



Fact Sheet 4 Environment

The natural environment in the municipality is not only a significant part of the cultural identity, but it plays an important role in the ecological integrity and ecosystem services that make it a spectacular place to live and visit. These areas include beaches, wetlands, coastal habitats, nature reserves, among many others.

What We Heard

The environment was a major topic of discussion during the initial phase of engagement for Plan Victoria County. The Municipality of the County of Victoria is situated in a remarkably beautiful natural environment, and residents and community members are deeply connected to the landscape and environment.



Access to beaches, trails and rivers was of great importance to residents across all engagement methods.



There is a desire to see protection around development on water bodies, such as lakes and rivers, as well as proper setbacks from the coast.



The quality of water and climate change were frequently cited as concerns during the engagement phase.



Protecting view planes and environmental resources in the Municipality was also important to many for the recreation and tourism opportunities it brings.

For more information or to share your feedback on the draft documents, please visit www.planvictoria.ca or email the project team at hello@planvictoria.ca



**PLAN
VICTORIA
COUNTY**



What is Being Proposed

The proposed planning documents include policy support and regulations for the protection of the many natural assets present in the region.



Wetland Protection

Wetlands provide or support a wide range of important ecological, social and economic functions and services in our watersheds that are beneficial to everyone. Wetlands from a provincial database have been mapped and assigned with the Conservation Zone to receive extra protection under the planning documents.



Coastal Protection

Coastal areas have historically been a popular and attractive place to develop, but they also pose a number of risks both to humans and the environment. With storm events intensifying and becoming more frequent, coupled with sea level rise, the development of coastal areas needs to be carefully considered. The Province passed the *Coastal Protection Act* in 2019 which provides legislation around coastal development. The Act has not yet been implemented through regulations, but it is expected to be in the near future, and is expected to include both a minimum vertical and horizontal setback from the coast for new development. The municipal planning documents will defer to the provincial regulations and will not draft separate regulations.



Water Source Protection

The draft planning documents include the Source Water Protection Zones to protect and preserve the drinking water supply in the municipality. Very little development is permitted in these zones.