

Protect the Environment

Indicator #6—Amount of land in protected areas

Why is this indicator important?

Natural areas support habitat for wildlife and plants, the recharge of groundwater and surface water, and the absorption of carbon from the atmosphere. The Regional District of Nanaimo lies within the Salish Sea Eco-Region, one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Much of this region consists of the rare Coastal Douglas Fir Zone that makes up less than 1 percent of the land in British Columbia. Urban development within natural areas can threaten these unique ecosystems, consequently reducing biodiversity and watershed function. Federal, provincial and local government can secure many of these ecologically significant lands within a park or other form of permanent protected area.

What does this indicator tell us?

This indicator tells us how much land is protected from development in the form of parks and other types of protected spaces. Protecting land from development is very important for watershed and ecosystem health. It is also an important factor affecting air quality, climate change, and adaptation.



Where do we want to go?

The Regional Growth Strategy goal is to “protect and enhance the environment and minimize ecological damage related to growth and development.” Federal, provincial and local governments work towards this goal by protecting areas representative of the region’s ecosystems that form systems or interconnected areas and natural corridors capable of sustaining native plant and animal communities.

Target: Increase the amount of land in protected areas (ha)

What is included in this indicator?

This indicator includes any land that is within a protected area designated by the federal, provincial or local government. The indicator includes regional parks, provincial parks, provincial ecological reserves, provincial conservancies and federal wildlife reserves. These areas are protected for wildlife habitat, recreation and open space in perpetuity.

Where are we right now?

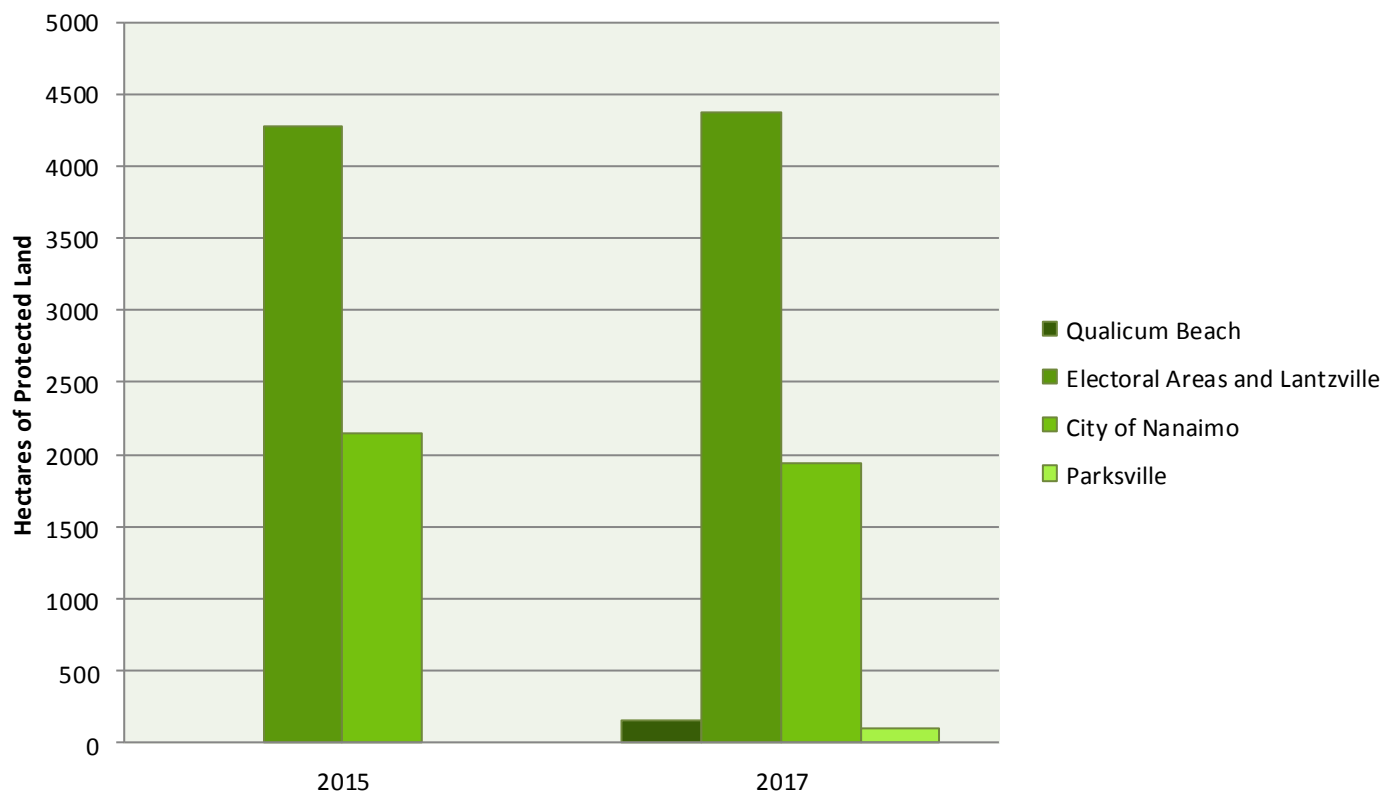
In 2015, the region had a total of 6,432 ha of protected areas, representing approximately 3.11 percent of the land base of the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and the RDN Electoral Areas. In 2017, the region had a total of 6,570 ha of protected areas, representing approximately 3.18 percent of the land base of the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum, City of Parksville and the RDN Electoral Areas.

Goal 2

Protect the Environment

Target: Increase the amount of land in protected areas (ha)

Amount of Land in Protected Area



	Qualicum Beach	Electoral Areas and Lantzville	City of Nanaimo	Parksville	Total
2015	XX*	4280 ha	2152 ha	XX*	6432 ha
2017	159 ha	4368 ha	1936 ha	107 ha	6570 ha



Provincial Parks



Regional Parks



Wildlife Area &
Ecological Reserve

* 2015 Information not available for Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

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Every reasonable effort has been made to use comparable data with consistent geographies and methodology. Where data limitations exist, these are noted within the document content, chart or table. For further details of the results, please refer to the RGS Annual Reports for information: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-progress-reports>