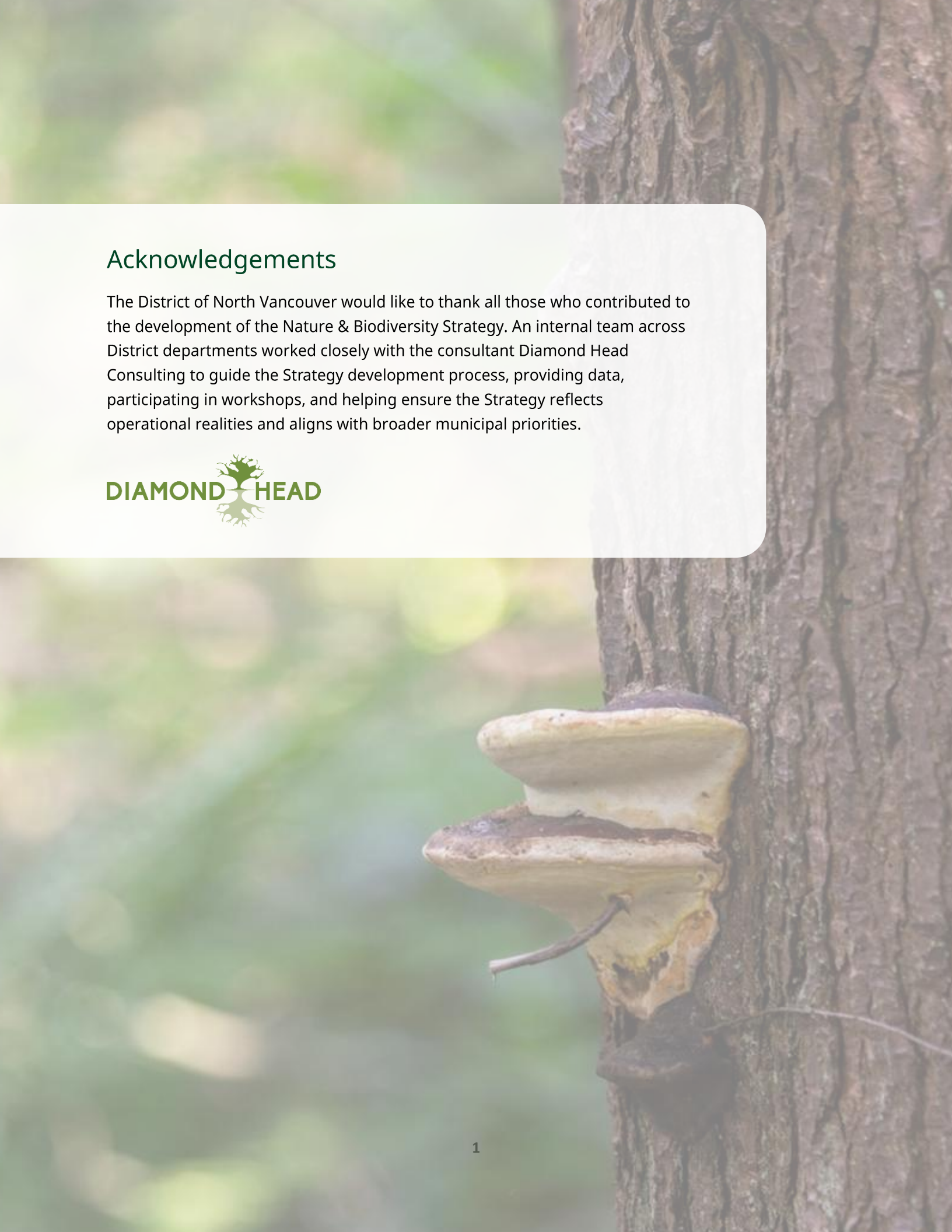
Nature & Biodiversity Strategy

DRAFT - April 2026

DISTRICT OF
NORTH
VANCOUVER



Acknowledgements

The District of North Vancouver would like to thank all those who contributed to the development of the Nature & Biodiversity Strategy. An internal team across District departments worked closely with the consultant Diamond Head Consulting to guide the Strategy development process, providing data, participating in workshops, and helping ensure the Strategy reflects operational realities and aligns with broader municipal priorities.

DIAMOND HEAD

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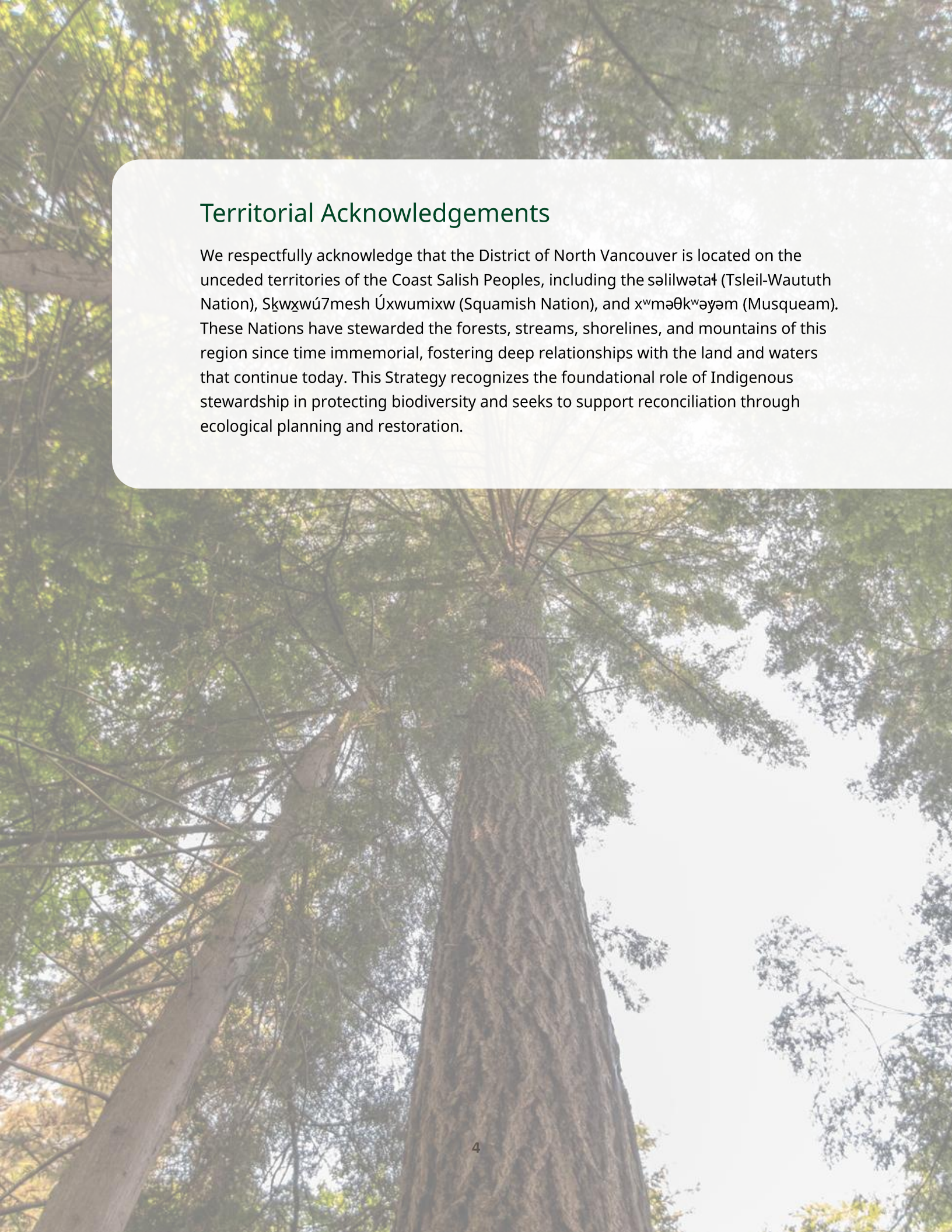


Territorial Acknowledgements

We respectfully acknowledge that the District of North Vancouver is located on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam). These Nations have stewarded the forests, streams, shorelines, and mountains of this region since time immemorial, fostering deep relationships with the land and waters that continue today. This Strategy recognizes the foundational role of Indigenous stewardship in protecting biodiversity and seeks to support reconciliation through ecological planning and restoration.

Executive Summary

The District of North Vancouver is home to a wide range of ecosystems, from the forests and alpine landscapes of the North Shore Mountains to streams, wetlands, and marine shoreline habitats along Burrard Inlet. These natural systems support diverse plant and wildlife communities and provide important ecosystem services, including clean water, flood protection, climate regulation, and opportunities for recreation and connection with nature.

The Nature and Biodiversity Strategy provides a framework to guide the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity across the District. The Strategy builds on technical ecological assessment work that evaluated ecosystem conditions, relative biodiversity levels and ecological priorities across the District. This work forms the scientific foundation for the actions and recommendations presented in this Strategy.

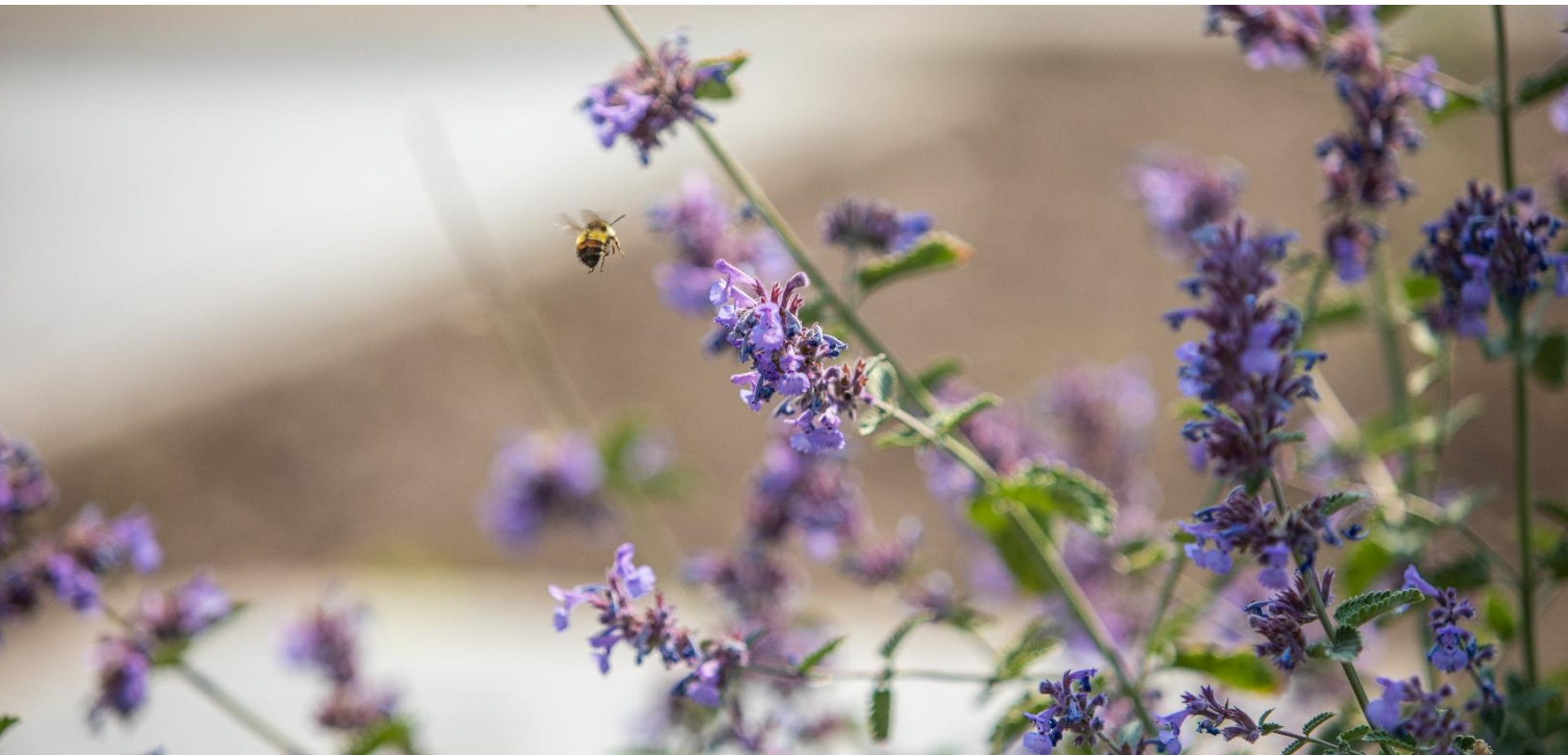
While the District retains extensive natural areas, biodiversity is under increasing pressure from urban development, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, climate change, and growing recreational use. These pressures are most evident within the Urban Containment Boundary, where natural habitats are smaller and more fragmented.

To address these challenges, the Strategy identifies a **Habitat Network** that highlights important habitat areas and corridors that support ecological connectivity across the District. Protecting and strengthening this network will help maintain biodiversity, support climate resilience, and enhance ecosystem services provided by these natural areas.

The Strategy outlines five themes that guide actions to protect and enhance biodiversity:

1. **Planning and Policy** – Strengthening policies, bylaws, and planning tools to protect natural systems and ecological processes.
2. **Municipal Operations** – Integrating biodiversity considerations into municipal operations and infrastructure management.
3. **Habitat Restoration and Enhancement** – Restoring degraded ecosystems and improving habitat connectivity.
4. **Education and Stewardship** – Increasing public awareness and supporting stewardship programs and partnerships.
5. **Data Collection and Monitoring** – Improving ecological data and monitoring to support informed decision-making.

Together, these themes are supported by **24 recommended actions** aimed at strengthening policies, restoring ecosystems, improving ecological connectivity, and increasing community awareness and stewardship. Implementation of the Strategy will require collaboration with local First Nations, regional partners, stewardship groups, and residents. Through coordinated action and ongoing monitoring, the District can protect and enhance its natural areas while supporting a resilient and healthy community for generations to come.



1.0 Introduction

The natural areas within the District of North Vancouver are facing increasing pressures due to population growth, land development, invasive species, climate change, and habitat fragmentation. This Nature and Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) serves as a framework to guide the protection, restoration, and enhancement of nature and biodiversity within the community.

This Strategy builds upon the District's strong history of environmental leadership (*Appendix 2*). It aligns with the strategies of neighbouring municipalities and complements regional initiatives. The District collaborates closely with Metro Vancouver regarding the regional watersheds that fall within its boundaries but are managed by Metro Vancouver.

Technical ecological assessment work served as a key input to this Strategy, providing baseline data and an analysis of current ecosystem conditions. This scientific foundation informs the Strategy's priorities and actions.

The Strategy recommends policies and practices to support effective implementation in planning, operations, and stewardship. It emphasizes public engagement and integrates community values, ensuring that biodiversity goals reflect the priorities of residents while advancing best practices in conservation.

The District has established a vision for its natural areas that acknowledges the historical and ongoing stewardship of First Nations. It emphasizes the ecological significance of urban and modified habitats and outlines a practical plan for protecting and enhancing the natural systems that define the District. By incorporating biodiversity into planning, operations, and community design, the District can safeguard its natural systems, ensuring they support ecological health, climate resilience, and community well-being.

1.1 What Is Biodiversity, and Why Is It Important?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life, encompassing everything from microscopic organisms to complex wildlife species and diverse vegetation communities, all of which together form healthy ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems provide essential services that benefit communities, such as stormwater filtration, carbon storage, facilitating pollination, flood protection, and providing cooling during heat events. These ecosystem services improve community livability and resilience by offering recreational opportunities, cultural significance, and a strong sense of place, while also promoting mental and physical health and well-being.

The District of North Vancouver is uniquely situated to encompass the extensive, intact ecosystems of the North Shore Mountains. These ecosystems originate in the alpine tundra and extend down through extensive forests, reaching urban areas via forested parks and riparian corridors that lead to the marine foreshore.

1.2 Biodiversity Policy Framework

The protection and management of biodiversity in British Columbia occurs within a broader policy framework established by the federal and provincial governments. Federal legislation such as the Species at Risk Act, the Fisheries Act and the Migratory Birds Act govern the protection of certain species and aquatic habitats, while provincial legislation including the Environmental Management Act, Water Sustainability Act, Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, and Wildlife Act further govern the protection of ecosystem function and natural resources. In addition, provincial commitments to reconciliation through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act recognize the importance of Indigenous stewardship and knowledge in environmental management. Together, these laws and policies establish the foundation for protecting biodiversity across the province, while local governments play a key role in implementing conservation measures through land use planning, infrastructure decisions, and habitat restoration initiatives at the community scale.

1.3 Biodiversity Success Stories

The District has made meaningful progress in enhancing nature and biodiversity through a range of initiatives, educational programs, and partnerships. The following examples highlight some of these efforts and demonstrate how ongoing stewardship, education, and community involvement are contributing to healthier and more resilient local ecosystems.

Urban Tree Canopy Project

Launched in 2021, the Urban Tree Canopy Project aims to expand the District's urban tree canopy and improve local biodiversity while strengthening people's connection to nature. The program encourages residents to plant and care for trees and shrubs on their property through a plant distribution initiative. Trees and other plants provide shade and cooling, store carbon, filter air pollutants, and support mental and physical health. In 2022, the program expanded to include residents in apartments and condos, offering plants and shrubs for balconies. The annual Urban Tree Canopy Festival features workshops, nature walks, and participation from Tsleil-Waututh Nation knowledge holders.

Volunteer in a Park Program

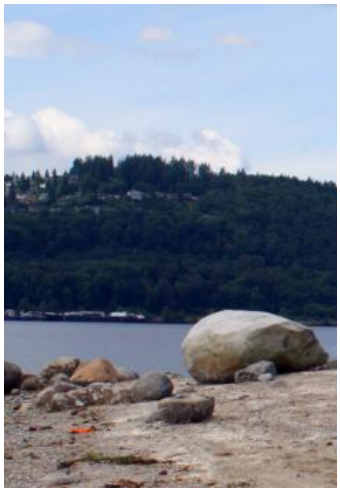
With over 3,000 hectares of parkland throughout the District, volunteers play a key role in caring for the District's trails, greenbelts, creeks, and neighbourhood parks. This program offers opportunities to support ecological restoration, remove invasive species, maintain and build trails, and participate in litter clean-up. These activities help protect natural areas, enhance biodiversity, and foster community stewardship of local parkland.

Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre

The Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre has been operating since 1971 within Lynn Canyon Park. The purpose of the Ecology Centre is to educate the broader community so that they can discover the natural areas around them, connect with like-minded individuals, and explore opportunities to help our environment. It provides educational programs for schools, organizations, and the general public and features galleries full of interactive displays about the connections between plants, animals, and people.

Whey-Ah-Wichen/Cates Park Shoreline Improvements

The District of North Vancouver and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation co-manage Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park under a longstanding (2001) agreement, making joint decisions on the development, maintenance, and stewardship of the park. Together, the District and Tsleil-Waututh Nation are restoring the shoreline and implementing park improvements. The project uses nature-based solutions to increase resilience to climate change, preserves the area's historical and cultural significance, and supports traditional Tsleil-Waututh uses. It also integrates visitor educational opportunities which foster community connection to the park and its natural and cultural values.



Bat Box Initiative

In response to concerns about mosquitoes at Parkgate Park, the District partnered with the BC Community Bat Program to install bat boxes near the ball fields. Bats provide natural insect control, with a single bat consuming up to 1,000 insects per night. The project included expert site assessment and design, habitat enhancements, and interpretive signage to support public education. Community members, including local Girl Guides, contributed to the initiative and will assist with monitoring. This initiative supports both local biodiversity and broader bat conservation efforts.

Sustainability Grants Program

The Sustainability Grants Program provides funds to support small-scale, community-based environment and sustainability projects that can help reach our climate action and ecosystem health goals. Projects funded under the grant have included planting native species, creating rain and pollinator gardens, and delivering education and outreach initiatives that raise awareness about local biodiversity and wildlife. These projects help improve habitat quality, support pollinators and other species, and strengthen community engagement in local ecosystem stewardship.

Stewardship Partners

The District works closely with long-standing community organizations that play an important role in stewarding the North Shore's natural areas. Groups such as the Seymour Salmonid Society, North Shore Streamkeepers, North Shore Black Bear Society, Wild Bird Trust, and North Shore Eagle Network support habitat restoration, wildlife protection, and public education in the District. Their ongoing efforts contribute to the collective efforts to protect and enhance local biodiversity.

2.0 Developing the Strategy

The Strategy was informed by internal and community engagement, a review of existing policies and plans, and a technical assessment of local conditions that influence biodiversity. This approach provided a strong foundation that guided the Strategy's direction and recommended actions.

2.1 Engagement Summary

Round 1 – Preliminary Engagement

Initial engagement with internal staff, municipal partners, and the community played an important role in informing the overall direction of the Strategy. These engagement activities included internal workshops with staff across the organization, ongoing engagement with First Nations, and a workshop with external organizations and neighbouring municipalities.

Preliminary engagement identified several key takeaways. Participants emphasized that protecting and enhancing biodiversity is a shared responsibility across all sectors and the community. Education and awareness were identified as essential to strengthening understanding of why it is important to increase nature and biodiversity in our community. The need for adequate funding, staffing, and resources to support implementation were also highlighted. There was strong support for establishing clear, measurable goals supported by monitoring and tracking. Lastly, it was noted that municipalities have to manage many competing priorities and that including biodiversity considerations in the early stages of planning processes is critical to the long-term success of future initiatives.

2.2 Policy and Programs Review

To support the development of the Strategy, existing District policies and strategies were reviewed, along with approaches from other jurisdictions.

2.2.1 Regulations and Policies

This work focused on several key regulations and policies, including the District's Official Community Plan (OCP), Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw, Streamside and Natural Environment Development Permit Areas (DPAs), Tree Protection Bylaw, and other related policies *(Appendix 3)*.

2.2.2 Plans and Strategies

A number of District plans and strategies include key policies towards enhancing nature and biodiversity in the District:

- Invasive Plant Management Strategy
- Natural Areas Trail Strategy
- People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan
- North Shore Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment and Adaptive Management Strategy
- Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

While these documents are related to the Strategy, each has a distinct focus that supports ecosystem health, resilience, and other recreation and park planning objectives. This Strategy is a high-level document that complements and builds upon these existing District plans and policies.

The policy review was also informed by direct staff engagement. Interviews and workshops were conducted with District staff representing environment, parks, engineering, and planning. These discussions provided insight into existing policies, operational realities, and opportunities to enhance biodiversity outcomes. Staff perspectives were paired with a detailed review of bylaws, strategies, and management plans to ensure that the assessment reflected both technical policy frameworks and on-the-ground implementation experience.

2.3 Nature and Biodiversity Assessment

Technical assessment work was undertaken to evaluate the condition of ecosystems across the District, including forests, streams, wetlands, shorelines, marine areas, and associated wildlife. It included a review of current ecological conditions and highlighted sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots. This information was used to inform biodiversity rankings and to develop a habitat network consisting of core hubs, smaller habitat sites, and ecological corridors.

Table 1. Habitat types found within the District, with definitions.

Habitat Type	Definition
Old Growth Forest	Tree stands with individuals aging 240 years and older
Coniferous Forest	Tree stands containing over 66% conifer species
Deciduous Forest	Tree stands containing over 66% deciduous species
Mixed Forest	Tree stands containing a mix of conifer and deciduous species where one does not dominate the other
Shrub	Areas where shrubs form the dominant canopy. These are typically species under 4.5 m in height.
Herb	Areas where shrubs and trees are not present, either through direct maintenance or habitats where trees and shrubs cannot establish due to conditions
Grass	Grass dominated sites, typically these are maintained turf lawns and sports fields
Rock	Unvegetated areas without soil contain exposed bedrock
Wetland	Sites where soil moisture is sufficiently high to limit plant growth and alter soil chemistry. Plants present are those which are specifically adapted to these conditions.
Intertidal	Transition zone between the marine and terrestrial environment
Lake/Pond	A open fresh waterbody that contains water for more than 6 months per year
River	A major watercourse
Urban	Built-up areas with impermeable surfaces, such as neighbourhoods, roadways, and industrial areas

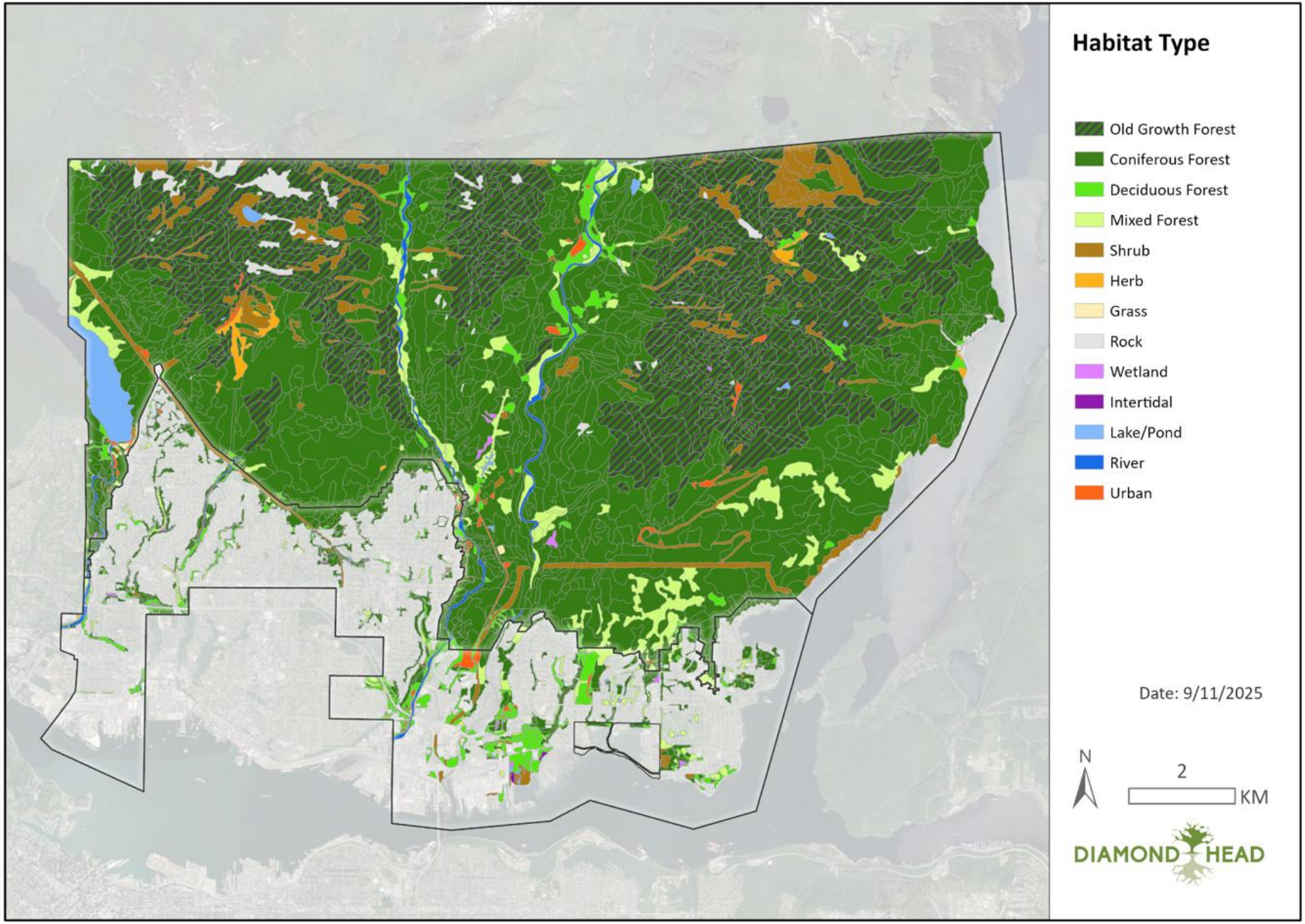


Figure 1. Habitat types found in the District.

2.3.1 Climate and Topography

The biodiversity in North Vancouver's natural areas is shaped by its varied topography. The region features steep slopes, glacially carved valleys, and deep ravines, which create a mosaic of habitats and microclimates that support a wide range of plant and animal communities. These ecosystems span from low-elevation Western Hemlock forests to higher elevation alpine tundra.

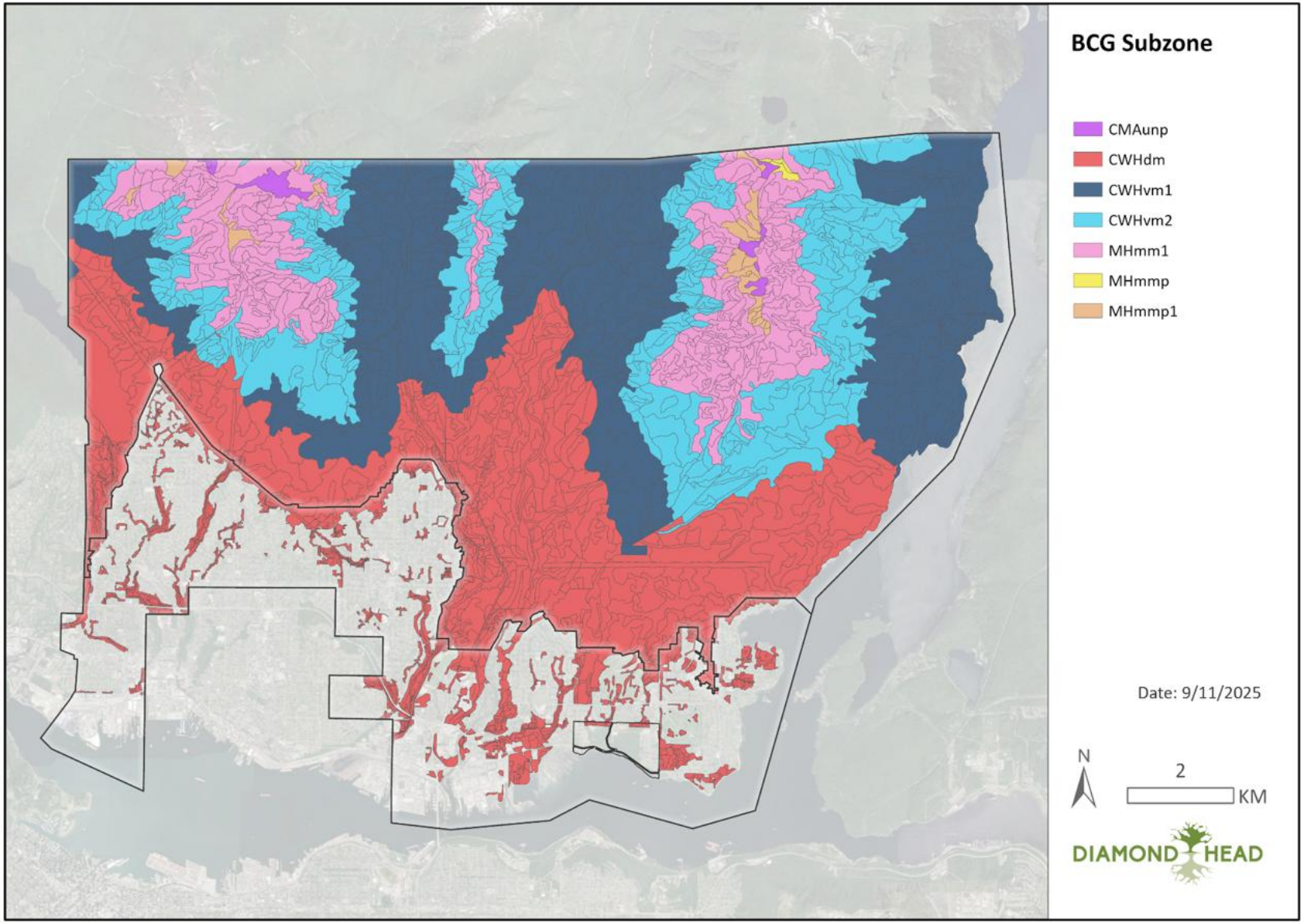


Figure 2. Biogeoclimatic Subzones found in the District. For details on these subzones, refer to the Province of BC's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification System handbook[1].

[1] How BEC Works. Accessed on April 15, 2026, at https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/becweb/system/how/index.html

2.3.2 Terrestrial Ecosystems

Forests are the dominant feature of the District's landscape, ranging from second-growth stands that have regenerated after historical logging to remnant patches of old growth found mainly at higher elevations. Coniferous forests are the most widespread forest type, with deciduous and mixed stands growing in wetter areas or regions that have more recently been disturbed. Canopy gaps, dead standing trees, and fallen logs are important habitat features that support biodiversity. Land development has fragmented many terrestrial ecosystems. There are, however, patches of forest that play a critical role in connecting the natural areas in the District.

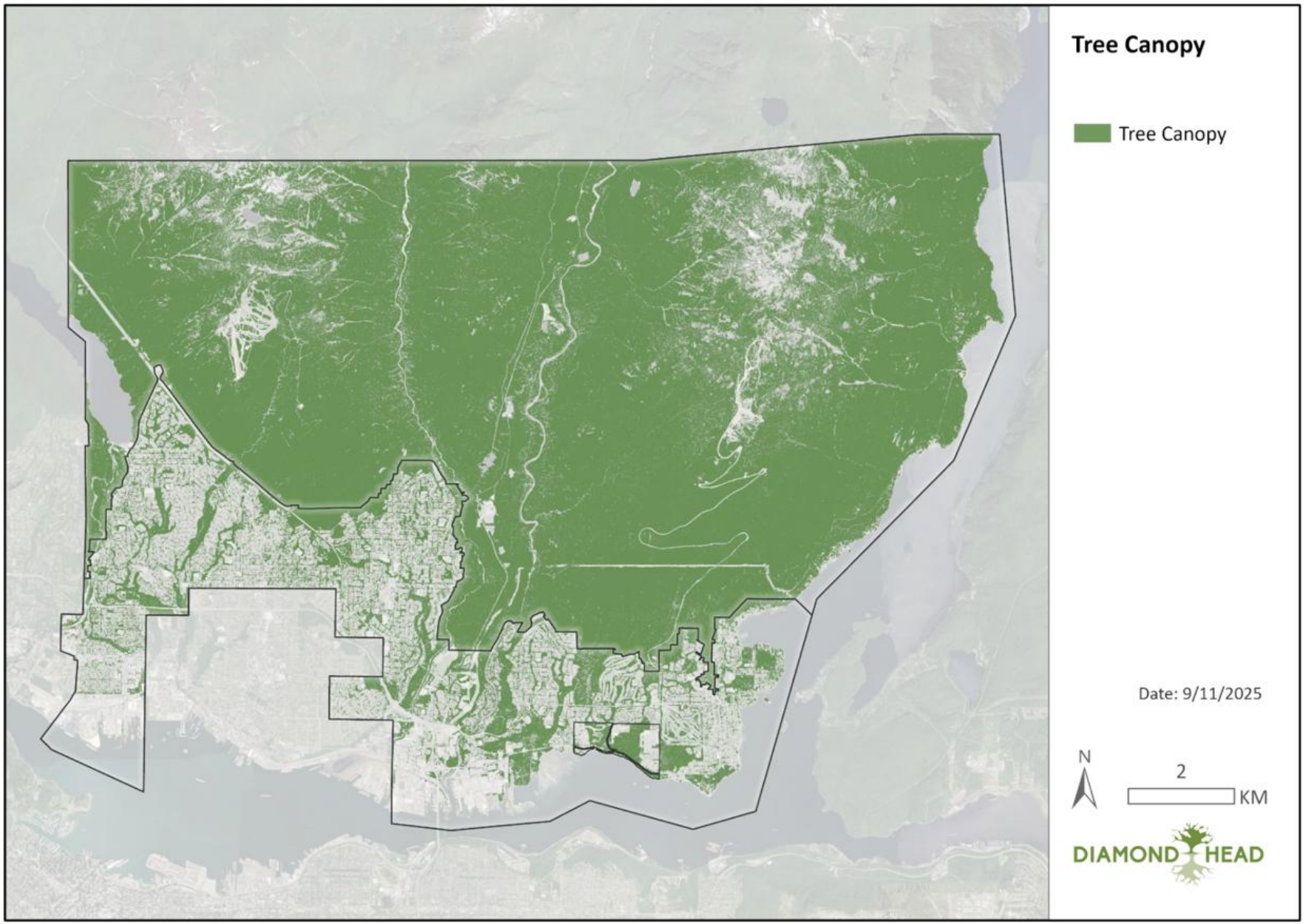


Figure 3. Tree canopy cover in the District, including natural areas and urban trees. The Urban Containment Boundary is a strong indicator of canopy coverage, as most trees in the District are found outside of developed areas or urban parks.

2.3.3 Freshwater Systems: Streams, Wetlands and Lakes

The District features a vast network of streams, wetlands, and lakes that provide essential ecosystem services. These streams originate in the mountains flowing through the ravines towards the Burrard Inlet. Within the District, many smaller streams have been modified, either channelized or buried as part of municipal stormwater infrastructure. These modifications disrupt fish passage, reduce habitat complexity, and degrade hydrological function. Wetlands cover a limited area in the District but play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity by filtering water, mitigating floods, and providing breeding grounds for amphibians and insects. Protecting and restoring these freshwater ecosystems is vital, as they are vulnerable to impacts from land and infrastructure development, invasive species, and climate change.

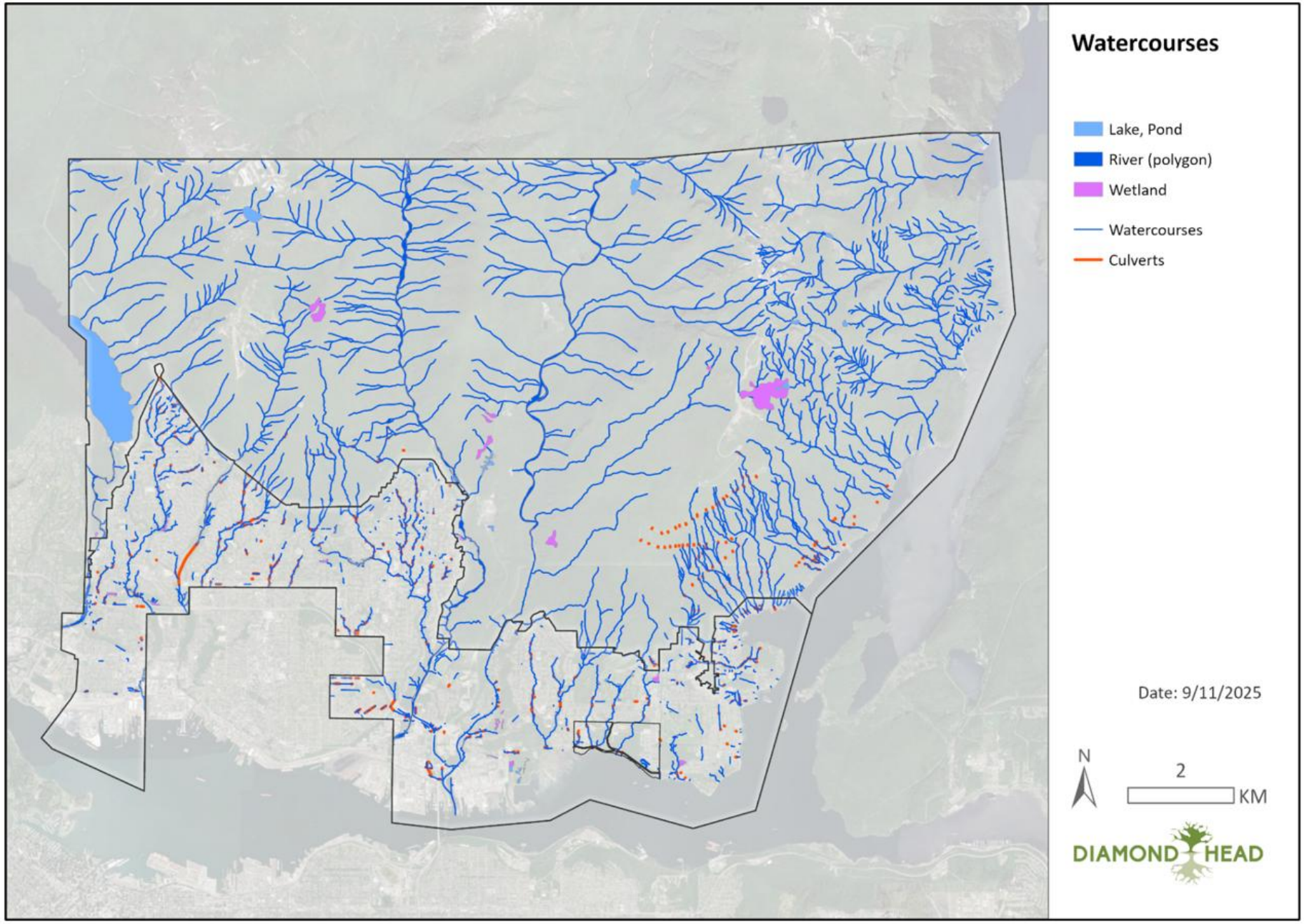


Figure 4. Watercourses in the District.

2.3.4 Marine and Shoreline Areas

The District has approximately 42 kilometres of shoreline along Burrard Inlet, which forms an ecologically rich transition zone between the land and the ocean. Intertidal flats, rocky shores, and estuaries provide essential foraging, nesting, and migration habitats for fish, birds, and marine invertebrates. However, urbanization and industrial activities have significantly altered large portions of the shoreline through armouring and infill. Despite the challenges that come with these industrial activities and urbanization, there are opportunities to restore and improve foreshore functions using nature-based approaches. Notable examples are the Tsleil-Waututh Nation's shoreline restoration initiatives and work underway at Whey-Ah-Wichen/Cates park in partnership with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to implement shoreline restoration, integrating cultural values with ecological resilience to address climate impacts, such as sea level rise[2].

2.3.5 Wildlife Communities

The District's natural areas provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife, from large mammals such as black bears, cougars, and deer to amphibians and reptiles in riparian areas, and hundreds of resident and migratory bird species. Wildlife movement is facilitated by long riparian streamside corridors, although roads and urbanization fragment habitats and create human-wildlife conflicts.

The Maplewood Conservation Area stands out as a regional hotspot for bird diversity. The area is an internationally significant bird area that acts as a vital stopover on the Pacific Flyway, supporting over 250 bird species.

Many streams in the District also continue to support culturally significant salmon populations. However, invasive species such as European starlings, grey squirrels, fire ants, as well as free-roaming domestic cats, pose persistent threats to native biodiversity.

[2] Whey-Ah-Wichen/Cates Park improvements. Accessed on March 4, 2026, at https://www.dnv.org/page/whey-ah-wichen-cates-park-improvements

2.3.6 Species and Ecosystems at Risk

The District is home to a variety of ecosystems and species that are red- and blue-listed by the BC Conservation Data Centre. These include old-growth forests, rocky bluffs, wetlands, and estuarine habitats. More than 270 species of plants, animals, fungi, and lichens of conservation concern have been recorded or are expected to be found in the area. Among these, several are federally listed under the Species at Risk Act, including the coastal tailed frog, marbled murrelet, and northern red-legged frog. Habitat fragmentation, climate-related stressors, and historical development continue to pose threats to these sensitive species and ecosystems.

2.3.7 Biodiversity Ranking

To understand the ecological value of different natural areas across the District, a biodiversity ranking system was developed utilizing a GIS based analysis. Rather than counting the exact species numbers in the District, this system provides a comparative evaluation of habitat potential. It combines baseline habitat type scores with factors such as patch size, connectivity, riparian influence, elevation, soil productivity, and site condition, identifying areas with the highest biodiversity potential.

The analysis shows that biodiversity is highest in large connected and continuous natural areas that have freshwater features. Many of these areas are located upland, outside the UCB and within Metro Vancouver's protected watersheds. They serve as core habitat hubs that support diverse and resilient ecosystems. In contrast, biodiversity scores are generally lower in smaller, fragmented, urbanized areas of the lowlands where habitat patches are smaller, more disturbed, and less connected.

Riparian zones, wetlands, and shoreline areas consistently ranked higher due to the important role that water plays in supporting plant and animal communities. These areas function as ecological corridors, enhancing connectivity across the District. The richer valley-bottom ecosystems also generally support greater habitat potential compared to the less fertile sites at higher elevations.

The biodiversity ranking provides a framework for identifying hotspots, prioritizing conservation efforts, and targeting restoration projects. It emphasizes the importance of large, intact forest areas and highlights the vital role of freshwater. Within the UCB it highlights the important role that smaller habitat patches and urban corridors play to connect ecosystems and support biodiversity within developed landscapes.

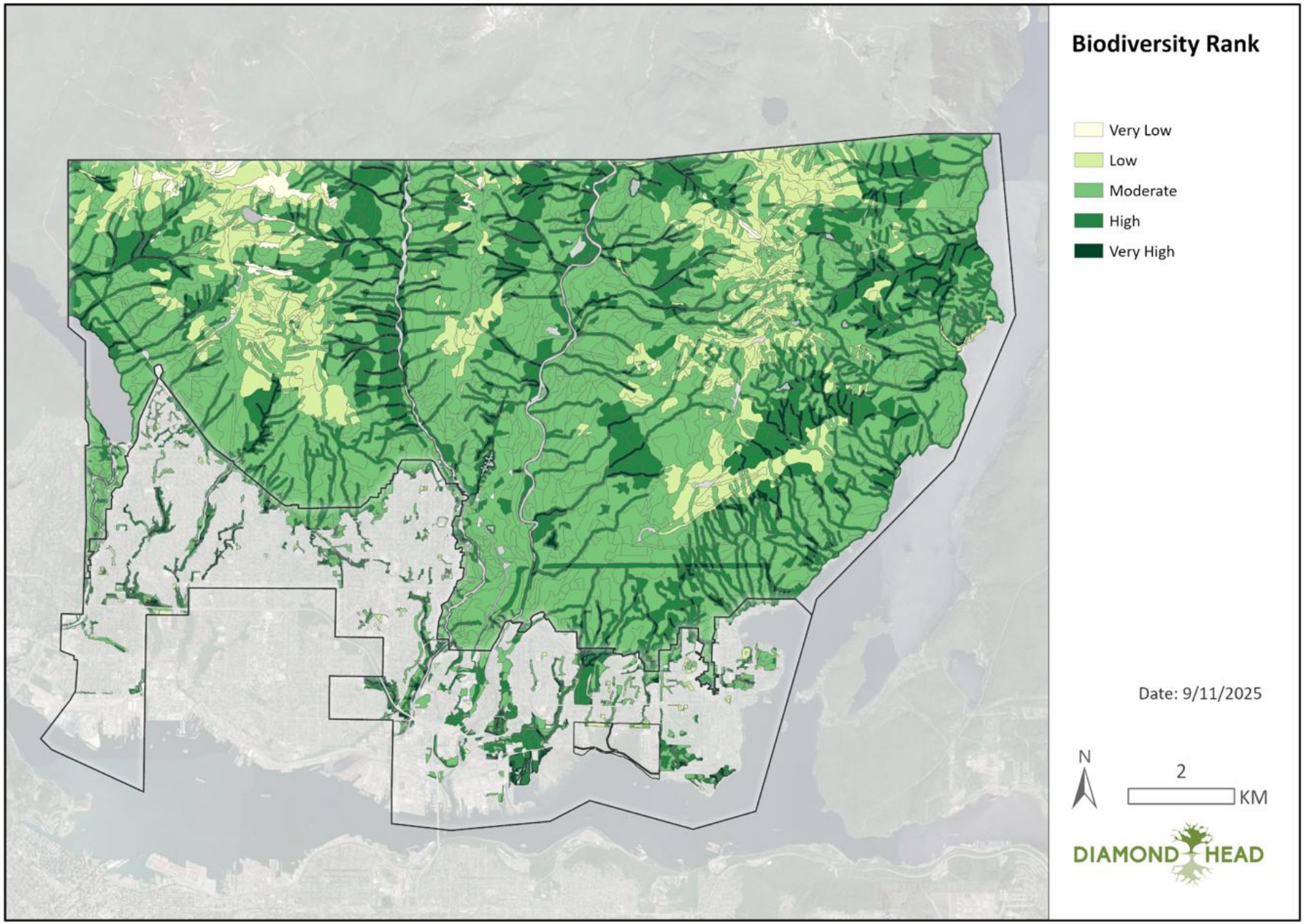


Figure 5. Biodiversity Ranking in the District.

3.0 The Habitat Network

The District of North Vancouver is characterized by its steep terrain, mature forests, and a dense network of streams and ravines that support diverse ecosystems. While large, continuous natural areas exist in the North Shore Mountains, the ecosystems within the UCB are highly fragmented. Some of the most valuable ecosystems are associated with watercourses such as Lynn Creek, Seymour River, Mosquito Creek, and Mackay Creek, which flow from the North Shore Mountains into the Burrard Inlet. In urban areas, some connectivity is provided by street trees, greenways, and private gardens. While these features are limited in complexity, they can support birds, pollinators, and other adaptable and tolerant species. The Burrard Inlet foreshore also serves as a movement corridor, supporting marine and bird species, although much of the shoreline has been altered for industrial and residential development.

Habitat fragmentation in the UCB isolates populations and decreases their ability to access food, shelter, and critical habitat features such as breeding grounds. To address these challenges, the District has developed a Habitat Network comprising of core habitat hubs, smaller habitat sites, and connecting corridors. The core hubs consist of extensive forested areas and protected parks that provide high-quality, interior habitats largely free from urban disturbance. Smaller habitat sites serve as stepping stones that help connect larger natural areas. Although often degraded, these smaller sites play a crucial role in facilitating species movement, particularly for birds and other flying species.

The Habitat Network serves as a key conservation tool. By identifying and prioritizing habitat hubs and connecting corridors, the District can focus resources on protecting critical areas, restoring degraded corridors, and strengthening ecological connectivity across the landscape. This approach not only strengthens biodiversity and climate resilience but also benefits residents by promoting health, recreation, and connections to nature. Successful implementation will require collaboration with local First Nations, neighbouring municipalities, landowners, and stewardship groups to ensure that connectivity extends across jurisdictional boundaries.

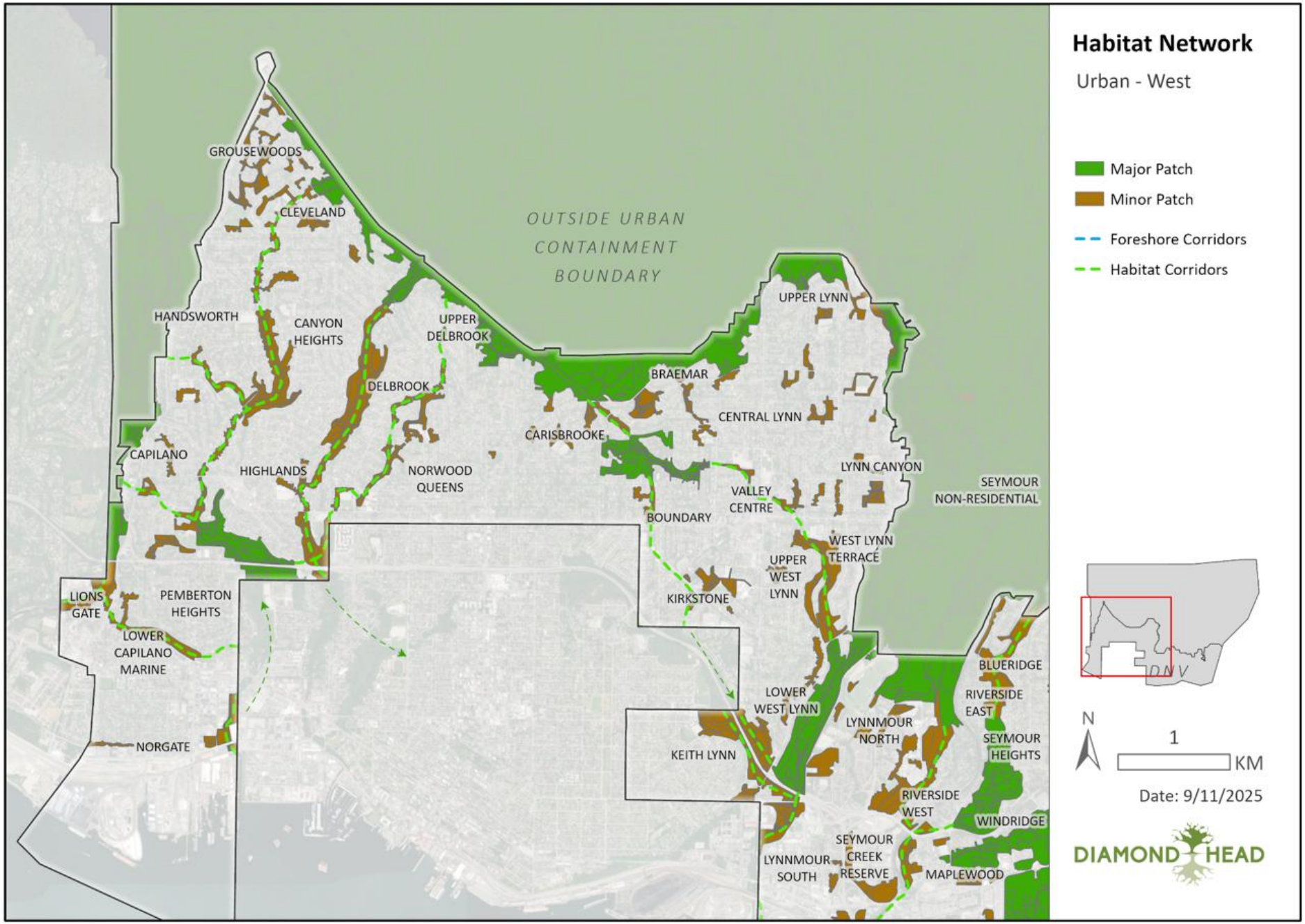


Figure 6. Proposed Habitat Network for the western side of the District.

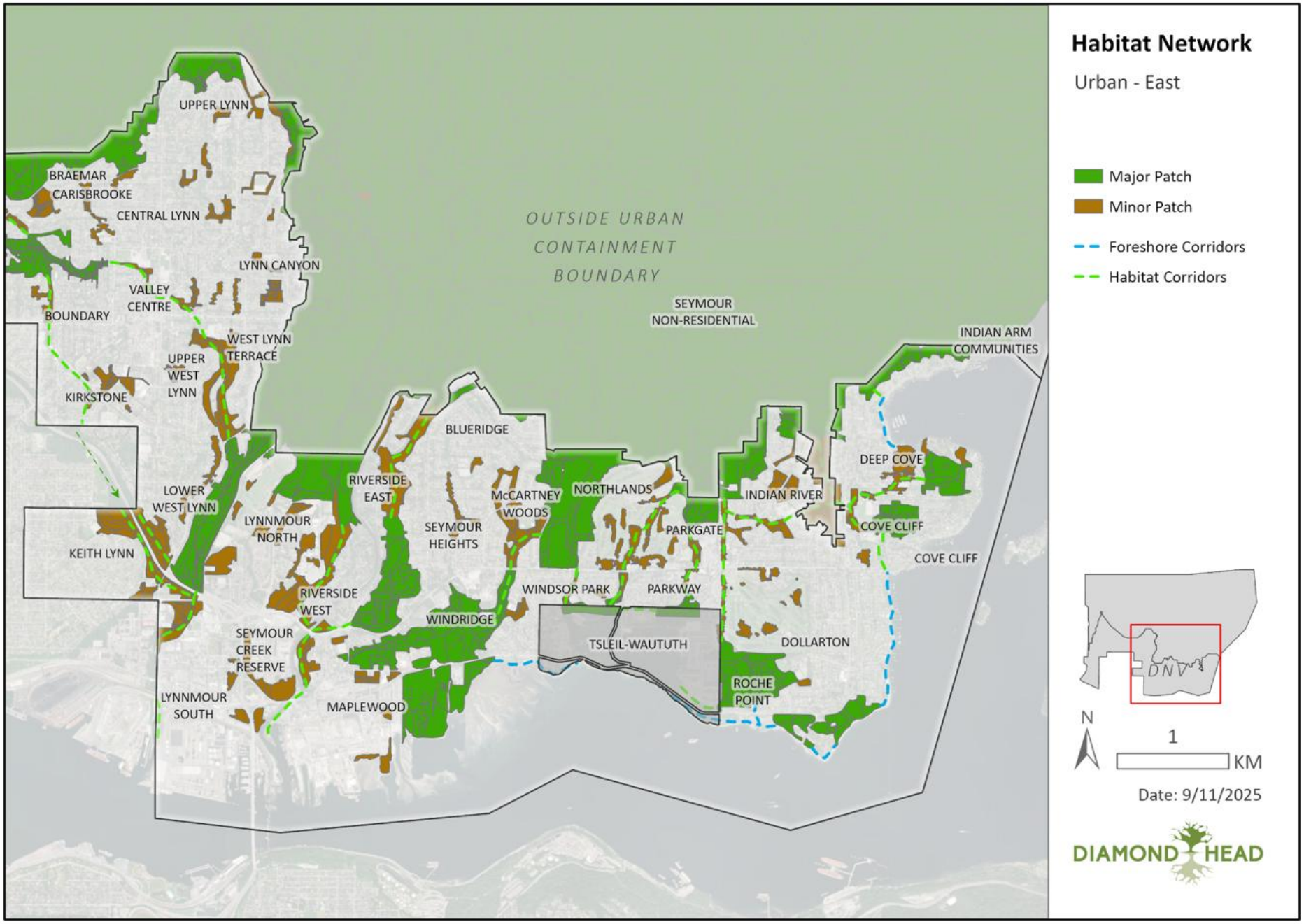


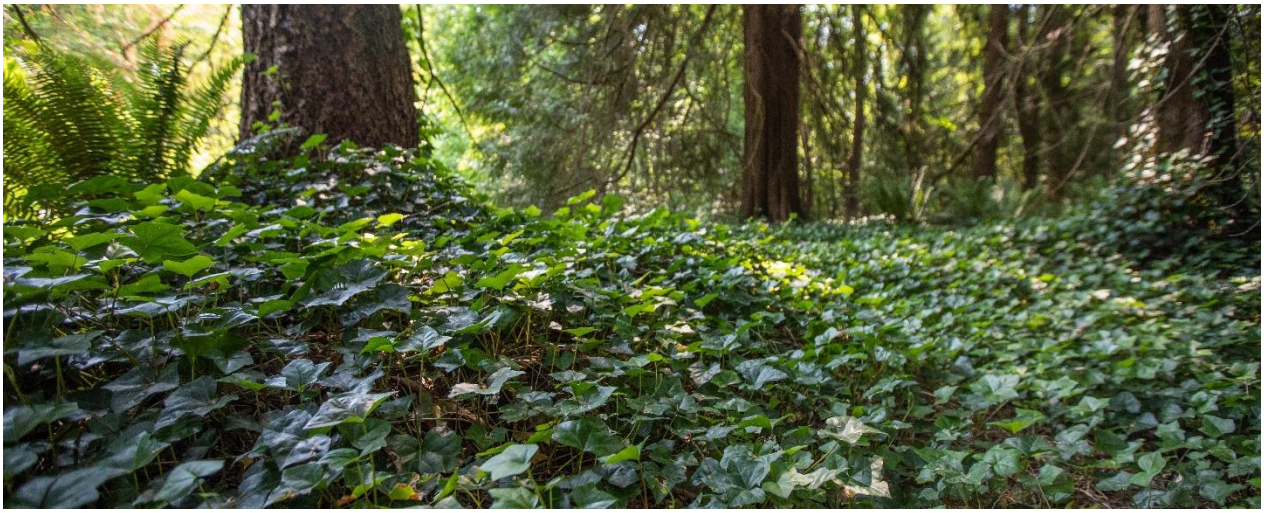
Figure 7. Proposed Habitat Network for the eastern side of the District.

4.0 The Future of Biodiversity

4.1 What Threatens Biodiversity?

Biodiversity in the urbanized parts of the District of North Vancouver is increasingly under threat due to urban development, climate change, and invasive species. Forestry and land development have already fragmented and degraded many lowland ecosystems. Ongoing densification, redevelopment, and infrastructure upgrades continue to endanger the District's remaining natural areas. Habitat fragmentation reduces connectivity, isolates wildlife, and increases conflicts between humans and wildlife. Additional stresses from recreation, pollution, and altered hydrology further undermine ecosystem health and resilience.

Invasive plants pose a significant ecological threat, reducing native plant diversity, contributing to canopy loss and degrading riparian zones. Invasive species lack natural predators, allowing their populations to grow and impacting many native species and ecosystems. High risk species with significant ecosystem impacts include knotweed species, English ivy, and Giant hogweed.



Climate change also poses a significant risk to the natural environment. Hotter, drier summers lead to tree mortality and pest outbreaks, while more intense rainfall results in flooding and erosion. Additionally, rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion pose long-term threats to coastal ecosystems. At the same time, invasive plants, insects, and animals spread rapidly through disturbed landscapes, outcompeting native species and degrading habitat quality. Aggressive species, such as knotweed and European fire ants, not only cause ecological damage but also threaten human health. Rising temperatures are allowing new species to expand their habitat ranges northward. Together, these pressures create compounded effects that reduce ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.

4.2 A Vision for Biodiversity and Natural Areas

The vision for natural areas within the District is to protect a resilient network of ecosystems that sustain ecological integrity, support high levels of biodiversity, and enhance community well-being. Within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), the priority is to safeguard and enhance the quality of remaining habitats, ensuring they continue to provide refuge for native species and deliver ecosystem services to the community. Restoration efforts will focus on completing the District's Habitat Network (HN) by connecting core habitat hubs, riparian corridors, and stepping-stone sites.

Biodiversity Vision:

The District envisions a network of protected and connected natural areas that support biodiversity, climate resilience, and opportunities for everyone to connect with nature.

5.0 Actions to Protect Nature and Biodiversity in the District

In the District of North Vancouver, five strategic themes guide the actions taken to protect and enhance biodiversity. These themes consider the District's unique ecological context and incorporate best practices from regional and provincial strategies. The themes are:

1. **Planning and Policy** – Protecting natural areas and ecological processes through land use planning and regulations.
2. **Municipal Operations** – Embedding biodiversity considerations into day-to-day municipal operations.
3. **Habitat Restoration and Enhancement** – Improving ecological health, habitat quality, and connectivity to increase biodiversity.
4. **Education and Stewardship** – Building community awareness, fostering stewardship, and encouraging participation in biodiversity conservation.
5. **Data Collection and Monitoring** – Building knowledge through monitoring, mapping, and research to inform decision making and adaptive management.

The following actions highlight that conserving biodiversity requires both a long-term vision and immediate, high-impact measures to protect and restore critical ecosystems. Continuous monitoring will enhance knowledge, track progress, and support adaptive management in refining these actions over time.

Theme 1 – Planning and Policy

Protecting natural areas and ecological processes through land use planning and regulations.

Planning, policies, and regulatory tools play a critical role in protecting biodiversity and ensuring that development and infrastructure projects avoid or minimize impacts to natural systems. By strengthening policies, updating bylaws, and integrating biodiversity considerations into planning decisions, the District can better safeguard ecosystems, maintain ecological connectivity, and support long-term environmental resilience.

1.1 Integrate biodiversity considerations into corporate and capital planning.

Integrating biodiversity considerations into corporate planning processes helps support the protection and enhancement of local ecosystems. This includes viewing each project through a biodiversity lens by identifying opportunities to protect and enhance ecosystems, incorporating nature-based solutions where possible (e.g., rain gardens or bioswales for on-site water management), and allocating budget early to support these design choices. The approach also supports climate resilience, ecological connectivity, and community well-being.

1.2 Develop a Bird Strategy to reduce threats to native birds and increase understanding of their role in healthy ecosystems.

Birds play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems by supporting pollination, seed dispersal, and insect population control. However, urban development, building collisions, habitat loss, and artificial lighting can pose significant threats to bird populations. A Bird Strategy would help identify local conservation priorities and provide guidance on how planning, development, and community initiatives can reduce risks to birds while supporting biodiversity across the District.

1.3 Develop a Coastal Development Permit Area to strengthen protection in marine ecosystems.

Coastal ecosystems provide important habitat for fish, birds, and marine species while also protecting shorelines from erosion and storm impacts. A Coastal Development Permit Area would help ensure that development activities along the shoreline are carefully managed to protect sensitive marine habitats and maintain ecological functions. This approach aligns with an action identified in the District's North Shore Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment and Adaptive Management Strategy and policy direction in the District's Official Community Plan.

1.4 Update the Natural Environment Development Permit Area to strengthen the protection of natural areas on private lands.

Many important natural areas occur on or adjacent to privately owned lands. Development Permit Areas provide an important regulatory tool that allows municipalities to guide development in a way that protects environmentally sensitive features. Updating the Natural Environment Development Permit Area will help ensure that natural habitats are protected and ecological connectivity is maintained as the District continues to grow.

1.5 Update the Streamside Protection and Natural Environment Development Permit Area to strengthen the protection of riparian areas

Watercourses and their riparian areas are among the most biologically productive ecosystems and play a vital role in protecting water quality, reducing flood risk, and supporting fish habitat. Updating the District's Streamside Protection and Natural Environment Development Permit requirements will help ensure consistent protection of streamside ecosystems while providing clearer expectations for development proposals.

1.6 Update the Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw to provide clearer requirements for pollution events and water quality monitoring.

The Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw establishes the District's authority to protect natural systems such as watercourses, wetlands, trees, soils, and steep slopes. The bylaw provides an important regulatory framework for managing activities that may affect sensitive environmental areas and allows the District to require permits, set conditions, and secure deposits to ensure compliance.

1.7 Update tree protection regulations to strengthen tree protection on public and private property.

Trees are a critical component of the District's natural infrastructure, providing habitat for wildlife, improving air quality, managing stormwater, and reducing urban heat. Strengthening tree protection regulations will help maintain and expand the District's urban forest while supporting biodiversity and climate resilience.

1.8 Update the Development Servicing Bylaw to improve soil conditions and volumes for optimal tree health on public lands in new developments.

Healthy soils are essential for supporting tree growth, managing stormwater, and sustaining urban ecosystems. Updating the Development Servicing Bylaw will help ensure that new developments provide sufficient soil volume and conditions for trees and vegetation to thrive over the long term.

1.9 Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan that supports forest health and resilience and provides long-term protection measures for trees in natural and urban areas.

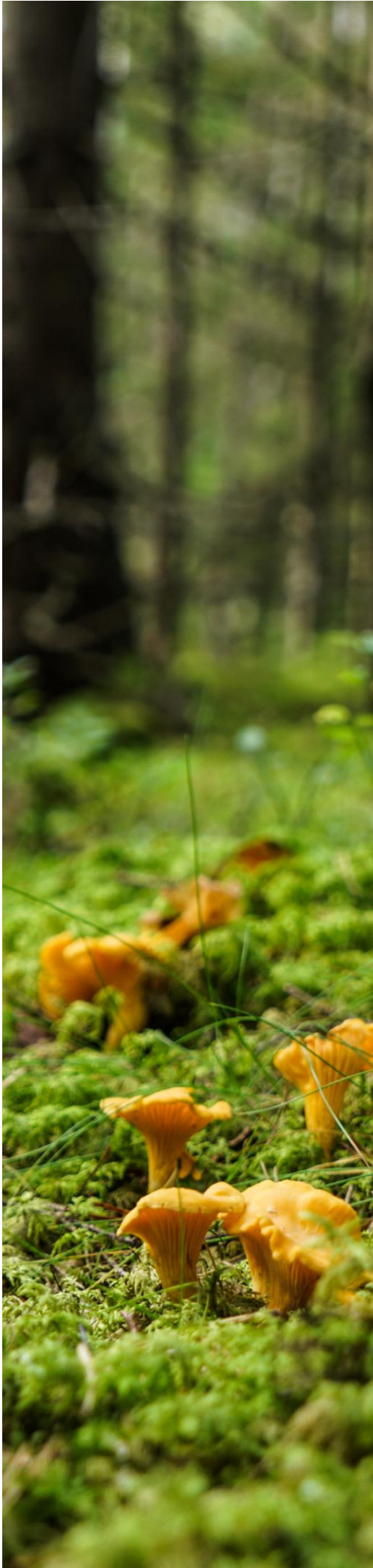
Urban forests play an important role in supporting biodiversity by providing habitat for wildlife, cooling urban areas, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being. An Urban Forest Management Plan will help guide long-term efforts to protect, maintain, and expand the District's tree canopy while improving the resilience of forests to climate change.

1.10 Engage with local First Nations to explore opportunities to reflect their values and stewardship practices into biodiversity management.

Local First Nations have deep cultural and ecological connections to the lands and waters within the District. Strengthening collaboration with First Nations will help ensure that biodiversity initiatives reflect Indigenous values, knowledge systems, and stewardship practices while supporting meaningful partnerships in environmental management

1.11 Coordinate the development of the Habitat Network with the City of North Vancouver's Natural Habitat Network and Metro Vancouver's Regional Natural Infrastructure Network to strengthen cross-boundary connectivity.

Ecological systems extend beyond municipal boundaries. Coordinating the District's Habitat Network with the City of North Vancouver's Natural Habitat Network and Metro Vancouver's Regional Natural Infrastructure Network will help maintain and strengthen ecological connectivity across the broader landscape. This approach supports coordinated planning, improves habitat linkages, and enhances regional conservation outcomes.



1.12 Use the District's biodiversity ranking system to assist with identifying and prioritizing natural areas for protection, restoration, and management.

The biodiversity ranking system and mapping helps identify the most important habitats and ecological corridors across the District. Using this mapping to guide planning and conservation decisions ensures that limited resources are directed toward the areas that will provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Theme 2 – Municipal Operations

Embedding biodiversity considerations into day-to-day municipal operations.

Municipal operations shape how natural systems are managed, maintained, and integrated into the built environment. By incorporating biodiversity considerations into infrastructure design, park management, and asset maintenance, the District can reduce impacts on ecosystems and strategically enhance ecological function. Strengthening operational practices, improving coordination across departments, and recognizing natural assets as part of municipal infrastructure will support resilient ecosystems and sustainable service delivery.

2.1 Strengthen environmental protections for permitted events and activities in parks and natural areas.

Permitted events and activities in parks and natural areas can impact natural areas through trampling vegetation, waste, and disturbance to wildlife. Strengthening environmental requirements and guidance for event approvals will minimize these impacts while maintaining access to public spaces. This may include site selection criteria, seasonal restrictions, and post-event restoration requirements.

2.2 Explore opportunities to minimize artificial light impacts on biodiversity and natural areas.

Artificial lighting can disrupt wildlife behaviour, particularly for birds, bats, and nocturnal species. Exploring opportunities to reduce light pollution, such as shielding fixtures and using lower intensity lighting where appropriate, will help protect ecological function. These approaches can be incorporated into infrastructure design and retrofits.

2.3 Develop and maintain an inventory of green infrastructure and natural assets including rain gardens, bioswales, and pollinator gardens to support long-term maintenance planning and asset management.

Green infrastructure features such as rain gardens, bioswales, and pollinator plantings provide important ecological and stormwater management functions. Creating and maintaining an inventory of these features will support asset management and long-term maintenance planning.

Theme 3 – Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Improving ecological health, habitat quality, and connectivity to increase biodiversity.

Restoration and enhancement initiatives are crucial for improving the condition of degraded ecosystems and strengthening ecological connectivity across the urban landscape. Targeted efforts, such as re-establishing native vegetation, enhancing shorelines and riparian areas, and restoring missing habitat features, can help increase biodiversity and resilience within ecosystems. By partnering with Indigenous communities, stewardship groups, and regional agencies, the District can strategically enhance and maintain the health and condition of its natural areas.

3.1 Increase natural habitat in parks by restoring low-use areas currently dominated by turf grass with pollinator meadows and climate-adapted native plant communities.

Some park areas are currently dominated by turfgrass that provides limited ecological benefits. Converting select underutilized areas where feasible into pollinator meadows and native plant communities can enhance biodiversity. These efforts can also improve climate resilience and ecosystem connectivity.

3.2 Continue collaborating with local First Nations on biodiversity initiatives and pursue joint funding opportunities.

Marine and shoreline ecosystems hold important cultural and ecological significance and require coordinated management. Continued collaboration with local First Nations, along with the pursuit of joint funding opportunities, will support Indigenous-led stewardship, restoration, and monitoring initiatives.

3.3 Advance shoreline restoration initiatives to mitigate the impacts of erosion, habitat loss, and recreational pressures.

Shoreline areas have been significantly altered by industry and development. Developing site specific restoration plans will help address erosion, habitat loss, and recreational pressures. Implementing nature-based approaches will enhance both ecological function and coastal resilience.

3.4 Advance ecosystem restoration projects by strengthening collaboration with municipal partners and environmental stewardship organizations.

Restoration efforts are most effective when coordinated across agencies and community groups. Strengthening partnerships with neighboring municipalities, Metro Vancouver, stewardship organizations, and groups such as the North Shore Streamkeepers will expand capacity, improve project outcomes, and support more coordinated restoration efforts. Collaboration can also help secure funding and enhance the long-term implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of restoration projects.

3.5 Reduce the spread and impacts of invasive plants by implementing actions identified in the District's Invasive Plant Management Strategy.

Invasive plants can outcompete native vegetation, reduce habitat quality, and negatively impact ecosystem health and function. Implementing actions identified in the District's Invasive Plant Management Strategy will help control them in areas where they can cause significant social, ecological, and economic harm. Targeted management can also support the restoration and long-term resilience of native plant communities.

Theme 4 – Education and Stewardship

Building community awareness, fostering stewardship, and encouraging participation in biodiversity conservation.

Raising community awareness and promoting stewardship are essential for achieving long-term biodiversity goals. Education programs, volunteer initiatives, and partnerships with local organizations foster a shared understanding of ecological values and encourage the care of both public and private natural areas. By enhancing education and outreach efforts, offering hands-on stewardship opportunities, and showcasing best practices, the District can empower residents to take an active role in protecting and improving the District's natural spaces.

4.1 Continue to promote and expand volunteer opportunities and stewardship events such as invasive pulls and habitat restoration activities in District parks and natural areas.

Community stewardship activities such as invasive species removal and habitat restoration play a key role in maintaining natural areas. Expanding these programs will increase community involvement and build local capacity for biodiversity conservation. These efforts also foster a sense of ownership and connection to nature.

4.2 Increase public understanding and awareness of local biodiversity through learning opportunities.

Improving public understanding of biodiversity helps support long-term conservation outcomes. Educational initiatives, including workshops, school programs, and interpretive signage, can raise awareness about local ecosystems and promote stewardship practices. Existing facilities, such as the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre and Maplewood Farm, provide a strong foundation for expanding outreach.

4.3 Create demonstration projects for biodiversity-friendly landscaping.

Demonstration projects such as pollinator gardens and native plant installations can showcase best practices for supporting biodiversity. These visible examples help educate residents and encourage similar initiatives on private lands. They also provide opportunities for innovation and to test and refine new approaches to urban ecological enhancement.

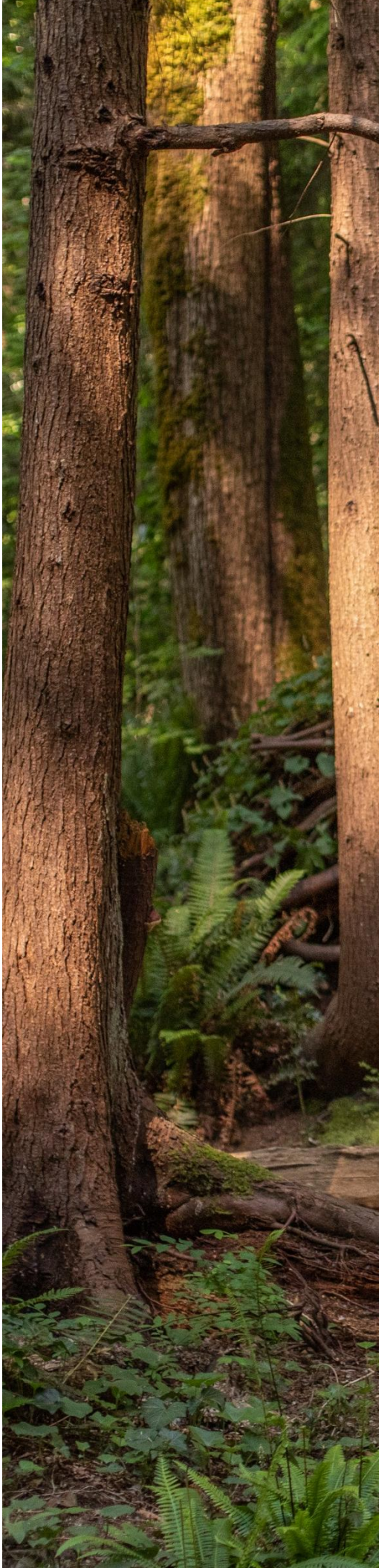
Theme 5 – Data Collection and Monitoring

Building knowledge through monitoring, mapping, and research to inform decision making and adaptive management.

Effective biodiversity management relies on accurate data and ongoing monitoring to assess ecosystem health and track progress over time. By enhancing data collection, establishing monitoring programs, and integrating ecological information into planning and operations, the District can support evidence-based decision-making. This approach enables adaptive management, allowing policies and actions to be refined in response to changing environmental conditions and emerging challenges.

5.1 **Develop and implement a biodiversity monitoring program**.

Enhancing biodiversity in urban areas requires monitoring and consistent data collection. A monitoring program using key indicators will help assess ecosystem health, identify trends, and support adaptive management. Integrating citizen science and making data publicly accessible will improve transparency and community engagement.



6.0 Funding opportunities

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity requires a long-term funding framework that supports restoration, stewardship, and community engagement. Many municipalities in BC have successfully established conservation funds and incentive programs that can be tailored to local contexts.

Senior governments offer a range of funding opportunities that can directly support biodiversity initiatives. Examples of such programs include the Green Municipal Fund (administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities), the Watershed Security Fund, and the federal 2 Billion Trees Program. These programs can provide financial support for habitat restoration, tree planting, and climate-resilient nature projects. Generally, these grant programs prefer shovel-ready projects that have clear monitoring metrics and strong community partnerships.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund supports the Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative, which helps municipalities access funding and resources for tree planting and urban forestry projects. This program encourages communities to plant the right tree species in the appropriate locations to maximize several benefits, such as carbon sequestration, shade and cooling, stormwater management, habitat creation, and improved community health. The funding initiative aims to promote strategic canopy growth across Canada and aligns with the nature-based objectives outlined in the District's Nature and Biodiversity Strategy.

Many municipalities have established dedicated conservation levies or parcel taxes to ensure consistent funding for the protection of natural assets. For example, West Vancouver and the Kootenay Conservation Program use small tax contributions to generate consistent and reliable resources for habitat restoration and stewardship. Development Cost Charges (DCCs) can be used to acquire natural area parkland. Additionally, revenue from tree protection bylaws can be directed into dedicated reserve funds to support initiatives such as replanting, tree giveaways, and ecological enhancement.

Collaborating with environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs) can enhance funding opportunities and provide valuable technical expertise. Organizations like the Habitat Acquisition Trust, Fraser Basin Council, and the Land Stewardship Centre offer not just financial support, but also assistance in stewardship, training, and outreach initiatives.

By combining local revenue tools, senior government grants, and strong partnerships, the District can create a resilient funding framework that supports biodiversity conservation, engages the community, and ensures long-term ecological resilience.

7.0 Monitoring Progress

Monitoring the condition of natural areas is crucial to ensure that this Strategy delivers measurable and lasting benefits. To effectively track progress, the District will implement a monitoring framework that includes clear objectives, indicators, and performance measures. This framework will assess the health and resilience of ecosystems, as well as the success of restoration and management initiatives. A set of Biodiversity Objectives will guide the monitoring program, each linked to measurable performance indicators. The objectives define the overarching goals, while the indicators provide the necessary data to measure progress toward those goals. This structure supports informed decision-making and allows the District to adjust its approach as conditions evolve. Regular assessments of biodiversity attributes, such as invasive species, stream health, and canopy cover will form the basis for evaluating progress. Example key objectives and their corresponding measures are summarized in the table below. One of the recommended actions of the Strategy is to establish a monitoring program that will include additional objectives and key indicators.

Table 2. Monitoring framework objectives and performance measure options.

Biodiversity Objective	Performance Measure Options
Increase urban forest canopy cover	The percent of canopy cover within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB)
Increase species diversity and abundance	Species population trends (presence/absence) (Use iNaturalist or similar to promote community participation)
Increase public awareness of the importance of biodiversity	Number of events or programs
Reduce invasive species infestations	Area (m^2) of invasives removed per year Conduct inventory of invasive species every five years
Improve the quality of freshwater streams in the urban containment boundary	Freshwater ecosystem quality measured by flow rates, water quality, and fish species presence/absence

Community engagement will be a cornerstone of our monitoring efforts. Use of platforms such as iNaturalist to promote community participation in citizen science programs along with stewardship events, and partnerships with schools, non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous Nations will provide valuable knowledge and resources. We will share the results through the District's webpage to promote accountability, raise public awareness, and support informed decision-making.

By integrating ecological data, performance measures, and community stewardship, this monitoring framework will allow the District to refine its actions over time, focus resources on high-priority areas, and ensure that biodiversity conservation is fully incorporated into municipal planning, operations, and reporting.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Appendix 1 Glossary

Biodiversity	Biodiversity is a term used to describe the variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity encompasses all living species and their relationships to each other. This includes the differences in genes, species and ecosystems.
Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC)	An ecosystem classification system developed specifically for BC's ecosystems. BEC classifies specific ecosystem types in the province based on climate, soils, and ecology.
Ecosystem services	The many and varied benefits to humans provided by the natural environment and from healthy ecosystems. Carbon sequestration, recreation and other cultural uses, shade, water filtration and retention, and pollination are all examples of ecosystem services.
Invasive species	A species which is not native or is outside of its natural distribution and which is negatively impacting the environment, people and/or the economy.
LiDAR	Acronym for 'light detection and ranging'. An active remote sensing technology which can measure vegetation height and elevation using laser scanning.
Mature Forest	Tree stands that contain individuals that are 80-240 years old.
Mixed forests	Forests where neither coniferous trees, nor deciduous trees account for over 66% of the stand canopy.
Native species	A species which is present without direct or indirect human intervention, and which is present within its natural range and limited by its natural dispersal.
Natural area	Any physical area that contains sufficient native species, ecological communities, or habitat features to support native biodiversity.
Nature	The entirety of life and its physical environment, encompassing flora, fauna and non-living components of the environment.
Old Growth Forest	Tree stands that contain individuals that are 240 years or older.
Species and Ecosystems at Risk	A specific species or group of species which have been identified as extirpated, endangered, threatened, or of special concern.
Species Richness	The number of different species present within a location.
Threatened species	Species that are likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.
Urban Containment Boundary (UCB)	A regional planning tool and designated line that defines where urban development is intended to occur, helping to focus growth within existing serviced areas while limiting expansion outside the boundary.

Appendix 2 Timeline of District Environmental Initiatives

- 1972 - Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre established
- 1990 - The District is one of the first municipalities in Canada to initiate a community task force on the environment, leading to the creation of the District's award winning Environmental Protection Program
- 1993 - Environmental Protection Bylaw established, one of the first bylaws of its kind in Canada
- 1994 - Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators Environment Award
- 1995 - Ministers Award for a Community or Municipality
- 1995 - Natural Hazards Management Strategy initiated
- 1996 - International Erosion Control Association Award for Environmental Leadership
- 1996 - First municipality in BC to establish a Streamside Review Working Memorandum of Understanding with both the Province and the Federal Dept of Fisheries and Oceans
- 1996 - The District, Environment Canada and the newly established Wild Bird Trust sign the first Maplewood Conservation Area Trust agreement.
- 2003 - The District adopts the Natural Step Framework
- 2008- The District adopts an OCP amending bylaw to create a Streamside Protection Development Permit Area
- 2008 - The District adopts a Pesticide Use Control Bylaw to regulate the cosmetic use of regulated pesticide products on residential properties
- 2011 - The District adopts a new Official Community Plan including Development Permit Areas for Natural Hazards (Creek, Slope & Wildfire Protection)
- 2012 - Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan adopted
- 2015 – Invasive Plant Management Strategy adopted
- 2017 - Climate Change Adaptation Strategy adopted
- 2019 - The District declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency and adopts the 2019 Community Energy and Emissions Plan
- 2020 - Corporate Rodenticide Policy established, banning the use of rodenticide on DNV owned lands and facilities without a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management process
- 2020 - Award-winning Sea Level Rise Strategy adopted
- 2021- OCP Action Plan adopted by Council

Appendix 3 Existing District Plans and Policies

To support the development of the Nature and Biodiversity Strategy, a review was completed of the District's existing environment and biodiversity-related policies.

Official Community Plan for a Sustainable Future – 2011
The District's Official Community Plan (OCP) guides growth through to 2030 and places a strong emphasis on protecting natural systems and biodiversity. It designates Development Permit Areas (DPAs) specifically for safeguarding the natural environment, ecosystems, and biological diversity as well as minimizing risks from natural hazards such as wildfires, landslides, and floods. The DPAs include protections for streamside and natural areas as essential regulatory tools for managing development in sensitive landscapes.

The land-use framework is supported by a Regional Context Statement that is in accordance with the Metro Vancouver 2050 Regional Growth Strategy. It ensures that the Official Community Plan promotes compact growth in established urban centers while preserving ecologically significant areas. Additionally, the plan supports conservation, recreation, and ecological functions throughout the region.

The 2021 OCP Action Plan underscores a commitment to living "in harmony with nature," consistently emphasizing the preservation of natural beauty, climate resilience, and biodiversity amid development pressures.

Corporate Plan – 2023-2026
The Corporate Plan includes a specific goal to lead in climate emergency action and environmental management. This goal includes priorities such as protecting and enhancing the environment through integrating policies and programs throughout the organization, strengthening resiliency and preparedness, and engaging/empowering the community to advance climate action and stewardship.

Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw (Bylaw 6515)
The Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw (Bylaw 6515) and establishes regulatory authority to protect and conserve natural systems across the District of North Vancouver, including watercourses, wetlands, trees, soils, slopes, and visual assets. It mandates permits for activities in aquatic areas, requires security deposits to ensure compliance, and empowers the District to call upon those securities for remediation in cases of permit non-compliance.

Streamside Protection DPA
The Streamside Protection DPA applies to lands within approximately 15 metres of the top-of-bank of streams or 10 metres of ravines, extending up to 30 metres in larger watersheds, and is intended to safeguard fish habitat and riparian environmental values from the impacts of development. The policy requires that any proposed works demonstrate no net loss of productive fish habitat, often through

mitigation or compensation measures, and typically involves review by a Qualified Environmental Professional, with exemptions for routine maintenance and restoration.

Natural Environment DPA

The Natural Environment Development Permit Area (DPA) applies to designated environmentally sensitive lands within the District of North Vancouver, including steep slopes, riparian corridors, and areas of significant ecological value. This includes most of the natural ecosystems that remain in the District. The primary intent of this DPA is to protect ecosystems, maintain biodiversity, and safeguard natural features from the impacts of development. Development within the DPA is regulated to prevent soil erosion, protect water quality, and minimize disturbance to sensitive habitats. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed works will avoid or mitigate ecological impacts, often requiring assessments by a Qualified Environmental Professional and the incorporation of restoration or enhancement measures. The intent of this policy is to balance land development with the long-term protection of ecological integrity and ecosystem services.

Tree Protection Bylaw

The District of North Vancouver's Tree Protection Bylaw regulates the removal, alteration, and replacement of trees on both private and public property. Its purpose is to conserve the urban forest canopy, protect wildlife habitat, and maintain essential ecological services.

The bylaw requires permits for tree removal, along with replacement planting and security deposits to ensure compliance. Many trees on District lands, in riparian setback areas, within environmental development permit areas (DPAs), and on steep slopes are protected under this bylaw.

Development Servicing Bylaw No. 8145

This bylaw establishes requirements for the design, provision, and construction of municipal infrastructure associated with development and subdivision, including water, sanitary, drainage, transportation, landscaping, soils, and tree-related works. It requires developers to design and install works to District standards at their cost, enter into servicing agreements, and provide financial security, while meeting engineering, environmental, and sustainable design requirements. The bylaw also outlines drainage management principles and infrastructure standards to support environmental protection, climate resilience, and long-term performance.

Natural Areas Trails Strategy – 2024

The study area for this strategy focused on Fromme, Lynn Canyon and Seymour, but can be applied more broadly to recreational natural areas in the district. In general, engagement respondents shared the trail network is highly valued in the community; trail users visit these areas for multiple recreation activities, most commonly walking/hiking, nature viewing, mountain biking, and dog walking. Common topics cited for improvement include dog management, amenities (bins, washrooms and parking), signs (educational and directional), and trail quality (variety and maintenance).

Vision statement: *Our natural areas and recreational trails are a model of sustainable recreational management, striking a balance of environmental protection and recreational access. Predominantly natural,*

there is a well-developed trail network where recreational use respects and supports natural systems while providing access to nature for physical, social, and spiritual well-being.

Three goals, and 27 actions were identified to achieve this vision within a 10-year time frame. Goal 1 focuses on user experiences, goal 2 is on ecosystem protection, and goal 3 is on trail stewardship. Actions and monitoring metrics most pertinent to the NBS are found under Goal 2 of this strategy.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – 2017

The strategy outlines 12 Action Objectives (AO) and the required actions to achieve them. The objectives of the NBS are supported through several AOs, including AO 5, which focuses on supporting the long-term health of natural forest ecosystems and fire disturbance regimes. AO 6 calls for the reduced spread of invasive organisms; A O7 calls for the restoration and protection of native biodiversity (**specifically calling for a biodiversity conservation strategy**); and AO 8 calls for the preservation and enhancement of ecologically sensitive areas and critical foreshore habitat. AO 3 also calls for the identification of Eco-Assets to reduce the need for grey infrastructure.

Invasive Plant Strategy - 2015

The Invasive Plant Strategy identifies five main goals for the strategic management of invasive plants in the District. These include awareness, prevention, detection, treatment, and restoration. The strategy provides a standardized approach to invasive plant management and outlines an action plan to meet these five main goals The District completed an Invasive Plant Inventory in 2023.

Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Framework and Objectives

A District-wide Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (DW-ISMP) is currently being prepared to provide an overarching framework for improving water quality, aquatic health, and watershed function by managing precipitation, runoff, and groundwater across the municipality. Once completed, it will identify key stormwater-related issues, values, objectives, and actions to help guide future decision-making related to hydrologic impacts, erosion, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable development. More detailed analysis and implementation will be advanced over time through ongoing monitoring, watershed-specific planning, capital projects, operational programs, and development standards.

Mackay-Mosquito ISMP – 2020

This is a technical document on Mackay and Mosquito watersheds. It includes geotechnical and fluvial information, but it also details water quality and species presence (benthic invertebrates and fish sampling). The document includes a list of the top ten ranked projects to improve local conditions and estimates of the cost. The plan includes exploration of a future project funding model through implementing a stormwater utility. Appendix C10-A outlines a summary of findings and recommendations.

Parks Open Space Plan – 2012

The Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (POSSP) is an umbrella document that provides direction for parks and open spaces over a 10-year time frame. The POSSP identifies eight principles to guide the plan with 6 goals and extensive actions to achieve these goals.

North Shore Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment and Adaptive Management Strategy – 2020
The Sea Level Rise Strategy spans DNV, City of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver. The strategy was developed based on technical hazard and risk analyses focusing on how sea level rise-related coastal flooding will alter intertidal areas and increase risk for the North Shore. The analysis is based on projected increases in sea level of up to 2 m by 2200. The strategy includes a discussion on resources, adaptation strategies, concepts and implementation actions to guide sea level rise adaptation over the next 10 years (2030). This included a toolkit with 26 tools, policy guidance to manage development along the coastline, and adaptation concepts.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update – 2019
The CWPP Update provides the DV with a framework to review and assess areas identified as moderate and high-fire risk. The plan also includes information to guide the development of emergency plans and response, as well as communication and education programs, bylaw development and actions better to manage potentially hazardous forests adjacent to the community. Actions with implications on biodiversity initiatives include:

- a call to update the Invasive Plant Management Strategy to target monitoring and resources for invasive management in the wildland fire interface,
- developing a landscaping standard for fire-smart landscaping,
- developing a public information campaign to reduce human-caused ignitions in parklands.

People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan – 2025
This plan provides a framework to guide the shared use of parks and trails by people and dogs, balancing recreation, ecological integrity, and community needs. The plan establishes a vision, guiding principles, and strategic directions focused on wellness, environment, and community, and outlines actions related to park planning, education, enforcement, infrastructure, and stewardship. It supports coordinated decision-making, improved compliance with regulations, and the long-term management of dog-related activities in District parks.

Other Reports

Biophysical Analysis and recommendation for rezoning to parkland of Roche Point Forest, DNV (2012)
Biophysical assessment of the Roche Point Forest. Original report from 2001, updated in 2012. Includes description of high value wildlife habitats, heritage trees and other sensitive features in the forest. Ultimately, calls for rezoning and dedication of the area as parkland to protect it in perpetuity. Includes species lists and notes species observed in the forest.

Biophysical Analysis and management issues – old growth forests in the Mosquito Creek area (2012)
Includes a biophysical assessment of five old growth areas along Mosquito creek. Entire area is zoned as PRO, but has some trail development (authorized and illegal). Other development in the area is very limited. Includes recommendation of regular monitoring in the area, restrictions on illegal trail development and preservation as a conservation area/designation as Natural Parkland, Conservation area or other.

Appendix 4 References

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