# What is an Official Community Plan (OCP)?

An OCP sets out the vision, goals and overarching policies guiding the municipality. Council, staff and citizens use the OCP to help make decisions on where we locate housing, what our transportation priorities are and how we provide recreational and municipal services. An OCP applies to the whole District and maps out how we want to progress as a community.

# Development Permit Areas (DPAs)

Development Permit Areas are identified in the OCP. Specific development guidelines apply to all new development within these delineated areas. There are four DPA categories:



Protection of the Natural Environment, its Ecosystem and Biological Diversity: Natural Environment and Streamside Protection



Protection of Development from Hazardous Conditions: Creek Hazard, Wildfire Hazard, Slope Hazard



Energy and Water Conservation and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases



Form and Character of Development

### **The Permit Process**

- If your property is included within one or more of the DPAs, discuss your proposed work with District staff early in the process. You will be advised whether the proposed work is exempt from the DPA, or whether an assessment by a Qualified Professional (QP) is needed.
- 2. If more than one DPA is involved, you may be required to appoint a lead professional to coordinate the process.
- **3.** The QP assessment process for the Slope Hazard DPA is two-tiered, starting with a preliminary assessment , followed by a detailed assessment if the assessment indicated the need for further investigation. The level of detail for a QP assessment for the Slope hazard will be determined by the QP but must meet the District of North Vancouver's Slope Hazard DPA guidelines.
- District staff will review the application in accordance with DPA guidelines and a Development Permit will be issued. The QP report should reference the District of North Vancouvers's Risk Tolerance Criteria, be safe for the use intended and reference applicable APEG guidelines.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Background information and the detailed DPA guidelines, exemptions and maps are available on the District website at **www.dnv.org/dpa**.

District of North Vancouver 355 West Queens Road North Vancouver, BC V7N 4N5







THE DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER SLOPE HAZARD DPA



SCHEDULE B OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

### What is the Slope Hazard DPA?

The **Slope Hazard DPA Map** shows slopes with a slope angle greater than 20 degrees (36%) and greater than 10 metres in height. The DPA will apply to those properties having a boundary within 20 metres of the top or bottom of a steep slope. The 20 metre reference line accounts for the potential risk area near the top or bottom of a steep slope.

### **Objectives**

The Slope Hazard DPA is established to address the following objectives:

- 1. minimize the risk to people and property from slope hazard;
- 2. develop safely and minimize the impacts on or near steep slopes, including the potential run out area below
- 3. reduce slope hazards and landslide risk to people and property by carefully managing development and construction practices on or near steep slopes;
- avoid alteration of steep slopes that may cause instability of the land or adjacent areas;
- 5. utilize professional design of drainage structures and mitigation works with supervision during construction and post-construction certification; and
- 6. encourage ongoing maintenance and monitoring of steep slopes.



# **Urban Landslides**

Our wet, coastal climate and mountainous terrain contribute to an increased potential for landslides in the District of North Vancouver. Most slides are triggered after an extended period of heavy rain when the ground is extremely wet for a prolonged period of time. Slope failure may be caused by a combination of factors; weak earth materials, poor drainage, water saturation and over bank flow and altered landscape and vegetation. Several neighbourhoods in the District were built along the crests and bases of steep slopes.

# **Reducing Landslide Risk**

Though landslides are influenced by conditions at the top of a slope, they may affect properties and structures at the bottom. Grading or drainage changes on your property can affect your neighbours beside and below you.

» Comply with municipal bylaws and seek the advice of a Professional Engineer or Geoscientist for proper design, construction and location of drainage and structures to protect slopes.

- » Contact the District with slope stability concerns on public property.
- » Capture roof and pavement drainage in gutters and swales to direct water away from steep slopes in a controlled manner toward storm drains, street gutters or by an alternate method approved by the District.
- » Avoid altering vegetation or placing fill, including yard clippings, excavated material, sand and soil, on or near crests of steep slopes or along pre-existing drainage channels.
- » Do not undercut the base of steep slopes without the advice of a professional engineer or geoscientist.
- » Comply with requirements in the Tree Bylaw which protect trees on steep slopes.

Please refer to **Schedule B of the Official Community Plan** for the complete description of the Guidelines and Exemptions for the Slope Hazard DPA.