

A.4 COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

A.4.1 General Objectives

- A.4.1.1 To recognize and protect the fragility and significance of our natural environment as one of our community's greatest and irreplaceable assets.
- A.4.1.2 To recognize and protect our unique nature as an island - a remote place, unconnected to other land masses, which exists at a smaller scale; a place where boundaries are absolute, resources are finite, and biophysical and socioeconomic impacts can be concentrated due to containment and proximity.
- A.4.1.3 To retain our island's rural character and peaceful and quiet atmosphere; to guide development so that it complements the outstanding natural beauty that surrounds us and reflects our unique community character. To ensure that the predominant feature of Salt Spring Island remains the natural environment, rather than manmade structures.
- A.4.1.4 To adopt the precautionary principle in the decision-making of the Local Trust Committee. The precautionary principle asserts that, when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context, the essential elements of a precautionary approach to decision-making include:
- a. a duty to take anticipatory action to prevent harm;
 - b. the right for the community to know complete and accurate information on potential human health and environmental impacts as best it can be determined;
 - c. requiring the proponent to supply this information to the public;
 - d. an obligation to consider alternatives and select the alternative with the least potential impact on human health and the environment, including the alternative of no change;
 - e. a duty to consider broader short-term and long-term costs and benefits to the community when evaluating potential alternatives; and
 - f. a responsibility to make decisions in a transparent, participatory manner, relying on the best available information.
- A.4.1.5 To identify and protect important components of our island's heritage, including archaeological and First Nations cultural sites, whether they are reminders of past or present lifestyles.
- A.4.1.6 To work cooperatively with other agencies, groups and the community in achieving the objectives of this Plan.

A.4.2 Sustainability

- A.4.2.1 To recognize the importance of *sustainability* in all community decisions. To avoid land use decisions that threaten the integrity or *sustainability* of natural ecosystems.
- A.4.2.2 To maintain and restore the community's natural capital represented by such items as our agricultural and forest land base, our potable water supplies, and primary value of our natural and unspoiled rural character.
- A.4.2.3 To recognize our local responsibility to contribute to global *sustainability*, particularly in relation to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
- A.4.2.4 To recognize that long-term social and economic well being requires living within the limits of ecological *sustainability*, which is the maintenance of ecological processes so that the biological productivity of the Earth endures without dependence on non-renewable resources.

A.4.3 Limits to Growth

- A.4.3.1 To continue to focus attention on the finite nature of all of our island's resources, especially those that are drawn from our natural environment.
- A.4.3.2 To provide direction for the *conservation* and stewardship of natural resources, especially our surface and groundwater supply.
- A.4.3.3 To reflect the finite nature of islands by identifying limits to residential, commercial and institutional growth tailored to the community's land base and ecological carrying capacity. Special attention should be paid to ensuring that the human use of potable water can be sustained without negative impact on other values and uses for natural water bodies.
- A.4.3.4 To accommodate and direct appropriate development so that its location, appearance and impact are in harmony with the natural environment, community resources, character and existing land uses. To ensure that clustered settlements are well designed so that they become and remain acceptable and compatible with existing development.

A.4.4 Our Sense of Community

- A.4.4.1 To ensure that our community continues to function as an authentic, resident-centred community in the face of internal and external pressures to change and grow; to ensure that growth, including the growth of tourism, is managed in a way that does not displace or detract from our community's important function as a home for its residents.
- A.4.4.2 To recognize the importance of our island community's traditional sense of cohesiveness, self-reliance and interconnectedness. To enhance and celebrate these values through the support of community-building events, activities and land uses.
- A.4.4.3 To recognize the strength and exceptional value of the community's diverse human population - a population characterized by people of many ages and backgrounds who, through choice or circumstance, have a rich variety of lifestyles and livelihoods. To recognize the very real, if intangible, loss that is felt in the community when this diversity is diminished by external pressures and changes.
- A.4.4.4 To preserve and protect human diversity in our community by ensuring that the island's people are accommodated by a broad spectrum of appropriate and accessible housing and facilities, transportation choices, service opportunities and choices of livelihood, with a local focus to minimize transportation needs.
- A.4.4.5 To recognize the importance of broad community consultation, economic security, coordinated and efficient infrastructure development and established land use policies to the maintenance of a healthy community.
- A.4.4.6 To ensure the continued development of land use opportunities for non-traditional residential settlement. Opportunities that are based on the communal stewardship of land, *conservation* of resources and alternative forms of infrastructure are of special importance.
- A.4.4.7 To recognize that development should be managed to protect our sense of community and maintain our ability to absorb changes.
- A.4.4.8 To identify creative and proactive ways through which a diverse, liveable and vibrant community can be created within the confines of our island's finite land base and resources.
- A.4.4.9 To remain an island community without a bridge or tunnel to other land masses.

A.4.5 Community Health and Safety

- A.4.5.1 To accommodate the community's need to be safe, secure and healthy - physically, mentally and spiritually.
- A.4.5.2 To encourage multiple modes of healthy, active transportation among residents of all ages, such as walking and bicycling.
- A.4.5.3 To foster improved air quality through strategies to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobile use, eliminate idling, and encourage fuel-efficient and zero-pollution vehicles.
- A.4.5.4 To designate land for appropriate and accessible social and recreational opportunities for all residents.

A.4.6 Island Livelihoods and Economies

- A.4.6.1 To recognize the important role that varied livelihoods and a vibrant economy play in our community's unique character.
- A.4.6.2 To maintain and encourage a diverse and creative community by providing a wide range of opportunities and locations for earning a living that are compatible with and can take advantage of the protection and preservation of the island's beauty and character. In particular, to encourage small, locally owned businesses whose revenues remain on the island, especially those which expand local production and consumption to meet the needs of islanders.
- A.4.6.3 To encourage living-wage, meaningful, year-round employment and income-generating opportunities that especially enable young people and families to remain on the island.