



Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉCEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwáθən, sə́lilwətaɫ, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skw̓xwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ɬaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkww, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷáyəm First Nations.

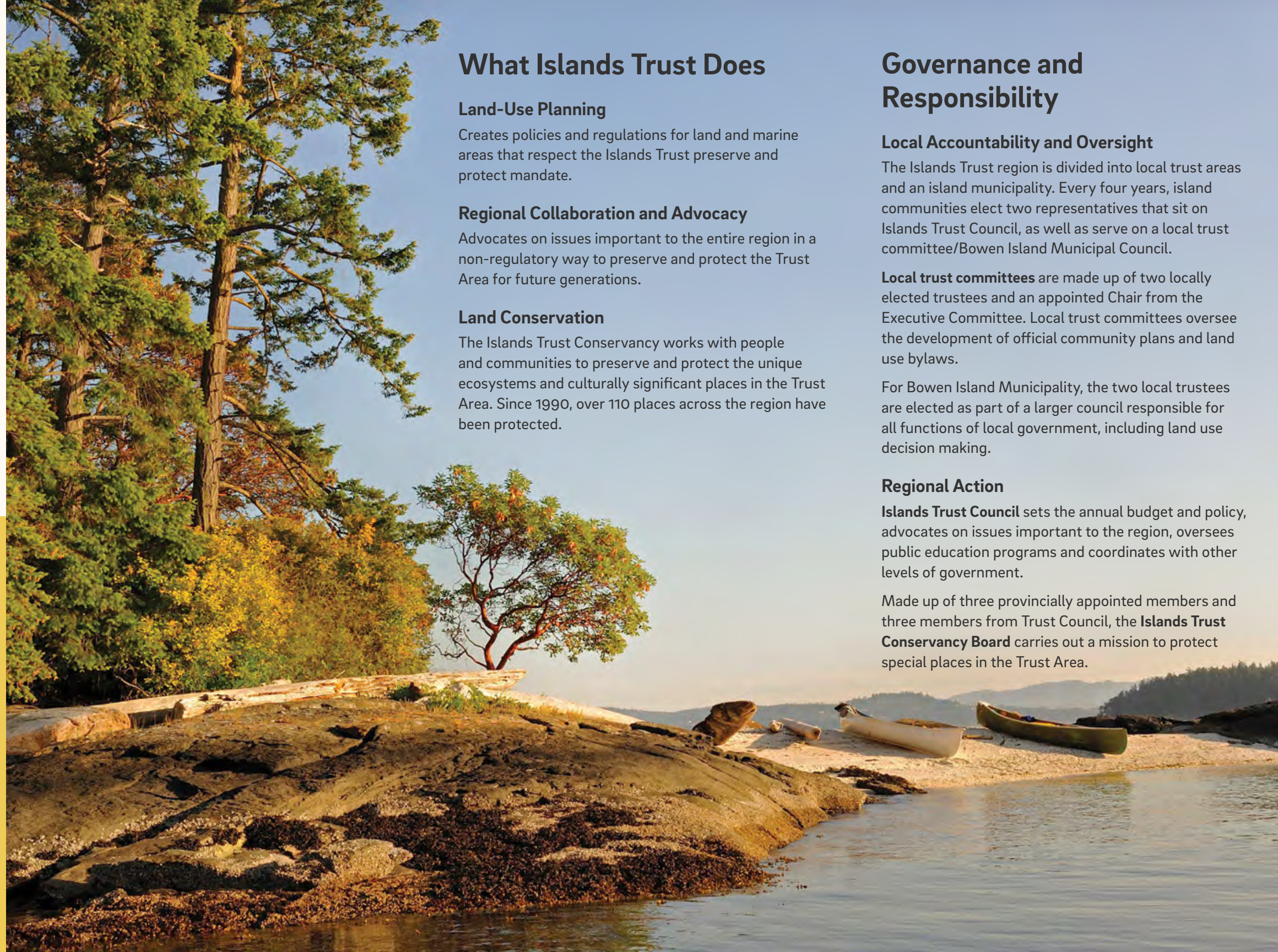
Islands Trust is committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.

## Islands Trust

Islands Trust is a special purpose government mandated to preserve and protect over 450 Islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea.

The Province of British Columbia created Islands Trust in 1974 in response to rates of development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the unique amenities and environment of the region.

Today, Islands Trust preserves and protects the islands in the context of many complex challenges, including climate change, lack of affordable housing, freshwater limitations, hundreds of species of risk, and development and tourism pressures.



## What Islands Trust Does

### Land-Use Planning

Creates policies and regulations for land and marine areas that respect the Islands Trust preserve and protect mandate.

### Regional Collaboration and Advocacy

Advocates on issues important to the entire region in a non-regulatory way to preserve and protect the Trust Area for future generations.

### Land Conservation

The Islands Trust Conservancy works with people and communities to preserve and protect the unique ecosystems and culturally significant places in the Trust Area. Since 1990, over 110 places across the region have been protected.

## Governance and Responsibility

### Local Accountability and Oversight

The Islands Trust region is divided into local trust areas and an island municipality. Every four years, island communities elect two representatives that sit on Islands Trust Council, as well as serve on a local trust committee/Bowen Island Municipal Council.

**Local trust committees** are made up of two locally elected trustees and an appointed Chair from the Executive Committee. Local trust committees oversee the development of official community plans and land use bylaws.

For Bowen Island Municipality, the two local trustees are elected as part of a larger council responsible for all functions of local government, including land use decision making.

### Regional Action

**Islands Trust Council** sets the annual budget and policy, advocates on issues important to the region, oversees public education programs and coordinates with other levels of government.

Made up of three provincially appointed members and three members from Trust Council, the **Islands Trust Conservancy Board** carries out a mission to protect special places in the Trust Area.

## Want to Get Involved?

Many residents and property owners get involved directly with the Islands Trust by:



Serving as members of advisory committees



Attending local trust committee, Islands Trust Conservancy and Trust Council meetings



Volunteering on land conservation and stewardship projects



Protecting natural areas and cultural locations on private land by registering a conservation covenant



Gifting ecologically significant land to Islands Trust Conservancy

Visit [IslandsTrust.bc.ca](https://IslandsTrust.bc.ca) to get more information on ways to participate or to subscribe for updates on Islands Trust news and events.

### Receive Property Tax Relief with NAPTEP

The Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP), a program offered by Islands Trust, provides property owners with a 65% exemption on property taxes for the protected portion of their property each year if they agree to protect the natural areas on their land.



## The Trust Area

Encompassing the waters and islands of the Salish Sea between southern Vancouver Island and the mainland, the Trust Area of British Columbia has been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial.

The region features vibrant communities, spectacular beauty, extensive cultural sites, and some of the world's most precious and endangered ecosystems.

The Islands Trust Area covers 5,200 square kilometres and is home to over 30,000 residents, 10,000 non-resident property owners, and is the homeland of over 28,000 Coast Salish People.

# Islands Trust

### Visit us

[islandstrust.bc.ca](https://islandstrust.bc.ca)

### Contact us

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### Follow us



Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea



Islands Trust

Frog photo by Kristine Mayes. Design by Erika Rathje.  
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