



2020 PIBC Awards for Excellence in Planning Winners' Summaries

EXCELLENCE IN POLICY PLANNING – SMALL TOWN & RURAL AREAS

GOLD WINNER

Beringia Community Planning Inc. & Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council

Our Sacred Land: Indigenous Peoples' Land Use Planning Handbook in BC Capital

Project Partners

Indigenous Advisory Committee: Sema:th (Sumas) First Nation, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, and Xaxli'p Band

Project Summary

The First Nations Community Land Use Planning (LUP) Handbook was created to support BC First Nations' efforts to strengthen their land governance system through community-based Land Use Planning (LUP). Working with an Indigenous Advisory Committee of four women and under the guidance of Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council (NmTC), Beringia Community Planning led the development of a collaborative design process.

The Handbook draws on content and participant feedback from the 18 First Nations LUP workshops held between 2015 and 2018 in which 146 individuals participated, representing 108 First Nations throughout BC. Participants identified the need for a user-friendly guide to help overcome the often-technical complexity of LUP and enable communities to take control of the process. This hands-on practical guide documents the context for First Nations LUP in BC and describes an 11-step planning cycle that includes the theory, methods, examples, and tools to support a community-driven LUP process.



SILVER WINNER

City of Penticton

Penticton 2045: Official Community Plan

Project Partners

Penticton Official Community Plan Task Force, MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement, South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, C4Wise Design

Project Summary

In 2019, the City of Penticton, a city of 35,000 in the South Okanagan, adopted a new Official Community Plan (OCP): Penticton 2045, the first substantive reworking of the Plan since 2002. The Plan establishes goals and policies for a broad range of interrelated areas, a sustainable growth plan, and a range of Development Permit Area Guidelines to create a holistic vision for the sustainable growth of the community. The process to create the new OCP was the largest engagement effort undertaken by the City, involving over 3,600 conversations and interactions in a diversity of innovative ways. The resulting plan is clear, approachable, richly illustrated and readily conveys the vision for the future of city. The OCP was unanimously approved by City Council in July 2019.



EXCELLENCE IN POLICY PLANNING – CITY & URBAN AREAS

GOLD WINNER

City of Vancouver

Rain City Strategy: A Green Rainwater Infrastructure and Rainwater Management Initiative

Project Partners

Rain City Strategy Staff Working Group & the Rain City Strategy Expert Panel

Project Summary



Meeting the needs of communities not only for today, but also looking forward to 2050, requires forward thinking, collaboration and innovation. Vancouver's Rain City Strategy is a 30-year roadmap for advancing and evolving rainwater management services in a holistic way – integrating it into land-use decisions, community plans, and urban design. Through the Rain City Strategy, Vancouver will advance 46 implementation and enabling programs focused on streets, public spaces, civic facilities, buildings, parks, and beaches. These programs integrate green infrastructure across multiple different city departments, to help achieve many city-wide goals related to climate resilience, equity, and utility servicing needs for population growth.

SILVER WINNER

District of Saanich

2020 Climate Plan: 100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich

Project Partners

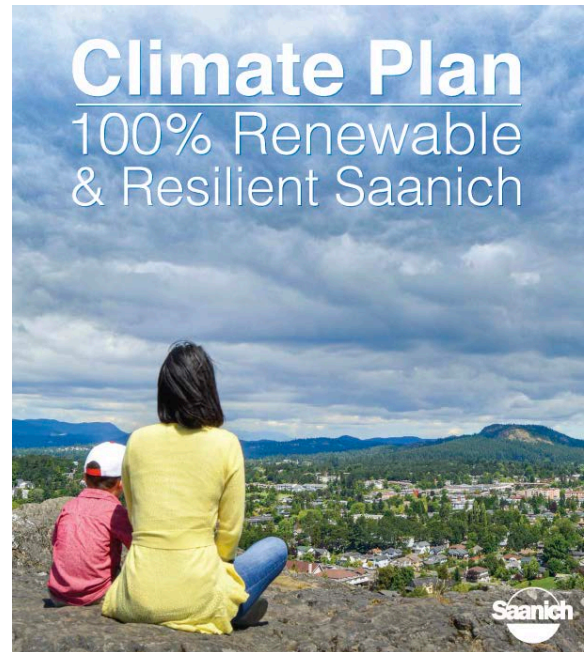
C2MP, Stantec, Claremont Secondary School: Institute for Global Solutions, ICLEI Canada, One Earth, Bioregional School of Construction & the Built Environment at the BC Institute of Technology, Cora Hallsworth

Consulting, Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (for funding support for the Climate Plan), KR Foundation (for funding support for One Planet Saanich), Vancity (for funding support for One Planet Saanich).

Project Summary

The District of Saanich recently adopted the 2020 Climate Plan: 100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich. The Plan provides a policy framework and action plan for a comprehensive response to climate change in our community over the next ten years. It aims to:

- Cut GHG emissions in half by 2030 & net zero by 2050
- Transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Prepare for a changing climate. It addresses both climate mitigation and adaptation and contains 131 actions across 6 focus areas
- Mobility, Buildings & Infrastructure, Food & Materials, Ecosystems, Community Wellbeing and Leadership in District Operations
- Informed by 10 guiding principles: Be Bold, Be Evidence-Based, Share the Benefits, Improve Wellbeing, Be Collaborative, Prioritize Efficiency, Value Nature, Work Towards Reconciliation, Act Globally & Consider Future Generations.



The process and the Plan itself exemplify sustainable policy planning and, as a template for others, make a key contribution to the planning profession in BC.

EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING PRACTICE – SMALL TOWN & RURAL AREAS

GOLD WINNER

City of Quesnel & Urban Systems Ltd.

Quesnel Waterfront Plan

Project Partners

Quesnel Downtown Association, West Quesnel Business Association, Quesnel Search & Rescue, Big Canyon Rafting, Baker Creek Enhancement Society, Friends of Quesnel Museum, City of Quesnel Chamber of Commerce & First Nations: Lhtako Dene Nazko First Nation, Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance (as directed or via Lhtako or Nazko) & Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre.

Project Summary

This project established a framework and plan to capitalize on the community's unique location at the confluence of rivers and creeks. The project scope included eight kilometres of waterfront in Quesnel's core and identifies opportunities to improve public access to and create vibrant inclusive spaces along the waterfront.



Building on market analysis research, this project articulates a vision and illustrates a future plan for the riverfront that is based on realistic economic development opportunities. The assignment included a robust public engagement campaign both on the ground in the study area as well as online. Respecting the dynamic nature of the river environment, the plan strategies include: trail renewal and connectivity, river access, riparian restoration, water celebration, indigenous visibility, public art, places to rest, brand identity, and social media presence. Ambitious elements in the plan include an RV park, whitewater feature enhancements, viewing towers and an augmented reality app. The Waterfront Plan was adopted by Quesnel City Council in December of 2019.

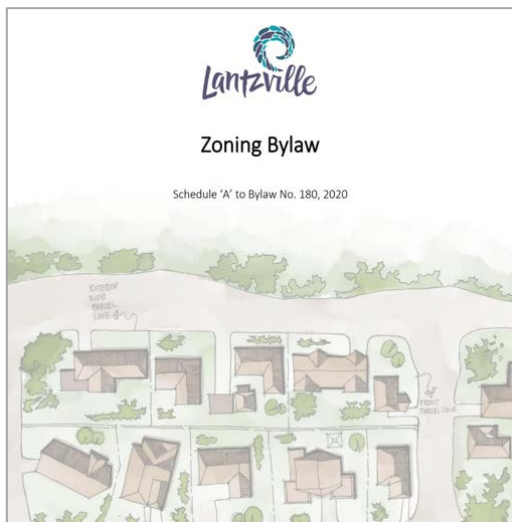
SILVER WINNER

District of Lantzville & Vancouver Island University's Master of Community Planning Program

District of Lantzville Zoning Bylaw

Project Summary

The District of Lantzville partnered with students from Vancouver Island University's Master of Community Planning Program to create more than 30 illustrations to improve the legibility and accessibility of the District's zoning bylaw for residents and developers. Explaining complex definitions and regulations through an image was challenging, but ultimately resulted in a document that is interesting, informative, and attractive - something that cannot often be said for a regulatory bylaw.



The project created a tremendous opportunity for students to gain a deep understanding of the meaning and principles behind bylaw development: for example, the complicated regulations regarding setbacks from the "top of bank" sent the students off on a rabbit trail of research, tracing the path through the rationale and science behind setbacks.

The District of Lantzville was a wonderful mentor to the students, first in offering this work opportunity, and second in remaining a steadfast and positive resource for students throughout the project. The District is commended for their willingness to invest in student success, and their innovative approach to creating planning documents that are legible and interesting.

EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING PRACTICE – CITY & URBAN AREAS

GOLD WINNER

City of Surrey, PFS Studio

Nicomekl Riverfront Park Management Plan

Project Partners

Diamond Head Consulting, Denise Cook Design & Lynne Werker Architect

Project Summary

The Nicomekl Riverfront Park Management Plan is a bold, adaptive management plan for a unique collage of riverfront parkland in Surrey. Combining numerous disciplines and strategies, it sets the vision and future for a resilient, diverse and collaborative gem in the overall City park network. The plan balances biodiversity, ecological protection and enhancement with public access to, along and on the river while integrating public art, heritage, recreation, education and Indigenous stories throughout. The plan is a long-range vision for the riverfront and designed to be a living document throughout all phases of park planning, design, construction and management.



SILVER WINNER

Metro Vancouver & CitySpaces Consulting Ltd.

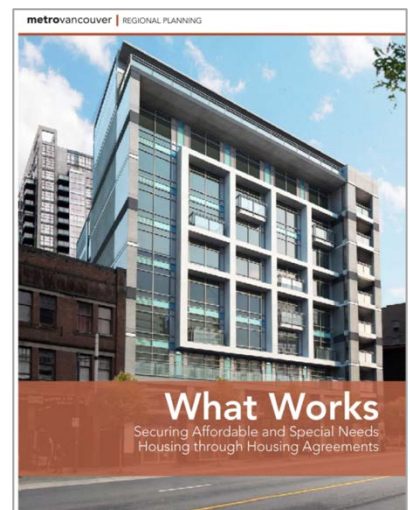
What Works: Securing Affordable and Special Needs Housing through Housing Agreements

Project Partners

BC Housing (funding support and assistance) & Young Anderson Barristers and Solicitors (subcontractors to CitySpaces for legal review of the Resource Guide)

Project Summary

Metro Vancouver initiated the What Works: Securing Affordable and Special Needs Housing through Housing Agreements project in November 2018, concluding with the release of a comprehensive Resource Guide in the Spring of 2020. Working collaboratively with housing planners, the housing development sector, and non-profit housing providers across BC, the project was able to identify key factors that contribute to the successful creation and implementation of Housing Agreements. This project is intended to help local governments employ Housing Agreements by identifying success factors and key considerations for entering into, administering, monitoring, and enforcing a Housing Agreement; highlighting common challenges and proposed solutions for local governments; and presenting illustrative scenarios that highlight Housing Agreement best practices for a diversity of housing types. The outputs of this project provide practical guidance to support local governments across BC as they develop these agreements to secure affordable and special needs housing in their communities.



RESEARCH & NEW DIRECTIONS IN PLANNING

GOLD WINNER

Eastside Culture Crawl Society

City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus!

Project Partners

ECCS Space Committee, Vancouver Economic Commission & Licker Spatial Analysis

Project Summary



The project *City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus!* (prepared by a non-profit arts society to fill a significant data gap and shape public planning policy) includes:

1. Documentation of Vancouver's Eastside visual art production space from artist surveys, field work, and other data bases—the loss of almost 400,000 ft² over a decade.
2. Identification of context and causal factors such as planning policies, lack of tenure, shifting real estate markets, redevelopment, the growth of the high-tech sector, land assessment processes, etc.
3. Recommendation of a suite of potential strategies, such as new policies and incentives, to counteract this displacement by protecting, enhancing and growing the supply of quality artist spaces. These strategies are summarized by the phrase “no net loss, plus!”
4. Presentation and discussion through a two-day forum in conjunction with an art exhibition called “Displacement.” It has had an almost immediate impact on municipal policy direction.

SILVER WINNER

HUB Cycling & TransLink

Benchmarking the State of Cycling in Metro Vancouver 2019

Project Partners

Real Estate Foundation of BC, BC Ministry of Social Development, Bunt and Associates, Binnie, McElhanney & Urban Racks.

Project Summary

HUB Cycling and TransLink partnered to release the first ever State of Cycling Report for Metro Vancouver. The report assesses the quality and quantity of bikeways in Metro Vancouver, the number of residents regularly cycling, the safety of the cycling network and details the extent to which cycling-supportive policies and practices are in place.



Through reporting on the bikeway network and trends in cycling-related data, this report offers an up-to-date picture of cycling across the region and serves as a benchmark against which future progress can be measured. The data compiled through this study will be shared with regional municipalities, TransLink and the Province of British Columbia and will be available to the public through an open data portal on TransLink's website.

HONOURABLE MENTION*

Intelligent Futures

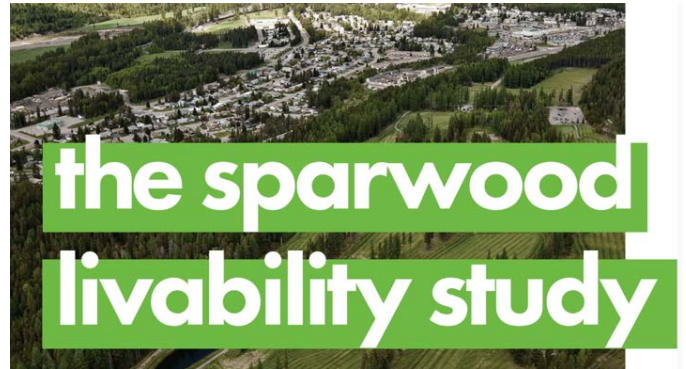
Sparwood Livability Study

Project Partner

District of Sparwood

Project Summary

In 2018, Intelligent Futures was hired to complete a Livability Study in the District of Sparwood. This Study, completed in 2019, was an opportunity to help involve area residents in a process to guide the evolution of the community, building upon its inherent strengths and managing some of the unique challenges in this resource-rich area.



The Livability Study was managed by the District of Sparwood, with support by Teck Resources, the largest employer in the area. The process was undertaken to respond to quality of life and planning issues in the community related to Teck's application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate in 2014.

**PIBC's Awards Committee moved this submission from the "Excellence in Policy Planning" category to the "Research & New Directions in Planning" category as it demonstrated a unique approach to address challenges faced by a very small resource-based community.*