aerial images in Figure 2 illustrate the change in the community since amalgamation in 1996, the development of additional residential uses around 2004, and a snapshot of the community in 2021.

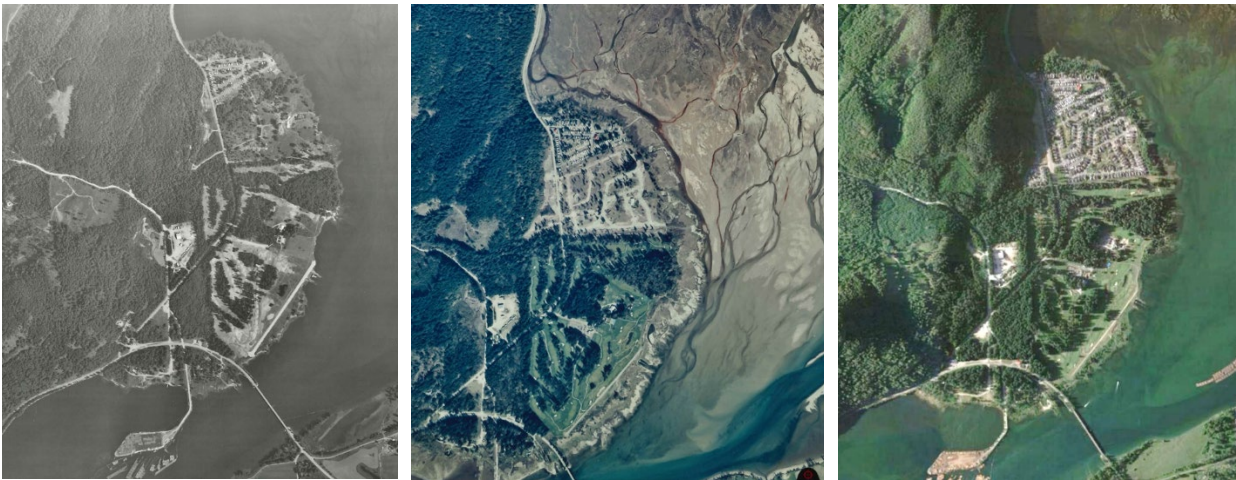


Figure 2: Harrison Mills in 1996, 2004 and 2021

## 3.5 Community Today

Harrison Mills is a small-unincorporated community situated north of the Fraser River on the northwest bank of the Harrison River at the confluence of the Harrison, Chehalis, and Fraser Rivers (Schedule 1 – Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas). Covering a total land area of 209 hectares, Harrison Mills encompasses the entirety of the Elbow Creek alluvial fan as well as hilly terrain. Elbow Creek flows into the lower Harrison River, between the Chehalis-Harrison confluence and Harrison Bay.

The neighbourhood is bound to the north by the Chehalis River delta and mudflats, to the east and south by the Harrison River, and to the west by upland forest and the Pacific Range of the Coast Mountains (Figure 2). The lower elevations of Harrison Mills are within the broad floodplain of the lower Fraser Valley.

As of 2021, Harrison Mills is home to a population of approximately 590 residents residing at Tapadera Estates, Harrison Lane, Eagle Point, and River Reach<sup>8</sup>. The most prominent attraction is the Sandpiper Resort, which includes a golf course, tourist accommodations, and an event venue. The community is close to the District of Kent and west of Agassiz.

Harrison Mills is part of Electoral Area C of the Regional District, which also includes the communities of Hemlock Valley and Lake Errock, as well as several Indigenous communities, including Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes. Additionally, there are shared interests with several other Indigenous communities in the region.

While Harrison Mills is predominantly residential, it experiences a significant number of year-round visitors. Harrison Mills offers world-class outdoor opportunities and is renowned as a gateway to recreational activities in the surrounding region.

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<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.





## SHAPING THE VISION

# 4 SHAPING THE VISION

The HMNP is the product of a comprehensive planning process that consisted of six distinct phases, as shown in Figure 3 below.

## 4.1 Current Neighbourhood Perspectives & Values

The development of the HMNP was a highly collaborative and community-driven process. Critical to this process was understanding the current community's perspectives, values, and priorities for the future of their neighbourhood. To inform this understanding, the project team relied on a comprehensive engagement process. Multiple opportunities were offered throughout the lifespan of the project for community members and stakeholders to contribute effectively and meaningfully in shaping the long-term plan for their community.

The engagement process included the following resources, activities, and opportunities:

- » A project website on FVRD's Have Your Say platform, active for the duration of the project
- » Communications via project newsletters
- » One community survey
- » Seven public meetings
- » Engagement with Indigenous government staff and officials
- » Engagement with provincial and federal government agencies
- » Engagement with local landowners and businesses

All information regarding the HMNP was available on the project website including all project background materials, technical reports, community survey results, public meeting presentations, and summaries of what was heard from the community and interest groups at each event.

Over the course of the engagement process, public feedback was heard on the following topics: housing, commercial land use, natural environment, cultural resources, recreation, tourism, transportation, and community infrastructure. Feedback collected on each of these topics was used to inform the development of the land use plan and supported the identification of appropriate themes for the neighbourhood policies.



# PROJECT TIMELINE

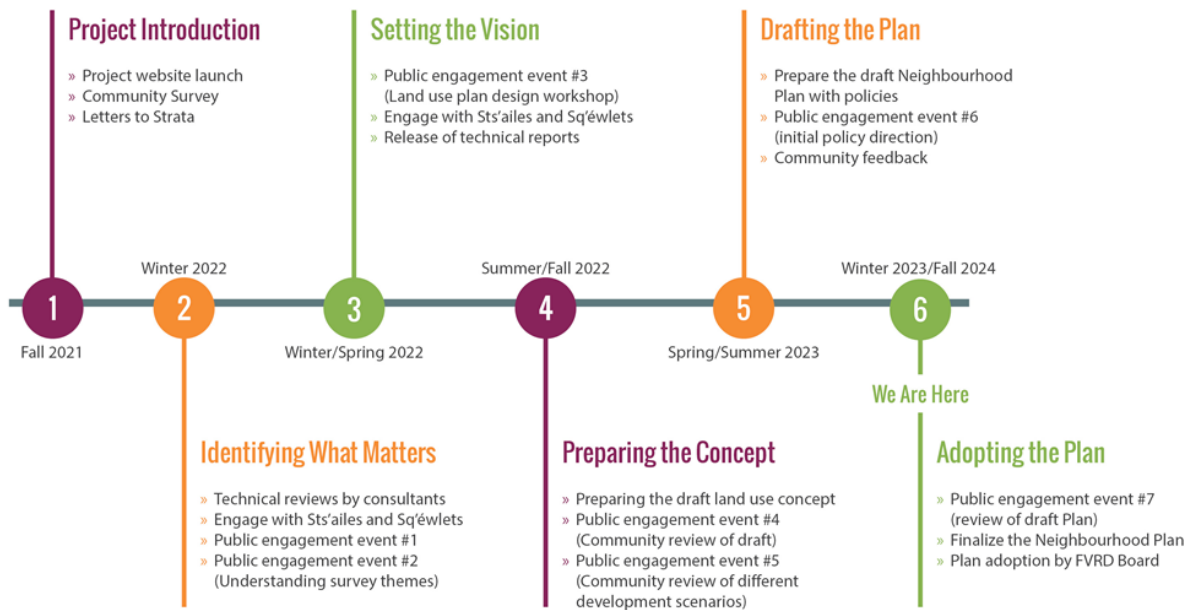


Figure 3: Neighbourhood Planning Process

## Community Survey

As a preliminary engagement step, a community survey was launched to introduce the project and provide the residents of Harrison Mills with an opportunity to share their vision and goals for the future of the neighbourhood. Feedback collected through the survey reaffirmed community values that informed the development of the HMNP as well as planning for future public engagement activities.

The survey was available online on the project's webpage from October 5 to November 5, 2021, and 171 participants completed it. Key takeaways from the survey include the identification of neighbourhood values and priorities for neighbourhood improvements, presented in figure 4 and 5.

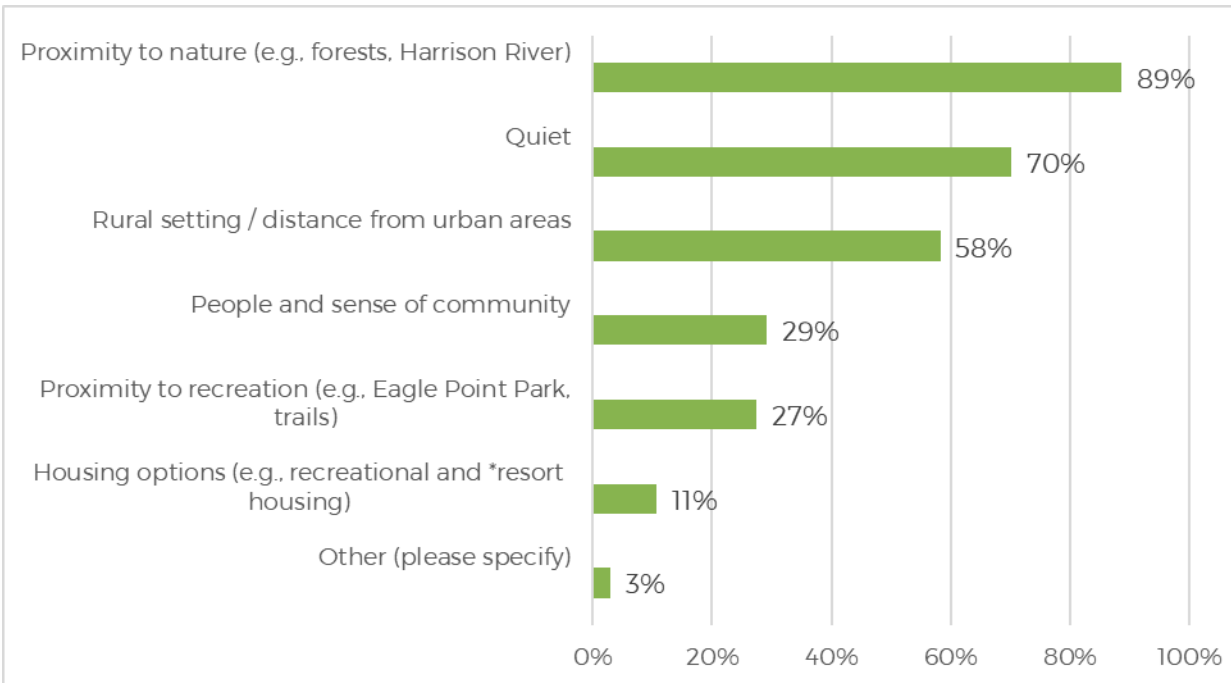


Figure 4: Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Values

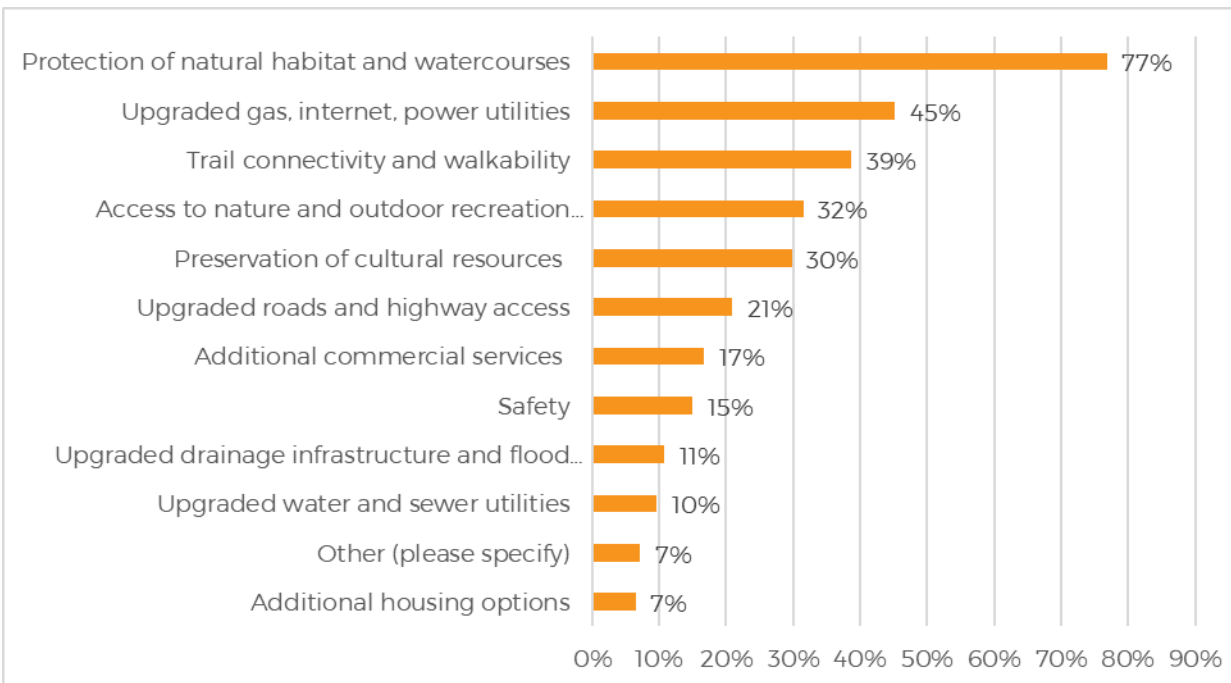


Figure 5: Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Priorities

## Public Meetings

Public meetings were held at key stages (Table 1) throughout the neighbourhood planning process. The purpose of the meetings was to ensure the community and stakeholders were appropriately involved during each phase of the development of the HMNP. The format of the meetings included both virtual and in-person opportunities (Figure 6). In-person public meetings were held at the Harrison Mills Community Hall. To accommodate all participants, complete presentations and summaries of the feedback collected at each public meeting, documented in a What We Heard Report, were made available for viewing and comments on the project webpage (Figure 7).



Figure 6: Public Meetings

Public Meeting	Purpose	Format	Attendance	Date
<b>Townhall</b>	To introduce the project to the broader community, provide background information on the project and process, and offer an opportunity for community members to ask questions	Virtual	~40	December 8, 2021
<b>Survey and Technical Report Review</b>	To present the results of the community survey and provide an overview of key takeaways from the technical assessments	Virtual	~40	February 1, 2022
<b>Land Use Planning Part 1</b>	To discuss key topics, consider the needs and priorities of different demographic groups, and how to accommodate housing needs and development constraints	In-Person	~50	April 11, 2022
<b>Land Use Planning Part 2</b>	To present and seek feedback on three land use scenarios illustrating options for how the community could develop in the future	In-Person	~40	May 4, 2022
<b>Open House</b>	To present and seek feedback on the preferred land use concept and initial policy direction	In-Person	~50	June 28, 2022
<b>Initial Policy Direction</b>	To present and seek feedback on initial policy direction in all policy areas	In-Person	~40	April 19, 2023
<b>Open House</b>	To present the progress of the OCP update and discuss the Neighbourhood Plans	In-Person	~40	April 24, 2024

Table 1: Summary of Public Meetings





Figure 7: Public Meeting #4 Summary of Feedback



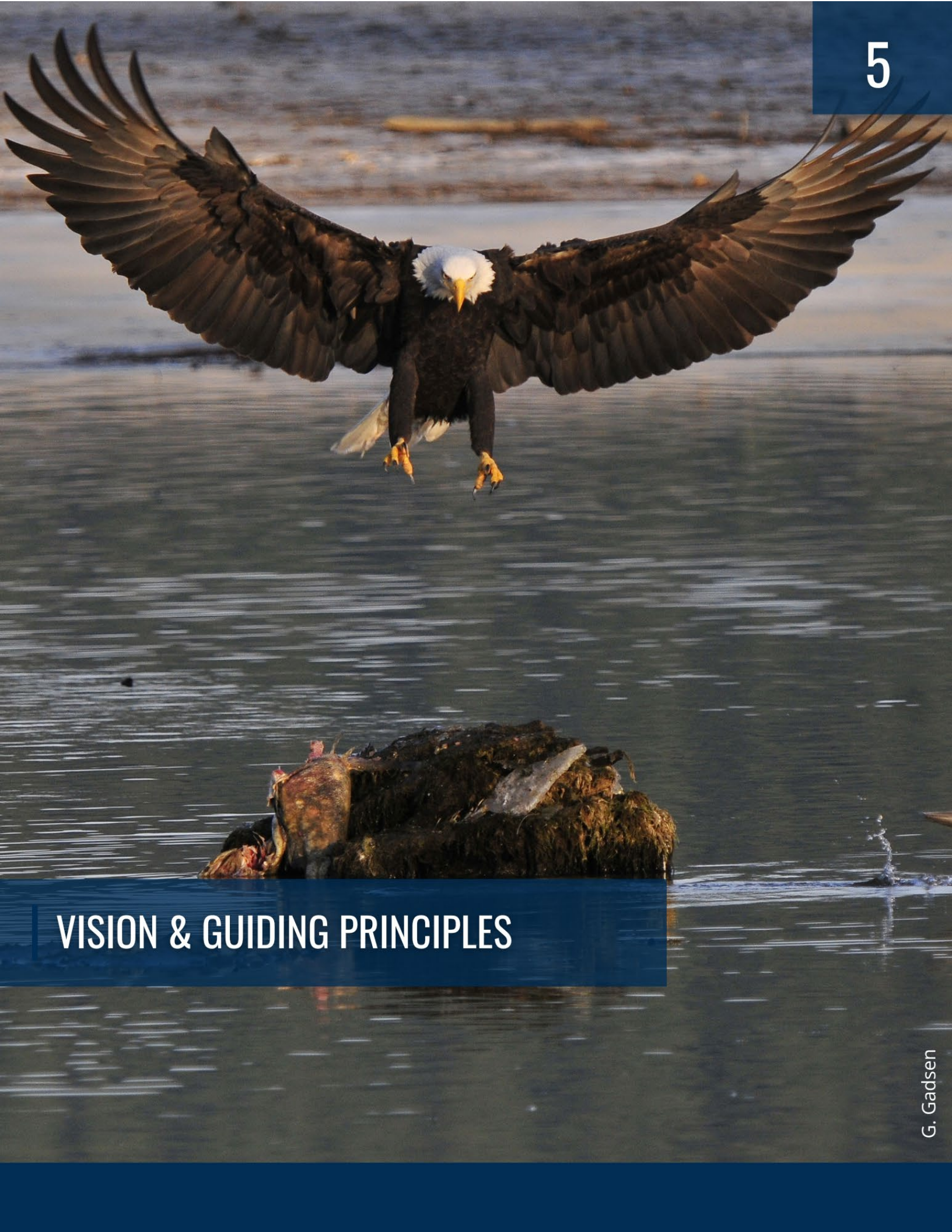
# Indigenous Engagement

The Regional District is committed to establishing and maintaining dialogue, coordination, and collaboration with the local Indigenous communities. As such, throughout the drafting of the HMNP, we had several engagements with the elected officials and staff of Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'ewlets, and Sts'ailes. This included presentations to council members and senior staff on different occasions. HMNP updates and technical assessments were shared with the Indigenous communities. The approach to such engagement was to learn the Indigenous perspective as the stewards of the land and how the HMNP policies may affect Indigenous rights and interests, how any negative impacts could be avoided, and how we might work together to achieve shared objectives. The goal is to build a foundation of trust and respect, fostering a long-lasting relationship that benefits both the Regional District and Indigenous communities, as well as the broader community.

# Other Collaboration

The HMNP was shared with multiple provincial agencies, Crown corporations, local governments, and interest groups. Below is a list of highlighted agencies and interest groups actively engaged during the HMNP process.

- |                                    |                                      |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| » BC Archaeology Branch            | » District of Kent                   | » Ministry of Forests                    |
| » BC Hydro                         | » Ducks Unlimited Canada             | » Ministry of Housing                    |
| » BC Transit                       | » Fraser Cascade School District #78 | » Ministry of Transportation and Transit |
| » BC Parks                         | » Fraser Health                      | » Nature Trust of BC                     |
| » Birds Canada                     | » Fraser Valley Conservancy          | » South Coast Conservation Program       |
| » Department of Fisheries & Oceans | » Hancock Wildlife Foundation        |  |



## VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# 5 VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## 5.1 A Vision for the Future

Harrison Mills will remain an area of high ecological value and an important habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Residents and visitors will be able to recreate in this scenic and peaceful rural landscape, enjoying a variety of outdoor activities. The community will experience gentle/modest growth to support community needs including the provision of housing, amenities, and economic opportunities, while ensuring ecologically and culturally significant areas are respected, protected, and enhanced wherever possible.

## 5.2 Stepping Towards a Complete Community

The Ministry of Housing developed a *Complete Communities Guide* in 2023 to aid local governments and Treaty Nations in the creation of complete communities.

The Ministry defines ‘complete communities’ as communities that “provide a diversity of housing to meet identified community needs and accommodate people at all stages of life, and provide a wider range of employment opportunities, amenities, and services within a 15- to 20-minute walk. They can be more efficient to service with infrastructure and have the potential to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with transportation.”

Complete communities offer a diversity of housing types, proximity to daily needs, sustainable transportation options and efficient use of infrastructure. Complete communities are connected to the natural environment and support social interactions through well-designed public spaces.

Development in the Plan area should meet the principles of a complete community. These concepts are also discussed in the *Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy*. The creation of complete communities supports a broad range of goals including:

- » Diversified housing options for all ages
- » A mix of land uses supporting proximity to essential needs
- » Increased walkability, accessibility, age-friendliness, and equity
- » Greater efficiency with servicing and infrastructure
- » Environmental sustainability, including reduced GHG emissions through transit
- » Preservation of the natural environment by reducing sprawl <sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> B.C. Ministry of Housing. (2023). *Complete Communities: A guide to geospatial and land use assessments for British Columbia's communities*. Province of British Columbia.



The HMNP intends to slowly evolve Harrison Mills into a complete community for both current and future residents and visitors who live, work, and recreate in the area. While rural areas face many challenges to fully becoming a complete community, the goal of the HMNP is to take incremental steps to become a complete community through the implementation of these principles relevant to the pace of growth in rural areas.

## 5.3 Guiding Principles

From the beginning, the Regional District has been committed to ensuring the HMNP is shaped by the residents of Harrison Mills and is rooted in the best practices informed by technical work. The following guiding principles are the core values and defining features of the HMNP:



### **Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment and Wildlife Habitat**

The HMNP will identify and protect both terrestrial and aquatic environmentally valuable resources by prioritizing minimization of future disturbances to natural systems, reduction of human-wildlife conflicts, and promotion of nature stewardship in collaboration with Indigenous partners and local groups.



### **Respect Areas of Cultural and Archaeological Significance and Indigenous Rights and Title Claims**

The HMNP will protect archaeological sites from future development and respect Indigenous rights and title claims on Crown land. The HMNP will encourage and support public space design that reflects an Indigenous sense of place and promote active education of Indigenous history in the area.



### **Accommodate Housing to Meet Electoral Area C's Housing Needs**

The HMNP encourages a variety to address housing gaps specific to Area C and to accommodate a range of lifestyles and life stages. Promotion of higher accessibility standards to help “aging in place” decisions is prioritized throughout the HMNP in addition to support for the creation of ownership and rental housing.



### **Creation of an Integrated Community and Neighbourhood Hub**

The HMNP supports the creation of a neighbourhood centre which will serve as a focal point for providing daily essential needs, employment opportunities, public spaces, mixed housing forms, and a transit hub. The HMNP promotes the creation of a neighbourhood that is walkable by providing a coherent pattern of streets and pathways to natural areas that

are people-friendly and fosters a welcoming pedestrian and cycling experience.



### **Expand Parks, Trails, Open Spaces, and Recreational Opportunities**

The HMNP supports the strategic expansion of parks and trails within the neighbourhood to create an expansive interconnected network of recreational opportunities for residents. The HMNP prioritizes connecting all neighbourhood development through an accessible active transportation network and increasing the variety of recreational assets in the community.



### **Ensure Safe Development and Sustainable Growth**

The HMNP ensures that new growth must pay for itself and create financially viable servicing areas, aligned with the neighbourhood's servicing capacity and Local Servicing Plan. The HMNP prioritizes avoidance of geohazards and requires that neighbourhood growth will be resilient to the impacts of climate change.



A scenic landscape photograph of a lake with mountains in the background and a wooden pier in the foreground. The sky is filled with large, grey clouds. The foreground is dominated by tall green grass and some leafy plants. A wooden pier with two vertical posts and a horizontal beam extends into the water. The lake is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. In the distance, a small boat is visible on the water. The mountains in the background are covered in dense forest and partially shrouded in mist or low clouds.

## PLANNING ANALYSES

# 6 PLANNING ANALYSES

A comprehensive understanding of a neighbourhood's history and the needs of current and future residents are essential to guide the development of a neighbourhood plan. Identification of physical development constraints, through technical analyses, is important to learn where growth can be located.

In recent years, the Regional District has completed multiple studies to better understand demographic needs. This work helped to identify neighbourhood priorities and to determine potential opportunities and challenges associated with future development in Harrison Mills.

Five technical assessments were completed in 2021 on the following topics:

- » Archaeological
- » Environmental
- » Geotechnical
- » Parks and recreation
- » Crown land

Each assessment evaluated current conditions, identified opportunities and challenges associated with potential future development in the area, and presented recommendations for land use planning and growth management based on best practices. Each assessment is independently documented in a technical report that is supplementary to the HMNP. Planning and management recommendations from each assessment informed the development of the HMNP and have been incorporated into various sections throughout the HMNP.

Additionally, the conceptual plan and land use designations have been developed through the lens of 'design with nature' principles. The basis for the HMNP began with understanding the landscape as a starting point. Figure 8 shows an example of the planning process.



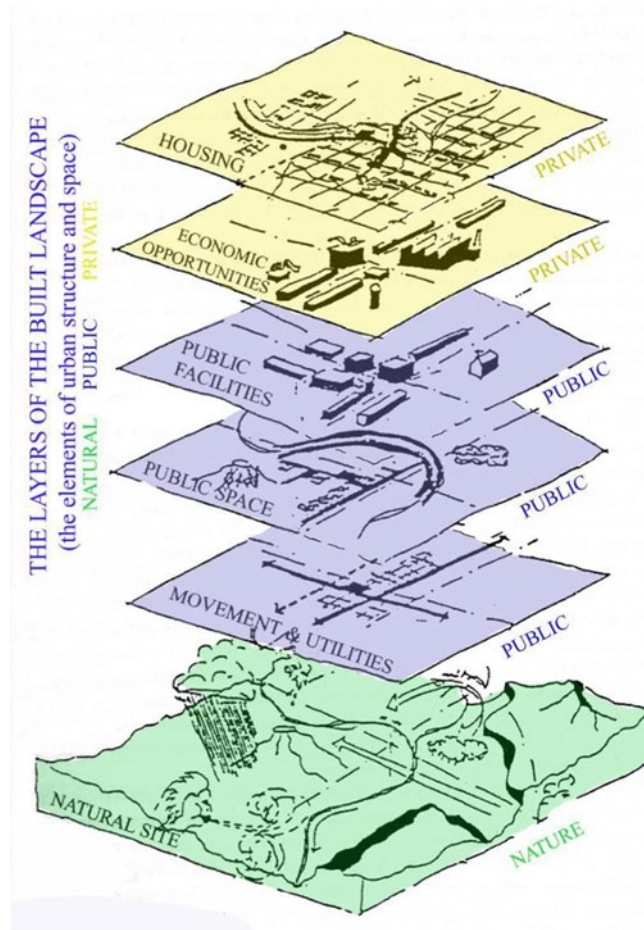


Figure 8: Layers of Landscape (Todeschini, F., 2013)

## 6.1 Housing Needs

In 2021, the Regional District completed a Housing Needs Report for all Electoral Areas. The report identified the populations who are most challenged to afford suitable and adequate housing in the Regional District. A demographic snapshot of Electoral Area C revealed the following key trends:

- » A growing population
- » Older residents and an aging population
- » Smaller household sizes
- » Lower median household incomes
- » Lower labour force participation
- » Limited housing diversity

The main housing gaps identified for Electoral Area C include purpose-built rental housing, rental housing for resort staff, accessible housing, and multi-unit developments. The

provision of a range of housing options to accommodate different demographic groups that shape the community of Harrison Mills (e.g., seniors aging in place, young families, seasonal workers) amidst a housing crisis, is a top priority of the HMNP.

## POLICY

- 6.1.1 **Diversified housing stock.** The Regional Board will prioritize development that provides a variety of accessible housing options for all ages such as accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and multi-unit housing.
- 6.1.2 **Rental housing.** The Regional Board may require all development, particularly multi-unit developments, to facilitate the development of rental units to meet the housing needs.
- 6.1.3 **Employee housing.** The Regional Board will prioritize development that provides housing for employee accommodation and supports the local businesses.
- 6.1.4 **Amenity cost charges.** The Regional Board may require in-kind construction or amenity contributions, consistent with the *FVRD Amenity Cost Charges Bylaw* when deliberating on development applications that will put pressure on current services or require new services to accommodate growth.

## 6.2 An Age-Friendly Community

In 2015, the Regional District completed an *Age-Friendly Rural Communities Gap Analysis* of its Electoral Areas to explore some of the challenges experienced by aging populations across the region. The purpose of the analysis was to identify the implications of an aging population on Regional Districts rural communities, the needs of seniors living in these communities, and how the Regional District can respond. Key trends for Electoral Area C based on 2001-2011 census data included substantial growth in older demographic groups, particularly among 55 to 64 year olds and 65 to 74 year olds and a housing stock made up of predominantly single-family homes.

Research indicates that seniors overwhelmingly prefer to age in place. Given the high proportion of seniors, comprising the population of Electoral Area C and the limited diversity of housing stock, appropriately planning for, and accommodating an aging population was an important consideration in the development of the HMNP.

An understanding of Harrison Mills' population growth and housing needs was integral to the development of a future land use plan and conceptual plan to guide future growth and development in the neighbourhood.

## POLICY

- 6.2.1 **Housing for all ages.** The Regional Board will support accessory dwelling units or secondary suites in development to increase housing types.
- 6.2.2 **Accessibility.** The Regional Board should encourage exceeding accessibility considerations in all forms of development and community amenities such as parks, trails, and road networks. For projects with 10 units or more, a minimum of 10% of units should be 'visitable' by those with mobility challenges or visual impairments (e.g., access to the front door with no steep grades/changes, wide accessible front door, and accessible washroom).
- 6.2.3 **Accessibility in pedestrian connectivity.** Developments shall be designed with accessible pedestrian connectivity to other parts of the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 6.2.4 **Local transit.** New development should ensure access by local transit in an effort to promote mobility and avoid social isolation.

## 6.3 Ecosystem Considerations

### Eagle-Salmon Relationship

A large part of the HMNP area is along the shoreline of Harrison River and abuts Harrison Bay. The shoreline area is critical to the symbiotic relationship between eagle and salmon. In addition, the forested areas around Elbow Creek and Echo Lake (north of the HMNP area) are important for nesting and nighttime roosting areas. A snapshot of the interconnectedness is provided below:

- » Perched trees along the shoreline are used by Bald Eagles and other raptors to feed on salmon
- » Spawning salmon along the shoreline is an important food source
- » Mature trees in the vicinity are used as nest sites and to rear eaglets
- » Nighttime roosting area at Echo Lake for approximately 1,000 Bald Eagles

The eagle-salmon relationship in the area dictates the shoreline environmental policies for growth management. Environmental buffers and management zones created through the HMNP policies are intended to protect the shoreline area and nesting sites.

### Elbow Creek Wildlife Corridor

Within the HMNP area, forest patches on the golf course connected by shrubs and grass provide movement opportunities to certain large and small wildlife that tolerate some



disturbance. Forest patches around developed areas, and south of the highway provide habitat to birds and raptors, and access to the Harrison River. However, the Lougheed Highway, the residential area and Morris Valley Road are significant barriers for terrestrial wildlife movement within the study area. Elbow Creek provides the only unobstructed natural passage from the lower elevations to upland areas by allowing wildlife to pass under the Morris Valley Road Bridge. Vegetated portions of the Harrison River foreshore also provide wildlife movement opportunities allowing wildlife to move up and down the river, into Elbow Creek and its riparian area and the Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis WMA. As such, the HMNP policies have created a natural buffer area along Elbow Creek and the Harrison River shoreline to protect the wildlife corridor and connectivity.

## Contiguous Tracks of Forest

The majority of the Crown land in the HMNP area hosts contiguous tracks of forest that are important for wildlife movement. Access to contiguous forests enhances the potential for important wildlife, such as Bald Eagles, to find suitable habitats for perching, roosting, and nesting. Furthermore, protecting existing stands of mature trees is important for the raptor population in the area. The Regional District acknowledges that Crown lands are subject to Indigenous rights and titles, recognizing Indigenous communities as stewards of these lands. The land use policies for Crown areas reflect both wildlife values and Indigenous rights and title.

## 6.4 Physical Constraints

### Geohazard

There are multiple credible geohazards in the HMNP area. Geohazards in the area include mountain stream erosion or avulsion, debris flow/torrent, inundation by floodwater, and small-scale landslip. There is a history of frequent flooding in the low-lying areas along the foreshore of Harrison River. Inundation flooding by the Harrison River is a credible hazard to the study area and must be considered for development. Land policies and the environmental buffer zone are aimed to primarily avoid development in the floodplain. Beyond the buffer zone, the policies are intended to consider mitigation for the design flood (currently 1:200 year flood).

### Archaeological & Cultural

The HMNP area has a rich history and evidence of historical Indigenous communities, fishing areas, gathering sites, and cultural areas. It was also part of a historical trade route. There are notable archaeological and cultural sites of significance in the HMNP area; some of which are

protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*. The HMNP policies intend to protect and respect archaeologically significant areas prior to land alteration.

## 6.5 Public Use

### Parks, Trails & Recreation

Harrison Mills offers an abundance of recreational activities including golfing, fishing, bird watching, and accessing nature trails. These activities attract both residents and visitors to the area and promote a desirable quality of life in a relatively rural landscape. Eagle Point Community Park is currently the only community park in the HMNP area. While there is an established network of developed and natural parks and trails to meet community needs, connections between existing parks and trails are limited.

The proposed public park and interconnected trail network for the HMNP area will be established through the creation of a CONSERVATION designation. The design of the public park and trail network is based on the technical assessment of parks and trails and recreation values within the HMNP area. It serves to preserve extensive habitat for wildlife while accommodating the recreational needs of the community.

### Transportation & Mobility

The entire HMNP area is primarily within a 400-500 metre walking radius; however, the existing development areas are disconnected. Residents expressed concerns regarding the traffic movement and lack of dedicated pedestrian routes in the area. The HMNP emphasizes pedestrian and cycling connectivity between existing and new developments. All development should be integrated into the recreational and natural amenities Harrison Mills offers. The location of the Beach Camp area provides an opportunity to create a four-way intersection with future transit planning.

## 6.6 Responding to Housing & Employment Gaps

The land uses and associated policies in the HMNP aim to provide a range and mix of housing options for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities. They are also intended to support a local business community and employment.

### POLICY

- 6.6.1 **Housing diversity.** In any potential future residential and mixed-use development, developers shall provide diverse housing forms by accommodating a mix of unit sizes, housing types, and tenures to meet Electoral Area C housing needs. This may include the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and affordable housing options.

Unit sizes, housing typologies, and tenures will be determined on a site-specific basis at the time of development.

## 6.7 Conceptual Plan

The conceptual plan (Map 1A – Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan) for Harrison Mills illustrates important neighbourhood features relative to the land uses presented in the land use plan (Schedule 2A – Land Use Designations – Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan). These features include areas that have been identified as foreshore management areas, ecologically sensitive areas, and locations of mature growth trees, wildlife habitat, and the Salmon Stronghold. Crown land within the Harrison Mills community is also shown to depict areas where the land is subject to provincial authority and Indigenous rights and title claims. The conceptual plan also illustrates new neighbourhood features that are proposed for Harrison Mills. These include locations for new pedestrian connections, a future park, and a potential transit node with intersection improvements. The expectations and requirements for these different neighbourhood features are further detailed in the appropriate policy section under Section 8 - Neighbourhood Policies.



## LAND USE DESIGNATIONS



# 7 LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

## 7.1 Harrison Mills Land Use

This section identifies the land use designations for Harrison Mills (Schedule 2A – Land Use Designations – Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan). The land use designation boundaries are approximate and subject to site-specific studies prior to any future development.

Designations are described in detail under OCP Section 3 – Land Use Designations. A summary of land use designations found only in the HMNP is provided in Table 2.

### POLICY

- 7.1.1 **Designation boundaries are generalized.** Boundaries between different land use designations are general and not intended to be definitive, particularly in split designated lands, or in circumstances where topography, agricultural land uses, or watercourses affect land use.
- 7.1.2 **Designation boundaries on undeveloped lands.** Land use designation boundaries are approximate and based on the conceptual plan for development. They are subject to minor adjustments at the time of development and subdivision.

Schedule Reference	Land Use Designation	Intent	Examples of Uses
	COMPACT RESIDENTIAL (CR)	To support a range of residential development, serviced by community water and community sanitary sewer systems	» Single detached dwellings, duplexes, multi-unit residential such as four-plex and row homes, accessory dwelling units, and secondary suites
	CONSERVATION (C)	To protect natural areas, wildlife habitat, and corridors as well as areas of environmental and/or cultural significance  To support active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities	» Trails are permitted if they do not create wildlife corridor conflicts » Development is not permitted » Accessory buildings and structures to support park operations, use, and maintenance may be permitted



		for residents and visitors where applicable	
	CROWN LIMITED DEVELOPMENT (CLD)	<p>To respect Indigenous rights and title on Crown land and collaborate on shared interests</p> <p>To support the continuation of existing resource industrial operations</p>	» Recreation commercial, resource industrial, public infrastructure, community amenities, outdoor recreation, and cultural use
	LIMITED USE (LU)	To identify land that is subject to significant hazards, lack of access, servicing, or environmental contamination	<p>» Single detached dwellings</p> <p>» Public uses include water reservoirs, sewage treatment plants, and transfer stations, etc.</p> <p>» May include community infrastructure uses</p>
	NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL (NC)	To provide for local daily needs and to provide employment opportunities (e.g., grocery/convenience store, coffee shop), and live-work opportunities	» Local Commercial (e.g., grocery store, convenience store, restaurant, retail, public use, local producer workshops, local shared office space, and live-work buildings)
	RESORT (RT)	To support the recreational golf course, resort commercial uses, tourist accommodation, and associated operational uses	<p>» Golf course, private recreation facilities, supporting commercial uses, and tourist accommodation</p> <p>» Development is not permitted north of Elbow Creek</p>
	SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL (SR)	To allow existing and future low-density residential subdivisions, serviced by community water and community sanitary sewer systems	» Single detached dwellings, accessory dwelling units, and secondary suites

	VILLAGE CENTRE (VC)	<p>To facilitate a mix of residential and locally serving commercial uses and to establish a community hub along the waterfront</p> <p>Any development is subject to environmental and flood management zone regulations</p>	<p>» Local Commercial (e.g., retail, grocery stores, café, restaurants), alcoholic beverage service, Tourist Accommodation (e.g., hotel, motel), public use (e.g., community hall, medical centre, elder's care), multi-unit residential (e.g., duplex, row homes, apartment buildings), mixed commercial-residential (ground floor commercial with upper floor residential), and conservation (parks, trail, dock, non-motorized recreational amenities)</p>
	VILLAGE RESORT RESIDENTIAL (VRR)	<p>To support the transition of historic recreational or village residential development to be connected to community water and eventual transition to community sanitary sewer systems</p>	<p>» Single detached dwellings, private resort development, associated rural residential, and public use</p>

Table 2: Land Use Designations



## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES

# 8 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES

Neighbourhood policies for Harrison Mills provide clear direction to support the land use designations and conceptual plan (Map 1A – Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan and Schedule 2A – Land Use Designations – Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan) in a manner that ensures alignment with the vision and guiding principles for the future of the community. This section presents the HMNP policies, organized into six themes. Each theme represents an integral component of the Harrison Mills neighbourhood that contributes to a livable, functional, and complete community. Though interrelated, each theme is presented independently to provide a comprehensive overview of its critical function in the neighbourhood. For each theme, appropriate and actionable policies have been developed to support the achievement of the overall vision for the neighbourhood and to ensure the needs of the community are met.

Themes:

1. Natural Environment & Wildlife
2. Parks, Trails, & Recreation
3. Cultural Assets & Crown Land
4. Community Infrastructure & Local Services
5. Transportation & Mobility
6. Shared Interests with Indigenous Communities

## 8.1 Natural Environment & Wildlife

The Harrison Mills neighbourhood is recognized as an area of high ecological value. It is located within the Harrison River floodplain and Elbow Creek fluvial fan; downstream of the Chehalis River delta; upstream of Harrison Bay; and at the confluence of the Fraser River. Given its unique geographic location and proximity to large tracts of forested land within the Lower Fraser Valley, Harrison Mills offers conditions for environmental features that provide important habitat to numerous fish, bird, and wildlife species.

Recognition of the area's importance to wildlife is demonstrated through several conservation area designations including the Harrison River Salmon Stronghold, Chehalis River Estuary Important Bird Area (IBA), and the Lhá:It/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Harrison Mills is also adjacent to areas designated as Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA) that are located outside of the neighbourhood boundary. A future Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) designation is pending for Harrison Mills.

Maintenance of this high-quality habitat is key to maintaining functional ecological systems and avoiding adverse impacts on fish, wildlife, and biological diversity. Given the area's highly



valued ecosystem components, protection, and sound stewardship, careful consideration of development pressures is warranted.

During the community survey, 77% of respondents identified the protection of natural habitats and watercourses as a key priority for the neighbourhood. This section presents actionable policies that focus on wildlife habitat protection, tree protection, riparian area management, guidance for development, climate change mitigation and collaboration, partnerships, and stewardship. The policies are intended for the Regional District, property owners, and developers prior to, during, and post-development. The policies were developed based on general best practices and recommendations identified in *the Harrison Mills Environmental Assessment* (2022) prepared by Urban Systems and *Understanding Wildlife Values in Harrison Mills* (2023) prepared by Hancock Wildlife Foundation. Reference to those documents must be made when interpreting these policies.

See Map 4 – Environmental Ecologically Sensitive Areas presents a comprehensive summary of existing conservation area designations and proposed management zones.

## POLICY

**8.1.1 Protection of the natural environment.** The Regional Board may use a combination of Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan policies, zoning, and conservation-related covenants to protect environmentally valuable habitat areas. The Regional Board may consider a covenant to protect biological diversity and the following environmental values in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area:

- a. Lands within 50m of the Harrison River and Harrison Bay natural boundary;
- b. Elbow Creek natural area;
- c. Wildlife corridors;
- d. Wildlife habitat trees; and,
- e. Nest areas.

**8.1.2 Broader community benefits.** The Regional Board may consider broader community benefits such as the restoration of environmentally sensitive areas at the time of a zoning amendment application to determine whether the development is in the public interest.

**8.1.3 Development best practices.** Development in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area shall adhere to provincial environmental guidance for best management practices. The following documents (or their equivalents, as updated) must be referenced in the preparation of development proposals:

- a. *Develop with Care 2014 Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*;



- b. *Guidelines for Raptor Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia* (2013);
- c. *Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptile Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia* (2014);
- d. *A Users' Guide for Changes In and About A Stream in British Columbia* (2022); and
- e. *Requirements and Best Management Practices for Making Changes In and About a Stream in British Columbia* (2022).

8.1.4 **Contained development.** New development and infrastructure should be contained within previously disturbed areas to the extent possible and should be located to minimize the development footprint and area of impact.

8.1.5 **Light spill.** New development should avoid certain spectra of lighting which have known impacts on wildlife. Developments should incorporate light spill reduction techniques such as ground-oriented lighting and directing lighting away from environmentally sensitive areas.

## Wildlife Habitat Protection

These policies intend to protect, maintain and improve where possible, areas of high ecological value or environmentally sensitive/critical habitat, especially for species at risk. This includes riparian areas adjacent to Harrison River and Elbow Creek, large contiguous tracts of forest, forest patches, and the interface area between identified conservation areas. This also includes protecting wildlife corridors to ensure connectivity between wildlife habitats and forested areas is maintained.

## POLICY

8.1.6 **Habitat supplementation.** Pre/during/post-development, developers are encouraged to support habitat supplementation both on and off-site. This could be accomplished by incorporating:

- a. Cavity nesting waterfowl boxes;
- b. Cavity nesting songbird boxes;
- c. Cavity nesting aerial insectivore boxes;
- d. Bat boxes;
- e. Artificial raptor nests (e.g., Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting platforms);
- f. Artificial bear dens off-site to replace veteran tree loss; and,
- g. External collaboration with local non-government organizations or naturalist groups with wildlife habitat programs.

- 8.1.7 **Habitat improvements.** Developers are encouraged to explore other wildlife habitat improvements with Indigenous communities and key stakeholders such as local, Birds Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Nature Trust of BC, etc. Federal Beneficial Management Practices may be referred to for additional information.
- 8.1.8 **Impacts on wildlife.** Development shall be designed to minimize impacts on wildlife including terrestrial wildlife (i.e., that walk on the ground), and birds and bats (e.g., visual impacts to birds). This could be accomplished by:
- a. Incorporating dark sky principles into the design;
  - b. Incorporating living or green roofs and walls within design plans to provide secondary benefits to wildlife;
  - c. Replacing water-intense lawns with drought-resistant native vegetation to reduce water use and prevent pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers from contaminating adjacent wildlife areas;
  - d. Establishing green buffers, pollinator belts, and hedgerows during the design process to increase value to both wildlife and humans; and,
  - e. Supporting the creation of community gardens that can supplement natural green areas.

## Tree Protection

These policies intend to protect existing large, mature, live, and standing dead trees to the extent possible and where safe to do so for raptor roosting and nesting habitat. A key factor in raptor conservation is the protection of existing habitats, rather than attempting to restore them later. While nests of those species identified in Section 34 of the *Wildlife Act* are protected, roost sites and perching substrates are not but are deemed worthy of protection under provincial best practices. These natural features provide important secondary habitats for other species not protected under the *Wildlife Act* by name.

## POLICY

- 8.1.9 **Tree groups.** Landowners and developers shall strive to protect trees in groups rather than in isolation prior to land alteration or development. Stands of trees provide greater ecological value and greater resiliency during heat stress, windstorms, and droughts.

## Riparian Area

These policies intend to protect and manage riparian areas within the Natural Areas and Floodplain Management Zone as identified in Map 4 – Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

## POLICY

- 8.1.10 **Minimize water crossing.** Development should minimize road, utility, and other crossings of riparian ecosystems. Where crossings are required, they must be designed in accordance with BC Procedures for Mitigating Impacts on Environmental Values and *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) requirements and may consider incorporation of directional fencing and box culverts that allow for wildlife passage.

## Collaboration, Partnerships, & Stewardship

These policies intend to raise awareness about environmentally sensitive areas with support from Indigenous communities, stakeholders and local, provincial, or federal organizations.

The natural environment and wildlife are vital to the HMNP area. Many of the policies in this section will be achieved before new development and through the implementation of the Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive DPA 5-C.

## POLICY

- 8.1.11 **Collaboration with Indigenous communities.** The Regional District expresses its desire to collaborate with local Indigenous communities to:
- a. Identify culturally significant wildlife areas, managed forests, sloughs, or other natural areas with strong cultural ties;
  - b. Identify culturally modified trees or trees of cultural value;
  - c. Learn cultural place names and incorporate them into future developments and signage within the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area;
  - d. Explore the re-establishment of traditionally managed food forests that provide valuable wildlife habitat; and,
  - e. Explore the re-establishment of aquatic cultural food sources (e.g., Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*)) and other traditional food sources that have benefits for both humans and wildlife where suitable habitat exists.
- 8.1.12 **Government collaboration.** The Regional District expresses its desire to collaborate with provincial and federal organizations to explore possibilities of climate and flood adaptation in proximity to the Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area and within the Foreshore Management Area, as shown in Map 1A – Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan, that may provide secondary benefits to wildlife. Examples of adaptation include permitting seasonal flooding of low-lying areas to aid in the absorption of excess water during flooding events.
- 8.1.13 **Partnerships.** The Regional District should explore partnership opportunities with local organizations such as Watershed Watch, the Emergency Planning Secretariat,

Build Back Together Collaborative, Farmland Advantage, and the Investment Agriculture Foundation to:

- a. Explore flood recovery and management efforts; and,
- b. Improve wildlife values on agricultural lands.

8.1.14 **Land acquisition.** The Regional District will collaborate with Indigenous communities to investigate potential land swaps with the Crown and land acquisition to protect and co-manage areas of habitat significance in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area.

8.1.15 **Funding opportunities.** The Regional District encourages local groups to explore provincial funding opportunities for public awareness training on habitat management and invasive species.

8.1.16 **Stewardship.** The Regional District encourages community stewardship through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations such as Birds Canada, conservation designation coordinators, and other community-run associations to create public education and outreach programs that foster stewardship.

8.1.17 **Invasive species.** The *BC Weed Control Act* imposes a duty on all land occupiers to control designated noxious plants. All residents are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their private properties.

## 8.2 Parks, Trails, & Recreation

Harrison Mills offers an abundance of recreational activities including golfing, fishing, bird watching, and accessing nature trails. These activities attract both residents and visitors to the area, and promote a desirable quality of life in a relatively rural landscape. Eagle Point Park is currently the only community park in the HMNP area. The park provides access and viewing opportunities of the Chehalis River Estuary and is used for walking, dog walking, and nature appreciation. Access to greenspace in Harrison Mills is enhanced by several informal trails along the foreshore and private amenity spaces located within existing residential subdivisions.

Residents had mixed reactions about access to parks and trails in the area. In the community survey, 52% of the respondents stated that the parks and trails are inadequate in the area and 39% identified it as a key priority for the neighbourhood. While there is an established network of developed and natural parks and trails to meet community needs, connections between existing parks and trails are limited. It is important to ensure current residents continue to have access to recreational areas and opportunities, while also considering how to accommodate future growth and increase in visitors.

The parks and trail network along Harrison Bay also provides an opportunity to consider the environmental concerns raised by Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets regarding the potential sedimentation and siltation impact from the log sort facility on the foreshore of Harrison Bay.

This section presents actionable policies that focus on parks and amenities, trails, management of natural areas, accessibility and signage, and tourism and education. The policies are intended for the Regional District, landowners, and developers prior to, during, and post-development. These policies were developed based on best management practices for parks, trails, and recreation as provided in the *Parks and Recreation Technical Assessment* (2021) as well as recommendations from *Understanding Wildlife Values in Harrison Mills* (2023). Reference to these documents is encouraged when interpreting these policies.

Potential locations for future parks and trails can be seen in Map 1A – Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan and Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas.

## Management of Natural Areas

These policies intend to ensure environmentally sensitive areas and other natural spaces are appropriately protected and preserved during the design, construction, upgrade, and ongoing maintenance of parks, trails, and amenity spaces.

### POLICY

8.2.1 **Options for park and trail acquisition.** The Regional District will consider the following options to acquire lands for community parks and trails as identified on Map 1A – Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan and Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas:

- a. Park dedication or cash-in-lieu at the time of subdivision pursuant to the dedication of parkland provisions of the *Local Government Act*;
- b. Negotiate access to land for trails and parks through private, public, and utility rights-of-way;
- c. Road Use Permits from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT);
- d. Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs);
- e. Development Cost Charges (DCCs);
- f. Application for use of Crown land; and,
- g. Partnerships.

8.2.2 **Securing access.** The Regional District may secure natural areas, wildlife corridors, trails, and greenspaces through park dedication, the creation of a separate lot, conservation covenants, and right-of-way agreements.

8.2.3 **Broader community benefits.** The Regional Board will seek different forms of community benefits such as providing additional parkland, repairing or building a



recreational facility, upgrading, constructing, or committing to continued maintenance of new trails to serve the broader community at the time of zoning amendment applications.

- 8.2.4 **Development financing.** At the time of considering zoning amendments, the Regional District will adopt policies or bylaws such as Amenity Cost Charges and Development Cost Charges to acquire and establish new parks, trails, and recreational amenities.
- 8.2.5 **Private amenity space.** At the time of development application, the Regional Board will be open to securing parks and trails intended for broad public use through private amenity spaces managed by the private self-governing bodies (e.g., strata corporation) to maintain a fiscally sustainable parks and trail service area.
- 8.2.6 **Servicing feasibility.** At the time of zoning amendment, the Regional Board will consider the impacts of operations and maintenance costs for new parks and trails on the existing taxpayers, and identify approaches to reduce impacts on existing taxpayers such as: creating separate local service areas, accepting upfront contributions by developers, or having a strata corporation provide for operations and maintenance.
- 8.2.7 **Phasing.** The Regional Board may consider allowing new parks to be provided in a phased manner, secured through covenants and coordinated with the number of dwellings being constructed, to potentially enhance financial sustainability for operations and maintenance costs.

## Parks, Trails, & Recreational Amenities

These policies intend to ensure the provision of adequate park and recreational space to support current and future residents, as well as visitors to Harrison Mills, while also ensuring all trails are designed, constructed, and upgraded to meet best practices and design standards to meet community needs.

### POLICY

- 8.2.8 **New parks, trails, and recreational amenities.** The Regional District will secure parks, trails, and recreational amenities as identified on Map 1A – Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan and Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas.
- 8.2.9 **Future public park in Harrison Bay.** Acquiring Crown tenure to establish a parkland in the log sorting property along Harrison River is important. The Regional District acknowledges Indigenous rights and title claims on Crown land.

- a. The Regional District will consider incorporating the log sorting area and surrounding shoreline as a public park upon approval of Crown tenure;
- b. The Regional District will work with Indigenous communities and the province to advocate for future use of the area as a public park; and,
- c. The Regional District will collaborate with the Province to explore collaboration opportunities with Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets for the creation and management of the proposed public park.

8.2.10 **Linear trail.** The area designated as COMPACT RESIDENTIAL should provide linear trails or pathway segments that create internal connectivity and provide connection to adjacent natural areas or recreational amenities.

8.2.11 **Off-leash dog area.** The Regional District may explore opportunities for the creation of an off-leash dog area in the community.

8.2.12 **Boat launch.** The Regional District should explore opportunities for the establishment of a formal boat launch located west of the Harrison River bridge. As the establishment of a formal boat launch is explored, measures to mitigate noise and adverse environmental and habitat impacts shall be considered.

8.2.13 **Access to recreational space.** The creation of neighbourhood parks and recreational amenities should meet the following criteria:

- a. Located within 400m of residential areas;
- b. Accessible by walking and cycling; and,
- c. Connectivity shall meet accessibility standards.

8.2.14 **Community gardens.** Developers are encouraged to dedicate physical space for community gardens to supplement natural green areas.

8.2.15 **Trail network master plan.** At the time of zoning amendment application, developers shall submit a trail network master plan that addresses the following:

- a. Trail network connections including connectivity options for lands beyond;
- b. Linear trails or pathways along the road right-of-way;
- c. Pedestrian circulation;
- d. Trail rerouting;
- e. Different types of trails that cater to different life stages; and,
- f. A signage plan.

8.2.16 **Trail network connections.** As road improvements, increased rights-of-way and development occur, new development will create pedestrian routes, sidewalks, or

roadside trails where there are gaps between existing trail systems to facilitate a fully connected trail network.

- 8.2.17 **Sandpiper shoreline trail.** The developer shall investigate the feasibility and potential solutions to design a shoreline trail along Harrison River to minimize conflicts between the golf course and public recreational uses.
- 8.2.18 **Trail rerouting.** As road and trail improvements are made, the Regional District and developers are encouraged to consider rerouting trails that are currently located on the road shoulder to improve safety for trail users.

## Accessibility & Signage

These policies intend to ensure that parks and trails are designed to be accessible to users of all ages and abilities and to provide appropriate signage and wayfinding.

### POLICY

- 8.2.19 **Signage plan.** The Regional District may consider the creation of a signage plan for parks and trails in collaboration with the local Indigenous communities. The developer, at time of development application, should complete a signage plan that will include (but not be limited to):
- a. Interpretive signage;
  - b. Indigenous cultural naming and signage;
  - c. Signage for foreshore;
  - d. Signage for invasive species areas; and,
  - e. Golf course recreation and trail use conflicts.
- 8.2.20 **Signage location.** Identification, regulatory, and wayfinding signage should be provided at trail entrances and trail intersections.
- 8.2.21 **End of trip facilities.** Designs for parks and trails should include accommodations for end-of-trip facilities and infrastructure such as trash receptacles, bike racks, and benches.

## Tourism & Education

These policies intend to promote tourism to the area and offer educational opportunities for the natural wildlife and cultural history of the area through recreation.

## POLICY

8.2.22 **Public access.** The Regional District should investigate how public access can be maintained to allow residents and tourists alike to partake in the Eagle Festival and wildlife-viewing opportunities while managing local traffic and parking limitations. Such consideration should occur especially at the time of acquiring new parkland or through the incorporation of public parking spaces scattered throughout the new development on lands designated VILLAGE CENTRE, RESORT and COMPACT RESIDENTIAL.

8.2.23 **Local events.** The Regional District encourages local organizations to explore how annual events and festivals seeking to capitalize on natural phenomena can provide educational value and socio-economic benefits to the communities within the area.

## 8.3 Cultural Assets & Crown Land

Present day Harrison Mills is located within the traditional and asserted territories of Sts'ailes, Sq'ewlets, Semá:th (Sumas), Sq'ewa:lxw (Skawahlook), Leq'á:mel First Nation, and Matsqui First Nation. The area has a great deal of cultural significance, which transcends the archaeological record. The communities of Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets continue to have a deep-rooted and ongoing cultural connection to the area. In planning for the future of Harrison Mills, it is important to recognize the sacredness of this area, mitigate damages, and reconcile deeply held values with current land use priorities.

An Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) completed by Sts'ailes Heritage Consulting in 2021 confirmed the HMNP area contains extensive moderate-to-high archaeological potential for identifying deeply buried or displaced archaeological features and materials. Areas of high, moderate, and low archaeological potential were assigned based on terrain characteristics (e.g., slope, distance from the Harrison River), the distribution of known archaeological sites, and the appraisal of results from several previous assessments conducted within the HMNP area. The intent is to preserve as much of the archaeological heritage of the area as possible.

Residents felt strongly about protecting areas of cultural and archaeological significance. Approximately 92% of the respondents in the community survey agreed that culturally and archaeologically significant areas should be preserved and respected. This section presents actionable policies that focus on collaboration with local Indigenous communities; appropriate treatment of areas with high, moderate, and low archaeological potential; and processes for proper site assessment. The policies are intended for the Regional District, property owners, and developers prior to, during and post-development. The policies were informed by the AOA. These policies intend to ensure appropriate protection and respect for areas of cultural and archaeological significance, collaboration with Indigenous communities

prior to and throughout development processes, and respect for development within Crown land that is subject to Indigenous rights and title claims.

The Crown land within the HMNP area is also subject to several land leases, licenses, rights-of-way, forestry special use permits, and mineral claims under *Land Act* authorizations. Of note are the log handling industrial use on Chehalis Forest Service Road which has had an active status since 1992 and the log sort at Beach Camp which has had an active status since 1972.

## POLICY

- 8.3.1 **Archaeological sites.** Development shall avoid any disturbance to archaeological sites within the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area. All archaeological sites are protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) and any disturbances to them should be avoided. If a disturbance is unavoidable, developers shall consult with Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets as well as the B.C. Archaeology Branch. Additionally, any impact to the site must be conducted under an Alteration Permit as identified in Section 12 of the HCA.
- 8.3.2 **High archaeological potential.** For areas with high archaeological potential, primarily all areas east of Morris Valley Road, developers shall complete an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) conducted under Heritage Inspection Permits issued under Section 14 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* prior to any disturbance. This applies to both areas that have not been previously assessed and areas that have been previously assessed but require additional assessment.
- 8.3.3 **Moderate archaeological potential.**
- a. For areas with moderate archaeological potential that have been previously assessed, developers are encouraged to conduct ongoing monitoring for further archaeological deposits or cultural materials.
  - b. For areas with moderate archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed primarily to the west of Morris Valley Road, developers are encouraged to conduct surface inspections in addition to ongoing monitoring.
- 8.3.4 **Low archaeological potential.**
- a. For areas with low archaeological potential that have been previously assessed, no further work is required, however, a chance find procedure should be adopted prior to any disturbance.
  - b. For areas with low archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed, developers shall conduct a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) prior to any disturbance. This policy applies to all low archaeological potential areas within the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area that



have not been previously assessed except for the former log sort facility along the peninsula (commonly referred to as the spit) where no further assessment is required due to it being an artificial landform.

- 8.3.5 **Assessments.** Development requiring archaeological assessments in areas that have not been previously assessed should adhere to the following guidelines when conducting assessments:
- a. For assessments conducted along the river, the shore should be surveyed at low water, if possible, and the potential for wet sites should be considered;
  - b. Testing along the riverbank, and other locations with potential for capped deposits and paleosols buried under flood deposits, should include deep testing; and,
  - c. In highly disturbed areas, subsurface testing with shovels may be impractical and backhoe testing and/or monitoring may be the best options.
- 8.3.6 **Culturally modified trees.** Prior to land disturbance or development, developers should include Indigenous communities in discussions relating to activities that pose a risk to the survival of culturally modified trees.
- 8.3.7 **Burial mounds.** Development shall protect all burial mounds. Prior to development, under the supervision of a Registered Professional Archaeologist, recording burial mounds should follow the guidelines below:
- a. Collect high-resolution 3-dimensional records of burial mounds (and surrounding terrain) with a high degree of GPS accuracy to both aid in the identification of burial mounds and to allow for tracking of individual burial mounds over time;
  - b. Place natural barriers (e.g., shrubs) around burial mounds to minimize damage from incidental activities; and,
  - c. Refrain from any activities that would result in continued fragmentation of burial grounds into smaller clusters of burials or stand-alone monuments as it is disrespectful and out of alignment with reconciliation efforts.
- 8.3.8 **Indigenous legal interests.** Development shall respect Indigenous legal interests and status in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes, but is not limited to, all interests that have been registered under the following registries: Land Act Crown Grants, Land Act Authorizations, Forest Tenure Registry, Mineral Tenure Registry, Protected Areas, Resource Roads Registry, Stand Alone Coverage, and Water

Rights as documented in the *Harrison Mills Crown Land Assessment Memorandum* prepared by Urban Systems Ltd.<sup>10</sup> in conjunction with Sts'ailes.

- 8.3.9 **Collaboration.** The Regional District encourages developers to proactively engage and involve Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets in any general or specific development plans in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area that will result in land disturbance to areas with archaeological potential and to approach development plans with an appropriate level of sensitivity.

## 8.4 Neighbourhood Infrastructure & Services

Proper servicing and infrastructure allow residents to have clean water to drink, appropriate sanitary sewer services, and to move efficiently throughout their neighbourhood. Servicing and infrastructure are needed to manage storm water runoff and to ensure neighbourhood operations can function smoothly in times of emergency and high demand. Well-designed and constructed infrastructure is an integral part of neighbourhood planning. The system's capacities need to be maintained as the neighbourhood and demands on infrastructure grow.

Among the infrastructure that supports community uses are the Elbow Creek dike, Regional District Harrison Mills transfer station, Regional District community water and sanitary sewer systems, and private water and sanitary sewer systems. The capacity of existing community water and sanitary sewer infrastructure has been reached and limits the potential for growth in the neighbourhood. To achieve the overall vision for Harrison Mills, a Local Servicing Plan has been prepared to identify necessary infrastructure upgrades to support modest growth in the neighbourhood.

This section presents actionable policies that focus on water and wastewater servicing, storm water management, road network and circulation improvements, and pedestrian facilities. The policies are intended for the Regional District landowners and developers prior to, during, and at the time of and post-development. The water and sanitary sewer policies were developed based on general best practices and technical work completed for the Local Servicing Plan. Reference to the Local Servicing Plan must be made when interpreting these policies.

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<sup>10</sup> Kuyer, L. (2021, December 16). *Harrison Mills Crown Land Assessment*. Urban Systems Ltd.

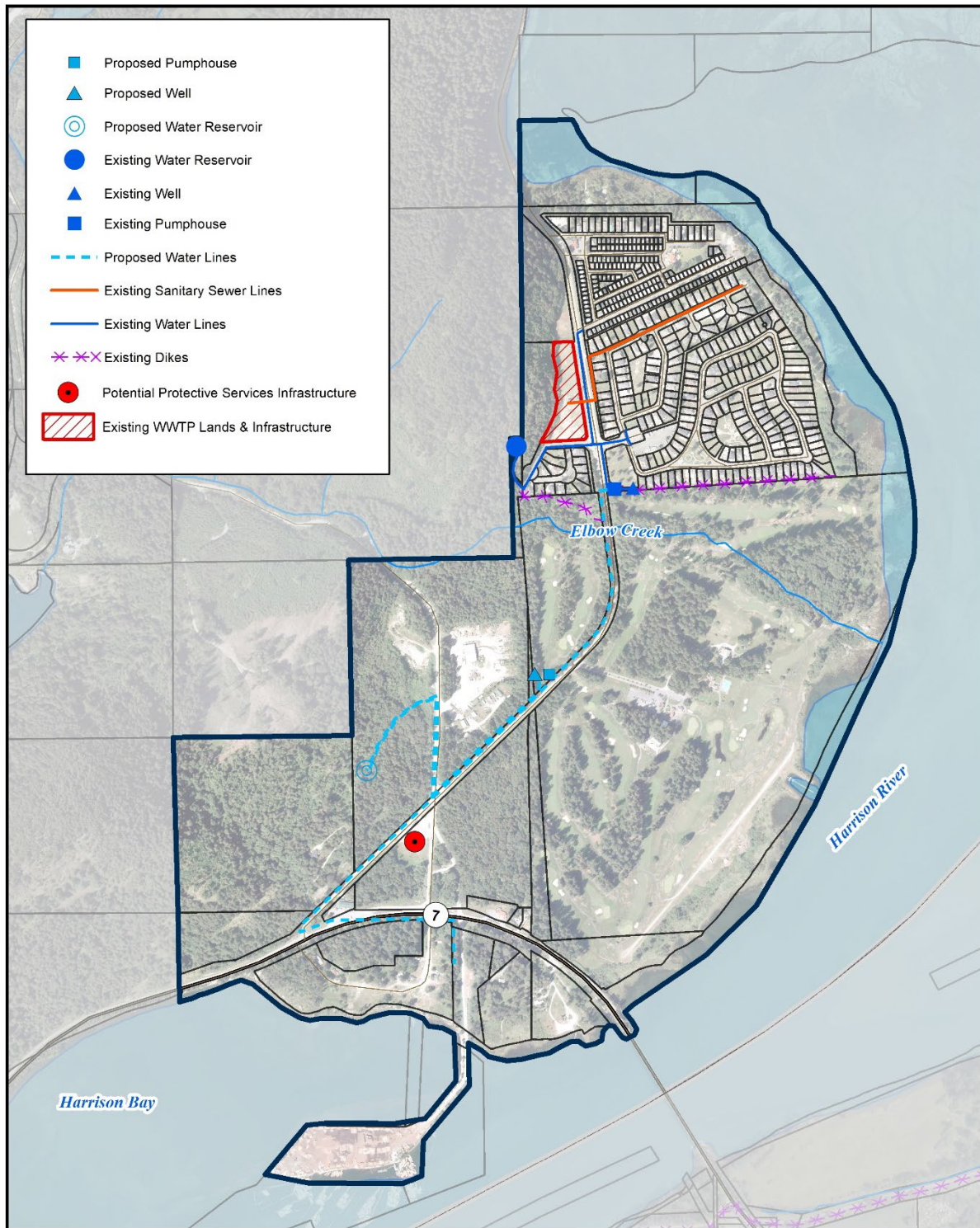


Figure 9: Community Infrastructure Map for Harrison Mills

## POLICY

- 8.4.1 **New infrastructure.** The Regional District will secure new community infrastructure through the following:
- a. Developer proposing new development;
  - b. Voluntary contributions and development financing tools; and,
  - c. Government grants.
- 8.4.2 **Local Servicing Plan.** All development requiring connections to the Regional District community water and sanitary sewer system shall be consistent with the Local Servicing Plan. New development shall be serviced based on capacity levels identified in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8.4.3 **Broader community benefits.** The Regional Board will consider community benefits such as upgrading the Regional District community water and sanitary sewer or pedestrian infrastructure to serve the broader community at the time of zoning amendment applications to determine whether the development is in the public interest.
- 8.4.4 **Development financing.** The Regional District will establish policies or bylaws relating to voluntary contributions, Amenity Cost Charges, and Development Cost Charges, as applicable, to upgrade, expand, or construct community infrastructure.
- 8.4.5 **Servicing feasibility.** Development applications shall demonstrate financial sustainability with reasonable local service area taxation through a servicing feasibility study that addresses capital costs, lifecycle costs, and operational costs.
- 8.4.6 **Voluntary contribution.** The Regional Board may accept voluntary contributions to address the servicing shortfalls that cannot be covered through reasonable service area taxation.
- 8.4.7 **Latecomer agreement.** Where excess capacity is provided to accommodate expected future growth, the Regional District encourages developers to enter into latecomer agreements for the maximum duration permitted under the *Local Government Act*.
- 8.4.8 **Resilient infrastructure.** Infrastructure shall be designed and located to be resilient to natural disasters.

## Water Supply

The Morris Valley Water System, operated by the Regional District, currently services the residential population in the suburban residential area north of Elbow Creek. The system is comprised of a reservoir and an unchlorinated groundwater source. A separate private water system services commercial uses along Lougheed Highway. A new centralized water system



that will connect the two existing systems, supply drinking water, and fire flow to existing and future users is planned for the neighbourhood.

These policies intend to ensure adequate water provision to support existing and future land uses in Harrison Mills. Critical servicing infrastructure will be upgraded over time to meet provincial standards and ensure capacity levels support the demands of existing and future users.

## POLICY

8.4.9 **Community water.** All new development shall be serviced by the Regional District community water system.

8.4.10 **Fire flow capacity.** Development shall meet the fire flows outlined in the Local Servicing Plan. Developers shall provide Fire Underwriters Survey calculations for any development to confirm compliance with the fire flows outlined in the Local Servicing Plan.

8.4.11 **Elbow Creek crossing.** The watermain crossing at Elbow Creek shall meet the *BC Fish Stream Crossing Guidebook* and provincial requirements to minimize environmental risks.

## Sewage Disposal

The Regional District currently operates one lift station in the northeast corner of the HMNP area that services the suburban residential area except for Tapadera Estates. The lift station pumps wastewater to the sanitary sewer system west of Morris Valley Road and north of Elbow Creek. Tapadera Estates is serviced by a private sanitary system including a lift station and septic field within Tapadera Estates. A new community sanitary sewer system is planned for the neighbourhood and will add new lift stations in the areas south of Elbow Creek. The proposed sanitary sewer system will continue to treat wastewater from the Regional District's existing lift station and will be expanded to treat wastewater from the new lift stations as well.

These policies intend to ensure that the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater will be conducted in a manner that does not pose risks to human health or the environment.

## POLICY

8.4.12 **Community sanitary sewer.** All new development shall be serviced by a Regional District community sanitary sewer system. The Regional Board may consider two community sewer systems. Morris Valley Sanitary Sewer System and a new sanitary sewer system servicing the new development within the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area. Such consideration will be subject to the following:



- a. The two-community sanitary sewer system approach will have the ultimate goal of transitioning into one community sanitary sewer system;
- b. Review of an updated Local Servicing Plan to understand the servicing feasibility and cost implications of constructing and operating two sanitary sewer systems; and,
- c. Multiple packages or temporary sanitary sewer systems servicing different development sites are discouraged.

8.4.13 **Broader benefits.** The Regional District encourages the developer to provide certain improvements to the sanitary sewer system to serve the broader community at the time of zoning amendment as a public interest matter.

8.4.14 **Elbow Creek crossing.** The wastewater service crossing at Elbow Creek shall meet the *British Columbia Fish-Stream Crossing Guidebook* requirements. The following additional measures will be implemented to provide high environmental standards to minimize environmental risks:

- a. Use of steel casing over the sanitary sewer main to provide a second layer of protection to prevent leaks;
- b. All joints at the crossing are restrained with welds or couplings;
- c. Applying insulation using clam shell sections placed around the pipe between the casing spacers;
- d. Consider seismic events for the design of the pipe supports and connections;
- e. Consider thermal expansion and contraction from freezing; and,
- f. Consider the release and entry of air from transient events (e.g., power failure).

## Storm Water Management

The management of storm water is necessary to control flooding and drainage. As development occurs, the amount of impervious area within a community often increases, as does the amount of surface run-off. These policies intend to mitigate the potential negative effects of storm water run-off attributed to development.



Figure 10: Example of naturalized storm water infrastructure

## POLICY

- 8.4.15 **Storm water management plan.** At the time of zoning amendment, the developer shall submit a storm water management plan consistent with the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan policies of this section and ensure that post-development storm water flows do not exceed the pre-development flows.
- 8.4.16 **Green infrastructure.** Development should incorporate green infrastructure such as bio-swales, grass ditches, rain gardens, or drainage ponds as part of the storm water management plan.
- 8.4.17 **Low impact development.** Developers are strongly encouraged to avoid or mitigate changes to natural drainage patterns by applying low impact development techniques for managing storm water and drainage. Any potential future development should not increase flows over pre-development flow rates.
- 8.4.18 **Impervious surfaces.** Impervious areas should be minimized through the use of grass and landscaped areas, protecting native topsoil, pervious surfaces (e.g., eco-pavers), porous driveway surfaces (e.g., unit pavers, grasscrete, compacted gravel), and uncovered drip-through decks.
- 8.4.19 **Road design.** Where development densities are suited to rural road standards, roads should be designed with roadside drainage based on techniques such as bio-swales and grassed ditches.
- 8.4.20 **Sediment management.** Development shall incorporate erosion and sediment control to prevent sediment from entering nearby watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas.
- 8.4.21 **Drainage discharge.** Developers shall include provisions for any drainage infrastructure that discharges into a riparian area or watercourse to protect against the discharge of sediments or other contaminants into sensitive areas (e.g., silt fencing, constructed wetland), based on recommendations from a Qualified Environmental Professional and subject to *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* approval.
- 8.4.22 **Culvert capacity.** The Regional District will collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to ensure new culverts are adequately sized and advocate for increased maintenance of culverts at Morris Valley Road, Chehalis Forest Service Road, and Loughheed Highway to reduce the risk of blockages which can result in water pooling up behind road embankments.
- 8.4.23 **Flood protection works.** The existing flood protection works along Elbow Creek predate awareness of climate change. Geohazard assessments for new development

shall incorporate residual risks given that the dike is not designed under current climate change considerations.

## Fire Protection Services

New development will introduce new land uses (e.g., apartment buildings, commercial, mixed residential-commercial) to the HMNP area. The fire protection study for the new development recommends a review of facility capacity, personnel capacity, fire apparatus, and insurance grades to determine the appropriate level of fire protection in the HMNP area.

### POLICY

8.4.24 **Fire protection study.** At the time of zoning amendment, the developer shall submit a fire protection study to understand the implications of the proposed development on the following:

- a. Impact on existing versus proposed structure insurance grades and credit within the Public Fire Protection Classification system;
- b. Capacity of current fire hall and personnel;
- c. Costs related to increasing fire hall capacity, potential resource expansion, equipment, vehicles, and their lifecycle costs;
- d. Suitability of fire hall for a potential ladder truck for optimal credit for fire insurance grading purposes; and,
- e. Funding mechanisms to address these costs.

## Other Utilities

Upgraded gas, internet, and power utilities were rated by 45% of the survey respondents to be the second highest priority in the area. Respondents shared concerns regarding power outages and the need for better internet connectivity in the area. Some residents mentioned having to install a backup generator in their homes and there is an increasing number of residents moving to the area who would like to work from home. Reliable utility services are critical for access to 911 or emergency services.

### POLICY

8.4.25 **Improved reliability in services.** The Regional District will advocate to BC Hydro and internet service providers for improved and uninterrupted hydro and internet connectivity in the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area.

8.4.26 **Natural gas.** The Regional District will collaborate with developers and FortisBC to bring natural gas to the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area.

## 8.5 Transportation & Mobility

The existing road network in Harrison Mills is defined by four main roads – Lougheed Highway, Chehalis Forest Service Road, Beach Camp Road, and Morris Valley Road. The primary access point into the neighbourhood is through Lougheed Highway crossing the southern portion of Harrison Mills. The HMNP envisions creating an integrated community with safe and efficient transportation systems within the HMNP area. The HMNP policies are aimed at creating active transportation network connections between the existing development in Morris Valley, recreational amenities such as the Sandpiper Golf Course, and the new development areas in Beach Camp and COMPACT RESIDENTIAL lands. The integration will be achieved through roadside trails along the four main public road/highway rights-of-way, linear trails in new development that allow for pedestrian and cycling connectivity, and connection to the proposed future parks and trails such as the Harrison Bay Community Park and waterfront community trail within the HMNP area.

The Area C OCP sets out targets for community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions. Creating an integrated community helps to achieve the goal of reducing GHG emissions by creating active transportation networks. Another goal of the Area C OCP is to create an interconnected network of rural compact villages (i.e. Harrison Mills and Lake Errock). The Regional District is working with BC Transit to introduce transit between Agassiz and Mission, which will serve the rural villages and Indigenous communities in Electoral Area C. The HMNP policies designate the Beach Camp area and lands to the north of Beach Camp as VILLAGE CENTRE. The vision of these lands is to create a “Main Street” with views and connections to the Harrison Bay waterfront and streetscapes that incorporate quality architecture and pedestrian connection to the Harrison River shoreline. Map 5 - Utility and Transportation Network illustrates that VILLAGE CENTRE lands will incorporate a bus stop through the construction of a four-way intersection. This will provide residents of Harrison Mills and other parts of Area C additional transportation options to enjoy the commercial and recreational amenities and create a safe north-south crossing of the Lougheed Highway to improve access between VILLAGE CENTRE lands.

To support the development of a safe, efficient, and accessible transportation network, the HMNP includes policies that advocate for highway improvements at designated locations. These policies are informed by community input and ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and BC Transit. While the Ministry is the primary agency responsible for roads, road right-of-way improvements, and maintenance in Area C, the Regional District plays an important role by working closely with the Ministry to plan for infrastructure that meets the needs of residents.

## Road Network & Circulation Improvements

The future growth and development of Harrison Mills is dependent on improved access and circulation throughout the neighbourhood. Road network improvements are necessary to support the community in the long term by providing access to destinations both within and outside of Harrison Mills, and to promote the safety of all road users. As the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is the primary authority for roads in the area, any improvements are subject to its review and approval. This may include, but is not limited to, transportation impact studies, access and safety audits, detailed road and intersection design, and compliance with the Ministry's access management guidelines.

These policies intend to support local road network and circulation improvements to allow for safe movement within the neighbourhood.

### POLICY

- 8.5.1 **Local circulation.** The Regional District will work with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to improve local circulation by requiring the following road improvements at the time of development:
- a. Closing the intersection at Morris Valley Road, Chehalis Forest Service Road, and Lougheed Highway;
  - b. Installing a traffic light/pedestrian right-of-way at Beach Camp Road;
  - c. Designing local roads and the shoulders of Lougheed Highway to incorporate transit and active transportation infrastructure; and,
  - d. Creating east-west connection at Beach Camp.
- 8.5.2 **Bridge crossing.** The Regional District will advocate to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to improve/upgrade the bridge crossing at Morris Valley Road bridge to incorporate safe pedestrian passage. Bridge improvements/upgrades are necessary to address local traffic speed issues and increase pedestrian safety.
- 8.5.3 **Underground parking.** The Regional District may consider underground parking outside of the floodplain subject to the developer working with a Qualified Professional (i.e., a Geotechnical Engineer) to explore its feasibility.

## Pedestrian Facilities

Improvements to road infrastructure that support the safe movement of pedestrians are critical to the creation of a complete community. Pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks, signalized intersections, and crosswalks are necessary to improve neighbourhood connectivity and to encourage residents to travel on foot for local trips.



These policies intend to provide a safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians to move around and access destinations within the neighbourhood on foot.

## POLICY

- 8.5.4 **Pedestrian connectivity.** At the time of development, developers shall provide sidewalk segments as part of frontage improvements to increase neighbourhood connectivity and enhance the safety and comfort of the pedestrian experience. Sidewalk installation and enhancements shall be prioritized on key corridors that provide critical connections between residential areas, NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL, and VILLAGE CENTRE areas.
- 8.5.5 **Pedestrian-friendly public realm.** Development should establish a pedestrian-friendly public realm through streetscape and pedestrian route finishes such as sidewalks, corner bulges, mid-block, and pedestrian links and crossings, street furniture, pedestrian-oriented lighting, and continuous weather protection.
- 8.5.6 **Universal access.** New pedestrian infrastructure shall be universally accessible to allow everyone to benefit regardless of ability.

## Transit Connectivity

### POLICY

- 8.5.7 **Transit integration.** The Regional District will collaborate with BC Transit to plan to service the Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan area with transit, identifying new bus stop locations on both sides of the Lougheed Highway, especially at lands designated as VILLAGE CENTRE.

# **APPENDIX II: LAKE ERROCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**



# LAKE ERROCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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# INTRODUCTION



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan

A neighbourhood plan is a community document shaped by residents sharing their vision for where they live. Neighbourhood plans guide long-term decision-making at the neighbourhood level. They allocate land use, set directions for appropriate forms of development, and contain supporting policies on neighbourhood components, such as the natural environment, parks and recreation, and community infrastructure. The Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan (LENP) identifies where the neighbourhood is going and how it will respond to growth and change in the next 20 years. The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the roadmap for the community's long-term vision. The OCP is supported by policies to guide decision-making around growth and land use management. The OCP reflects and is informed by the policies set out at the regional planning level. Bylaws, strategies, and tools that derive from the OCP enable local governments to implement the vision set out in their OCP.

The Area C OCP is the primary guiding document for the LENP and provides general policy direction and guides land use for the entire LENP area. The LENP provides more detailed policy direction on community aspects (e.g., land use, natural environment, and infrastructure) that are specific to Lake Errock. The LENP forms part of the Area C OCP as an appendix. An important part of a neighbourhood plan is to identify how it complements the overall OCP area vision.



Figure 1: Regional District Planning Hierarchy

## 1.2 Why a Neighbourhood Plan for Lake Errock?

Several factors contributed to the initiation of the neighbourhood planning process for Lake Errock. These factors created conditions that identified a need for new and updated policy direction to guide future decision-making around land use and development activity in the community.



### **Development interests in the community**

The existing Lake Errock Gravel Pit operations have historically been a source of significant concern for community residents. The gravel pit owner has proposed a redevelopment plan that includes major residential, commercial, and servicing upgrades. This major redevelopment proposal requires amendments to the OCP and Zoning Bylaw, which triggered the need for a neighbourhood plan. The new LENP and the Local Servicing Plan<sup>1</sup> will guide the future growth and development of the community and outline a comprehensive servicing plan to address community water and sanitary needs.



### **External pressures must be balanced with appropriate and sustainable community growth**

Market realities, housing needs, affordability, population growth, and environmental issues all impact current and future generations of Lake Errock residents. In planning for the next 20 years, all of these factors need to be considered holistically.



### **Opportunity for integrating complete community concepts**

While rural village areas cannot provide all the urban amenities, they are still communities where people live and socially interact. As growth occurs, there is a need to consider housing choices that accommodate people at all stages of life and provide a range of employment opportunities, daily amenities, and services within a 15–20 minute walk.

The LENP presents a framework to guide future growth and development decisions in Lake Errock by providing a clear vision and supporting policies that respond to the community's needs.

## 1.3 Justification for Neighbourhood Plan Update

The LENP and its boundaries may need to evolve and change over time when community values shift, new information or legislation arises, or significant or unanticipated development

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<sup>1</sup> Urban Systems Ltd. (2025). *Lake Errock Sanitary Servicing Plan* – Rev. 1.

proposals come forward. Plan amendments should include extensive public input and reflect the interests of the community.

A neighbourhood planning process may also be triggered at the request of a developer or Indigenous development interests to facilitate a substantive update to an existing neighbourhood plan. For example, Indigenous economic development interests in the periphery of the LENP area may require a neighbourhood plan amendment to ensure that land uses are complementary, servicing is unified, and new land uses are not causing unintended proliferation of development areas.

## POLICY

- 1.3.1 **Periodic updates anticipated.** An update and review of the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan should occur periodically to ensure policies reflect evolving community values and incorporate housing needs reports as updated.
- 1.3.2 **Bylaw amendments.** Development proposals that require a zoning amendment and are inconsistent with Plan policy, will require an Official Community Plan amendment application. The Regional Board will defer, reject, or accept the application, and determine if policy review is necessary.
- 1.3.3 **Major development.** The Regional Board will not support any major development proposal that will substantially amend the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan without a comprehensive update to the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan or a new neighbourhood plan. Additionally, the Regional Board may wish to consider such Plan amendment applications separate from any related zoning amendment applications.
- 1.3.4 **Shared interests.** The Regional Board acknowledges Indigenous rights and title interest on Crown lands. The Regional Board will work collaboratively in the spirit of reconciliation with Indigenous communities to advance their interests on Crown lands. The Regional Board may deem development proposals that arise out of shared interests consistent with the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan subject to the policies in Section 6.





## UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY



# 2 UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY

## 2.1 Plan Area Location & Boundary

The LENP area refers to all properties between Beaudry Road and those just north of Holatchen Creek on the northern side of Loughheed Highway. On the southern side, it includes the existing North and South Lake Errock community. The natural landmarks include Holatchen Creek to the north and Lake Errock to the south, which define the LENP area (Schedule 1 – Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas).

### POLICY

- 2.1.1 **Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.** This neighbourhood plan shall apply within the boundaries established in Schedule 2B – Land Use Designations - Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan.

## 2.2 Plan Area Context

The Area C OCP area is characterized by two rural village areas: Lake Errock and Harrison Mills. The broader Area C also includes the community of Hemlock Valley, as well as several Indigenous communities including Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes. Additionally, there are shared interests with several other Indigenous communities in the region.

## 2.3 Lake Errock

Lake Errock is one of the rural village areas in Area C. Named after the body of water it borders, the unincorporated community includes all properties south of Harrison Bay until Watkins Road, on both the north and south shores of Lake Errock. Loughheed Highway and the CPKC rail line pass through the community, creating a separation between the residential lots and the former Lake Errock Gravel Pit. The community is accessed via the Loughheed Highway.

Lake Errock is a small residential community with a 2021 population of 343 within the Regional District with an additional population of 130 on the adjacent Sq'éwlets reserve lands<sup>2</sup>, for a total neighbourhood population of 473. Census data indicates the total population declined from 541 in 2016. The population decline was restricted to the portion of the community within the Regional District and may be attributed to the recreational nature of the housing, non-permanent residents, census data variabilities due to survey sampling, or total non-responses.

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<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.





## SHAPING THE VISION

# 3 SHAPING THE VISION

The LENP is the result of a major OCP and zoning bylaw amendment application for the redevelopment of the existing Lake Errock Gravel Pit, and is intended to address the needs of the application as well as the extensive off-site impacts to the existing Lake Errock neighbourhood.

## 3.1 Understanding Neighbourhood Perspectives & Values

The proposed development on the Harrison Rise lands is to redevelop the existing Lake Errock Gravel Pit into a mixed-use development. The site is bound by the Lougheed Highway to the east and Crown land on all other sides. It is separated from the Lake Errock community by the Lougheed Highway and the CPKC rail line. It will be a phased development that proposes to build approximately 485 residential units including single-unit dwellings with secondary suites, duplexes, multi-unit residential, townhomes, and apartment buildings, as well as commercial lands along the Lougheed Highway near the existing gravel pit entrance, all serviced by community water and sanitary sewer infrastructure.

A neighbourhood plan forms part of the OCP. As such, the progress of the LENP and the OCP amendment application processes were interlinked as per the requirements of the *Local Government Act*. The vision of the LENP or a new growth area is achieved by balancing the findings of regional studies such as the Housing Needs Study and Regional Growth Strategy, gathering existing resident perspectives, respecting Indigenous interests, and acquiring an understanding of what the land can accommodate through technical assessments such as geohazard assessments, environmental assessments, and traffic studies.

To inform the community and to understand their perspectives on the proposed Harrison Rise development, the project team relied on a comprehensive engagement process. Multiple opportunities were offered throughout the process for community members and stakeholders to contribute effectively and meaningfully in shaping the long-term plan for their community. The engagement process included the following resources, activities, and opportunities:

- » A project website on FVRD's Have Your Say platform, active for the duration of the update
- » Communication via project newsletters
- » Four public meetings
- » Engagement with Indigenous government staff and officials
- » Engagement with provincial and federal government agencies
- » Engagement with Lake Errock Community Association

All information regarding the proposed Harrison Rise development was available on the project website, including all project background materials, technical reports, public meeting presentations, and summaries of what was heard from the community and interest groups at each event.

Over the course of the engagement process, public feedback was heard on the following topics: housing, commercial land use, natural environment, cultural resources, parks and trails, active transportation and transit, and community infrastructure. Feedback collected on each of these topics was used to develop appropriate neighbourhood policies.

## Indigenous Engagement

The Regional District is committed to establishing and maintaining dialogue, coordination, and collaboration with affected Indigenous communities. As such, throughout the drafting of the LENP, we had several engagements with the elected officials and staff of Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sq'éwlets, and Sts'ailes. This included presentations to council members and senior staff on different occasions. Regular LENP updates and technical assessments were shared with the Indigenous communities. The approach to such engagement was to learn the Indigenous perspective as the stewards of the land and how the LENP policies may affect Indigenous rights and interests, how any negative impacts could be avoided, and how we might work together to achieve shared objectives. The intention is to establish a foundation of trust and respect, fostering a long-lasting relationship that benefits the Regional District, Indigenous communities, and ultimately, the wider community.

## Other Collaboration

The LENP was shared with multiple provincial agencies, Crown corporations, local governments, and interest groups. Below is a list of agencies and interest groups that were consulted during the development of the LENP.

- |                                     |                               |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| » Fraser Health                     | » BC Transit                  | » City of Mission                        |
| » Lake Errock Community Association | » Fraser Valley Conservancy   | » Hancock Wildlife Foundation            |
| » BC Hydro                          | » Mission School District #75 | » Ministry of Transportation and Transit |





## VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# 4 VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## 4.1 A Vision for the Future

The Lake Errock Neighbourhood is part of an interconnected series of rural villages in Area C that will accommodate a significant portion of anticipated growth over the next 20 years. It is an integrated and complete community where existing and future development on both sides of the Lougheed Highway are connected through an active transportation network, expanded parks, and trails system. The neighbourhood embodies 'complete community' principles and is serviced by fiscally responsible local infrastructure making it a desirable and accessible place to live and recreate.

## 4.2 Guiding Principles

From the beginning, the Regional District has been committed to ensuring the LENP is shaped by the residents of Lake Errock and is rooted in the best practices informed by technical work. The following guiding principles are the core values and defining features of the LENP:



### **Interconnected rural village**

Lake Errock is one of the two rural village areas in Area C. It should serve as the community focal point for the Lake Errock neighbourhood. It should be interconnected to other parts of the LENP area and integrated into the broader region through the introduction of public transit.



### **Integrated and complete community**

New residential and commercial uses should be concentrated along Lougheed Highway. The LENP supports the creation of a compact rural village that provides diverse housing choices, local employment opportunities, access to daily amenities, and an integrated park and trail network on both sides of the highway.



### **Fiscally responsible services**

New growth will be supported through sustainable community services areas such as water, sanitary sewer, parks, and trails. New services shall be designed and built with centralized systems that support the residential populations of Harrison Rise, Lake Errock, and Sq'ewlets.





#### **Environmental protection and climate adaptation**

The LENP will protect, preserve, and enhance environmentally sensitive areas, valuable natural resources, and wildlife through sustainable land use management. New developments will apply climate adaptation features in the construction of buildings and infrastructure.



#### **Diversified housing stock**

The LENP will support housing that meets the needs of residents in all stages of life, addressing the particular housing gaps in Area C.



#### **Advance shared interests and reconciliation with Indigenous communities**

Collaborate with Indigenous partners to advance shared community interests, including but not limited to, housing, infrastructure, conservation, recreation, mobility, and overall health.

## **4.3 Conceptual Plan**

The conceptual plan (Map 1B – Harrison Rise Lands Conceptual Plan) for the LENP illustrates important neighbourhood features relative to the land uses presented through the land use designations. These features include natural features, new pedestrian connections, and new potential transit connections. The expectations and requirements for these different neighbourhood features are further detailed in the appropriate policy section under Section 6.0 Neighbourhood Policies.



## LAND USE DESIGNATIONS



# 5 LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

## 5.1 Lake Errock Land Use

This section identifies the land use designations for Lake Errock (Schedule 2B – Land Use Designations – Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan). The land use designation boundaries are approximate and subject to site-specific studies prior to any future development.

Designations are described in detail under OCP Section 3 – Land Use Designations. A summary of land use designations found only in the LENP is provided in Table 1.

### POLICY

5.1.1 **Designation boundaries are generalized.** Boundaries between different land use designations are general and not intended to be definitive, particularly in split designated lands, or in circumstances where topography, agricultural land uses, or watercourses affect land use.

5.1.2 **Designation boundaries on undeveloped lands.** Land use designation boundaries are approximate and based on the conceptual plan for development. They are subject to minor adjustments at the time of development and subdivision.

Schedule Reference	Land Use Designation	Intent	Examples of Uses
	APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL (AR)	To support higher density residential development serviced by community water and community sanitary sewer systems	» Multi-unit residential, and apartments
	COMPACT RESIDENTIAL (CR)	To support a range of residential development, serviced by community water and community sanitary sewer systems	» Single detached dwellings, duplexes, multi-unit residential such as four-plex and row homes, accessory dwelling units, and secondary suites
	CONSERVATION (C)	To protect natural areas, wildlife habitat, and corridors as well as areas	» Trails are permitted if they do not create wildlife corridor conflicts

		<p>of environmental and/or cultural significance</p> <p>To support active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, where applicable</p>	<p>» Development is not permitted</p> <p>» Accessory buildings and structures to support park operations, use, and maintenance may be permitted</p>
	LIMITED USE (LU)	To identify land that is subject to significant hazards, lack of access, servicing, or environmental contamination	<p>» Single detached dwellings</p> <p>» Public uses include water reservoirs, sewage treatment plants, transfer stations, etc.</p> <p>» May include community infrastructure uses</p>
	NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL (NC)	To provide for local daily needs and to provide employment opportunities (e.g., grocery/convenience store, coffee shop), and live-work opportunities	» Local Commercial (e.g., grocery store, convenience store, restaurant, retail, public use, local producer workshops, local shared office space, and live-work buildings)
	SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL (SR)	To allow existing and future low-density residential subdivisions, serviced by community water and community sanitary sewer systems	» Single detached dwellings, accessory dwelling units, and secondary suites
	VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL (VR)	To support the transition of historic recreational or village residential development to be serviced by community water and community sanitary sewer systems	» Single detached dwellings, private resort development, and public use

Table 1: Land Use Designations



A scenic autumn landscape featuring a large tree with yellowing leaves on the left, a wooden picnic table on a grassy field covered in fallen leaves, and a calm lake in the background surrounded by a dense forest. A small green square icon with a white symbol is visible on the tree trunk.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES



# 6 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES

Neighbourhood policies for Lake Errock provide clear direction to support the land use designations and conceptual plan (Schedule 2B – Land Use Designations – Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan and Map 1B – Harrison Rise Lands Conceptual Plan) in a manner that ensures alignment with the vision and guiding principles for the future of the community. This section presents the LENP policies, organized into six themes. Each theme represents an integral component of the Lake Errock neighbourhood that contributes to a livable, functional, and complete community. Though interrelated, each theme is presented independently to provide a comprehensive overview of its critical function in the neighbourhood. For each theme, appropriate and actionable policies have been developed to support the achievement of the overall vision for the neighbourhood and to ensure the needs of the community are met.

Themes:

1. Natural Environment, Wildlife, & Climate Change Mitigation
2. Parks, Trails, & Recreation
3. Cultural Assets & Crown Land
4. Community Infrastructure & Local Services
5. Transportation & Mobility
6. Shared Interests with Indigenous Communities

## 6.1 Natural Environment, Wildlife, & Climate Change Mitigation

The LENP area is located within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone and its dry maritime subzone. This zone is characterized by warm, relatively dry summers, and moist winters with little snowfall. This makes the LENP area suitable for mixed, conifer-dominant forest, which is located on hillsides abutting the Harrison Rise lands. The hillside forest adjacent to the LENP area boundary is a habitat for many wildlife species such as the barred owl, common raven, and woodpeckers. Another prominent natural feature within the LENP area is Lake Errock. Lake Errock is home to several aquatic species, primarily multiple species of trout and salmon which connects to the Harrison River, one of North America's most important watersheds. The Lougheed Highway and the CPKC rail line bisect Harrison Rise lands and the existing Lake Errock community.

The LENP policies of this section are based on two environmental assessments – *Valued Environmental Components & Ecologically Sensitive Areas with the Area C OCP* prepared by

Hancock Wildlife Foundation and the *Environmental Assessment for Harrison Rise Lands*<sup>3</sup> prepared by Envirowest Consultants Inc. The environmental assessments identify Holachten Creek and tributaries, Siddall Creek and tributaries, three unnamed watercourses near Beaudry Road on the Harrison Rise lands, and Lake Errock as the primary environmental features. The creeks originating from the steeply sloped area north of the LENP area play a crucial role in the local hydrology and wildlife channels. These watercourses function as vital conduits nurturing natural riparian areas and preserving mature second-growth self-seeded forests. They may also be habitat for provincially red-listed species such as Painted Turtles and Northern Red-Legged Frogs.

The LENP policies rely on the principles of mitigation hierarchy identified in the *British Columbia Procedures for Mitigating Impacts on Environmental Values (Environmental Mitigation Procedures)* (2014). It establishes policy directions for the protection of important wildlife corridors, protection of nest sites, tree management, and minimizing and offsetting impacts from development.

## Climate Adaptation

The LENP area is susceptible to various geological and environmental hazards from steep slopes, multiple debris-laden watercourses, and a mature forest cover to the north of the LENP area. The geohazards present on the Harrison Rise lands and in the adjacent area are debris floods, debris flows, landslides, and wildfires. With climate change, the frequency of these hazards are expected to increase.

The LENP policy direction for the future development on the Harrison Rise lands is based on preliminary geohazard recommendations prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd<sup>4</sup>. and the *Wildfire Risk Assessment Report*<sup>5</sup> prepared by Urban Analyst.

## Hydrology

The LENP area is comprised of complex drainage patterns from Holachten Creek, Siddall Creek, and unnamed watercourses, which ultimately drain into Lake Errock through culverts under the Lougheed Highway. There are known locations of marshland and perched areas on the benchland slopes. Within the LENP, particular attention is dedicated to safeguarding groundwater and lake health from any developmental impacts. This section outlines policies aimed at mitigating the impact of construction activities on groundwater and hydrology.

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<sup>3</sup> Envirowest Consultants Inc. (2022, June 9). *Proposed Subdivision at Lake Errock, Fraser Valley Regional District, Environmental Assessment Update*.

<sup>4</sup> Reger, D. (2022, June 6). *Parcel D-G Bench - 43837 & 43873 Lougheed Highway, Lake Errock, BC Geotechnical Hazard Assessment and Preliminary Geotechnical Recommendations for Development*. Thurber Engineering Ltd.

<sup>5</sup> Slattery, L. (2022, July 8). *Wildfire risk assessment report: 43837 Lougheed Hwy (PID: 012-051-900), 43873 Lougheed Hwy (PID: 013-445-901), PID 012-051-853, PID 013-445-871 and PID 012-051-888, Electoral Area C, Fraser Valley Regional District* (Updated ed.). Diamond Head Consulting Ltd.

## POLICY

- 6.1.1 **Protection of the natural environment.** The Regional Board may use a combination of Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan policies, zoning, and conservation-related covenants to protect environmentally valuable habitat areas.
- 6.1.2 **Broader community benefits.** The Regional Board may consider broader community benefits, such as the restoration of environmentally sensitive areas at the time of a zoning amendment application to determine whether the development is in the public interest.
- 6.1.3 **Development best practices.** Development on the Harrison Rise lands shall adhere to provincial environmental guidance for best management practices. The following documents (or their equivalents, as updated) must be referenced in the preparation of development proposals:
- a. *Develop with Care 2014 Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*;
  - b. *Guidelines for Raptor Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia (2013)*;
  - c. *A Users' Guide for Changes In and About A Stream in British Columbia (2022)*;
  - d. *Requirements and Best Management Practices for Making Changes In and About a Stream in British Columbia (2022)*;
  - e. Tree Retention Assessment prepared by Diamond Head Consultant (2022)<sup>6</sup>;
  - f. Area C Overview Environmental Assessment prepared by Hancock Wildlife Foundation (2024)<sup>7</sup>; and,
  - g. Environmental Assessment Update prepared by Envirowest Consultants Inc. (2022)<sup>8</sup>.
- 6.1.4 **Ownership of watercourses.** The Regional District will not accept the ownership or maintenance responsibilities for any watercourse passing through or lying adjacent to a property.
- 6.1.5 **Return to Crown.** Where a watercourse is passing through or lying adjacent to a parcel, the developer shall work with a land surveyor to complete the return to Crown process at the time of subdivision.

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<sup>6</sup> Slattery, L. (2022, July 8). *Tree Retention Potential Assessment: 43837 Lougheed Hwy (PID: 012-051-900), 43873 Lougheed Hwy (PID: 013-445-901), PID 012-051-853, PID 013-445-871 and PID 012-051-888, Electoral Area C, Fraser Valley Regional District (Updated ed.)*. Diamond Head Consulting Ltd.

<sup>7</sup> Hancock, D. & Lamont (2024, June 1). *Valued Environmental Components & Ecologically Sensitive Areas within the Area C OCP*. Hancock Wildlife Foundation.

<sup>8</sup> Envirowest Consultants Inc. (2022, June 9). *Proposed Subdivision at Lake Errock, Fraser Valley Regional District, Environmental Assessment Update*.

## Wildlife Habitat Protection

These policies intend to avoid, protect, maintain, and improve where possible, areas of high ecological value, riparian areas, and particularly the wildlife corridors. These include the riparian areas of Holachten Creek, Siddall Creek, and the unnamed watercourses near Beaudry Road on the Harrison Rise lands.

### POLICY

- 6.1.6 **Wildlife corridors.** Wildlife corridors and connectivity to important wildlife areas and upland forested areas shall be protected and maintained. Any development in proximity to wildlife corridors shall ensure that it does not block or fragment existing wildlife corridors identified through an environmental assessment.
- 6.1.7 **Vegetation clearing.** Under the recommendation of a Qualified Environmental Professional and an arborist, an approved development that requires vegetation clearing shall undertake pre-construction or construction-related activities well outside the nesting bird season of late March to mid-August.

## Tree Protection

Existing large and mature trees are limited to a few lands within the LENP area. However, where they do exist, LENP policies aim to extend protections. LENP policies aim to protect trees and vegetation in riparian areas, manage remaining trees in future development areas, and establish an urban forest to re-establish and expand native tree canopies on the Harrison Rise lands previously deforested for gravel extraction purposes.

### POLICY

- 6.1.8 **Large and mature trees.** At the time of zoning amendment or subdivision, large and mature trees generally greater than 25 cm in diameter at breast height, shall be surveyed by a Qualified Professional. Such trees should be protected on all properties within the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area through conservation covenants. This includes trees with roost, perch, nest-supporting features, or trees that are developing these features (i.e., trees that do not yet qualify for large tree status but are close). Where trees must be removed, a landowner shall submit a Qualified Professional report that includes the following at minimum:
- a. Provides the rationale behind tree removal and whether it is due to tree health or safety;
  - b. Discusses measures to remediate the issue, such as improving tree health and pruning methods; and,
  - c. Identifies whether a portion of the tree can serve as a wildlife tree.



6.1.9 **Urban forest scheme.** The Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan policies aim to establish an urban forest to revitalize the pre-gravel pit ecosystem on the Harrison Rise lands through the implementation of the following:

- a. Identification and protection of large and mature trees;
- b. Protection of environmentally significant areas, including riparian habitats and wildlife corridors;
- c. Tree retention and a protection plan for the lands designated as APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL and NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL;
- d. Planting of two native trees per detached single-unit residential parcel, and one native tree per unit for multi-unit residential on the linear trail. A mix of trees and shrubs is acceptable for APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL;
- e. Planting of two native trees on all newly created parcels; and,
- f. Replacement plan for trees that cannot be reasonably retained within the building envelope in APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL and NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE lands.

6.1.10 **Tree retention and protection.** Prior to zoning amendment, any proposed development on the Harrison Rise lands shall undertake a tree survey to recommend a tree retention and protection plan by a Qualified Professional that includes:

- a. Trees are tagged and classified to determine their condition and value within the site constraints. Trees in poor health must be retained outside of the building envelope unless they are determined to be a hazard or development cannot reasonably retain them;
- b. Trees that cannot be reasonably retained within the building envelope or relocated shall be replaced through a replacement plan;
- c. Group retention should be prioritized over individual retention subject to a stand (tree) stability assessment that examines the edge stability on lands designated as APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL and NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE;
- d. Retention of existing large dominant big-leaf maple trees as anchors to form a new wind firm edge;
- e. Conservation and enhancement of the existing significant trees that add to the landscape and neighbourhood elements; and,
- f. Maintain the “green” aspect of the APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL and NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE lands that are currently dominated by a variety of trees.

## Riparian Area

These policies intend to protect and manage riparian areas within the Natural Areas and Floodplain Management Zone as identified in Map 4 – Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

### POLICY

- 6.1.11 **Minimize water crossing.** Development should minimize road, utility, and other crossings of riparian ecosystems. Where crossings are required, they must be designed in accordance with BC Procedures for Mitigating Impacts on Environmental Values and *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) requirements and may consider incorporation of directional fencing and box culverts that allow for wildlife passage.
- 6.1.12 **Minimize riparian habitat alteration.** Development of the Harrison Rise lands shall avoid alteration of the natural riparian area on the northeast corner of the development near Beaudry Road. Where a part of the development site is isolated by watercourses, the developer shall work with a Qualified Environmental Professional and obtain the necessary provincial and local government approvals to design and build bridge crossings to gain access to the development sites.

## Groundwater Impact

### POLICY

- 6.1.13 **Avoid negative impact.** At the time of zoning amendment for the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall submit a hydrology report prepared by a Qualified Professional that ensures the development avoids negative impacts on existing groundwater. The report shall include the following:
- a. Assess the aquifer capacity with climate change modelling in accordance with the *FVRD Guidance for Climate Change Integration* document;
  - b. Replicate the function of a naturally vegetated watershed;
  - c. Maintain the hydraulic regime of surface, groundwater, and pre-development flow rates;
  - d. Not introduce or remove materials where it would cause erosion of or filling in of natural watercourses;
  - e. Assess sediment transport pre-development and post-development to the watercourses and Lake Errock;
  - f. Assess the impact of construction and soil movement on groundwater and hydrology;

- g. Ensure that there is no transfer of risk to neighbouring properties caused by changes to drainage patterns or additional run-off infiltration; and,
- h. Ensure that there is no contamination of groundwater through additional construction or post-development run-off infiltration.

## Geohazard Considerations

### POLICY

6.1.14 **Geohazard report.** At the time of zoning amendment, for the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall submit a geohazard report that meets the *FVRD Hazard Acceptability Thresholds for Development Approvals* or equivalent Regional Board policy as it exists at the time. The geohazard report shall include the following additional work recommendations from the preliminary geotechnical recommendations prepared by Thurber Engineering Ltd. (2022)<sup>9</sup>, and shall:

- a. Develop detailed mitigation measures for potential debris flow and/or debris flood hazards associated with Holachten Creek, other creeks, and tributaries;
- b. Evaluate existing fill slopes in more detail to recommend setbacks for structure, grading, and retaining wall design;
- c. Provide an earthwork movement and grading plan to mitigate potential instability from cut and fill slopes;
- d. Provide general constructability considerations for road, pavement structures, site preparation and stripping, foundation design, hydraulic connectivity, and utility trenches;
- e. Provide location and design of retaining walls and bridges for the development area and secondary egress route;
- f. Survey and stake the geohazard crest of the slope on Parcel D/G Bench (PIDs: 013-445-880 and 013-445-871) and acquire geohazard input for site grading plans from a Qualified Professional; and,
- g. Acquire geohazard recommendations for access to the Parcel D/G Bench (PIDs: 013-445-880 and 013-445-871) or for any retaining walls that may be required on-site. This may include, but is not limited to, recommendations for bridge foundations.

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<sup>9</sup> Reger, D. (2022, June 6). *Parcel D-G Bench - 43837 & 43873 Lougheed Highway, Lake Errock, BC Geotechnical Hazard Assessment and Preliminary Geotechnical Recommendations for Development*. Thurber Engineering Ltd.

6.1.15 **Grading and retaining objectives.** At the time of zoning amendment for the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall submit a lot grading plan that achieves the following:

- a. Mimic natural slopes without compromising visual objectives;
- b. Avoid surface sloughing through a slope grading and vegetation plan;
- c. Avoid excessive cuts and fills by ensuring roads, access, and driveways follow topography;
- d. Integrate retaining structures with the on-site architectural character and natural environment;
- e. Limit the height of retaining walls to avoid obstructing views from the lake using stepped retaining walls to mimic the appearance of a slope; and,
- f. Design and grade slopes to avoid retaining walls that are as tall as multi-storey buildings.

6.1.16 **Ownership of roadside slopes and retaining structures.** The Regional District will not take ownership of slopes and retaining structures proposed for the development on Harrison Rise lands. The development shall design parcels and consider an ownership structure that can maintain such structures as necessary.

## Wildfire Hazard

### POLICY

6.1.17 **Ongoing maintenance.** Landowners are encouraged to complete periodic re-treatment or maintenance of their properties to ensure FireSmart standards are maintained. These include but are not limited to:

- a. Regularly removing debris from roofs, gutters, and beneath overhanging projections;
- b. Keeping grass and landscaping mowed to 10 cm or less and watered regularly during the summer months;
- c. Irrigating landscaping during the summer months;
- d. Removing any local accumulations of woody or combustible material (e.g., no woodpile or yard waste accumulations);
- e. Removing any over mature, dead, or dying shrubs and trees; and,
- f. Planting only fire-resistant trees and shrubs.



## Collaboration, Partnerships, & Stewardship

These policies intend to raise awareness about environmentally sensitive areas with support from Indigenous communities, stakeholders and local, provincial, or federal organizations.

### POLICY

- 6.1.18 **Government collaboration.** The Regional District expresses its desire to collaborate with senior levels of government and Indigenous communities to explore possibilities of climate adaptation and hydrology management in proximity to Lake Errock, Holachten Creek, and Siddall Creek.
- 6.1.19 **Stewardship.** The Regional District encourages community stewardship through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations such as Birds Canada, conservation designation coordinators, and other community-run associations to create public education and outreach programs that foster stewardship.
- 6.1.20 **Invasive species.** The *BC Weed Control Act* imposes a duty on all land occupiers to control designated noxious plants. All residents are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their private properties.

## 6.2 Parks, Trails, & Recreation

The Lake Errock area boasts an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities with numerous natural and informal trails on Crown land. Lake Errock Community Park, a lakefront park located within the existing Lake Errock community, is one of the few formal access points to the lake. This park is a popular spot for community gatherings and family recreation. However, its increasing popularity in recent years has led to challenges with physical space and parking.

The development of the Harrison Rise lands will add 485 households to the area in multiple phases. It is crucial to ensure that current residents continue to have access to the existing community park while also planning to accommodate future growth.

The LENP identifies potential locations on the Harrison Rise lands for future parks and trail opportunities (Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas). New parks and trails are intended to meet the demands of different age groups. Consideration has been given to different types of parks, accessible multi-use trails, and natural trails in the Holachten and Siddall Creek watershed areas. The creation of new parks and trails will require a detailed understanding of the fiscal impacts on the service area. The policies are intended to create fiscally sustainable parks and trails by designating public parks and private amenity spaces with the LENP area.

Urban Systems Ltd. completed a *Parks and Recreation Servicing Feasibility Study* (2023)<sup>10</sup>. The study identifies an increase in demand for the existing parks and recommends acquiring more waterfront public space. Keeping with the recommendations of the study, the LENP policies lay a foundation for acquiring more waterfront park space for Lake Errock through the adoption of development financing tools.

This section presents actionable policies that focus on parks and amenities, trails, management of natural areas, accessibility, and signage. These policies were developed based on best management practices for parks, trails, and recreation as provided in the *Parks and Recreation Servicing Feasibility Study* (2023)<sup>11</sup> and the *Servicing Feasibility Study* (2025)<sup>12</sup>. Reference to these documents is encouraged when interpreting these policies.

## POLICY

**6.2.1 Parks and trails acquisition criteria.** The Regional District will acquire park and trail areas that meet the following criteria:

- a. Lands that do not have significant topographical constraints, environmental limitations, risk of potential contamination, or remnant lands from development that do not serve strategic connectivity objectives;
- b. Lands that are located near public streets, transit, and pedestrian routes;
- c. Lands identified as ‘proposed’ in Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas shall be prioritized; and,
- d. Lands identified as ‘potential’ in Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas should be acquired as opportunities arise.

**6.2.2 Options for park and trail acquisition.** The Regional District will consider the following options to acquire lands for community parks and trails as identified on Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas:

- a. Park dedication or cash-in-lieu at the time of subdivision pursuant to the dedication of parkland provisions of the *Local Government Act*;
- b. Negotiate access to land for trails and parks through private, public, and utility rights-of-way;
- c. Road Use Permits from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT);
- d. Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs);
- e. Development Cost Charges (DCCs);

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<sup>10</sup> Urban Systems Ltd. (2023, December). *Parks and recreation servicing feasibility study: Harrison Rise development, Electoral Area C, Fraser Valley Regional District*.

<sup>11</sup> Urban Systems Ltd. (2023, December). *Parks and recreation servicing feasibility study: Harrison Rise development, Electoral Area C, Fraser Valley Regional District*.

<sup>12</sup> Urban Systems Ltd. (2025, May 30). *Servicing Feasibility Study for Harrison Rise*.

- f. Application for use of Crown land; and,
  - g. Partnerships.
- 6.2.3 **Securing access.** The Regional District may secure natural areas, wildlife corridors, trails, and greenspaces through park dedication, the creation of a separate lot, conservation covenants, and right-of-way agreements.
- 6.2.4 **Broader community benefits.** At the time of zoning amendment, the Regional Board may require the developer to provide parkland beyond the legislated minimum, enhance recreational amenities, or upgrade existing parks and trails to serve the broader community as public interest.
- 6.2.5 **Development financing.** At the time of considering zoning amendments, the Regional District will consider policies or bylaws such as Amenity Cost Charges and Development Cost Charges to acquire and establish new parks, trails, and recreational amenities.
- 6.2.6 **Servicing feasibility.** At the time of zoning amendment, the Regional Board will consider the impacts of operations and maintenance costs for new parks and trails on the existing taxpayers, and identify approaches to reduce impacts on existing taxpayers such as creating separate local service areas, accepting upfront contributions by developers, or having a strata corporation provide for operations and maintenance.
- 6.2.7 **Phasing.** The Regional Board may consider allowing new parks, trails, and recreational amenities to be provided in a phased manner to potentially enhance financial sustainability for operations and maintenance costs.

## Parks, Trails, & Recreational Amenities

These policies intend to ensure the provision of adequate park and recreational space to support current and future residents, as well as visitors to Lake Errock, while also ensuring all trails are designed, constructed, and upgraded to meet best practices and design standards to meet community needs.

### POLICY

- 6.2.8 **Access to recreational space.** The creation of neighbourhood parks and recreational amenities should meet the following criteria:
  - a. Located within proximity of residential areas;
  - b. Accessible by walking and cycling; and,
  - c. Connectivity to the public feature shall meet accessibility standards.

- 6.2.9 **Visitor Management for Lake Errock Community Park.** The Regional District will collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the local RCMP to implement a parking management strategy to limit on-street parking through signage installation and strategic enforcement.
- 6.2.10 **Additional Lake Errock community park space.** The Regional District will acquire new lakefront parkland through the adoption of financial tools such as Development Cost Charges and a service area bylaw. The additional parkland will be designed and managed to maximize park space for park users through pedestrian and cycling access.
- 6.2.11 **Trail connectivity plan.** At the time of zoning amendment, the developer shall submit a site-specific trail network concept that demonstrates connectivity to the parks, trails, and recreational amenities identified in Map 2 – Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas to facilitate a fully connected active transportation network. Such connectivity shall be achieved through the following:
- a. Trail connectivity options for lands beyond;
  - b. Linear trails or pathways along road rights-of-way;
  - c. Pedestrian routes through sidewalks and roadside trails; and,
  - d. Trail rerouting plan.

## Accessibility & Signage

These policies intend to ensure that parks and trails are designed to be accessible to users of all ages and abilities and to provide appropriate signage and wayfinding.

## POLICY

- 6.2.12 **Signage plan.** The Regional District may consider the creation of a signage plan for parks and trails in collaboration with the local Indigenous communities.

## 6.3 Cultural Assets & Crown Land

The LENP area is located within S'ólh Téméxw, the traditional territory of the Stó:lō or 'People of the River'. The traditional territory encompasses the entire Lower Fraser Basin Watershed, stretching from the Fraser Delta in the west to the Coquihalla River in the east, and from the headwaters of Harrison and Pitt Lakes in the north to the Nooksack and Chilliwack River drainages in the south. For over 10,000 years, the ancestors of the Stó:lō people have flourished in this land, leaving behind a wealth of archaeological evidence that stands as some of the earliest traces of human existence in northwestern North America. Through archaeological findings, linguistic studies, historical records, and oral traditions, it can be traced that the Stó:lō people have historically utilized the surrounding area for fishing,



hunting, and spiritual practices. This has been documented by various sources, including traditional use studies, oral histories, and ethnographic accounts.

A *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment*<sup>13</sup> was completed by the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre for the Harrison Rise lands. The archaeological field investigation did not identify any archaeological materials or features. It identified one terrestrial harvesting area within the LENP area along the Lougheed Highway corridor. The overarching goal of the LENP policies is to protect the archaeological sites from disturbances. They also emphasize the preservation of elements that hold significant cultural value for Indigenous communities, including the conservation of culturally modified trees, providing access to existing greenspaces abundant with native berries and plants, and the enhancement of terrestrial harvesting areas, among other initiatives.

## POLICY

- 6.3.1 **Culturally modified trees.** Prior to land disturbance or development, developers should include Indigenous communities in discussions relating to activities that pose a risk to the survival of culturally modified trees.
- 6.3.2 **Indigenous legal interests.** Development shall respect Indigenous legal interests and status in the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes, but is not limited to, all interests that have been registered under the following registries: Land Act Crown Grants, Land Act authorizations, Forest Tenure Registry, Mineral Tenure Registry, Protected Areas, Resource Roads Registry, Stand Alone Coverage, and Water Rights.
- 6.3.3 **Collaboration.** The Regional District encourages developers to proactively engage in collaboration including the following:
- a. Involve Sq'éwlets and Leq'á:mel First Nation in any general or specific development plans in the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area that will result in land disturbance in an archaeological potential area to approach it with an appropriate level of sensitivity; and,
  - b. Prior to development on the Harrison Rise lands, developers shall engage with the People of the River Referral Office (PRRO) regarding potential development due to the area's overlap with zones of the *S'ólh Téméxw Use Plan Policy*<sup>14</sup> (or equivalent as updated).

<sup>13</sup> Bucsis, J., Formosa, S., & La Mouri, J. (2022). *Cultural heritage impact assessment of the northeast corner of 43873 Lougheed Highway in Deroche, BC* (SRRMC H2020-091). Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre.

<sup>14</sup> S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance. (2018). *S'ólh Téméxw Use Plan Policy*.

## 6.4 Community Infrastructure & Local Services

Integration of the existing North and South Lake Errock community and the Harrison Rise lands is a priority of the LENP. To function as an integrated community, it is critical that new development and existing neighbourhoods are connected through active transportation as well as community servicing. This will contribute to a sustainable service area for neighbourhood community infrastructure and local service areas that pay to operate and maintain these services. The Local Servicing Plan completed for Lake Errock envisions the integration of both community water and sanitary sewer services. It also identifies necessary infrastructure upgrades to support the anticipated growth on the Harrison Rise lands.

This section presents actionable policies that focus on water and sanitary sewer servicing, storm water management, fire protection, and lighting. The policies are intended for the Regional District landowners and developers before, during, and post-development. The water and sanitary sewer policies were developed based on general best practices and technical work completed for the Local Servicing Plan. Reference to the Local Servicing Plan must be made when interpreting these policies.

### POLICY

- 6.4.1 **New infrastructure.** The Regional District will secure new community infrastructure through the following:
- a. Developer proposing new development;
  - b. Voluntary contributions and development financing tools; and,
  - c. Government grants.
- 6.4.2 **Local Servicing Plan.** Prior to zoning amendment for development on the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall update the Local Servicing Plan that addresses the entire boundary of the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.4.3 **New connections to servicing.** Any development requiring connections to the Regional District community water and sanitary sewer systems shall meet the Local Servicing Plan. New development shall be serviced based on capacity levels identified in the Local Servicing Plan.
- 6.4.4 **Development financing.** The Regional District will establish policies or bylaws relating to voluntary contributions, Amenity Cost Charges, and Development Cost Charges, as applicable, to upgrade, expand, or construct community infrastructure.
- 6.4.5 **Voluntary contribution.** The Regional Board may accept voluntary contributions to address the servicing shortfalls that cannot be covered through reasonable service area taxation.

- 6.4.6 **Latecomer agreement.** Where excess capacity is provided to accommodate expected future growth, the Regional District encourages developers to enter into latecomer agreements for the maximum duration permitted under the *Local Government Act*.
- 6.4.7 **Servicing feasibility.** Development applications must demonstrate financial sustainability with reasonable local service area taxation through a servicing feasibility study that addresses capital costs, lifecycle costs, and operational costs.
- 6.4.8 **Resilient infrastructure.** Infrastructure shall be designed and located to be resilient to natural disasters.

## Water Supply

In 2009, the Regional District installed a community water system to connect most parcels in North Lake Errock. With the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the existing reservoir will need to be upgraded for domestic and fire flows. Additionally, a new well location is required on the Harrison Rise lands. The upgraded water system will supply drinking water and fire flow for the existing and future users in the LENP area. Future upgrades and expansions to the Regional District community water system will generally align with the servicing nodes identified in Figure 2.

## POLICY

- 6.4.9 **Community water.** Development on Harrison Rise lands shall be serviced by the Regional District community water system.
- 6.4.10 **Fire flow capacity.** Development shall meet the fire flows outlined in the Local Servicing Plan. Developers shall provide Fire Underwriters Survey calculations for any development to confirm compliance with the fire flows outlined in the Local Servicing Plan.
- 6.4.11 **Broader community benefits.** The Regional Board will consider community benefits such as providing community sanitary sewer services and upgrading the water infrastructure to serve the broader community at the time of a zoning amendment application to assist in determining whether the development is in the public interest.

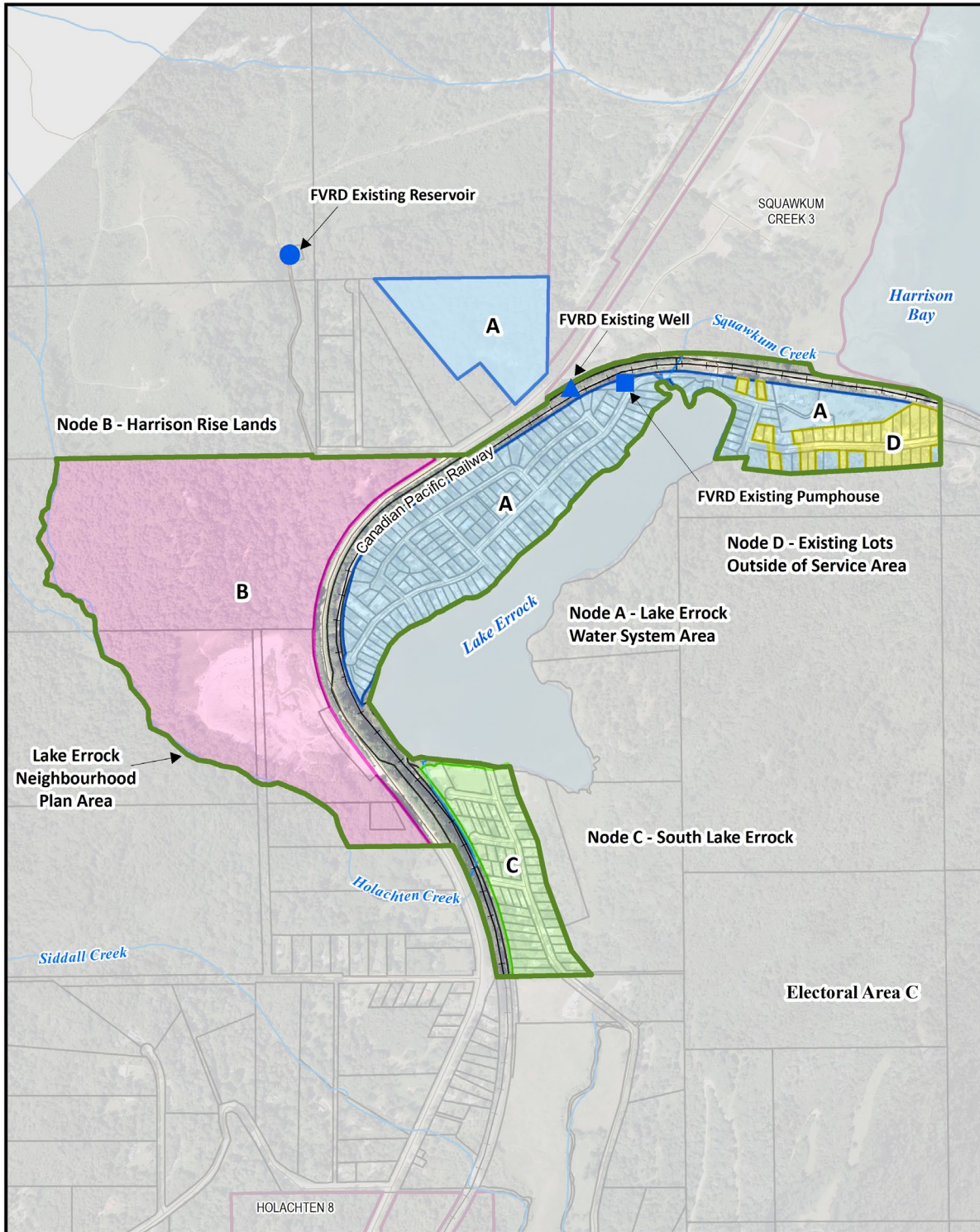


Figure 2: Water Servicing Nodes for Lake Errock



## Sewage Disposal

The parcel sizes in Lake Errock can range from approximately 750 m<sup>2</sup> (closer to the lake) to (2,500 m<sup>2</sup> in the periphery of the community). The existing community is serviced by on-site septic systems. Development of similar density under the current *FVRD Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw* would trigger the construction of a community sanitary sewer system. Discussions with Fraser Health have indicated knowledge of failed septic systems in the community.

The *FVRD Sanitary Sewer Gap Analysis* (2013) notes that there is a high potential for cumulative environmental impacts to Lake Errock. It identifies the existing core developed area along Lake Errock as high risk based on the existing parcel size. Some key reasons for this are proximity to the lake, groundwater depth (one to four metres below the surface), and no indication regarding the operating conditions of the existing private septic systems.

While the integration of the water system will be immediate, the sanitary sewer system requires a phased approach generally aligned with the servicing nodes in Figure 3. The development of Harrison Rise lands must be connected to a new community sanitary sewer system. The LENP policies anticipate that the development of a new system should provide meaningful community benefits. Such community benefits should not be limited to providing the required capacity, but should also facilitate upgrades that allow future connection readiness. The Regional District anticipates that the introduction of community sanitary sewer in Lake Errock will require a combination of provincial and federal government grants, and financial tools such as Development Cost Charges and service area taxation.

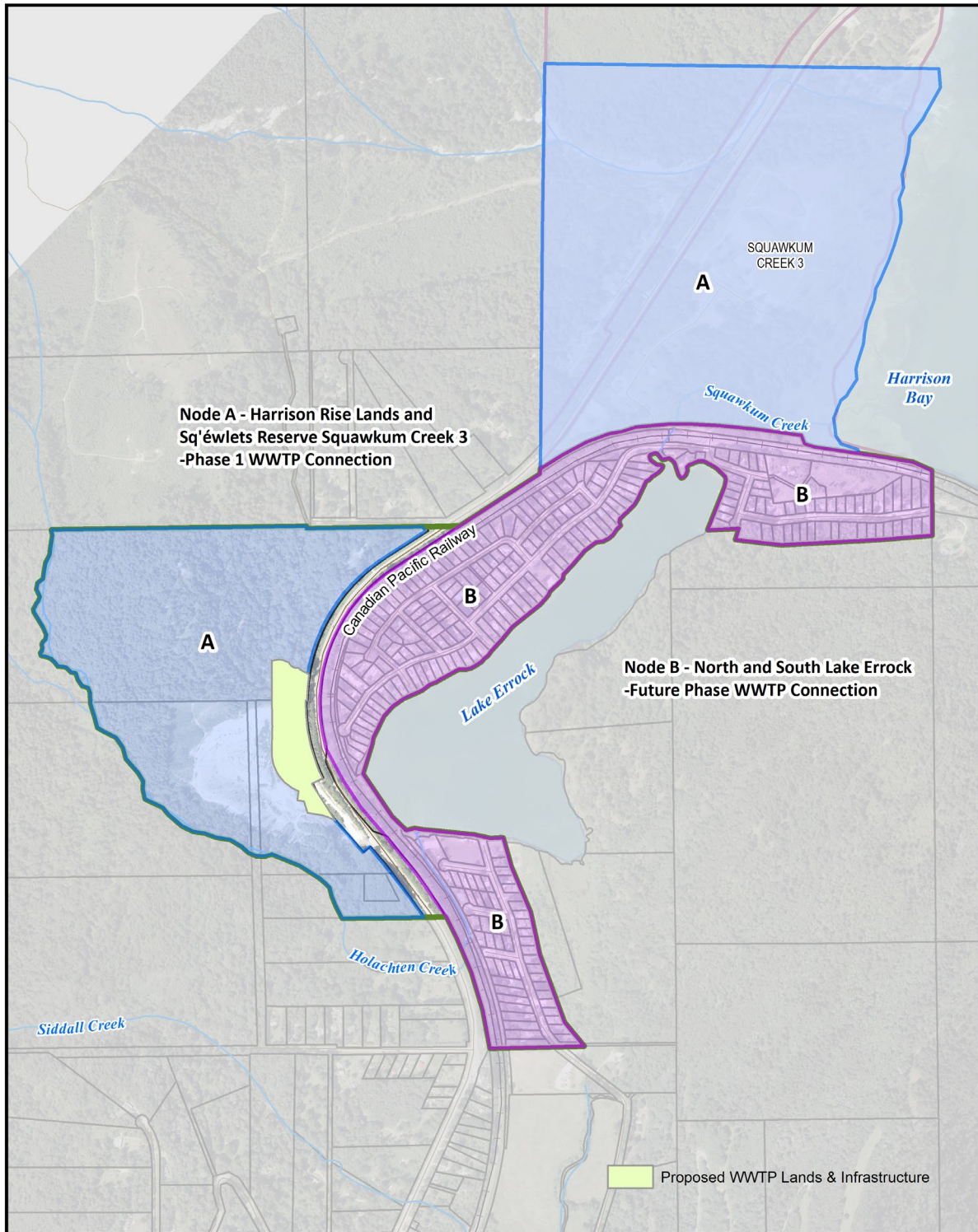


Figure 3: Sanitary Sewer Servicing Nodes for Lake Errock

## POLICY

- 6.4.12 **Transition to community sanitary sewer for Lake Errock.** The Regional Board supports a transition to a Class “A” sanitary sewer system owned and operated by the Regional District for the entire Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 6.4.13 **Funding opportunities.** The Regional Board will prioritize seeking available funding for the capital costs related to extending the new Regional District community sanitary sewer system for Harrison Rise to service the existing Lake Errock community that is currently on individual on-site septic tanks.
- 6.4.14 **New community sanitary sewer system.** Construction of a new community sanitary sewer system to support development on the Harrison Rise lands shall accommodate the future connection for the existing Lake Errock community and include the following components:
- a. Upsized headwork, including mechanical screening and grit removal;
  - b. Upsized concrete tankage;
  - c. Solids handling capacity;
  - d. Design buildings to house future electrical and treatment equipment;
  - e. Electrical service and backup power supply to be built for the ultimate design population;
  - f. Availability of future land for expansion of the system, including the rapid infiltration basins; and,
  - g. Grading and site preparation to accommodate future upgrades for the Lake Errock community.
- 6.4.15 **Community benefit to Indigenous communities.** The Regional District is supportive of Indigenous communities receiving community sanitary sewer connection as a broader community benefit through the development of Harrison Rise lands.
- 6.4.16 **Community sanitary sewer expansion to Sq'ewlets.** The Regional District acknowledges that the developer of Harrison Rise lands intends to provide community sanitary sewer connection to Sq'ewlets as a community benefit.
- 6.4.17 **Servicing agreement.** The Regional Board shall enter into a servicing agreement for providing community sanitary sewer to Sq'ewlets. Such a servicing agreement may incorporate maximum system capacity allocation, user rates, replacement cost, capital upgrades, inflationary adjustments, and terms for renewal.

## Storm Water Management

The management of storm water is necessary to control flooding and drainage. As development occurs, the amount of impervious area within a community often increases, as does the amount of surface run-off. These policies intend to mitigate the potential negative effects of storm water run-off attributed to development.



Figure 4: Example of naturalized storm water infrastructure

## POLICY

- 6.4.18 **Storm water management plan.** At the time of zoning amendment, the developer shall submit a storm water management plan consistent with the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan policies of this section and ensure that post-development storm water flows do not exceed the pre-development flows.
- 6.4.19 **Green infrastructure.** Development should incorporate green infrastructure such as bio-swales, grass ditches, rain gardens, or drainage ponds as part of the storm water management plan.
- 6.4.20 **Impervious surfaces.** Impervious areas should be minimized through the use of grass and landscaped areas, protecting native topsoil, pervious surfaces (e.g., eco-pavers), porous driveway surfaces (e.g., unit pavers, grasscrete, compacted gravel), and uncovered drip-through decks.
- 6.4.21 **Road design.** Where development densities are suited to rural road standards, roads should be designed with roadside drainage based on techniques such as bio-swales and grassed ditches.
- 6.4.22 **Sediment management.** Development shall incorporate erosion and sediment control to prevent sediment from entering nearby watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas.
- 6.4.23 **Drainage discharge.** Developers shall include provisions for any drainage infrastructure that discharges into a riparian area or watercourse to protect against the discharge of sediments or other contaminants into sensitive areas (e.g., silt fencing, constructed wetland), based on recommendations from a Qualified Environmental Professional and subject to *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* approval.
- 6.4.24 **Culvert capacity.** The Regional District will collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to ensure new culverts are adequately sized and advocate



for increased maintenance of culverts along Lougheed Highway to reduce the risk of blockages, which can result in water pooling up behind road embankments.

## Fire Protection Services

The development of Harrison Rise lands will introduce new land uses (e.g., apartment buildings, commercial, mixed residential-commercial) to the LENP area. The fire protection study for the Harrison Rise lands recommends a review of facility capacity, personnel capacity, fire apparatus, and insurance grades to determine the appropriate level of fire protection in the LENP area.

## POLICY

**6.4.25 Level of service.** The Regional District will evaluate the following fire protection service delivery considerations for the proposed development on the Harrison Rise lands:

- a. New development shall maintain and make contributions to improve the dwelling protection grade and public fire protection classification for the North Fraser Fire Halls;
- b. Evaluation of the appropriate level of fire service delivery for Area C, including development on the Harrison Rise lands based on the recommendations of the *Fire Underwriters Survey Study*<sup>15</sup>, updated fire protection study, and implication on insurance grades in the service area;
- c. Service area taxation implications for providing a higher level of fire protection service set out in the *Fire Underwriters Survey Study*<sup>16</sup>, such as purchasing a ladder truck, fire hall improvements to accommodate the ladder truck, and cost for personnel and training; and,
- d. Ensure the fire protection service area is financially sustainable.

**6.4.26 Fire protection study.** At the time of zoning amendment, the developer shall submit a fire protection study to understand the implications of the proposed development on the Harrison Rise lands on the following:

- a. Impact on existing versus proposed structure insurance grades and credit within the Public Fire Protection Classification system;
- b. Capacity of current fire hall and personnel;
- c. Costs related to increasing fire hall capacity, potential resource expansion, equipment, vehicles, and their lifecycle costs;

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<sup>15</sup> Fire Underwriters Survey. (2024, February 21). *Public protection survey: Harrison Rise – USL 0999.0097.01, Electoral Area C, Fraser Valley Regional District*. Fire Underwriters Survey.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

- d. Suitability of fire hall for a potential ladder truck for optimal credit for fire insurance grading purposes; and,
- e. Funding mechanisms to address these costs.

6.4.27 **Reducing fire flows.** Development on the Harrison Rise lands shall implement the following to lower the demand on the local fire department and the water distribution system:

- a. Use of non-combustible construction versus combustible construction to reduce required fire flows;
- b. Where an automatic sprinkler system is not provided, reduction of exposure charges through:
  - i. Increased distance between structures; and,
  - ii. Increased fire resistance ratings of the exterior siding of all structures.
- c. Installation of automatic sprinkler systems in buildings, especially multi-unit buildings, to reduce the required fire flow, and grant additional response time for the fire department to respond to structural fire emergencies; and,
- d. Construction of a non-combustible firewall between multi-unit residential dwelling units to reduce exposure charges and fire spread by compartmentalizing a conflagration caused by a wildfire event.

6.4.28 **Firefighting cost recovery.** The Regional Board will achieve financial cost recovery for fire protection for development on the Harrison Rise lands through methods including direct developer contribution, financial tools such as Development Cost Charges, and service area taxation.

## Lighting

### POLICY

6.4.29 **Street lighting.** The Regional Board may consider a variation to the standard street lighting scheme for the development on the Harrison Rise lands that only installs streetlights at specific locations such as intersections, road curves, and transit stops to minimize light spills on neighbouring lands and support dark sky principles.

6.4.30 **Mitigation of light spill.** The developer shall provide lighting that incorporates light spill reduction techniques such as ground-oriented lighting, cut-off fixtures, and directing lighting away from environmentally sensitive areas.

- 6.4.31 **Minimize illumination.** Builders and landowners are encouraged to install lighting that is motion activated, avoid installation of certain spectra of lighting known to have impacts on wildlife, and limit the number of surface-mounted lighting in new homes.

## Other Utilities

The Regional District is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its residents by ensuring reliable and uninterrupted essential services. Reliable utility services are critical for access to 911 or emergency services.

### POLICY

- 6.4.32 **Improved reliability in services.** The Regional District will advocate to BC Hydro and internet service providers for improved and undisrupted hydro and internet connectivity in the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 6.4.33 **Natural gas.** The Regional District will collaborate with the developers and FortisBC to bring natural gas to the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area.

## 6.5 Transportation & Mobility

Transportation policies are critical to creating an integrated community with safe and efficient transportation systems within the LENP area. The LENP policies aim to create a pedestrian and circulation network that connects the Harrison Rise lands, Lake Errock, and Sq'ewlets. The Area C OCP sets out targets for community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions. Creating an integrated community helps to achieve the goal of reducing GHG emissions by incorporating transit connections and active transportation networks.

Currently, there is no highway crossing between Harrison Rise and Lake Errock. As development occurs, it is natural that residents from Harrison Rise and Lake Errock would access various amenities, such as the commercial land uses in Harrison Rise and the waterfront park in Lake Errock. A need for comprehensive road safety management is required. According to the *BC Community Road Safety Toolkit*, incorporating a public health and safety perspective ensures that pedestrians and cyclists are well protected in a key road safety approach.

According to the Province of British Columbia's *Planning Together BC – Integrated Transportation and Land Use for Thriving Communities* document, an integrated planning approach is required for transportation and land use planning “that looks at the surrounding built environment as a complete system to proactively direct community growth, improve access, and generate economic prosperity. It seeks to break down siloes, such as those between transportation providers and land use planners, facilitating collaboration towards common goals.”

To achieve this, the LENP advocates for and supports highway improvements at designated locations. This is with the intent that while highways play an important role in the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, they play an equally important role in connecting communities through a safe transportation network. Policies in this section identify key road network improvements, pedestrian facilities, and future transit and school bus stop locations to create an integrated community based on the principles of a safe and efficient transportation system.

## POLICY

- 6.5.1 **Creation of an integrated community.** The Regional District will secure the transportation and mobility infrastructure identified in Map 5 – Utility and Transportation Network to create an interconnected community through the integration of Lake Errock, Harrison Rise lands, Sq'ewlets, and Leq'á:mel First Nation.
- 6.5.2 **Development financing.** The Regional District will establish policies or bylaws relating to voluntary contributions, Amenity Cost Charges, and Development Cost Charges, as applicable, to upgrade, expand, or construct transportation and mobility infrastructure.
- 6.5.3 **Pedestrian safety.** Development on the Harrison Rise lands should incorporate all feasible active transportation network connections through the development to minimize potential conflicts between pedestrians and vehicle traffic. Where sections of the pathway must follow the Loughheed Highway shoulder, a physical barrier shall be provided to ensure pedestrian safety.
- 6.5.4 **Collaboration.** The Regional District encourages the developer of the Harrison Rise lands to engage with Sq'ewlets and Leq'á:mel First Nation to identify potential active transportation connectivity opportunities with their communities.

## Road Network & Circulation Improvements

The future growth and development of Lake Errock is dependent on improved access and circulation throughout the neighbourhood. Road network improvements are necessary to support the community in the long term by providing access to destinations both within and outside of Lake Errock and promoting the safety of all road users.

These policies intend to support local road network and circulation improvements to allow for safe movement within the neighbourhood.

## POLICY

- 6.5.5 **Local circulation.** The developer for the Harrison Rise lands shall work with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to improve local circulation by installing the



following road improvements shown on Map 5 – Utility and Transportation Network at the time of development:

- a. Intersection improvements at Lougheed Highway and Harrison Bay Road for pedestrian crossing and transit stops;
- b. Intersection improvements at Lougheed Highway and Harrison Rise development areas;
- c. Road connection from Beaudry Road to Harrison Rise development areas;
- d. Road connection from Watkins Road to Harrison Rise development areas (secondary egress route); and,
- e. Turn around or bus loop for transit and school buses near the entrance of the Harrison Rise development.

6.5.6 **Secondary egress route.** The developer of the Harrison Rise lands shall construct a secondary access route connecting the development to Watkins Road. This requirement shall be triggered when the development exceeds 100 dwelling units, to ensure adequate emergency access and public safety.

6.5.7 **Bus loop area.** At the time of the zoning amendment of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall submit a conceptual plan for the bus loop area near the entrance of the development. The plan shall align with BC Transit’s Strategic Plan and infrastructure design guidelines. The plan shall include:

- a. Bus shelter infrastructure and lighting;
- b. Public amenity spaces, such as community garden and produce stand;
- c. Connection to the employment lands;
- d. Public parking spaces; and,
- e. End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks.

6.5.8 **Bridge crossing.** The Regional District will be supportive of a bridge crossing over Holachten Creek for a secondary egress route.

6.5.9 **Assessment of bridge crossings.** Bridge crossings should be limited. Where bridge crossings are deemed necessary, a Qualified Environmental Professional shall submit an Environmental Assessment to ensure that the wildlife and riparian habitats are not negatively impacted or limit disturbance.

6.5.10 **Beaudry Road connection.** Development fronting on Beaudry Road should have direct access to Beaudry Road, however, internal traffic access from the remainder of the Harrison Rise development is discouraged on Beaudry Road due to the Lougheed Highway configuration.

## Pedestrian Facilities

Improvements to road infrastructure that supports the safe movement of pedestrians are critical to the creation of a complete community. Pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks, signalized intersections, and crosswalks are necessary to improve neighbourhood connectivity and to encourage residents to travel on foot for local trips.

These policies intend to provide a safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians to move around and access destinations within the neighbourhood on foot.

### POLICY

**6.5.11 Pedestrian facilities.** Development on the Harrison Rise lands shall provide the following pedestrian facilities to enhance the pedestrian environment and access to development areas:

- a. Sidewalk connection from Beaudry Road to Harrison Rise residential areas;
- b. Sidewalks/trails along Lougheed Highway between Beaudry Road and potential pedestrian crossing near Harrison Bay Road; and,
- c. Multi-use path connectivity:
  - i. Development on Harrison Rise lands to the Lake Errock community through a highway crossing at the intersection of Lougheed Highway and Harrison Bay Road;
  - ii. Pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Harrison Bay Road and Moses Drive; and,
  - iii. Connection from the Harrison Rise lands to the pedestrian underpass at Scowlitz Access Road in consultation with Sq'ewlets.

**6.5.12 Developer to provide pedestrian crossing.** At the time of zoning amendment for the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall demonstrate a viable Lougheed Highway pedestrian crossing concept that connects the Harrison Rise lands with the existing Lake Errock community. As a condition of the development, the developer shall be required to install the pedestrian crossing to ensure safe and integrated connectivity between the two areas.

**6.5.13 Coordination with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit for crossings.** The Regional Board will advocate to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to support a highway crossing to integrate the Harrison Rise development and existing development in Sq'ewlets and Lake Errock, with the preferred location at Harrison Bay Road due to the existing railway crossing and proximity to the Harrison Rise development.

- 6.5.14 **Integration of communities.** The Regional District will work with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and Sq'ewlets to identify any suitable locations for a pedestrian crossing that connects the Harrison Rise lands and provides safe pedestrian access to the daycare at Sq'ewlets.
- 6.5.15 **Pedestrian-friendly public realm.** Development should establish a pedestrian-friendly public realm through streetscape and pedestrian route finishes such as sidewalks, corner bulges, mid-block, and pedestrian links and crossings, street furniture, pedestrian-oriented lighting, and continuous weather protection.
- 6.5.16 **Universal access.** Pedestrian infrastructure shall be universally accessible to allow everyone to benefit regardless of ability.

## Transit & School Bus Stop

### POLICY

- 6.5.17 **Engage with BC Transit.** At the time of zoning amendment for the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall apply to the BC Transit Development Referral program to ensure the opportunity for BC Transit to provide comments on how the development will impact existing or planned transit service and identify transit accessibility improvements.
- 6.5.18 **Transit integration.** The Regional District will collaborate with BC Transit and Sq'ewlets to plan transit integration between the communities of Harrison Rise, Lake Errock, and Sq'ewlets with other communities in the Regional District. This includes, but is not limited to:
- a. Identifying new bus stop locations along both sides of Lougheed Highway at key community destinations;
  - b. Assessing how to utilize the Lougheed Highway right-of-way entrance to Harrison Rise for school bus and transit turnaround; and,
  - c. Bus loop for transit and school bus turnaround on the Harrison Rise lands.
- 6.5.19 **School bus stop integration.** At the time of the zoning amendment for the development of the Harrison Rise lands, the developer shall work with School District No. 75 and a Qualified Professional to integrate safe bus school stops within the development. Consideration must be given to:
- a. Safe drop-off and pick-up location;
  - b. Pedestrian connectivity to the local and neighbouring communities;
  - c. Physically delineated (i.e., barriers) route along the highway with minimal pedestrian crossings; and,

- d. Integrated with transit stops where possible.

## 6.6 Shared Interests with Indigenous Communities

The lands within the LENP contain a significant record of the historical, traditional, and cultural uses of several Indigenous communities including Sq'ewlets and Leq'á:mel First Nation, much of which persists today. The Regional District recognizes that reconciliation is an ongoing process and shall be centred on the development and continued care of strong relationships. This LENP provides an opportunity to work collaboratively towards shared goals through land use planning and development.

### POLICY

- 6.6.1 **Collaboration on fee simple lands.** The Regional District will collaborate with Sq'ewlets to explore opportunities to promote conservation, recreational uses, and cultural representation on fee simple lands acquired by Sq'ewlets in Harrison Rise.
- 6.6.2 **Community sanitary sewer connection as a broader public benefit.** The Regional Board acknowledges that the community sanitary sewer connection to Sq'ewlets is a broader public interest matter provided by the development of Harrison Rise lands.
- 6.6.3 **Future sanitary sewer capacity planning.** The Regional Board encourages Sq'ewlets to work with the developer for the Harrison Rise lands on their current and future development plans that will impact sanitary servicing demand.
- 6.6.4 **Collaboration on hydrology.** The Regional District encourages developers to engage with Leq'á:mel First Nation regarding the overall hydrology and hazard adaptation measures for the Benchlands within the Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan area.

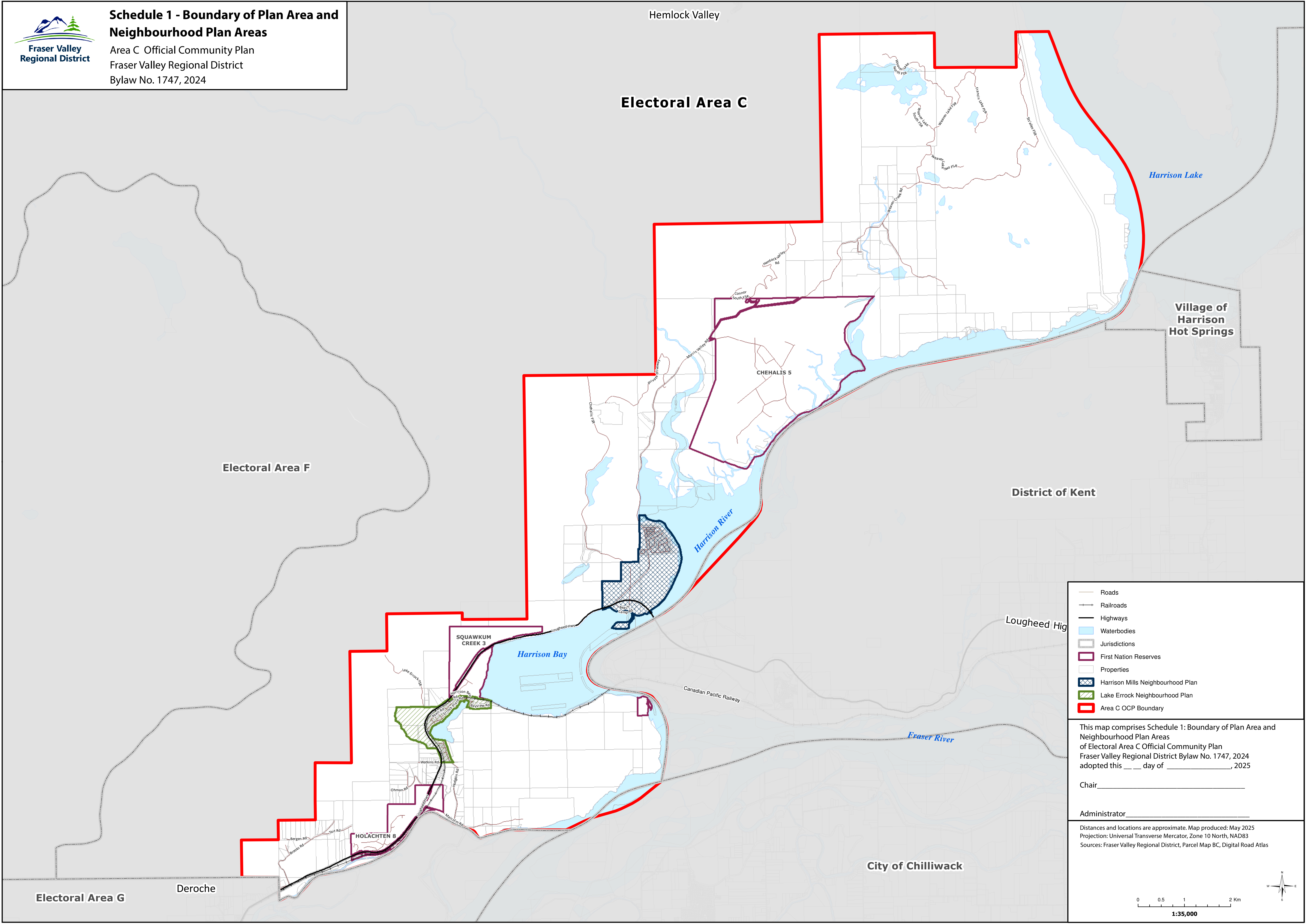


# SCHEDULES & MAPS



**Schedule 1 - Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas**

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



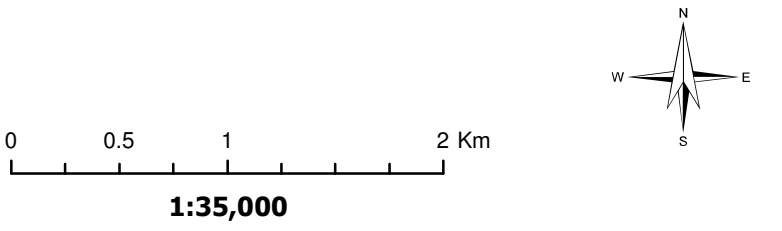
- Roads
- Railroads
- Highways
- Waterbodies
- Jurisdictions
- First Nation Reserves
- Properties
- Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan
- Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan
- Area C OCP Boundary

This map comprises Schedule 1: Boundary of Plan Area and Neighbourhood Plan Areas of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_ day of \_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas

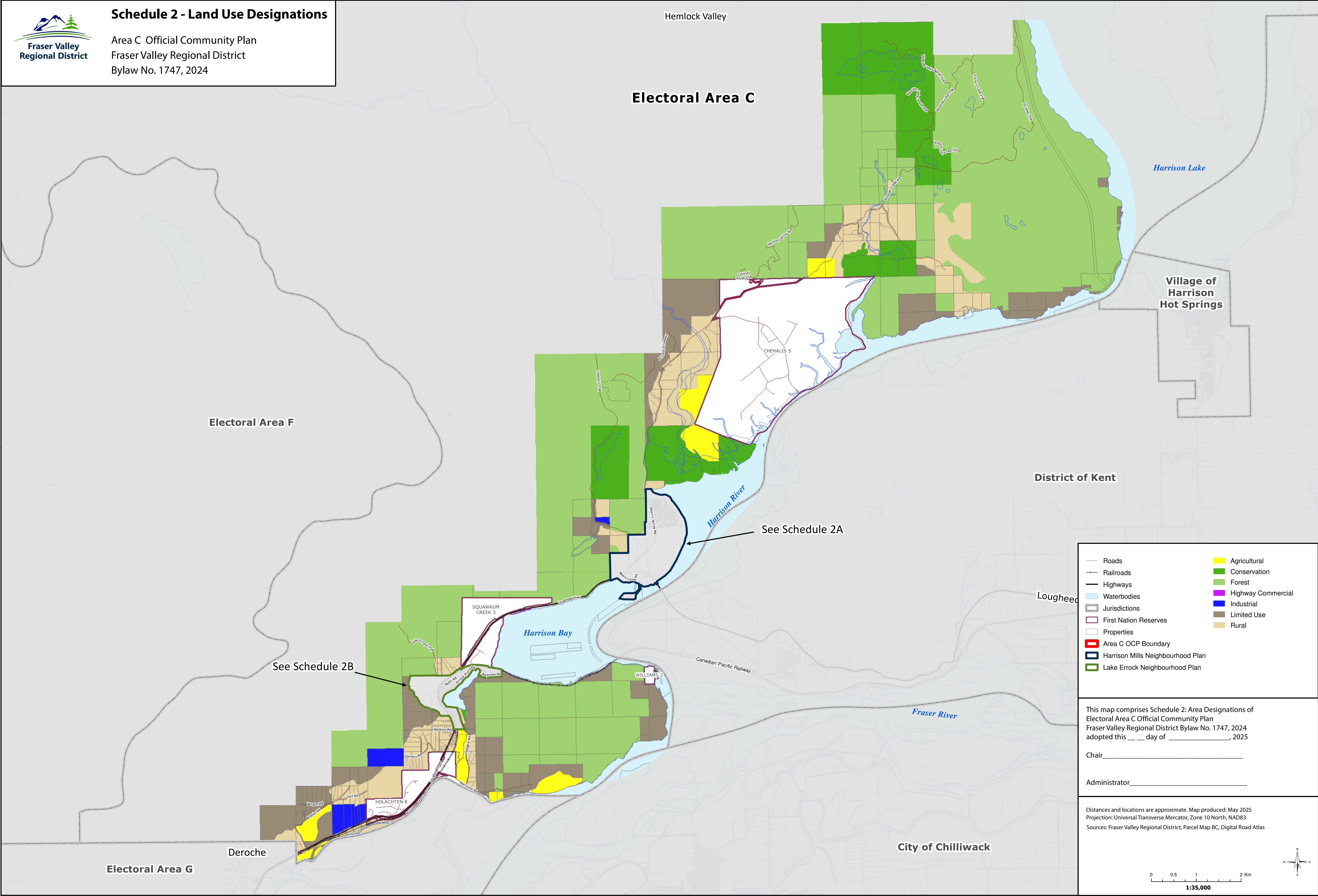






Schedule 2 - Land Use Designations

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

Agricultural

Conservation

Forest

Highway Commercial

Industrial

Limited Use

Rural

This map comprises Schedule 2: Area Designations of  
Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_ day of \_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

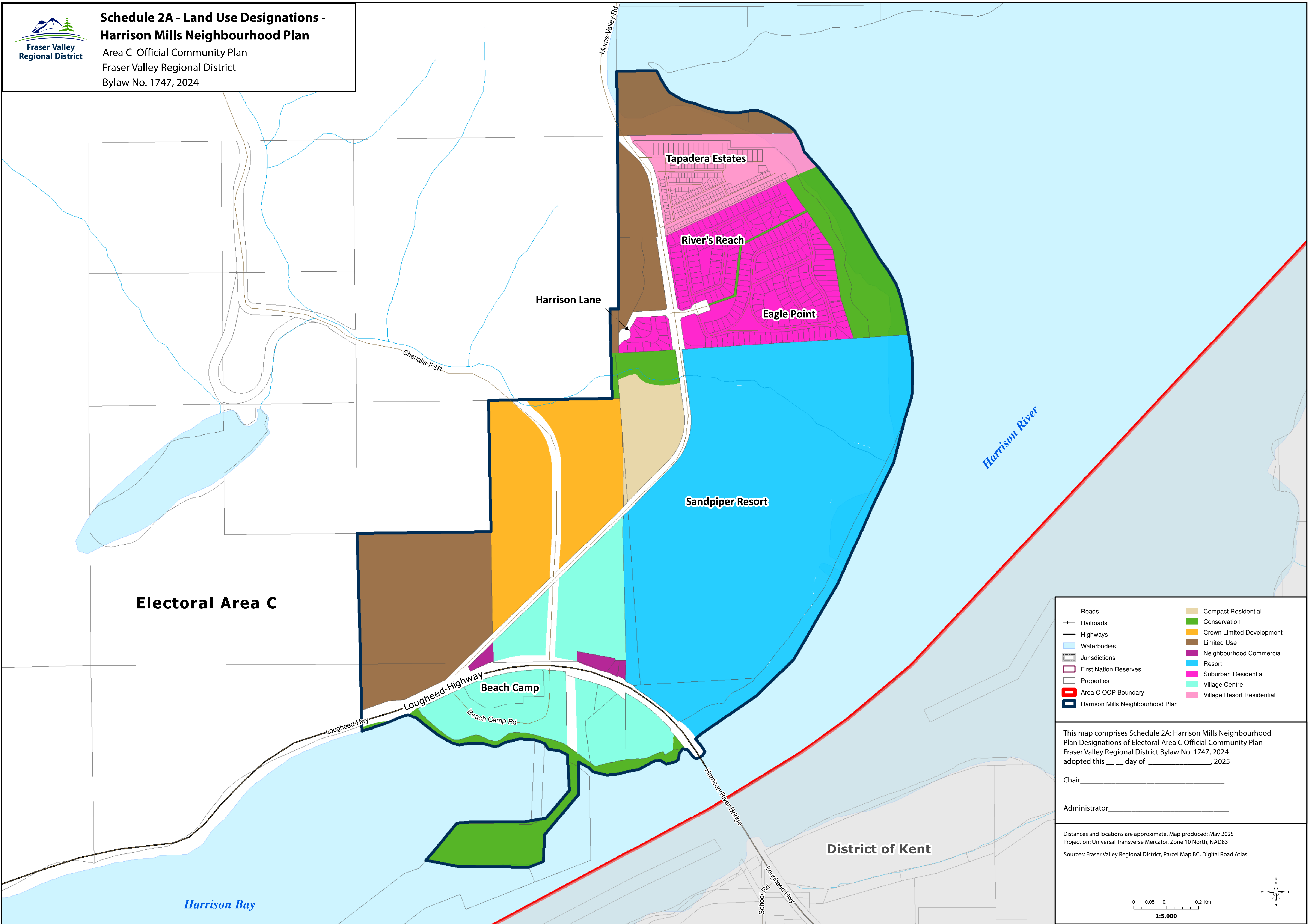
Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas





**Schedule 2A - Land Use Designations -  
Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



— Roads	Compact Residential
— Railroads	Conservation
— Highways	Crown Limited Development
Waterbodies	Limited Use
Jurisdictions	Neighbourhood Commercial
First Nation Reserves	Resort
Properties	Suburban Residential
Area C OCP Boundary	Village Centre
Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan	Village Resort Residential

This map comprises Schedule 2A: Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Designations of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

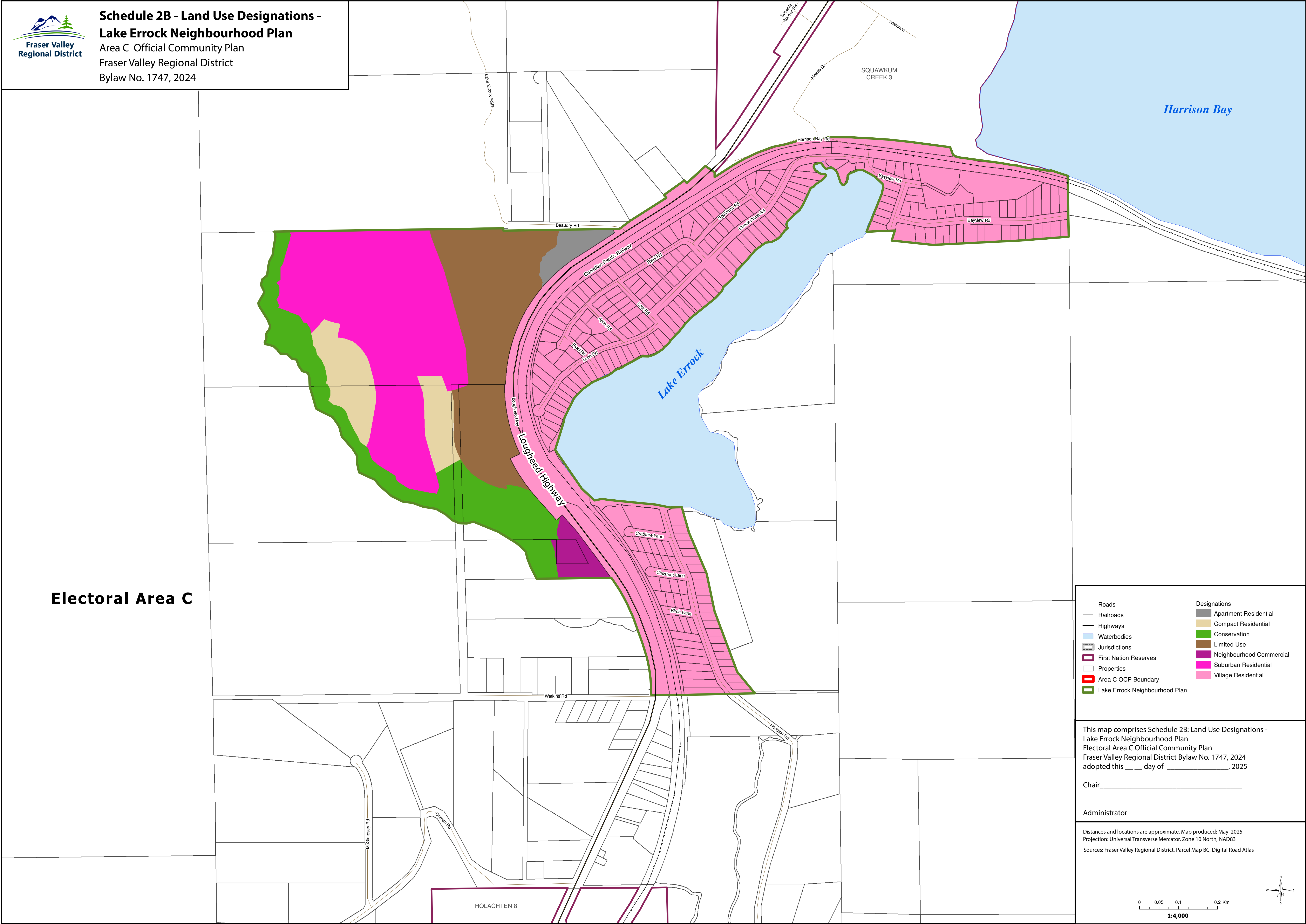
Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas

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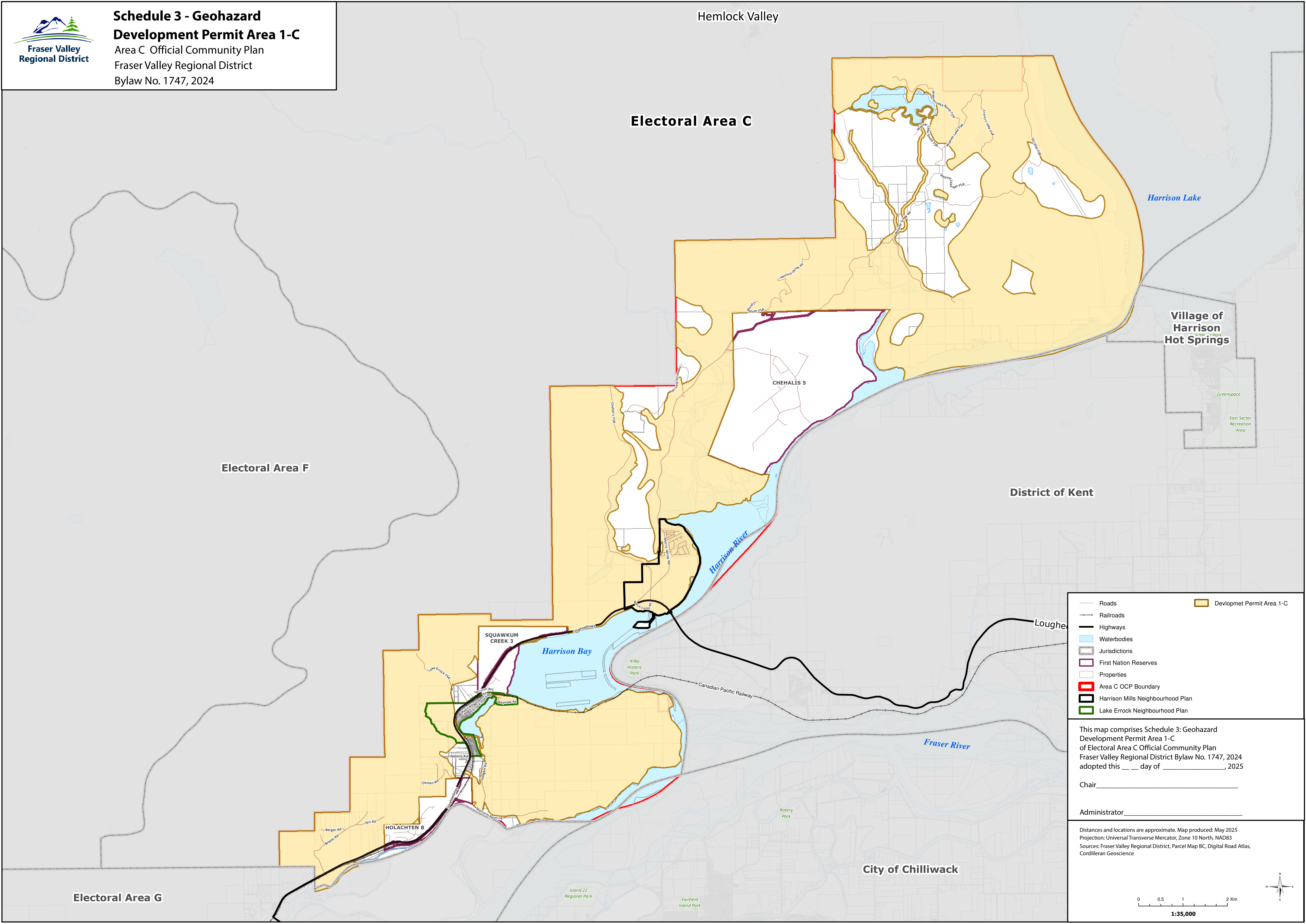








**Schedule 3 - Geohazard  
Development Permit Area 1-C**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

Devlopmet Permit Area 1-C

This map comprises Schedule 3: Geohazard  
Development Permit Area 1-C  
of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas,  
Cordilleran Geoscience

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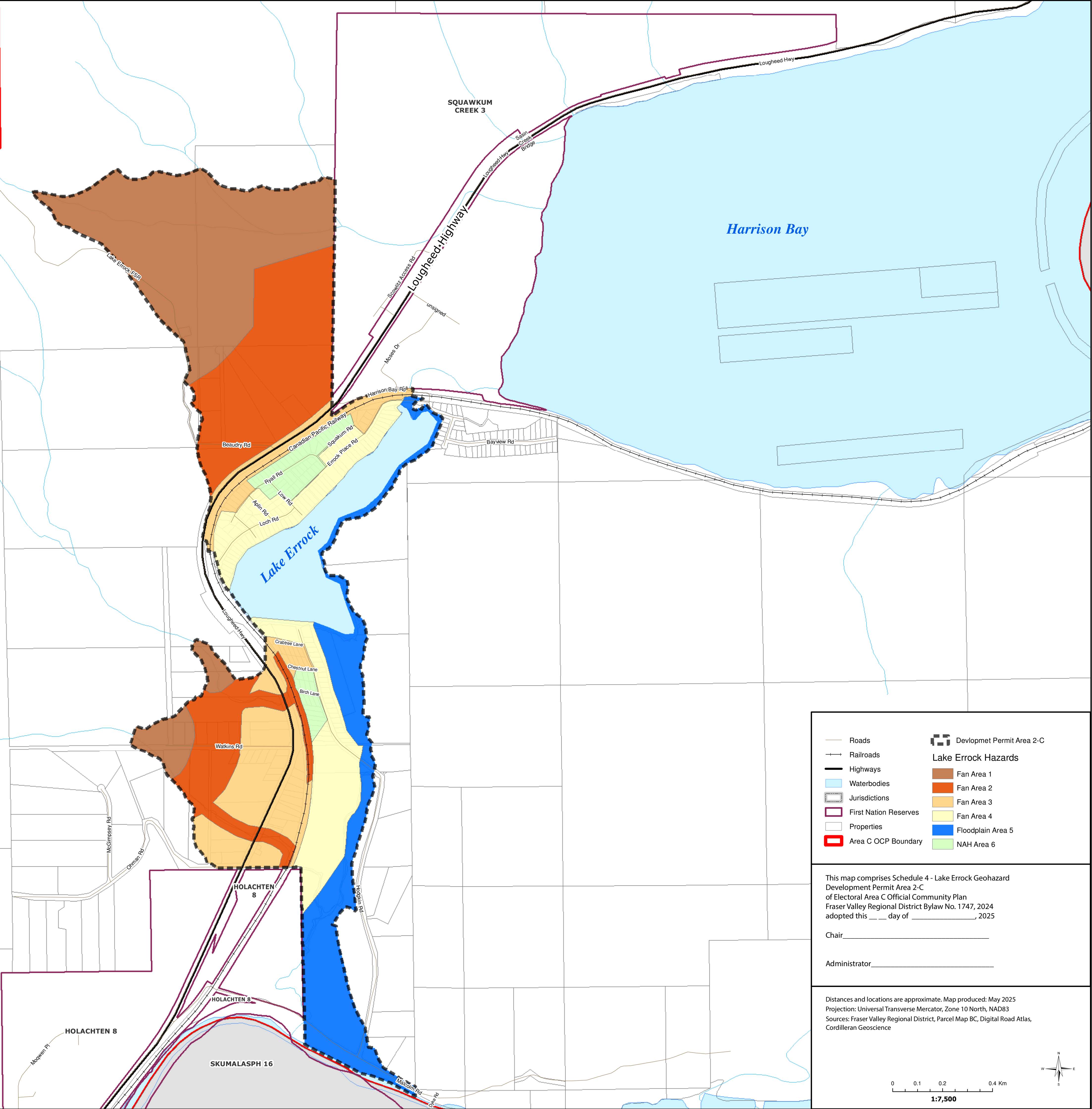
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**Schedule 4 - Lake Errock Geohazard  
Development Permit Area 2-C**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

**Electoral Area C**



Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Developmet Permit Area 2-C

**Lake Errock Hazards**

Fan Area 1

Fan Area 2

Fan Area 3

Fan Area 4

Floodplain Area 5

NAH Area 6

This map comprises Schedule 4 - Lake Errock Geohazard Development Permit Area 2-C of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

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Administrator\_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas, Cordilleran Geoscience

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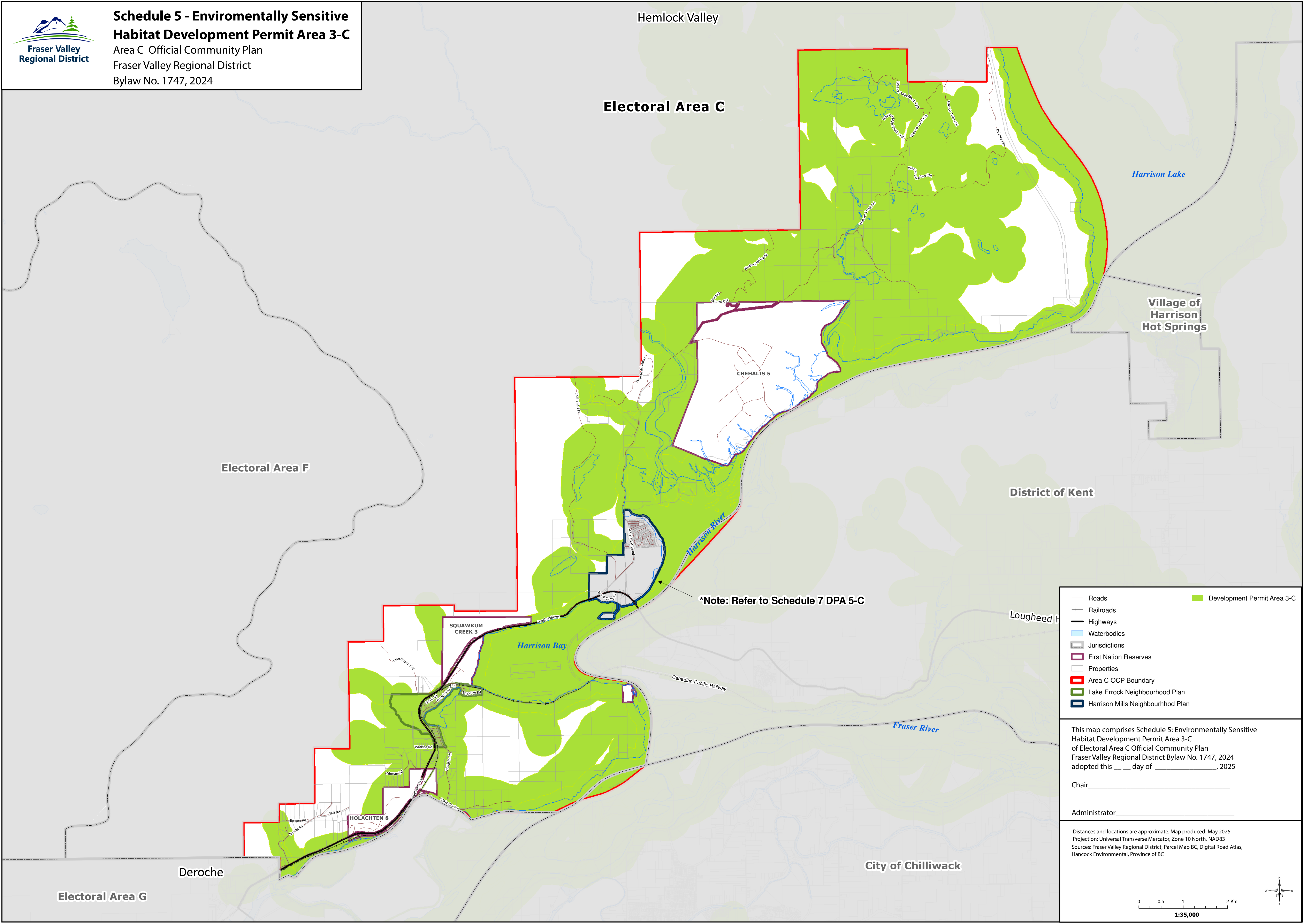
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**Schedule 5 - Enviromentally Sensitive  
Habitat Development Permit Area 3-C**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

Development Permit Area 3-C

This map comprises Schedule 5: Environmentally Sensitive  
Habitat Development Permit Area 3-C  
of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas,  
Hancock Environmental, Province of BC

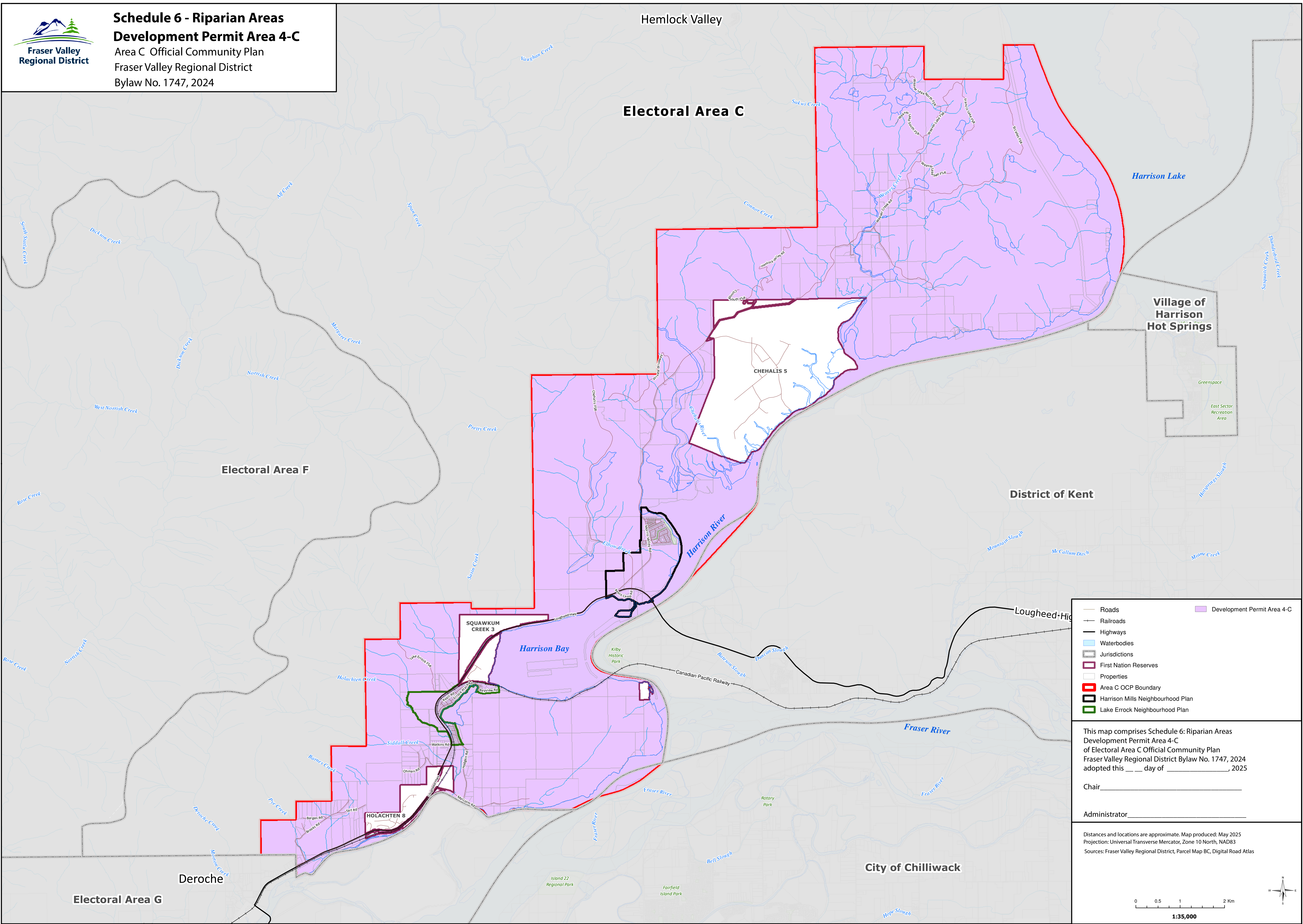
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**Schedule 6 - Riparian Areas  
Development Permit Area 4-C**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



This map comprises Schedule 6: Riparian Areas  
Development Permit Area 4-C  
of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas

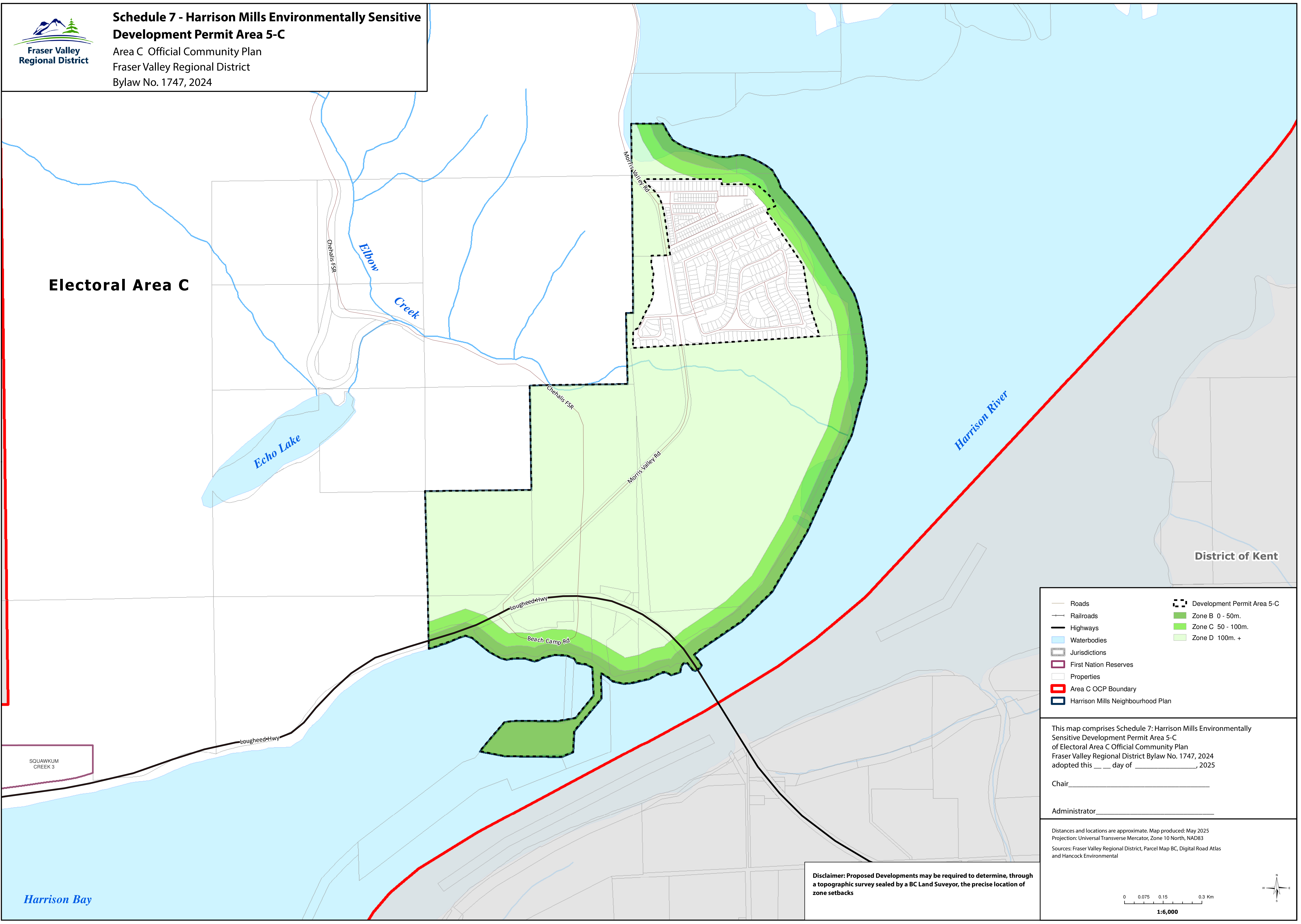
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**Schedule 7 - Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

**Electoral Area C**



Roads	Development Permit Area 5-C
Railroads	Zone B 0 - 50m.
Highways	Zone C 50 - 100m.
Waterbodies	Zone D 100m. +
Jurisdictions	
First Nation Reserves	
Properties	
Area C OCP Boundary	
Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan	

This map comprises Schedule 7: Harrison Mills Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area 5-C of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

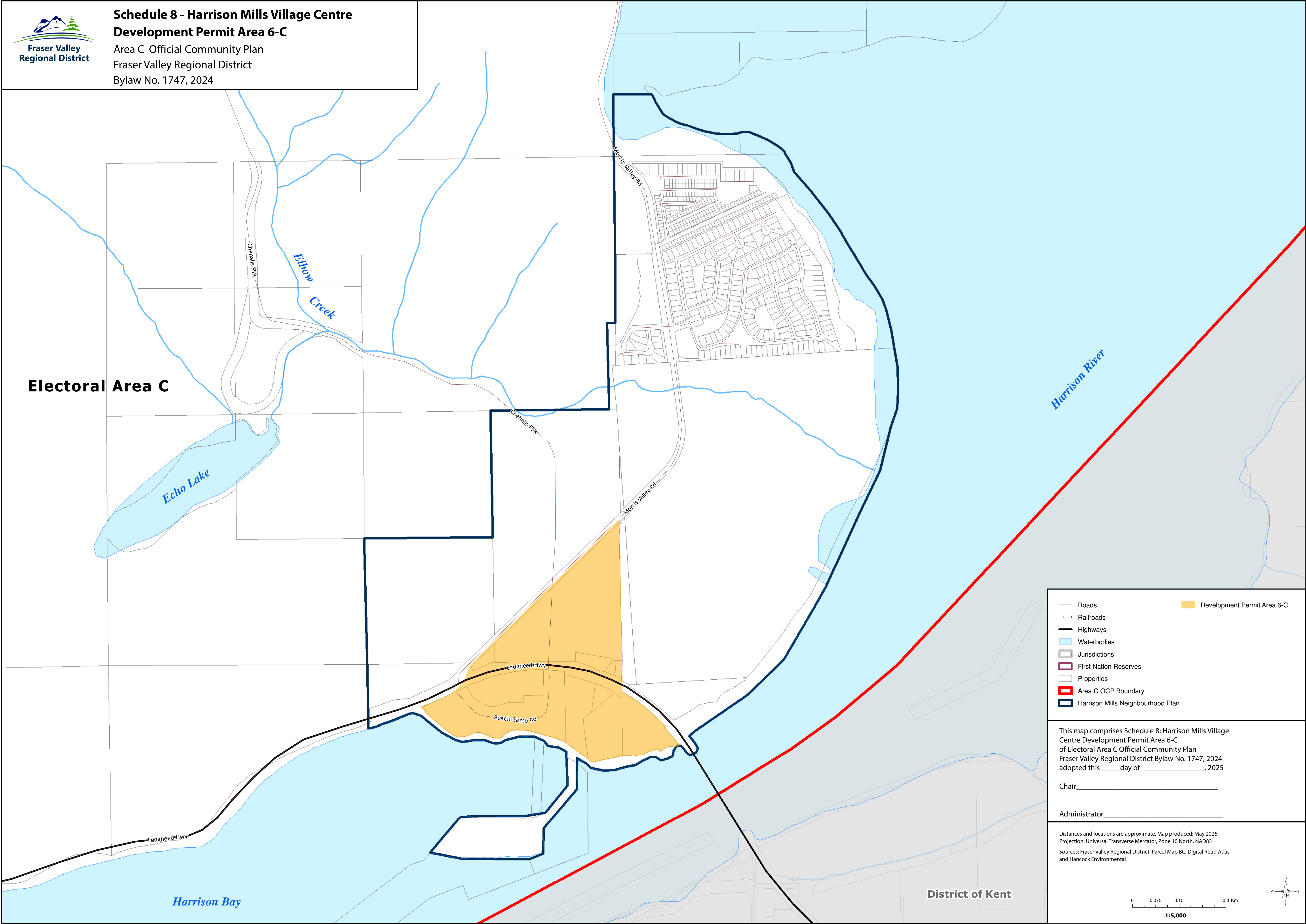
Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas and Hancock Environmental

Disclaimer: Proposed Developments may be required to determine, through a topographic survey sealed by a BC Land Surveyor, the precise location of zone setbacks

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**Schedule 9 - Lake Errock Highway Corridor  
Development Permit Area 7-C**  
Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

**Electoral Area C**

Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

Development Permit Area 7-C

This map comprises Schedule 9 - Harrison Rise Highway Corridor Development Permit Area 7-C of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_ day of \_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas,

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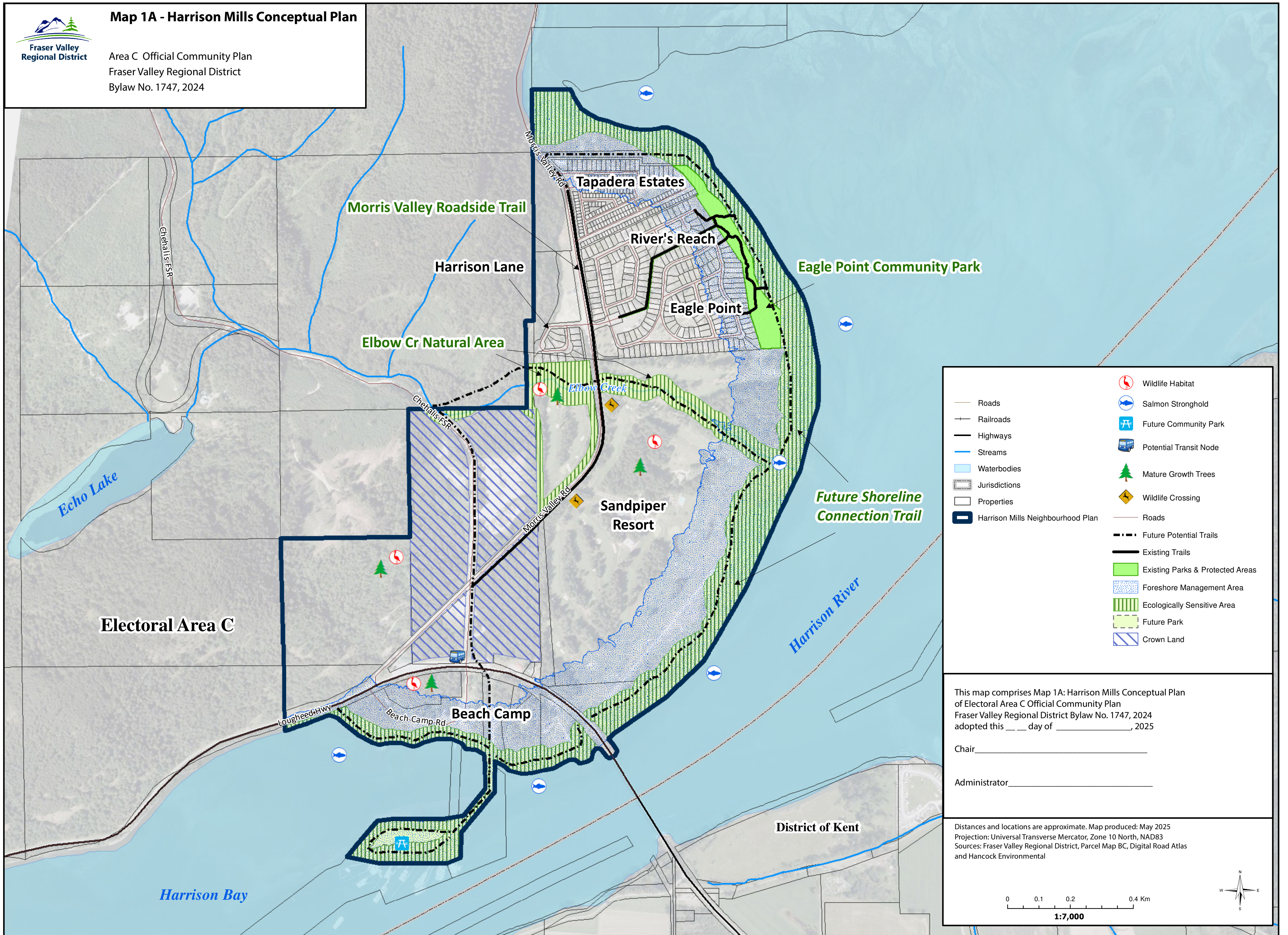
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# Map 1A - Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



This map comprises Map 1A: Harrison Mills Conceptual Plan  
of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas  
and Hancock Environmental

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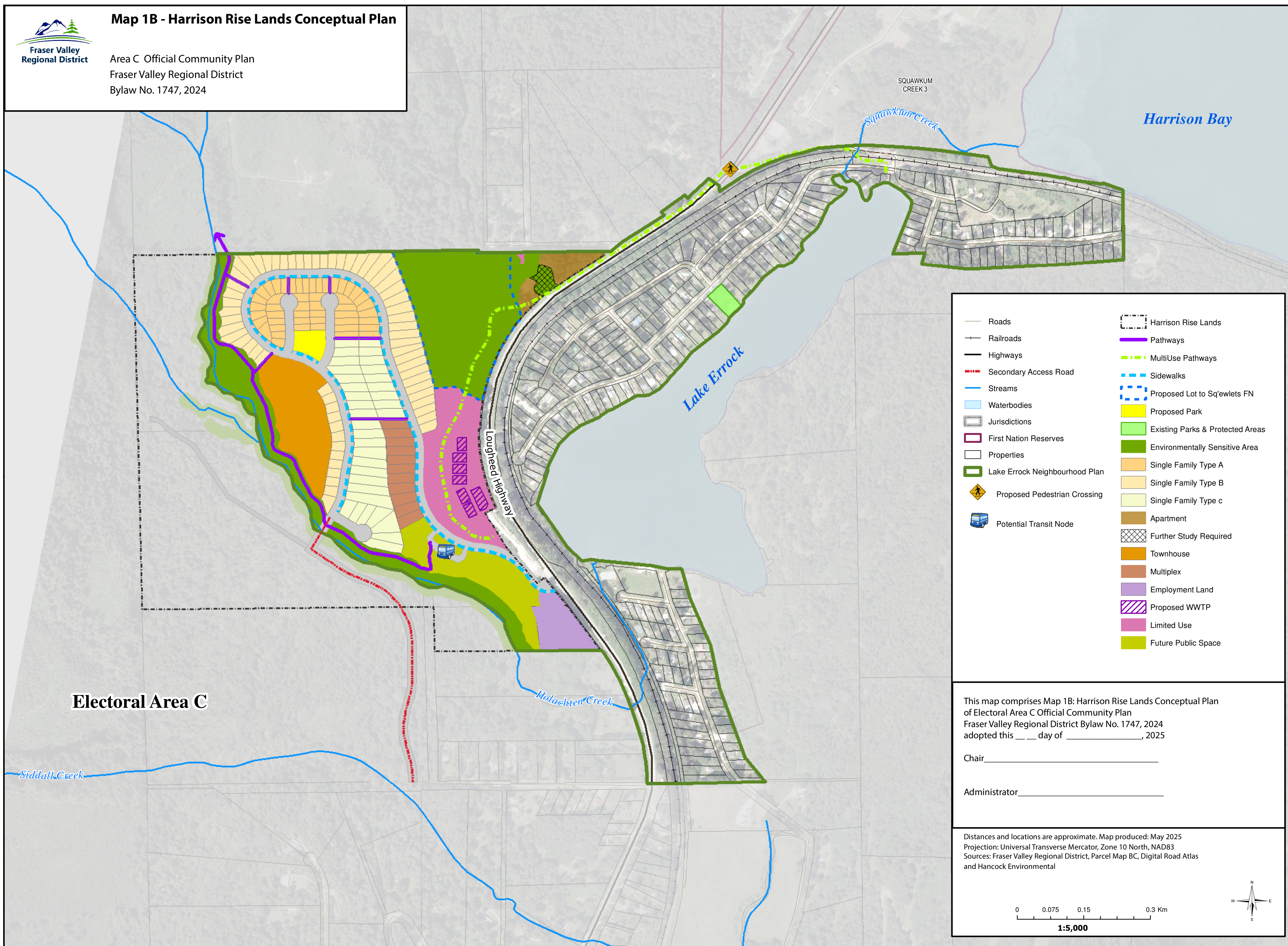






# Map 1B - Harrison Rise Lands Conceptual Plan

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



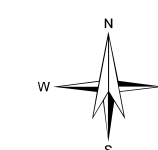
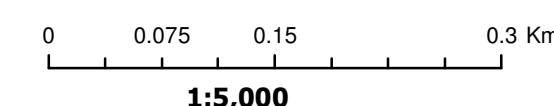
- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| — Roads                          | — Harrison Rise Lands              |
| — Railroads                      | — Pathways                         |
| — Highways                       | — MultiUse Pathways                |
| — Secondary Access Road          | — Sidewalks                        |
| — Streams                        | — Proposed Lot to Sq'ewlets FN     |
| — Waterbodies                    | — Proposed Park                    |
| — Jurisdictions                  | — Existing Parks & Protected Areas |
| — First Nation Reserves          | — Environmentally Sensitive Area   |
| — Properties                     | — Single Family Type A             |
| — Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan | — Single Family Type B             |
| — Proposed Pedestrian Crossing   | — Single Family Type c             |
| — Potential Transit Node         | — Apartment                        |
|                                  | — Further Study Required           |
|                                  | — Townhouse                        |
|                                  | — Multiplex                        |
|                                  | — Employment Land                  |
|                                  | — Proposed WWTP                    |
|                                  | — Limited Use                      |
|                                  | — Future Public Space              |

This map comprises Map 1B: Harrison Rise Lands Conceptual Plan of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas and Hancock Environmental



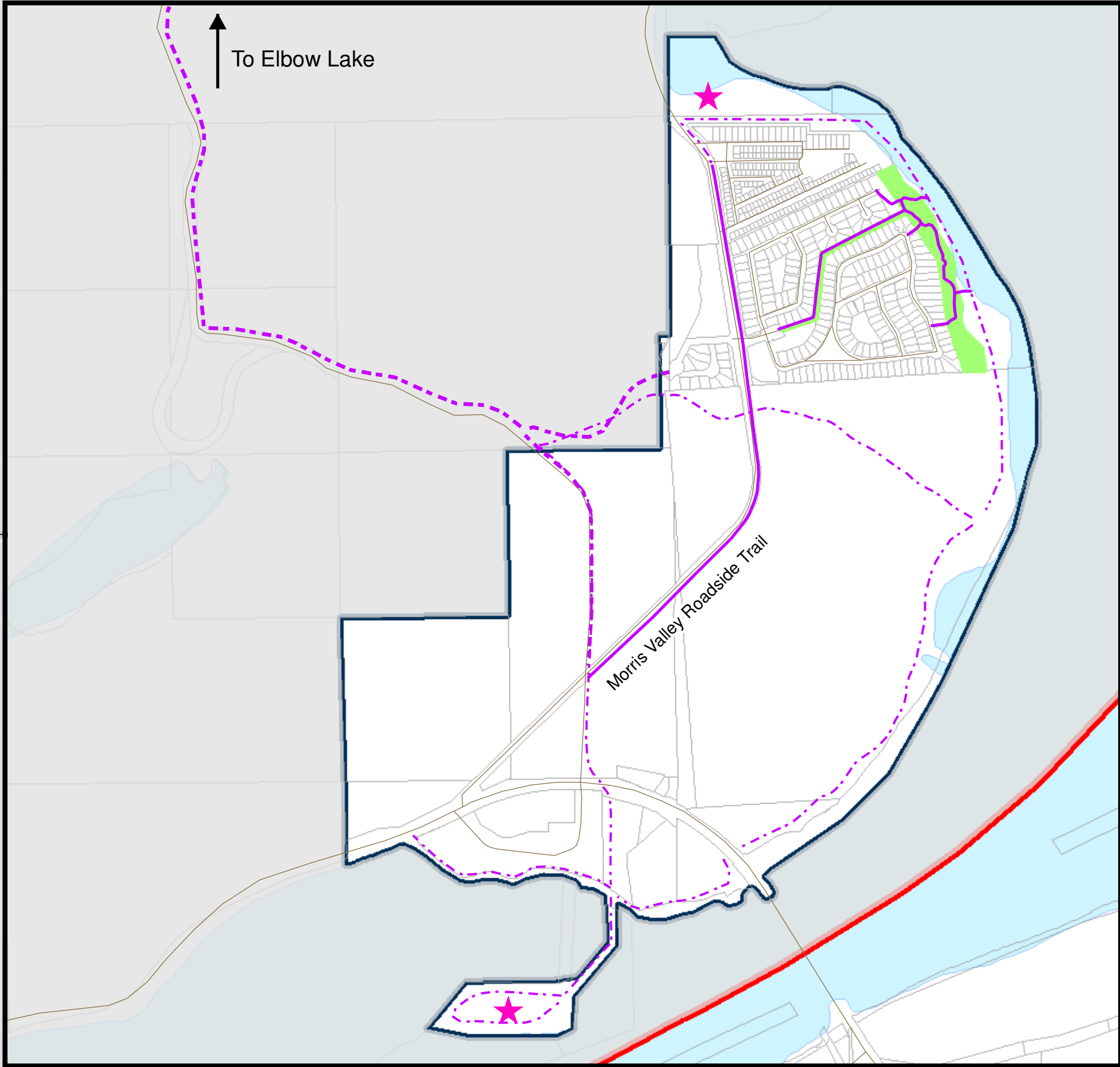




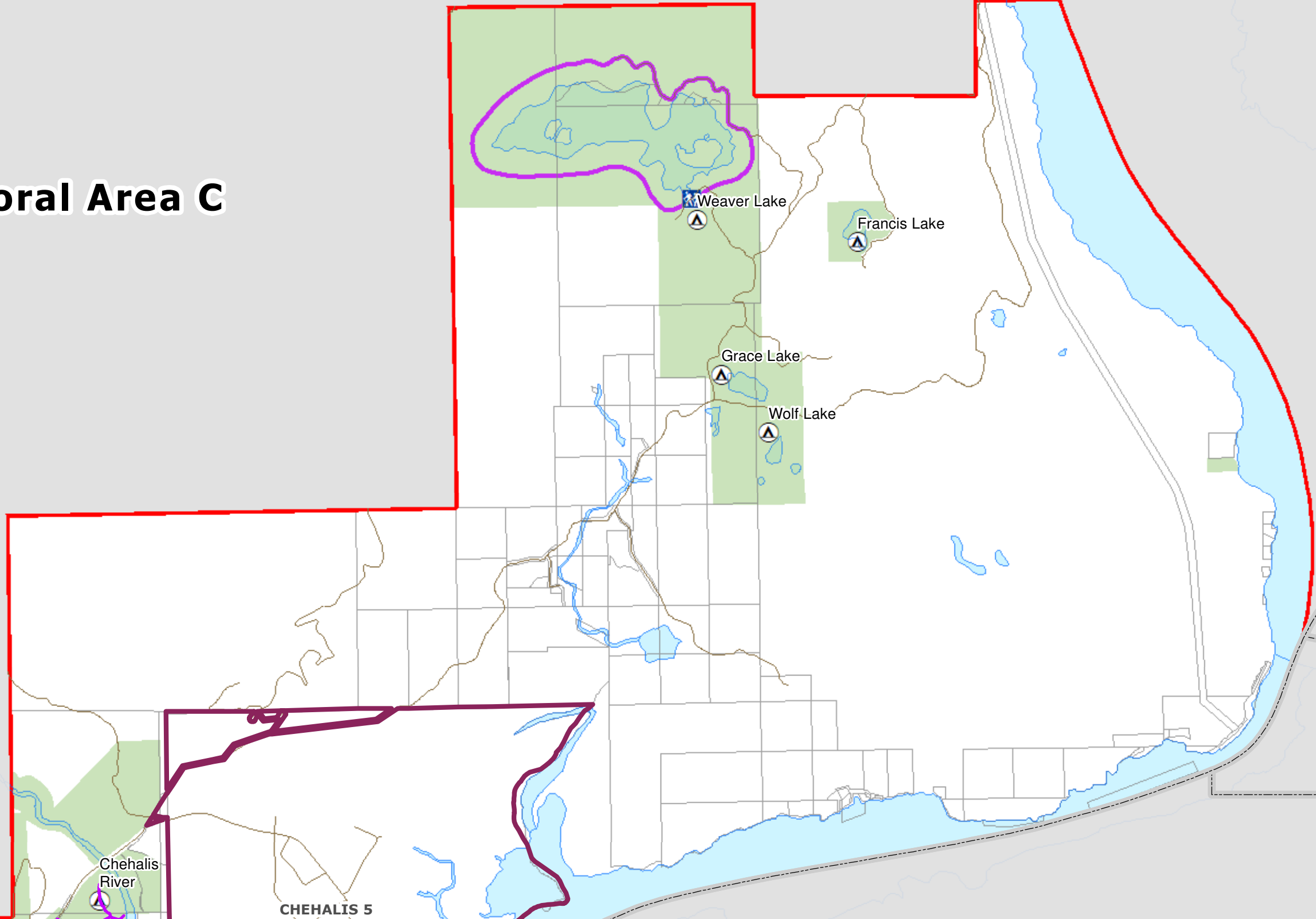
Map 2 - Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

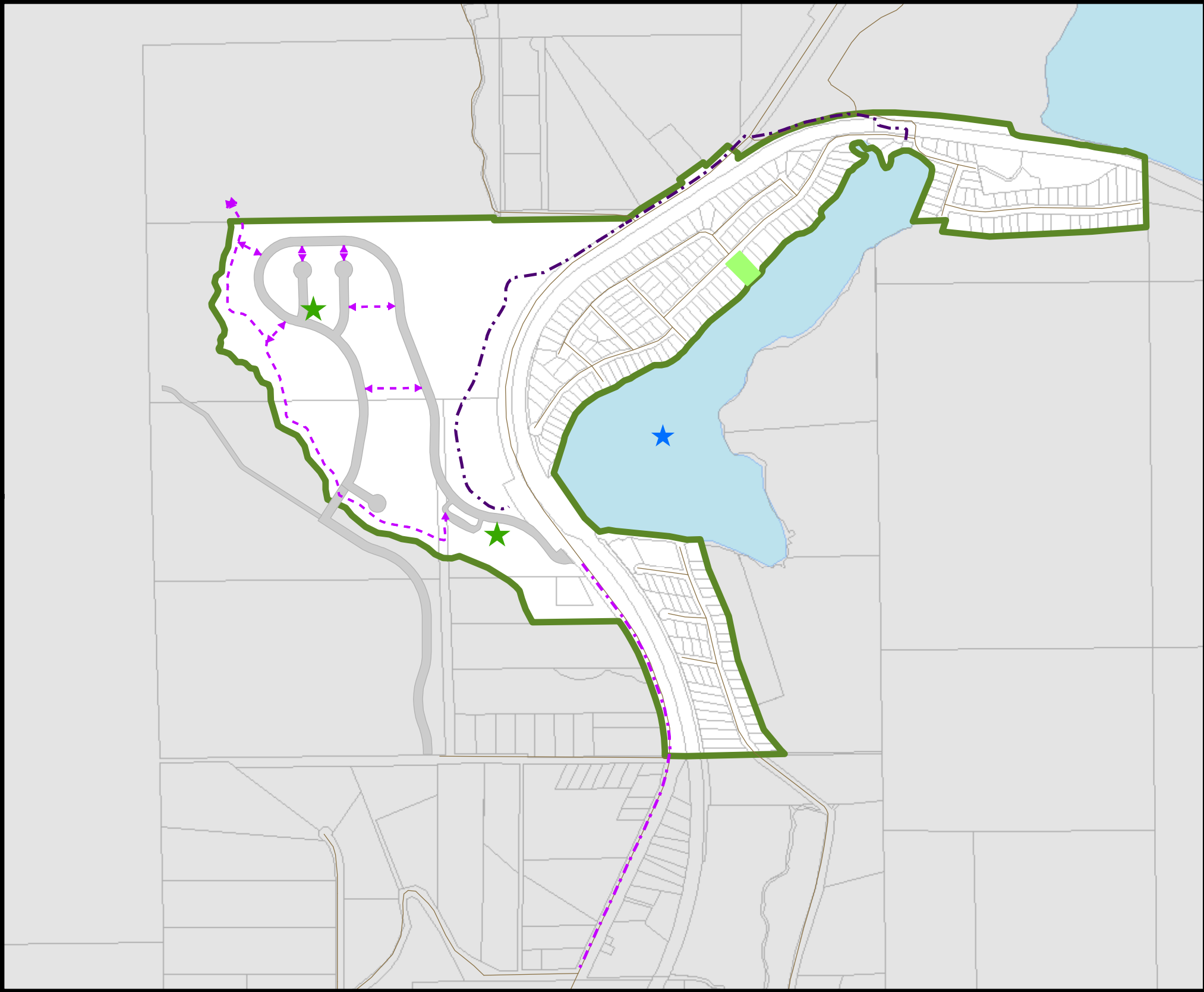
Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Inset



Electoral Area C



Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan Inset



District of Kent

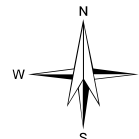
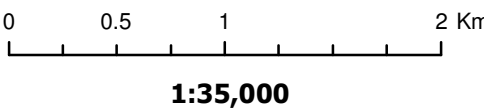
- Roads
- Railroads
- Highways
- Waterbodies
- Jurisdictions
- Properties
- Area C OCP Boundary
- Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan
- Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan
- Trailheads
- Future Potential Trails
- Existing Trails
- Forest Recreation Areas
- Community Park
- Proposed Paths
- Proposed Trail
- Potential Park Sites
- Potential Lakefront Lot for Park
- Proposed Park

This map comprises Map 2 Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas

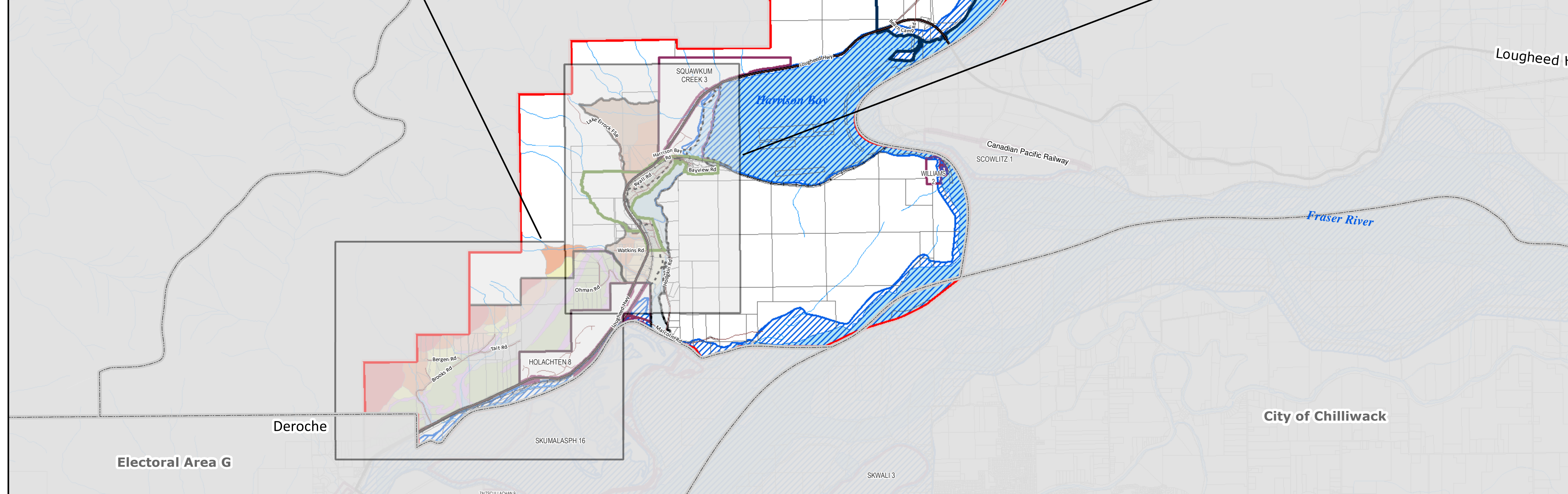
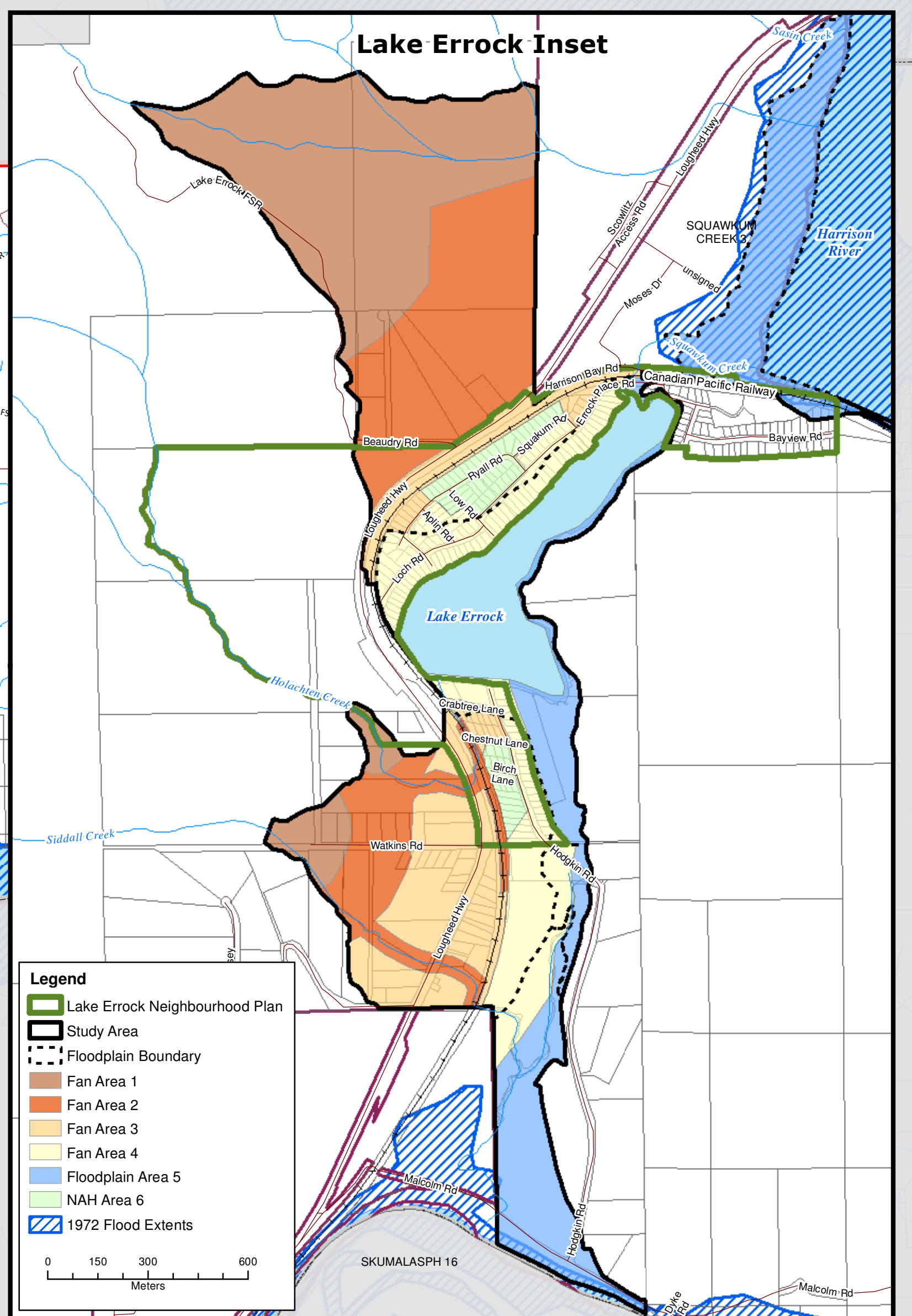
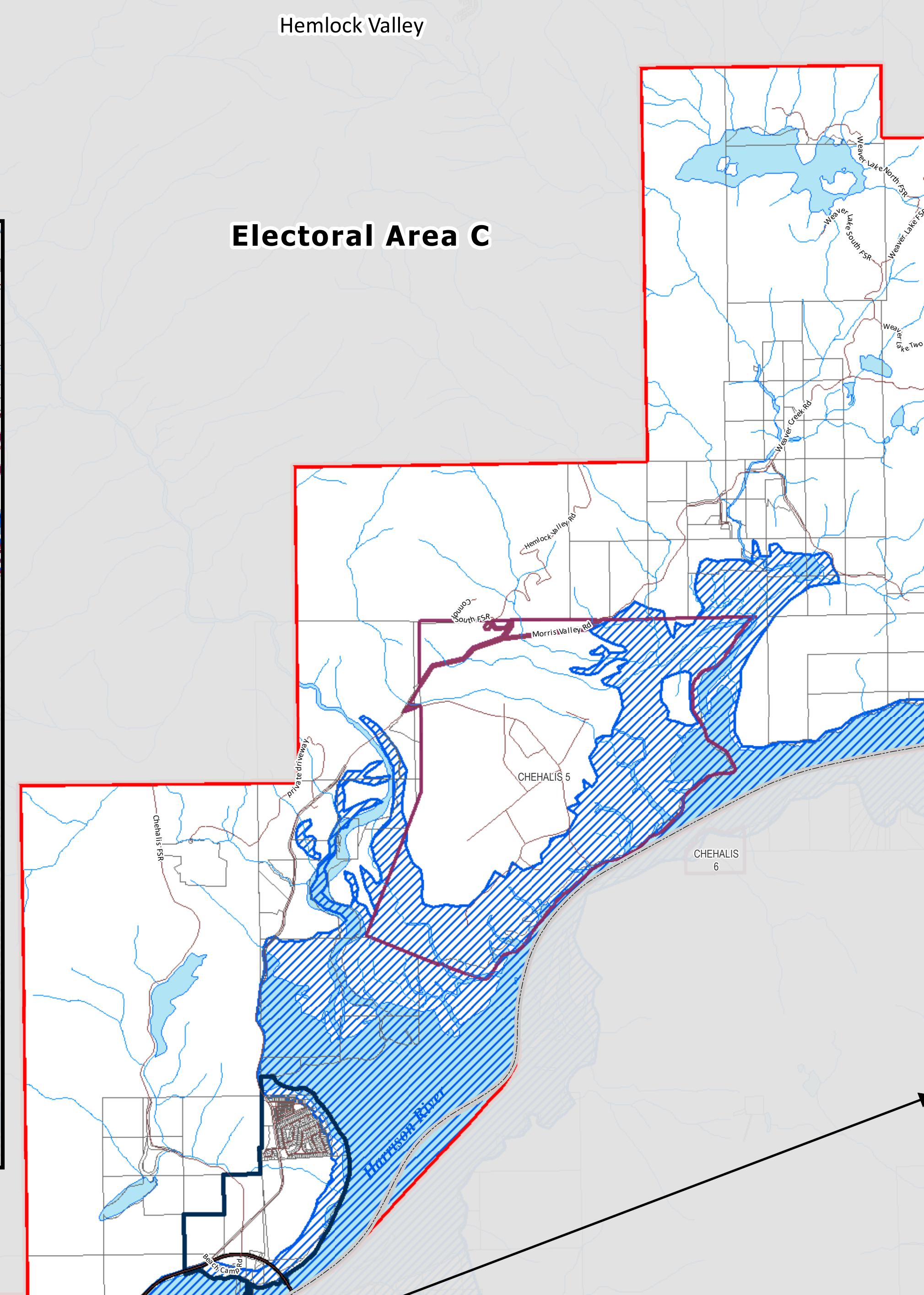
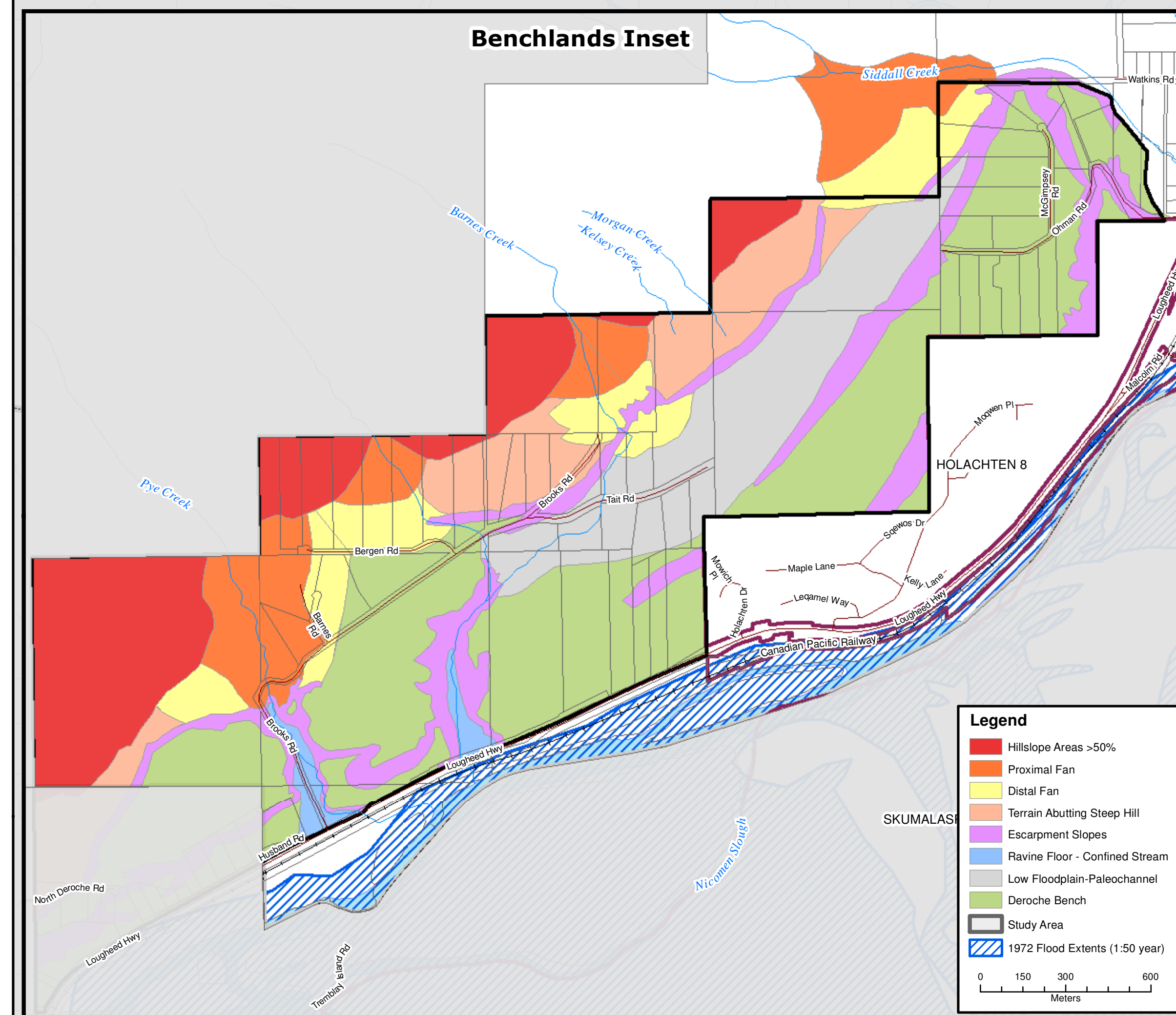






### Map 3 - Geologic & Stream Hazards

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024



**Legend**

- Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan
- Study Area
- Floodplain Boundary
- Fan Area 1
- Fan Area 2
- Fan Area 3
- Fan Area 4
- Floodplain Area 5
- NAH Area 6
- 1972 Flood Extents

0 150 300 600 Meters

**Map Symbols**

- Railroads
- Highways
- Waterbodies
- Jurisdictions
- First Nation Reserves
- Properties
- Area C OCP Boundary
- Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan
- Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan
- 1972 Flood Extents (1:50 year)

This map comprises Map 3 Geologic & Stream Hazards of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No.1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas, Cordilleran Geoscience

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Map 4 - Ecologically Sensitive Areas

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Inset

Hemlock Valley

Electoral Area C

Harrison Lake

Village of  
Harrison  
Hot Springs

Electoral Area F

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan Inset

District of Kent

Electoral Area G

Deroche

City of Chilliwack

- Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

Dikes

WMA Boundaries

High Value Owl Habitat

High Value Fish Areas

High Value Terrestrial Wildlife Areas

Federal Critical Wildlife Habitat

Areas of Retention & Wildlife Values

Species at Risk

Riparian Areas

Wildlife Habitat

Salmon Stronghold

Wildlife Crossing

Fish Observations

This map comprises Map 4 Environmental Designations of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_ day of \_\_, 2025

Chair\_\_\_\_\_

Administrator\_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas, TerraFauna Wildlife Consulting, BC Ministry of Environment, Hancock Environmental

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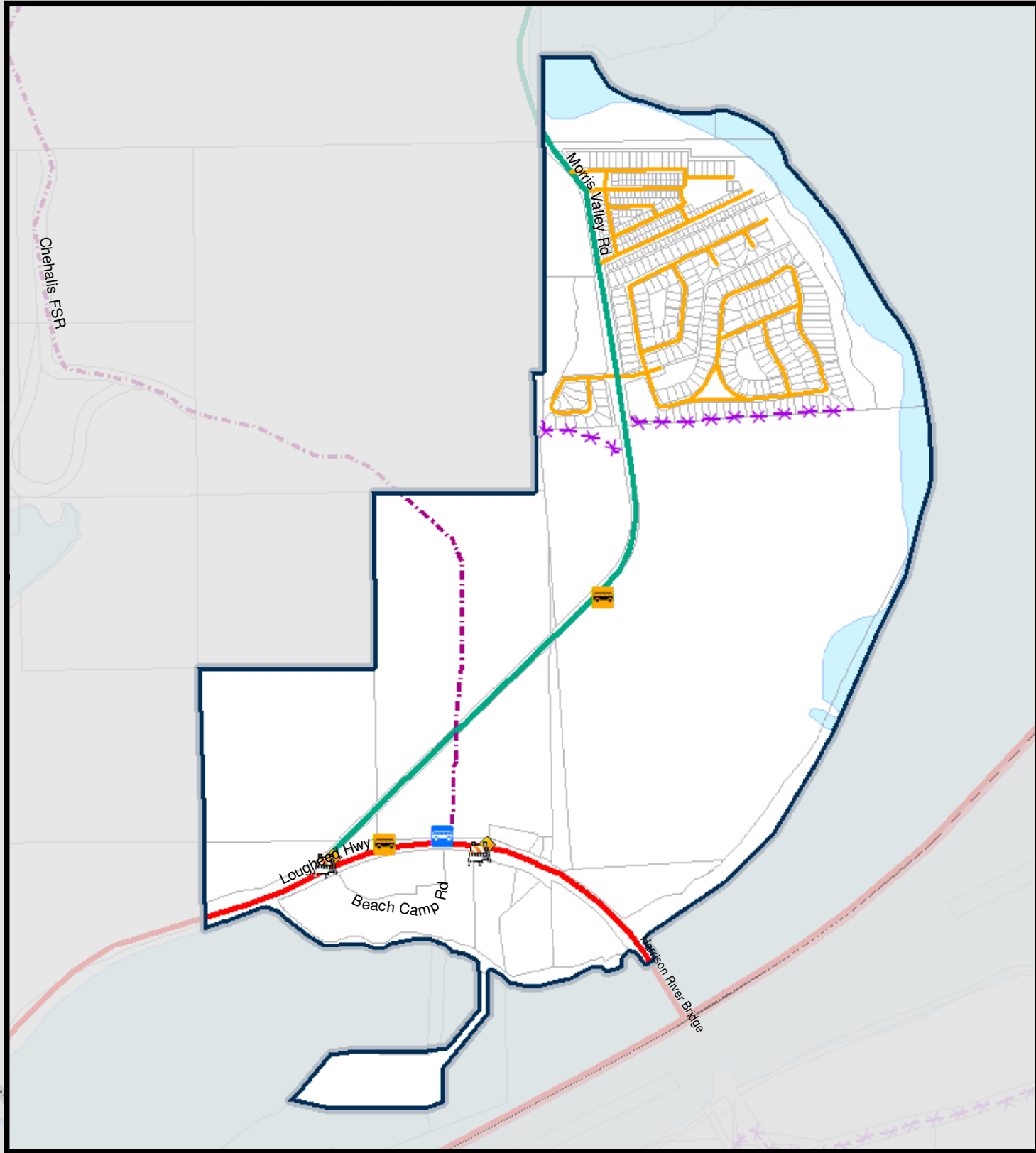




**Map 5 - Utility and Transportation Network**

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

**Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Inset**



Hemlock Valley

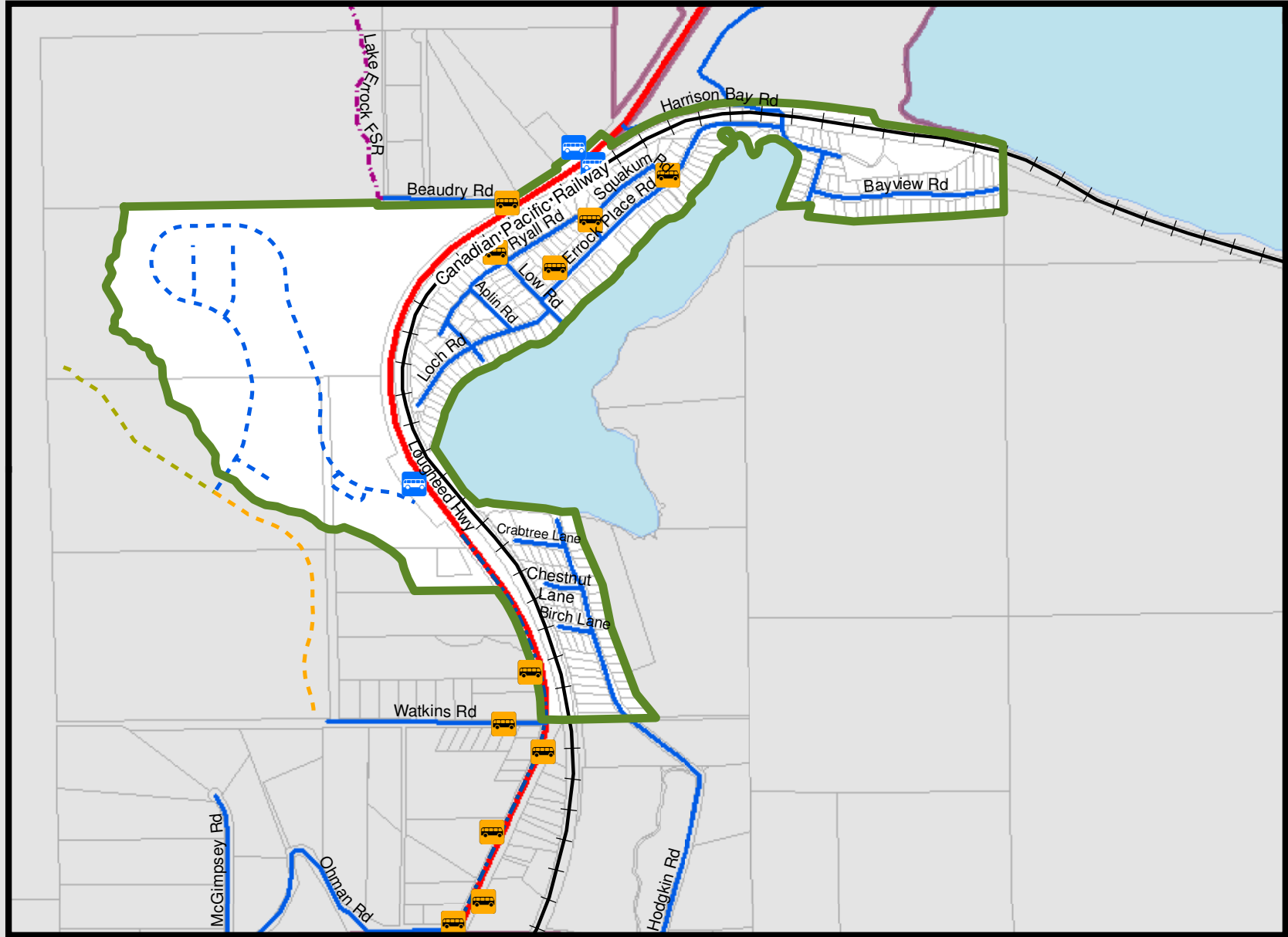
**Electoral Area C**

*Harrison Lake*

**Village of Harrison Hot Springs**

**Electoral Area F**

**Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan Inset**



**District of Kent**

*Harrison River*

*Harrison Bay*

Loughe

*Fraser River*

**City of Chilliwack**

Deroche

**Electoral Area G**

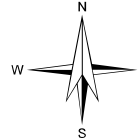
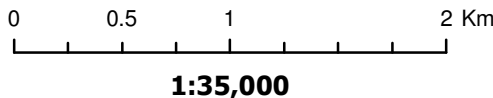
- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| — Roads                             | — Transmission Lines      |
| + Railroads                         | * Dikes                   |
| — Highways                          | — Highways                |
| — Waterbodies                       | — Arterial Roads          |
| — Jurisdictions                     | — Local Roads             |
| — First Nation Reserves             | — Forest Service Roads    |
| — Properties                        | — Strata/Private Roads    |
| — Area C OCP Boundary               | — Proposed Local Road     |
| — Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan | — Proposed Secondary Road |
| — Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan    | — Potential Transit Node  |
|                                     | — School Bus Stop         |
|                                     | — Potential Road Closure  |

This map comprises Map 5 - Utility and Transportation Network of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024 adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas







Map 6 - Sand and Gravel Areas

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

Electoral Area C

Harrison Lake

Village of  
Harrison  
Hot Springs

Electoral Area F

District of Kent

Harrison River

Lougheed

Fraser River

City of Chilliwack

Electoral Area G

Lake Errock Pit

Ohman Road Pit

Deroche Pit

SQUAWKUM  
CREEK 3

CHEHALIS 5

HOLACHTEN 8

- Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

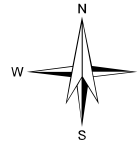
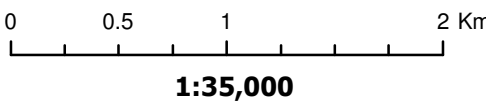
Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan
- Gravel Mines Active
- Gravel Deposits - Low
- Gravel Deposits - Moderate
- Gravel Deposits - High
- Restricted Areas (Bylaw 1181)
- Community Areas (Bylaw 1181)

This map comprises Map 6 - Sand and Gravel Areas  
Network of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas.  
Sand and Gravel information are from the FVRD Bylaw 1181, 2014,  
Gravel deposits information from the FVRD Aggregate inventory Atlas 2005







Map 7 - Agricultural Land Reserve

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

Hemlock Valley

Electoral Area C

Harrison Lake

Village of Harrison  
Hot Springs

Electoral Area F

District of Kent

Harrison River

Harrison Bay

Lougheed

Canadian Pacific Railway

Fraser River

City of Chilliwack

Deroche

Electoral Area G

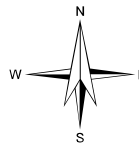
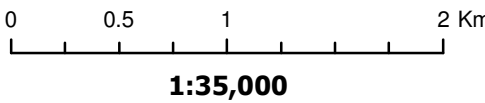
- Roads
- Railroads
- Highways
- Waterbodies
- Jurisdictions
- First Nation Reserves
- Properties
- Area C OCP Boundary
- Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan
- Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan
- Agricultural Land Reserve

This map comprises Map 7 - Agricultural Land Reserve  
Network of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas,  
BC Agricultural Land Commission







Map 8 - Interface Wildfire Hazards

Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1747, 2024

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Inset

Hemlock Valley

Electoral Area C

Harrison Lake

Village of  
Harrison  
Hot Springs

Electoral Area F

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan Inset

District of Kent

Lough

Fraser River

City of Chilliwack

Deroche

Electoral Area G

- Roads

Railroads

Highways

Waterbodies

Jurisdictions

First Nation Reserves

Properties

Area C OCP Boundary

Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan

Lake Errock Neighbourhood Plan

Fire Protection Service Areas

Fire Halls

500m Wildfire Buffer

No Data

Very Low

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

This map comprises Map 8 - Wildfire Hazards  
of Electoral Area C Official Community Plan  
Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1747, 2024  
adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Chair\_\_\_\_\_

Administrator\_\_\_\_\_

Distances and locations are approximate. Map produced: May 2025  
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10 North, NAD83  
Sources: Fraser Valley Regional District, Parcel Map BC, Digital Road Atlas,  
Wildfire hazard data courtesy of Blackwell Consulting 2021