

# Sayward's Official Community Plan

## Update is Happening Now!

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A lot has happened in the community since the adoption of the current Official Community Plan (OCP) in 2005. Market trends have impacted local industry and the Village of Sayward has implemented new initiatives to support the growing tourism sector as well as a variety of infrastructure upgrades. As a result, the Village of Sayward is updating its OCP. To be developed over this spring and summer, the updated OCP will help guide Sayward's growth and development into the future.

To make sure the OCP is relevant and meets the current and future needs of the community, your involvement is essential. We are looking forward to connecting with you around town and online to get your input on how to shape the future of Sayward.

### WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN?

An Official Community Plan is the highest-level policy document – it informs and guides how the community grows with a 20-year perspective. All OCPs are prepared under the authority of the *Local Government Act*, the primary legislation governing municipalities in BC.

As the highest-level planning policy document in any community, an OCP serves as a guide for elected officials, administration and staff when making a wide range of decisions on land development matters such as where development should occur, how it will be zoned, what services will be provided, how infrastructure investments will be allocated, and how key elements that contribute to the community's quality of life will be protected.

The Official Community Plan should be a visionary and future oriented document that answers:

**“What do we want the community to be in the future?”**  
**“How are we going to get there?”**

### WHY ARE WE UPDATING THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN?

Official Community Plans are typically updated every 5 to 10 years. Updating Sayward's OCP will help identify gaps related to land use and community development objectives and policies. We will also work to address current and potential challenges and opportunities and solidify the Village's vision and guiding principles for the community.

The updated Official Community Plan will:

- Provide an opportunity for the community to come together to develop and a shared vision for what Sayward should look like in 2041 and into the future.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to identify the key characteristics of Sayward that should be preserved, enhanced, improved, or changed.
- Provide elected officials and staff with a clear direction and a framework to implement future plans and policies.
- Provides an opportunity for the community, developers, government agencies, First Nations, industries, businesses, and other stakeholders to come together and discuss the future.
- Ensure consistency with Provincial best practices and the *Local Government Act*

## GET INVOLVED IN SHAPING YOUR COMMUNITY

All decisions made by Council and staff for how Sayward develops over the next 20+ years will be in line with the Official Community Plan objectives and policy. It is important that those objectives and policies reflect the community's needs.

Over the summer, there will be a number of opportunities to get involved in the process and share your thoughts for the future of Sayward. Opportunities to participate in the process will be posted on the City's website, social media platforms, and distributed in the community newsletter.

Our anticipated timeline of events is listed to the right with include several opportunities for the general public to get involved. Please note that specific dates and locations will be posted on the Village website and the Village social media platforms.



## URBAN SYSTEMS

The Village of Sayward has hired Urban Systems, located in Courtenay, to lead the planning and review process for the OCP update. Council, staff, and the community will support Urban Systems team which will coordinate all engagement efforts and prepare the new OCP. The Village's goal is to ensure the OCP meets the needs of the community moving forward. If you have any questions or comments throughout this process, please feel free to reach out to the Urban Systems team at [saywardocp@urbansystems.ca](mailto:saywardocp@urbansystems.ca).