



News Release

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REZONING TO BENEFIT LANDOWNERS, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY ON GALIANO ISLAND

VICTORIA — The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee has approved a rezoning application that protects forest and shoreline, provides a community park, adds to BC Parks, and supports affordable housing on the island.

The rezoning allowed subdivision of the parcel of land known as District Lot 79 into five rural residential lots and one forest lot, provided a number of conditions were satisfied. The conditions required the landowners to transfer a portion of the land to the Capital Regional District (CRD) for a community park, transfer a portion of the land to BC Parks, register a covenant on the forest lot to practice sustainable forest management, and contribute towards affordable housing on the island.

“The Galiano Local Trust Committee is committed to making land use decisions that balance the needs of the environment with those of the community and we are pleased to see this subdivision strike that balance,” said Galiano Island Local Trustee Sandy Pottle. “This development can be a model for landowners, regional and provincial agencies, and conservation groups working together to create solutions for both the community and our forest ecosystem.”

The process began in 2013 with an application by the landowners to rezone the 55-hectare parcel from Forest 1 zone, which does not allow any residential use, to a combination of Nature Protection Park, Forest 3 zone, which allows a house on forest land, and Rural Residential zone. The approved rezoning has resulted in five residential lots totalling 11 hectares and a 20-hectare lot for sustainable forest management practices. It has also created a 10.7-hectare waterfront parcel for a community park to be held by the CRD and managed by the Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission, and nearly 10-hectare parcel of forest to be added to Provincial Park land in the area.

“The Capital Regional District is committed to working with our community partners to make decisions that promote a vibrant, liveable and sustainable region,” said David Howe, director, Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area. “We are pleased to work with landowners, the Islands Trust, local trustees, and conservation groups to provide 10 hectares of a community park for residents and visitors to Galiano Island.”

The landowners also agreed to sell one of the two-hectare residential lots and contribute the net proceeds of the sale towards affordable housing projects on the island. As a condition of rezoning 20 hectares of land to Forest 3 zone, landowners Bowie and Anna Keefer granted a covenant for sustainable forest management practices on their land to the Galiano Conservancy Association, the Land Conservancy, and the GITLC.

“As Galiano forest landowners, we are committed to sustainable forestry, restoring biodiversity and providing access for Galiano's expanding community trail network,” said landowner Bowie Keefer. “We greatly appreciate the dedicated work of the Galiano Local Trust Committee and Islands Trust staff toward better public access to Dionisio Point Provincial Park, and encourage further efforts to benefit our community.”

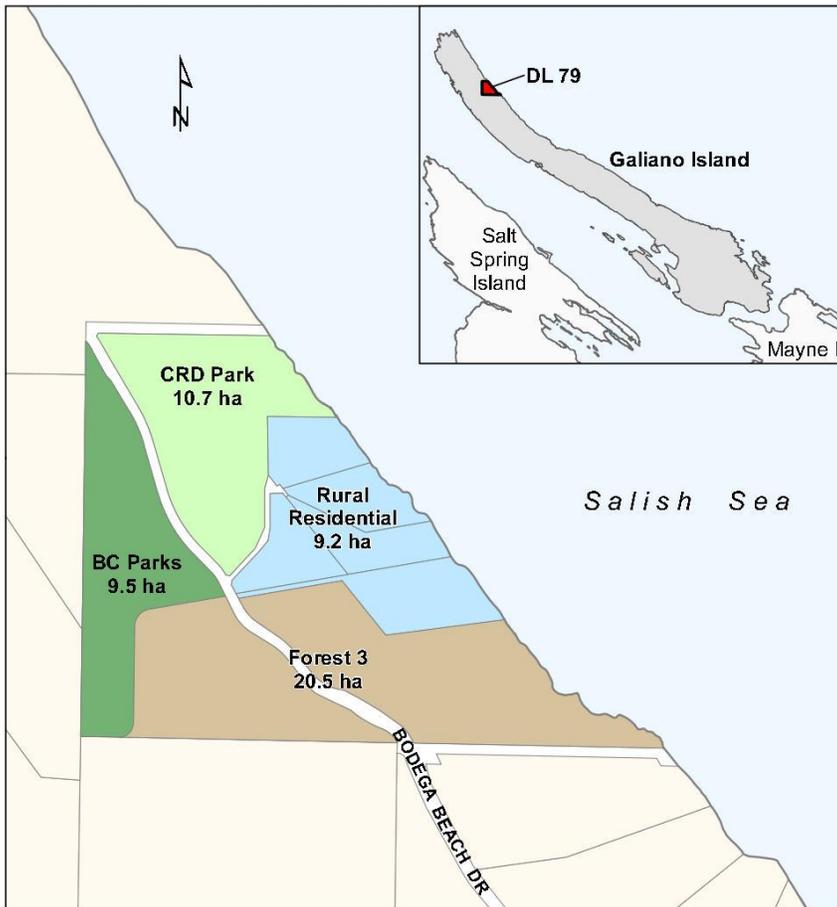
The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee is part of the Islands Trust, a federation of local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, co-operation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

Please see map on next page...

*Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment*

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

Map of rezoned District Lot 79:



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