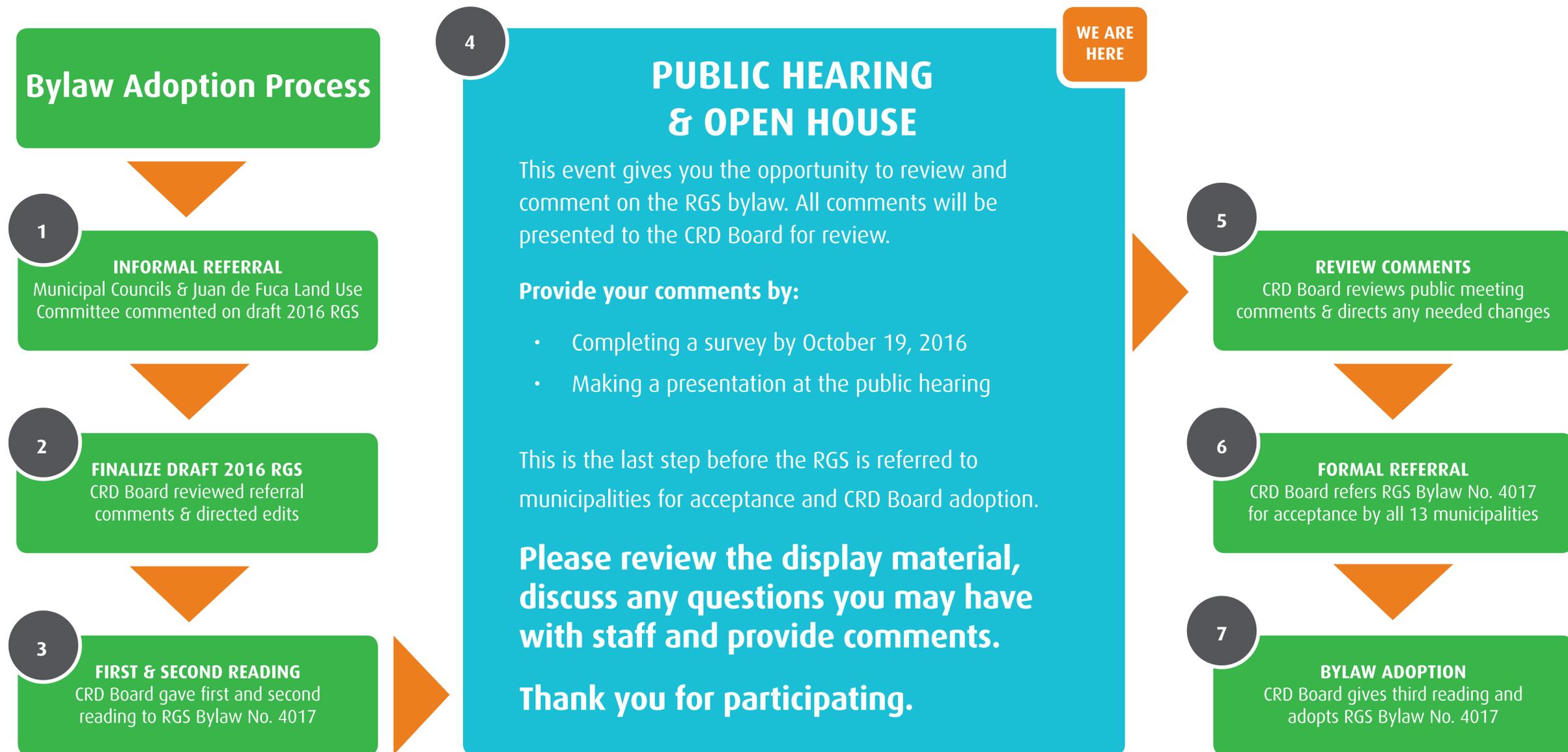


# Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw 4017

The 2016 CRD Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) sets out a vision for our region's future. The CRD Board adopted the current RGS in 2003. The proposed RGS Bylaw No. 4017 updates that document.



# What is the Regional Growth Strategy?

A REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY (RGS) is a strategic planning document, developed by municipalities and the regional district, to identify shared social, economic and environmental objectives that are regional in nature.

As per the *Local Government Act*, an RGS must be reviewed every five years and all 13 municipal Councils must accept the document before it can become a bylaw.

## WHY is it important?

The updated RGS will guide regional decision-making to 2038.

The update provides a common policy framework focusing on how people, land use, transportation, infrastructure and technology can mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

## WHAT is in it?

The RGS bylaw includes objectives, policies, targets and maps that together express a program of joint action by the CRD and local municipalities to achieve the regional vision.



The CRD recognizes that the regional district lies within traditional territories of First Nations, and that First Nations Councils are neighbouring governments in the Capital Region, with a shared interest in managing long-term development to enhance quality of life.

## HOW is it applied?

The CRD will implement policies and undertake actions for region-wide services and programs. Local municipalities will identify how their Official Community Plans (OCPs) align with RGS policies in a *Regional Context Statement*.

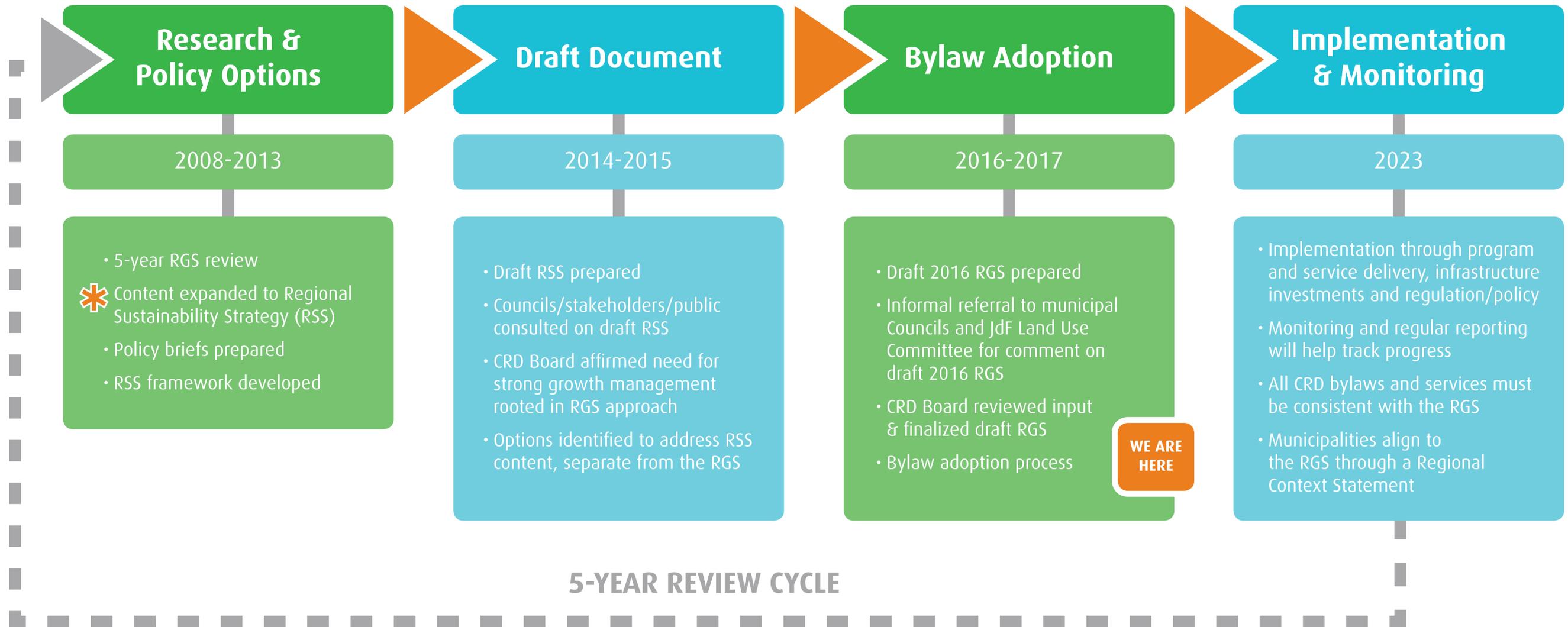
## WHERE does it apply? ❁

MAP 3: Growth Management Concept Plan



# Process for Updating the RGS

In 2008, the CRD initiated the five-year review of the 2003 RGS. The review is an iterative process. Research, policy options and draft documents are developed before initiating the bylaw adoption process.



## 2003 RGS CONTENT

- Managing & balancing growth
- Environment & resources
- Housing & community
- Transportation
- Economic development



## ADDITIONAL CONTENT AREAS

- Climate action
- Community health & wellbeing
- Emergency management & natural disasters
- Energy systems
- Food & agriculture systems



## REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (RSS) CONTENT



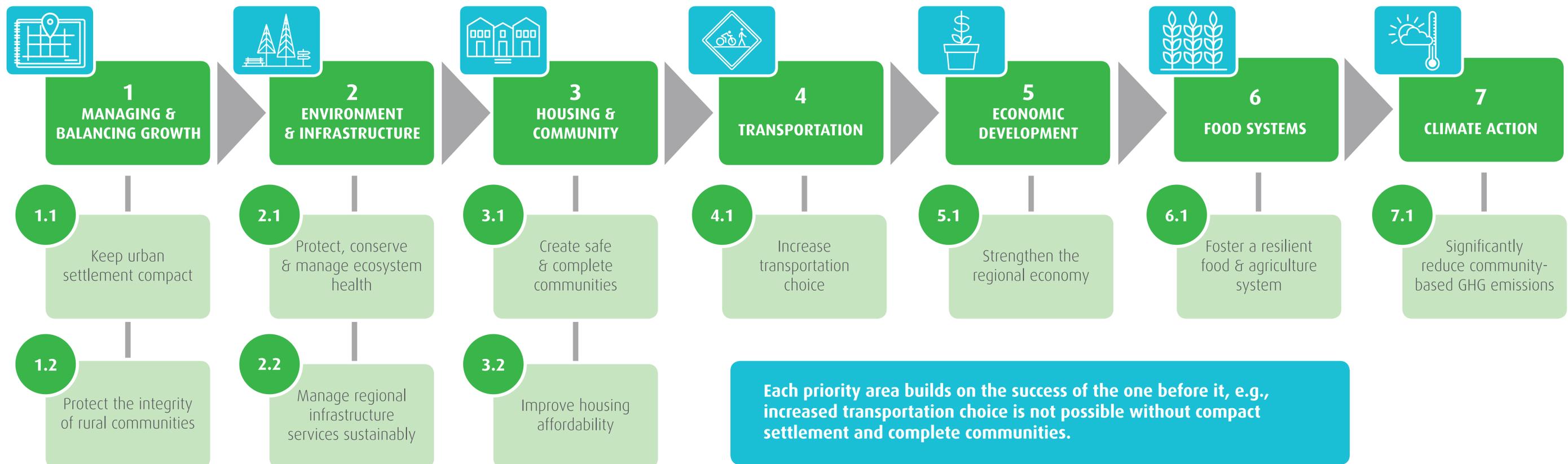
# Vision & Objectives

## VISION

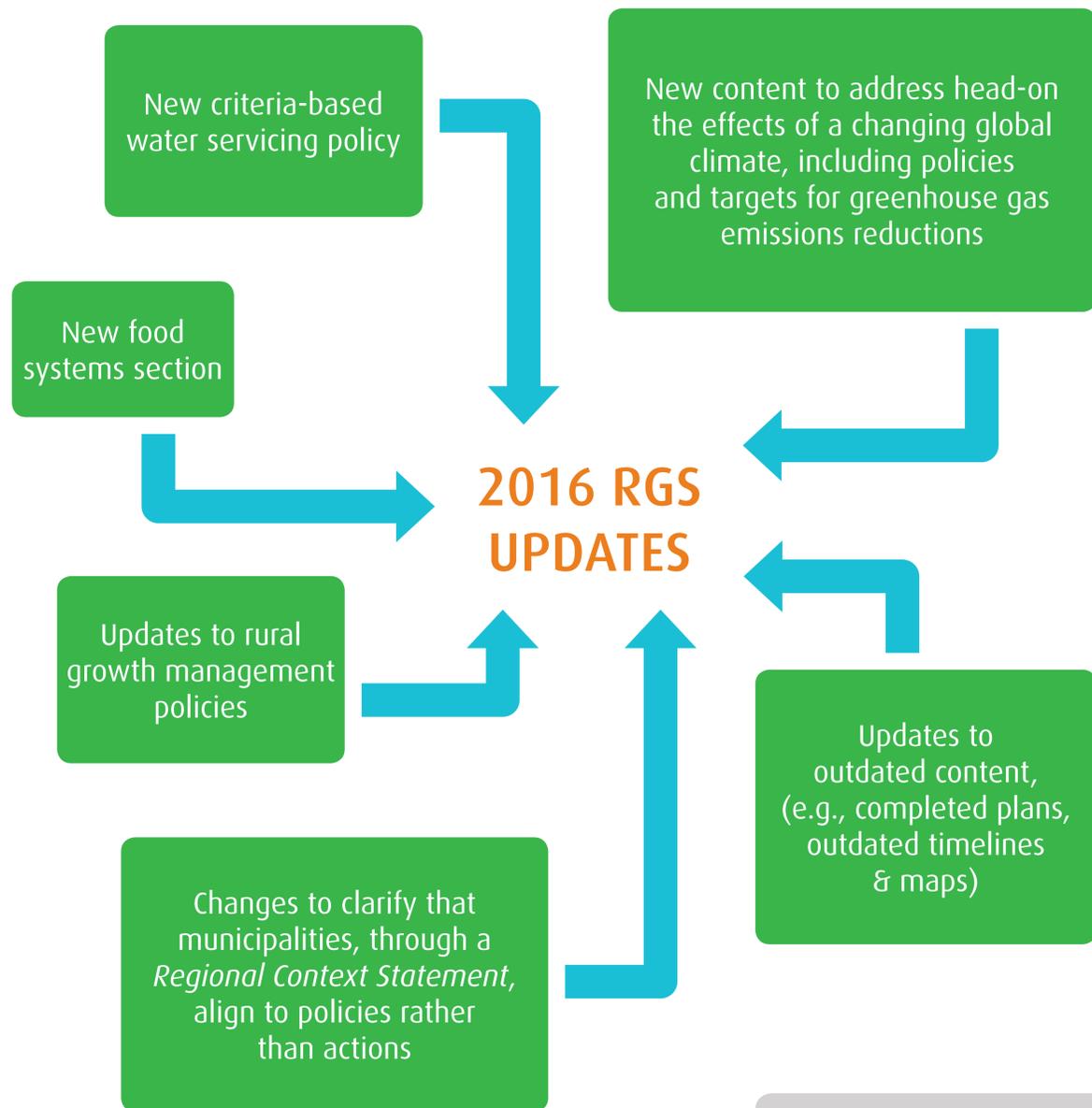
In 2038, Capital Regional District residents enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life. We have a vital economy, livable communities and steward our environment and natural resources with care. Our choices reflect our commitment to collective action on climate change.

## Objectives

The RGS includes ten interrelated strategic objectives organized around seven priority areas. Together with policies, targets and maps, the objectives express a program of joint action by the CRD and local municipalities to achieve the overall regional vision.



# What's New in the RGS?



## What did we learn from public input?

Public consultation from October 2014 to March 2015 indicated strong support for the proposed targets and for advancing regional coordination on topics related to:

- Transportation 
- Rural character & agriculture  
- Compact, complete communities  
- Climate action 
- Ecosystem protection 

RGS Bylaw 4017 addresses the above targets. The public hearing is the final opportunity for public input. The Board will consider this input and direct specific amendments to the bylaw, if required.

### What about Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) content NOT included in the RGS?

All *policy* covered in the RSS is included in RGS Bylaw 4017. Content related to *CRD actions* will be considered for inclusion in related CRD strategies or management plans as they are updated. Content related to *municipal actions* could be carried forward on an individual basis.



# Managing & Balancing Growth

## 1.1 Keep Urban Settlement Compact

### TARGET

- Accommodate a minimum of 95% of the region’s new dwelling units within the Growth Policy Area (see map 3).

### POLICIES

1. **Contain growth** within the Growth Policy Area and manage growth consistent with the Growth Management Concept Plan (see map 3) and land use policy area designations.
2. **Maintain the growth boundary**, and only consider changes as part of a 5-year review of the RGS.
3. **Maintain Victoria** as the primary regional employment, business and cultural centre.
4. **Enhance or develop** major employment and population centres in areas that meet criteria for complete communities.

### WHAT’S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- Link land use designations in policy.
- Allow for water services to be provided outside the Growth Policy Area Boundary subject to criteria set out in Objective 2.2 - Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably.
- Adjust the Growth Policy Area Boundary in North Saanich and Sooke to reflect *Regional Context Statements*. The Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area designation has been adjusted in Shirley/Jordan River to reflect the electoral area planning process.

## 1.2 Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities

### TARGET

- Accommodate a minimum of 95% of the region’s new dwelling units within the Growth Policy Area (see map 3).

### POLICIES

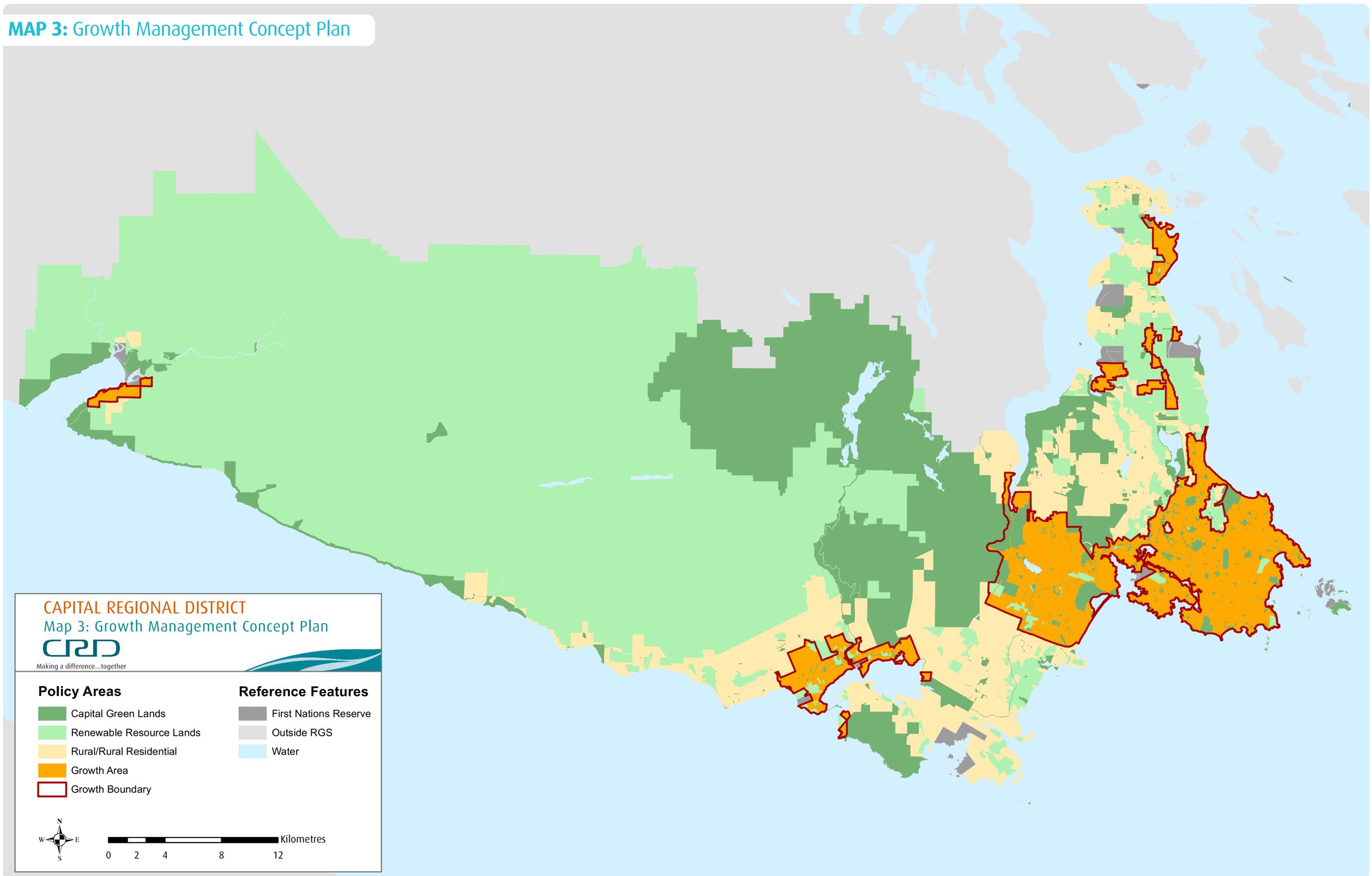
1. **Plan for development** in the Rural / Rural Residential Policy Area in a manner consistent with rural development principles.

### WHAT’S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- Move policies to protect Capital Green Lands and Renewable Resource Lands to sections 5.1(4) and 2.1(1), respectively.
- Update Rural / Rural Residential Policy Area land use designation to clarify definition of rural land uses.
- Replace policy to restrict development potential to OCP levels at the time of RGS adoption with policy to plan in accordance with principles for rural development.



# MAP 3: Growth Management Concept Plan



## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT Map 3: Growth Management Concept Plan



### Policy Areas

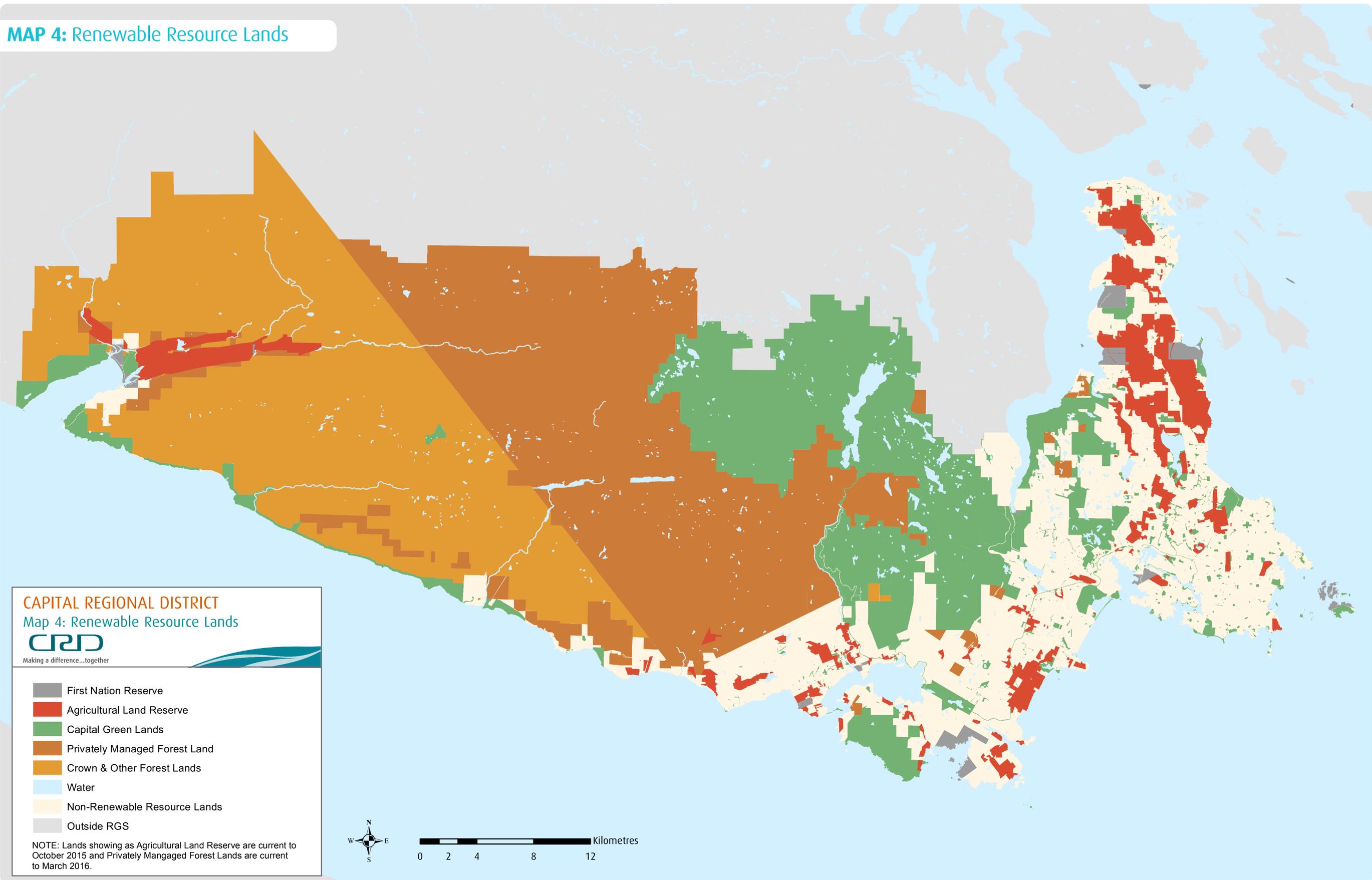
- Capital Green Lands
- Renewable Resource Lands
- Rural/Rural Residential
- Growth Area
- Growth Boundary

### Reference Features

- First Nations Reserve
- Outside RGS
- Water



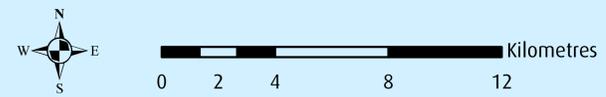
# MAP 4: Renewable Resource Lands

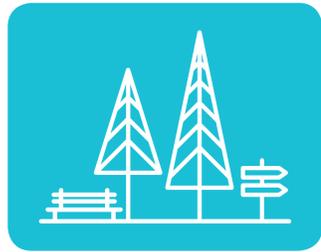


**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
Map 4: Renewable Resource Lands  
**CRD**  
Making a difference...together

- First Nation Reserve
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Capital Green Lands
- Privately Managed Forest Land
- Crown & Other Forest Lands
- Water
- Non-Renewable Resource Lands
- Outside RGS

NOTE: Lands showing as Agricultural Land Reserve are current to October 2015 and Privately Managed Forest Lands are current to March 2016.





# Environment & Infrastructure

## 2.1 Protect, Conserve & Manage Ecosystem Health

### TARGET

- Acquire 100% of the sea-to-sea green/blue belt.
- Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network.
- Reduce contaminants to fresh and marine water bodies.

### POLICIES

1. **Protect Capital Green Lands** (see map 3) so as to maintain a natural landscape.
2. **Complete the sea to sea green/blue belt** by acquiring park land, supporting land stewardship and building the Regional Trail Network.
3. **Identify, protect, enhance and restore healthy ecosystems** using tools delivered at the local level.
4. **Protect the ecological integrity of watersheds and marine areas** through collaborative initiatives.
5. **Use an integrated watershed management approach** to manage surface water, drainage and groundwater.
6. **Plan for long term strategic resource needs**, including food, energy, water and aggregate systems, by considering the potential impacts of climate change, fossil fuel depletion and water reclamation, where feasible.

### WHAT'S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- Provide new policies to carry forward the underlying principles of the Regional Green/Blue Space Strategy. This strategy has been superseded by subsequent planning initiatives.
- Update Map 4 to detail the Renewable Resource Lands Policy Area.

## 2.2 Manage Natural Resources & the Environment Sustainably

### TARGET

- Prepare long term capital plans for CRD utilities and major infrastructure improvements necessary to address the impacts of climate change and natural hazards.

### POLICIES

1. **Manage infrastructure services** according to principles for ecosystem health and sustainable infrastructure.
2. **Provide new water system services** in designated areas according to provisions that address the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be met.
3. **Extend water services**, if required, to address a pressing public health, public safety or environmental issue.
4. **Provide water services** to residential units along water lines that service ALR lands subject to OCP policies that prevent further subdivision or an increase in residential density.
5. **Limit the extension of sewer services** outside the Growth Policy Area Boundary.
6. **Evaluate requests for services** from jurisdictions outside the CRD with a view to supporting relationships and fostering development consistent with all RGS objectives and policies.

### WHAT'S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- New criteria-based water servicing policy that allows water service to areas shown as Growth Policy Area and Rural / Rural Residential Policy Area (see map 3).
- Regional air quality monitoring was not carried forward as a program could not be put in place.





# Housing & Community

## 3.1 Create Safe & Complete Communities

### TARGET

- Establish municipal targets for the number of people living in complete communities in *Regional Context Statements*.

### POLICY

- Identify locations for complete communities** within the Growth Policy Area based on complete communities criteria.
- Create complete communities** consistent with complete communities criteria focusing on matters such as density, mixed-use, housing diversity and multi-modal transportation.
- Avoid locating new development** in hazard areas (e.g., seismic, slope instability, flood-prone) or incorporate measures to mitigate risk.
- Design, manage and construct** climate change-adaptive and risk-adaptive infrastructure and utilities.

### WHAT'S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- Provide a more flexible approach to planning for complete communities by replacing pre-defined "Major Centres" with criteria that let municipalities identify candidate locations for growth.
- Clarify that complete communities are to be located within the Growth Policy Area.
- New policy for building climate change-adaptive and risk-adaptive infrastructure.

## 3.2 Improve Housing Affordability

### TARGET

- Increase the supply of more affordable housing.
- Reduce the number of people in core housing need.
- Reduce the number of people who are homeless.

### POLICY

- Provide for** an adequate, accessible and diverse supply of affordable housing across the housing continuum.

### WHAT'S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- Completed the 2003 RGS actions identified for this objective. The CRD Board approved a Regional Housing Affordability Strategy in 2007 and hosts regular meetings of the Housing Action Team.
- Updated the section to reflect the ongoing work to successfully implement the Strategy.





# Transportation

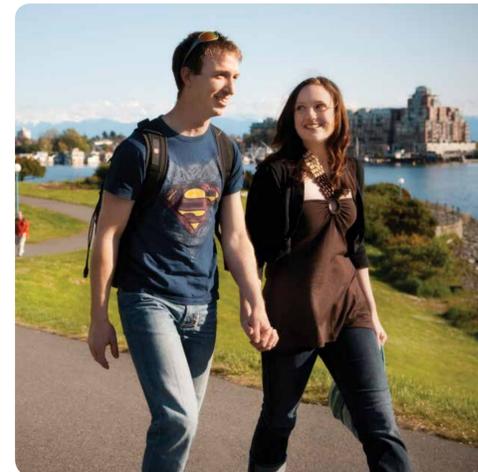
## 4.1 Increase Transportation Choice

### TARGET

- Achieve a transportation system that sees 42% of all trips made by walking, cycling, or transit.

### POLICIES

1. **Implement** the Regional Transportation Plan.
2. **Locate growth and major trip-generating uses** where they can be efficiently serviced by transit and active transportation.
3. **Prioritize transit and active modes** in community planning and in the design and implementation of infrastructure, facilities and programs.



### WHAT'S NEW SINCE THE 2003 RGS?

- Completed the 2003 RGS actions identified for this objective. The CRD Board approved the Regional Transportation Plan in 2014 and Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan in 2011.
- Updated policies to reflect the approved plans, which supersede the high-level direction previously included in this section of the 2003 RGS.





# Economic Development

## 5.1 Strengthen the Regional Economy

### TARGET

Achieve a jobs/population ratio of:

- 0.60 in Core Area
- 0.53 in Saanich Peninsula
- 0.36 in West Shore

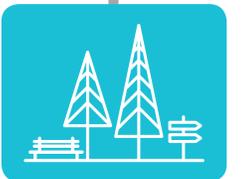
### POLICIES

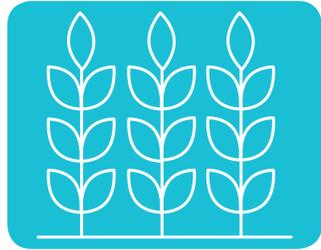
1. **Build on the economic, environmental and quality of life advantages** to position the region as a highly desirable location for investing in existing and new businesses.
2. **Provide for land development patterns** that support a diverse regional economy.
3. **Prioritize the attraction** of new businesses and investment that will support climate action.
4. **Protect Renewable Resource Lands** (see map 3) so as to maintain a strong rural land base.



### WHAT'S NEW SINCE 2003?

- Shift policy focus away from CRD-led development of a Regional Economic Development Strategy in favour of a more flexible approach.





# Food Systems

## 6.1 Foster a Resilient Food & Agriculture System

### TARGET

- Increase the amount of land in crop production by 5,000 ha.

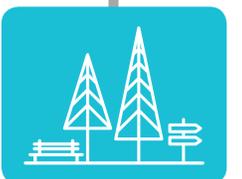
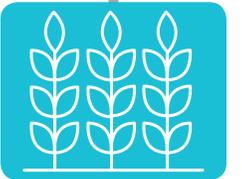
### POLICIES

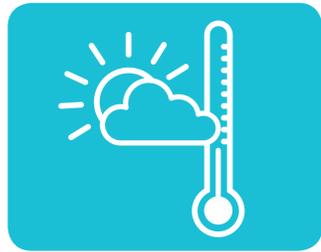
1. **Implement initiatives** in accordance with principles for healthy, viable and resilient local food and agriculture systems.
2. **Enable food production, processing and distribution** to foster a place-based food system.
3. **Support food waste management** that is environmentally sustainable, benefits the regional economy and improves residents' connections to rural and agricultural landscapes.



### WHAT'S NEW SINCE 2003?

- New section on food and agriculture.
- Section is to be completed by a Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy, currently under development.





# Climate Action

## 6.1 Significantly Reduce Community-Based Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

### TARGET

- Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% (from 2007 levels) by 2020 and by 61% by 2038.

### POLICIES

1. **Create a low-carbon built form** by prioritizing investment in compact, complete communities that support efficient energy use, the provision of clean and renewable district energy, active transportation modes, transit service and low/zero emissions vehicles.
2. **Design, manage, fund and operate** programs, services and infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Strategically acquire** protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation.



### WHAT'S NEW SINCE 2003?

- New objective, target and policies have been developed to meet the legislative requirement (Section 429(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act*).



# Sustainability & Climate Change

The RGS is a commitment to working toward regional sustainability. Sustainability means that actions taken today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs, ensure the ongoing health of the natural processes that sustain life and support the social and economic arrangements that create prosperity and well-being.

## WHY is climate change important?

The changing global climate will have far-reaching effects on our communities. Decisions at the local and regional level play an important role in addressing climate change and being resilient to its impacts.

## HOW does the RGS address climate change?

All RGS objectives support climate action, and taking action on climate change will impact each objective. The graphic at right illustrates these interconnections.

The colour-coded objectives reflect different elements of sustainability and show the degree of interdependence between objectives. Objectives with many links - *Keep Urban Settlement Compact* and *Increase Transportation Choice* - will be critical for realizing the regional vision.

