

What's the future for Area C?

AREA C | OFFICIAL COMMUNITY
PLAN UPDATE

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DRAFT VISION AND GOALS

APRIL 2025



INTRODUCTION

An OCP vision statement should capture the overall sentiment of who/what the community desires to be within the timeframe of the bylaw. Area C's current vision statement, as noted in Part 2.1 of the 2007 OCP Bylaw No. 1166, is as follows:

“The residents of South Long Beach wish to protect the rural character of the community. They want to retain and promote the beautiful, “Wild Pacific” natural environment of the area, to protect that natural environment and to enhance environmental awareness in the community. They wish to be able to live and work in a healthy social and economic environment, and to see their community grow at a reasonable pace. They want adequate land available for newcomers to the area and for future generations, and to see expanded economic diversity and opportunity within the community. They want adequate infrastructure and community services and public amenities, while retaining the friendly rural ambiance of the community.”

Elements of the existing vision statement are reflective of what community members still value about and desire for Area C, including:

- The rugged, largely untouched natural environment – both as a defining characteristic of the region as well as something to steward over and preserve
- The rural community character – inherently remote, yet welcoming, relational, and friendly
- Sustainable growth – supported by: a diverse and stable local economy (that is less seasonal and/or reliant on natural resource extraction), reliable infrastructure, and availability of community services and public amenities

DRAFT VISION STATEMENTS

AREA C VISION

The following vision statement option has been drafted for Area C with the intention of capturing residents’ sentiments about, and aspirations for, their community:

Area C, located on the traditional territory of the Nuuchahnulth speaking peoples on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, is known for its extraordinary wilderness, rural character, and strong sense of community. These qualities will continue to be emphasized through community-led environmental stewardship, thoughtful and climate-resilient development, and partnering with the Yuuʔiʔath Government, Toquaht Nation, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation communities, and others whose lands may be affected. Community members will engage in collaborative efforts to improve rural infrastructure and transportation services, diversify housing options, provide public gathering spaces, and strengthen the local-based economy. The community’s direction will be mindful of the Nuuchahnulth Guiding Principles, which emphasize utmost respect (iisaak), taking care of one another (ʔuuʔaʔuk), and recognizing that everything is one (hišuk ʔiš cawaak’).

COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENTS

The following are community-specific vision statements that aim to reflect the unique nature of each of the sub-area communities within Area C:

ITTATSOO BAY

Known as a picturesque off-grid community nestled amongst a natural coastal landscape where residents value quiet living away from the business of Ucluelet. Ittatsoo Bay will strengthen its sense of community over the next twenty-five years through community-led stewardship of the natural environment, protection of diverse First Nations cultural heritage, improved emergency preparedness, enhancements to existing road and shore access, improvements to servicing infrastructure, and the provision of community gathering spaces.

MILLSTREAM

Recognized for its quiet, rural nature, Millstream will continue to offer a high quality of life and celebrate its existing character over the next twenty-five years through improvements to transportation, such as road maintenance and connectivity to the community within the region, protection of the water supply, and provision of community spaces for all ages.

PORT ALBION

Located on the northwest shore of Ucluelet Inlet, Port Albion is known as a quiet, tight-knit community removed from nearby tourist hubs. In 2051, improved protections for sensitive coastal habitats and the development of community servicing infrastructure ensures that Port Albion remains a serene yet resilient community for current and future generations.

SALMON BEACH

Salmon Beach is known as a seasonal recreational retreat featuring boundless access to nature and a strong sense of community. Over the next twenty-five years, the community will explore opportunities to expand services and development through collaboration with Toquaht First Nation and provincial agencies. This may include improvements to servicing infrastructure, waste management, and overall community accessibility.

DRAFT GOAL STATEMENTS

The following goal statements reflect components of Area C’s vision and will be used subsequently to guide the creation of various policies:

RECONCILIATION

1. Foster strong, collaborative partnerships with local First Nations.

Continue to build strong relationships with First Nation communities, including hiškʷiiʔath (Hesquiaht First Nation), ʕaahʷuusʔath (Ahouasht), ʕaʔuukʷiʔath (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation), Yuuʕuʔiʔath (Ucluelet First Nation), tukʷaaʔath (Toquaht Nation), and Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to facilitate meaningful partnerships. Engage in collaborative decision-making on key priorities such as economic opportunities; historical, cultural, heritage, and archaeological initiatives; and shared stewardship of the natural environment, and supportive art programs.

PARKS & RECREATION

2. Strengthen Area C’s network of parks, trails, and open spaces.

Improve connectivity and access to existing and future parks, trails, open spaces, and community gathering spaces. Collaborate with adjacent communities to achieve this goal where necessary, including exploring support for the implementation of an active Community Parks Service.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

3. Preserve and protect natural areas and ecologically significant habitats.

Steward the natural environment to ensure the protection of healthy forests, riparian areas, wildlife habitats, coastal environments, and other natural spaces.

4. Enhance emergency preparedness throughout Area C.

Improve mitigation and disaster risk management practices related to natural hazards (e.g., wildfires, steep slopes, tsunamis, flooding, earthquakes, etc.). Promote emergency awareness and preparedness to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen long-term community resilience.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

5. Preserve the rural wilderness character of Area C.


Support developments that complement, protect, and enhance the region’s existing rural character.

6. Concentrate new development in areas with existing infrastructure and services.

Direct new development to occur in areas that are already serviced by community water and road infrastructure.

HOUSING & AFFORDABILITY

7. Support housing attainability to meet evolving community needs.



Encourage the expansion of housing stock and a greater diversity of housing forms which meet the distinct rural housing needs of the community.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY

8. Foster a diverse and resilient local economy.

Promote a diverse, sustainable year-round economy that sustains small local businesses and creates opportunities for home-based businesses, enables remote workers, supports the region's tourism industry, and builds upon potential opportunities that may arise through further development of the Long Beach Airport.

TRANSPORTATION

9. Improve transportation infrastructure and transit service.

Collaborate with First Nations and appropriate agencies to support enhanced connectivity amongst communities within the region and with the east coast of Vancouver Island. This includes improvements to road networks, active transportation infrastructure, air travel, and transit service.