



# GROWING TOWARDS FOOD SELF RELIANCE: A WHOLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY

## 2019 Implementation Plan

District of North Saanich: A Place to Live, Work Play, and Grow Food!



## **Executive Summary**

Recognizing that the role of food and food production systems are a key element in sustainable communities, the District of North Saanich (DNS) prepared a Whole Community Agricultural Strategy (WCAS) in 2011. The development of the WCAS included consultation with the public and stakeholders within the community in an effort to achieve local food self-reliance through traditional and non-traditional agriculture. The strategy identified 44 priority municipal actions. Subsequently DNS staff prepared an implementation plan that was adopted by Council on July 2, 2011.

In 2015 Council directed an update to the 2011 WCAS, as the WCAS was designed to be an evolving strategy which fosters ongoing community and stakeholder dialogue. In 2016 the Capital Regional Food and Agricultural Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR) collaborated with the DNS to provide a status report on the original actions and to update the WCAS which was completed in 2016.

The 2016 WCAS identifies municipal and community actions to improve and support the future of traditional and non-traditional agriculture in each of the key food system factors. These actions are organized into three sections:

1. Top five priority actions to support the local food system
2. Priority municipal government actions to support the local food system in each of the key food system factors
3. Priority community actions to support the local food system

The status report identified that of the original WCAS 44 municipal actions; 7 were completed, 19 were in progress, and 18 were yet to be completed. The ongoing and remaining actions to be completed were transferred into the 2016 updated set of actions along with the addition of new actions.

The 2016 WCAS update recommended that the DNS develop a detailed implementation plan which would include a timeline and resources required in order to guide the municipal actions. The WCAS also suggested an annual review of the implementation plan which would include a progress report to be presented to Council.

In the preparation of this implementation plan for the 2016 WCAS staff referred to the 2011 WCAS, the Agricultural Economic Development Strategy (AEDS), the DNS Strategic Plan 2014-2018, as well as the Sandown Community Farm (SCF) Documents<sup>1</sup>. The intention of this approach was to ensure that these actions were consolidated into one document so that implementation, monitoring and reporting could be streamlined for staff and Council when evaluating future project work.

This implementation plan includes the priority municipal government actions and top five priority actions. The priority community actions section was not included within the implementation plan as the role of the DNS would be minimal. These actions require further consultation and leaders within the community to champion these actions.

## **Adoption**

In recognition of the importance of the social, economic and environmental fiber of the community the DNS Council adopted this implementation plan on May 27, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> The Sandown Transition Team produced the following documents which were reviewed in the preparation of the WCAS implementation plan were the: Sandown Community Farm Overview; Sandown Community Farm; Background and Detail; Sandown Community Farm; Resource Guide.

1. Land Base					
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>*1.1 Protect working agricultural lands and enhance public agricultural holdings in the region with a farm land fund and acquisition program</b>	SP 17 SP 20 AEDS 3.2 WCAS 1.8, WCAS 8.4	CRD, Local Government, community organizations, agricultural community	Cash in lieu, amenity contributions, property taxes, land acquisition reserve, Agricultural Reserve Fund (ARF) ***, leverage grant funding, staff time	1-5 years	High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016/2017 Council in communications with the CRD regarding the RGS advocated for a the establishment of a Regional Food and Farmland Trust (RFFLT)</li> <li>CSC recommends that DNS Council provide leadership on a regional level</li> <li>CPC identified this as the # 2 high priority action</li> <li>Support the RFFLT at the CRD level through the Regional Food and Agricultural Strategy (RFAS)</li> <li>Participate in the RFAS intergovernmental task force and the RFFLT</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFFLT established and operating</li> <li>Amount of farmland accessible through trust</li> <li>Area of land in production in trust</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>*1.2 Implement drainage upgrades</b>	SP 21	DNS in consultation with the agricultural community, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	The update to the storm water management plan is budgeted from the storm water reserve for 2019, staff time	1-2 years Request for proposal will go out to update the storm water management plan, agricultural community should be consulted in the development of this plan	High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPC identified this as the # 4 priority action</li> <li>Meet and consult with agricultural community and identify 'trouble spots' as part of storm water management plan update</li> <li>Encourage farmers to join the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) which provides drainage management planning. Provide link on website to EFP site.</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of drainage upgrades at identified 'trouble spots'</li> <li>Number of updated or new EFPs</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority level

WCAS Implementation Plan. Municipal Actions to Support the Local Food System in each of the Key Food System Factors - 9 subsections.

<b>1.3 Ensure municipal bylaws support and strengthen agriculture and community food activities. Ensure consistency with Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)</b>	SP1, SP7, SP19, WCAS 1.1	MOA, ALC	DNS, anticipated to have minimal associated costs, staff time	Ongoing	Medium-High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff was in the process of reviewing Provincial agri-tourism standards for the purpose of developing guidelines and policies for agri-tourism and agri-business in 2018. This work is scheduled to resume in 2019</li> <li>Staff intend to present amendments to Zoning Bylaw 1255 to reflect the ALC Act (Bill 52) regarding size restrictions on residences. This process will likely be accompanied by a public hearing</li> <li>Present the ALUI report to Council with a staff report outlining any findings which may require considerations for new policies or bylaw amendments to support and protect agriculture</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of bylaw amendments which were responsive to changing legislation, policy or barriers identified by the agricultural community</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>1.4 Consider and determine the future use of Sandown.</b>	SP18 AEDS 2.5 WCAS 1.5	STT, CRFAIR, UVic	ARF ***	1-5 years	High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandown Transition Team (STT) submitted a 4 document package for Councils consideration in September 2018</li> <li>Council directed staff to bring forward options for short term maintenance and land use as well as direct staff to report back with advice for long term use including a request for expressions of interest and terms for a lease agreement</li> <li>CPC would like the DNS to provide allotment gardens for residents. Allotment gardens have been identified as a potential use at SCF**</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a short term plan for the SCF** presented to and endorsed by Council</li> <li>Have a long term operator in place overseeing the SCF**</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>1.5 Encourage realtors to market farm land for farming rather than estate homes.</b>	WCAS 1.6	Real Estate Foundation of BC, Victoria Real Estate Board	Staff time	Ongoing	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial level addresses this with the ALC and MOA</li> <li>Planning staff can educate realtors on agricultural land use when inquiring about listing agricultural properties</li> <li>OCP policies indicate agricultural land is encouraged to be used for agriculture</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of properties assessed with 'farm status' by BC Assessment within the DNS</li> </ul>				



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write a letter to Victoria Real Estate Board requesting that agricultural lands be marketed towards agricultural land use</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>1.6 Support the provision of services that link available farm land with farmers seeking land.</b>	SP21 AEDS 3.1, WCAS 1.4	Young Agrarians, FarmLink, CRFAIR	N/A	1 year	Medium-High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a page on the DNS website which is dedicated to agricultural resources which has a link to the UMap on the Young Agrarians Website and FarmLink</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of successful land matches within the DNS</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>1.7 Prohibit estate houses and other non-farm uses on farmland.</b>		DNS, ALC, MOA	Staff time	1 year	High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is already a maximum size restriction on homes on Rural Agricultural properties as well as farm residential footprint siting restrictions</li> <li>Staff intend to present amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to reflect ALCA's Bill 52 which would reduce the maximum size to 500m<sup>2</sup> on parcels within the ALR</li> <li>Farm status through BC Assessment is already a requirement to permit agri-tourism accommodation</li> <li>Farm Status through BC Assessment already provides a tax break to property owners</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>1.8 Inventory all public lands in DNS for food growing potential.</b>	SP 18 AEDS 3.3	DNS, SCF**	The park master plan is budgeted for from gas tax funds for 2020  Staff time	1 to 5 years	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCF** could potentially provide public lands for food growing</li> <li>Food is already being cultivated at the Eaglehurst Community Gardens, Denham Till property and Municipal Hall</li> <li>Agricultural capability layer was added to internal mapping for staff to reference potential on DNS lands</li> <li>ALUI will be presented to Council when received from MOA</li> <li>This could be included as part of a Park Master plan</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional plots being cultivated</li> <li>Area of public land cultivating food</li> </ul>				

2. Marketing					
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>2.1 Update the North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) and Implement Plan</b>	SP17 WCAS 3.2, 4.3, 7.2, 8.3, 9.3	TBD	Staff time	1-5 years	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff prepared a report for Council regarding implementation and reconsideration of an update to the AEDS in March 2019</li> <li>Staff recommended that the WCAS implementation plan shared a majority of the actions and therefore an update to the AEDS strategy and implementation plan may not be required</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the WCAS plan which shares 26 of 35 actions from the AEDS</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>2.2 Implement a local/ethical food procurement policy for the District and encourage local procurement policies for the region</b>	WCAS 2.1	DNS	Staff time	N/A	N/A
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2017 the DNS adopted a new procurement policy, however did not specifically create a local/ethical food procurement policy as the overarching priority direction was best value in purchasing practices</li> <li>This policy is scheduled for review in 2022</li> <li>Although the DNS staff endeavors to buy local whenever possible</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>* 2.3 Support the connection of agricultural producers and wholesalers</b>	AEDS 2.5	North Saanich Farm Market, Flavour Trails, Farmer2Farmer, PAAC, retailers, Island Good and Island Farm Fresh	Property taxes, ARF ***	Ongoing	High
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage community events which receive support from the DNS to include information, or provide space for producers and wholesalers to connect</li> <li>CPC identified this as the # 1 high priority action</li> <li>A farm retail centre was proposed in the SCF** documents to include a weekly farm market space, production infrastructure, and storage</li> </ul>				

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A farm operations centre (commercial wholesale oriented building) was considered as part of Phase 2 in the SCF documents. A feasibility study should be conducted prior to determination</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of connections made between local producers, retailers and wholesalers</li> <li>Number of successful events supported by the DNS which provides space for producers and wholesalers to connect</li> <li>An established and operating farm retail centre at SCF**</li> <li>An established and operating farm operations centre at SCF**</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>2.4 Provide a site/and or facilitate the establishment of a permanent farmers market.</b>	SP18 WCAS 2.3	North Saanich Farm Market, SCF**	ARF ***, staff time	1-3 years	Medium
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Saanich Farm Market operates from June through to mid-October on Saturday at St. John's United Church 10990 West Saanich Road</li> <li>Zone 9 within the SCF** Plan Overview was proposed as a location for a farm retail centre which would include a facility for a permanent farm market</li> <li>Staff has initiated background research on farmers markets in surrounding communities, and intends to create a report for Council</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An established and operating permanent farmers market</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>2.5 Encourage the Provincial government to provide financial assistance in establishing new farmers markets.</b>	WCAS 2.7	SCF**, UBCM, Provincial grants	Staff time	1 year	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resolution was previously submitted to UBCM as part of the implementation of the 2011 WCAS</li> <li>A follow-up submission could be sent to UBCM if Council supported it</li> <li>As part of the SCF** the resources for the long term operator document identified several funding streams which could contribute to the development of the site</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An established and operating permanent farmers market with financial support from the Provincial government</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>2.6 Promote local food and local farms</b>	SP19, SP21, AEDS 1.2 AEDS 2.5 WCAS 2.6	CRFAIR, North Saanich Farm Market, SCF**, PAAC, and the agricultural community	Property taxes, grant funding	1-5 years	Medium

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Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more of a presence on DNS communications platforms regarding agricultural festivals and events</li> <li>• Continue to support local agriculture through involvement in festivals, food promotion, campaigns, farm tours, agri-tourism and signage</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of posts on social media and hits on website</li> <li>• Increase in attendance to and awareness of agricultural events and festivals</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>2.7 Pursue an agricultural branding strategy</b>	SP19 WCAS 2.5	CRD, Central Saanich and Saanich, VIEA	Property taxes, special project budget	1-5 years	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DNS currently contributes to agricultural promotion through involvement in festivals, food promotion, campaigns, farm tours and signage</li> <li>• A comprehensive promotions strategy would make most sense from a regional perspective</li> <li>• Encourage local farmers to join VIEA 'Island Good' brand or a regional approach for the peninsula specifically</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An established and recognized agricultural brand for the region</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>2.8 Support the establishment of a centralized food hub (farm aggregation and processing distribution centre).</b>	SP18 AEDS 2.2 AEDS 2.5 WCAS 2.4	SCF**, MOA	Staff time, ARF ***	1-5 years	Medium-High
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCF** documents proposed a farm retail centre which is proposed to include a weekly farm market space, production infrastructure, and storage</li> <li>• Support the SCF** long term operator in making grant applications</li> <li>• A farm operations centre (commercial wholesale oriented building) is considered as part of Phase 2. A feasibility study should be conducted</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The completion of the farm retail centre at the SCF** site</li> <li>• In the future as the SCF** develops the completion of a feasibility study for a farm operations centre</li> </ul>				

3. Labour					
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority level</b>
<b>3.1 Connect local producers to agricultural labour resources.</b>	SP21 WCAS 3.1	Canadian Agricultural Labour Pool, Young Agrarians, Provincial government,	Staff time	1 year	Low



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		Employment Services Centre, Foodwork.ca, Goodwork.ca			
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide link to associations on DNS website.</li> <li>Provide link to farm school programs to connect farmers to new farm entrants (UBC, Kwantlen) and farm volunteer programs</li> <li>If requested support producers requiring assistance from the DNS through government programs</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of links to agricultural page on updated website</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>3.2 Support the creation of agricultural jobs through government wage subsidy programs.</b>	SP18, SP21	Federal and Provincial government, SCF**	N/A	1-5 years	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide links to seek funding through wage subsidies and other government assisted programs</li> <li>SCF** has potential to provide opportunity for creation of agricultural jobs</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of link to agricultural page on updated website</li> </ul>				

<b>4.</b>	<b>Farm Worker Housing</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>4.1 Ensure bylaws continue to allow for farm worker housing and are consistent with the ALCA</b>	SP18, SP19 WCAS 4.1	ALC, MOA	N/A	Complete	N/A
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was identified in 2011 WCAS. Bylaws reflect current ALC regulations.</li> <li>Staff accommodation requires a covenant, RA zones (except RA-5) permit staff accommodation, the District requires submission of agrologists report and consultations with the ALC</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>4.2 Explore and encourage changes to farm regulations to permit more flexibility for farm worker housing (ex. Strata, ecovillage,</b>	SP18, SP19 WCAS 4.4	ALC, MOA, SCF**	N/A	1-5 years	Low

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community or coop farms).					
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DNS cannot permit alternate dwellings that do not comply to ALR regulations</li> <li>However if an applicant proposed a type of alternative housing an application non-farm use to the ALC and an application for a bylaw amendment for a comprehensive development zone would be required</li> <li>SCF** may provide an opportunity to explore this</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of a comprehensive development zone which supports alternative types of housing to support farming operations</li> </ul>				

5.	Processing Services				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority level
<b>5.1 Amend policies to support additional agricultural processing infrastructure and support value added operations.</b>	SF 18 WCAS 5.1, WCAS 5.2	SCF**, local farmers, ALC, MOA	Capital Reserve could potentially support the establishment of an abattoir, ARF ***	1-5 years	Medium
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The definition for 'farm use' aligns with what is permitted by the <i>Farm Practices Protection Act</i> and the ALC Act. Farm use is a permitted use in all lands within the ALR</li> <li>The SCF** documents also proposed facilities to support processing and value added operations</li> <li>CSC identified that they would like Council to support the establishment of a mobile abattoir</li> <li>STT identified that the SCF** may not be the best location for an abattoir, instead the Littlewood Road property where the green waste program is located would be more suitable. However staff note that the Littlewood Road property did not fall within the scope of the STT.</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of increased farms with agricultural processing infrastructure and value added operations</li> <li>Introduction of a mobile abattoir or an abattoir</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>5.2 Assess the viability of a property taxation strategy to attract and encourage processing infrastructure.</b>	WCAS 5.3, WCAS 5.5	DNS	Staff time	1-2 years	Low
Feasibility or Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the use of Community Charter's revitalization tax exemption provisions</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of a property taxation strategy</li> </ul>				

6. Training and Information					
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>* 6.1 Provide an agrologist and government extension services at the regional or sub regional level.</b>	SP21 AEDS 3.2 AEDS 4.3 WCAS 6.2	MOA, CRD, Central Saanich, Saanich, CRFAIR, PAAC and agricultural community	ARF ***	1-5 years	High
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DNS previously had this as a SP item and sent advocacy letters to the CRD requesting the reinstatement of a regional agrologist in 2016</li> <li>DNS does not have an agrologist on staff. There is a regional agrologist for the south island now employed by MOA which includes North Saanich. The contact information will be provided on the updated website.</li> <li>CPC identified this as the #3 high priority action</li> <li>DNS Staff contacted the regional agrologist to inquire about the volume of inquiries for the peninsula and services they provide to determine if there is an unmet need. They determined that although they do spend a significant portion of their time with the Saanich area as a whole that they do not get a lot of inquiries from North Saanich</li> <li>If there is an identified unmet need for further extensions services consider conducting a feasibility study and partner with Central Saanich, Saanich and the Capital Regional District to provide an agrologist and extension services</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide contact information to the regional agrologist on DNS updated website</li> <li>Feasibility study completed to determine need for a regional agrologist and extension services</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>6.2 Maintain and update the North Saanich Agriculture website.</b>	SP21, WCAS 1.2, WCAS 9.5	DNS, all partners within the implementation plan	The 2019 budget already includes an update to the DNS website, staff time	1 year	High
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the partners identified within this implementation plan will be incorporated on the agricultural resources and services page on the updated DNS website</li> <li>Allow for a request box so staff are notified when there is a gap in resources or services which could be added to the website or considerations for future policies or plans</li> <li>When providing updates on available resources or services also broadcast this information through DNS social media accounts</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verify all resources and services are identified on DNS website agricultural resource page</li> <li>Functioning request box</li> <li>Continual updates and news releases with pertinent information</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>6.3 Encourage and support schools to grow</b>	AEDS 1.3	Life Cycles: Growing Schools, Growing	Property taxes, ARF ***	1-5 years	Low

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<b>food and include farming in the curriculum.</b>	WCAS 3.3, WCAS 6.1, WCAS 8.5	Young Farmers Society, Growing Young Chefs, North Saanich Middle School, School District 63			
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support partners either in kind, in principle or with funding in providing education on food systems and agriculture</li> <li>North Saanich Middle School Principal met with STT and they are interested in farm based teaching and experimental learning at the SCF**</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of students participating in programs at the SCF**</li> <li>Number of classrooms where curriculum was delivered with support from DNS</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>6.4 Host agricultural dialogues (forums, presentations, etc).</b>	AEDS 1.3 AEDS 4.1 WCAS 6.3	CRFAIR, SCF**, community food and agricultural organizations, farmers associations, academic institutions, North Saanich Food for the Future Society	Property taxes, ARF***	1-5 years	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DNS would be better suited to support forums and events lead by other agricultural groups in the community</li> <li>The DNS will support in principle, in kind and potentially funding as available</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of events which the DNS supported in kind, in principle or in funding.</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>6.5 Increase awareness of resources, availability of information, training opportunities</b>	SP21, AEDS 1.3 AEDS 4.2	Agricultural community, MOA	Corporate services communication budget, staff time	1 year	Medium
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the actions identified within this table will be incorporated on the agricultural resources and services page on the updated DNS website.</li> <li>When providing updates on available resources or services also broadcast this information through DNS social media accounts</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verify all resources and services are identified on DNS website agricultural resource page</li> <li>Functioning request box</li> <li>Continual updates and news releases with pertinent information</li> </ul>				

7. Water Supply					
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>* 7.1 Promote the utilization of rainwater and grey water for food production.</b>	SP1	DNS, Climate Action Initiative BC Agriculture and Food, PAAC	Staff time	1-5 years	High
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPC considered this to be the # 6 high priority action</li> <li>Provide links on DNS website for grey water collection systems options for agriculture</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verify all resources and services are identified on DNS website agricultural resource page</li> <li>Continual updates and news releases with pertinent information</li> </ul>				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>7.2 Maintain bylaws that support favourable water rates for agriculture</b>	AEDS 5.8 WCAS 7.1	DNS, CRD	CRD owns and operates the bulk water supply system, whereas the DNS owns and operates the local distribution system. DNS passes along the reduced rates to agricultural producers and the CRD provides the subsidy.	N/A	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favourable water rates for agricultural producers are currently in place</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining favourable water rates for agriculture</li> </ul>				

8. Support Agencies					
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority level
<b>8.1 Support and partner with independent local agricultural organizations.</b>	AEDS 2.5	North Saanich Farm Market, SCF**, CRFAIR	Property tax	1-5 years	Medium
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support (either in kind, in principle or with funding) the work of and partner with local community food organizations to advance community food systems and farming initiatives</li> <li>SCF** would appear to be the best opportunity for the DNS to collaborate with these groups</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of partnerships with agricultural organizations</li> </ul>				



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of projects being worked on between DNS and local agricultural organizations</li> </ul>				
<b>8.2 Support and participate in regional food and agricultural committees.</b>	AEDS 4.4	CRFAIR, PAAC, CAC	Property tax, staff time	1-5 years	Medium
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When invited have staff attend these meetings to represent the DNS to engage and have collaborative to gather information to inform decision makers</li> <li>Continue to support and advocate for regional food and agricultural committees and programs</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of committees where there is a representative from DNS</li> </ul>				
<b>8.3 Advocate at the provincial and federal levels for policies in support of sustainable agriculture and sustainable local food systems.</b>		CRD, surrounding local governments, UBCM, ALC, MOA	Matching grant funding, staff time	1-5 years	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs already exist for this at a Provincial level through the Climate Action Initiative of BC Agriculture and Food</li> <li>The DNS may have a future opportunity to engage in their programs</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DNS participation with the Climate Action Initiative</li> </ul>				

9.	Environmental and Climate Change Challenges				
Action	Affiliated Plans	Partners	Financial Considerations	Timeline	Priority Level
<b>9.1 Address problems with wildlife and reduce wildlife impacts on farming</b>	WCAS 9.1	CRD, neighbouring municipalities, DNS, RCMP, Ministry of Environment, First Nations	Property taxes, additional costs to operating budget	1-2 years	Medium
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal control is a CRD service; DNS is serviced by the CRD wildlife management programs</li> <li>CSC would like to see Council undertake responsibility to address impact on agriculture from wildlife, therefore further advocacy may be necessary to the CRD for additional wildlife programs</li> <li>There is no maximum fence height in Rural Agricultural zones as there is in Residential zones</li> <li>There are no restrictions on the maximum number of accessory buildings in the Rural Agricultural zone</li> <li>PAAC has acknowledged this a regional priority issue</li> <li>In early 2016 DNS updated the firearms bylaw related to geese control</li> <li>Council has noted concerns with regard to deer management but this has not been addressed</li> </ul>				

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Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fewer complaints regarding wildlife impacting farming</li> <li>Advocacy in the form of a letter to CRD</li> <li>PAAC agenda item to discuss if this is an issue in surrounding local governments</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>9.2 Allow farmers to burn agricultural refuse not suitable for composting.</b>	AEDS 5.2 WCAS 9.2	North Saanich Fire Department, Municipal Green Waste Drop-off	N/A	1-2 years	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burning is regulated at a Provincial level</li> <li>Burning permits are required from the DNS and information regarding burning is available on the DNS website under the emergency services tab</li> <li>For smaller agricultural operations the Green Waste Drop off located on Littlewood Road collects burnable materials for a fee</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>9.3 Control of agricultural water run off during the rainy season.</b>	WCAS 9.4	DNS, local farmers, BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation, Investment Agriculture Foundation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	The update to the storm water management plan is budgeted from the storm water reserve for 2019, staff time	1-5 years	Medium-High
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage was identified as a one of the top five priorities within the updated WCAS, see Action 1.2</li> <li>Meet and consult with agricultural community and identify 'trouble spots' as part of storm water management plan update</li> <li>Encourage farmers to join the EFP which provides drainage management planning</li> <li>Provide links on DNS website to Climate Action Initiative website</li> <li>May provide opportunity for rainwater storage to reduce water consumption in dry season</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Links available on DNS website to the EFP and Climate Action Initiative sites</li> <li>Increased number of rainwater storage units on agricultural properties</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>9.4 Promote green energy initiatives in agriculture.</b>		BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation, Investment Agriculture Foundation, Agriculture	N/A	1 year	Medium

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		and Agri-Food Canada, Fortis BC, BC Hydro			
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide link on DNS website to the Climate Action Initiative BC Energy Assessment Tool</li> <li>• BC Hydro industrial program provides information about incentive and rebates available from BC Hydro for various energy efficiency technologies for industry</li> <li>• FortisBC saving energy for business information and BCs Energy Assessment program</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced energy consumption for agricultural producers in DNS</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>9.5 Provide more tree and hedgerow plantings.</b>	WCAS 9.6	DNS, residents	N/A	N/A	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DNS is more focused of maintenance of existing trees as opposed to planting additional trees</li> <li>• The DNS however does have special tree planting events on occasion</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>9.6 Plant food producing plants on public lands and pursue a location for a public orchard.</b>	WCAS 9.8	SCF**, DNS	ARF ***	N/A	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Denham Till property has an existing orchard as well as food producing plants at the Municipal Hall property on Mills Road</li> <li>• CPC identified that allotment gardens should be a priority and should be available for non-farm residents</li> <li>• The SCF** has proposed an orchard and allotment gardens</li> <li>• There is also allotment gardens located at the Eaglehurst park</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of fruit and vegetables produced on these properties</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>
<b>9.7 Provide a community 'hot composting' facility.</b>	WCAS 9.7	CRD, private business	N/A	N/A	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRD in January 2015 banned kitchen scraps from garbage heading to the Hartland Landfill. The CRD operates the landfill</li> <li>• Hot composting requires special management as there is risk in fire and spontaneous combustion. At this time this is not something that the District has expertise to operate</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Affiliated Plans</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Financial Considerations</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>

<b>9.8 Amend Development Permit guidelines to promote sustainable land use practices.</b>		DNS	Staff time	1-3 years	Low
Feasibility and Potential Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Permit Guidelines for DP Area #6 and #8 could be amended to incorporate language which is more supportive of edible landscapes</li> <li>An OCP review is targeted for 2020, these guidelines can go through a comprehensive review at that time</li> </ul>				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amended bylaws</li> <li>Planted edible landscapes, native vegetation and/or drought tolerant</li> </ul>				

## Supplementary Information

\* Top Priority Actions are denoted with an asterisks

\*\* The Sandown Transition Team produced the Sandown Community Farm Overview, Sandown Community Farm Background and Detail, Sandown Community Farm Resource Guide and these are the documents referenced in this implementation plan. At the time this plan was drafted there were no land use decisions made for the Sandown property.

\*\*\* Initiatives and projects identified on the Sandown agricultural lands approved by Council would be eligible to be funded from the Agricultural Reserve Fund, in accordance with the Agricultural Reserve Fund expenditure guidelines.

## Abbreviations Table

AEDS	Agricultural Economic Development Strategy (2012)	MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission	PAAC	Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission
ALUI	Agricultural Land Use Inventory	RFAS	Regional Food and Agricultural Strategy
ARF ***	Agricultural Reserve Fund (see supplementary information above)	RFFLT	Regional Food and Farmland Trust
CAC	Community Agricultural Commission	RGS	Regional Growth Strategy
CPC	Community Planning Commission	SCF**	Sandown Community Farm (see supplementary information above)
CRD	Capital Regional District	SP	Strategic Plan 2014-2018 (March 2018)
CRFAIR	Capital Regional Food and Agricultural Initiatives Roundtable	UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities
CSC	Community Stewardship Commission	UVic	University of Victoria
EFP	Environmental Farm Plan	VIEA	Vancouver Island Economic Alliance
		WCAS	Whole Community Agricultural Strategy (2011)