

# 2022 Corporate Plan



 **Comox Valley**  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

[comoxvalleyrd.ca](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca)   



qax mot Conservation Area located in Electoral Area C

A vertical photograph of a forest floor, showing a dense layer of green ferns and fallen brown leaves. In the background, several thin tree trunks are visible, some with moss growing on them.

# Table of Contents

Chair Message	4
Vision Statement	7
What We Do	8
2021 Financials	10
Strategic Drivers	16
Goals for 2022	18
CVRD Moves Forward on the Long Path of Reconciliation	19
Core Services	22
Core Services at Work	23
■ Core Services: Finance and Administration	24
■ Core Services: Water Supply	26
■ Core Services: Recreation	30
■ Core Services: Regional Sustainability	34
■ Core Services: Sewage Treatment	36
■ Core Services: Regional Emergency Services	40
■ Core Services: Transportation	44
■ Core Services: Electoral Area Services	46



# Chair Message

It is hard to believe that 2021 is already over! I think the past year more than ever made me appreciate where we live and the amazing community we all call home. Every day I wake up and feel so fortunate to be blessed to live in a community where the residents care about one another, where we are surrounded by breath taking natural landscapes and where people are devoted to our community. And now more than ever I feel as though our home strives to be safe, affordable, sustainable, welcoming, and filled with natural greenspaces that our future generations can enjoy.

In November 2021, I was re-elected as the Chair of the Comox Valley Regional District Board. In my role, I try to bring people together so we can increase our collective impact.

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

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

Having these strategic drivers has helped the Board determine where the focus needs to be for our region and what is important to you.

We are committed to these drivers and creating changes that are felt both today and in the future. We want our home to stand amongst the rest as being a community empowered to make change.

And honestly, without the staff and community partners who help guide our projects and day to day operations, movement on these important topics would not happen. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who are dedicated every day to deliver top quality service to our community and ensure that even during a pandemic services continued to run smoothly.

I feel honoured to be part of such a great team working alongside highly motivated board members, amazing staff, and compassionate residents who care and call the Comox Valley home.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, reading "Jesse Kettler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jesse" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Kettler".



Kirk Road Stairs Denman Island Cross Trail located in Electoral Area A



# Vision Statement

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

# What We Do

In 2021, **98 services** were delivered to residents in Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Electoral Areas A, B, and C including...

## Water

Comox Valley Water Supply System – connecting **50,000** residents to clean, safe drinking water at an affordable price.



## Sewer

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



## Solid Waste

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



## Parks & Recreation

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

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



# We Are Three Electoral Areas & Three Municipalities

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

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



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



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



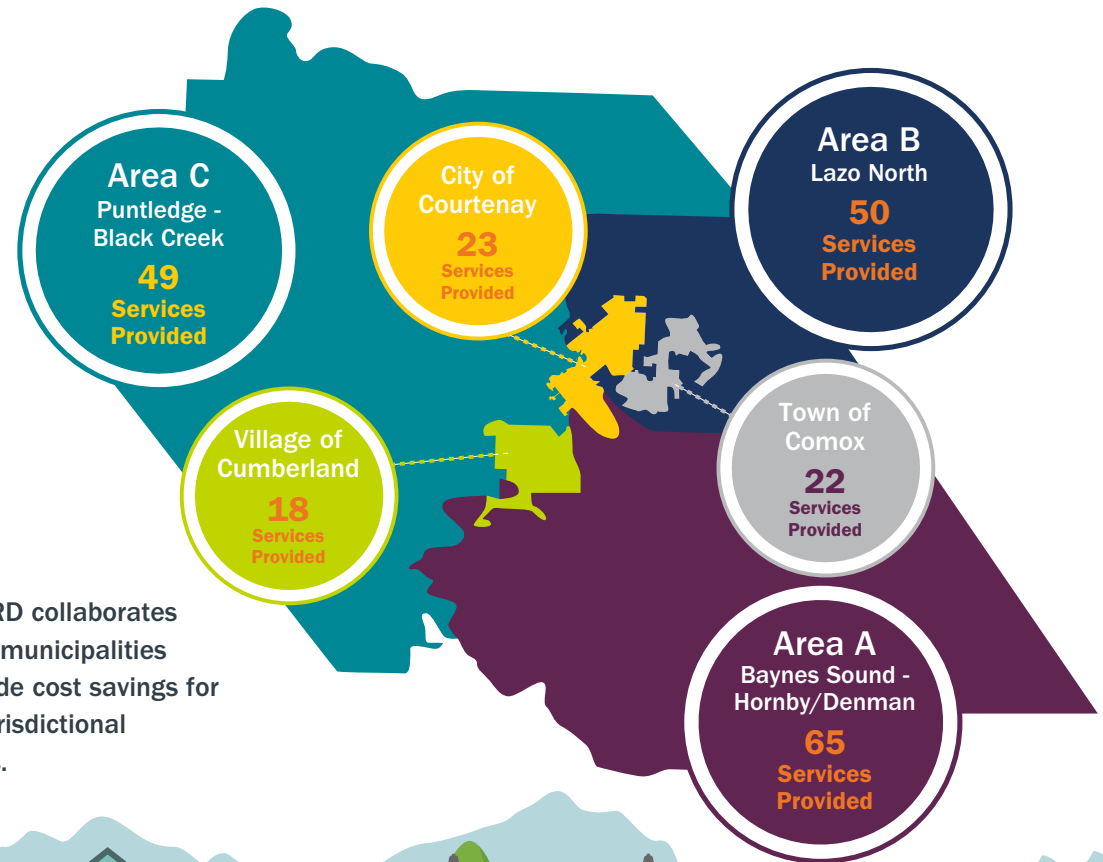
No ability to transfer funds from one service to another.



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

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

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



# 2021 Financials

## Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

These summarized financial statements have been prepared by management from the complete financial statements for inclusion in this annual report. They provide a brief financial overview of the regional district's financial position at December 31, 2021 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Management maintains a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that transactions are authorized, recorded and reported properly. Management also maintains a program of proper business compliance. The Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements and for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control.

MNP LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, the regional district's independent auditor, conducts an examination of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expresses an opinion in the auditor's report, which accompanies the complete audited financial statements available at the regional district office or online at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca).



K. Douville, B.Comm

Officer responsible for Financial Administration,  
pursuant to Section 237 of the Local Government Act



Bridge located within qax mot Conservation Area

# 2021 Financials

To the Board of Directors of the Comox Valley Regional District:

## Opinion

The summarized financial statements, which comprise the summarized statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021 and the summarized statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District as at and for the year ended December 31, 2021.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

## Summarized Financial Statements

The summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian

public sector accounting standards. Reading the summarized financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summarized financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

## The Audited Financial Statements and our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated May 10, 2022.

## Management's Responsibility for the Summarized Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summarized financial statements in

accordance with management's criteria for aggregation of the balances.

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summarized financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Courtenay, British Columbia  
May 10, 2022

*MNP LLP*

**MNP**  
LLP

**Chartered Professional Accountants**

## Comox Valley Regional District Summarized Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 66,686,294	\$ 71,500,308
Portfolio investments	41,941,504	42,203,195
Receivables and security deposits	7,124,571	12,367,466
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	20,725,124	14,886,933
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>136,477,493</b>	<b>140,957,902</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables, other liabilities and deferred revenue	15,862,314	22,548,774
Short-term debt	6,751,768	30,488,116
Long-term debt	84,095,157	43,379,578
Restricted revenue	15,085,269	11,819,890
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	26,240,348	29,653,624
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>148,034,856</b>	<b>137,889,982</b>
<b>Net Financial Assets (Net Debt)</b>	<b>(11,557,363)</b>	<b>3,067,920</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Prepaid expenses	209,855	586,723
Inventory of supplies	259,906	254,936
Tangible capital assets	288,224,310	244,376,871
<b>Total Non-Financial Assets</b>	<b>288,694,071</b>	<b>245,218,530</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 277,136,708</b>	<b>\$ 248,286,450</b>



K. Douville, B.Comm  
Officer responsible for Financial Administration,  
pursuant to Section 237 of the Local Government Act (RSBC 2015)



A. Hamir  
Vice Chair of the Board

# Comox Valley Regional District Summarized Statement of Operations

## Year ended December 31, 2021

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>			
Taxation	\$ 36,603,758	\$ 37,300,340	\$ 37,163,443
Sales of services, fees and other revenue	22,178,102	25,982,707	22,127,284
Government grants and transfers	11,324,432	5,384,577	49,480,746
Contributions from others	1,367,500	4,351,991	11,182,032
Investment income	115,000	242,194	2,286,238
Gain (Loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	1,255	11,933	(20,593)
Acquisition of Union Bay Improvement District	-	7,804,448	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>71,590,047</u>	<u>81,078,190</u>	<u>122,219,150</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
General government services	8,245,293	6,509,293	6,110,323
Protective services	5,118,654	5,095,378	4,850,269
Transportation services	3,539,055	3,559,559	2,444,233
Environmental health services	13,153,677	10,093,197	14,210,128
Public health and welfare services	452,730	355,530	246,114
Environmental development services	4,015,184	3,294,208	3,441,825
Recreation and cultural services	10,026,050	10,162,291	9,059,846
Water services	6,641,437	8,309,905	6,509,291
Sewer services	4,560,999	4,848,571	5,879,033
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>55,753,079</u>	<u>52,227,932</u>	<u>52,751,062</u>
<b>Annual Surplus</b>	15,836,968	28,850,258	69,468,088
<b>Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year</b>	<u>248,286,450</u>	<u>248,286,450</u>	<u>178,818,362</u>
<b>Accumulated Surplus, end of year</b>	<u><u>\$ 264,123,418</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 277,136,708</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 248,286,450</u></u>

# Comox Valley Regional District Summarized Statement of Cash Flows

## Year ended December 31, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Operating Transactions</b>		
Annual Surplus	\$ 28,850,258	\$ 69,468,088
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	371,898	327,681
Receivables and security deposits	5,242,895	3,382,898
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(6,660,618)	6,357,138
Restricted revenue	3,265,379	(3,633,812)
Deferred government transfers	(25,842)	(28,747)
Items not utilizing cash		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	8,640,025	6,917,423
Loss (gain) on disposal/write down of tangible capital assets	(11,933)	56,893
Landfill closure and post closure allowance	(3,413,276)	1,942,845
Actuarial adjustments and other items	(12,848,723)	(951,853)
<b>Cash Provided by Operating Transactions</b>	<u>23,410,063</u>	<u>83,838,554</u>
<b>Capital Transactions</b>		
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	22,839	-
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(40,661,451)	(80,206,437)
<b>Cash Used for Capital Transactions</b>	<u>(40,638,612)</u>	<u>(80,206,437)</u>
<b>Investment Transactions</b>		
<b>Cash Provided by (Used for) Investment Transactions</b>	<u>261,691</u>	<u>(2,126,089)</u>
<b>Financing Transactions</b>		
Long and short-term debt issued	39,415,073	34,353,939
Long and short-term debt repayments	(27,262,229)	(19,812,449)
<b>Cash Provided by Financing Transactions</b>	<u>12,152,844</u>	<u>14,541,490</u>
<b>Change in Cash</b>	<u>(4,814,014)</u>	<u>16,047,518</u>
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	<u>71,500,308</u>	<u>55,452,790</u>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u><u>\$ 66,686,294</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 71,500,308</u></u>

# Strategic Drivers

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



Fiscal  
Responsibility

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



Climate Crisis and Environmental  
Stewardship and Protection

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



Community  
and Social Wellbeing

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



Indigenous  
Relations

We are committed to reconciliation and relationship building with Indigenous peoples and specifically K'ómoks First Nation.



Fanny Bay Playground Opening in Electoral Area A

# Goals for 2022



- 1. Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Review**  
Present a scoping study on options, implications, and recommendations from the technical advisory and steering committees by summer 2022 (considering a process and timing for a RGS review).
- 2. Airshed Roundtable**  
Support initial action plan development for spring 2022 with specific actions.
- 3. Sustainable Services for the South**  
Pursue a comprehensive approach to essential services for the southern communities of the CVRD, including a Water Masterplan and collaborative Sewer Strategy.
- 4. Agriculture Planning**  
Support rural economic development and agricultural opportunities (includes agricultural planning, food hub feasibility – reporting in 2022).
- 5. Watershed Management**  
Work towards water stewardship across jurisdictions with Regional Water Forum held in October 2021 and Rural Area Watersheds Stewardship Study by spring 2022.
- 6. Emergency Resilience**  
Further develop regional emergency response capacity, particularly related to climate change impacts by enhanced promotion of Neighbourhood Preparedness Program and continuing the FireSmart program.
- 7. Recreation Services**  
Focus on strategic planning, partnerships and facilities upgrades with a focus on asset management.
- 8. Regional Climate Adaptation and Mitigation**  
Implement a decision-making matrix and communications to illustrate progress during spring and summer 2022.





# CVRD Moves Forward on the Long Path of Reconciliation

The work of reconciliation falls to all levels of government and segments of Canadian society. The CVRD's Indigenous Relations Framework and Statement of Reconciliation publicly commits the regional district to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. These words are important but it is following through on our actions that will build the trust needed to move forward together and help our Indigenous community to heal from the devastating and ongoing impacts of colonialism.

To assist in the development of meaningful strategies and actions, the CVRD undertook an Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Assessment in late 2021. This work summarized the CVRD's current policy and practices related to advancing reconciliation and identified a set of strategies and actions that could be undertaken in the mid to long term.

As a result, the CVRD now has a work plan in place that focusses on learning about the impacts of colonialism and establishing relationships based on respect and meaningful actions to move forward. This builds on the

current efforts to enhance cultural awareness for CVRD staff and the community and continued partnership with the K'ómoks First Nation on matters of shared interest. The CVRD remains committed to supporting the Nation in protecting its lands and waters and pursuing economic opportunities for the K'ómoks people.

## CVRD's Workplan Highlights

- Engage Indigenous communities and groups on our path to reconciliation.
- Learn, acknowledge and raise awareness about the impacts of colonialism.
- Establish an Advisory Group on Reconciliation.
- Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Comox Valley Regional District

# Core Services





Comox Valley  
Regional Transit

Safe. Reliable. Affordable.

Help Stop  
Illegal  
Dumping



Another 12 great places to be active for FREE in the Comox Valley

A Guide to  
Cleaner Air  
for Our  
Community



Reducing Wood  
Smoke Pollution  
in the Comox Valley



Comox Valley  
Regional Transit

RIDER'S GUIDE

Effective April 2021  
5th St. Bridge Construction



Royston participates in BC's provincewide  
recycling program managed by



2021 Royston  
Garbage & Recycling  
Collection Schedule



[cswm.ca/recycling](http://cswm.ca/recycling)

# Core Services

While the CVRD has **98 independent functions**, for reporting purposes and defining vision and goals; eight core services focus the regional district's efforts:

**Finance  
and Administration**

**Water Supply**

**Recreation**

**Regional  
Sustainability**

**Sewage Treatment**

**Regional Emergency  
Services**

**Transportation**

**Electoral Area  
Services**

# CORE SERVICES AT WORK



**191**  
contracts &  
agreements in place



**Trails = 160 km**



**1,846**  
building  
inspections  
completed



**810**  
calls dispatched  
by North Island 911



**117**  
planning  
applications



**70,379**  
drop-ins  
(everyone welcome  
and public events)



**50**  
volunteers  
ESS & Emergency  
Radio



**8,749,808**  
cubic meters of  
treated water that  
equals 3,500 Olympic  
swimming pools



**55,115**  
recreation facility  
bookings  
(exclusive use of facility, minor hockey,  
swim club, glacier kings)



**5,496,231**  
cubic meters  
of wastewater  
treated  
(sewage)



**425,000**  
conventional transit rides  
**12,350**  
handydart transit rides



**153**  
new dwellings



**Parks = 1,641 hectares**



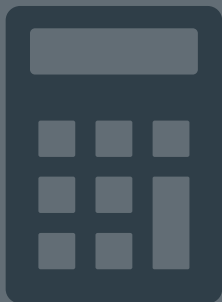
Core Services











## Finance and Administration

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





### Key Service Outcomes

- Fiscal responsibility and management
- Quality information and communication for residents and businesses
- Social procurement
- Partnerships e.g. school district, Elected Officials Forum
- Community leadership (e.g. electric vehicle best practices)
- Maintain relationships with Indigenous peoples



Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives/Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Develop and introduce aspects of the financial stability/sustainable service delivery framework	 	\$	
2. Economic development service review concluded with change in focus to Comox Valley tourism service.	 	\$	
3. Work with our municipal partners on projects and initiatives from conception to delivery. Regular dialogue amongst all Chief Administrative Officers, including relevant senior staff to advance projects of mutual interest and benefit, utilizing Elected Official Forums where appropriate to share information.	  	\$	

#### STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND

-  Fiscal Responsibility
-  Climate Crisis
-  Community Partnerships
-  Indigenous Relations



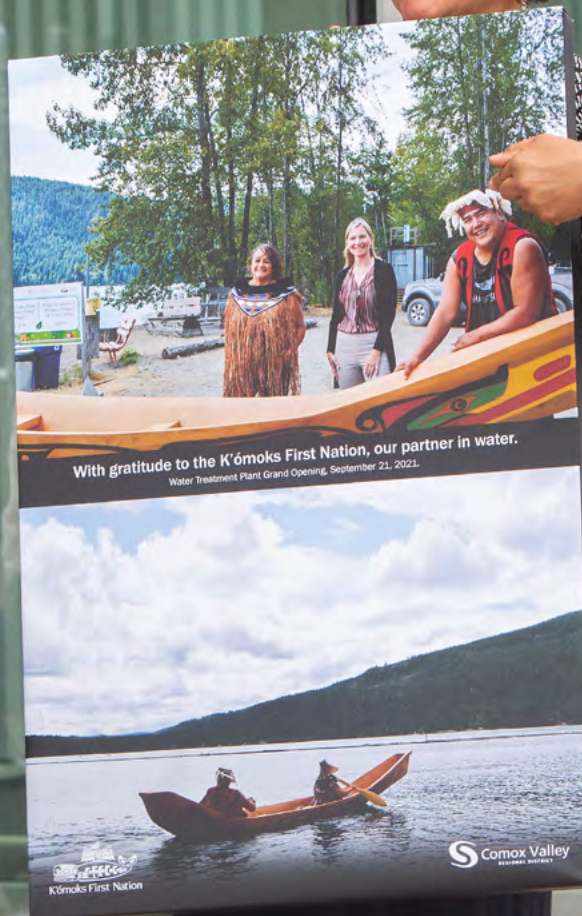
#### 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- Regular upgrades to existing systems (e.g. financial reporting and asset management) to achieve a higher degree of integration and more efficient practices (ongoing)
- Coordinated asset management across all CVRD services (ongoing)
- Supporting K'ómoks First Nation community to community forums, regular project updates with K'ómoks First Nation Chief and Council, broad cultural awareness associated with indigenous relations for staff, elected officials and public (ongoing)
- Develop unified Alternative Approval Process
- Union Bay Improvement District Conversion
- Hornby/Denman Internet Study - service established

# Water Supply

## COMOX VALLEY WATER TREATMENT PROJECT

Comox Valley REGIONAL DISTRICT  
comoxvalley.ca



Hegus Rempel receiving gift at Comox Valley Water Treatment Project opening from Director Morin.

# Core Services

## Water Supply
















### STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND

-  Fiscal Responsibility
-  Climate Crisis
-  Community Partnerships
-  Indigenous Relations

CVRD owns and operates water supply systems that provide treated water, either in bulk or directly to 60,000 residents in Courtenay, Comox, parts of the surrounding electoral areas including Union Bay, Black Creek, Saratoga Beach and Denman Island. In the largest system, water from Comox Lake is treated with filtration, chlorination and ultraviolet and then flows through a network of reservoirs, pumping stations and transmission mains or pipes. Distribution to residents and businesses is managed by municipalities and individual electoral area water services.

### Key Service Outcomes

- High quality water
- An adequate water supply to accommodate current and future demands
- Water conservation (reduction of per capita usage)
- Reliable and resilient infrastructure
- Source and infrastructure resiliency to climate change impacts
- Affordable water
- Positive K'ómoks First Nation relations regarding water supply
- Protected watersheds
- Reduced conflicts with watershed recreational users

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives/Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Ongoing implementation of the Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Municipal natural assets inventory</li> <li>b. Future use consideration of Coal Beach property</li> <li>c. Perseverance Creek risk reduction</li> </ul>	   	\$\$	
2. Consideration of southern communities for expanded services (aligned with RGS goals and objectives)	   	\$\$\$	  
3. Explore broader CVRD watershed protection (e.g. Langley Lake, Black Creek, Oyster Bay, Union Bay)	 	\$	



### 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- Completion of the Water Treatment Project



## New Water Treatment Plant Brings Fresh Flow to Valley Residents

We are very proud of the hard work done to complete our new modern water treatment facility at 4701 Lake Trail Road, in operation since September 2021.

The new plant meets all regulatory standards, removing the need for turbidity-related boil water notices. This means a reliable source of fresh, filtered and fully disinfected drinking water will be flowing to 50,000 Comox Valley residents for generations to come, offering security to residents, businesses and services throughout the region.

### Benefits at a Glance

The new system includes three levels of treatment and removes the risks of viruses and bacteria.

Key components:

- Lake intake accesses water found deeper in the lake
- Raw water pump station near the intake
- Raw water pipeline from pump station to the treatment plant
- Water treatment plant includes filtration, UV treatment and disinfection
- Treated water pipeline from the plant, connecting the existing water distribution system

### Timeline

Careful management of this project has been a key priority, and construction milestones were met on time and on budget for a successful end result:

**Fall 2018** Federal-provincial funding of \$62.8 million secured

**July 2019** Construction contract awarded

**Oct 2019** Construction kick off

**Dec 2020** Raw water main completed

**June 2021** Commissioning of system begins

**Sept 2021** Treatment system operational

For more information about the project visit: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watertreatment](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watertreatment)



*Back Row (left to right): Director Doug Hillian, K'ómoks Councillor Richard Hardy, Director Daniel Arbour, Mayor Russ Arnott, Director Will Cole-Hamilton, Chair Jesse Ketler*

*Front Row (left to right): Director Melanie McCollum, MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard, Cole Diplock (Island Health), Mayor Bob Wells, Hegus Rempel, Water Committee Chair Wendy Morin, Director Maureen Swift, Director Arzeena Hamir*



Core Services

# Recreation

## STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND



Fiscal Responsibility



Climate Crisis



Community Partnerships



Indigenous Relations













CVRD owns and operates the Comox Valley Aquatic Centre (pool facilities), Comox Valley Sports Centre (two ice sheets, wellness centre and pool facilities), Comox Valley Curling Centre, track and synthetic turf field and the Exhibition Grounds. Administration and operation oversight of the facilities and programs is delegated to the Comox Valley Recreation Commission.

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

### Key Service Outcomes

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

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives/Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Implementation of the CVRD Sports Centre Strategic Plan 2019 - 2021 (Recreation Commission will revisit strategic plan early in 2023)		\$	
2. Implementation of a low-income regional pass		\$	
3. Facility upgrades – construction / improvements at Sports Centre and during prolonged facility shut down at Aquatic Centre which includes energy reduction improvements such as switching to LED lighting, evaluating heat reclamation potential and acquisition of an electric ice resurfacing equipment		\$\$	
4. Exhibition Grounds be considered for expanded use for agriculture and outdoor recreation purposes		\$	
5. Discussion of recreation grants and governance		\$	



### 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- Enhanced programming with K'ómoks First Nation and Indigenous involvement moved to core work.
- Significant upgrades to the Sports & Aquatic centre and an electric Zamboni for the ice rink.
- Implementation of low-income regional pass

## Working Together to Determine the Future of Recreation in the Comox Valley

The goal for the future of recreation services in the CVRD is to provide lively, accessible and inclusive recreation facilities that, in combination with the local municipal facilities, support the pursuit of healthy active lifestyles for Comox Valley residents of all abilities, ages, and pursuits.

Early in 2022, the CVRD started three strategies that will inform and engage the public on our priority recreation services, and help us ensure long-term facility plans and fiscal responsibilities will align with community expectations.

### Aquatics Strategy

Joining forces with the City of Courtenay, the CVRD is looking at the community-wide aquatics strategy that will shape the future of public swimming in the region for the next 25 years. Our valuable partnership will include public feedback to help guide decision-making about our aquatic facilities and services for years to come.

### Adult Ice Use Planning

The CVRD is seeking to collect input about the use of district ice facilities by adults in the community. Using a series of surveys and stakeholder engagement sessions, the CVRD is collecting information about how facilities are used now, how people would like to use them in the future, and how ice allocation can meet goals moving forward. Youth programming is not included in this review, as it is already given priority access through current policy.

### Sports Fields Assessment

In order to gauge the needs of our growing communities that continue to see changes in demographics and sports field needs, the CVRD is working alongside our neighbouring municipalities to consult and collaborate with residents, local clubs, organizations and stakeholders to review the current field conditions, and allocation process to ensure fields are being used to their fullest capacity, and shared equitably.

All three of these actions will be completed in mid-2022, providing the CVRD's Recreation Commission with the information needed to plan into the future for critical community recreation facilities.

For more information on CVRD recreation services, visit:  
[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentprojects](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentprojects)





# Regional Sustainability



Fresh produce from the Comox Valley  
Farmers Market



Core Services

# Regional Sustainability

## STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND

-  Fiscal Responsibility
-  Climate Crisis
-  Community Partnerships
-  Indigenous Relations



























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

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

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

## Key Service Outcomes

- Settlement that is socially, economically, environmentally healthy
- Housing supply for current and future needs
- Affordable housing
- Affordable servicing
- Partnerships with K'ómoks First Nation and other organizations
- Improved air quality
- RGS monitoring and evaluation
- Planning and implementation for climate change
- Robust and resilient food system

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives/Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Annual air quality framework identified to improve Comox Valley air quality	 	\$\$	
2. Review of the RGS (scoping)	  	\$\$	 
3. Use of RGS Technical Advisory Committee to collaborate on regional interests		\$	
4. Exploring potential for regional food hub	 	\$	
5. Evaluation and reporting framework (dashboard) and data collection; integrating RGS principles with climate crisis response	 	\$	
6. Climate change mitigation and adaptation planning (across services, work with municipalities)	 	\$	
7. Poverty Reduction Strategy		\$	
8. Regional Parks – Feasibility with Municipal Partners	   	\$	



## 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- Completion of poverty reduction strategy
- Built the RGS Hub (launch in 2022)
- Completed year 2 of the Airshed Roundtable project

# Sewage Treatment



Comox Valley Water Pollution  
Control Centre in Electoral Area B



## Core Services

# Sewage Treatment

### STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Climate Crisis
- Community Partnerships
- Indigenous Relations

The CVRD delivers sewage treatment for Comox, Courtenay, K'ómoks First Nation, CFB Comox (19 Wing) and several rural areas. The CVRD also provides liquid waste management planning across the Comox Valley and is working to extend sewer services to southern communities including Royston and Union Bay.

The Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (sewage treatment plant), commissioned in 1984, is a secondary wastewater treatment facility. Decisions on the operation and administration of the sewage treatment plant and conveyance system for Comox and Courtenay are delegated to the Comox Valley Sewage Commission.

### Key Service Outcomes

- Managed assets
- Affordable service
- Infrastructure resiliency to climate change impacts
- Partnerships with K'ómoks First Nation
- Reduced storm water infiltration
- Willemar Bluff risk reduction

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives/Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Comox Valley Liquid Waste Management Planning (LWMP) to select optimal conveyance solution, level of treatment for the sewage treatment plant and explore opportunities for further resource recovery		\$\$	
2. Comox Valley Sewer Conveyance Project		\$\$\$	
3. Upgrades and equipment at the Sewage Treatment Plant to address odour, good neighbour, operations		\$\$	
4. Advance collaborative sewer services, in particular through decisions to treat wastewater from Royston and Union Bay at the sewage treatment plant		\$\$	



### 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- Major capital upgrades at the biosolids compost facility to increase the capacity by 50 per cent
- Odour Control upgrades at the Sewage Treatment Plant were completed in 2021

## Overhauling Liquid Waste Management in the Comox Valley

The CVRD moved important sewer projects forward this year, setting a path for wastewater management that will ensure the environment is protected for years to come.

### **Liquid Waste Management Plan + Conveyance Project**

The Comox Valley Sewer Conveyance Project is an \$82 million multi-year construction project to replace the at-risk pipes and upgrade the pump stations that move more than 14,000 cubic metres of raw sewage each day.

The project stems from the Comox Valley Sewer Service Liquid Waste Management Plan draft which was completed in 2021. The plan seeks to map out a long term strategy for Liquid Waste Management which includes moving sewer pipes away from Willemar Bluffs, where they are currently vulnerable to damage by waves, rocks

and logs and pose an environmental risk to beaches and waters throughout the area.

Moving forward, the CVRD is working with the K'ómoks First Nation to protect archaeologically sensitive areas, and with the Town of Comox to mitigate community impacts.

For more information visit:

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/conveyanceproject](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/conveyanceproject)

### **Sewer Extension South Project**

Wastewater management has been a regular topic for Royston and Union Bay over the years and work is ongoing to find a sewer solution for the south.

This area is a priority due to the environmental risk caused by failing septic systems and the potential for longer term population growth.

The project has been divided into two phases, with the first phase focusing on Union Bay and areas in Royston that are at higher risk of septic failure. The CVRD has applied for grant funding for the first phase of the project.

More information about this project and opportunities to engage will be available soon.

More information is available at:

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sewerextension](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sewerextension)





EQ Basins at the Comox Valley  
Pollution Control Centre



# Regional Emergency Services



Emergency wildfire exercise on Denman Island.



Core Services

# Regional Emergency Services

## STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND

-  Fiscal Responsibility
-  Climate Crisis
-  Community Partnerships
-  Indigenous Relations


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

The CVRD administers and collaborates on the operation of the regional emergency operation centre in emergency situations.

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

## Key Service Outcomes

- Emergency prevention and mitigation
- Emergency Operations Centre preparedness
- Business and resident emergency preparedness
- Support staff and volunteers who assist the emergency programs and emergency services
- K'ómoks First Nation partnerships, engagement and bridging
- Emergency food supply preparedness

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives/Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Completion of the new Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) - developing, training, and implementing the EOC personnel plan capable of filling three shifts for a stage 3 activation	  	\$	
2. Preparation for 2022 earthquake emergency exercise (Fracture on Fifth)		\$\$	
3. Completion of Merville Fire Services Building		\$\$	
4. Approval for Mount Washington Fire Service Building	 	\$\$	
5. Community Fire Smart Program and wildfire protection planning	 	\$	
6. Develop a Regional Emergency Program Service delivery model (incorporating EOC After Action Report findings)	 	\$	



## 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- National Disaster Mitigation Program - Flood Risk Mapping for entire CVRD Coastline, in collaboration with CVRD Planning
- Response for emergency health events
- Fire Smart Program - K'ómoks engagement and Chipper Program

## Community Gives Back with Emergency Warming Centre

Unprecedented and prolonged freezing temperatures this winter proved challenging for many on the island, but it didn't stop local governments, businesses, organizations, and citizens from stepping up to help those in need. In December 2021, a temporary Extreme Weather Warming Centre in the Comox Valley was established through the Comox Valley Emergency Program (CVEP) and funded through Emergency Management BC (EMBC).

### About the Centre

The centre was open between December 26 and January 2, 2022, at the CVRD's Civic Room in Courtenay to offer underhoused residents with additional refuge from freezing overnight temperatures. As the extreme weather forecast continued into January, further funding was granted by EMBC.

CVEP continued working with Comox Valley Street Outreach and Community Cares Peer Outreach workers to run the centre at Salvation Army locations between January 2–12.

### At a Glance

Visitors were mostly local, with some employed in the area but unable to find permanent safe housing. Collected data includes:

- **Visitors during operation:** 370
- **Average age of visitors:** under 40
- **Visitors identifying as male:** 65%

### Making it Happen

This project could not have been possible without the comprehensive community partnerships that made it happen. From the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland, CVRD and K'ómoks First Nation to numerous business members offering in-kind donations of fresh food and last-minute essentials.

Community organizations including the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, and Indigenous Women's Sharing Society, provided ongoing support and services.

Citizens also donated items like blankets, warm clothing and games, while on-site security was provided by Safety Net Security at all three locations.

ING CENTRE 8PM

-8 AM



Comox Valley  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

770 HARMISTON AVENUE

# Transportation





Core Services

# Transportation

## STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND



Fiscal Responsibility



Climate Crisis



Community Partnerships















Indigenous Relations

The key focus areas for Transportation include improved mobility options for residents, reducing Green House Gas emissions, and providing convenient, affordable, safe alternatives to automobiles within the community.

The Comox Valley Transit System, in partnership with BC Transit, forms a large component of the CVRD's approach to transportation.

## Key Service Outcomes

- Affordable fares
- Access equity
- Greenhouse gas reduction
- Alternative services in rural areas
- Access for high need users to services e.g. food bank, farmers market
- Integration with School District 71 student transportation needs
- Mode shift from single occupancy vehicles to alternative modes

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives / Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Annual Transit Improvement Plans based on BC Transit and local input	 	\$\$	
2. Development of a Transit Future Action Plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. review mode share targets and service levels</li> <li>b. local government land use and transportation plans and</li> <li>c. identify future service and infrastructure needs and cost implications</li> </ul>	   	\$	
3. Transportation Alternatives Assessment (mobility primer)	  	\$	

# Electoral Area Services



Enjoying a horseback ride in  
Seal Bay Nature Park



Core Services

# Electoral Area Services

## STRATEGIC DRIVERS LEGEND

-  Fiscal Responsibility
-  Climate Crisis
-  Community Partnerships
-  Indigenous Relations

CVRD delivers local government and services to electoral areas (street lighting, land use planning, fire protection, building inspection, bylaw compliance, water distribution, Islands-based services, parks, heritage conservation, community hall supports, community grants and more). Electoral area directors advocate for services with the CVRD itself, senior government, and other stakeholders.

## Key Service Outcomes

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

Key 2019 - 2022 Initiatives / Directions	Strategic Drivers	Cost	Public Engagement
1. Analysis for rural roadside garbage, recycling, and organics collection through regional solid waste plan review	  	\$	
2. Septic regulation / education (continued investigation)	   	\$	
3. Agricultural planning: Exploring potential for regional food hub	   	\$	
4. Official Community Plan updates: Saratoga settlement node (operational)	  	\$\$	
5. Official Community Plan updates: Development permit revisions (operational)	  	\$	
6. Building inspection department to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. pursue software that promotes virtual operations and remote procedures</li> <li>b. rewrite building inspection bylaw for clarity</li> </ul>	  	\$	
7. Parks and Greenways Strategic Implementation	  	\$	



## 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments

- Grant Programs and Community Hall Services (moved to core work)
- Saratoga Beach Mosquito Control Service – Elector approval received and program commences in 2022
- Coastal Flood Plain Mapping Project



## qax mot Conservation Area: Medicine for the Soul

In November 2021, the CVRD announced the official opening of the qax mot Conservation Area, a 22-hectare park located at the headwaters of Morrison Creek.

This park protects nearby aquatic and riparian habitats with a name that holds deep meaning and references the history of the land.

This naming project, conducted in partnership with the K'omoks First Nation, is a shining example of how we can work together to support Indigenous reconciliation and the Indigenous connection to the land through the promotion and acknowledgment of local first nation language.

### Behind the Name

After consulting with Elders and knowledge keepers, Hegus Rempel advised the CVRD that the K'ómoks people had chosen the name qax mot, which means 'lots of medicine' in the traditional *ayájuθəm* (ayajuthem) language. Ayajuthem is a Coast Salish language shared between the peoples of K'ómoks, Tla'amin, Homalco and Klahoose. qax mot is pronounced 'qah (with an emphasis on the h) mote'. According to Hegus Rempel, the ayajuthem name recognizes the long history of First Nation peoples' traditional use of the land, as well as the culturally important practice of medicinal plant gathering.

### Did You Know?

The park protects a portion of Morrison Creek which is characterized by cool, clean, year round flows that originate from spring sources in the headwaters.

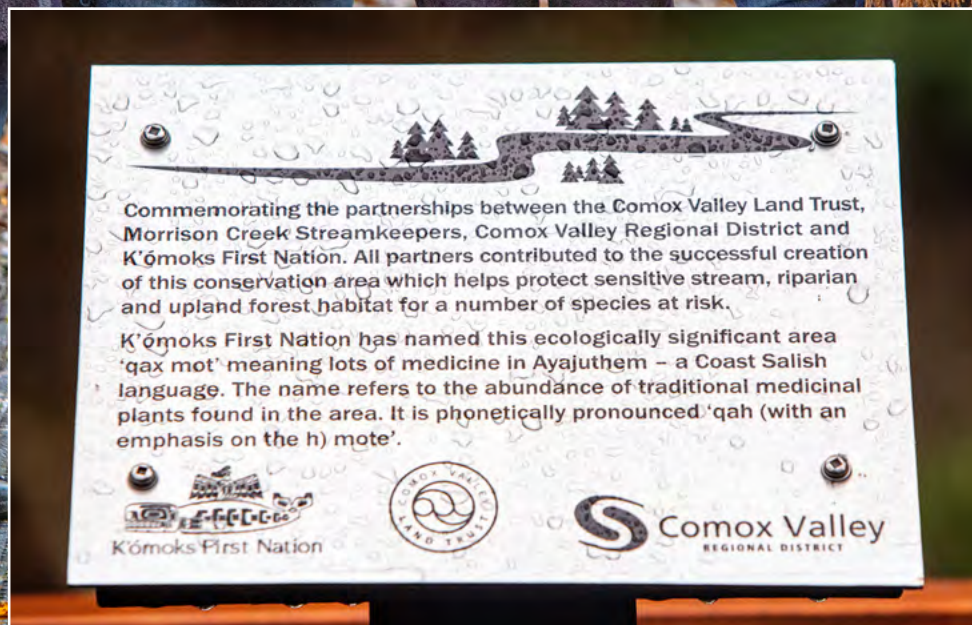
The watershed provides important fish habitat for pink, coho, chinook, and chum salmon, resident and sea-going cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout, Dolly Varden char, and three types of lamprey; Pacific lamprey, the Western brook lamprey, and the Morrison Creek Lamprey (found only in Morrison Creek).

For more information visit: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/qaxmot](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/qaxmot)





CVRD Board Chair Jesse Ketler, Electoral Area C Director Edwin Grieve, Morrison Creek Streamkeepers Director Jan Gemmell, Comox Valley Land Trust Tim Ennis, and K'ómoks Hegus Nicole Rempel





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