

Our City, Our Voices.

reimagine
NANAIMO

HOW OUR CITY IS PUT TOGETHER



The map of a city is its fingerprint – a unique pattern of spaces and places that reflects our collective histories and our distinct city culture. The Nanaimo we know today has been shaped by generations of people before us. Guided by the notion of working together, it's now our responsibility to plan our future and to envision a community that is as unique as these great lands. As we grow, it is our intention to protect and preserve the natural beauty of these lands for future generations.

SHAPED BY MANY INFLUENCES

COAST SALISH

The shoreline, islands, hills, and valleys of these lands have been home to Snuneymuxw Mustimuxw since time immemorial. Long before the first European settlers, this land supported several thousand ancestors of the Snuneymuxw in winter and summer villages. This territory is also shared with Snaw-Naw-As in the northern area of the City. The Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As, both then and now, are known for their rich living culture and heritage.

COAL TOWN

It was the presence of coal, discovered in the 1850s around what is now Nanaimo's downtown, that first attracted European settlers to the area. This led to the first known town plan drawing in 1864 that laid out the familiar radial street network of the downtown, along with the eventual incorporation of Nanaimo in 1874.

HUB CITY

As the coal mining industry waned, new employment in sectors like fishing, forestry, industry, and tourism rose and Nanaimo established its role as the "hub" of Vancouver Island. Rapid expansion of the City occurred in the 1960s – 1990s quickly stretching Nanaimo north and south.

OUR NANAIMO TODAY

OUR DISTRICTS 'THE TOWNS WITHIN OUR CITY'

The Salish Sea to the east and hillsides to the west are our natural boundaries and define the long linear shape of our City. Nanaimo is only 5 km wide, but stretches over 20 km from south to north. The map and descriptions below describe our City as five 'Districts'.

DISTRICTS are groups of related neighbourhoods that together provide a range of destinations, jobs, services, parks, and amenities that we need for daily life. Each district contains a mix of land uses, both residential and non-residential (e.g. parks, commercial, institutional, industrial, etc.). As our population grows, our districts will also grow and change.



DOVER / HAMMOND BAY



POP. ~16,500

- ▶ Includes the seaside neighbourhoods along Hammond Bay Road
- ▶ Development here has filled in over the past 50 years
- ▶ Primarily single-family homes built into hillsides
- ▶ Residents must travel further to reach community nodes than most other areas in the City
- ▶ The node at Woodgrove is an important regional commercial centre



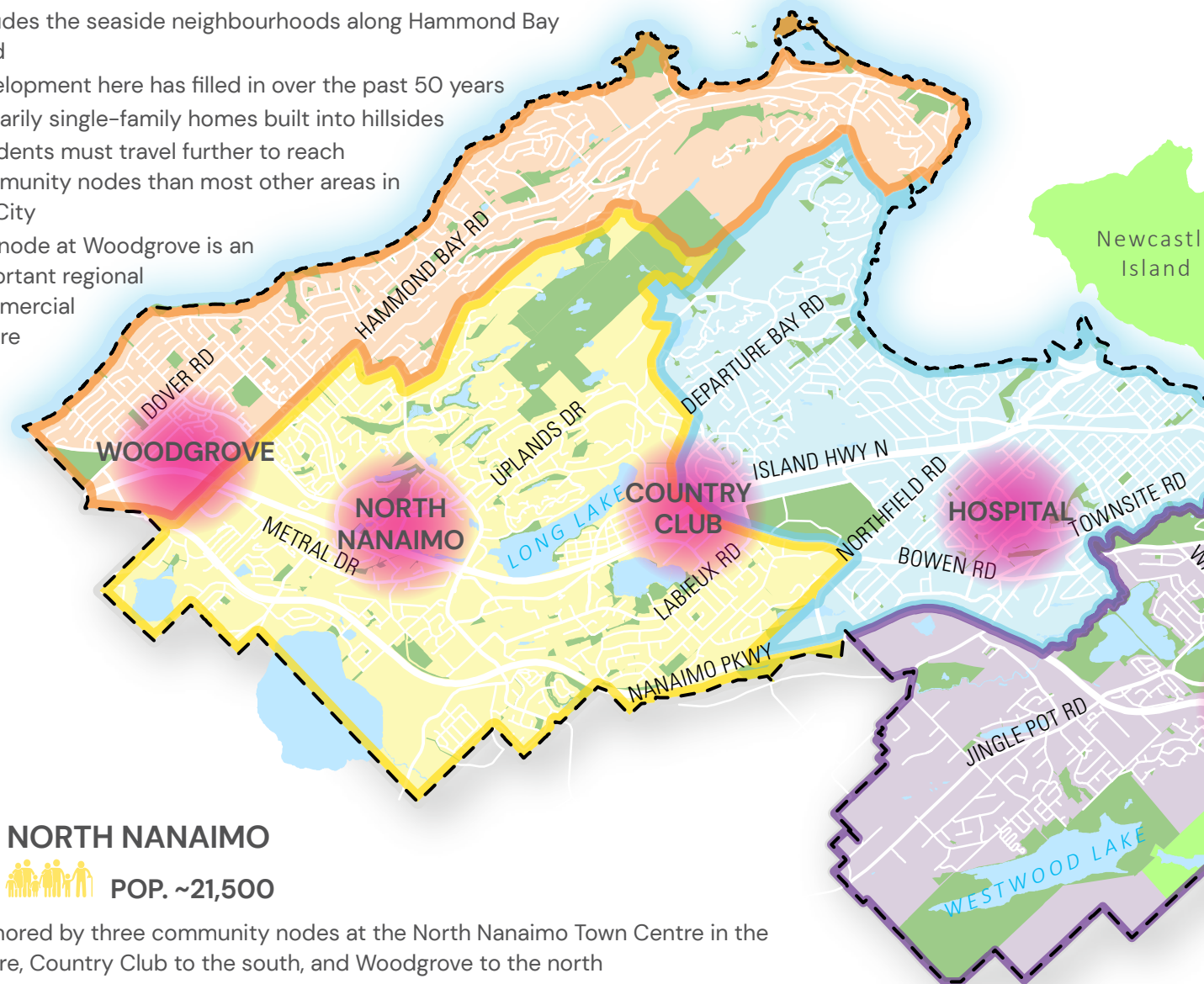
NORTH NANAIMO



POP. ~21,500

- ▶ Anchored by three community nodes at the North Nanaimo Town Centre in the centre, Country Club to the south, and Woodgrove to the north
- ▶ Includes a mix of medium and high-density residential around community nodes
- ▶ Primarily lower density residential neighbourhoods beyond the community nodes
- ▶ Recent development has created more senior-oriented housing in the area
- ▶ The transportation network today is more vehicle-oriented than other areas

SALISH SEA



HOSPITAL / DEPARTURE BAY



POP. ~24,500

- ▶ Geographically in the centre of Nanaimo
- ▶ A main employment area for our City
- ▶ The Hospital and Country Club nodes provide a varied mix of employment, commercial, institutional, and higher-density residential uses
- ▶ Corridor commercial areas stretch along Island Highway and Bowen Road, with industrial uses and residential neighbourhoods beyond

DOWNTOWN / UNIVERSITY



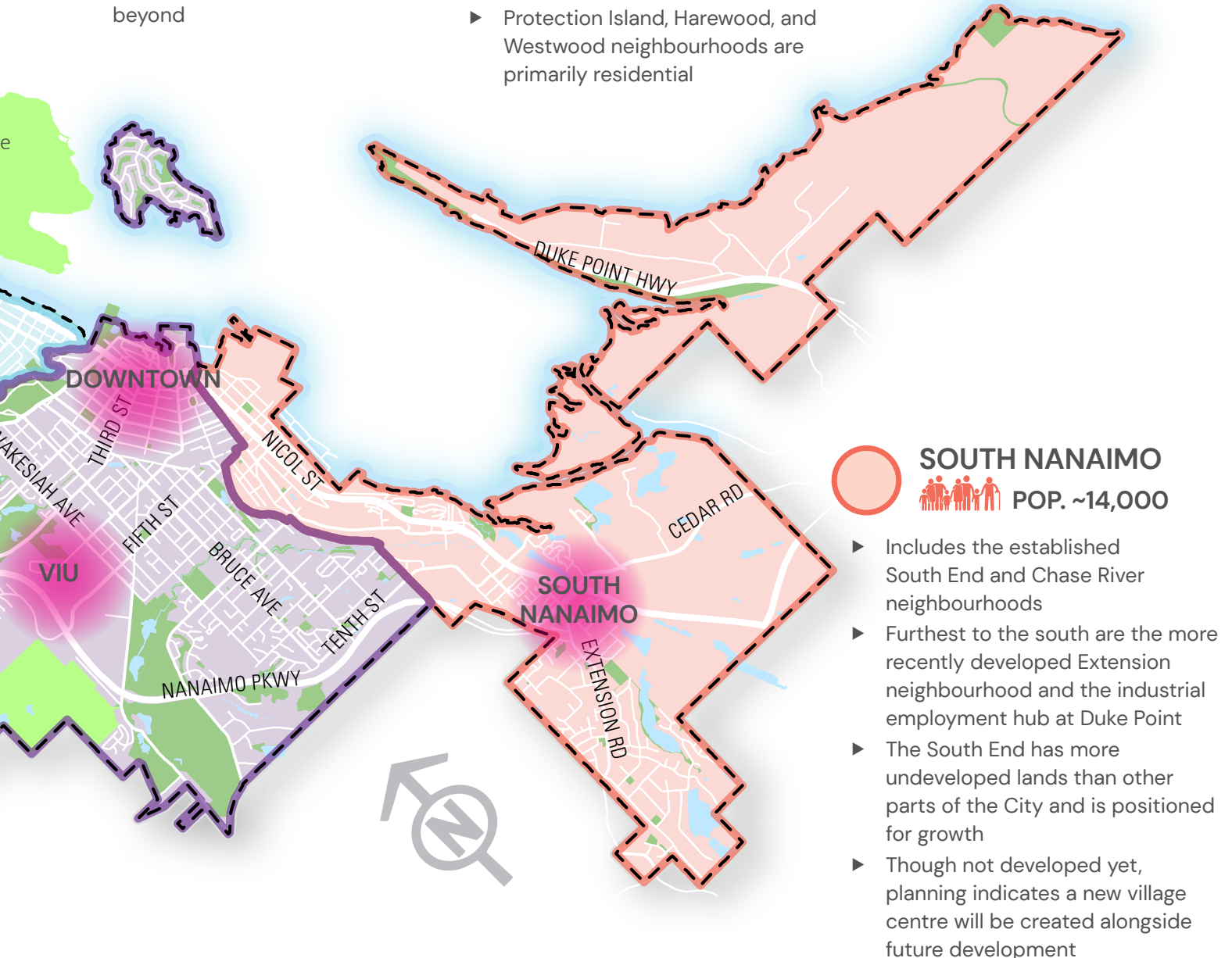
POP. ~16,500

- ▶ The traditional central business district of the City
- ▶ Downtown is home to a mix of employment, commercial, government, recreational, and residential uses oriented towards the waterfront
- ▶ The City's highest population and employment densities and is the most walkable part of Nanaimo
- ▶ Up the hill, Vancouver Island University (VIU) is a hub for students and employment
- ▶ Protection Island, Harewood, and Westwood neighbourhoods are primarily residential

COMMUNITY NODES



Nodes are where we come together. They are areas of concentration that support housing and employment growth and are well-served by transit. These are places to gather, with an emphasis on design and beauty that creates a sense of place. They are the anchors throughout our City.



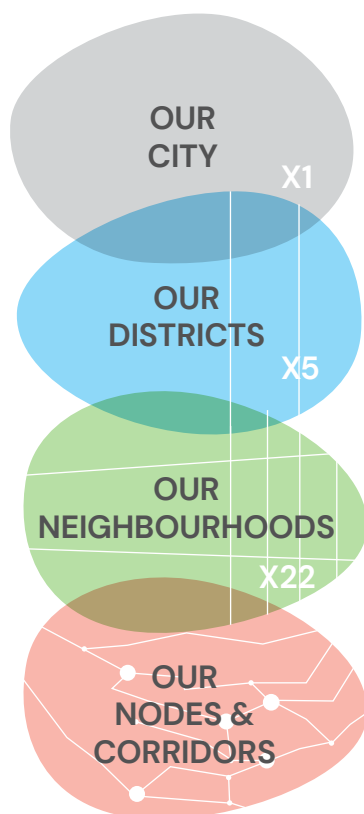
SOUTH NANAIMO



POP. ~14,000

- ▶ Includes the established South End and Chase River neighbourhoods
- ▶ Furthest to the south are the more recently developed Extension neighbourhood and the industrial employment hub at Duke Point
- ▶ The South End has more undeveloped lands than other parts of the City and is positioned for growth
- ▶ Though not developed yet, planning indicates a new village centre will be created alongside future development

OUR LAYERS



OUR CITY is the sum of all our plans and parts. It is where we come together and create our vision for the future. It is the level where we define the complex, interdependent systems like land use, transportation, environment, economy, and social factors.

OUR DISTRICTS are collections of related neighbourhoods that together provide a range of destinations, jobs, services and amenities. Complete districts mean people have easy access to everything they need in their daily lives.

OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS are how we identify with our City – those places that are 15 minutes from work or home by bike, bus, or foot. We are a City of 22 distinct, unique neighbourhoods that are linked to create a whole. These are the areas that should feel like an extension of our home.

OUR NODES AND CORRIDORS are the foundational building blocks that form the structure of our neighbourhoods and City. Nodes are the centres throughout our neighbourhoods that focus housing density and providing nearby shops and amenities. Corridors surround the main transportation routes and link our neighbourhoods, nodes and districts.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

As we near a population of 100,000, we need to be clear in our collective intention for the future as we continue to grow together.

REIMAGINE NANAIMO will chart out the journey and map to our future City – a City where we appreciate the opportunities we have today, and look forward to new opportunities to strengthen and grow our community while protecting our beautiful lands and waters.

Let's reimagine our future Nanaimo – together!



Get involved today.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? SHARE AT: getinvolvednanaimo.ca