

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

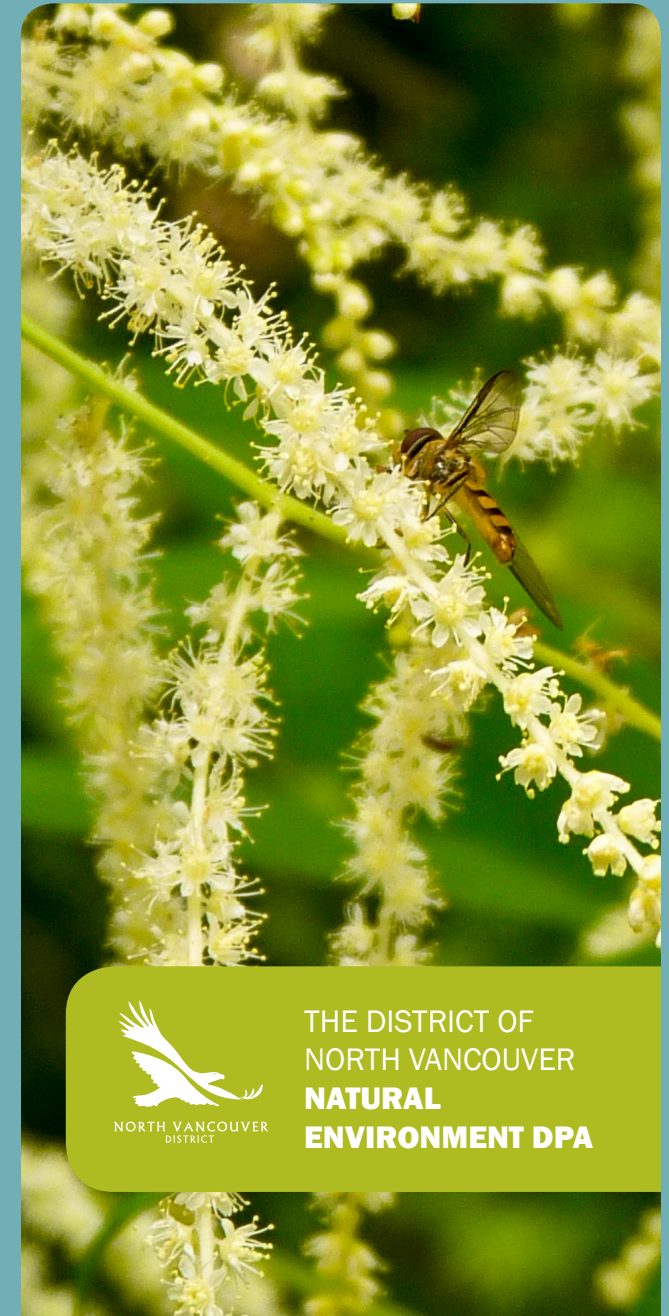
The Permit Process

1. If your property is included within one or more 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 Environmental Professional (QEP) is needed.
2. If more than one DPA is involved, you may be required to appoint a lead professional to coordinate the process.
3. Staff may require a legal survey and environmental impact study from a QEP to determine the boundaries of the protected area and how to protect it.
4. District staff will review the application in accordance with the DPA guidelines. The applicant will be notified if a Development Permit is required or if the proposed work will be exempt.
5. If a security deposit is required, it will be held for completion of landscaping and environmental works.

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
**NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT DPA**

What is the Natural Environment DPA?

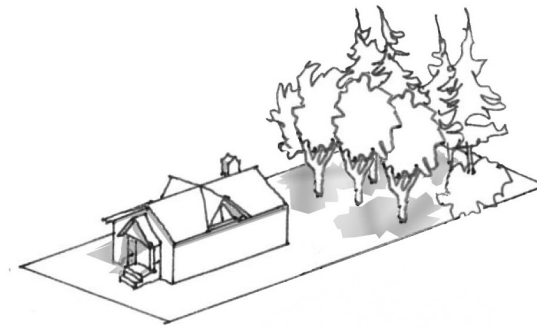
Our Natural Environment

The natural features of the District, including our rivers, wetlands and forests, provide a spectacular setting and strong identity for our community. The local ecology is crucial to maintain healthy air, water, soil and biodiversity and provides a host of free ecological services such as rainwater interception, soil stability, and temperature regulation. The District's intention is to protect and improve the integrity, ecological health and biodiversity of our natural features and systems. The Natural Environment DPA includes properties that may contain important natural features. These areas are shown on the **Natural Environment DPA Map**.

Objectives

The Protection of the Natural Environment DPA area is established to:

1. **protect the District's natural setting, ecological systems and visual assets;**
2. **protect wildlife corridors and the connectivity of our ecosystems;**
3. **protect our forested character and enhance the health of our forests, trees and soils;**
4. **conserve environmentally sensitive areas in order to protect biodiversity;**
5. **protect forested areas inside our watersheds in order to maintain or enhance hydrological functions; and**
6. **regulate development on parcels in the Protection of the Natural Environment DPA to achieve the above objectives.**



This



Not This

Protecting Our Natural Environment

The following is an overview of the Guidelines from the Natural Environment DPA. There are certain activities, however, that may be exempt from the DPA requirements, so please check the Bylaw for exemptions. If you are unsure, District staff can assist you.

1. **Efforts should be made to locate development away from:**
 - a) habitat for species at risk;
 - b) mature stands of trees;
 - c) raptor nesting sites;
 - d) wetlands; and
 - e) wildlife corridors.
2. **Locate and design development to minimize any damage to protected areas, protect and enhance natural areas, drainage patterns and landforms.**
3. **Locate development as far away from protected areas as possible or be as far away from protected areas as existing permanent structures.**

4. **Habitat compensation for affected areas may be required.**
5. **An environmental impact study or letter from a qualified environmental professional and a legal survey may be required to identify any potential issues and impacts, determine the boundaries of the protected area and the mitigation and/or compensation measures to be undertaken.**
6. **A security as a cash deposit or letter of credit may also be required.**

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

