

Interim Housing Needs Assessment

Total 5-year and 20-year housing need

The following table summarizes data from Statistic Canada to determine the total number of new homes needed in the next 20 years, according to provincial guidelines. It also displays 5-year housing need estimates using the multipliers provided in the provincial guidelines and BC Stats household projections from 2021 to 2026.

Central Saanich DM (CSD, BC)		
Component	5 Year Need	20 Year Need
A. Extreme Core Housing Need	60.66	242.66
B. Persons Experiencing Homelessness	43.19	86.38
C. Suppressed Household Formation	82.52	330.09
D. Anticipated Growth	724.14	1,990.64
E. Rental Vacancy Rate Adjustment	5.22	20.90
F. Additional Local Demand	201.26	805.06
Total New Units – 5 years	1,117	
Total New Units – 20 years		3,476

Housing and Transportation Need Statement

The District of Central Saanich acknowledges the importance of developing housing in proximity to transportation infrastructure. To address this need, the District plans to implement several actions including prioritizing the integration of housing projects with existing and planned transit routes, implementing our Active Transportation Plan by expanding and improving pedestrian and cycling pathways to connect residential areas with key amenities, and enhancing public transit options to ensure reliable and frequent service. Additionally, the District will explore zoning improvements and incentives to

encourage higher-density developments near transportation hubs, promoting sustainable and accessible living environments.

Housing Actions Taken Since 2020 Housing Needs Report

Since the release of the 2020 Housing Needs Report, the District of Central Saanich has undertaken a series of strategic actions to address the community’s evolving housing needs. These initiatives aim to enhance affordability, increase housing supply, and ensure that our housing strategies align with the latest demographic and market insights. Below is an overview of the key actions taken to improve housing outcomes and meet the objectives outlined in the report.

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Completed the Residential Infill and Densification Guidelines and Policy	Updated the Land Use Bylaw as part of the Residential Infill and Densification project	Completed Second Draft of Official Community Plan and public engagement.	Completed the District's new Official Community Plan 2023	Advancing a civic redevelopment initiative, which may achieve increased housing units
Launched the Official Community Plan review	Implemented a professional reliance model for complex building permits, to streamline the approval process.	Launched web-based application platform for building permits and planning applications	Implemented new secondary suite compliance guidelines, to make it easier for homeowners to comply with District bylaws.	Implemented development application process improvements
Completed the Farm Worker Accommodation study	Secured a grant and initiated the e-permitting project	Commenced ALR and Rural Accessory Dwelling Review	All Building and Plumbing Permits are available for on-line submissions. Building Inspections can now be booked on-line	Undertaking engineering infrastructure master plans.
Developed the Saanichton Village Design Plan	Developed an active transportation plan to align land use and transportation priorities			Implemented housing initiatives required by Provincial Bill 44.

In addition to the District's initiatives to support housing development, Central Saanich has approved 558 new dwelling units since 2020. This substantial increase in housing reflects the District's ongoing commitment to addressing the growing demand for both market and non-market housing options. With the recent updates to zoning bylaws and the Official Community Plan (OCP), these numbers are expected to rise even further. The updated policies are designed to encourage higher-density developments, streamline the approval process for new housing projects, and support a diverse range of housing types that cater to the varying needs of the community. As Central Saanich continues to implement these forward-thinking strategies, the District is well-positioned to accommodate future population growth and enhance the availability of affordable housing options for all residents.

	Detached Single Family Dwelling	Suite (new house)	Suite (existing house)	Accessory Dwelling Unit	Multi-family	Total
2020	8	8	5	1	26	56
2021	28	8	13	1	100	158
2022	17	5	3	6	50	86
2023	6	1	8	6	236	258
Total	59	22	29	14	412	558