REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

NEWS RELEASE

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New Project to Develop a Climate Adaptation Plan for Natural Assets

A planning process is officially underway by the Regional District of Nanaimo to protect some of its most important features. Natural assets like forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, shorelines and parks provide clean water, flood protection, recreation opportunities, biodiversity and climate resilience. The Natural Assets Management (NAM) Project, expected to be completed in 2028, will create a clear, actionable climate adaptation plan to understand these benefits, identify risks to the natural systems that support them and set practical priorities for protecting and managing the assets that support community well-being and essential services. The project team is currently assessing natural assets throughout the region and beginning outreach to the community.

The NAM project will:

- inventory natural assets across the region;
- determine the current state of the natural assets;
- assess current and future climate-related risks;
- estimate the value of selected benefits nature provides;
- develop management options;
- provide engagement on management options; and,
- develop a climate adaptation plan for natural assets.

This work will help strengthen long-term community resilience, support informed decision-making and ensure natural assets continue to contribute to sustainable service delivery for future generations.

The public and other interested parties are invited to share their knowledge, experiences and ideas throughout the process by answering polls, attending open houses and community events when scheduled, reviewing project materials and providing feedback on the draft plan once developed.

Residents are invited to visit the project page to:

- Check out the Natural Asset Inventory Dashboard
- Learn more about the plan process ahead
- Sign up for updates as the project progresses
- Drop a pin on a natural area important to you!

For more information, to ask questions and to sign up to receive project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/nam-project.

Key Points

- The Natural Assets Management Project will create a plan for climate adaption of natural areas in the region.
- Natural assets—including forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and parks—play a vital role in supporting healthy, resilient communities by providing services such as clean water, flood protection, recreation opportunities, biodiversity and climate regulation.
- Through this project, the RDN is working to better understand the value of these natural systems, assess the risks they face from a changing climate and identify practical actions to protect and manage them for current and future generations.

Quick Facts

- The project includes updating the RDN's existing natural assets inventory with current data and mapping, which will be available on the project page.
- Residents can pin a favourite natural area on an online map and explain why it matters to them.
- Public feedback will be summarized and shared to show how it influenced the plan.

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