

Greenspace for All

A review of equitable access to greenspace and climate adaptation policies on the east coast of Vancouver Island



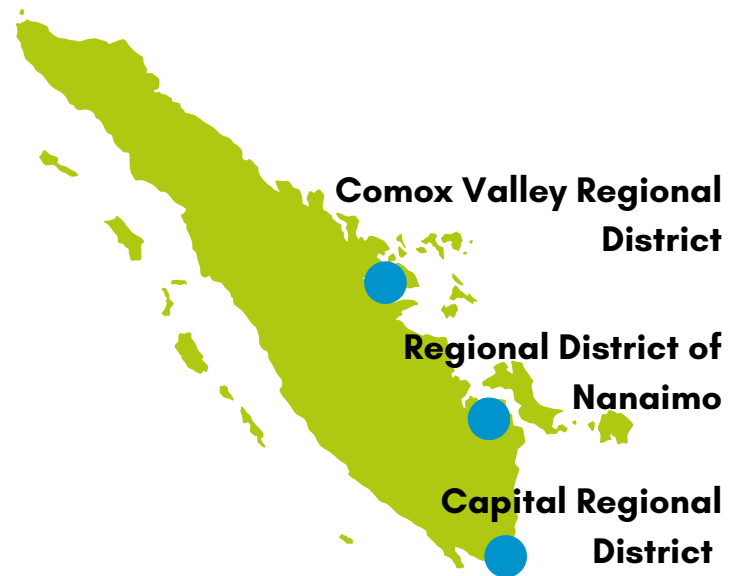
Greenspaces, or vegetated areas of lands and wetlands within or adjoining urban areas, are essential for environmental resilience, climate adaptation, and community well-being. However, the benefits of these spaces are not evenly distributed, which disproportionately impacts equity-deserving groups.

The *Greenspace for All* policy review report seeks to understand the roles that Regional Districts play in allocating greenspace through an equitable lens in three regions on the east coast of Vancouver Island, including:

The report reveals potential gaps in strategic plans, policy and actions, how a lack of outreach and education can create barriers to equitable greenspace and climate adaptation strategies, and how regional districts are taking action to move in a positive direction.

To encourage a more comprehensive approach to equity, the report offers several recommendations and best practices to consider in greenspace and climate adaptation planning.

Regional Districts can use these findings to ensure that the benefits of greenspace and climate action are more evenly distributed, offering a pathway toward a more equitable and climate-resilient future for the East Coast of Vancouver Island.



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Key Takeaways

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The examination of strategic action plans and other publicly available documents across the three regional districts underscores a unanimous recognition by these regional districts of the necessity and interest to incorporate an equity lens into their access to greenspace and climate adaptation strategies.
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A comprehensive strategy is necessary to achieve equitable access to greenspace and climate adaptation. This should address a variety of equity considerations, including:

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Nationality
- Economic status
- Race

Other key takeaways from the report include:

- ▶ Current greenspace and climate adaptation strategies address equity to varying degrees, but often lack **measurable and specific actions** that encompass all aspects of diversity.
- ▶ Climate adaptation interventions should be tailored to the diverse needs of **all community members** and incorporate specific actions from an equity lens.
- ▶ Greenspace and climate adaptation policies can improve **community health, economic equality**, and **environmental resilience** when equity considerations are integrated into their development and implementation.

This report was prepared by Jenny Muñoz, PhD, in collaboration with the Stewardship Centre for BC (SCBC), the UBC BRITE program, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.



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