



# Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #1

## Frequently Asked Questions



### What is “Resilient Saanich”?

“Resilient Saanich” is a new environmental policy framework currently under development. “Resilient Saanich” will serve as a framework for existing and new environmental policies and programs. “Resilient Saanich” includes a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (to be developed), the Climate Plan (completed 2020), and enhanced stewardship support.

### Why do we need a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy?

Saanich is committed to protecting the environment. This new strategy will determine our efforts to preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity in Saanich. Protecting biodiversity is important for many reasons, including supporting all life and human well-being, our economy and the many “services” humans receive from functioning ecosystems. Biodiversity is interconnected with climate change in both impacts and solutions.

### Why do we need to enhance Environmental Stewardship?

Supporting stewardship in Saanich recognizes the important role that residents, businesses, institutions, and governments of this region play as stewards of the natural environment. The intention is to look at existing programs to identify opportunities to better support stewardship efforts in Saanich.

### How is the Climate Plan Connected?

Saanich’s current Climate Plan was adopted in January 2020. Climate planning and action is interconnected with biodiversity and stewardship. The Climate Plan will help inform the goals and objectives of “Resilient Saanich”. The outcomes of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and enhanced stewardship opportunities will be integrated with the Climate Plan.

### When will Resilient Saanich be complete?

There are three major milestones in the process to complete “Resilient Saanich”. Completion is anticipated by the end of 2022.

### What are the Milestones?

Milestone One is the ‘initiate’ stage of “Resilient Saanich” and was completed in July 2021. A progress report was presented to Council. Milestone Two is the “assess” stage of the process. A State of Biodiversity report will be produced. Milestone Three is the “plan” stage when a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy will be produced.

### Who will do the work?

Council has appointed members to a Technical Committee to work with interdepartmental staff and consultants to lead, advise and share expertise.

### Is this related to the EDPA?

When the Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA) was repealed, Council directed staff to undertake this new initiative, including consideration of a new EDPA. It is unknown if a new EDPA will be one of the many outcomes of this process, however Council would need to hold a Public Hearing if considering a new EDPA in the future.

### What is the budget?

Council has set aside \$447,000 for completion of Resilient Saanich. This will be used mainly for consultant fees, public engagement, stewardship opportunities, and support.

### How can I be involved?

Throughout the process, you will be able to give feedback, attend events, complete a questionnaire, and attend Council meetings. The best way to stay engaged with the project is to sign up for e-bulletins (via the webpage below) so you will receive an email whenever there are project updates and opportunities to participate.

### How can I get more information?

The “Resilient Saanich” webpages will be kept up-to-date and provide important information such as the project Terms of Reference, a project timeline, factsheets with background information, and FAQ’s: [saanich.ca/biodiversity](https://saanich.ca/biodiversity). Remember to sign up for email bulletins “e-bulletins”.