

Conservation Options with Islands Trust Conservancy

Overview for Saturna Island Local Trust Area Local Trust Committee & Community

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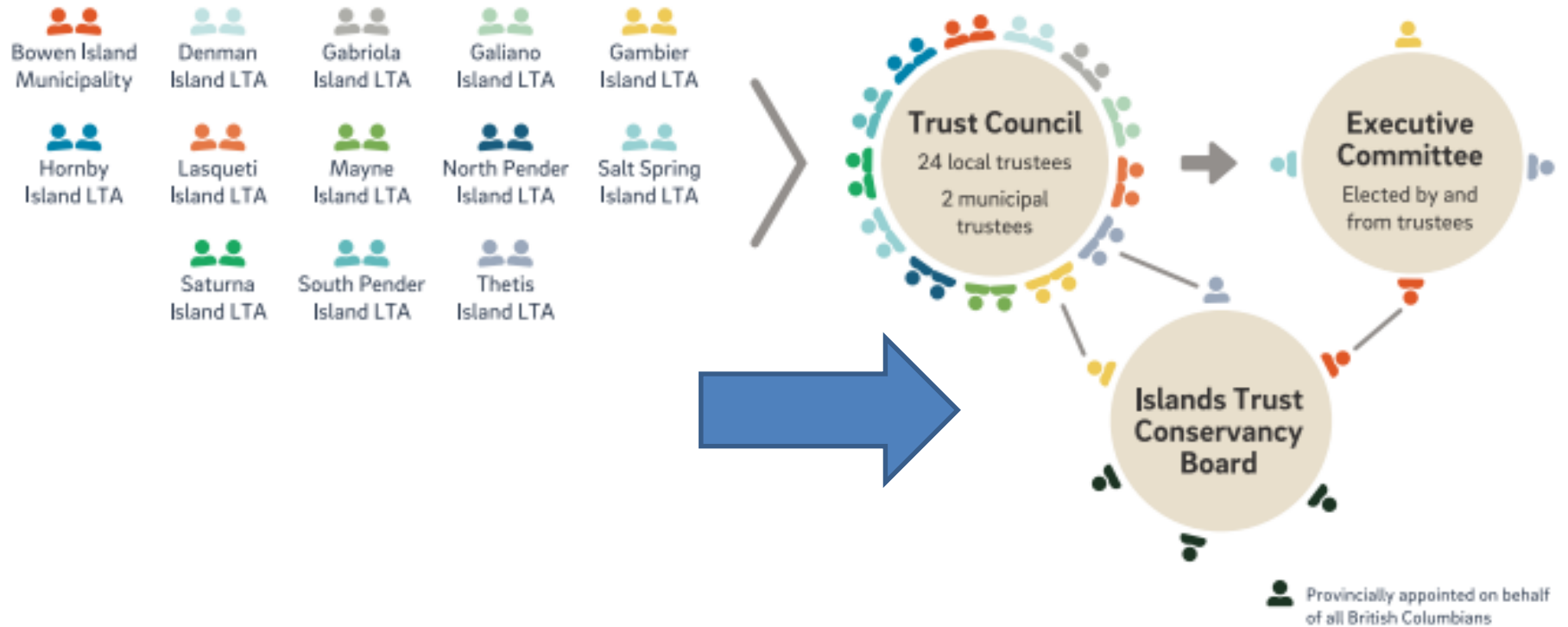


Land Acknowledgement

Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy respectfully acknowledge that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We are committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.

The Islands Trust Area is located in the treaty lands and territories of the BOŖÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scə́waθən, sə́lilwətał, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', SẂÁUTW, Stz'uminus, łaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwx, Xwsepsum, and x^wməθk^wəyəm First Nations.

Islands Trust Bodies



Islands Trust Conservancy

Our Mandate:

To preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.

Our Mission:

To protect special places by encouraging, undertaking, and assisting in voluntary conservation initiatives within the Islands Trust Area.

Our Vision:

The Islands Trust Conservancy's vision is a network of protected areas that preserve in perpetuity the natural systems of the islands in the Salish Sea.



Protecting Special Places

- Over 65% of the Islands Trust area is privately owned
- High species richness, but also a high number of species and ecosystems at risk
- Loss of habitat is one of the largest threats to biodiversity
- Maintaining and protecting natural habitat on privately-owned land is key to preserving the ecological integrity of this region

ITC protects private land through:

- Conservation covenant agreements with landholders
- Fee-simple ownership of nature reserves



Nature Reserve

- Land donated or transferred to Islands Trust Conservancy
- Managed with the primary purpose for protection of ecological integrity, biodiversity, and habitat features
- Some nature reserves may be open to the public, at the Board's discretion, and only if access does not compromise ecological or cultural features

Key features:

- ITC protects forever
- Management planning and actions for long-term protection of biodiversity

Conservation Covenant

- Tool that allows a landholder to restrict what can be done on their land, or a portion of it
- Covenants are registered on the property title and future owners must live up to the restrictions
- Monitoring and enforcement by the conservation organization that holds the covenant

Key features:

- Retains private ownership
- Protect all or part of the property
- No public access
- Monitoring and enforcement by the conservation organization that holds the covenant

Woodpecker Forest NAPTEP (N Pender)

Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) Covenant

- Property tax incentive for registration of a covenant protecting specific eligible features: *65% exemption on covenanted land*
- Unique to Islands Trust: legislated through *Islands Trust Act*
- 29 covenants protecting 160 hectares



Islands Trust Conservancy typically accepts proposals that:

- **Protect Biodiversity Priorities** identified in our Regional Conservation Plan
- **Are at least 2 hectares in size** with priority given to proposals that protect larger areas
- **Sufficient resources** are available, of both staff and funding, for both acquisition and long-term management



Conservation linked with Development Applications

- There is a parallel application process to the ITC Board, which will only accept proposals that meet all of ITC's criteria for a conservation covenant or nature reserve
- It is the responsibility of the LTC to provide clear direction to the applicant about what they expect the conservation project to achieve in exchange for the permit, density transfer, or rezoning
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their conservation proposal to ITC meets those expectations and also aligns with ITC's criteria for a covenant or nature reserve

