# GLOSSARY

# A

### Accessibility
See Universal Design.

### Accessible Housing
Living accommodation that includes features that meet the needs of a person with a disability. Most accessible houses feature open turning spaces within rooms, wheel-in shower stalls, and kitchen work surfaces with knee space below.

### Active Transportation
The movement of people or goods powered by human activity. Active transportation includes walking, cycling and the use of human powered or hybrid mobility aids such as wheelchairs, scooters, e-bikes, and rollerblades.

### Adaptable Unit
A unit designed to be adapted economically at a later date to accommodate someone with a disability. Common features include removable cupboards in a kitchen or bathroom to create knee space for a wheelchair user, or a knock-out floor panel in a closet to allow installation of an elevator.

### Adaptation
Actions taken to cope with, or adjust to, a changing climate.

### Adaptive Reuse
A process that adapts an older, neglected, or heritage building and repurposes it for a new use, typically retaining some of the building's historical aspects. Adaptive reuse can provide cost and resource savings on building materials.

### Age-in-place
Having the health and social supports and services a person needs to live safely and independently in their home or their community for as long as they wish and are able.

### Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
Lands designated by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to be preserved for agricultural use or uses that are compatible with agricultural purposes. The ALC decides on requests for inclusion, exclusion, subdivision, and non-farm use of ALR lands.

### Amenity Spaces
Common spaces within residential developments available for residents' use. Amenity spaces may include community gardens, patios, children's play areas, party rooms, pools, gyms, lounges, and other features.

### Approving Officer
An official appointed under the *Land Title Act* who is authorized by the *Land Title Act*, *Strata Properties Act*, *Real Estate Development and Marketing Act*, and *Local Government Act of British Columbia* to approve or disapprove subdivisions.

### Area Plan
A plan prepared for a specific and defined subarea of the city, which is adopted by bylaw and forms part of the city's *Official Community Plan* (OCP). An Area Plan must fully meet the goals and policies of the OCP and complement the vision, goals, desired outcomes, and policies established by the OCP.

# B

### Below-market Rental Housing
Housing with rents equal to, or lower than, average rates in private-market rental housing.

### Biodiversity
The variety of life within a particular habitat or ecosystem.

### Biogas
A renewable source of methane gas, created when organic matter breaks down in an oxygen-free environment.

### Blue Network

The system of watercourses within a city such as rivers, creeks, lakes, and marine areas.

### Broadband

A term used to mean any high-speed internet access that is always on and faster than dial-up access over traditional analog systems. Broadband is often associated with fibre optic delivery and wifi coverage.

### Brownfield

An abandoned, vacant, derelict, or underutilized commercial, industrial, or institutional property where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination or threats to public health and safety, and where there is active potential for redevelopment.

### Business Continuity Planning

Critical services or products are those that must be delivered to ensure survival, avoid causing injury, and meet legal or other obligations of an organization. Business Continuity Planning is a proactive planning process that ensures critical services or products are delivered during a disruption. A Business Continuity Plan includes: plans, measures, and arrangements to ensure the continuous delivery of critical services and products, which permits the organization to recover its facility, data, and assets; and identification of necessary resources to support business continuity, including personnel, information, equipment, financial allocations, legal counsel, infrastructure protection, and accommodations.

# C

### Carbon Sequestration / Removal

Natural or technological processes that provide long term storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

### Character / Neighbourhood Character

The look and feel of an area. Elements that lend to neighbourhood character include consistency of urban and architectural design, complexity, and scale.

### Circular Economy

A model of sustainable production and consumption designed to benefit society, its economy, and the environment. In contrast to the "take-make-waste" linear model, a circular economy is regenerative by design. It aims to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in circulation, and regenerate natural systems. In a circular economy, products are made to last longer; communities share resources; and businesses lease, reuse, repair, refurbish, repurpose, and remanufacture products and recycle materials for as long as possible.

### City

In *City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined*, the word "city" (not capitalized) refers to the area within the boundaries of Nanaimo, while "City" (capitalized) refers to the corporate municipality of Nanaimo.

### Climate Change Adaptation

Actions that reduce the negative impacts of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities to effectively deal with a variable climate. Climate change adaptation may involve the adjustment of policies and actions as a result of observed or anticipated changes in climate. Adaptation can be reactive, occurring in response to climate impacts, or anticipatory, occurring before impacts of climate change are observed. In most circumstances, anticipatory adaptations result in lower long term costs and are more effective than reactive adaptations.

## Clustered Housing (Cluster Housing / Clustered Residential)

S form of residential development that attempts to concentrate development in a portion of a land parcel, leaving the rest of the parcel in a relatively undisturbed state. This form is particularly useful in attempting to protect environmentally sensitive areas, naturally hazardous areas, farm and forest land, recreational land, and greenbelt areas. Clustered housing may be in the form of detached housing (often with reduced yard setbacks) or various forms of attached housing (duplexes, triplexes, townhouse complexes). Common driveways, parking areas, and other common facilities may also be incorporated. The "co-housing" philosophy of communal design and living is sometimes used in clustered housing development.

## Community Services

Services, facilities, and programs that are established for general use by Nanaimo community members.

## Community Wellbeing

The combination of social, economic, environmental, recreational, health, cultural, and political conditions that are essential for individuals and communities to flourish and fulfill their potential.

## Complete Community

A planning concept to design neighbourhoods so housing is close to employment, daily needs, and transit to encourage sustainable modes of transportation, promote sustainability, and foster a healthy, connected lifestyle that enhances community wellbeing.

## Complete Street

Streets that help create more livable neighbourhoods by enabling people to travel using all modes, including by foot, bicycle, transit, and automobile. They improve safety and accessibility for all road users, provide infrastructure for all modes of transportation, and create attractive streetscapes and public spaces.

## Conservation Covenant

A voluntary agreement between a land owner and a second party (such as a municipality, government agency, or land trust of other non-governmental organization) in which the land owner agrees to certain restrictions on the land use to conserve important natural features. The covenant is registered on the property title and it runs in perpetuity. Owners are free to sell, leave, or otherwise deal with their property within the boundaries of the covenant. Conservation covenants are permitted and registered under the *Land Title Act*.

## Constructed Wetland

Engineer-designed and built systems that use natural processes to capture stormwater or treat greywater, sewage, or wastewater by using the natural functions of wetland vegetation and soils.

## Contaminated Sites

Lands or water that contained past industrial practices or were used to handle various mineral, chemical, and petroleum products and are deemed to be contaminated by standards determined by the Province of British Columbia. Use of these areas could present a hazard to human and environmental health and safety.

## Corridors

The linear focal areas for higher levels of residential densities, services, and amenities in the city on lands adjacent to urban arterials and major collector roads as designated in *City Plan*. Corridors are intended to be the focus of medium-density residential and mixed-use development, particularly with commercial or public space at ground level with residential in the storeys above.

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

An approach and set of principles to design buildings, structures, and the open spaces surrounding them to reduce opportunities for crime and to increase public safety.

### Crown Lands

Untitled lands owned and administered by the Provincial or Federal governments or their agencies.

### Cultural Hub

A lively and vibrant atmosphere supported by public plazas, visible arts, outdoor markets, and performance spaces.

### Culture

A term used when there is a focus on arts, heritage (natural and cultural), and the creative economy. Cultural facilities can include theatres, galleries, museums, performance spaces, and similar amenities.

# D

### Dark Sky Principles

Dark Sky Principles are based on providing responsible outdoor lighting so it does not cause light pollution or be harmful to the environment. Key principles include useful (all light should have a clear purpose); targeted to only where light is needed; low light levels; controlled; and warmer colours where possible.

### Daylighting

Daylighting watercourses typically includes removing storm drainage piping, opening up previously buried watercourses, and restoring them to more natural conditions.

### Desired Outcome

A desired future state for the City of Nanaimo achieved through implementation of the policies of *City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined* and supporting our goals.

### Destination Park

A large greenspace or recreational / cultural facility that is a city-wide or regional draw for all residents, creating a hub for social activity, sport, relaxation, and access to nature.

### Development Permit (DP)

A development permit is a land use management tool intended to ensure development is undertaken in a manner consistent with the purpose and objectives of a designated Development Permit Area.

### Development Permit Area (DPA)

Under the authority granted by the *Local Government Act*, an area of land deemed to have special values or contain elements that require an additional level of review and consideration prior to land development is called a DPA. A DPA designation is established in the community's *Official Community Plan*. The objectives of the DPA are realized through the issuance of Development Permits, which outlines the provisions under which development can occur.

### Diversity

Differences in racial and ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic, and academic / professional backgrounds; people with different opinions, backgrounds (degrees and social experience), religious beliefs, political beliefs, sexual orientations, heritage, mental or physical abilities, learning style, gender identity, and life experience.

### Doughnut Economics

A visual concept and way of thinking for the 21st century that envisions a "doughnut" — an ideal safe and just space for humanity that lies between the social foundation of human wellbeing and the ecological ceiling of planetary pressure. The concept was first published in an Oxfam report by Kate Raworth.

### Duplex

A structure containing two (2) dwelling units within one (1) building located on a single lot, and which is used or intended to be used as the residence of two (2) families.

# E

## Ecological Function
The work performed or role played individually or collectively by the physical, chemical, and biological processes that contribute to the maintenance of the aquatic and terrestrial environments that constitute the natural environment.

## Economic Capital
The amount of capital an organization needs to survive any risks that it takes. It is a risk management tool.

## Economic Driver Industries
Industries that play a key role in the economic vitality of a region by supplying quality, often high paying jobs, while also supporting job growth in other industries. These industries function as primary engines for economic growth and stability.

## Ecosystem
A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

## Electric Vehicle (EV)
See Zero-Emission vehicle.

## Emergency Management
The cooperative coordination and management of risks from major emergencies and disasters affecting the community and includes preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery in an atmosphere of continuous improvement.

## Emergency Preparedness
All activities, such as plans, procedures, contact lists and exercises, undertaken in anticipation of a likely emergency. The goal of these preparedness activities is to make sure that the City is ready and able to respond quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency.

## Emergency Response
A process involving repeated assessment, planning, action, and review, to respond appropriately to needs and capacities as they evolve.

## Environmental Assessment
An environmental assessment is conducted by a qualified professional and is intended to identify the environmentally sensitive characteristics of a site; specify measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts; and specify measures to restore habitat damaged during development.

## Environmental Capital
All of the natural resources found within an area including both renewable (e.g., trees) and non-renewable (e.g., oil and gas) assets.

## Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)
Lands designated as having specific and identified environmental values requiring a higher level of protection. An ESA is an area that provides productive fish or wildlife habitat; contains sensitive, rare, or depleted ecosystems and landforms; and/or represents sites of Nanaimo's natural diversity that are in danger of disappearing. ESAs provide habitat for endangered species of native, rare vegetation or wildlife, and provide wildlife corridors and secondary habitat within the city.

## Equality
Ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to live their best life.

## Equity
Treating everyone fairly by acknowledging their unique situation and addressing systemic barriers. The aim of equity is to ensure that everyone has access to equal benefits and outcomes.

## Equity Lens
A way of looking at policies and practices to prioritize inclusion at the development stage, rather than in an already-created system.

### Erosion

A natural process that happens along shorelines, embankments, rock formations, and when stormwater runoff from heavy rain carries away the top layers of soil.

### Estuary

The area where a freshwater source (a river or stream) empties into a body of saltwater (such as the Strait of Georgia). The mixture of freshwater and saltwater creates a highly sensitive and unique habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

# F

### Fine-Grained Street Network

A street pattern that is easily navigable with blocks that are not too big, intersections that are not too far apart, and many options that provide direct routes, helping minimize distances travelled to reach destinations.

### First Nations

Indigenous peoples in Canada who are not Métis or Inuit. First Nations people are the original inhabitants of the land that is now Canada, and were the first to encounter sustained European contact, settlement, and trade.

### Food Justice

Food justice seeks to ensure that the benefits and risks of where, what, and how food is grown, produced, transported, distributed, accessed, and eaten are shared fairly. Food justice represents a transformation of the current food system, including but not limited to, eliminating disparities and inequities (adapted from *Food Justice,* Robert Gottlied and Joshi Anupama).

### Food Security

The measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it.

### Food Sovereignty

The right of peoples and communities to define and control their own food systems (adapted from *People's Food Policy for Canada*, Food Secure Canada).

### Food Systems

An interconnected web of activities, resources, and people that extends across all domains involved in providing human nourishment and sustaining health (adapted from *Food, Farms, and Community: Exploring Food Systems,* Lisa Chase and Vern Grubinger).

### Fossil Fuels

Fuels such as coal, gasoline, natural gas, oil, diesel, etc. that are sourced from organic materials formed over a long geological time period.

### Frequent Transit Network

The set of interconnected transit routes that connect high density, mixed-use Urban Centres and Corridors with service that is frequent all day, every day of the week, to provide an attractive transportation choice for residents living and working within these areas. The transit industry typically assumes the threshold is every 15 minutes or better, 15 hours a day, 7 days a week.

# G

### Goal

A desired end state that policies and implementation actions strive to achieve.

### Green Building

A building that, in its design, construction, or operation, reduces or eliminates negative impacts, and can create positive impacts on the climate and natural environment. Green buildings preserve precious natural resources and improve quality of life.

### Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Carbon dioxide and other chemicals such as methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases that are released into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change by trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. GHG emissions increases are primarily due to human activities such as the use of fossil fuels and/or agriculture activities.

### Green Infrastructure

Enhanced and engineered ecological assets designed to mimic and maintain connectivity with natural systems. By integrating ecological principles, green infrastructure techniques aim to deviate from natural processes as little as possible, delivering social and economic benefits, and building resiliency to the pressures of climate change.

### Green Network

The network focused on habitat values and ecosystem services – in waterfronts, lakes, watercourses, forests, and integrated across developed areas in the sponge of absorbent soils and cover of vegetation.

### Green Roof

A green roof or living roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and planted over a waterproofing membrane.

### Greenspace

Areas within an urban environment that are dedicated to vegetation, trees, and nature such as parks, forests, greenways, or wetlands.

### Greenway

A network or strip of undeveloped land within an urban area used for recreational use or environmental protection. See Habitat Greenway and Recreational Greenway.

### Ground-oriented

Buildings typically three storeys or lower that offer individual entrances to residential units without the use of shared corridors, lobbies, or hallways. Examples include fourplexes and row housing.

### Growth Management

How we separate urban and rural areas, to help focus growth in a way that creates more complete communities and supports protection of sensitive natural areas and productive lands.

# H

### Habitat Greenway

A linear corridor of greenspace that is integral to the protection and connection of ecological structure, function, and habitat. See Greenway and Recreational Greenway.

### Hazard

A danger or a risk to a community.

### Hazard Management

A holistic approach to defining problems and identifying hazards, gathering information about those hazards, and assessing risks, and then solving, controlling, and mitigating those risks.

### Health Promotion

The process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health. It moves beyond a focus on individual behaviour towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions. As a core function of public health, health promotion supports governments, communities, and individuals to cope with and address health challenges.

### Heat Island Effect

An urban area in which significantly more heat is absorbed and retained than in surrounding areas.

### Heat Pump
A high efficiency appliance that uses electricity to heat a home in the winter and cool it in the summer. A heat pump can fully replace an existing heating or hot water system to significantly reduce a home's carbon pollution, while improving indoor air quality.

### Heritage
Heritage resources, tangible and intangible, including historic buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, First Nations cultural heritage sites, oral traditions, social practices, knowledge, and craftsmanship.

### Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)
A distinctive area with special heritage character and value which is worth long term heritage protection. An HCA is identified in *City Plan* as an area to be managed for heritage conservation.

### Heritage Register
A list of buildings, structures, or sites that have been recognized by Council as having heritage value.

### High-rise
High-rise building forms are a residential or commercial structure greater than twelve storeys in height.

### Homeless
An individual or family that does not have a permanent address or residence.

### Housing Continuum
Describes a range of housing in a community and illustrates both market and non-market housing. Non-market housing refers to housing below market rents or prices, ranging from emergency shelters to various forms of supportive housing and housing co-operatives. Moving across the continuum to the right is market rental housing and home ownership (see Figure A below).

### Housing Legacy Reserve Fund (HLRF)
A City-established reserve fund to be used to support affordable and supportive housing development in the community through actions including, but not limited to, property acquisition and capital investment.
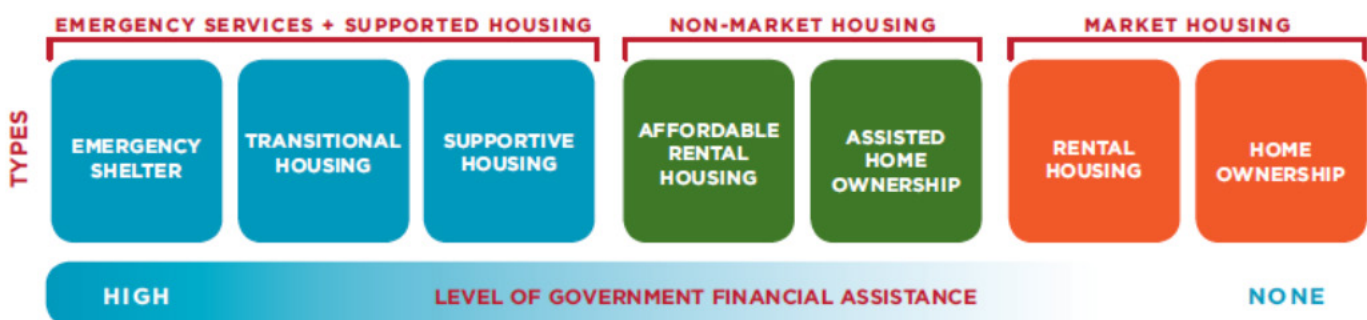
### Housing Starts
An economic indicator that is defined as the number of new residential construction projects that begin on-site construction work in any given month.

### Hydrologic Function
The soil, stream, wetland and riparian area properties related to the storage, timing, distribution, and circulation of water.

**Figure A: Housing Continuum**
Source: 2018 *Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy*

# I

## Indigenous Food Sovereignty (IFS)

The present day strategies that enable and support the ability of Indigenous communities to sustain traditional hunting, fishing, gathering, farming, and distribution practices as has been done for thousands of years prior to contact with the first European settlers. IFS also provides a framework for exploring, transforming, and rebuilding the industrial food system towards a more just and ecological model for all (adapted from *Food Sovereignty in Canada*, Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Dawn Morrison).

## Industrial Collector Street

A street classification connected with the Industrial land use designation, serve a range of industrial uses including industrial parks, technology, research and development, warehousing, and distribution. Industrial Collector Streets, feature wide travel lanes, parking pockets, and corner radii to accommodate larger design vehicles. Pedestrians and cyclists are typically provided with their own separated sidewalk and bike path respectively.

## Industrial Lands

Lands used primarily for the manufacturing, processing, and transportation / warehousing of goods, also including wholesale trade, retail trade and professional / technical services. Industrial lands are sometimes referred to as employment lands.

## Industrial Local Street

A street classification connected with the Industrial land use designation, serve a range of industrial uses including industrial parks, technology, research and development, warehousing and distribution. Industrial Local Streets feature wider travel lanes and parking lanes due to the likelihood of a higher volume of trucks on these streets. As pedestrian volumes are expected to be lower than other street types and to reduce right-of-way requirements, cyclists may share a multi-use path with pedestrians.

## Inclusion

The process of improving the terms of participation in society for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status, through enhanced opportunities, access to resources, voice, and respect for rights.

## Inclusivity

The practice (or policy) of ensuring fair and equal access to opportunities and resources to those who otherwise might be excluded or marginalized.

## Indigenous peoples

People who have existed in an area of a given region before other settlers. There are three categories of Indigenous peoples in Canada: Inuit, Métis, and First Nations.

## Information and Communication Technologies

A diverse set of technological tools and resources used to transmit, store, create, share, or exchange information. These technological tools and resources include computers, the internet (websites, blogs, and emails), live broadcasting technologies (radio, television, and webcasting), recorded broadcasting technologies (podcasting, audio and video players, and storage devices) and telephone (fixed or mobile, satellite, video-conferencing, etc).

## Infrastructure

Physical assets to deliver community services, such as water, storm, and sewer services, utilities, roads, and trails. Infrastructure may be considered "grey" (asphalt, pipes) or "green" (streams, wetlands).

## Intergenerational Living

Opportunities for residents to live, work, socialize, and enjoy leisure in their neighbourhoods and their community through all stages of their lives.

# J

# K

# L

## Land Capacity Analysis

Analysis that aims to use population, employment growth, and land use data to gain knowledge of the capacity of existing lands and understand potential demand for planning purposes.

## Land Use

A term or category used to describe the activity or use of land.

## Large Box Retailers (Large Format Retail)

Retail or wholesale commercial uses that include, but are not limited to, supermarkets, home improvement stores, or retail warehouses, that serve a regional catchment area and are greater than 4,645 m$^2$ in size. Large box retailers generate high volumes of shopping traffic and typically require extensive land area and parking.

## LGBTQ2SIA+ (LGBTQ2S+)

LGBTQ2SIA+ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning / Queer, Two-Spirited, Inter-sex, Asexual, plus other non-heterosexual orientations or cisgenders.

## Light Industrial

A land use designation that refers to indoor or low impact manufacturing or activities such as warehousing, distribution, auto supplies and repairs, auto sales, equipment repairs, construction, and wholesalers, with office and sales as ancillary uses only.

## Light Pollution

The brightening of the night sky caused by street lights and other human made sources. Light pollution can have a disruptive effect on natural cycles and inhibits the observation of stars and planets. See Dark Sky Principles.

## Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)

The Regional District of Nanaimo's plan for the management of sanitary sewerage and drainage.

## Local Government Act (LGA)

The Provincial legislation which defines the authority of Local Governments. This Act enables municipalities to adopt official community plans and zoning bylaws.

## Local Hub

Hubs that are encouraged to form around school sites where educational activities can be combined with day-to-day neighbourhood needs. These hubs may include gathering spaces, daycare and play spaces, wellness and community meeting spaces, cafes, public art, cultural performance facilities, and other services focused on serving local residents.

# M

## Market Rent

The amount that is generally similar to the rent of other units in the private (non-subsidized) housing market.

## Master Plan

A plan that provides the overall development of a concept and may include urban design, transportation, infrastructure, land use, or services.

### Mid-block
Located in the middle of a city block.

### Mitigation
Actions taken to reduce the severity of impacts of a concern or hazard to reduce or eliminate long term risk to a community including people or property. An example of mitigation is climate change mitigation where mitigation is focused on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Mitigation would be the actions such as switching to low carbon or renewable energy sources or reforestation to lessen the impacts.

### Mixed-use
Lands containing more than one activity. For example, a development that incorporates both residential and commercial activities on a single site.

### Mobility
How people move around a city safely, efficiently, and comfortably including connecting to other places beyond. It is more than getting from point A to point B — it means having the transportation options available to choose a healthy and sustainable life.

### Mobility Arterial Street
A street classification connected to Urban Centre and Corridor land use designations, Mobility Arterial Streets carry traffic for all modes between the principal areas of traffic generation. Due to a larger volume of vehicular traffic on arterial streets, pedestrian activity on the street is expected to be lower, and therefore sidewalks are typically narrower.

### Mobility Collector Street
A street classification connected to Urban Centre and Corridor land use designations, Mobility Collector Streets provide a connection for all modes between Mobility Local Streets and Mobility Arterial Streets. This street classification is multi-functional providing land access, on-street parking where it supports adjacent land uses, and typically accommodates higher volumes of traffic than a Local Street.

### Mobility Hub
A concentrated area of activity including transportation options and connections, employment, recreational opportunities, housing, and shopping. Mobility hubs are the most vibrant areas of the city, and walking, rolling, cycling, and transit should be the most attractive modes to get to, from, and around them. See Urban Centre.

### Mobility Local Street
A street classification connected to Urban Centre and Corridor land use designations, which are a destination where people come to visit commercial areas, and will arrive on foot, from higher density mixed-use development nearby, or via bicycle, transit or car from further afield. The street design will encourage lower speeds where bicycles can safely mix with traffic and have wide sidewalks for seating and activity to spill out on the sidewalk, turning the street into a vibrant public space.

### Mobility Network
An integrated system used to safely and sustainably connect people and goods to places by various modes of transportation.

### Municipal & Regional District Tax (MRDT)
A tax of up to 3% on the purchase of accommodation imposed in specific geographic areas of the Province (designated accommodation areas) on behalf of municipalities, regional districts, or eligible not-for-profit business associations. The MRDT program was introduced in 1987 and now raises revenue for local tourism marketing, programs, and projects. Affordable housing was added as a permissible use of funds.

# N

### Natural Assets

The stock of natural assets or ecosystems that are relied upon and managed, or could be relied upon and managed, by a municipality for the sustainable provision of one or more local government services.

### Natural Hazard Areas / Natural Hazard Lands

Lands susceptible to flooding, erosion, landslip, or avalanche or that pose a threat to surrounding lands should their natural conditions be altered. Natural hazard lands are typically characterized by a relatively steep slope, unstable or eroding land extending along ravines, bluffs, rock faces, floodplains, or shorelines influenced by wave action. These lands may be unsafe for use and development.

### Natural Systems

A system that is independent of human involvement, but that sustains life (and economy).

### Neighbourhood Plan

A plan focused on the needs and desires of neighbourhoods within the city, in the context of a city-wide plan. Neighbourhood plans are intended to incorporate land use strategies that respond to the broader issues of the city in a way that contributes to creating a livable neighbourhood.

### Net-Zero Carbon

The process of achieving net-zero emissions in a community by either emitting no greenhouse gas emissions or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions (for example, by planting trees or employing technologies that can capture carbon before it is released into the air). Net-zero carbon means that greenhouse gas emissions minus carbon sequestration equals zero on an annual basis.

### Net-Zero Energy

In the context of a building, it is a building that produces as much energy as it consumes on an annual basis.

### Not-for-Profit

Associations, clubs, or societies that are not charities and are organized and operated exclusively for social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, recreation, or any other purpose besides profit.

### Not-for-Profit Housing

A housing development that a community-based, not-for-profit housing partner owns and operates.

# O

### Official Community Plan (OCP)

A statement of goals, desired outcomes, and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management. Adopted by city bylaw, the OCP sets out the form and character of existing and proposed land use and servicing requirements. The OCP provides a vision statement for how the community will grow and must be consistent with an adopted *Regional Growth Strategy*. An OCP also includes an implementation plan. *City Plan* (2022) is the OCP for the City of Nanaimo and also serves as the Transportation Master Plan, Climate Action Plan, Community Wellbeing Plan, and the plan for strategic directions on social planning, economic development, sustainable living, culture and more as developed through an integrated policy planning process (2019-2022).

# P

### Parks

Outdoor spaces, including recreational trails, that provide opportunities for activity, relaxation, and interaction with nature.

## Parks and Open Space

A land use designation that applies to lands across Nanaimo that are titled as parkland or otherwise serve as parks for recreation. These lands may be in a "natural" state (nature parks, reserves, or undevelopable lands such as floodplains and wetlands) or a "developed" state (recreational or cultural facilities, playing fields, playgrounds, boulevards, trails, squares, plazas, etc). They may also be in the public domain (municipal or provincial parks, roads, pedestrian networks, commercial plazas) or in the private domain (golf courses, farms).

## Pedestrian Connections

Connections that accommodate the unobstructed movement of people along paths, whether they are walking or using a mobility device. These connections aim to reduce trip distances and make pedestrian movement a desirable option for short trips.

## Physical Literacy

The motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge, and understanding to value and take responsibility for engaging in physical activities.

## Place Making

Collectively reimagining, planning, designing, and managing public spaces for greater community benefit and developing memorable, inspired spaces that provide community identity.

## Policies

Statements of intent or philosophy to achieve the goals and desired outcomes of *City Plan*.

## Public Art

Art created for general public consumption, often commissioned by public institutions or local governments for a specific site.

## Public Realm

The outdoor space around, between, and within buildings that is publicly accessible, including streets, sidewalks, plazas, parks, and open spaces.

# Q
# R

## Rapid Re-Housing

A process concerned with helping persons who are experiencing homelessness to move quickly into housing, minimizing the time they spend experiencing homelessness.

## Rapid Transit

A form of high speed urban passenger transportation, balancing fast and direct service with providing access to key destinations.

## Rapid Transit Line

A subset of the Frequent Transit Network, where demand warrants additional investments to ensure the service is reliable, direct, and fast between key centres. Investments may include infrastructure, fleet, and systems to improve and sustain speed, frequency, and reliability.

## Reconciliation

In Canada, the process of reconciliation is tied to the federal government's relationship with Indigenous peoples. The term has come to describe attempts made by individuals and institutions to raise awareness about colonization and its ongoing effects on Indigenous peoples.

## Recreation

An umbrella term that encompasses indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, as well as activities including participation in physical and social activity, sport, and arts.

## Recreational Greenway

A greenway that is managed principally for public recreational use and enjoyment, but that also provides transportation, environmental conservation, agricultural preservation, or other functions as subsidiary benefits. Greenways provide a continuous corridor connecting parks, recreational sites, and other destinations within or between communities. See Greenway and Habitat Greenway.

### Regenerative

A design philosophy that makes the best use of resources to improve community wellbeing in a way that does not undermine the support systems needed for future growth.

### Regional Context Statement (RCS)

A statement that specifies how a community's *Official Community Plan* complies with the relevant *Regional Growth Strategy*. A Regional Context Statement is required under Part 25 of the *Local Government Act* for any municipality party to a *Regional Growth Strategy*.

### Renewable Natural Gas

Also called biomethane, Renewable Natural Gas is biogas that is produced from decomposing organic matter (e.g., rotting food, waste water, landfill gas, or manure) in an anaerobic digestion system and then purified to be used in place of fossorial natural gas. The estimated amount of anaerobic renewable natural gas that can be produced in British Columbia is about 8 petajoules annually by 2030 and 11 petajoules annually by 2050 (or about 5% of the current gas demand in British Columbia).

### Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

A long range planning document developed and approved by a regional district and its member municipalities in partnership, to identify the region's collective social, economic, and environmental goals and priority actions. The *Official Community Plan* of each member municipality must comply with its region's RGS.

### Renewable City

A renewable city's annual energy consumption is equal to or less than the amount of renewable energy generated or sourced in alternative to non-renewable energy sources.

### Renewable Energy

Energy derived from natural processes (e.g., sunlight and wind) that is replenished at a faster rate than it is consumed.

### Residential Rental Tenure Zoning (RRTZ)

A type of residential land use zoning allowed in areas with multi-unit housing, where the tenure is restricted to rental housing only.

### Resiliency

Planning for, preparing, adapting, mitigating, and being able to quickly recover from environmental, socio-economic, or sudden shifts from normal patterns.

### Resilient

The capacity to recover quickly from challenges. When referring to a community, resiliency means the ability to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Activities such as prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery are key steps to resilience.

### Resource Management

The collective use and management of natural resources by a group of people for development.

### Retrofits

The addition of new technology or features to an older system to sustain its life, improve efficiency, increase output, or reduce emissions.

### Right-of-way

The legal right, established by usage or grant, to pass along a specific route through grounds or property belonging to another. See Statutory Right-of-way.

### Right to Food

A fundamental human right in which everyone has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement. It is enshrined in a range of international legal instruments, including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. It is more specifically spelled out in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, which Canada signed in 1976, and it is included in various other human rights instruments. Canada has a legal obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to food (adapted from *Food Secure Canada*).

### Riparian

The area situated along the banks of a watercourse or water body, including habitat and vegetation.

# S

### Safe Mobility (Vision Zero)

Vision Zero is a term coined by the Swedish government when it pledged to eliminate death and serious injury from its roads. Launched in 1997, Sweden's Vision Zero program has attracted widespread attention by cutting its traffic death in half, in the space of just two decades. Today, Vision Zero is the action of continuously and preemptively removing the possibility of serious injury or death from our transportation systems.

### Sea Level Rise (SLR)

An increase in the level of the world's oceans due to the effects of climate change.

### Secondary Suite

A separate, self-contained living area, ancillary to a dwelling unit. Secondary suites are a form of rental housing that is typically affordable, ground-oriented, and market-based.

### Short term Rentals

The temporary (i.e., less than 30 consecutive days) rental of a portion of, or entire dwelling unit, secondary suite, or room located on a property zoned to permit residential uses.

### Slope Stability

Slope stability refers to the condition that an inclined slope can withstand its own weight and external forces without experiencing displacement.

### Smart City

Cities that utilize data and digital technology to make daily life more sustainable, efficient, transparent, and intelligent. A smart city helps a city make better decisions and improve quality of life for its residents.

### Soil

The loose surface material at the earth's surface, including sand, clay, gravel, rock, and other substances of which land is composed.

### Sprawl

The rapid expansion of the geographic extent of cities and towns, often characterized by low-density residential housing, single-use zoning, and increased reliance on the private automobile for transportation.

### Stakeholder

An individual or group of individuals representing an organization that has an interest in a matter and may have a responsibility in working towards it for successful outcomes.

### Statutory Right-of-Way

A legally defined right-of-way for access or utilities from one property to another.

### Steep Slope

Land, in its natural state, that has a slope angle of 20% or greater.

### Stormwater

Rain that lands on rooftops, roads, and sidewalks that runs over the land and into a stormwater system instead of soaking into the ground. Stormwater runoff can be managed through measures like rain gardens, permeable pavement, and planting trees.

### Stormwater Management

The management of both the quality and quantity of stormwater through infrastructure development to collect and remove rainwater from roadway and surfaces through a combination of gutters, ditches, and stormwater piping best management practices, and public education to promote low impact design and environmental awareness for watershed health.

### Stormwater Swale

A shallow or sunken channel that is used as a stormwater control measure for conveying and treating roadway runoff. Swales are the oldest and most common stormwater control measure worldwide.

### Streetscape

The natural and built elements on the street that lend to its design quality and appearance. The concept recognizes that a street is a public place where people are able to engage in various activities.

### Subdivision

The process of dividing a parcel of land into two or more parcels under the *Land Title Act* or the division of land into strata lots under the *Strata Property Act*.

### Substance Use Disorder

Regular use of drugs or alcohol despite continued negative consequences.

### Supportive Housing

A type of housing that provides on-site supports and services to residents who cannot live independently.

### Sustainability

The balance between the environment, equity, and economy. It means that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

# T

### Territorial-based Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The greenhouse gas emissions from final energy consumption in a specific geographical region. Different from consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions that also include emissions that occur along the supply chain of consumed products within a region, regardless of where those goods and services are produced. Most governments, including City of Nanaimo, use territorial-based greenhouse gas emissions inventory to set targets and track progress.

### Traffic Calming

The combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behaviour, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.

### Transit Exchange

A focal point for passenger transfers between transit and other modes, commonly located in Urban Centers.

### Transitional Housing

A type of housing for residents to live for between 30 days and three years. It aims to transition individuals to long term, permanent housing.

### Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Various strategies to increase transportation system efficiency. TDM treats mobility as a means to an end, rather than an end in itself. It emphasizes the movement of people and goods, rather than motor vehicles, and so gives priority to more efficient modes (such as walking, cycling, ridesharing, public transit, and telework), particularly under congested conditions.

### Tree Canopy

The layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. In urban areas, the tree canopy supports stormwater management function. The tree canopy also reduces urban heat island effect, reduces heating / cooling costs, lowers air temperatures, reduces air pollution, increases property values, provides wildlife habitat, and provides aesthetic and community benefits such as improved quality of life.

### Triple Bottom Line

A concept that consists of three elements: profit, people, and the planet. Triple bottom line refers to a belief that there should be as much focus on social and environmental issues, as economic issues.

# U

### Universal Design (adaptability / accessibility)

The design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability, or disability. Universal design in the context of housing recognizes that everyone who uses a house is different and comes with different abilities that change over time. Features typically include lever door handles that everyone can use, enhanced lighting levels to make it as easy as possible to see, stairways that feature handrails that are easy to grasp, and easy-to use appliances (adapted from CMHC).

### Urban Arterial Street

A street classification connected to all land use designations other than Urban Centre, Corridor, and Industrial. Urban Arterial Streets carry traffic for all modes between the principal areas of traffic generation. Due to the increased traffic, pedestrian activity on these streets is expected to be lower. However, due to their role in connecting different neighbourhoods, cyclists will find these streets of great value due to the direct connection they provide.

### Urban Centre

Transit-oriented communities with diverse populations that provide employment opportunities, public spaces, and cultural and entertainment amenities. They are the city's primary hubs of activity with the highest intensity and mix of land uses and building forms that are appropriate to each centre.

### Urban Collector Street

A street classification connected to all land use designations other than Urban Centre, Corridor, and Industrial. Urban Collector Streets provide a connection for all modes between Local Streets and Arterial Streets. This classification is multi-functional providing land access, on-street parking where it supports adjacent land uses, and typically accommodates higher volumes of traffic than a Local Street

### Urban Containment Boundary (UCB)

A mapped boundary drawn to contain urban densities, growth, and servicing (community, water, and storm) and recognized in the *Regional Growth Strategy*.

### Urban Forest

The trees, shrubs, and groundcover that grow on all public or private lands within a city, as well as the ecosystems that are supported by the urban forest.

### Urban Local Street

A street classification connected to all land use designations other than Urban Centre, Corridor, and Industrial. Urban Local Streets are typically utilized to provide access to residential neighbourhoods. Entry and exit from such streets should be across raised continuous sidewalks that slow vehicles down.

# V

### Video Relay Service (VRS)

A basic telecommunications service that enables people with hearing or speech disabilities who use sign language to communicate with voice telephone users. The sign language user connects to a VRS operator using Internet-based videoconferencing. The operator then places a voice telephone call to the other party and relays the conversation from sign language to voice and vice-versa. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Vision

A shared and desired future for the City of Nanaimo.

### Vision Zero

See Safe Mobility.

### Vulnerable Populations

Groups and communities at a higher risk for poor health as a result of the barriers they experience to social, economic, political, and environmental resources, as well as limitations due to illness or disability.

# W

### Walk Score

A private program that measures the walkability of any address using an automated algorithm to analyze available data on walking routes to nearby amenities and assigning a score between 0 (not walkable) and 100 (very walkable).

### Watercourse

Any course or source of water in a channel with defined continuous banks, whether usually containing water or not, and includes any lake, river, creek, spring, wetland, or source of groundwater, including any portions that may be within a conduit or culvert.

### Waterfront

The area of a city alongside a body of water.

### Watershed

The area of land that drains all the rainfall and streams to a common outlet into the ocean. Careful management of watersheds can help protect streams, fish habitats, and oceans.

### Wellbeing

See Community Wellbeing.

### Wellness

Qualities of individuals, communities, or neighbourhoods where there is a high sense of belonging, quality of life, personal health, strong families, and healthy communities.

# X

# Y

# Z

### Zero-Emission Vehicle

A vehicle that emits no greenhouse gases from tailpipe exhaust, such as a battery electric or a hydrogen powered vehicle.

### Zoning

In Nanaimo, zoning is established by the City of Nanaimo *Zoning Bylaw No. 4500* and any subsequent bylaw or bylaws which may be enacted in substitution thereof.