



RDOS

Electoral Area "A"

OCP Update

PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

November 2020

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE - PROJECT BACKGROUNDER

The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) launched a project to review and update the Official Community Plan (OCP) for Electoral Area "A" Rural Osoyoos in November 2019.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

We have continued to work on the project through the COVID-19 public health emergency and have developed a draft OCP.

Since launching the project, we have conducted two project surveys, held a physically distanced in-person open house in Osoyoos in September, sent out a series of newsletters and project postcards throughout Electoral Area "A", and have engaged with project stakeholders including the Anarchist Mountain Community Association, the Rural Osoyoos Ratepayers Association, and the Electoral Area "A" Area Planning Commission (APC). We have also consulted with Osoyoos Indian Band, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Interior Health, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Town of Osoyoos.



What's an Official Community Plan (OCP)?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a planning document that provides policies on a broad range of topics including land-use, transportation, housing, parks and infrastructure.

OCPs help provide a blueprint and map for a community's future. They are created to guide decisions on planning and land use management by establishing a long-term vision, supporting goals, objectives, and policies to achieve them.



WHAT’S CHANGED?

Not very much, actually, although a few significant changes were made, such as:

- ▶ Updated information (e.g., population projections)
- ▶ Revised policies to align with new Provincial legislation and policies (e.g., Water Act, updated climate change emissions reduction targets)
- ▶ Updated Broad Goals and Vision for Electoral Area “A”
- ▶ New Local Area policies for Anarchist Mountain, Kilpoola, and the areas on the Valley floor
- ▶ Expanded climate adaptation policies to address growing risks like wildfire and increased drought
- ▶ Additional fire hazard management policies, including new local area policies for the Anarchist Mountain area

In addition, changes are being considered for Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Areas (ESDPAs) across the RDOS where ESDPAs may only apply to subdivisions and rezonings. Should these regional amendments be made by the RDOS Board, the ESDPAs will be updated in the Electoral Area “A” OCP.

ELECTORAL AREA “A” BROAD GOALS

These goals were developed and refined through two rounds of community surveys and other outreach. They will be used by the Regional District and provincial ministries and agencies to help guide future decisions on development proposals, environmental protection initiatives, and infrastructure development in Electoral Area “A”. They are organized in the priority identified by community members.



1. **Community safety and health.** Manage and reduce community wildfire risks and promote community wellbeing for all generations



2. **Water resources.** Protect and manage water resources, including both surface and groundwater, for residential uses, agriculture, and ecosystem health.



3. **Agriculture.** Maintain existing and encourage new, compatible agricultural activities in the Agricultural Land Reserve, while limiting subdivision of designated agricultural properties.



4. **Residential development and housing.** Provide the opportunity for limited new growth and housing options for all age groups, while ensuring new housing development maintains the area’s rural character.



5. **Natural environment.** Steward and protect the area’s natural features, including sensitive ecosystems and habitat.



6. **Infrastructure and services.** Improve and support the development of new infrastructure, including community water and sanitary sewer systems and improved internet connectivity.



7. **Transportation.** Maintain a safe and efficient transportation system for all road users.



8. **Osoyoos Indian Band engagement and collaboration.** Improve and expand communications, consultation and engagement with Osoyoos Indian Band.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information contact the project planner, Christopher Garrish at the RDOS (cgarrish@rdos.bc.ca / 250-490-4101), contact Electoral Area “A” Director Mark Pendergraft (mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca / 250-485-2289), or visit our project webpage at www.rdos.bc.ca.