

Regional District of Nanaimo Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is undertaking a review and update of Bylaw 500 to address known problems and to improve bylaw components that are unclear, inconsistent or are challenging to administer or enforce.

The Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project includes three phases:

- Phase 1: Clarification and Housekeeping (*we are currently in this phase*)
 - General bylaw update and refresh to address problem areas and provide greater clarification
- Phase 2: Housing (Green Building and Affordability)
 - Includes obstacles to use of tiny homes, length of stay in recreational vehicles
- Phase 3: Other
 - Flexible phase to address outstanding issues that could be considered such as zoning on park land, campground regulations and standards, etc.

It is proposed that draft Bylaw 2500 will replace Bylaw 500. Bylaw 2500 will address the issues identified through Phase 1 of the Bylaw 500 review. The updated bylaw will be easier for residents to understand and for the RDN to communicate and administer. The first working version of draft Bylaw 2500 has been available for public review and comment since August 2022. Since then, the bylaw has been updated based on community input, legal review and further staff refinement.

Leading up to the Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project, the RDN received many questions about the allowed length of stay in a recreational vehicle in a resort vehicle park. There are currently no zones in the RDN electoral areas that allow long-term stays in a recreational vehicle. The use of the terms temporary, seasonal and periodic in relation to the use of recreational vehicles in resort vehicle parks, however, was identified as being unclear and requiring constant interpretation. To address this confusion, the proposal was to remove 'Resort Vehicle Park' as a use and replace it with 'Recreational Vehicle Park' in Bylaw 2500. The bylaw change would provide clarity on length of stay and what is meant by temporary accommodation as 'Recreational Vehicle Park', as a use, includes a limit to the length of stay of not more than six months in a calendar year.

Following presentations by the community and input from RDN staff, however, the RDN Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) directed that the use 'Resort Vehicle Park' be reinstated in Bylaw 2500 consistent with the zones in Bylaw 500 that permitted that use.

The EASC reviewed draft Bylaw 2500 and a staff report proposing options to suspend enforcement on community members residing in recreational vehicles on June 19, 2024. After extensive discussion in

Get Involved RDN!

response to more recent questions and concerns raised by the public, the EASC approved the following motions which will now go to a future RDN Board meeting for consideration:

1. That the Board suspend bylaw enforcement for length of stay of existing recreational vehicles located in Campgrounds, Resort Vehicle Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks in Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G, and H until the completion of Phase Two of the Bylaw 500 Review except in circumstances where:
 - a. It is determined that there are risks to health and safety;
 - b. It is determined there is a risk to the environment;
 - c. It is determined that sewage is not being disposed of in an approved septic or sewage disposal system; or that septic or sewage disposal systems are beings used in excess of capacity;
 - d. It is determined that there is contamination of wells or other drinking water sources;
2. That no additional contravention or unlawful expansion of a Campground, Resort Vehicle Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks takes place during the enforcement of length of stay suspension.

The EASC will continue to consider draft Bylaw 2500 at a meeting in July prior to the draft bylaw advancing to the RDN Board for 2nd reading consideration.


The RDN Board recognizes the housing issue in our region and is committed to taking action to suspend enforcement in these recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds while staff work to present options to the RDN Board to address housing affordability in the rural areas.

For information on the Bylaw 500 Review and Update Project, including FAQ, draft Bylaw 2500, staff reports and more, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/bylaw-500-review. For meeting agendas and to watch recordings of past meetings online, visit rdn.bc.ca/agendas-minutes-videos.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
Communications Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-390-6502

 engagement@rdn.bc.ca

Get Involved RDN!