



# PART A: PURPOSE & CONTEXT

## 1. Purpose & Scope



### 1.1 Purpose & Relationship to Other Plans

This Official Community Plan (OCP) is intended to protect cherished characteristics of Colwood while managing growth and shaping change in a manner that will help bring the community's vision and goals to life. This OCP shapes how Colwood looks and feels, and it influences the day-to-day experiences and quality of life of residents and visitors.

An OCP is a document with objectives and policies that guide decisions on planning and land use management. As the overarching city-wide policy for Colwood, this OCP is the guiding framework for all departments and decision-making within the City. OCPs are living documents that are flexible and fluid by nature, and can be slightly adjusted over time to address changing conditions in the community.

*The planning horizon of this Official Community Plan is approximately 20 years.*

The planning horizon of this OCP is approximately 20 years, and its policies are designed to shape growth to a population 27,000, which is expected by 2038.

Municipalities in British Columbia are given the authority to adopt an OCP through the Local Government Act, which stipulates what must and may be included in an OCP. Provincial legislation also establishes adoption procedures. This OCP has been prepared in compliance with all relevant legislation.

## 1.2 Plan Organization & Scope

This OCP includes policy areas identified in the Local Government Act in Section 473 (“content and process requirements”), Section 474 (“policy statements that may be included”) and Section 488 (“designation of Development Permit Areas”). While an OCP does not obligate a Council to undertake specific actions or projects, all bylaws enacted and public works undertaken must be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies outlined in an adopted OCP. The OCP provides the base from which future land use decisions are made regarding new development proposals and other municipal decisions and initiatives.

This Plan is organized into five parts:

### **Part A: Purpose and Context**

Part A sets the stage by:

- providing an overview of the OCP purpose and scope;
- outlining the public process undertaken in developing the Plan;
- presenting the community’s Vision and Goals as the foundation for all policies; and
- articulating a Regional Context Statement.

### **Part B: Policies**

Part B provides policy direction by outlining objectives and policies relating to growth management, land use, streets and mobility, housing, climate change, park spaces and natural assets, built and natural infrastructure, arts and culture, the food system, and the economy.

### **Part C: Implementation**

Part C presents implementation directions through a set of actions and timelines that correspond with the policies in Part B.

**Part D: Development Permit Area Guidelines**

Part D outlines guidelines for the City's Development Permit Areas.

**Part E: Area Plans**

Part E contains specific areas plans.