

HOW DOES LAND USE IMPACT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

Decisions about what gets built and where buildings are constructed have a significant impact on our daily lives. In Cowichan, each local government and local area has their own official land-use plan. These plans take into consideration factors such as proximity to goods and services, community recreation, transportation, and environmental quality. The Cowichan Valley is one of the major agricultural areas on Vancouver Island. Historically, the Valley produced large volumes of vegetables, berries, and dairy products that fed a large percentage of the population.

LAND USE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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CVRD = **3473** square kilometers¹



PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND

2006 ↓ **2011** ↓ **2016**³
 11559 ha ↓ 10837 ha ↓ 10837 ha

The Cowichan Economic Development Commission estimates that the Cowichan Region currently produces about 18% of its total food needs (Vancouver Island produces approximately 10% of the Island's total food needs).⁴



CULTURAL LAND USE PROTECTED AREAS



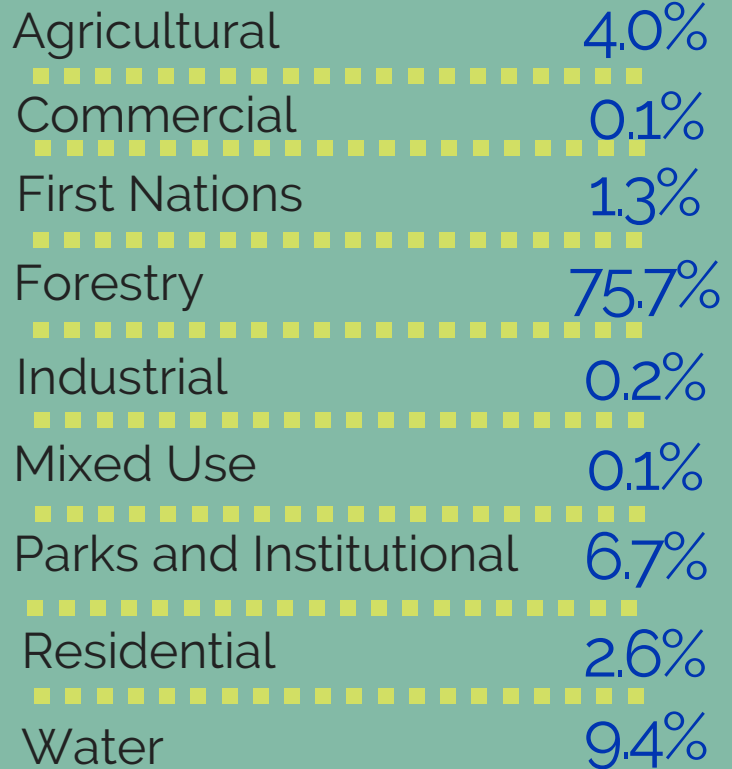
In 2001, Cowichan Tribes, Hul'qum'num Treaty Group, signed an agreement with government to protect 1,700 ha of land known as the Hw'teshutsun or the Hill 60 sacred site. According to Cowichan creation myths Hw'teshutsun is the area where people first fell from the sky. First Nations continue to work hard to protect lands that are integral to their culture and way of life. ⑤

BUILDING COMMUNITY BY DESIGN⁷

The design of a community's built environment has a major impact on the physical, mental, and social health of its residents. Citizens faced with low socioeconomic status suffer disproportionately from poor land use design.



LAND DESIGNATION²



PARKS & RECREATIONAL SPACE⁵

206 community parks = **1200** hectares

8 regional parks = **47km** managed community trails

Ladysmith recently completed their Parks and Rec Master Plan and taking into consideration the aging population, they focused on increasing accessibility to parks and trails.

LAND USE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Stoney Hill, Regional Park



Glenora Trails Head Park



Cowichan River Park

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY & TREE PROTECTION

In 2015 the City of Duncan adopted a tree protection bylaw for protected and significant trees that is applicable to private and city property to preserve the overall ecological function of an urban forest.

Amount with Climate Suitable for Agricultural Land in the CVRD ⁸

9.5%

An estimated 33,200 hectares out of 350,890 available hectares

SIGNIFICANT TREES

23

(as of 2018)

trees that provide considerable social, economic or environmental benefit in the City of Duncan.

COWICHAN WATERSHED

The spring of 2019 witnessed some of the lowest ever water levels in the Cowichan River due to dwindling snow packs and an extreme rise in spring temperatures; A trend predicted to continue into the future.¹⁰



COWICHAN LAND TRUST

Holds 28 conservation covenants in the CVRD, CLT has played a role in 5 Cowichan land acquisitions including Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve, land on Shawnigan Lake, Holland Creek Trail, Chase Woods, Sansum Point Park & Rainbow Island.¹¹